

# COMPUTER User News

Monthly Publication of the Kentucky-Indiana Personal Computer Users Group

**May 2007**

**Volume 26, No. 04**

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Dave Whittle  
Presents  
Whittle's Picks 4 Your  
Digital Home



muvee  
autoProducer 6 and



Invisus PC  
Security  
Solution  
at 6:30 PM



Following  
Cook-Out  
at 6:00 PM  
May 1, 2007

General Public is invited to attend.  
Free Program  
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[www.kipcug.org](http://www.kipcug.org)

# KIPUCUG

# Submissions/Advertising

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.

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

Discounts available for multiple submissions or Corporate Membership.

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.**

To request advertising information email president@kipcug.org.

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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 Parkway  
Access Computer Store  
2604 Bardstown Road  
Borders Bookstore  
4600 Shelbyville Road  
Border's Booksellers  
Gardiner Lane Center  
Christ Church United Methodist  
4614 Brownsboro Road  
CK Computer Solutions  
3301 Gilmore Industrial Boulevard  
Cooper Electronics (Home of IGLOU)  
3315 Gilmore Industrial Boulevard  
Eastern High School  
12400 Old Shelbyville Road  
El Nopal Mexican Restaurant  
4214 Outer Loop  
El Nopal Mexican Restaurant  
10500 Watterson Trail  
Farris Barber Shop  
8029 New LaGrange Road  
GeekMinded  
2003 Bonnycastle Avenue  
Indiana Wesleyan University  
263 Whittington Parkway  
JCPS, Scott Horan's Office  
123 E. Main Street  
Louisville Technical Institute  
3901 Atkinson

Mexico Tipico Mexican Restaurant  
6517 Dixie Highway  
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1440 Bardstown Road  
New Horizons Computer Learning Ctr  
10200 Linn Station Road  
Rapid Refill Ink  
Corner of Moser and Shelbyville Rd  
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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 Avenue  
Southwest Library  
10375 Dixie Highway

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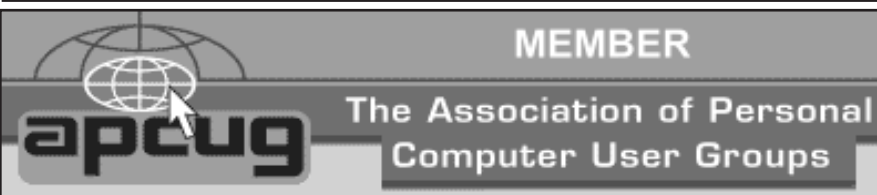
Requests from individuals or organizations other than User Groups for permission to reprint should be made to the Editor.

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](http://www.apcug.org)

# Over the Program Director's Shoulder

By Wayne Perkey, KIPCUG

For those of you who missed April, we had a dynamic show. Who knew it took so much to build a custom PC? Now, we will have to have a contest to see who can build the wildest, coolest custom PC in KIPCUG. Get ready, Get set, GO!



## May

In May, we have a terrific program lined up for you. We're fortunate to have an industry guest with us. Dave Whittle has been involved in personal computing and user groups since 1979, including 12 years with IBM in PC marketing where he was OS/2 Evangelist and an Internet pioneer. Working Woman magazine named him "one of America's most original technological thinkers". Dave is a contributing writer for Smart Computing Magazine, and the Chairman of Webworking Services Corporation, a marketing consulting firm. Dave has been supporting the user group community for over a decade and tonight will be educating us about some of his favorite products and ideas.

As usual, Dave will have several special deals for those attending the meeting.

In addition to Dave Whittle, we have a new Back to Basics presenter. Dave and Sharon Cicardo of Rapid Refill Ink will be on hand to give us some pointers on ink refill. They may even tell us some ways to save a lot of \$, and be good to the environment as well.

Of course, KIPCUG is all about users helping users. If you have an issue you need some help with, be sure to put your question in writing at the table in the back. We will do

our best to get you a solid answer during our User to User segment of the show. We carry on our yearlong celebration of KIPCUG's 25th anniversary, with a Cook Out sponsored by Hostaroo! All the hotdogs and fun you could ask for! This is a match for the best Chow Wagon. Look out Derby Festival, here comes KIPCUG!

