

COMPUTER ^{User} _{News}

Monthly Publication of the Kentucky-Indiana Personal Computer Users Group

December 2006 Volume 25, No. 12

KIPUCUG

Presents

COMPUSA

Holiday Electronics Expo

with

Nathan Harrell Klayton Cone

December 5, 2006

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

KIPUCUG

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Submissions

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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S E C Custom Computers	4760 Rockford Plaza
CompUSA	825 South Hurstbourne Pkwy
Access Computer Store	2604 Bardstown Road
Borders Bookstore	4600 Shelbyville Rd.
Border's Booksellers	Gardiner Lane Center
Christ Church United Methodist	4614 Brownsboro Road
CK Computer Solutions	3301 Gilmore Industrial Blvd
Cooper Electronics (Home of IGLOU)	3315 Gilmore Industrial Blvd.
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Louisville Technical Institute	3901 Atkinson
Mexico Tipico Mexican Restaurant	6517 Dixie Highway
Murphy's Camera Shop	1440 Bardstown Road
New Horizons Computer Learning Ctr	10200 Linn Station Road
Sullivan College	3101 Bardstown Rd
Wayside Christian Mission	432 East Jefferson
Win.Net	1048 E. Chestnut St - 2nd Floor

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Bon Air Library	2816 Del Rio Place
Crescent Hill Library	2762 Frankfort Ave
Fern Creek Library	6768 Bardstown Road
Iroquois Library	601 W Woodlawn
Jeffersontown Library	10635 Watterson Trail
Middletown Library	200 N Juneau Drive
Shawnee Library	3912 West
St Matthews/Eline Library	3940 Grandview Ave
Southwest Library	10375 Dixie Highway

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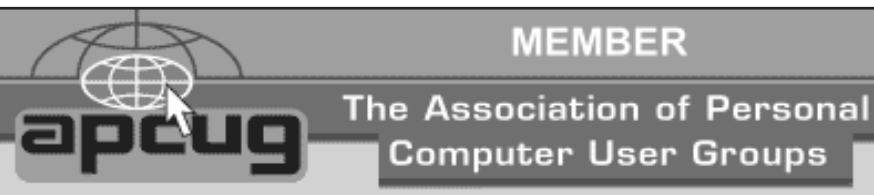
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The editors reserve the right to make any changes deemed necessary to any editorial matter submitted or to refuse publication of any material submitted.

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



KIPCUG is a member of APCUG, an international association of computer user groups. Information is available at www.apcug.org

Over the Program Director's Shoulder

By Charley May and John Henderson, KIPCUG

December

Once again, the Holiday Season is slipping up on us, but we have the heavy hitters coming this year to help us with those special gift choices, just in time. The KIPCUG General Meeting presentation, "Holiday Electronics Expo", will help solve your problems with the latest, greatest information on holiday gifts for boys and girls, young and old.

I urge you to attend the December General Meeting, as the people from CompUSA will be there, led by Nathan Harrell, Retail Sales Manager of the CompUSA Management Team. We want to take a moment to thank CompUSA for again being one of our National Organization's (APCUG) Annual Conference Sponsors, along with Microsoft Mindshare Program, Corel, Intel and other well-known sponsors.

Equipment will be available for you to see, touch and ask questions about, as well as a comprehensive double-header presentation team.

WHERE YOU THERE?

RICHARD ZALAT

**DID NOT WIN ON
ON NOVEMBER 7
HE WOULD HAVE WON
\$20**

**ON DECEMBER 5
THE PRIZE WILL BE
\$30.**

WILL YOU BE THERE?

Here is a little bit of information about each of the December meeting presenters.

The first December Meeting presenter is Nathan Harrell and he is a very knowledgeable and helpful Manager for CompUSA for numerous years. Nathan will be presenting the "Latest in Laptops" and more, available for this holiday season.

The second December Meeting presenter is Klayton Cone and he is Louisville's Apple Solutions Consultant based out of CompUSA. Klayton is also a published Comic Book Storyboard Artist, Political Cartoonist and Sci-Fi Novel artist. He will be talking about "What's new with Apple" focusing on the Apple iPod and iToons.

The main presentation will follow the Back to Basics and the User to User segments. Remember the User to User is your chance to get answers from your fellow KIPCUG members to your puzzling computer questions. We will have our usual door prizes and raffle! So see you in December!!

