

COMPUTER ^{User} _{News}

Monthly Publication of the Kentucky-Indiana Personal Computer Users Group

February 2007 Volume 26, No. 1

KIPUCUG

Presents

The Best of CES

with

Wayne Perkey

and

Brian Miller

February 6, 2007

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

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.

Advertising Rates

Ad sizes: Increments of 1 column inch, 1/6 page, half page (3 column x 5") and full page.

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All advertising must be paid for at the time of submission or on approved PO. Advertising must be submitted **electronically (TIF or PDF) in gray scale**. The submission deadline for advertising materials is the first of the month for next month's publication.

Send all advertising materials to editor@kipcug.org.

Advertising information: Bill Buzan.
bill.buzan@insightbb.com 639-7647.

Locations where you can find KIPCUG "Computer User News" in addition to the General Meeting and most SIG Meetings

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.
Eastern High School	12400 Old Shelbyville Road
El Nopal Mexican Restaurant	4214 Outer Loop
El Nopal Mexican Restaurant	10500 Watterson Trail
Elite Computer Solutions	2307 Taylorsville Road
Farris Barber Shop	8029 New LaGrange Road
Indiana Wesleyan University	263 Whittington Parkway
JCPS, Scott Horan's Office	123 E. Main
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

At the Following Louisville Free Public Library Locations:

Main Library	301 York Street
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

KENTUCKY-INDIANA PERSONAL COMPUTER USERS GROUP, INC.

291 N. HUBBARDS LANE
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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
SUSAN MOORE

SIG EDITOR
CATHY TAGGART

COPY EDITOR
NANCY WHEELER

CONTRIBUTING STAFF WRITERS
WAYNE PERKEY
TOM McARDLE
BILL BUZAN

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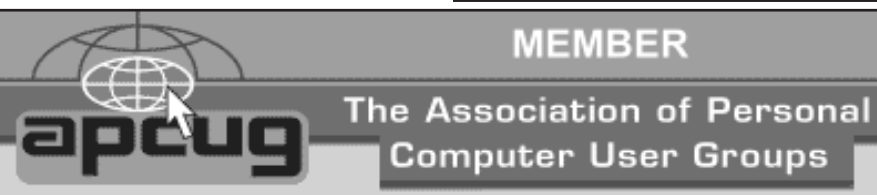
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Advertising materials must be submitted four weeks prior to publication. Editorial submissions must be submitted three weeks prior to publication.

All editorial materials submitted become the property of KIPCUG, and may be used by the organization in any way deemed appropriate by the magazine staff and the Board of Directors of KIPCUG.

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 Wayne Perkey, KIPCUG

February

Coming in February: The best of CES (Computer Exposition Show)! Wayne Perkey and Brian Miller have returned from Las Vegas! Bringing you the best of CES and APCUG, from Las Vegas to Louisville!

Yes folks, our intrepid ambassadors have indeed returned. Now rested from a week of hard study and intensive research (editor's note: that means blackjack and showgirls), Brian and Wayne are ready to present their findings from

APCUG and CES. With a great deal of information, pictures (properly edited of course), and plenty of goodies, it should be a great presentation. In addition to all the latest gadgets, toys, and nick-knacks from CES, we will hear what has been happening on a national level in user groups. The APCUG conference is our chance to learn what is working, or not working, for many other user groups. It is also a chance to meet face-to-face with a variety of vendors and tempt them into coming to Louisville.

So come on out in February and find out what Brian and Wayne have to report. We will also have our usual User to User segment, so

be ready with your questions. The door prizes will be in abundance, as well as our cash prize and a raffle.

As a special treat, KIPCUG is celebrating 25 years. Come out and help us throw KIPCUG a birthday party. Hostaroo.com is bringing cake and ice cream, and President Bill Buzan will lead us in song!

A big thanks to Robbie Gibson for handling the Back to Basics segment in January, and a great big round of thanks and applause to Tom Scanlan for his terrific program on Nero! Thanks Tom!

See you all in February!