Every event needs a prize, and we are no exception. In addition to the KIPCUG prize pool, Dave Whittle has promised some fun prizes. We also have our usual Cash prize, which is growing each month. You can't win if you are not there! We will have a raffle item for your consideration as well.

So come out in May. Rumor has it our Master of Ceremonies Wayne Perkey even has a secret, fool-proof program to pick Derby winners. Maybe we can coax it out of him. Put a little play in your day, and join us in May!

### 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](http://www.ccum.net) and [www.kipcup.org](http://www.kipcup.org)

**WHERE YOU THERE?**

**ON APRIL 3**

**THE NAME DRAWN**

**WAS**

**LOIS MINTER**

**SHE COULD HAVE WON**

**\$40**

**ON MAY 1**

**THE PRIZE WILL BE**

**\$50.**

**WILL YOU BE THERE?**

# Over the Program Director's Shoulder (cont.)

## Future Meetings

We have another great program in store for you in June. Corel is coming! They will be presenting Ulead Movie Maker. This exciting product is billed as the easiest way to turn video, photos, music and more into DVD's. With easy to use controls, and state of the art Technology, Ulead is a hot product. Corel will have many prizes, and special pricing as well. So mark your calendar now for June 5. In addition to Corel, our Back to Basics will cover Office 2007.

July brings summer fun, and Matthew Chojnowski with Digital Photography. Matt is a local photography professional with years of experience. Matt will teach us the beginning elements of digital photography, including how and what equipment to buy. We will begin our series on components for Back to Basics. Each month we will focus on one component, from maintenance to replacement. Everything you need to know about that piece, starting with Anti-virus.

August brings Grisoft. This venerable leader in the security field will be here to give us a primer on security in this era. Grisoft, the makers

of AVG Anti-Virus among others, is a top of the line security company. They should have much to offer, as well as fun and prizes. We start in earnest on our Back to Basics series with Hard Drives: How to maintain, as well as replace.

Looks like 2007 is shaping up to be an exciting year for KIPCUG. We can't do it without our members though. So come out and support your local club! You might win a prize and you are sure to learn something new.



## Editor's Note

By Susan Moore, KIPCUG

This is my last issue of the Computer User News. I have been the Editor, at various levels, for the past 6 years. It is now time for another Editor to be appointed. Thanks to my wonderful staff, some of whom wish to remain anonymous. I could not have produced the magazine without their help.

When I first started, I was hesitant to take on the responsibility, but sent

my first issue to the publisher 9 days after receiving the QuarkXPress program. This program can be learned in a very short time although you will keep finding better ways to accomplish formatting and layout.

Please support the next Editor but do not stop giving suggestions to improve the magazine.

Thanks for the opportunity, It has been enjoyable for the most part.

## Thinking About Disaster

By Dick Maybach, member Brookdale Computer User Group, New Jersey <http://www.bcug.com/>

Here, we aren't discussing PC problems such as disk crashes, but real life disasters, such as those rep-

resented by the four horsemen of the apocalypse: pestilence, war, famine, and death. There's not much we can do about these, but careful preparations will lessen the consequences. While it's not pleasant to contemplate woes, and you certainly don't want to become obsessed, some

constructive worrying today could save you or your family much trouble later.

PCs have become indispensable tools for many of us. The conscientious user backs up regularly, probably to an external drive sitting

# Thinking About Disaster (cont.)

beside the PC. However, if you experience a fire, flood, or theft, both your PC and its backup data will probably disappear together. If a theft occurred, not only have you lost your data, but also somebody else has it. You'll need to cancel your credit cards and close bank accounts immediately, but you no longer have the information you need to do this. Thus, there are two problems: replacing the lost data and stopping somebody else from misusing it.

