

# COMPUTER <sup>User</sup> <sub>News</sub>

Monthly Publication of the Kentucky-Indiana Personal Computer Users Group

**March 2006**  
**Volume 25, No. 03**

Program Director .....	3
SiteAdvisor - a browser plug-in that works .....	4
Paint Shop Pro X Review .....	6
Available Review Software .....	7
Review of Point & Click Open Office.org! .....	8
Membership .....	8
The Mouse from Hell Hardware Review...or Sort of	9
Acid Solitaire Game .....	10
How Big is a 300 GB Hard Disk .....	11
Multi-core Processors .....	12
Directory .....	14
Calendar .....	15
SIG Directory .....	16
SIG Scene .....	17
Advanced Users .....	18
Community Outreach .....	18
Digital Photography .....	19
Excel .....	19
Genealogy .....	19,20
Hands On .....	20
Hardware .....	21
Intermediate .....	21
Investing .....	22
New Users .....	22
Real Estate .....	23
Technical Market Analysis ..	23
Utilities .....	24
Visual Basic .....	24
Webmasters .....	25
Windows OS .....	25
The Deals Guy .....	26
Membership Application .....	27

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Presents

Luke Vavricek  
with a  
Demonstration  
of  
SmartComputing.com  
on  
March 7, 2006

General Public is invited to attend.  
Free Program Starts at 6:30 PM  
Directions - Page 3

[www.kipcug.org](http://www.kipcug.org)

# KIPCUG

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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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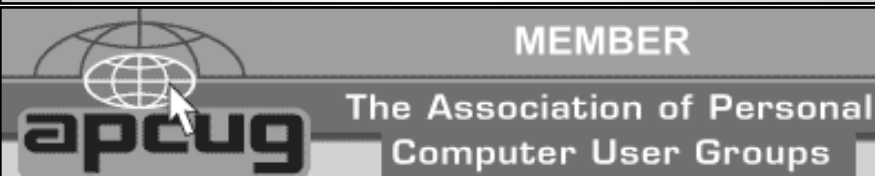
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## Contributing Staff Writers

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Joe Rothstein Tom Denning Brian Miller



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**EDITOR  
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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](mailto:editor@kipcug.org).

# Over the Program Director's Shoulder

By Judy Lococo, KIPCUG

## March

You have an excellent opportunity to see what Sandhills Publishing can do for you at the next KIPCUG meeting on March 7. Luke Vavricek will give a live demonstration of SmartComputing.com and show how you can put these powerful tools to work for you! These tools include Search All Articles, My Personal Library, the Q&A Board, and the brand new Tech Support Center!

In addition, everyone can expect to receive a goodie bag complete with the newest issue of Smart Computing, a guide to SmartComputing.com, a Smart

Computing pen, and a 2006 calendar mouse pad!

Jim Boneck will also be giving us a real live presentation of voice recognition software during the Back to Basics. And bring along any of your questions for the User to User Problem Solvers.

## February

If you missed last month, you failed the Internet Security test! Tom & Wayne seem to have an infinite bag of tricks that they can call upon at any given moment on any computer topic. Enough so that we still didn't get to the Wireless Security part of their program, so stay tuned and hopefully we will be able to finish it all up within a couple of months.



Bob Rose, User to User



Charley May and Tom Scanlan

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AND SHE WAS NOT IN  
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WILL YOU BE THERE?**

**Back to Basics Topic  
by  
Jim Boneck  
Voice Recognition  
Software**

### MEETING DIRECTIONS

Christ Church United Methodist  
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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](http://www.ccum.net) and [www.kipcug.org](http://www.kipcug.org)



Volunteers at the Membership Table  
Rosemary Viele,  
Treasurer  
Tom Denning, Dir.  
of Membership  
Doc Viele and  
Chuck Rumman,  
Directors at Large

# SiteAdvisor - a browser plug-in that works

By T. Scanlan, KIPCUG

At a recent User Group meeting on "Internet Security", one of our members, long-time computer wizard Scott Horan, mentioned a start-up project called SiteAdvisor. (<http://www.siteadvisor.com>)

In December 2005, this company released a beta version of their browser plug-in which signals the relative safety of websites as you visit them.

When browsing, it automatically connects to a database maintained by SiteAdvisor and generates an easy to read Good/Bad indicator, alerting web surfers in real time if they are at a malicious site. It also does a quick check to determine if the site might be a potential phishing scam. One click on the SiteAdvisor toolbar icon will open a page explaining the ranking and why you need to be cautious.

The tool also check-marks web search results on the common search engines, alerting you to Good/Bad sites BEFORE you jump to them from a search page. The Flash demo on the SiteAdvisor website clearly illustrates how this works, better than I can explain it.

There are a several other web tools that sound like they do the same thing from companies like Google, Yahoo and NetCraft. Once installed, they alert you to known phishing sites and bad web pages by checking a master list or database of the Good, the Bad and the Ugly, but SiteAdvisor is better.

This plug-in promises to do more by actively probing the web sites visited by the users to get a more detailed analysis, then logging the

results in the master database. The more people use this tool, the larger the database grows. The developers use a weighted algorithm to rate sites on several key points. One criteria judges the site by searching websites LINKED to the primary target. The theory is, if a site is closely related to many "known bad" sites, it might be an extension of them. Good idea.

When considering this new plug-in, my first concern was privacy. Could or would this company track user browsing for income producing (ad revenue) purposes. They don't.

I visited the Site Advisor web pages, and read up on their policies, privacy rules and operation. They explicitly promise that they do not collect individually identifiable data, nor will they release user names or info. It does not appear any individually identifiable data is sent to SiteAdvisor unless the user specifically chooses to rate or comment on a site, by name rather than anonymously.

My other concern was how effective and careful they were about the rating process.

If you visit a page not currently in the database, it is added to a list of sites needing testing. Web spiders begin collecting info which drives an automated evaluation process using five criteria.

First, a "web spider" searches the page, scanning for pop-ups, spyware and capturing all the links on each page, even hidden, embedded URL's. It traces each link back, looking for web pages already in the database, and builds a connectivity matrix. It rates the current page's trustworthiness based on what it

links to. If links show a strong relationship to red-flagged sites, the database reflects that, and you are warned.

The page scanner searches and downloads files on the site to examine them for malicious content. Using clean virtual machines, it detects all the changes made by executables, giving an unambiguous snapshot of the file contents. That evaluation feeds into the overall rating. If the downloads are tainted, you know it. One site I visited, Download.com, is rated "Caution" because some of it's free file downloads contain adware/spyware products. Again, click the SiteAdvisor icon, and you see specific details about which files are known to be bad and the type of threat it presents.

The page scanner also looks for pop-ups and other behavior commonly found to be malicious or annoying. Sites that behave badly get a lower "safe" score.

SiteAdvisor looks for e-mail harvesting sites that might flood your mailbox with spam. A webot signs up for every e-mail registration on the site, using a unique ID. SiteAdvisor monitors the e-mail inbox to see what arrives at each unique address, ranking items on a spam scale. It reports results generated from each domain monthly. The "spaminess" of a website goes into the overall rating. A recent SiteAdvisor Blog entry about "Valentine's Day e-mail" from True.com illustrates how useful this criteria is!

Finally, individuals can submit human evaluations to refine the automated process. Your comments

# SiteAdvisor (cont.)

and rating can be done anonymously, or by name. Human ratings are ranked for trustworthiness, with trusted raters getting a higher weight in the score process. A very wise step, in my opinion.

Both my concerns about SiteAdvisor were resolved favorably. The Site Advisor does what it promises, as far as I can determine and protects your privacy

So how do you get it or use it? I use both FireFox (Windows ver 1.5) and Internet Explorer (IE 6.0) and found that both browsers are now supported. They are currently working on plug-ins for other browsers and platforms.

