

COMPUTER ^{User} _{News}

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KIPCUG
Presents

Evelyn Watts

with

What's the Perfect
Office Suite?

on

April 4, 2006

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

www.kipcug.org

KIPCUG

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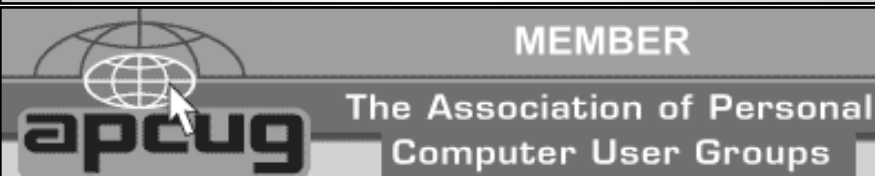
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Over the Program Director's Shoulder

By Judy Lococo, KIPCUG

April

What's the office suite that has always been the biggest innovator of features? Why, WordPerfect, of course. This, from a confirmed WordPerfect junkie, and after all these years, I'm still one. I can't even remember the first time I used it, but it came with a template to overlay your keyboard function keys and had a blue screen that had nothing to do with NT! I know the majority of the world is into Microsoft Office, but my preference is still the WP office suite.

**WERE YOU THERE?
ON MARCH 7
THE NAME DRAWN WAS
WILLIAM COY
AND HE WAS IN
ATTENDANCE.
HE WINS \$50.**

**NEXT MONTH
THE PRIZE WILL BE
\$20.**

WILL YOU BE THERE?

And now, we get a chance to see what the latest version (13 or X 3) can do by Evelyn Watts from Corel. I'm certain she can ring all the bells and whistles this version has to offer, and will give all of us a reason to ooh and aah. I was fortunate to get a fleeting glimpse of this version in January, and I can say it still does not disappoint.

Bring your stumper questions to the meeting and hear what everybody's opinion is on how to solve it, all with a moderator who speaks

Brit! And Back to Basics should bring on one of the Program Committee's star presenters on Faxing through XP.

March

You missed out on a lot if you didn't make the March meeting! We certainly enjoyed having Luke Vavricek and Josh Gulick from Smart Computing (Sandhills Publishing). And I can say with certainty that they gave all who attended a really good show... It's got to be difficult to make printed matter timely and interesting, but they managed to give it to us with both barrels! Hopefully, they can return when it's time to renew all those subscriptions, as they definitely made an enticing offer.



Jim Boneck gave us a great Back to Basics presentation on voice recognition software, and Bob Rose was his usual entertaining self with the User to User questions. If you meet up with either of these gentlemen, by all means thank them heartily and applaud their efforts. Then maybe we can persuade them to do more... <wicked grin>

**Back to Basics
Topic
Faxing through XP**

At this stage of the game, we are looking at getting Trend Micro (PC Cillin) here in June, Linspire in July, and am seriously considering the next Tom and Wayne show on Wireless Security in August. Of course, all this is subject to change at this point, and am just sharing my hunches and best guesses with you.

Now, you wonder, why hasn't the ditzy program director told us about May? That's because it was originally intended for Linspire, who developed a hiccup and couldn't make it in their scheduling. So we will arrange for someone you already know to show us some VOIP that some of you have been hinting about for a couple of months now. No, I haven't been able to find a Vonage presenter, but hopefully, we can get a lot of good information from this meeting from someone who knows whereof they speak!

MEETING DIRECTIONS

Christ Church United Methodist
4614 Brownsboro Road

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

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

The Shadow Knows

By Mike Morris, Front Range PC Users Group, Fort Collins, CO
www.frpcug.org

How many readers remember that phrase? Or remember listening to the show on the radio:

"Who knows what evil lurks in the heart of men? The Shadow knows."

Recent headlines have described the availability of TV shows on the internet-at a price. No headlines, however, for The Shadow or other radio programs from the 1930's and 1940's. The copyrights to a large number of the old radio shows have expired, and you can now download (or order) these programs in a variety of formats and listen to them through your computer or other audio equipment.

Whether your interest is historical research, for the nostalgia value, for a hobby, or for the simple entertainment value, the variety of programs and information about these old radio programs is astonishing. I originally searched the internet using Google and the phrase "old radio programs." That search returned over 20,000 hits over 6 months. The correct phrase should have been "old time radio." That search returned over 1 million hits from the past 6 months.

These websites provide an incredible wealth of information. I have checked a very small number of websites, and offer my comments on them. There are episodes of The Shadow, Sam Spade, The Thin Man-as you can see, I like mysteries. There are comedies, westerns, music, and much more.

By the way, how many readers

remember the origin of Sam Spade? Do you recall the movie "The Maltese Falcon" with Humphrey Bogart? The movie was based on the novel of the same name by Dashiell Hammett (originally published in 1929), which introduced the world to Sam Spade. Another novel by the same author, "The Thin Man," (originally published in 1933) was turned into a movie starring William Powell and Myrna Loy. Here is a trivia question for you: who really was the Thin Man?-answer at the end of this article.

As you might expect, the audio quality of these old radio shows varies. Some websites allow you to listen to short samples of selected shows using either RealPlayer™ or Media Player, both of which are bundled with the Windows operating system.

"It is Thursday night, July 31, 1930. The time is 9:40 PM. Radio listeners tuned to CBS hear the first appearance of "The Shadow"" Thus begins the history of "The Shadow" as provided by the Old-Time Radio Program Guide, <http://www.old-time.com/toc.html>. This website has links to historical information on a number of old time radio programs and to other websites that include soundbites and stories, and to websites that offer programs on cassettes, CD's, DVD's, or direct downloads to your computer.

More history is available at Radio Days: A Soundbite of History, <http://otr.com/index.shtml>. There are links to history by category (Mystery, Private Eyes, Comedy, SciFi) and to histories of selected programs (Captain Midnight, Terry

and the Pirates). This website also provides an historical timeline with important dates in radio broadcasting with descriptions of relevant programs. Selected downloads (soundbites) are included. There is a link to a schedule of old time radio on the airwaves (and on the internet).

At "It Seems Like Only Yesterday," <http://www.yesterdayradio.com/>, old radio programs are offered for sale on cassettes. Categories include: World War II and Civil War History, Big Band Music, Comedy, Westerns, Science Fiction, and Sherlock Holmes. The Big Band category includes Glenn Miller, Benny Goodman, Tommy Dorsey, and other broadcasts from the 1940's.