November

Have you ever wondered how to make a cat talk in a movie? How to have a cartoon character speak? Warren Philpot of Lunafire Productions (www.lunafire.com) took an image, combined it with an audio file, and created several talking animations.

With the use of "Crazy Talk", Warren showed us how to plot the positions for the eyes and mouth of any face. Then, running a simple

audio file in conjunction with the image, the software created a short video file that "talked." The simple jpg image actually moved in context with the audio. Further settings within the software produced emotions such as fear, concern, happy, or sadness that could be seen in the image's facial movements.

Warren Philpot also brought a copy of Ulead's Cool 3D. Cool 3D has the ability to change a flat pixel image file such as a jpg and render it into a mathematical vector-based image. Then that vector image can be turned or repositioned based on its mathematical structure. Warren took simple images from a model airplane kit, gave them the dimension of depth, and repositioned the pieces into a 3D airplane. He also took a globe and had the word "KIPCUG" rotate around it.

With a few dollars in software, under \$200, Warren showed us how to create 3D objects and effects on an affordable budget. Warren, "Thanks for a great presentation!"

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

From the Desk of the President

By Bill Buzan, KIPCUG

Thanks to the efforts of some very loyal members of KIPCUG, the site of the renovation of older computers and the staging of these machines has been moved to a readily accessible location. Our volunteer members can come and go virtually any day and time that is good for them. This new site should allow KIPCUG the opportunity to change junk into usable equipment and the remainder into cash for KIPCUG.

This new site is in the basement of an older building. It is hoped that later we may be fortunate enough to

acquire 1,000 sq. ft. on a ground level with some parking and easy accessibility. For now we have gained a recycler, larger workspace and an opportunity for another source of income, the use of some equipment and a readily accessible location.

Please keep KIPCUG in mind if you have or know of any electronic items that are no longer being used or that are headed for the garbage can. Point them in our direction by calling or emailing one of your Directors.

Anyone that would like to volunteer some of their time and talents

would be appreciated. Call or email one of the Directors and let us know of your desires.

A new program has been instituted with SEC Computers; anyone buying a computer from SEC will receive a certificate for a 6-month membership in KIPCUG. This program will be expanded to other companies as they express a desire to receive them. When these individuals join us, make them feel at home, help us keep them as permanent members.

KIPCUG is finding its purpose with the help of its members.

Big Savings on Ink Cartridges

By Tom McArdle, KIPCUG

It's a marketing dream. Sell a printer cheap, but make your profit on the proprietary refills. You may have noticed that you can buy a new ink jet printer for a few dollars more than buying replacement cartridges. Find yourself in that trap?

Looking for a low cost way out, but don't want the mess of refilling your old cartridges? Look out Louisville, help has arrived.

Caboodle, a franchise operation, has opened to locations in the River City. I stopped in at one of the outlets located in the shopping center immediately south of Papa Jon's Stadium. My old HP printer used a #45 and #78 refills that were about half the cost of new refills and significantly lower priced than house brand refills found at office supply retailers. I paid \$18.49 and \$23.99 each. The price can drop a few dol-

lars more if you can trade in your old HP, Dell or Lexmark empties, I am aware that manufacturers caution about the use of refills, but mine are working just fine and the store provides a 100% replacement warranty if they fail to work when first used in your printer. The store offers refurbished printers, laser toner cartridges, photo reprinting services and basic office supplies in addition to ink jet refills. Find the local outlet hours and locations at www.caboodle.com.

A trusted retailer has also joined the fray, Walgreen's now offers a refill service 'while you wait' at 8 Greater Louisville locations and 1500 nationwide. The black cartridge refills run \$12.99 to \$14.99 and should take about 15 minutes to complete. Just bring in your empty cartridge to the photofinishing counter and wander the isles while you have your empties brought back

to life. The ink machine drains all of the old ink out and then fills it completely with new ink. The cartridge is then subjected to printing and electrical tests, if it does not pass, the customer is not charged. For closest location, go to www.walgreens.com, click on "Store Locator:" type in your ZIP code and click on "stores with inkjet refill service."

Again, a word of caution, the on-site refill stations use the same ink to refill all brand cartridges. The refilled color cartridges may not print exactly as the OEM would. You will have to judge that yourself. Many of us are willing to trade that risk for the dollars saved. The color variance with a black refill is rarely an issue. Also, photo reprints are usually significantly lower in cost if you have the printing done at a photofinishing location than on your home printer.