I visited the SiteAdvisor web page and registered using an e-mail address. The next page offered two plug-ins, one for IE, one for FireFox. Each was a small download (between 90 and 600 kb). Each installed without a problem on my WinXP machine, in the appropriate browser. Once installed, a new SiteAdvisor icon appeared either on the toolbar or status bar. That icon turns Green-Safe, Yellow-Caution, Gray-Unrated or Red-Risky, depending on the page you visit.

Again, every time you visit a web page, it checks the domain name, checks their current database rating, scans the page for phishing exploits and immediately returns a "Good, Bad, Undetermined" rating. I didn't try this on dial-up, so I'm not sure if this slows down the browser response, but my broadband experience was almost instantaneous.

Click the SiteAdvisor button on the status bar and it opens an options list. The first option opens the Advisor page listing details of the

site evaluation, if the simple Red-Yellow-Green-Gray symbol is not enough. You can also rate the page yourself, using the comment section at the bottom of this detail page. Other options let you tell a friend about Site Advisor, seek help, or send feedback to SiteAdvisor about a problem with the plug-in.

After playing with the IE and FireFox extension from SiteAdvisor for several days I'm impressed. I tried to trick it, visiting many questionable pages, within the bounds of common sense. I've fed it ratings and checked the results. I have done Google and Yahoo searches to see how results are rated. I've not seen one web page where I'd disagree with the results.

One caution however, this tool is JUST an advisor for now. SiteAdvisor does not block any content, it just warns you ... AS you visit the domain. It won't stop you from visiting a risky website. It does not block malicious content. You are alerted when you visit a website with a bad rating, but if you ignore the warning, the risk is yours. It's greatest benefit occurs when you visit a web page you believe is safe, but is actually a scam, like the typical phishing web page.

Additionally, if you use a search engine to find target pages first, you will see the site ratings appear as green checkmarks or red "X's" before you follow the link. That way you can see ratings before you actually visit the page. The SiteAdvisor website does have a searchable list of the rated domains where you can research a page in advance, but I doubt most casual users will look before they click.

I conclude SiteAdvisor is a useful tool. It's well thought out, with clean appearance and smooth application integration. It's easy to install or remove, it works on IE or FireFox, which represents more than 90% of the market. I'd recommend it for general use. As more people use it, the better its rating ability gets. The folks at SiteAdvisor are working on enhancements that will make it even more effective. It's a "Cool!" tool in my book.

See <http://www.siteadvisor.com> for more details and visit the Blog page at <http://blog.siteadvisor.com> to learn more about the work SiteAdvisor is doing to make your online experience safer and more secure.



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# Paint Shop Pro X Review

By Susan Moore, KIPCUG

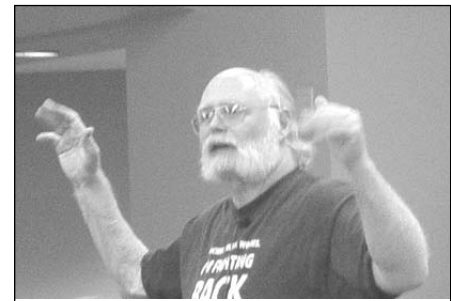
Paint Shop Pro X is a program designed to help the user adjust, enhance, organize and share their pictures. This program has enough features so that there is something for everyone. The beginner can start using the program by using some of the simpler features and can add additional techniques until they are able to master the program. The advanced user will be able to jump in and use the advanced techniques immediately. A Learning Center is included in the help menu to give the user additional help with the features of the program in addition to the 106 page User Guide.

Paint Shop Pro X, created by Corel, is available at [www.corel.com](http://www.corel.com). This product is available as a 30-day fully functional trial edition for download or purchase for \$99. Upgrades are also available for \$59 or \$55 (download only). Paint Shop Pro X also includes Photo Album 6 Standard Edition.

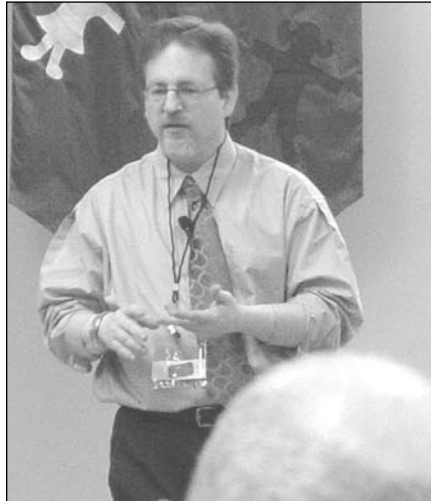
System requirements include 500 MHz processor (1.0GHz or faster recommended), Microsoft® Windows® 2000 (SP4) or XP (XP recommended), 256 MB of RAM (512 MB recommended), 500 MB of free hard disk space, 1024 x 768 resolution display, 16-bit color display (32-bit recommended). Paint Shop Pro X once loaded required 168MB on my computer before I started using the program. The program found my pictures that I had saved on the computer already. It was easy to load and was willing to go on the D drive where I keep all of my programs by clicking an option button during installation.

My favorite feature is the clone

brush. After selecting the clone brush you right-click an area of the picture and then you left-click any other area one or more times and the color from the source is copied to the target. Just like copy and paste. Following are some before and after pictures. Some of the pictures were changed to greyscale before I could start since these are the only kind that can be used in the magazine. I then used the clone brush, brightness, sharpen and crop features. All pictures were then saved in the tif format, which is the best for the magazine. Which pictures do you think look better?



Before and after of Tom Scanlan



Before and after of Wayne Perkey



Before and after of Scott Horan

# Paint Shop Pro X Review (cont.)

Another very useful feature is the background eraser. I had a picture of my grandchildren that I had taken in the kitchen and wanted to erase the background. Who needs the microwave in the background? I was able to remove the entire background and replace it with a light solid color with the flood fill feature.

Unfortunately, the last two comparisons could not be included in the magazine because the differences are not great enough to be able to see the differences on newsprint paper.

The picture of the projection

screen utilized the perspective correction tool to effectively position the picture taker in front of the screen. This makes the screen shot more readable.

The scratch remover tool that is part of the clone brush on the tools toolbar is another very useful feature. I had a picture of my great-grandfather from the newspaper when he died. The copy came from a scratched film into a jpg file. I was able to reduce the size of the scratches, but could not completely eliminate them because of their size.

Pictures can be saved in 41 different file formats with an additional

20 file extensions possible. This seems to be compatible with every program.

This is an excellent program for working with your pictures. It contains enough to enable a user to keep learning new features and uses for a long time to come. I enjoyed working with the many other effects to enhance photos. Someday I may find uses for all of the features since the program contains 84 features just under the effects item on the toolbar.

Note: Bill Buzan captured all the pictures at the February General Meeting.

## Available Review Software

By Joe Rothstein, KIPCUG

### REVIEWER WANTED!

KIPCUG has just received a copy of "The Symantec guide to Home Internet Security". This book can be yours FREE, in exchange for a review.

#### Book Description

Protect Yourself! Easy, Step-by-Step Help from the World's Most Trusted Security Provider

The Internet is crawling with risks; if you bank or shop online, or even just surf the Web and send e-mail, you are exposed to hackers, thieves and con artists. Today's bad guys don't need to pick your locks or break your windows: they can attack you and your family over the Internet. Are you prepared? Enjoy a

safer online experience with easy, step-by-step help from Symantec, the world's most trusted security provider.

This easy-to-understand book helps protect you against Internet threats. Written specifically for non-technical computer users, you will learn simple ways to keep you and your family safe and secure while online.

- Keep your PC free of spyware, adware, worms, viruses, and intruders.
- Protect your identity and privacy.
- Browse the Web safely and eliminate junk mail from your inbox.
- Keep eavesdroppers out of your

wireless network.

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- Protect your new Internet-based phone service.
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List price @ \$19.99. 222 pages. [www.awprofessional.com/symantecpress](http://www.awprofessional.com/symantecpress)

Remember the Rules: Submit your review of 750 - 1000 words, within 30 days, and the book is yours to keep FREE. Questions? Email/call Joe: [joesr@iname.com](mailto:joesr@iname.com), 451-3874

# Review of Point & Click Open Office.org!

By Charley May, KIPCUG

This is a new softback book from Prentice Hall ([www.phptr.com](http://www.phptr.com)) with 2 CD-ROMs included. CD details to follow.