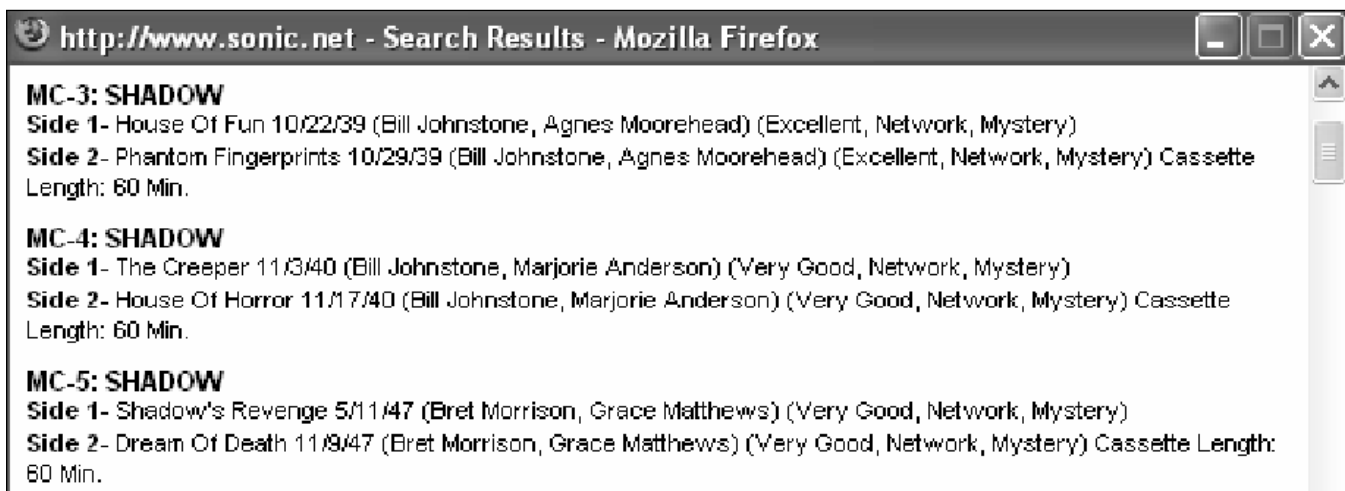
The "Radio of Yesteryear" website, <http://www.originaloldradio.com/>, claims to have 50,000 old time radio programs available on CD's, in various formats. There is a category called "Radio's Best 1000," and "single subject" CD's such as Abbott and Costello, CBS Radio Mystery Theatre, and many more.

Meanwhile, back at . . . old-time.com, there is a link to a website called "Radio Showcase," http://www.old-time.com/sponsors/rad_sho.html. This site offers an excellent searchable database, with "actor credits, recording sources, story categories, and program notes" Here is a sample of a search:

The Shadow Knows (cont.)



Here is a sample of the results of the search:



In the interest of objectivity, I call your attention to the RadioLovers.com website, <http://radiolovers.com>. This site claims to offer individual old time radio program downloads. However, I did not pursue the offer. I found the site's use of pop up ads objectionable (the ads appeared despite having the pop up blocker enabled in my Firefox browser). But that is my personal prejudice. For

those with greater tolerance to such ads, you may find this site useful.

As I listened to these old radio programs, and read about their history, I realized that there was one program that I wanted to locate above all others: the original radio broadcast of War of the Worlds. This program, created from the 1898 H. G. Wells novel by Orson Welles and broadcast in 1938, is famous (or infamous) for the real panic it created.

A search using Google on the phrase "war of the worlds" provided the result EarthStation1.com, <http://www.earthstation1.com/wotw.html>. Success! I listened to the entire program (slightly less than one hour) using RealPlayer™. My

I thoroughly enjoyed the hour I spent listening to this classic radio broadcast. Even the 1930's audio quality added to its menace.

While you are watching the movie, I am going to dim the lights, turn off the TV, unplug the phone, and settle into my favorite chair. It is time to listen to The Shadow. Even in the 21st century, it is comforting that there is an answer to the question "who knows what evil lurks in the heart of men?"

The Shadow knows."

brain soaked up certain phrases:

". . . these creatures have scientific knowledge far in excess of our own"

". . . a vanguard of an invading army from Mars"

Okay, so point your finger at me and laugh, while you enjoy the latest movie version with its extraordinary computer generated special effects.

[The trivia question answer: No, it is not the detective Nick Charles. The title of Thin Man belongs to the extremely eccentric inventor Clyde Wynant, who remains missing until the last chapter of the novel, when it is revealed that he is the victim of a gruesome crime.]

Editor's Note: Mike Morris's email is ml_morris@jymis.com. This article is distributed by the APGUG Editorial Committee.

Free Computer Security Utilities - Gibson Research

By Ira Wilsker, APCUG Director

WEBSITES:

<http://grc.com> (Main page and ShieldsUP!)

<http://www.grc.com/wmf/wmf.htm> (MouseTrap)

<http://www.grc.com/freepopular.htm> (GRC Freeware)

<http://www.grc.com/lt/leaktest.htm> (LeakTest)

<http://www.grc.com/stm/ShootTheMessenger.htm> (Shoot The Messenger)

<http://www.grc.com/UnPnP/UnPnP.htm> (Unplug n' Pray)

<http://www.grc.com/dcom/intro.htm> (DCOMbobulator)

You may have heard recent media reports about a potentially dangerous "bug" in Internet Explorer where a "WMF" vulnerability may make the computer vulnerable to attack. While there has been much discourse about whether this vulnerability is indeed a bug, or an intentional Microsoft backdoor allowing remote computer access, it is a security threat. Steve Gibson, a generally well respected guru on computer safety and hard drive maintenance specialist has released a free, tiny 29k file "MouseTrap" which can quickly determine if a computer is vulnerable to this form of attack, available for download at www.grc.com/wmf/wmf.htm. If the vulnerability is present on the computer, this same link has information on the patch from Microsoft, as well as other third party solutions.

MouseTrap is not Steve Gibson's first foray into free safety and security utilities, as he and his staff have written many other

useful and free security programs (www.grc.com/freepopular.htm). His programs are evidenced as popular by the real-time counter on his download page, which currently shows that in excess of 20 million copies of his utilities have been downloaded.