U3 Drives

By Diane George, Webmaster, PC Community, California
<http://www.pcc.org>

This month's column is half tips and half product review. I recently got interested in U3 drives, partly as a result of some software I saw at the Southwest PC User Group conference in San Diego in July.

What is U3 and why do I want to know? It's not the successor to the rock band U2. U3 is an open-standard platform that allows you to take applications and store and launch them on a flash drive. Several flash drives are offered with U3 with pre-loaded U3 applications on them. Verbatim, Memorex, Ativa and SanDisk all offer U3 smart drives. Go to <http://www.u3.com/smartdrives/default.aspx> for a list of U3 drives and more information.



The drives come with software preloaded, such as an application that will allow you to take Office documents created on your desktop computer, and work on them on another computer (also with Office installed), without a trace of the files being left on the second computer. This means that you can take your work with you without a laptop, use a computer elsewhere, like in an Internet cafe, without having to copy the files to the new computer, including your e-mail.

Other applications that come pre-loaded include antivirus software for the flash drive, password storage and management, SKYPE, Zinio Reader for digital magazines, ACDSsee for photo management, and Migo (more about that later). In

addition, there are other free and commercial applications available at the U3 Central site that are accessed from the drive, including games.



How does this work? The flash drive has a small partition that pretends to be a CD-ROM so that your computer will autorun a launch pad that makes the rest of the drive storage accessible—did I mention that it is password protected and can be encrypted? When you start up, a launchpad for the drive is opened. You can password protect the flash drive itself so the first thing you see is a login screen. The launch pad is part of the U3 system and is the same on different brands of drives. The launchpad gives you access to the applications on the drive and is required to remove the drive—you must use the launchpad to eject the disk or you risk damaging the drive.

When you plug in the drive, your system recognizes it as a USB drive and you can see it in My Computer, as a very small 3.78 MB CD-ROM drive that will autoplay. It also appears as a 2 GB removable drive that you can copy files on like any other flash drive. In general, the

device works, but I have a couple of quibbles. I have had difficulty with installation on one of my two computers and I have not yet been able to determine what the problem is. The first time I put the drive in, it caused my computer to slow to a crawl and it never did recognize the drive. Only when I had the drive inserted at startup did it allow me to use it. I have tried it on two other systems and it worked fine.

One of the software applications allows you to save selected files, Outlook email, contacts, tasks and calendar information, and creates a desktop that represents the desktop on a particular computer. You can create two of these desktops. When you take the device to another computer and launch the software, you have the choice of using either desktop. A tab is added to the top of your screen and when you click on it, you see thumbnails. (See Figure 3.) Each picture is the desktop of the other computers. When you click on one of the names or images, your desktop changes—the My Documents folder contains only the items that you brought from the other computer and your e-mail client will show the contents of your inbox and the other shortcuts are different.

I haven't figured out yet why some are the icons from the desktop of the computer I am on and some are from the computer on the flash drive. I need more time with the applications and will write a follow-up. In the meantime, these drives present some interesting possibilities and should be fun to explore.

Editor's Note: Diane George's email is digeorge@sbcglobal.net. This article is distributed by the APCUG Editorial Committee.

How Do I Get My Home Videos Into the Computer?

By Elise Edgell, President, North Orange County Computer Club, California <http://www.noccc.org>

I have stacks of VHS and 8mm tapes that I want to convert to digital format before they are no longer accessible. I know that once I get the analog videos converted to digital format I can preserve them, edit them, back them up, etc. But, what technology is available to me?

First of all, let me explain that I have never been good at reading about a technology, learning all its terms and features before I have had a chance to use the technology. When I am making a decision about software, frequently the feature, which sounded so good on the box and enticed me to purchase it, is not the feature that I really use. It often is something that I was unaware of when I initially got the program but which I use the most and like the best. An example of this is the "Reveal Codes" feature in WordPerfect.

When VCRs first came on the market, I wanted one. I heard about the pros and cons of VHS and BETA formats. I had a hard time remembering which was which. I had never used a VCR before I purchased a VHS model. I rapidly learned the different recording speeds and how they affected the quality of the image. The next VCR I purchased was a BETA format. The image quality was much better and I couldn't understand why it was not the format of choice for everyone.

Since that time, I have had a VHS camcorder, an 8mm and a Hi8.