The best solution to the first problem is to keep a backup of your critical data in a safe place, such as bank deposit box. Many banks offer free boxes to their customers, but you could also keep the information at work or with a friend. It will be most convenient to restore this critical data to your (presumably new) PC if the backup takes the form of diskettes or CD-ROMs. If your deposit box is too small or too full to hold a 5 ¼ inch disc, use a 3 1/8 inch CD-ROM (holding about 200 Mbytes) or a USB thumb drive. The saved data will include, for example, your passwords, contact names and addresses, financial data, and family photos.

For the second problem, keep a paper copy of your credit card and bank account numbers as well as contact information for your financial institutions. You will want this data immediately, and it will take a little time to find a PC and print out the contents of a disc.

You've now taken care of disasters that happen to your home, but what if something happens to you. What information will your family need if you are not available or incapacitat-

ed? Certainly, this includes the user names and passwords for your computer and PDA. They will need the URLs, user names, and passwords of any sites you use for financial transactions, such as credit cards, banks, merchants that are authorized to charge your credit cards or make withdrawals from your bank account, employers, and retirement organizations. They will also need the passwords for any data you have encrypted, such as Quicken files or password storage programs. Finally, they will need your social security number, birth certificate, and life and health insurance policy information. You should have a paper copy of this information and tell your family where it is.

What do you do if a relative dies and you must obtain access to their PC and allow their family to carry on with their financial duties? If there is a BIOS password on a desktop PC, you must open the system unit. Most motherboards have a connector into which you can insert a jumper to restore the BIOS factory defaults and remove any passwords. Laptops have similar provisions, but you will have to contact the manufacturer to find what it is. Once the BIOS password is removed you can boot the machine, at which point you may find it has a Windows password. The safest procedure is to obtain a Linux "live CD-ROM", such as Knoppix. With this, you can boot Linux directly from the CD-ROM, which will let you read and copy, but not necessarily write, Windows files. Once you have copied all the critical files from the PC, you can reset the Windows password using one of the password-cracking programs that are available on the Internet.

**IMPORTANT EXCEPTION** - Windows 2000 and XP Pro allows files and folders to be encrypted. If this has been done, resetting the Windows password will render these permanently unreadable. Fortunately, few users use this feature. There are also PDA password cracking programs, but those I've found work only on the PC desktop program that backs up the PDA; I've not seen one for the PDA itself. If there are encrypted Quicken files, Intuit promises to remove the passwords for \$10 per file; see their Web site for more information. If you are more adventuresome, there are Quicken password-cracking programs available on the Internet.

If the relative uses on-line banking, contact the bank to obtain a new password and change the ownership of the account. Monitor the account carefully for automatic transfers, both deposits and withdrawals. You probably want to stop these. Also contact all credit- and debit-card vendors to close the accounts, and notify employers and, if appropriate, Social Security of the change. Open and read carefully all letters; some bills and checks appear to be junk mail. Finally, be alert for scams; for instance, you might receive unordered merchandise or claims of debts.

Having to deal with these issues is especially difficult in times of stress, and preparing the information before they arise is a much better approach.

*Editor's Note: Dick Maybach's email is N2nd@att.net. This article is distributed by the APGUG Editorial Committee.*

# Google Docs and Spreadsheets (Beta)

By Ira Wilsker, APCUG Director

WEBSITE:

<http://docs.google.com>

Most of us know Google as one of the premier search engines. Many of us know that Google also offers additional services such as its mapping and driving directions ([maps.google.com](http://maps.google.com)), and its global imaging ([earth.google.com](http://earth.google.com)). What many may not be aware of is that Google is now beginning to offer a suite of office products, including a fully featured word processor, and a spreadsheet that includes graphics. It was also recently announced that Google will soon be offering a presentation program to compete directly with Microsoft's very popular PowerPoint. It is obvious that Google is trying to compete with Microsoft by offering for free, office functions competitive with some of the components of Microsoft Office.