January Meeting Review

By Tom McArdle, KIPCUG



Our own Tom Scanlan introduced the group to one of the latest multi-media software packages available to

us today. The Nero 7 Ultra Edition gives the user outstanding CD and DVD burning utilities, and so much more. From creating custom labels and playback lists to providing a TV and Home Theater system on your existing PC, Nero 7 is loaded with often neglected features.

Our focus for January was on the easy to use backup software included in this package. The full retail box edition lets the user setup complete drive, folder or individual file backups, either on-demand or on a user selected 'Job Scheduler'.

The easy to use Nero Backup Wizard will work for most of us, but Tom took us step-by-step through a custom backup. With an optional set of filters, data compression and encryption utilities, Nero 7 is a disaster recovery tool that would compliment every members PC.

Thanks to Tom and all those asking questions at the meeting, it was time well spent. You can find a free 30-day trial to try before you buy. Download at; <http://www.nero.com/nero7/enu/Downloads.html>

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

WHERE YOU THERE?

CONGRATULATIONS

TO

SARA DONOHUE

SHE WON

\$20

ON JANUARY 7

ON FEBRUARY 6

THE PRIZE WILL BE

\$20.

WILL YOU BE THERE?

From the Desk of the President

By Bill Buzan, KIPCUG

Congratulations to our members, both past and present. You are KIPCUG and have succeeded in surviving 25 years as a computer organization. When we look around, we find that very few computer organizations such as ours have survived. This in itself is a major accomplishment, but we cannot be satisfied with just the survival of KIPCUG. We must grow and grow beyond any of its accomplishments.

Let us all plan to gather in friend-

ship at our February meeting to share our stories of the past and dreams of the future. If you have any friends that might be interested in joining us on our day of festivity, the date is Tuesday, February 6, at 6:30 p.m. in Christ Church United Methodist at 4614 Brownsboro Road. If you're reading this and you're not a member of KIPCUG, in our eyes you are in fact, a member. You have the interest, you have the desire to learn more and be part of an organization such as ours. However, you haven't, as of yet,

made that commitment. Please mark your calendar and plan on joining us. We would like to meet you and welcome you.

KIPCUG is finding its purpose and reaching its goals with the help of its members.

APCUG - Jerry Awards Contest

By Bill Buzan, KIPCUG

WE WON AND ARE CONTINUING TO WIN BIG.

We sent several of our members to the national meeting of user groups (APCUG) and the computer exposition show (CES) in Las Vegas recently. They just returned and will be telling us about all the new and wonderful things that Bill Gates and all of the others that are trying to improve our computing experience are doing. Through the efforts and writing skills of Wayne Perkey and others, we entered an annual contest for assistance to user groups. They brought back the first prize for New Community Service Project and a major amount of money as a grant to KIPCUG for its educational programs. Now that we have the money and the machines, we need one more piece of the project, and that piece is the

participation of our members. If you're interested in working with others in teaching, refurbishing computers or programming them for use, make your desires known to one of your Directors at the next meeting on February 6.

I look forward to seeing you there.



Annual Report

For Full Year 2006

KIPCUG Income/Expenses-2006

Income

Member Dues	\$10116.00
Ads in Magazine	525.00
Interest	105.81
Raffle Receipts	550.00
Affiliate	64.85
Donations	271.26
Non-recurring income	<u>980.00</u>
Total Income	\$12612.92

Expenses

Administrative Expenses

Ad Expense	\$ 40.00
Fees & Dues	504.00
Postage	116.60
Bank Charges	211.06

Membership Expenses

Postage	122.33
Office Supplies	617.74
Equipment	159.66

Meeting & Program Expenses

Hall Rental	1500.00
Insurance	683.00
Education & Travel	600.00
Prizes	170.00
Meeting Expenses	114.38

Magazine Expenses

Printing	7473.78
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Distribution/

Postage/Mail Service	1373.90
Non-recurring Expense	<u>980.00</u>

Total Expenses \$14666.45

Bank Balance 12/31/06 \$5756.91

Plus PayPal Account 774.92

Funds Available \$6531.83

New Security Products Shown at APCUG

By Ira Wilsker, APCUG Director
WEBSITES:

<http://www.apcug.net>

<http://www.pandasoftware.com>

<http://www.grisoft.com>

<http://www.trendmicro.com>

I recently had the opportunity to attend the annual meeting and convention of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG) in Las Vegas. Even though I have attended APCUG annual events since 1991, it always amazes me how quickly technology changes, and how those changes are rapidly introduced to us consumers. Every year participants are astounded by what we see, but every year has also demonstrated technologies dwarfing those shown the previous year. The APCUG events were all on topics related to personal computers, including security, applications, operating systems, hardware, CPU, and other technological services and components. Three of the presenters were companies in the computer security software sector.