Again, the quality difference between the three formats is notice-

able. I have not purchased a digital camcorder yet so I have not learned the difference between the different types of digital camcorders. When I was looking for the technology necessary to convert my precious memories to digital format, I was focused on analog conversion devices.

The first analog capture device connected to the computer with a USB1 cable. That did not work well and I put the project aside for a while. I then received an ADS Instant DVD USB 2 capture device as a gift. By this time, I had acquired a couple of video editing programs. I had installed them, read the documentation (much of it was incomprehensible to me without actually using the program), and attempted to capture some video from a Hi8 tape. This did not work well. I found that software programs are very touchy about which video capture device they will talk with. Fortunately, the video capture device came with capture software so I am able to transfer my analog video to digital. But, not in the way I wanted and I am still learning the terminology.

I wanted to write this because some of my confusion may be the same as yours. The software programs say that they can "capture" both analog and digital video. They also talk about "capture card" for the digital video. It is necessary to have a "capture card" or "capture device" to take the analog information from your VHS (or other analog input) and convert it to digital information. This is usually accomplished by connecting the video-out and audio-out from your analog device (VHS player, camcorder, etc) to the input section of your capture card (this

may be your video card) or external device. When you are in the process of capturing the video, the analog information is converted in the capture device to a digital format (there are several such as MPEG1 and MPEG2) and then stored on your computer. Once stored, they can be used by video editing programs or can be burned to a disk.

Please note, if you have a digital camcorder, you do not need a conversion device. The information that is on your camcorder is already in digital format. Depending on the type of camcorder the digital information may be stored on a tape, memory card, hard disk, or even on a DVD. If you cannot remove the storage device and put it into a reader on your computer then the way to transfer data is through a FireWire or USB2 connection to your computer. If you are using a video editing program to enable the transfer, there are some nice things that the program may be able to do with the data as it is received. It may automatically create chapters and provide other information that is handy when you want to edit the information (rare is the tape which cannot be improved with cutting out the unintentional video of the pavement).

There are programs that let you transfer your converted VHS tape directly to a DVD.

The reason to do this is to get the analog tapes preserved. I know that I will never have the time to edit all the old tapes that I have, but I do want to preserve them. The CapWiz program which came with my ADS Instant DVD USB2 capture box has this feature. If you purchase a program that is not bundled with the

How Do I Get My Home Videos (cont.)

capture box (or card), be sure that specific version of that program will work with your model of capture device.

Expect to put in some time learning the terminology. Read carefully what the program will do and what it will not do so that you are realistic in your expectations. Keep in mind that what you are working with, once you have your video in digital format, is a file. The file can be in several different formats with different characteristics. What I mean is that, just like with digital photos, a file format, which is really compressed, will not look as good as a larger file with more information. When dealing with video information, you must remember that you need a lot of storage on your disk and it really helps to have a disk with fast

response time.

A fast computer with lots of RAM is also important. It is only recently that video editing has become practical for the home user. Before really large, fast hard disk storage was affordable, the home user was very limited in the size of file that could be edited. With today's fast computers, inexpensive RAM, large storage disks, and inexpensive DVD writers it should be within the reach of many home users to be able to preserve valuable analog tapes. Plus, be able to make home movies from them that friends and family are willing to watch.

If you are planning to buy a new computer in the near future, keep in mind the requirements for video editing as well as the requirements for VISTA. Fortunately, the require-

ments for the Ultimate version of VISTA are also good for video editing purposes.

Editor's Note: Elise Edgell's email is eliseedgell@aol.com. This article is distributed by the APCUG Editorial Committee.

Membership

By Tom Denning, KIPCUG

Please welcome KIPCUG's newest member.

BILL GRAY

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 Part of Backup Nobody Mentions

By Vinny La Bash, Member of the Sarasota Personal Computer Users Group, Inc., Florida
<http://www.spcug.org>

There are dozens if not hundreds of ways to backup your data, but we're not going to talk about that. We're going to discuss the most important part of doing a backup, the part that is hardly ever mentioned. Do you believe that your backup is a sound copy of your data? Would you be at ease if all your files suddenly disappeared from your computer, and all you had was your backup to restore them?

If your confidence fizzled to zero, what's the problem?

You may have developed the most

sophisticated and comprehensive backup scheme the computer world has ever seen, but you won't ever know if it's any good unless you test it. Without a valid method of testing, you can have no confidence in your backups. There are many things that can go wrong with a backup, some beyond your control, some not.