Author: Robin "Roblimo" Miller is editor-in-chief for OSTG, (Open Source Technology Group), the leading network of technology sites for today's IT managers and development professionals. They provides a unique combination of news, original articles, downloadable resources, and community forums to help IT buyers, influencers and users make critical decisions about information technology products and services. Robin writes about computers and "the internet" for OSTG's sites.

I enjoyed the arrangement of "Point & Click Open Office.org!" because it follows my natural pattern of installing and learning to use any new software.

The new OpenOffice.org 2.0 software is really all of the productivity software you will ever need for your Windows or even Linux computer. OO.o ("OpenOffice.org! its nickname"), as they like to call it, has got you covered with an outstanding word processor called "Writer". Writer creates all of the Microsoft Office-compatible documents anyone wants to create or use. Then there is Calc, your spreadsheet program, and Impress, the knockout presentation program. Of course there is Draw, as they call it "Not your Father's drawing board", with tools like Converting a shape to 3D, or creating a 3D Logo from font

characters and many more tools. The author recommends going with The Gimp, <http://gimp.org>, a full suite including painting tools, multiple undo/redo, supports for many file formats and much more. But if your graphic needs are simple, OO.o Draw will probably do everything you need.

For the writer who is hard-pressed to purchase the MS Office product, yet wants the ability to generate a Table of Contents and an Index, OO.o is the answer with its ability to update the table of contents to include any changes in your document since you first created it.

The last program is for databases. It is called Base and can be used to make your own database or look at other database information or pull information out to use in your own documents.

CD's, did I mention the CD's? Well, there are two great CD's that come with the book. The first CD-ROM features Open Office 2.0 for both Windows and Linux, the Windows version of the latest Firefox Web browser and Thunderbird email software. You just install them from the CD and run!

The Second CD-ROM features the author, "Roblimo", showing you how to perform twenty essential OpenOffice.org tasks in easy bite-sized video tutorials that you just watch and do!

Lastly, I wanted to mention that there are things you can do with OO.o, but can't do with Microsoft Office, such as creating Flash shows

for the Web!

The purchase decision is pretty easy. If you are using or want to use OpenOffice 2.0, this book is a big plus and well worth the price, the CD's the CD's... Plus you won't have to download the program, a big timesaver if you are on dialup. The Flash Video's should clear up any remaining thoughts you might have.

The price of the book, suggested retail is \$29.99, but the established street price is \$19.99 (with the CD's, remember the CD's).

## Membership

Tom Denning, KIPCUG

Please welcome KIPCUG's newest members.

ROBERT F. VALENTINE  
SCOTT HORAN  
MARJORIE FAIR  
BILL KEATTING  
PETER HITCHCOCK  
LORI HITCHCOCK  
STARFIRE SOLEDAD

Correction to Last Month  
Corporate Member  
INNOVATIVE PRODUCTS  
BILL KEATTING  
(Name was misspelled)

Each new person that you invite to a KIPCUG meeting can earn a FREE month of dues for you if they join as an Individual or Family member! If you liked the Meeting, they will too!

# The Mouse from Hell Hardware Review...or Sort of

By Ann Moore, Topeka PC Users Club Personal Computer Newsletter, February 2006  
www.topekapcusersclub.org  
commuter@cox.net and APGUG Editorial Committee

Several months ago, I sent the following e-mail to "Answerperson" concerning a tragedy in my life:

"Dear Answerperson,

When I started my computer this morning, my mouse showed no sign of life. Its heart (red light) did not flicker nor did it feel warm to my touch. It was stone cold dead. I tried to revive it by performing an uninstall-reinstall, to no avail. A check of outlets and wiring found them intact. How do I determine the cause of death? There were no early signs of malfunction. If it were an animal, I could have a necropsy performed. Must I disassemble it to determine the cause of death? I cringe at the thought of disemboweling my friend. My mouse was not extraordinary in any way - it was not wireless nor was it ergonomic, just a simple mouse that I loved and cherished. Every day for four years, I held this inanimate object in my hand, caressed it, and knew every curve and indentation intimately. We were as one.

I have accepted the fact that I must now lay it to rest, but where? Is there a cemetery for computer mice? Should I have it cremated or do I put it in a box and bury it in my backyard under the lilac bush? What will become of my dear friend? Is there a computer mouse heaven? This has never happened to me before and I am devastated. Please no cards or flowers. There will be a

memorial fund set up in the name of 'Ann's Mouse' and donations may be sent to [commuter@cox.net](mailto:commuter@cox.net)."

Answerperson offered his deepest sympathy and suggested that I put my sorrow behind me, go on with my computing and find a new mouse. I visited Best Buy in search of a replacement and found no sympathy there. Their only concern was to sell me a very expensive replacement. In my vulnerable state, if the clerk had shown a little compassion, I might have purchased a more expensive model, but because his attitude was cold and unfeeling, I left the store with one of their cheapest models. There is an old adage: "You get what you pay for," and that is exactly what I got - in spades.

I doted on my new mouse, showing it with an abundance of TLC. I never mistreated it by applying any unnecessary pressure, jerking or pulling. In spite of all my efforts to maintain a close personal relationship, it soon became apparent that we were not compatible. The erratic behavior of the mouse became noticeable following surgery on my right shoulder. I was forced to change the mouse settings to accommodate my left hand and the mouse began to balk at every command. Although I moved it around very slowly, it would take off and race around the screen leaving me breathless in my attempt to keep up with it.

In October, I purchased a new LDS 19-inch monitor and the mouse went ballistic. It refused to leave the confines of its colorful, soft pad. Trying to reach the far corners of my monitor with my cursor became

almost impossible. The mouse resisted my every effort to control its actions. Every day was a tug-of-war and I was losing my patience. I had serious work to do and no time to play games. I needed a good reliable mouse. I decided that this obnoxious, malevolent, detestable little rodent had to be eradicated. It was time to go cordless.

Completing a jubilant trip to Best Buy, I came home with a Logitech cordless mouse. I could hardly wait to start using it. What a difference a cord makes! This Logitech moves like a dream and is a pleasure to work with. It takes me everywhere I want to go. Truly, a match made in heaven. I am certain that I have found a new reliable friend.

What do I do with this evil, malicious, wicked little devil that made my life a living hell? No sad songs or mourning for this monster. I had visions of snipping off its tail to make it impotent, then dropping it on the floor and stomping it to death. I even considered calling "The Terminator." What I will do is wrap it up in colorful paper and donate it to the club for a prize at the next Christmas party. I am hoping it will fall into a strong masculine hand that will teach this contemptible, spiteful, despicable creature how to behave in the presence of a lady.

# Acid Solitaire Game

By Judy Lococo, KIPCUG

## \*Red Mercury Solitaire Games\*

It was an ordinary kind of day. I had put off doing a software review that I had almost said I would, so it was time to bite the bullet. I went to the Red Mercury site and downloaded the Acid Solitaire games. It was quite uneventful, although it is somewhat more so if you have broadband access available. Laid-back and easy.

Installation was almost instantaneous, definitely painless, quite unlike what I am accustomed to. Why, I blinked and it was all done! Of course, I just followed all the defaults and it placed it in the Programs file area in its own folder. It also put icons on the desktop, and on the task bar below, which somehow made my Outlook icon that had been resting there (panting, even) vanish without a trace.