Grisoft (www.grisoft.com) is a computer security software publisher headquartered in the Czech Republic, and best known in the U.S. for its very popular free version of AVG antivirus software. I was very surprised to learn that the more sophisticated and comprehensive commercial versions of AVG are among the most widely used computer security utilities in Europe. AVG has a professional staff of engineers in Europe, but also has sales, and more importantly technical support services, located in the U.S. I have to admit that until I saw the AVG-Grisoft presentation, I was unaware of the degree of

sophistication and quality features built in and backing up the AVG products. My opinion of AVG was positively changed, as I had always thought of it as an excellent free antivirus product; now I know it as a technological leader providing enhanced features and functionality in its products. While I will still recommend the free version of AVG antivirus software to those who may not be able to afford commercial software, I would also hope that those who use AVG free version and are satisfied with it would eventually upgrade to the more comprehensive and feature rich commercial products. AVG offers a comprehensive selection of security software

ranging from antivirus software to complete security suites. AVG has been certified as among the most effective antivirus products by several independent testing and rating services.

Panda Software (www.pandasoftware.com) is a publisher of computer security software headquartered in Spain, but with a strong American presence. I first became acquainted with Panda several years ago when I purchased a copy of Panda Antivirus at one of the big-box office supply stores. I had read some amazing reviews of it in a computer magazine, so I decided to try it on my Windows 98 computer to replace an expired competing big-



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www.win.net | info@win.net

Meeting your needs ... Exceeding your expectations

New Security Products Shown at APCUG (cont.)

named American product. My "98" computer continued to have Panda protect it for the remainder of its lifetime, and Panda never failed me. At APCUG Panda amazed me with its degree of technical sophistication in dealing with the changing threats facing the computing public. According to Panda, over 90,000 new malware threats appeared in 2006, with some individual months in 2006 having as many new threats as in all of 2005. Panda explained how the threat scenario for computer users changed from the old-fashioned viruses intended to damage computer files with random acts of vandalism, to the new threats that are almost all commercially driven. Panda Software offers technology security solutions ranging from its free online "Active Scan", to free-standing antivirus software, to comprehensive security suites complete with antivirus, firewall, anti-spyware, anti-spam, wi-fi protection, and other protective features. Panda has its own proprietary "TruPrevent Technologies" which is designed to protect computers from attack by new and unknown viruses even before the virus signatures can be updated. Most Panda Software packages can be installed on multiple computers under a single license, and should be considered as

a very strong and capable competitor to other better-known security products on the market.

Trend Micro (www.trendmicro.com) explained the degree and types of security threats facing computer users. Identity theft of various types was discussed as well as the means to detect, protect, and neutralize a wide variety of other computer threats. Threats can come via email, malicious code on websites, from file sharing services, and countless other places. In order to deal with and protect from a wide variety of threats, Trend Micro demonstrated its flagship product Trend Micro Internet Security 2007 with its integral TrendSecure online services. Previously known under the moniker PC-Cillin, Trend Micro Internet Security 2007 provides protection from viruses, spyware, spam, phishing, and other forms of attack. Features also include a "fraud defense" to explicitly help protect credit card and other sensitive personal information from being compromised while online. The 2007 version includes a single license that can be installed on three computers, which make it both a qualitative and economical good choice when compared to the other name brand security software titles widely available at retail.