For the past six years, I have typed this column using the ubiquitous Microsoft Word, but not tonight; tonight I am typing this on Google Docs ([docs.google.com](http://docs.google.com)). One might ask, "Why Google Docs?" For one, unlike its Microsoft competitor, all of these services are free. Another feature is the automated ability to save the document online on a secured Google server which can be accessed by me or by approved collaborators from anywhere in the world with internet access. Third, the user can upload and open documents composed in Word, Open Office ([www.openoffice.org](http://www.openoffice.org)), RTF (Rich Text Format), or plain text. Of course, documents can be created from scratch, as I am doing now. Google Docs offers

"WYSIWYG" (What You See Is What You Get), meaning that the document will print as it appears on the screen. Documents created with Google Docs can be uploaded as web pages, or posted to blogs as desired. Documents can also be downloaded in a multitude of formats, including Word, Open Office, RTF, PDF, HTML, or ZIP formats; this means that these documents can then be opened on almost any other word processor or browser. Prior to saving or printing, or at any other time, an integral spell checker can be executed by clicking on the yellow "Check spelling" hyperlink. Upon implementing the spell checker, questioned words are highlighted in yellow (or any other selected color), and right clicking on the highlighted word will open a selection of correctly spelled words to select from, or words can be added to the dictionary.

One nice feature built into Google Docs is the "Revisions" tab on the toolbar. By clicking on "Revisions"

the user can easily go back to any of many selected prior versions that had been created. By default, Google Docs automatically saves a copy of the document every five minutes, and keeps multiple sequential backups. For those who have been known to want to go back to an earlier version of a document, or undo a catastrophic error (such as failing to save and properly backup documents), this feature can be a lifesaver.

While lacking some of the visual polish of the commercial word processors, Google Docs is quite full featured. Clicking on "File" offers the traditional commands common on competing products, plus a variety of additional useful commands. It is from this "File" menu that the user selects to securely save the document online at Google, or in any of the several supported formats. "Word Count", "Find and Replace", and "Document Settings" (default fonts and other settings) can be accessed and select-



## About Google Docs & Spreadsheets

[Google Docs & Spreadsheets](#)

**New Features**


- [Help Center](#)
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### What's new in Google Docs & Spreadsheets?

We're still working to make Google Docs & Spreadsheets a better place, and we're listening closely to **your suggestions**. If you have anything you'd like to tell us, don't hesitate to let us know, and keep checking back for additions and improvements.

#### Just launched!

- Charts!**  
Now it's easy to show data in simple graphics to friends or co-workers with charts. Select from various styles to meet your visualization needs. [Learn more](#)



- Range names**  
Now you can reference a range of cells in any formula by a nickname (like "zipcodes") instead of cell letters and numbers (like "A2:M33"). [Learn more](#)
- Comments**  
Feel like leaving a comment for yourself or a friend on a spreadsheet? Now you can leave comments on any spreadsheet cell for all to see. [Learn more](#)

# Google Docs and Spreadsheets (Beta) (cont.)

ed. In "Edit" mode, the mode where text is entered (that is the mode I am in as I type this) a toolbar appears which includes a comprehensive variety of useful icons, which displays an informative label when the cursor is moved over them. A "Style" radio button on the toolbar allows the user to selectively choose desired paragraph styles, justification, and text formatting.

Clicking on the "Insert" tab opens another toolbar allowing for the easy inclusion of images, hyperlinks, comments, tables, bookmarks, a choice of separators, and special characters such as symbols or foreign alphabets.

The "Edit HTML" link adjacent to the tabs displays the typed content in HTML format including HTML commands such that anyone familiar with HTML coding can edit the appearance of the document when displayed on a web page. "Preview" displays the page as it would appear if printed or posted to a web page. "Print" and "Email" icon functions are obvious. The "Collaborate" tab gives the user the opportunity to specify who else can work on and edit the document, and "Publish" will assign the document a unique

URL where others can access the document on the internet, or post the content to a blog.