The three flavors are Acid Free Cell, Acid Spider Solitaire and Acid Solitaire. The icons are a lot more colorful than most, and the programs offer a lot more options as far as personal preferences go. On the left is a menu with 16 different items available to help you: help with a new game, help with a saved game, background preferences, size and style of the cards themselves, "sparkle" hints for when you find yourself totally at a loss, a tutorial, and a tip of the day every time you start. Plus, every time you win a game, you get tips that start off giving you insight into the game, but can also be philosophical, tongue-in-cheek and even hokey! You can use drag and drop, double click to play, or single click to play. The latter one automatically places the

cards where you want them to go! Well, that's if you're not weird. You may also use arrow keys, or the mouse wheel button; there's lots of ways to not let the whole world know you're goofing off. The escape key is your best friend! <BWG>

You can undo or redo a move, or every move you have made since you started the game. Sparkle hints show you possible moves if you find yourself up against the wall. And just like polo shirts, you can use the small, medium or large size for both fonts and card sizes. All the games are supposed to be winnable, but you are issued the challenge to find those that aren't. Huh? Did I just turn blonder?

Win five games in a row and a tiny rocket goes vertical and releases fireworks. So what happens when you win ten games in a row? A bigger rocket goes up and releases fireworks. So what happens when you win 15 games in a row? You will have to find this out for yourself. And what happens when you win 20 games in a row? I don't know. I didn't do it. The more you win, the harder they become!

When you win, you get a clue, some of which are: "You're older than you've ever been, and now you're even older, and now you're older still"; "if you know where you're going, it can only mean someone has been there before"; "kill your television"; "support something"; "don't take advice from a game"; "send this game to a friend if you want to ruin their life"; "you have never seen this tip before", but then it doesn't give you a tip! However, every time you win 5 straight, you get a "Mystery Clue" which are all verbs, such as "act",

"dissent", "vote", "work", "live", "rise", etc., etc.

The software updates itself, too, just like XP does. Only, just like XP, my update didn't go as expected. It locked up the machine and I had to restore the timeline to a previous day to get back what I needed. Tech support was readily available, though, and the problem was rectified in less than a half day.

These solitaire games have been around for a while (1999), but were previously used more for hand-held devices, such as the Palm or the Treo. They still can be, only now that the Windows version is available, it's possible to use on a notebook or desktop with remarkable ease. The games won't work, though, with Windows 95 or 98.

I still have the itch to go back to the Microsoft version of Solitaire, most likely because it's the electronic one I have always used. These games are similar, but different, and take a bit of time to get comfortable with. In addition, the more you play the harder they get, and sometimes you don't want the challenge, you just want a diversion. Yes, you can choose to replay an earlier one that was easier to solve.

So why is "acid" used in its name? Somewhere on their website is the answer, but it has a lot to do with Acid House Chicago style music from the 80's. Red Mercury is an Illinois company from Northbrook. If you would like to test-drive any of these games, visit [http://red-mercury.com/dl\\_windows.html](http://red-mercury.com/dl_windows.html) and download a trial version. Then, if you wish to keep it, give them less than \$20 for a key to unlock it and keep on keeping on. Yes, it's worth a look-see.

# How Big is a 300 GB Hard Disk

By Jim Sanders, Editor, Orange Bytes, North Orange County Computer Club [www.noccc.org](http://www.noccc.org) / [editor@noccc.org](mailto:editor@noccc.org) and APGUG Editorial Committee

I recently acquired a 300 GB hard disk for \$110 after rebates. When I look at that 3.5 inch hard drive that is one inch high and easily held in my hand, trying to put those 300 Gigabytes of storage in perspective is a little tough. I thought about the first Z80 CPM system I built in 1977 from a Cromemco kit that I had to solder together. It used 8 inch floppy disks that held 128,000 Bytes.

The diskettes were easy to damage and it was a good idea to keep them in storage boxes. I made some good money selling the SRW Computer Products plastic storage boxes at a great ACP Swap Meet discounted price of \$2.00 each. They were designed to hold 10, but you could get 2 or 3 more in if you were careful! I wondered how many floppies that would be, so I punched the numbers into the calculator.  $300,000,000,000\text{B}/128,000\text{B} = 2,343,750$  diskettes. I don't know how to visualize that, but I did calculate that it would take \$468,750.00 worth of those boxes to store them all. I then remembered that the average price at that time was about \$3.50 a diskette. Again the calculator,  $2,343,750$  diskettes x \$3.50 = \$8,203,125.00. Wow! That is a number that I don't want to think about if I am talking about a hobby.

Another way to wrap your mind around huge numbers is to start small, with something that you can relate to, and work your way up. Now we know that one byte equals one character of the alphabet. The

common 10 point type has 10 characters per inch. So, if we have 120 characters/bytes in a row, we have one foot. There are 5,280 feet in a mile. So  $5,280 \times 120$  gives the number of character or bytes that would be on a mile long ticker tape that was being printed with 10 point type, an answer of 633,600 bytes. Compared to the 300 Gigabytes on the hard disk, 633,600 bytes is not much. To find out how much, we need to take the 300,000,000,000 byte capacity of the hard disk and divide it by 633,600 bytes in a mile. The answer to that math problem is the equivalent of 473,485 miles of ticker tape.

To put that into perspective, let's take the circumference of the earth (nominally 25,000 miles) and divide that into our answer. So,  $473,485 / 25,000 = 18.93$ . If we could find a big enough roll of ticker tape, printing all the information on that hard disk would wrap around the equator of the earth 18.93 times. That sounds impressive, but how many people can really visualize that. Besides, I don't know anyone who has a big enough ticker tape printer. Another thought, that ticker tape would be 3,000 miles short of stretching from the Earth to the Moon and back.

But let's try it with regular 8.5 inch x 11 inch paper. Again, standard printing would be 10 point type, 10 bytes per inch, and 6 lines per inch. Most people leave at least a half inch margin all the way around the page. So that means each line will be 7.5 inches, or 75 bytes, and there will be 60 lines per page. So each page will use 75 bytes x 60 lines, or 4,500 bytes. First, let's take 1 of the 300,000 megabytes on the disk and

see how many pages that represents.  $1,000,000 / 4,500 = 222.2$  pages. We still have 299,999 megabytes left and, using them, the total number of pages comes out to 66,660,000 pages.

That is also a little hard to imagine, so let's see how many reams of paper that is. Take 66,660,000 pages, divided by 500 sheets per ream = 133,320 reams of paper. Again, a little hard to visualize.

A lot of things have their volume given in cubic feet. That's 12 inches x 12 inches x 12 inches or 1,728 cubic inches, or 1 cubic foot. I measured one case of paper at 11.25x9x17.5 inches, or 1,771 cubic inches. Let's be generous and round that off to one cubic foot. So at 5,000 sheets, or ten reams per case, we divide the 133,320 reams that we came up with by 10 to get 13,332 cases, or that many cubic feet of space.

Stipulating that an average house is 1,400 square feet with eight foot high ceilings, then the average house has 11,200 cubic feet of space, ignoring the walls. If you filled up your house, wall-to-wall, floor-to-ceiling, with cases of printed paper, you would still have 2,132 cases left over. If you are in better shape than I am, there is still room to get one car in that two car garage. That's  $10' \times 20' \times 9' = 1,800$  cubic feet, so that still leaves us with 332 cases of paper. We could take all of the junk out of the other half of the garage, lay down a two foot thick layer of paper and put all the junk back in on top of it. That's how much the 300 Gigabyte disk holds! So, unless you are planning on taking out a home improvement loan, don't buy that 400 Gigabyte disk.

# Multi-core Processors

By Brian K. Lewis, Ph.D. member of the Sarasota PCUG, Florida February 2006 issue of the Sarasota PC Monitor [www.spcug.org](http://www.spcug.org) and APGUG Editorial Committee

When I first started researching central processing units (CPUs), my idea was to try to make some sense out of the naming/numbering schemes currently being used by Intel and AMD. This turned out to be an almost impossible task. Did you realize that Intel has more than 50 different Pentium 4 CPU models? That in each speed range there can be a dozen different models? They vary by cache size, socket size, hyper-threading or not, 64 bit or not, voltage and other parameters. As just one example, Intel's 3.2 GHz processor has 12 different models. AMD is just about as bad when you try to analyze their nomenclature. So, for the moment, I have given up on trying to find a simple way to categorize the currently available CPUs. Maybe next month.