I am a firm believer in good competition and the free enterprise system. As was clearly demonstrated at APCUG and CES, competition drives innovation, which in turn provides valuable and tangible benefits to the consumer. We all need antivirus and other flavors of security software on our computers and any of the feisty competitors above can provide a quality product and service at very competitive prices. If more computer users could have seen what those of us at the APCUG event saw, the security "biggies" would have a lot to fear, because these aggressive "little guys" are providing excellence by innovation and superior service and support at a fair price. Those big guys on the block should be looking over their shoulders, as these little guys are growing stronger by capitalizing on the weaknesses of their larger competitors. Security software should not just be purchased based on the familiarity of the name or brand, but on the quality of the services and support offered. Any of the three products mentioned above would be a good choice for virtually all PC users.

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

Fun with Freeware

By Cary Quinn, member of Pikes Peak Computer Application Society, CO <http://ppcompas.apcug.org/>

Here are a couple of utilities I have been using lately to correct a couple of bumps in the road to a positive

Windows experience.

OverDisk (v0.11 beta) (freeware)
<http://users.forthnet.gr/pat/efotinis/programs/overdisk.html>

Elias Fotinis, a programmer from Greece, is one of those program-

mers you often find on the net who in their spare time writes little apps and utilities to solve some personal issue they might have getting the operating system, or some other program, to work the way they want it to.

Fun with Freeware (cont.)

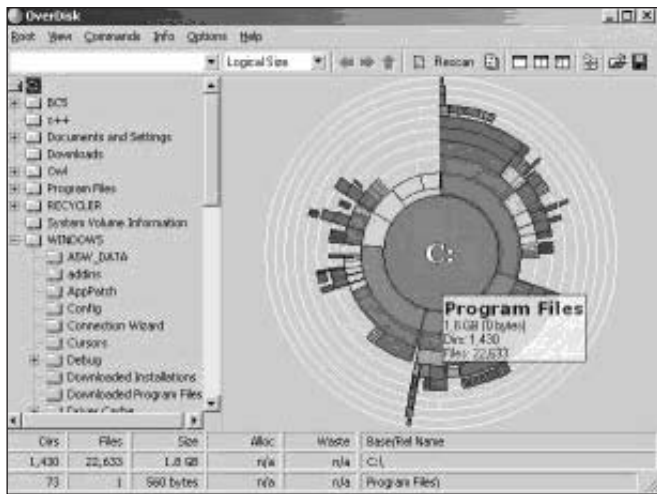
One of the programs he has written is a disk space monitor called Overdisk. It basically scans a drive or folders of your choice and tells you how much space is being taken up by the files therein. One special difference with Overdisk though, is the way it graphs that data to your screen.

Instead of representing the files as a pie chart, or bar graph, Overdisk shows a breakdown of folders and files as a series of concentric rings, as if you were looking down onto the disk itself and seeing the files

laid out below. But it's even better than that.

When you mouse-over a particular section of the chart, a tooltip window will appear to give you more information about that particular folder (size, number of subdirectories, and the number of files); and if you click on a specific point of the chart you can drill down to get the same information for individual files. Clicking on the center of the chart takes you back up the directory path, or you can click on the tree view on the side of the screen to better select a particular folder to view.

I find this utility most useful when trying to identify what parts of a drive need to have a cleanup, or which folders I need to prioritize for backups.



Taskbar Shuffle
(free, but accept-

ing donations)

<http://www.freewebs.com/nerd-cave/taskbarshuffle.htm>

From the home of the nerd cave, comes a pretty nifty little tool that answers a minor nit I have had with the Windows Taskbar for a while- why you cannot drag and drop the programs listed on the taskbar to better arrange your programs to your preference. With Taskbar Shuffle, you can. That seems pretty simple, and it appears to work quite seamlessly within the OS.

The utility leaves an icon running on your system tray that you can use to turn it on or off, or close it down completely. I've been using it for a few months, and haven't noticed any conflicts with other windows or programs that have caused me to want to shut it off.

Editor's Note: Cary Quinn's email is cary.quinn@gmail.com. This article is distributed by the APCUG Editorial Committee.

Inner Circles

By Berry F. Phillips, a member of the Oklahoma City Computer Club and a regular writer for the CCOKC website and the eMonitor

<http://www.ccokc.org>

The birth of a new year brings changes in membership and planning activities within the "Inner Circles" that often operate almost like occult groups in their private inner sanctums. They are elected or appointed to serve others and work

without compensation. These "Inner Circles" operate in civic organizations like computer clubs and represent a very small percentage of the memberships. While those of us who served in the military were told never to volunteer, the "Inner Circles" volunteered.!