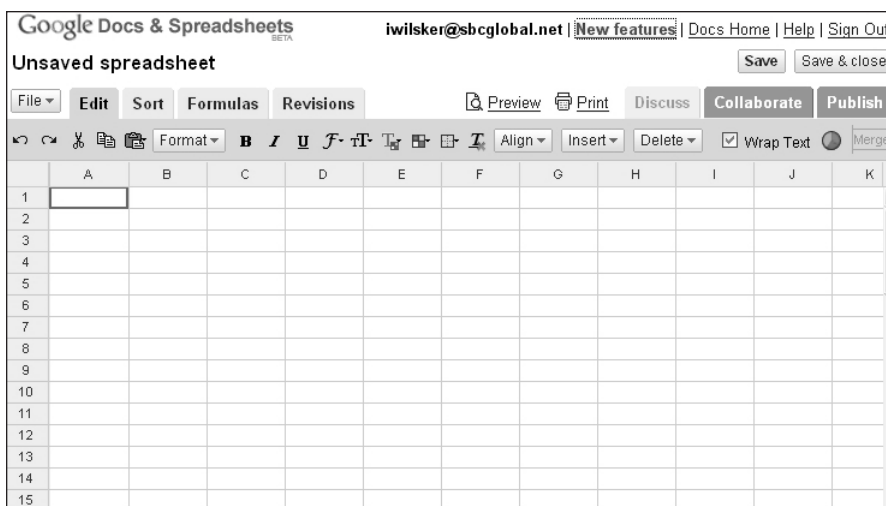
Google Spreadsheet is a full featured spreadsheet, now complete with graphic capabilities. The spreadsheet can import and export data in a variety of popular formats, such as XLS (Excel), CSV, TXT, and ODS. Spreadsheets can also be exported in HTML format for posting to a website and viewable with any browser, or saved and printed in PDF format. Navigating around the Google Spreadsheet is very similar to most other spreadsheets, allowing the experienced spreadsheet user to use Google Spreadsheets without learning any new skills. Novice users can easily learn basic spreadsheet tasks by simply playing with Google Spreadsheet. Like any other spreadsheet product, the sheet and its output can be easily manipulated to appear as desired, and can then be published to the web as a web page, inserted into a blog, saved and downloaded in any of the available formats, or just saved to the Google secured server. One interesting feature allows live real-time chat with collaborators while multiple users work on the same document from

distant locations, all the tasks being accomplished simultaneously over the internet.

I was pleasantly surprised by Google Docs and Spreadsheets (Beta). I found it to be intuitive and easy to use, while rich in features. It is a capable adjunct for anyone to use with his current word processor or spreadsheet, but powerful enough to be used instead of a commercial word processor or spreadsheet. Google Docs and Spreadsheets would be an especially useful product to anyone who does not have access to a full featured office product, or who does not want to invest the money in a commercial product. Since Google Docs and Spreadsheets can read and write Microsoft and other formats, it may be useful for students to use for homework and other tasks. Docs and Spreadsheets would also be useful for home users or organizational employees. This web-based software may also be useful as an external backup solution, since it supports other popular formats, and can allow for the easy transport and conversion of documents and spreadsheets, as well as the secure storage of files.

For the price (free), Google Docs and Spreadsheets will be very difficult to beat. I eagerly look forward to the upcoming release of the Google presentation program that will compete with PowerPoint.

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



# 2007-08 Board of Directors Election

Per KIPCUG's Bylaws, the current Board of Directors has set May 1, 2007, as election date for our new Board. During our March Meeting, the Nominating Committee presented its list of Nominees, requested a voice vote for additional candidates and for the members to formally vote their acceptance in May.

President:  
Bill Buzan

Vice-President:  
John Henderson  
Secretary:  
Doc Viele  
Treasurer:  
Rosemary Viele  
Membership Director:  
George Buehler

Program Director:  
Wayne Perkey

Director and Volunteer Coordinator:  
Tom McArdle

Director of Special Interest Groups:  
Charley May

Directors-At-Large:  
Stan Boyd  
Sue Foulks  
Judy Lococo  
Steve Matthews

## Directory of KIPCUG Leaders

Name	Position	Home	Work	Email Address
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John Henderson	Vice-President		812-945-1102	vp@kipcug.org
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Rosemary Viele	Treasurer	452-6878		treasurer@kipcug.org
Wayne Perkey	Program Director	303-7377		wayne@perkeycomputing.com
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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](mailto:membership@kipcug.org). The KIPCUG Membership Renewal Link is on the web page at [www.kipcug.org](http://www.kipcug.org) in the "For Your Information" section or you can access it directly at <http://www.kipcug.org/payment.htm>.