Perhaps one day you were in too much of a hurry, and you made a backup of one folder instead of your entire system as you planned. Hmm, no wonder that backup completed so fast.

Your backup disk got exposed to a magnetic field and scrambled all your data.

The CD containing your data was left in the car, and excessive heat warped the media, making it unreadable.

You encrypted your backup and lost the password to restore it.

You upgraded your backup software, and now it can't read your old backups.

Your new upgraded backup software program becomes corrupted, and you can't make a new backup or restore an old one.

Your new backup program has a great innovative file compression scheme. However, it turns out that it compresses better than anyone expected.

You upgrade your Windows

The Part of Backup Nobody Mentions (cont.)

Operating System and your backup software no longer works. (Rare, but it happens).

Let's stop here before you get too depressed to make another backup. What's important is to understand that a great many things can go wrong even with the best backup methods.

The only true test of your backup is to do a restore and see if it works. Does this mean you have to erase all your files, and then run a restore from your backup media? No. Fortunately, there are less chancy

ways of verifying your backup data.

One thing you can do is install a second hard drive and restore your data files to the second disk. If your original disk has enough capacity, you can partition it into at least two sections, and restore into one of the new partitions. Hard drives have become almost dirt cheap, so this is not particularly expensive.

Another thing you can do is make at least three backups and store them in three different locations for safety. Keep one copy at home, but in a different room than your com-

puter. Store a second copy at your office or a friend's house, and do the same for him or her. The third copy could be in a safe deposit box or similar secure location.

If you feel that such measures are not necessary, ask yourself if you are ready to perform the ultimate test. Would you feel totally at ease erasing your hard disk today and restoring it from your backups? If not, then think again.

Editor's Note: Vinny La Bash's email is vlabash@comcast.net. This article is distributed by the APCUG 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>.

December 2006 KIPCUG Planner

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31	<p>All Monday-Friday Meetings are at 6:30 PM. All Afternoon Meetings are at 2:00 PM.</p>																																																																																		

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

The SIG uses the tools that are available in Access without programming. Users bring problems and we come up with solutions.

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

The SIG explores software and hardware topics of interest to people who are very comfortable with their computer and 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.

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

This SIG takes donations of computer equipment and restores them to working condition. These computers can then be distributed to people in need, providing a valuable service to the community. We are always looking for donations. We also welcome people willing to help restore computers for distribution.

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 Charley May at sig@win.net or 773-7155

This SIG examines software and hardware topics that will make your photographic efforts more fun and rewarding. Members at any level of experience and with any type of digital camera are welcome. Please bring your camera, manual, photo CD and special soft-

ware. We will all increase our ability to understand digital photography.

EXCEL BASIC SIG

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

This SIG starts with questions about home or work projects or last month's material. Feel free to bring your data or existing spreadsheet. We present new material and the opportunity to practice this material. The computer lab has computers for your use, but some people bring their laptops so they can practice and ask questions about their particular situation.

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.genealogy-family.com

The Genealogy SIG has presentations on the use of The Master Genealogist software. TMG is a full-featured database that can help you organize, research and publish your family history. Each session has a short Q&A. For presentations check genealogy-family.com. Interactive census forms are also available on this site.

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

The Genealogy II SIG also helps you to understand The Master Genealogist software; however this SIG utilizes a Q&A format. You bring the questions and we can usually provide the answers. Having trouble with your TMG program on your laptop - bring it with you. We have plenty of room to setup your computer and check-out your problem.

KIPCUG Special Interest Group Directory (cont.)

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

This is a chance to find some assistance and learn more about your PC. We will work with you to get your machine back up and running at top speed. We can help you build/upgrade your own PC. You need to bring your complete system, monitor, keyboard, mouse, cables and processor. Members with repair experience are encouraged to drop in and help.

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 773-7155

We can help you expand the capabilities of your existing system. Learn how to add your own hard drive, audio or video card, memory module, DVD burner or build your own computer from the ground up. Learn the tips and techniques necessary for a successful hardware upgrade.

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)

The SIG focuses on various versions of MS Windows software, its features, methods of operation, and problems along with hints and tips. This SIG is for users who are comfortable with the daily use of their computer, have mastered their fear of computers, and are willing to push the envelope a little.