Volunteerism is the very life blood of many civic organizations. Research has verified the positive rewards of doing for others and

finding meaning in activities that greatly contributes to an older person's ability to age successfully. Older volunteers with their longer experience, often assume leadership roles within nonprofit organizations whose programs and activities are dependent on volunteers for help. Volunteers sometimes receive only modest recognition - since their activities involve free will, beneficence, and lack of reimbursement.

Inner Circles (cont.)

Research has further verified that staying active contributes to a healthier and longer lived life and that social supports are critical to healthy aging. Fisher and Shaeffer in their book, "Older Volunteers" list the following benefits: "self satisfaction, altruism, potential learning or acquisition of new skills, specific benefits for the receivers of volunteer efforts, relaxation, socialization, status of reward, career opportunities, and community involvement."

National Volunteer Week was created in 1974 by President Richard

Nixon who signed an executive order establishing an annual celebration of volunteering as a time to recognize and celebrate the efforts of volunteers at the local, state, and national level. The Points of Light Foundation, based in Washington DC, and the Volunteer National Network together reach millions of people to encourage volunteerism. The Foundation has received national recognition as America's address for volunteering. As President George W. Bush commented, "The Points of Light Foundation embodies America's

spirit of volunteerism and the goodwill of its citizens."

Why not make a New Year's resolution (and not break it) to express your appreciation to the past and present members of the "Inner Circle" in your computer club? "A mind is a terrible thing to waste," and like a muscle "use it or lose it." Get involved and volunteer in your computer club in 2007!

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

Directory of KIPCUG Leaders

Name	Position	Home	Work	Email Address
Bill Buzan	President	639-7647		president@kipcug.org
John Henderson	Vice-President		812-945-1102	vp@kipcug.org
Winnie Miller	Secretary	895-5360		winnie.miller@worldnet.att.net
Rosemary Viele	Treasurer	452-6878		treasurer@kipcug.org
Wayne Perkey	Program Director	303-7377		wayne@perkeycomputing.com
Tom Denning	Membership Director	550-6106		membership@kipcug.org
Tom McArdle	Volunteer Director	458-7269		geezer@insightbb.com
Charley May	SIG Director	773-7155		sig@kipcug.org
Vacant	Publicity Director			
Tom Scanlan	Review Editor	502-477-1639	477-1639	tpscan@iglou.com
Robbie Gibson	Director		367-6631	robbie@hostaroo.com
Roger Klingeman	Director	245-9518		roger@klingeman.win.net
Judy Lococo	Director			judyl@thorobred.win.net
Brian Miller	Director	749-5892		brian@hostaroo.com
Susan Moore	Director	499-5222		mooresk@win.net , editor@kipcug.org
Beverly Setree	Director		452-9851	beverly@advanced-grinding.com
Doc Viele	Director	452-6878		aqviele@win.net

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>.

February 2007 KIPCUG Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																		
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25	26 Intermediate Users SIG	27 Technical Market Analysis SIG Digital Photography SIG	28	All Monday-Friday Meetings are at 6:30 PM. All Afternoon Meetings are at 2:00 PM.																																																																																																				

KIPCUG Special Interest Group Directory

ACCESS 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 software. We will all increase our ability to understand digital photography.

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.

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

KIPCUG Special Interest Group Directory (cont.)

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. Contact 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 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.

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

KIPCUG Special Interest Group Directory (cont.)

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

is always reserved to resolve problems and answer questions members bring to the meeting.

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

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Should You Upgrade to Vista?

By Brian K. Lewis, Ph.D., a member of the Sarasota PCUG, Florida
<http://www.spcug.org>

As regular readers of this column know, I have been using the beta version(s) of Vista and writing about my experience. I'll grant you that I haven't covered every aspect of the Vista experience. However, it is difficult to touch on everything in an

operating system as massive as this. The best I can do is pass on comments on the parts I use frequently. As to the answer to the upgrade question - it's "maybe". I'll give you some of the pros and cons related to my experience.