The single most popular of Steve Gibson's free programs is "LeakTest", a tiny 25k program that will perform a quick test on the firewall installed on the computer, available at www.grc.com/lt/leaktest.htm (you do have a firewall, a program designed to restrict illicit access to the internet or network, don't you?). This simple program simply determines if the firewall is doing its job by preventing unauthorized access to the internet by rogue software which may have been installed on the computer. Leaktest has been downloaded over six million times, a good indication of its popularity and usefulness.

Another very popular program with a nasty name is "Shoot the Messenger", available for free download at www.grc.com/stm/ShootTheMessenger.htm. This 22k program, at over 1.5 million downloads, allows the user to manage a Windows utility which is turned on by default, permitting the computer to be exploited by spammers to disseminate spam emails across the internet, and also allow the display of unwanted pop-ups. This program enables the user to turn off or on at will "Windows Messenger Service", which is not the same thing as "MSN Messenger" or other instant messaging programs, which will continue to function as they had in the past, regardless of the "Shoot the Messenger" setting selected. This

service that can be managed was intended by Microsoft to allow users on a network to send short pop-up messages to other users on the network, but this open door has allowed others to access the vulnerable computer for other often nefarious purposes. Unless required by a system administrator, I recommend that the service be turned off, which this utility does handily.

Shortly after the introduction of Windows XP in 2001, Microsoft acknowledged a critical vulnerability in both XP and ME that would allow a hacker to remotely take over any system using Windows' Universal Plug and Play service (UPnP). To easily allow the user to enable or disable this service at will, Gibson has created "UnPlug n' Pray", another free tiny 22k program, available for download at www.grc.com/UnPnP/UnPnP.htm. A statement on the webpage states, "The FBI has strongly recommended that all users immediately disable Windows' Universal Plug n' Play support." Apparently people have listened, because over 2.3 million users have downloaded this software and are now managing this security vulnerability.

Versions of Windows starting with Windows 98 have included a feature known as DCOM (Distributed Component Object Model). According to Steve Gibson, this feature is generally unnecessary and is rarely used, except by miscreants who can implant worms on the computer, or allow the computer to be taken over remotely by a hacker. To indicate whether DCOM is on and vulnerable, or turned off, Gibson has released "DCOMbobulator", a free 29k program which 1.3 million

Free Computer Security Utilities (cont.)

people have downloaded to control the DCOM vulnerabilities on their computers. (www.grc.com/dcom/intro.htm). By turning off DCOM, computing security can be enhanced. Microsoft had released a patch to control the DCOM function, but it is important that users verify their protection from this vulnerability.

While not a software utility for download, Gibson does offer an invaluable but free online service which can test the security of a computer system connected to the internet, "ShieldsUP!" found at the main page at grc.com. ShieldsUP! has been used to test the vulnerabilities of over 40 million computers,

and is widely respected in the industry. This online utility tests the firewall by harmlessly attempting to send and receive data to each of the thousands of ports, or places in the computer software that can be utilized to send or receive data. While there are more comprehensive (and costly) security tests available, this one is arguably one of the most popular, and provides information on the quality and vulnerability of the firewall installed on the computer. It can either scare the user into upgrading or changing (or installing) a firewall by demonstrating the computer's vulnerabilities, or provide the user with a degree of peace of mind, that his firewall is functioning properly, protecting the

computer.

Steve Gibson finances these free utilities and services through the sale of his excellent hard drive utility, SpinRite 6.0, which can detect hard drive problems before they become an issue, and maintain the integrity of the data on the drive. I have used SpinRite both in its current version 6, and several previous versions, and have found it to be one of the most valuable utilities in my arsenal of computer tools. I strongly recommend it, as well as the utilities above, to all computer users.

Editor's Note: Ira Wilsker is a Columnist for The Examiner, Beaumont TX and a Radio Show Host.

Anti-Spam Programs - Do They Really Work?

By Vinny La Bash, Member of the Sarasota Personal Computer Users Group, Inc. www.spcug.org

Among the most effective anti-spam programs are the ones that use some kind of approval based email management system. They work by constructing a "white list" of permitted email addresses, accepting mail from anyone on the list, and rejecting everything else. The program initially sniffs through your contact list, inbox, and other email folders, organizes the email addresses it finds, asks you if you want to add or change anything, and the list is complete.

From that moment on, any incoming email that is not on the list is considered to be spam, and is automatically exiled to a quarantine folder or wherever you decided it

should go during installation. The programs do work as advertised, which is both their greatest strength and their greatest weakness. Here's what you need to know before installing one of these puppies.

Scenario 1: A friend you have lost contact with over the years sends you an email. That friend's email address is not on your white list. Unless you have a quarantine folder where unapproved email is sent without automatically deleting it, you will never see this email. You have to check your quarantine folder, at least occasionally, to see if there are any false positives residing in there with all the junk. How much time will this take? Who knows? None of the programs mention this in their promotional material or specification lists.

Scenario 2: You install a new pro-

gram or device and run into difficulties. The troubleshooting guide sends you to an email address where you can get a solution to your problem. You remember to add the email address to your white list. You wait for a reply, and wait, and wait. What happened?

Your problem was given to a technical representative who has an email address different from the general support address. You don't see the reply unless you check the quarantine email folder, assuming that in your efforts to rid yourself of all spam you did not specify that anything not on your white list be automatically deleted.

Scenario 3: You order something from an online merchant and before your order is shipped the merchant emails you to ask whether you want the white one or the black one. The

Anti-Spam Programs (cont.)

query has been rerouted to the quarantine folder because the person trying to contact you has an email address that is not on your white list.

Scenario 4: Your spouse sets up a Yahoo! Email account for the sole purpose of sending you a surprise Valentine's Day email. For no apparent reason you are getting the silent treatment. You ask, "What's wrong"? Your spouse replies, "Nothing".

Scenario 5: Your granddaughter just got an email address of her own. She sends you a message, and can't understand why you won't answer. She asks her parents "Why doesn't grandpa love me anymore"?

We could go on, but you get the general idea. 99.99% of all real spam will be banished from your sight, but the very few legitimate emails identified as spam will very likely be the ones you most want or need to see. Some anti-spam programs have a "sender confirmation feature" that automatically sends a

personalized notification to anyone whose message has been quarantined. Simply replying to the challenge causes the original message to be moved to your inbox, and allows their email address to be added to the white list. Legitimate senders can respond to these challenge messages, but suppose that for whatever reason they don't. Does a seven year old grandchild really understand why she needs a grandparent's permission to send an email?