# Index of Past Magazine Articles

By Susan Moore, KIPCUG

This index includes all of the articles published in the I/O and the Computer User News from July 1996 through December 2006. The information provided is title, month published and page number. The articles have been indexed in roughly alphabetical order by keyword not by the exact title of the article. Repetitive articles that have been omitted include: Deal's Guy, From the Editor, KIPCUG Mentors - aka members helping members, Meeting Review, New Members, Over the Program Director's Shoulder, President's Desk, Software for Review, SIG Directory, The SIG Scene and articles with similar titles. This information will also be included on the website with periodic updates.

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# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:mooresk@win.net), [www.genealogy-family.com](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:sig@win.net) or Grant McCormick at [gmccormick@win.net](mailto:gmccormick@win.net) or Tom McArdle at [usersig@insightbb.com](mailto:usersig@insightbb.com)

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](mailto:gmccormick@win.net) or Charley May at [sig@win.net](mailto: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](mailto: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 (New Time)**

Meets 3:00-5:00 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](mailto: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 [mjlsks@insightbb.com](mailto:mjlsks@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](mailto:usersig@insightbb.com) or Charley May at [sig@win.net](mailto: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](mailto:mccampion@aol.com)

# KIPUCG Special Interest Group Directory (cont.)

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](mailto: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 are welcome. Current topic posted at [info.win.net/training.html](http://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](mailto: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?

## Countdown to the Digital Deadline

By Jim Sanders, North Orange County Computer Club, California  
<http://www.noccc.org>

Television as most of us know it has barely two years of life left in it. Congress has set a deadline of February 17, 2009 for analog broadcasts to end. That means that the faithful television that you have had, for I don't know how many years, will cease functioning on that date. Well, cease functioning may be too strong of a description, but there will no longer be an over the air broadcast of the analog type of signal that it knows how to interpret.

Starting on that date, all of the over-the-air television broadcasting stations have been mandated to

transmit the digital television format signal only. Old faithful, or maybe not so old, can still be used as long as there is some device that can feed it the analog signal that it knows how to deal with. This could be your VCR or DVD player for instance. Or, it could be one of the set top boxes that millions of people are going to have to purchase if they wish to continue using their analog television to receive over-the-air television broadcasts. The purpose of the set top box is to tune in the digital television frequency and convert it to the NTSC analog signal that your television knows how to deal with.

The set top boxes contain an ATSC tuner. This stands for Advanced

Television Systems Committee. They are an international organization setting the standards for digital television. In time, they will replace the NTSC, which is an American organization overseeing analog TV transmissions. There is considerable talk about Congress passing legislation to subsidize or provide free of charge set top boxes to low income families. At this time, there is no requirement that the recipients be United States citizens.

When you purchase a digital television, ATSC is a term that will be listed on the specifications showing that the television has a built-in digital tuner. There are 18 formats in the DTV spectrum, 12 SDTV formats and 6 HDTV formats.

# Countdown to the Digital Deadline (cont.)

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is the regulating organization in the United States that controls conversion from analog to digital. The Federal Communications Commission has set deadlines that mandate all manufacturers include digital tuners in their televisions. These are the dates that have been mandated:

July 1, 2005: all TVs with screen sizes over 36 in. must include built-in ATSC tuner.

July 1, 2006: 100% of 25 to 35in. TVs must include ATSC DTV tuner.

July 1, 2007: 100% of 13 to 24in. TVs must include ATSC DTV tuner.

July 1, 2007 100% of all interface devices must have ATSC DTV tuner. That includes equipment such as VHS VCRs, DVD player/recorders, and DVRs.

These deadlines only apply to new televisions and do not include the huge inventory of existing units. That is why you may see a number of televisions larger than 36in. still being sold without built-in digital tuners.