In deciding whether or not to upgrade you need to determine if your hardware is adequate to run

Vista. The system I am using has 768 MB of RDRAM, a 1.2 GHz Intel processor, and an NVIDIA GeForce 2 MMX video card (a correction from previous articles) and an 80 GB hard drive. Frankly, I don't think you would want anything less. A faster processor combined with 1 GB of RAM would be the minimum in most situations.

Should You Upgrade to Vista? (cont.)

You will also need a DVD drive, as Vista will be sold on DVDs only. From what I have learned it appears that Microsoft will produce only one DVD, but it will contain all the consumer versions of Vista. When you pay for the Vista Basic version and start the installation, the product key that you have to enter tells the setup program which version to install. Then if you decide you need to upgrade to a version with more bells and whistles, you get a new product key that unlocks and installs the upgrade version you paid for. I've already seen some comments on the web that the hackers will be paying for Vista Basic and then will hack the DVD to install the Ultimate version. Let's hope not!

So if you have sufficient hardware then you can go to the next step. What is there about Vista that's better than XP? (Note that if you are still running Win98 or WinMe, plan on upgrading. Both Vista and XP are vastly superior to either of these older, non-supported operating systems.) One thing I found that I really like is Vista's ability to go to the Internet to find device drivers for hardware. It did this very successfully for my sound system. I also installed an external hard drive that usually requires me to dig out the manufacturer's disk to get the necessary drivers. XP frequently forgot the driver and would have to reinstall it whenever I plugged the drive into the USB port. When I plugged the drive into a USB port on my Vista computer, there wasn't even the usual found new hardware notice. So I went looking and in "Computer" I found the hard drive identified and was able to access the file on it. So I just went ahead and did a complete backup. Vista's back-

up software found the drive and did the complete backup in the background while I continued working. This process did not work with my Epson scanner. Vista did some searching and then said I needed to visit the manufacturer's web site to see if software was available. So you can see that this Internet process doesn't work with all hardware.

Another thing I like in Vista is the added security. I don't like that the firewall is only a one-way blocker, but the scheduled daily parasite check is valuable when you have a cable or DSL connection to the Internet. I don't find the User Account Control (UAC) system to be intrusive as some others have reported. Even when I am working in the Administrator account it is not a problem. I think having to enter a password to carry out operations that affect the system/registry is a good idea. It is one more barrier for any malware to overcome. In addition, when I am working in User mode and want to install a new application, I don't have to remember to right-click the install file and select "Run As". Instead, when I double-click the file I get a permissions window with the Administrator name and a box to enter the password. Much easier and much quicker way to get on with the installation.

I also like the change that has been made in the Start/All programs menu. It keeps you from having to search through multiple columns of programs to find the one you want. Scrolling through a single column list is something I find easier to do. For new computer users, the use of an icon in place of a "Start" button

may not be intuitive. However, placing your cursor on the icon does cause the word "Start" to pop up just above the icon. One of the interesting little facets is the speed with which informative small windows pop up when you place your cursor on an icon. There is really no apparent delay, which is quite helpful.

Another change I like is that there is a search box in every directory window. You don't have to go back to the Start menu to initiate a search. Also, your searches can easily be saved. You have the options in each window to select files to burn to a CD/DVD, e-mail, or print. These selections are made using a menu across the top of the window.

When it comes to CD/DVD burning there is one aspect I don't like. That is that the default mode calls for formatting the CD or DVD so that it functions like a removable drive. Microsoft refers to this as the "Live File System". The problem with this is that the CD/DVD may not be readable in other computers. Their warning implies that the "Live File System" can be read in computers using the Windows XP operating system. However, I found this to be inaccurate; at least as far as the beta versions were concerned. It may be different in the final release version.

You can change the formatting method to "Mastered". This is the usual way you burn a CD/DVD by copying all the files for that disk at one time. CD/DVDs formatted for the "Live File System" can have files added by "dragging and dropping". You can also add and erase files. However, on a non-rewriteable disk the file is still there even though it is not accessible. Frankly,

Should You Upgrade to Vista? (cont.)

there are other burner software programs that I prefer. The third party programs also work much faster than the Vista application.