What you end up with is a time-consuming process of back and forth emails. Why should every email first contact have to be sent twice? What a waste of time. This might be acceptable if your email volume is very low, but who are we kidding. Simply establishing an email account anywhere will get you a boatload of spam. ISP level filters are a joke. How many essays do you want to compose explaining why someone needs "permission" to send you an email? I don't respond to challenge email. Why should

anyone respond to mine?

You can check your quarantine folder regularly, but with the huge quantity of genuine spam generated and thrust upon us daily, it's too easy to overlook a legitimate message. When you finally delete the spam, there is a good chance that among the junk a valuable note is lost forever.

After using one of these programs for several months, I decided that I would much rather delete spam manually, rather than run the risk of missing an important legitimate email. No computer program, no matter how expertly crafted or trained, can ultimately determine what emails I do or don't want to read. Even after being married for 38 years, my wife still can't read my mind. How do I expect a dumb computer to do it?

Editor's Note: Vinny La Bash's email is vlabash@home.com. This article appeared in the February 2006 issue of the Sarasota PC Monitor.

Is the Internet Insecure Because of You?

By Dave Gerber, APCUG Advisor

Long gone are the days that we could feel secure and know for certain that we had privacy. With the digital age upon us we can no longer be so sure that our privacy is secure. Recently Google has admitted their organization holds user data indefinitely. This causes concerns as now we know Google has information on us that we do not want anyone to know about.

We can simply blame this all on

the big corporate companies; they seem to be a very good scape goat however, this is not the case; your privacy is totally up to you. Certificates ensure that all the data that is transferred between you and the internet is secure and encrypted. Recently in New Zealand there was a short certificate outage on a banks website. During this outage only one out of 300 users took this security warning seriously.

This is a rather large concern, as many users on the internet have the

same belief that their data is safe and secure. By the end of 2005 it is estimated identity fraud will cause up to 5 trillion dollars world wide. We, the users of the internet must keep ourselves safe, secure and pay attention to those security warnings. I have compiled some good tools and tricks that will help keep you much more anonymous and secure.

1) Get rid of the internet explorer:

First and foremost Microsoft Internet Explorer is the highest risk

Is the Internet Insecure Because of You? (cont.)

to your internet experience. Not only is the most popular internet browser, but is also the most popular for attacks from Viruses and Spyware. Internet Explorer is also too integrated with the Windows Operating System. Have you ever wondered how a dialer or online casino got onto your desktop?

I personally recommend Opera; they have a nice clean browser. The usability is easy and best of all, it uses tabbed browsing.

2) Protect your Connection.

Make sure you have an active firewall operating; Firewalls stop intruders from entering your connection and causing havoc. Hackers can easily gain access to an unprotected network and steal private information.

With the release of SP2 for Windows XP, Microsoft has incorporated a free personal Firewall. If you have broadband your router should have an inbuilt Firewall, and make sure this is enabled, Zone Alarm also offers a free Firewall. You must always do what you can to protect yourself.

3) Don't share those files:

One of the most common security flaws besides running Windows XP, is having File sharing enabled. To disable File Sharing please do the following:

Click Start Menu, select settings.

Click on Network Connections.

Right-click on the Local Area Connection icon and on the menu that appears, choose Properties.

In the General tab under "This

connection uses the following items", highlight "File and Printer Sharing for Microsoft Networks". (If File and Printer Sharing is not listed, then file sharing has not been setup). You may skip the rest of these instructions.

Click Uninstall.

When you are asked if you are sure you want to Uninstall File and Printer Sharing Click Yes.

You may now close the Local Area Connection Properties window.

You must restart your computer for the effects to work.

3) Hide your IP address:

Your IP address is just like your phone number, it links directly back to you. There are many reasons you may wish to hide your IP address. Preferably, you do not want to be tracked around the web; it's just as bad as having a GPS in your mobile phone.

4) Check those certificates:

Your internet connection is not secure; the data that travels between you and the site you may be browsing may pass through over 25 other computers. If you are sending very confidential information such as credit card payments, make sure the address starts with an https. Also check that the padlock on your browser is locked, and is valid for the specific site. This will ensure that you have a 128 bit encrypted connection with the website.

If you want secure email you may also have your emails encrypted too. A good free vendor is Hushmail. Your email security is more at risk than your web browsing; you must

ensure your emails are safe.

5) Kill the spyware

Spyware are little programs that can easily be picked up by surfing any website or downloading files. Spyware can pickup information from where you surf to your credit card details, this information then can be sold.

Microsoft has released a beta version of their upcoming anti spyware removal tool. This too works well, and I highly recommend this tool. Zone Alarm also offers a free online spyware detector.

The information I have passed to you should be seriously considered. The internet is a very unsecure environment; you must ensure your data is safe from outside prying eyes. Make sure you are careful with any transaction you make. Never fall for any kind of email promotion, anyone who tries to sell to you through spam advertising is not trustworthy. Also make sure to check the links from anything you click on; I have found numerous fake Paypal sites that try to steal your login and password.

Remember... it is up to you.

Editor's Note: Dave Gerber's email is dgerber@apcug.net. He is a radio show host and Vice President, Sarasota PCUG, Florida.. This article is distributed by the APGUG Editorial Committee.

System Mechanic 6

By Ira Wilsker, APCUG Director

Comprehensive Computer Maintenance and Safety Tools

WEBSITES:

<http://www.iolo.com>

<http://www.iolo.com/sm/6/download.cfm>

Contrary to popular practice, our computers need a lot of maintenance. Fortunately, our hardware tends to be fairly reliable and long lived, but our software components and operating systems tend to get sluggish over time due to a lack of maintenance. There are many tools and utilities available that can perform a single maintenance task, and some that can perform a few tasks, but very few that can perform comprehensive maintenance and repair of our operating systems and associated files.

Iolo technologies has been publishing its System Mechanic suites of utilities for many years, and I have been personally using System Mechanic since my Windows 98 days with version 3, periodically upgrading it through its incremental versions, and am now using the recently released version 6. The basic version of System Mechanic 6 is widely available for under \$50, but contains a priceless assortment of computer utilities that can be easily utilized to significantly improve our computers' performance. System Mechanic 6 is compatible with all versions of Windows from 98 through XP.

For those who do not like to fuss and decide and determine what is necessary to improve the perfor-

mance of our computers, System Mechanic 6 offers a "Comprehensive PC Total Care Wizard" which automates almost all of the tasks available with a single click. This wizard will remove unnecessary and useless files from the hard drive freeing up drive space; repair and compress the registry improving boot and shutdown times, and solving many of the errors that may occur as we are using our machines; repair broken shortcuts; and perform a myriad of other maintenance tasks. By performing these automated tasks, in the words of the wizard itself, "The result will be improved stability, security, speed, and performance".