Since the upper end of the CPU production now seems to be aimed at producing processors with more than one central core, I decided to look at that topic. So what does it mean that a CPU has more than one core? You can think of it as a single chip containing two or more central processors. It is like having two (or more) computers in one box. That said, I have to admit that it doesn't double your processing speed. At least, not yet.

Servers and workstations used in business have had multiple processors for a number of years. Mainframe computers with multiple processors have also been around for years. In order to take advantage

of multiple processing, your operating system must be capable of recognizing and using multiple processors. Windows has had that capability since Windows NT/2000 and it is included in Windows XP. Intel introduced Hyper-threading technology in 2002. That allowed two different "threads" to be processed almost simultaneously. Going the next step and putting multiple processors on one single chip is the idea behind multi-core processors. The AMD64 chip was originally designed to have a second core added at a later date. This became the current Athlon 64 X2 dual-core processor. Intel's Pentium D is also a dual-core processor. In any multi-core processor, each core is seen by the operating system as being a discrete processor as if the motherboard had two or more separate CPUs. Ideally this allows the computer to process more work within a given clock cycle.

The question is why would Intel and AMD want to complicate CPU design by putting these processors onto a single chip? The design is more expensive to produce. The primary answer to the question is heat. In the fall of 2002, Intel indicated that it had a 4.0 GHz processor in production. That processor never reached the market. There was also talk about processors reaching 10 GHz. That has all changed and primarily due to the difficulty of reducing the heat output of these processors. When you have 125 million transistors in a very small space, as in Intel's Prescott processor series, there is a lot of heat produced. In fact, it takes special cooling to keep the processor from overheating and essentially burning itself up. I have a 3.0 GHz Intel "Prescott" processor

in my computer and it runs at a consistent 400 Celsius (1040 F). That's only because I have an over sized copper heat sink and very large CPU fan. Ideally it should be running in the low 30's which would be about 50% of the maximum temperature.

Another problem is current or electron leakage. As the processor die size decreases and the number of transistors increases, there is a greater problem with leakage. Electron leakage from one pathway to another can result in data corruption. Die sizes are currently 90 nm and are anticipated to drop to 65 nm this year. Finally the power requirements increase with the increase in transistors. The increase in power is another component in the increasing amount of heat produced by the CPU.

Dual core processors are designed to run at lower clock speeds than the fastest of the single core processors. This reduces the heat output even though the dual core processors currently have 230 million transistors in a smaller space. Intel has also announced another dual core processor to be on the market this summer that will have 1.7 billion transistors! Their literature says they anticipate that by the end of 2006, 70% of their desktop and mobile processors will be dual-core. By the end of 2007, fully 90% of Intel's processors will be at least dual-core. AMD is moving just as fast in producing dual core processors. As the number of cores increase on a single die, there will definitely be increases in heat output. Cooling requirements for these CPUs will definitely increase. The future of CPU cooling would seem

# Multi-core Processors (cont.)

to be water-cooled systems even for the home desktop market, unless there is some technological breakthrough that will reduce the heat problem.

There are other bottlenecks that will become more important in multi-core systems. One is the bus that transmits information from the core to other components. With two or more cores sending information over the bus, both speed and bandwidth will have to increase to handle the increased load. The CPU depends on the computer RAM for the source of its data and instructions. Therefore, memory speed is also important and will need to be increased. Finally, information is read from and written to the hard disk. Even with the increased speed and bandwidth associated with SATA drives, this can be the largest bottleneck in the system. So these problems can prevent the user from gaining the maximum advantage provided by a multi-core system. All that said, I have to admit that there will be some definite gains in processing speed with the multi-core systems. This has already been demonstrated by a number of third-party testers. However, it will be some time before a dual-core system will function at twice the speed of a single core system.

I keep talking about "threads" without really giving you any explanation of them. I don't think you really want to go into the programming background for this, so I will try to give you the simple explanation. A thread is a series of sequential programming steps or operations. In some instances, programming steps can be executed simultaneously. However, the program must be designed to allow this to happen.

There are also problems associated with multi-threading that can slow down the overall operation. One problem is called "deadlock". This is when two threads are each waiting for the other to complete its operations. This can result in neither thread reaching completion. For software developers, multi-threaded applications have much higher development costs than the current single-threaded applications. Although Intel's Hyper-threading CPU's have been around for several years, very little software has been written to take advantage of the dual-thread processing. Both Intel and AMD are working with software developers to produce more multi-threaded software applications. But it may be some time before the majority of software applications can take advantage of multi-core processors.

Intel has another technology it has developed for use in its multi-core chips. This is called "Foxton". This allows a processor to adjust its speed and power requirements based on its processing load. Each process will have a base or minimum clock speed and a maximum speed. When the load is low, the processor can raise its clock speed up to a maximum level. This gives the processor more power for faster computing. If the load or the power requirement rises too high, the processor slows. All of this is more technology to simply reduce the system heat to manageable levels.

As I was writing this, Steve Jobs, at MAC World in San Francisco, announced the introduction of Intel based Macintosh computers using the Intel Core Duo processor. This processor was developed for the mobile computer market. It uses

clock speeds from 1.6 GHz to 2.1 GHz. Although it has a lower clock speed, the dual processor will provide some performance gain. There will also be a lower drain on the battery. Several other companies have produced Windows based laptops using this same processor.

So how will multi-core computers affect the individual computer user? It should improve the efficiency of your computer by improving its multi-tasking ability. Since each core is essentially a separate processor, at least two applications can be run simultaneously. If the dual core also supports hyper-threading, as some of the Intel Pentium D CPUs do, then it could handle four applications or four threads in multi-threaded applications. Now you may think you really don't do any multi-tasking. However, if you are running an anti-virus program, a firewall, or any other application in the background while you also do word processing or emailing, then you are multi-tasking. A dual core CPU would permit this to happen more efficiently, if not more quickly. Frequently, I am writing, checking a spreadsheet and pulling data off the web. This is also multi-tasking.

I suspect that if you plan to replace your computer within the next year (or two), you will have a dual-core 64-bit processor in your system. With a couple of Gigabytes of RAM, you'll be all set to run Windows Vista as a 64-bit operating system.

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 at [bwsail@yahoo.com](mailto:bwsail@yahoo.com).

# Directory of KIPCUG Leaders

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## 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](mailto:membership@kipcug.org). The KIPCUG Membership Renewal Link is on the web page at [www.kipcug.org](http://www.kipcug.org) in the "For Your Information" section or you can access it directly at <http://www.kipcug.org/payment.htm>.

# March 2006 KIPCUG Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
<p>All Monday-Friday Meetings are at 6:30 PM. All Afternoon Meetings are at 2:00 PM.</p>						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Hardware SIG	General Meeting		Genealogy II SIG Investing SIG	Windows OS SIG Excel Basic SIG	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Articles for Magazine Due 3/14	Excel Basic SIG	Board of Directors		Webmasters SIG	Advanced Users SIG	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	Genealogy SIG New Users Daytime SIG	Real Estate SIG		Utilities SIG	Community Outreach SIG	Hands On SIG
26	27	28	29	30	31	
	Intermediate Users SIG	Digital Photo SIG Technical Mkt Analysis SIG				

# KIPCUG Special Interest Group Directory

**ACCESS BASIC SIG** - Meets at a date and location to be announced. Contact SIG LEADER Alan Birch at [ajbirch@bellsouth.net](mailto:ajbirch@bellsouth.net) or 429-0506

**ACCESS PROGRAMMING SIG - Meetings on Hold** - Meets at a date and location to be determined. Contact SIG DIRECTOR Brian Miller at [sigs@kipcug.org](mailto: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](mailto:tpscan@iglou.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](mailto: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](mailto:sigs@kipcug.org) or 749-5892