INVESTING SIG

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

Meetings consist of round table information exchanges on any economic subject of current interest. Questions and presentations are encouraged. Each meeting will include general information on investing and the usual information exchange. This is not an investment club; they DO NOT discuss mutual funds.

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

We welcome people new to computers. With practice, we hope to make you feel comfortable using the computer at home. Computers are available here for you to continue practicing your new skills on. Feel free to bring any questions and we'll try to answer them for you.

NEW USERS SIG SOUTH

Meets 6:30 PM on the 3rd 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 or 773-7155

This SIG is geared to the level of most of the attendees to help them stay on track. We have computers for you to receive hands-on training while watching the presentation on the screen at the front of the room. Time is allotted for questions.

REAL ESTATE SIG

Restarting in January - 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

The mission of this SIG is to provide property owners and investors the opportunity to gain a greater insight

KIPUCG Special Interest Group Directory (cont.)

into the transaction, so that they can protect their endeavors more effectively.

TECHNICAL MARKET ANALYSIS SIG

New Location - Meets 6:30 PM on the 4th Tuesday of the month at Old National Bank, 4201 Shelbyville Road, at the corner of Shelbyville Road and Hubbards Lane, in the rear meeting room. Contact SIG LEADER Myron Smith at 897-7718 or mjslks@insightbb.com

We use technical indicators to try to determine the near term direction of the market and hone our skills. The SIG uses a group discussion format to answer everyone's questions and attendees can tell how they use the indicators. We have discussions about the present market and use web-based indicators. Topics of interest are presented at many meetings.

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 773-7155

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.

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 at 810-9125 or mccampion@aol.com

This SIG discusses features of the Visual Basic program, frequently discussing games that are being developed or VB.Net.

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

Learn how to build web sites! SIG consists of main presentation or discussion, tips and tricks that webmasters can build into their site, and Q & A session. Past presentations have included FrontPage, Dreamweaver, how to include video, JavaScript, cascading style sheets, image software, and "What's legal?" All knowledge levels welcome. Current topic posted at info.win.net/training.html.

WINDOWS OS SIG

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

The group will focus on maintaining and updating Windows OS's to keep them performing at peak efficiency. The SIG includes topics covering Windows Operation 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.

HAVE
YOU
VISITED A
SIG
LATELY?

Surprising New Search Engine

By Sandy Berger, Compu-KISS
www.compukiss.com

Google has been my search engine of choice for several years, but recent developments have made me change my alliance to a new search engine.

Perhaps you read about it. A few weeks ago, 20 million of AOL's customers Web search queries appeared on the Web. These included the user's ID, the query they typed into the search engine, and other information.

Newsmakers picked up on the story because of some of the dramatic Web searches performed. For instance, AOL user 2708 searched for "I hate my ex boyfriend," "how to humiliate someone," "free angry stuff to send to an ex lover," and "makehimpay.net". User 17556639 looked for even more vicious information with searches on "how to kill a wife", "photo of dead people," "decapitated photos," "wife killer," and "steak and cheese." (Guess they got hungry.)

After the sensationalism died down, many people realized that the true story was that search engines are keeping a collection of information that can lead to a personal dossier of an individual. AOL's information included user numbers that were identified by cookies, but users can also be identified by Internet addresses, bringing them closer to our true identities.

All of the big search engines keep such information. Recently Google, AOL, Microsoft, and Yahoo were subpoenaed to turn over information of this type to the Justice Department. Of the big four, only Google refused to release the infor-

mation.

In response to this story, one search engine, Ixquick, immediately issued a press release stating that they are taking steps to provide privacy protection for their users. Ixquick stated that after a search, they will immediately and permanently delete all personal search details.

I was impressed by a company who thought that protecting our privacy was more important than gleaming information from our searches and selling data for marketing purposes. I had never heard of Ixquick, but I immediately surfed over to www.ixquick.com. I was

impressed with what I found.

Ixquick, which is owned by a Dutch company, is a metasearch engine. That means that it searches several databases to get its search results. Ixquick uses Yahoo/Alta vista, Gigablast, Ask Jeeves/Teoma, Open Directory and 7 other search engines. It is available in 18 languages.

Ixquick marks the search results with stars, one star for every search engine that chooses that particular Web site as one of the ten best results for your search. This effectively gives you the relevancy of the search results. Also, the Ixquick interface is clean and easy to use. It

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Surprising New Search Engine (cont.)

allows you to quickly choose if you want your search to find only one of the words of your search phrase, all of the words, or the exact phrase. There is also a place where you can easily enter words that you may want to eliminate from your search. You don't need to fool around with pluses, minuses, or quotation marks as you do with some popular search engines.