Spyware and other forms of malware have become a significant threat to our computers and privacy, and System Mechanic 6 has joined the fight against that threat by including a very effective and proactive protection against spyware, malware, and adware. Unwanted pop-up ads are also an internet annoyance that can be solved, as this software also includes an effective and easily configurable pop-up blocker which utilizes a sophisticated ad-filtering technology.

Internet access and download speeds may also be improved by changing a complex series of internal settings, a daunting task beyond most internet users. Another wizard included with System Mechanic 6 will automate this task by first analyzing the type and quality of the internet connection, and then altering those settings to an optimal point of maximum performance. Once completed, there may be a noticeable improvement in web

access.

Our hard drives become cluttered with unnecessary and obsolete data written almost randomly over our hard drives, which causes the hard drives to work harder, and more slowly. This software will safely remove that clutter, detect and repair many hard drive errors, and defragment the drive for maximum performance. While most versions of Windows include a defragmentation utility, the utility included with System Mechanic 6 can reorganize the hard drive in a small fraction of the time that Windows takes. The "Drive Medic" utility can detect hard drive problems, and repair them before they can cause data loss or system failure.

It is typically frustrating waiting for a computer that used to be fast booting, that now seems to just trudge along. Two common causes of this, both remedied by System Mechanic, are a cluttered "Start Up", and a poorly maintained registry, the file that Windows uses to store information about the operating system and installed software and hardware. An effective "Start Up Optimizer" will safely remove unnecessary or dangerous software from the start up sequence, speeding the boot process as well as minimizing hardware and software conflicts. A group of registry utilities can detect and repair errors in the system registry, and then compact it, speeding the boot and shutdown process, as well as freeing up valuable system resources.

Many of us have encountered the sudden frustration of a computer that will not boot; System Mechanic can create a bootable rescue disk which can detect and repair many of

System Mechanic 6 (cont.)

the common maladies that caused the problem, allowing for subsequent normal booting into Windows.

There are many other worthwhile utilities included with System Mechanic 6, too numerous to elaborate here. For those who would like to try System Mechanic 6 for free, a 30-day trial version is available for download directly from Iolo at www.iolo.com/sm/6/download.cfm.

Many users feel more comfortable with a comprehensive suite of software that can reliably provide all necessary maintenance functions along with enhanced security capacity; for about ten dollars more than System Mechanic 6, an enhanced version, System Mechanic 6 Professional is the solution. The "Professional" version contains all of the utilities included in the basic version, plus an extremely reliable antivirus product, bundled with an excellent firewall to protect the computer from attack. The antivirus and firewall components are from Kaspersky, a very well recognized publisher of computer security products with an outstanding reputation for protection from viruses, worms, and hackers trying to penetrate our systems.

In addition to the security protection, System Mechanic 6 Professional contains additional utilities to improve our computing satisfaction. One utility included is "Search and Recover 3" which can locate and recover lost or deleted files, documents, images, programs, music, videos, and other content that we thought may have been lost forever. It can search and recover information from hard drives, floppies, digital cameras and media,

MP3 players, USB flash drives, and other forms of media. We have all accidentally deleted or other wise lost important files, and this utility is an excellent solution to that problem.

"System Shield 2" and "DriveScrubber 2", both included with "Professional", are used to protect us from identity theft by protecting our privacy utilizing a variety of means. They can be used to remove or wipe out obsolete personal data that may remain on our drives, or securely wipe all data from hard and floppy drives. A recent media report mentioned the risk of identity theft from personal data left on a used computer that had been sold or donated; DriveScrubber 2 can effectively remove all traces of data from media that is no longer needed or wanted, or severely contaminated by a stubborn virus or other malware.

A free 30-day trial of System Mechanic 6 Professional is also available for download at www.iolo.com/sm/6/download.cfm, allowing a "try before you buy".

I use System Mechanic 6 on a daily basis to keep my system clean and running at maximum speed and performance. If all computer users did the same, our aggregate computing satisfaction would be greatly increased.

Editor's Note: Ira Wilsker is a Columnist for The Examiner, Beaumont TX and a Radio Show Host.

Membership

Tom Denning, KIPCUG

Please welcome KIPCUG's newest members.

WILLIAM H DOHRMAN
JERAMIAH F. DONOHUE
CONNIE DI FRANCO
ALLEN J. LOPP
ANN STIVERS
MICHAEL LOSAVIO
ROBERT MICHAEL GILL

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!



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What Does a Cache Do For a Computer?

By Brian K. Lewis, Ph.D. Member of the Sarasota PCUG, Florida, www.spcug.org

A cache (pronounced "cash") is a form of memory storage that generally operates faster than RAM memory or the time required to access a hard drive. The cache is smaller, faster memory that stores copies of the data from the most frequently used memory locations. Computer processors (CPUs) utilize both internal and external caches. You will also find references in the specifications of hard drives, CD & DVD drives to caches of various sizes. In order to see how these caches benefit computer operations we'll look at the operation of the internal caches on CPUs.

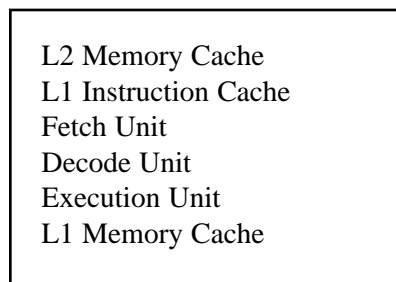
Before looking at the cache function, you need to have some understanding of the architecture of a CPU. Much of the internal structure of a CPU is composed of registers that hold small bits of information and also can be used in manipulating information. As one example, the Intel Pentium 4 processors have 128 registers. Some registers hold instructions, others hold data, others have memory addresses and others are arithmetic manipulators. The instructions are found in the program code and they tell the processor what to do with the data. The processor loads instructions from memory and then loads data that is manipulated based on the instructions. So the registers hold data to be processed, the results of calculations, or addresses pointing to the location of other data. The processor can act on data in registers

almost instantaneously. However, the registers are far too small to hold all the data required. Instead, instructions and data have to be read from or written to RAM.