**EXCEL BASIC SIG - Restarting** - Meets 6:30 PM on the 2nd Monday of the month at CCUM at 4614 Brownsboro Road (US 42 & Blankenbaker Lane) in the Computer Lab (Room 222). Contact SIG LEADER Jim Boneck at [jboneck@yahoo.com](mailto:jboneck@yahoo.com)

**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](mailto: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](mailto:mooresk@win.net) ([www.win.net/mooresk](http://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](mailto:mooresk@win.net)

**HANDS ON SIG** - 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](mailto:sig@win.net) or Grant McCormick at [gmccormick@win.net](mailto:gmccormick@win.net) or Tom McArdle at [usersig@insightbb.com](mailto: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](mailto:gmccormick@win.net) or Charley May at [sig@win.net](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:redoscar3@yahoo.com)

**NEW USERS SIG** - Meets at a date and location to be announced. Contact SIG LEADER Charley May at [sig@win.net](mailto:sig@win.net)

**NEW USERS DAYTIME SIG** - 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](mailto:winnie.miller@att.net)

**NEW USERS SOUTH SIG - NEW** - Meets 6:30 PM on the 1st Thursday of the month at Resurrection Episcopal Church at 4100 Southern Parkway in the Computer Lab. Contact SIG LEADER Charley May at [sig@win.net](mailto:sig@win.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](mailto:sigs@kipcug.org) or 749-5892

**REAL ESTATE SIG** - 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](mailto: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](mailto:mjslks@insightbb.com)

# KIPCUG Special Interest Group Directory (cont.)

**UTILITIES SIG** - 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

**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*

I am very excited to announce that we are starting the NEW USERS SOUTH SIG March 2 at Resurrection Episcopal Church, 4100 Southern Parkway. Be sure to send an email to me with the subject line of NEW USERS SOUTH SIG and I will add you to the email list for that group. We are continuing to work on a meeting location for the ACCESS BASIC SIG. I appreciate everyone who has helped with our search. If anything changes, an email will be sent out to all those on the mailing list. Continue to forward information on any locations or ideas for SIGs that you may have to me at sigs@kipcug.org.

The COMMUNITY OUTREACH SIG continues work this month on donated computers. We started January off with a large donation of computers and have made great headway in getting them ready. Be sure to visit the COMMUNITY OUTREACH SIG this month to help with the refurbishing of these computers. Please submit any suggestions you may have of organizations, such as small schools, churches or non profit agencies that may be able to use one of these computers. If you haven't attended the COMMUNITY OUTREACH SIG in the past, now is the time to check it out. Contact Bob and Beverly Setree at beverly@advanced-grinding.com

to be added to the email list of upcoming 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 with Internet connections and, if possible, computers for the attendees would be a plus.

### **ACCESS BASIC SIG**

The ACCESS BASIC SIG meetings are on hold pending the confirmation of a new meeting location. We have evaluated a couple of locations and should have one available soon. We will send out emails and post on the website the information as soon as it is available. If you have a location that you feel may be suitable for this or any other SIG to meet, please contact Brian Miller at sigs@kipcug.org and put SIG LOCATION in the subject line.

# The SIG Scene (cont.)

The ACCESS BASIC 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](mailto:ajbirch@bellsouth.net) or 429-0506. If you have some tips and tricks to share, we would love to hear them.

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## **ACCESS PROGRAMMING SIG**

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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](mailto:sigs@kipcug.org). Include ACCESS PROGRAMMING SIG in the subject line of your email.

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## **ADVANCED USERS SIG**

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The March 17 meeting at 6:30 PM in the Computer Lab, Room 222, at CCUM will be a continuation of our past meetings on networking topics. Windows XP supports numerous network enhancements such as network printing and remote management and assistance. Join us with your laptop as we establish a local network and exper-

iment with XP's network features. We'll also discuss any hot security issues during our Q&A period as our SIG LEADER updates us on IT news, and questions the group might bring up.

Please check out the KIPCUG web site to read details of past and future meeting topics, new announcements and Q&A threads. Visit [www.KIPCUG.org](http://www.KIPCUG.org) and click the Forum tab to see the Advanced Users section.

The ADVANCED USERS SIG explores software and hardware topics of interest to people who are very comfortable with their computer who want to know even more. We encourage everyone to share their experiences so we can all learn and grow into 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](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/KIPCUGAdvUsers) or contact Tom at [tpscan@iglou.com](mailto:tpscan@iglou.com). Please use ADVANCED USERS SIG as the subject line of your email.

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## **COMMUNITY OUTREACH SIG**

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The COMMUNITY OUTREACH SIG will meet again on March 24 at 6:30 PM at Advanced Grinding and Machine, Inc, 4644 Illinois Ave. in Louisville. We will continue in 2006 on our bi-monthly meeting schedule. In January we received a generous donation of

approximately 30 computers and almost as many monitors from a local business. We will get as many as possible repaired, reloaded and ready for use by someone or someplace in need. We will also be evaluating locations that have been suggested to receive these computers.

We are still accepting donations. The COMMUNITY OUTREACH SIG has been designed to take donations of computer equipment and restore them 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 COMMUNITY OUTREACH 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](mailto:beverly@advanced-grinding.com). Place the words COMMUNITY OUTREACH SIG in the subject line of your email.

# The SIG Scene (cont.)

## **DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY SIG**

The next scheduled meeting of the DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY SIG will be Tuesday, March 28, at 6:30 PM at the LFPL Bon Air Branch Library. At that meeting, we will continue looking at the camera equipment we already own or hope to possibly purchase in the future and 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 your new 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. Contact Bill Edwards by email at

bedwardsna@sbcglobal.net to get advance notice of this SIG. Be certain to put DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY in the subject line so that it is not destroyed as SPAM.

## **EXCEL BASIC SIG**

Our next meeting of the EXCEL BASIC SIG will be March 13 at 6:30 PM in the Computer Lab, Room 222 at CCUM. We will address using macros and formatting for forms and visual impact.

The pace of this SIG will be set by the members attending. Each session will start with member questions about home or work projects or last month's material. Feel free to bring in your data or existing spreadsheet. Next is the presentation of new material, followed by the opportunity to practice this material.

The EXCEL BASIC SIG met Monday, February 13, at the CCUM Computer Lab. We created a simple macro, looked at search capabilities, merging cells, Tool Options, protecting a worksheet and using Save As.

The CCUM Computer Lab has computers for your use, but some people bring their laptops so they can practice and ask questions about their particular situation.

The EXCEL BASIC SIG meets at 6:30 PM the second Monday of the month in the CCUM Computer Lab, Room 222. To be put on the email list or if you want to send a question, email Jim Boneck at jboneck@yahoo.com and put EXCEL BASIC SIG in the subject

line. Feel free to call him anytime at work 318-2079 or at home 258-0456.

## **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. In the meantime, you should attend the EXCEL BASIC SIG with Jim Boneck as the SIG LEADER. That SIG meets on the second Monday of the month at the CCUM Computer Lab.

## **GENEALOGY SIG**

The next GENEALOGY SIG Meeting will be at 6:30 PM on March 20 at our regular location, the LFPL Eline Branch. The presentation topic will be Sentence Structure and Custom Tags. Once you create a custom tag you need to decide how you want the sentence to read on the narrative reports.

# The SIG Scene (cont.)

The following GENEALOGY SIG Meeting will be April 17. The presentation topic will be designing filters for use with the Picklist or Reports to target specific types of research.

The last meeting in February was a presentation of Reports - How to Audit your Data. Since everyone makes mistakes, we surveyed the group to determine their likely mistakes and designed reports to catch those errors so they could be eliminated.

TMG version 6.07 is the most current version available. Be sure to update your program with either the free download, if you have not already downloaded it, or the update on the Cruise CD. Now is the time to jump in so that you get all of the tips and tricks since we have had new users join us in the last few months. You will not be alone if you are new to The Master Genealogist.