I was extremely impressed with the Ixquick's International Phone Directory.

Just type in a name and city or

state and you can actually find people. Ixquick's Reverse Directory can tell you who's calling when you enter a telephone number. With Bigfoot and most other people directories now charging for people searches, this is an extremely useful free search tool.

Ixquick also has a comparison shopping service and an image search feature. Like Google and others, Ixquick offers a search toolbar.

After using Ixquick for a few weeks, I can honestly say that I have been very happy with the results.

Using it in conjunction with Google gives you a wonderfully wide selection of search results. If, however, you want to really keep your searches private, then you will want to use Ixquick exclusively. After the recent AOL debacle, I feel that Ixquick is providing a great service not only as a search engine, but also as a leader on privacy issues.

Editor's Note: Sandy Berger's email is sandy@compukiss.com. This article is distributed by the APCUG Editorial Committee.

Earth Probe

By Berry F. Phillips, Member of the Computer Club of Oklahoma City and a regular writer for the CCOKC website and the eMonitor <http://www.ccokc.org>

The sound of rolling thunder and the fingers of lightening lit up the blood red sky which formed a strange tapestry for the dark, ominous, and towering black mountain in the foreground. Saucer like craft with flashing lights were flying into the summit of the black mountain and disappearing.

At the summit of the mountain was a large cave and inside a top secret landing strip. The various humanoid passengers departing from the saucer crafts were being greeted by metallic security robots with scanners checking their credentials, and then escorting them to teleporters that whisked them down into an auditorium deep inside the black mountain.

"It is time to call our meeting to

order. Welcome members of the Inter Galactical Federation to the revealing of the findings of our Earth Probe that has completed its mission. You may recall that we elected not to contact the Earthlings previously because they had not evolved into a higher level of consciousness necessary for membership into the Federation. They continued to remain on the lower war level. While they were making considerable technological advances, their consciousness was not advancing at the same rate. Many of us speculated their civilization would be destroyed by nuclear war. Here is information being projected on our info screens overhead on the Earth Probe findings.

"There is no life left on Earth! There was no evidence of a nuclear war! There was evidence of obsolete computers and monitors all over earth! Our data bank suggests that as Earth computer sales continued to grow so did the obsolescence level of computers creating moun-

tains and valleys all over the planet of obsolete computers and monitors.

E-Toxins and E-Waste were escalating to alarming proportions. Several organizations warned of the pending disaster. "Printed Circuit Boards contain heavy metals such as Antimony, Silver, Chromium, Zinc, Lead, Tin and Copper. According to some estimates there is hardly any other product for the sum of the environmental impacts of raw material, extraction, industrial, refining and production, use and disposal is so extensive as for printed circuit boards." CARE conference.

"In short, the product developers of electronic products are introducing chemicals on a scale which is totally incompatible with the scant knowledge of their environmental or biological characteristics." Mans Loonroth, Swedish Secretary of State.

Projections indicate that by 2006 well over 315 million computers

Earth Probe (cont.)

will be obsolete in the United States alone. The following E-Toxins were released on Earth: "Cadmium compounds are classified as toxic with possible risk of irreversible effects on human health. Cadmium shows a danger of cumulative effects in the environment due to its acute and chronic toxicity. Mercury when inorganic spreads out in water, it is transformed into bottom sediments and accumulates in living organisms and concentrates through the food chain particularly via fish and can cause chronic damage to the brain.

Plastics used in electronic manufacturing is polyvinyl chloride (PVC) which creates more environmental and health hazards than most other type of plastic. While some computer companies are reducing or phasing out PVC, there is still a huge volume of PVC in computer junk. Brominated Flame Retardants are a class of chemicals commonly used in electronic products as a means for reducing flammability in computers. There have been various studies that suggest this class of chemicals may have toxic effects on humans."

Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition.

"Thank you for your attendance. I hope you will take the lessons we have learned here tonight to your respective civilizations within the Inter Galactical Federation. Let us have a moment of silence upon departure for the destruction of the human race on Earth, victims of E-Toxins and E-Waste."

Editor's Note: Berry F. Phillips's email is bfpdata@laccess.net. This article is distributed by the APCUG Editorial Committee.



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