If the program code were always loaded directly from memory and all the data were written directly back to memory and then to the hard drive, the overall process would be quite slow compared to what we normally see. It is the use of caches that greatly speeds up the total process so the processor isn't stalled waiting for either instructions or data. The fastest cache is the one that is part of the processor and is referred to as the L1 cache. It can operate at the same speed as the processor. So if you have a 30-gigahertz (GHz) CPU, the L1 cache also operates at 30 GHz. Thus data can be accessed in one clock cycle. This cache is generally 128 kilobytes (KB) in size or smaller, although the Pentium 4 has an internal cache of 16 KB plus an internal Trace cache of 150 KB.

The following diagram displays the relative relationship of the RAM memory and the components of the caches in the CPU body:

RAM Memory



The components within the box

run at the same rate as the internal CPU clock. The next cache in distance from the processor is the L2 cache. In older CPUs this was totally external to the processor. In most cases, the L2 cache is now integrated on the CPU chip. The data path in these processors is 256 bits wide allowing for the transfer of more bits per clock cycle than the older processors that had 64 or 128 bit paths. The data path between the CPU and the external RAM is usually 64 bits or 128 bits wide. In a system with an 800 MHz bus, the real clock rate is 200 MHz, but transfer occurs in 4 blocks per clock cycle. This gives an effective transfer rate of 800 MHz or 6.4 GB/second. Still considerably slower than the transfer rate within the CPU.

The theory of using caches is that instructions and data in the cache will be the next set of information requested by the CPU for processing. If the requested information is in either the L1 or L2 cache, it will not be necessary to go to RAM. Thus it can be accessed at the internal clock rate. If it is present, it is referred to as a "hit"; otherwise it is a "miss". (Logical, right?) Now, the bigger the memory cache, the better the chances of finding the data required by the CPU. However, there is a catch to this. The bigger the cache, the more time that is required to find the data. This is referred to as the "latency" time. In an ideal setup you would have a single cache with a high hit rate and a low latency. This is very difficult to achieve in practice. Consequently, we have two caches, a small one with low latency and lower hit rate combined with a

What Does a Cache Do For a Computer? (cont.)

large cache with higher hit rate and high latency.

Now that we've reviewed the architecture, we need to see how all this works. Let's start with the Fetch unit that is used to load information from memory on demand from the processor. It first checks the caches to see if the required instructions or data are there. If not, it will load the information from system RAM. This information is then passed to the Decode unit. Note that when I refer to information it can either be instructions or data.

If the information is a program instruction, the Decode unit will figure out what that particular instruction does. It does that by consulting a ROM memory that exists inside the CPU called microcode. Each instruction that a given CPU understands has its own microcode. The microcode will "teach" the CPU what to do. It is like a step-by-step guide to every instruction. If the instruction loaded is, for example, add a+b, its microcode will tell the decode unit that it needs two parameters, a and b. The Decode unit will then request the Fetch unit to grab the data present in the next two memory positions, which fit the values for a and b. After the Decode unit has "translated" the instruction and grabbed all the data required to execute the instruction, it will pass the data and the "step-by-step cookbook" on how to execute that instruction to the Execute unit. There is an exception to this in the newest Pentium 4 processors. In these processors the L1 Instruction Cache has been relocated to after the Decode unit. It now contains the translated instructions and is referred to as the Trace cache.

The Execute unit will finally execute the instruction. On modern CPUs you will find more than one execution unit working in parallel. This is done in order to increase the processor performance. For example, a Pentium 4 CPU with six execution units can execute six instructions per clock cycle. In theory it could achieve the same performance as six processors with just one execution unit. After the processing is over, the result is sent to the L1 Memory cache. From there it can be written to RAM or sent elsewhere.

Modern processors have another feature called the "pipeline". This is the capability of having several different instructions at different stages of processing in the CPU at the same time. On Pentium III processors the pipeline was 11 stages - each a unit of the CPU. The latest Pentium 4 processors have 31 stages. With the greater number of stages, fewer transistors are required per stage, resulting in a higher clock rate. O.K, so what's the value of stages in the pipeline? After the Fetch unit sends an instruction for decoding, it grabs the next instruction. This can be sent on as soon as the first instruction is sent to the Execution unit. If an instruction has to be processed by all 11 (or 31) stages, it takes the most time, while other instructions might require fewer stages. Only when the first instruction is finished processing can it be sent out, but others that required processing by fewer stages might immediately follow. The consequence of this is that multiple instructions can be processed simultaneously. This greatly increases the overall pro-

cessing throughput.

Other caches found in computers are not associated with the processor. One such type of cache that you use frequently, probably without being aware of it, is the web page cache managed by your web browser. When you visit a web page, it is downloaded to your computer. If you visit that same page within a few days, your browser pulls the page from its temporary cache, compares it with the current page on the web server and updates only the changed portions. This speeds up the appearance of the page on your computer. For example, my home page is Yahoo.com. The major part of this page doesn't change from day to day, so the downloading of the page is limited to those parts that have actually changed. This allows the page to appear on my screen quite rapidly.

So in CPU processing, the use of caches has greatly increased the speed of data handling. The same is true of caches used elsewhere in the computer. In all cases they are short-time storage of information. Luckily, you don't have to have a complete understanding of caches to use your computer. Let the computer do the work!

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

Editor's Note: This article is distributed by the APGUG Editorial Committee.

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

April 2006 KIPCUG Planner

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

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 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 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

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

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

EXCEL 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NEW USERS SIG - Meets at a date and location to be announced. Contact SIG LEADER Charley May at 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

NEW USERS SIG SOUTH - 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

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

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

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

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

Have you always wanted to build your own PC but were unsure about how to go about it? Would you like to be able to tell your family and friends that you built your computer with your very own hands? Or perhaps you would just like to get a new computer for a good price and know that it has quality parts that will work as you would expect a computer to work. You don't have to be a frequent visitor to the **HARDWARE SIG**, **ADVANCED USERS SIG**, or any of the others that may commonly work on this type of project. KIPCUG would like to give anyone who has an interest the opportunity to build their very own computer with their very own hands. You don't even have to be a member of KIPCUG to take advantage of this opportunity. KIPCUG will provide the experts to assist you on a set date to build your very own PC. Prior to that day, we will provide a list of hardware configurations to choose from and collect funds to preorder the parts. These will be top of the line computers at a bare bones price. We need your feedback now in order to determine interest in this project so we will know how to proceed. Contact me at sigs@kipcug.org and put "Build my own PC" in the subject line to express an interest in this opportunity or to ask any questions you may have.