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](mailto:mooresk@win.net). If you want a map or directions on how to get to the GENEALOGY SIG, go to [www.win.net/mooresk](http://www.win.net/mooresk).

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## **GENEALOGY II SIG**

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The GENEALOGY II SIG will have its next meeting on March 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 February 9.

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](mailto:mooresk@win.net). If you want a map or directions on how to get to the SIG, go to [www.win.net/mooresk](http://www.win.net/mooresk) and click on the GENEALOGY II SIG.

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## **HANDS ON SIG**

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Our next meeting will be on March 25, the fourth Saturday of the month, 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 previous meetings, we have worked with various members systems with problems like the Operating System would not boot up, slow systems and those with security problems. Our work was done without losing any of the programs or data on the computers, to the delight of the computer owners.

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,

# The SIG Scene (cont.)

please contact both Co-SIG LEADERS Charley May at sig@win.net and Tom McArdle at usersig@insightbb.com. Please add the words HANDS ON SIG in the subject line of your email. Co-SIG LEADERS Charley May or Tom McArdle or TEAM MEMBER Brad Dudley and other knowledgeable KIPCUG Member(s) will be there to help you with your problem(s).

## **HARDWARE SIG**

The SIG will meet on March 6 in the second floor meeting room of the Eline Branch of the LFPL in St. Matthews. Co-SIG LEADERS Charley May and Grant McCormick, along with TEAM MEMBERS, will continue discussing the process of picking out what is available. We will also review getting pricing, part numbers and URLs so you can purchase at the good prices from home. Then we can start assembling your new dream computer.

At the February 6 meeting we reviewed the newest hardware accessories for your home PC. We also reviewed copies of the most recent advertisements and online specials and gave you our own assessment of what the best bargains were. Time was reserved for answering questions about member's hard drives at the end of the session.

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 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.

Our regular meeting time is 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**

The topic for the March 27 meeting of the INTERMEDIATE USERS SIG, which meets in the Computer Lab, Room 222, at CCUM at 6:30 PM, is Internet Explorer 7 Beta & Windows Defender. Internet Explorer 7 is the next version of the Windows web browser, used for looking at web pages either locally or on the Internet. This version will add more security features, such as a phishing filter, tabbed browsing and a way to easily clear browsing history, cache, cookies, etc., that a web browsing

session may leave behind. Windows Defender is an AntiSpyware program from Microsoft. This program was previously called Microsoft AntiSpyware. We will install and go over the options for each program.

In April, we'll look at Microsoft OneCare Live Beta product. Windows OneCare Live is the comprehensive PC health service from Microsoft. Windows OneCare provides worry-free antivirus and firewall protection, PC maintenance, and file backup for your home or small business.

At the February 27 meeting of the INTERMEDIATE USERS SIG, we had a Question and Answer session.

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.

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](http://www.ccum.net) and on the KIPCUG web site at [www.kipcug.org](http://www.kipcug.org).

If you have any questions or suggestions for meeting topics, bring

# The SIG Scene (cont.)

them to the SIG or email Jim at jim.travelstead@louisville.edu or leave them at the INTERMEDIATE USERS SIG area in the KIPCUG forum and Jim will have your answer at the next SIG meeting or before.

Jim is updating his email list. Anyone interested in receiving an email about one week before the meeting please email him with "Add me to the KIPCUG INTERMEDIATE USERS SIG meeting email list" in the subject line. Anyone at the March meeting will be added to this list.

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## INVESTING SIG

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SIG LEADER Doc Viele moderates the INVESTING SIG discussions, which have been ongoing since 1986. The next SIG meeting will be on March 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.

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## LINUX SIG

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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.

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## NEW USERS SIG

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The date and time of our next meeting will be announced in the SIG Scene when our search for a new meeting location is completed. SIG DIRECTOR Brian Miller will also have the new location of this SIG announced on the website ([www.kipucg.org](http://www.kipucg.org)). If you have any suggestions for an east side location, that is stable, free and has computers for us to use, please contact Charley May at sig@win.net.

To join our mailing list, send an email to SIG LEADER Charley May 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.

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## NEW USERS DAYTIME SIG

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March 20 from 2:00 to 4:00 in the Computer Lab, Room 222, at CCUM will be our first class of the

new year when we welcome back SIG LEADER Winnie Miller. Get ready to start the first day of Spring by learning beginner skills and introduction to Word or Works. Start marking your calendar for the third Monday of the month.

Are you afraid of your mouse? We know the exact trap and a way to turn it into a genie.

You can brush-up on your keyboard skills while you're looking forward to our next meeting. Try typing this sentence at home as all the letters of the alphabet are practiced: The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog. With this one sentence in Word or Works, you may change size, color and fonts and save your work to a document. If you are not a typist and practice this sentence every day you will be amazed how your typing skills will improve. Come to class in March and continue practicing.

If you are interested in a special program, email me and I will let you know if we can help you.

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 located 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](mailto:winnie.miller@att.net).

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## NEW USERS SOUTH SIG

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The NEW USERS SOUTH SIG is having its first meeting on March 2

# The SIG Scene (cont.)

6:30 PM at its new location, Resurrection Episcopal Church, 4100 Southern Parkway. The Computer Lab is on the second floor and you can enter from the back of the building. Please bring your questions and topics of interest so that we can determine what you want to learn in the SIG.

With the NEW USERS SIG SOUTHWEST shutdown for the present and the NEW USERS SIG still searching for a new meeting location, we are very happy to have a meeting place half way in-between. If you have any suggestions for an east side location, that is stable, free and has computers for us to use, please contact Charley May, sig@win.net.

Our new location has 14 computers for new users to receive hands on training. The training will be geared to the level of most of the attendees and others will be assisted to stay on track. We will start this first meeting with basic information on computers and take a peek into an average computer and learn about all of the parts inside your computer and what they do. Come visit with us and tell us what you want to learn.

The SIG will meet on the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM till 8:30 PM. Time will be reserved for answering member's questions at the end of the session.

If you would like a reminder of the next meeting and its topic, send an email to SIG LEADER Charley May at sig@win.net. Be sure to put NEW USERS SOUTH SIG in the subject line of your message.

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## **PDA SIG**

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Check out the INTERMEDIATE USERS SIG for information on PDA topics until this SIG is restarted.

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.

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## **REAL ESTATE SIG**

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The REAL ESTATE SIG will meet March 21 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.

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 mission of this SIG is to provide property owners and investors the opportunity to gain a greater insight into the transaction, so that they can protect their endeavors more effectively.

The REAL ESTATE SIG meets monthly on the third Tuesday in the Computer Lab, Room 222 at CCUM at 6:30 PM. CCUM is located at 4614 Brownsboro Road (US 42) at the Blankenbaker Lane traffic light. Directions are on the CCUM web site and on the KIPCUG web site at www.kipcug.org.

To be added to our e-mail list to receive advance notice of the SIG's activities, contact Bill at re\_sig@insightbb.com or call 639-7647.

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## **TECHNICAL MARKET ANALYSIS SIG**

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The March 28 6:30 PM meeting of the TECHNICAL MARKET ANALYSIS SIG will meet at the Louisville Free Public Library,

# The SIG Scene (cont.)

Crescent Hill Branch, 2752 Frankfort Ave. in the lower level meeting room. 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's 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](mailto: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 knowl-

edgeable groups or individuals. Please send your ideas to SIG LEADER Myron Smith at [mjslks@insightbb.com](mailto:mjslks@insightbb.com).

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## UTILITIES SIG

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On March 23 at 6:30 PM in the Computer Lab, Room 222, at CCUM, Co-SIG LEADER Tom McArdle will show us freeware and shareware from the latest Microsoft Windows XP (UK) magazine. We will start with an open discussion period to address questions and help direct members to ways of getting their system back up to top speed. Members attending should receive a copy of some of these releases in exchange for a blank DVD. To insure you get a copy, email Tom at the address listed below.

In February, Co-SIG LEADER Charley May presented some software he found while recovering at home. Charley shared his discoveries with those attending.