In Windows XP when you have a file folder open you can move or copy a file that has been selected. When you click on the move or copy icon on the right side of the window you get a browse window which allows you to select a destination either on your local computer or a computer on your network. Vista does not have this function. To move a file or files, you must first select them to be copied. Then you have to go to the destination window and select paste from the right-click menu with your mouse. Then it's back to the original window to delete the files you have copied to the new location. If that sounds like a roundabout procedure, well it is. The XP procedure is cleaner, faster and easier.

Networking is another area where there have been some improvements made. However, if you have a network with both XP and Vista computers, there are still some bugs that have to be worked around. The Windows Help files have eliminated the references related to networking with XP computers. There are no references to the fact the new Internet protocol, IPv6, needs to be installed on XP computers for them to be networked with Vista computers. I couldn't even find the web page reference in the Help file that gives me the details on installing IPv6 on XP computers. Again, this may be changed in the final version or the current build I'm using may not need to have IPv6 installed on the XP computers. But that is something I haven't be able to determine.

The biggest drawback I see to Vista is the pricing. The \$99.95 upgrade for the Home version is the same as with XP Home. Except, this lowest cost upgrade gives you only Vista Home Basic. This version has fewer capabilities than does XP Home. The version of Vista that comes closest to matching XP Home is Vista Home Premium and it carries a premium price; \$150.00 to upgrade. Vista Home Basic lacks the Windows Media Center, DVD video software, and wireless networking provisioning. This latter capability, if available, would provide automatic configuration of laptops in WiFi hotspots. Vista Home Basic does not allow for scheduled backups and does not include backup to a network device. Neither Basic nor Premium allow for image-based backups. They also do not support motherboards with two processor sockets. How this will play out with the Intel Core 2 Duo processors, I really don't know. Vista Home Basic also does not have the new Aero graphic interface. That is found only in the Home Premium, Business and Ultimate versions. Unfortunately I can't tell you about the Aero interface as my computer doesn't support it.

Vista Business is the next higher priced version. It is \$199.99 for the upgrade. Although it has the image-based backup capability and wireless networking provisioning, it lacks Media Center capability and as well as the Movie Maker and Video production capabilities. You would have to obtain third party software for these functions if you have a need for them.

So if your only interest in using a computer is for e-mail, web surfing,

word processing, then you might be satisfied with Vista Basic. However, you would be just as well off to stick with XP Home for the time being. If you are running a small business from your home you would probably be quite satisfied with Vista Home Premium. So who would need Vista Business or Ultimate? The business version might be useful in a small business with a wired or wireless LAN or where employees require laptops with wireless functions. It also has integrated Fax & Scan software. However, if you needed the Movie Maker, Media Center, or video production capability, then you would have to move up to Ultimate. That has an upgrade price of \$259.00.

If you are concerned about the security of Windows XP and the frequent security patches Microsoft has to release, then you can consider that Vista is more secure. That doesn't mean it will never need security patching. Quite the contrary. Any OS, especially one as complex as Vista will have hackers attempting to find its weak points and that will result in the need for security patches.

My concluding thoughts on this are that you will eventually have to move to Vista, unless you want to try an alternate OS such as a Linux version or a Macintosh OS. There are emulator programs for both Linux and Macintosh that permit you to run most Windows software. If you aren't one that always needs the "latest and greatest", then you might consider waiting until you purchase a new computer with Vista pre-installed. I certainly wouldn't recommend that anyone rush out and upgrade as soon as Vista hits the

Should You Upgrade to Vista? (cont.)

market. Wait a while, possibly until the first patches are available or further reviews of the final market version are available. There also may be some "street pricing" that will lower your cost of upgrading. Vista

appears to be an improvement over XP, but for the average user, it is not a "great leap forward".

Dr. Lewis is a former university & medical school professor. He has been working with personal com-

puters for more than thirty years. He can be reached via e-mail.

Editor's Note: Brian K. Lewis's email is bwsail@yahoo.com. This article is distributed by the APCUG Editorial Committee.



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