The **NEW USERS SOUTH SIG** is off to a great start. Make sure to let anyone you think may be interested know about that SIG. If you would like to get on the mailing list for emails about this SIG be sure to send an email to Charley May at sig@win.net and put **NEW USERS SOUTH SIG** in the subject line.

The **ACCESS BASIC SIG** is meeting at various locations while we continue to search for the right place for the permanent location. Be sure to contact SIG LEADER Alan Birch at ajbirch@bellsouth.net or 429-0506 if you have an interest in attending so you can find out where the meeting will be. Continue to forward information on any possible locations for SIGs that you may have to me at sigs@kipcug.org.

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.

The SIG Scene (cont.)

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 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 or 429-0506. If you have some tips and tricks to share, we would love to hear them.

ACCESS PROGRAMMING SIG

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

If you would like to be notified of the restart of this SIG, you can con-

tact SIG DIRECTOR Brian Miller at sigs@kipcug.org. Include ACCESS PROGRAMMING SIG in the subject line of your email.

ADVANCED USERS SIG

The April 21 meeting at 6:30 PM in the Computer Lab, Room 222, at CCUM will be a continuation of our recent meetings on networking and computer security topics. Come early and you can get one of the custom security CD's created after our last meeting. 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 experiment 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.

On March 17, the ADVANCED USERS SIG focused on detecting a hot, new type of malware attack called rootkits. One member brought in a laptop he thought might be infected. We used a custom CD loaded with Sysinternals monitoring tools to look for malicious programs.

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 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 or contact Tom at tpscan@iglou.com. Please use ADVANCED USERS SIG as the subject line of your email.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH SIG

The COMMUNITY OUTREACH SIG will meet again on May 26 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. At the March 24 meeting we continued to install and test computers that were donated to KIPCUG. At the May 26 meeting we plan to complete any computer installs that are left and prepare them to be given out. We will also continue to evaluate locations that have been suggested to receive 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

The SIG Scene (cont.)

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. Place the words COMMUNITY OUTREACH SIG in the subject line of your email.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY SIG

The next scheduled meeting of the DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY SIG will be Tuesday, April 25, 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 April 10 at 6:30 PM in the Computer Lab, Room 222, at CCUM. We will address using macros.

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.

At last month's meeting, we used the AutoFormat and manual format features of Excel to create a spreadsheet that is easy to read. We touched briefly on Locking and Protection, and spent time on user questions about importing data into Excel from Internet sources.

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

The SIG Scene (cont.)

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 April 17 at our regular location, the LFPL Eline Branch. The presentation topic will be designing filters for use with the Picklist or Reports to target specific types of research. By using the filters it is possible to narrow the individuals that are selected to make it easier to edit your data or conduct your research.

Presentation topics for future meetings will include: Project Explorer, Tools Menu Features, Master Place List, Research Log, Text Macros, Sources - Examples of Bibliography and End Notes and Sources - Personal Knowledge. If you have a topic that you would like to see, please send me an email at mooresk@win.net.

The last meeting in March was a presentation of Sentence Structure and Custom Tags. While you can change the format of the sentences TMG produces for your standard

tags and sentence structure for your data. This allows a great degree of flexibility when you produce your narrative reports and eventually your book.

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

GENEALOGY II SIG

The GENEALOGY II SIG will have its next meeting on April 13 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 March 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. If you want a map or directions on how to get to the SIG, please go to www.win.net/mooresk and click on the GENEALOGY II SIG.

HANDS ON SIG

Our next meeting will be on April 22, 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

The SIG Scene (cont.)

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, 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 April 3 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 start the process of ordering what we picked out last month. 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 March 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. We gave you pricing, part numbers and URLs to help you get started. 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

At the April 24 meeting of the INTERMEDIATE USERS SIG, which meets in the Computer Lab, Room 222, at CCUM at 6:30 PM, 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 March 27 meeting of the INTERMEDIATE USERS SIG, we looked at 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 has added more security features, such as a phishing filter,

The SIG Scene (cont.)

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.

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 and on the KIPCUG web site at www.kipcug.org.

If you have any questions or suggestions for meeting topics, bring 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 should email him with "Add me to the KIPCUG INTERMEDIATE USERS SIG meeting email list" in the subject line. Anyone at the April meeting will be added to this list.

INVESTING SIG

SIG LEADER Doc Viele moderates the INVESTING SIG discussions, which have been ongoing since 1986. The next SIG meeting will be on April 13. Meetings consist of round table information exchanges on any economic subject of current interest. Questions and presentations are encouraged.

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

LINUX SIG

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

Want to be notified about meeting

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

NEW USERS SIG

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). 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.

NEW USERS DAYTIME SIG

April 17 from 2:00 to 4:00 in the Computer Lab, Room 222, at CCUM will be our next class and the day after Easter. Hope you aren't too tired to join our NEW USERS DAYTIME SIG. As always, we welcome the people

The SIG Scene (cont.)

new to computers. With practice we hope to make you feel comfortable using the computer at home. The computer won't bite...however I can't guarantee you won't want to bite it someday. Come to class and continue practicing your skills.

I also bring some of the 599CD's in case you want to try out a program before you buy or practice some of the skills the group is not doing. Bring some earphones if you would like to do this as some of the computers do not have them.

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.

NEW USERS SOUTH SIG

The NEW USERS SOUTH SIG is having its second meeting on April 6 at 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 continue to bring your questions and topics of interest so that we can determine what you want to learn in the SIG.

Our first meeting started with a look inside a computer and passing the various components around the class for a hands-on look at a hard drive, CD players and motherboards. Our discussions covered the memory usage from the CPU to the hard drive.

With the NEW USERS SOUTHWEST SIG 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 second 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.

PDA SIG

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.

REAL ESTATE SIG

The REAL ESTATE SIG will meet April 18 at 6:30 PM in the Computer Lab, Room 222 at CCUM. The SIG will continue its discussion and analysis of Leases and Leasing Real Property. SIG LEADER Bill Buzan will monitor

The SIG Scene (cont.)

the group discussion and work to give you a better understanding of the characteristics of various leases and how they are used.

Future meetings will continue these discussions and expand into other areas of Real Estate and aspects of this important subject. If you have any questions related to Real Estate, have any subjects that you would like to have a future meeting about, 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 are also 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.

TECHNICAL MARKET ANALYSIS SIG

The April 25 6:30 PM meeting of the TECHNICAL MARKET ANALYSIS SIG will meet at the

Louisville Free Public Library, 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 will be 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 mjsslks@insightbb.com to be added to the email distribution list.