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, sign up at the Yahoo groups site or contact Co-SIG LEADERS Tom McArdle at [usersig@insightbb.com](mailto:usersig@insightbb.com) or Charley May at [sig@win.net](mailto:sig@win.net). Please add the words UTILITIES SIG in the subject line of your email.

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## VISUAL BASIC SIG

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March 1 at 6:30 PM at the Bon Air Regional Branch of the LFPL will be an open meeting for SIG members. SIG LEADER Martin Campion is recovering from injuries suffered in an auto accident. Watch the KIPCUG web page ([www.kipcug.org](http://www.kipcug.org)) for the latest updates. Members that have been signed in at previous meetings may be notified by email. April 6 is when we hope to have Martin return.

Recovering from an accident in October, Martin was unable to meet with the SIG and is with his family out-of-state. We all wish him a speedy recovery.

Members should be aware that Microsoft MSDN Event will be in town March 30 at the Kentucky International Convention Center (221 Fourth Street) from 1:00 to 5:00 PM. The event is free and you may take a first look at the new Windows Presentation Foundation, formerly code-named Avalon. Pre-register online at; <http://msevents.microsoft.com/cui/EventDetail.asp>

# The SIG Scene (cont.)

x?culture=en-US&EventID=1032287878 for the specific event. Or you can register by phone at 1-877-673-8368.

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](mailto:mccampion@aol.com). Add the words VB SIG to the subject line of your email.

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## WEBMASTERS SIG

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On March 16, the WEBMASTERS SIG will meet at 6:30 PM at the Win.Net offices. We will have a special guest! Michael Losavio, from the U of L Speed School will cover the legal issues relating to computing. He teaches the social, ethical and legal issues that surround the Internet.

Mr. Losavio will be covering copyright, privacy, and the legal situations that arise everyday. He states that most of us need to be aware of potential criminal activity that may befall our web sites. A question session will follow his presentation.

On February 16, John continued his presentation of FrontPage 2003. Members learned how to include one page within another page and why to do that. They learned how to create and manage forms, how to use tables for placement and how to use templates.

The WEBMASTERS SIG is one

of 20 similar special interest groups that meet each month in the greater Louisville area. This KIPCUG event is open to members and non-members that have an interest in creating web sites for personal or commercial use. A summary of past meetings with helpful links may be found at [www.inetwebmaster.com](http://www.inetwebmaster.com).

Every WEBMASTERS SIG program includes tips or tools that you may use to improve your web site. There is a question and answer time after the main presentation.

We meet on the third Thursday of the month at the offices of WinNet, 1048 E. Chestnut Street, second floor, at 6:30 PM. Additional information and a map may be found at [www.inetebmaster.com](http://www.inetebmaster.com).

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## WINDOWS OS SIG

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SIG LEADER Bob Rose will lead the WINDOWS OPERATING SYSTEM SIG on March 10 at 6:30 PM in the Computer Lab, Room 222, at CCUM in a revisit of Windows XP Hacks. Learn how to speed your start up time and make your desktop more efficient. Always on the cutting edge, this SIG will help keep your PC running at its best.

The February meeting featured the installation of the beta release of Internet Explorer. The project went smoothly and added most features that will not be seen until VISTA is released later this year.

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.

Microsoft will be in town on March 30 with Business Connections, Tech Net, TS2 and MSDN events. SIG Members wishing to attend should pre-register at; <http://www.microsoft.com/events/individual/default.aspx>. This is a general link and you need to navigate to the event that you want to attend.

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 by email at [britdude@techemail.com](mailto:britdude@techemail.com) 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](http://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](mailto:britdude@techemail.com) and put the words WINDOWS OS SIG in the email subject line.

Continued on Page 27

# The Deals Guy

By Bob (The Cheapskate) Click, Greater Orlando Computer Users Group

When I wrote about being unable to reboot until I removed the Flash drive I had plugged in, I forgot where I had read the tip indicating that possibility for boot failure. John Pearce of Pikes Peak Computer Application Society in Colorado Springs turned out to be the source of that great tip that kept me from pulling my hair out. He had a similar boot failure problem and wrote about it in their August 2005 newsletter (page 3). A member also had that problem whose comment was published in their September 2005 issue (page 3). You can access the Bits of Bytes newsletters at [<http://ppcompas.apcug.org>] from their newsletter archive. Their editor, Greg Lenihan, has been publishing a great newsletter for some time now with several well-qualified technical authors helping their members. You won't be sorry if you browse through a few issues.

## \*Read The Fine Print

Have you seen the latest scam in rebates? It was on the news recently that some people had applied for certain rebates and when they did not arrive in a couple of months they found that in the fine print the rebate could take up to four years to be processed. The TV station was working to help those folks.

\*Interested In A Jukebox? An Edited Announcement.

December 26, 2005

WinJukebox Software announces

the release of WinJukebox v2.0. The core functionality of an on-demand music player has been extended with play list management and music updates. The program also features automatic volume balancing and a smart track overlap. If you want your tune played, punch its track number and wait your turn. The jukebox window also shows the tracks popularity chart. When the on-demand queue is empty, the auto playback mode switches to a list of new downloads or a top popularity list. Also added is track repeat control, so that most ardent guests don't inflict their tastes on others.

The Jukebox window has an attractive texture skin. It shows the play list queue and the popularity chart. The Manager window shows various available play lists and allows controlling Jukebox playback and changing its settings. The program's settings help customize the interface and manage the music menu and playback. On entering a tune number, for example, the Jukebox window can show original messages in your native language. The settings allow automatic downloading of new tracks from book-marked sites with optional traffic limits. As for playback, the program offers the repeat control, volume level normalization, and custom track overlap.

WinJukebox v2.0 runs under Windows 98/2000/2003/ME/XP, and costs \$24.95 USD for a personal user license, and \$49.95 USD for a family license. The company also offers different types of business licensing (commercial \$59.95, non-commercial \$49.95, and educational \$39.95). We will offer all user group members a 10 % discount on the lat-

est version of WinJukebox v2.0 until 8/31/06 as a "special discount from DealsGuy." When ordering, enter the code CPN7798973196 in the coupon field on the shopping cart and checkout page. If necessary, contact [[PRContacts@WinJukebox.com](mailto:PRContacts@WinJukebox.com)]. All registered users are entitled to free lifetime support and minor updates. WinJukebox v2.0 is available at [<http://winjukebox.com/download/winjukebox.exe>].

Product page link: [<http://winjukebox.com>].

Contact: Oleg Filimonov

Company: WinJukebox Software

E-mail:

[[support@WinJukebox.com](mailto:support@WinJukebox.com)]

\*Be aware that I have not tried either of these products announced.

That's it for this month. Meet me here again next month if your editor permits. Be sure to check the new announcement pages on my Web site. This column is written to make user group members aware of special offers or freebies I have found or arranged, and my comments should not be interpreted to encourage, or discourage, the purchase of any products, no matter how enthused I might sound. Bob (The Cheapskate) Click [[bobclick@mindspring.com](mailto:bobclick@mindspring.com)]. Visit my Web site at [<http://www.dealsguy.com>].

Editor's Note: This column has been edited to fit the space available.

# The SIG Scene (cont.)

Continued from Page 25

## YOUTH SIG

Your input is requested as we reorganize this SIG. We hope to include KIPCUG and CCUM members in this SIG and hold weekend meetings in the Computer Lab. 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](http://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](mailto:sigs@kipcug.org). Please put the words YOUTH SIG in the email subject line.

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.

**AM 1080 Wednesdays 7:00-8:00 PM**

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- Individual - \$40.00 annually Referred by \_\_\_\_\_
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 (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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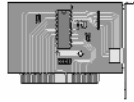
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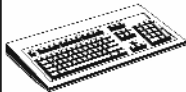


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The next General Meeting will be on  
Tuesday, March 7, 2006 @ 6:30 PM  
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Presentation: SmartComputing.com

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