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

We are always looking for suggestions for topics of discussion, or

suggested presentations by knowledgeable groups or individuals. Please send your ideas to SIG LEADER Myron Smith at mjsslks@insightbb.com.

UTILITIES SIG

On April 27 at 6:30 PM in the Computer Lab, Room 222, at CCUM, Co-SIG LEADER Charley May will review programs found on the DVD handed out at the March meeting. The emphasis will be on how to crash-proof your PC. We will discuss DriverManager 1.00, KeepAlive Pro, Memory Tester, Process Patrol 1.02 and SyncBack 3.2.8.500 along with others from the DVD. Windows XP has improved the stability of most PCs, but these utilities can improve the dependability of that operating system. A brief Q & A will start the meeting. We may have a few copies of the software for those that missed last month's hand out, so email either Co-SIG LEADER Tom or Charlie, at an address listed below, to reserve a copy.

In March, members received a CD with a number of utilities that comprised a Podcasting Toolkit. The group discussed this recent development that is exploding over the internet. Members left with free-ware and shareware that will allow them to enjoy this communications medium. Time was spent addressing members' questions in a group format.

Members are kept up-to-date with timely messages and answers to their questions at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/KIPCUGUtilities>

The SIG Scene (cont.)

SIG/. You do not have to be a member of the group to view the messages, but you will need to sign up (free) with Yahoo for full access. Links to sites discussed in our previous meetings are posted there.

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

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

VISUAL BASIC SIG

The next meeting will be April 6 at 6:30 PM at the Bon Air Regional Branch of the LFPL. SIG LEADER Martin Campion is recovering from injuries suffered in an auto accident. TEAM MEMBER Tony Dattilo is expected to lead this session. All are encouraged to attend and register your interest in future meeting topics.

Recovering from an accident in October, Martin was unable to meet with the SIG but is expected to return the middle of April. We all wish him a speedy recovery and look forward to his return.

At the March 1 meeting, the question of future topics was raised. The three general areas discussed were VB.net, VB6 and finally a simpler view of just VBScript.

We took a look at several web sites including W3schools.com where a tutorial for VBScript is presented and KarenWare.com which offers some interesting utilities. The VB6 source is provided for these utilities in addition to the executable. Of the members present, everyone expressed an interest in VB.net and there was sufficient interest to consider the other two areas for future topic discussion.

The topic for our March meeting was a VB.net application used to index medical reports. The reports are submitted in Microsoft Word format from the transcription service. The application reads each report, extracting about 17 descriptors including the patient identification, the provider, the type of visit, the date of service and the location. These descriptors are stored in a database and may be displayed using a DataGrid. The DataGrid can be sorted on any descriptor. Any specific document may be selected and the document text displayed on the screen.

The VISUAL BASIC SIG meets monthly on the first Thursday at 6:30 PM at the Bon Air Regional Branch of the LFPL, 2816 Del Rio Place. To be added to the email list for a reminder of meetings and topics planned, contact SIG LEADER Martin Campion at mccampion@aol.com. Add the words VB SIG to the subject line of your email.

WEBMASTERS SIG

On April 20, the WEBMASTERS SIG will meet at 6:30 PM at the Win.Net offices. SIG LEADER John Henderson will present how to create a JavaScript application for your site. It starts with: `<script language="JavaScript">`. We have cut and pasted many scripts in our web pages from past meetings.

On Thursday night, we will actually write a JavaScript application. The seminar attendees will learn how to create a simple write document. We will take that statement and build a full JavaScript application that can be used on any site. You will learn how to hide your script from older browsers, how to send output to a web page, and how to work with variables. Also, you will learn how to work with dates and how to build conditional statements. Understanding how the JavaScripts are written will make it easier for every webmaster to use prewritten scripts and adapt them for individual results.

On March 16, John introduced Mr. Mike Losavio from the U of L where he holds classes on the ethical and legal issues surrounding the internet. The evening presentation proved informative and the discussion was lively as webmasters were exposed to the potential liability they may have when their web pages are posted. The group is sure to ask Mike back in the future.

The WEBMASTERS SIG is one of 20 similar special interest groups that meet each month in the greater Louisville area. This KIPCUG

The SIG Scene (cont.)

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.

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 Win.Net, 1048 E. Chestnut Street, second floor, at 6:30 PM. Additional information and a map may be found at www.inetwebmaster.com.

WINDOWS OS SIG

The next meeting will be April 14 at 6:30 PM in the Computer Lab, Room 222, at CCUM. SIG LEADER Bob Rose will lead the WINDOWS OPERATING SYSTEM SIG in a review of topics released at the recent Microsoft In-Person event held at the Kentucky Convention Center on March 30. Learn the latest information on current and upcoming releases for the PC. Time will be saved to address any questions members have with their computers.

In March, Bob Rose led the WINDOWS OPERATING SYSTEM SIG in a revisit of Windows XP Hacks. Always on the cutting edge, this SIG will help keep your PC running at its best.

The SIG will focus on maintaining and updating the various Windows OS's to keep them performing at

peak efficiency. While our direction will be forward, questions and topics for older formats will be part of the topic list we intend to cover.

The SIG includes topics covering Windows Operating Systems from Windows 95 through XP- SP2, with an emphasis on changing technology. Time is always reserved to resolve problems and answer questions members bring to the meeting. To be sure we can get to your particular issue, please contact SIG LEADER Bob Rose by email at brittdude@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 for a map to the meeting site. To be added to the email list, please contact SIG LEADER Bob Rose, brittdude@techemail.com and put the words WINDOWS OS SIG in the email subject line.

YOUTH SIG

Our host for many KIPCUG events, Christ Church United Methodist, will be working with us to restart this SIG. As CCUM expands its facility, we will work with them to offer this activity for members of both organizations.

We hope to hold a weekend meeting 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. Saturday meetings are the likely dates for this SIG.

To sign up younger members or to volunteer your assistance, contact SIG DIRECTOR Brian Miller at sigs@kipcug.org. Please 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.

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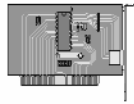
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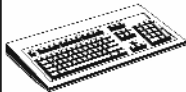


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The next General Meeting will be on
Tuesday, April 4, 2006 @ 6:30 PM
4614 Brownsboro Road, Louisville, KY
Presentation: What's the Perfect Office Suite?

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