A television is a viewing device that includes a tuner. A device without a tuner is called a monitor. There is a loophole in the FCC regulations that allow Manufacturers to build TVs without any tuner, which would technically make it a monitor.

Most cable subscribers and all satellite subscribers use their service provider's set top box to receive and decode the digital signals instead of using the television's built-in ATSC tuner. One exception to that rule is a small credit card type of chip that takes the place of the set top box and is called a CableCARD.

Most cable and satellite providers charge in the neighborhood of \$9.95 a month to receive HD channels. Over-the-air High Definition channels are "free" in the same sense that current analog channels are free, that is you pay the price of watching the commercials, but don't actually have to shell out money. So, if you spend the extra bucks up front to buy an HD television that includes the ATSC tuner, you are not forced to pay that additional monthly charge. By purchasing an antenna from an electronics store for in the neighborhood of \$25 to \$100, a person that owns a set with a built-in ATSC tuner can enjoy the over-the-air broadcasts for free.

When the analog signals are turned off and digital becomes the standard, cable and satellite providers will probably provide the local networks for free if they don't do so already. But you will still have to buy or lease the cable box, which right now costs in the neighborhood of \$199. In addition to that, you'll still have to purchase the programming from the provider.

So, if you are a person that currently relies on getting all of your television through a rooftop antenna, in less than two years you will be faced with the choice of spending money for some new equipment or no longer being able to watch television.

One method of dealing with the problem would be to purchase one of the new DVD VCR combos that include the ATSC tuner. A number of VCR manufacturers, including Panasonic, have announced that when the new regulations go into effect, they will simply stop manufacturing that class of equipment.

JVC has announced a new DVD/VCR/ATSC tuner model that will be available in May, the DRMV99 at \$329.95. If you already own a good VCR and a good DVD player, it might make more sense to go ahead and purchase just the ATSC set top tuner.

In addition to dealing with all of the high definition signal acquisition problems, a whole lot of people are already trying to deal with the somewhat confusing array of HDTV offerings. The terminology, which is frequently observed in the papers, can be very confusing. The phrase "HD ready" is usually an indicator that the unit is a monitor that does not include a tuner. A lot of advertisements conveniently do not include what version of high definition a particular offering is. It is simply referred to as HD without saying whether it is 720i, 720p, 1080i or 1080p. The actual pixel resolution is often omitted as well. The 720i or p sets need to have a resolution of 1280 pixels by 720 pixels. The 1080i or p sets need to have a resolution of 1920 pixels by 1080 pixels. Just like the older VGA computer monitors the 720i refers to an interlaced display and the 720p refers to a progressive scan display. The progressive display is the better quality.

Then you have to decide which display technology you are going to pick. The Plasma flat panel, the LCD flat panel, the rear projection DLP television, the rear projection LCD television, the wall projection unit in either DLP or LCD. What is the brightness level? What is the viewing angle? What is the life expectancy of the projector bulb? What is the cost of the projector

# Countdown to the Digital Deadline (cont.)

bulb? Does the unit have a VGA, a DVI and an HDMI video connector?

At the moment, I think the best bang for the buck is to purchase a projector that will do 720p, and if you can afford the extra cost, one that will do 1080p. If you have never seen even an older 800x600 projector displaying a movie from a standard DVD on an eight-foot diagonal screen, I think you will find it impressive and I think you should do that before you spend money on anything.

Some selected FAQs from your <http://www.dtv.gov/> site.

What is the digital TV transition?

The switch from analog TV (the traditional TV system using magnetic waves to transmit and display TV pictures and sound) to digital television (the new TV system using information transmitted as "data bits" -- like a computer -- to display movie-quality pictures and sound), is referred to as the digital TV (DTV) transition. In 1996, the U.S. Congress authorized the distribution of an additional broadcast channel to each TV broadcaster so that they could introduce DTV service while simultaneously continuing their analog TV broadcasts. In addition to improved picture and sound quality, an important benefit of DTV is that it will free up parts of the broadcast spectrum for public safety as well as other valuable uses. This is possible because the modern technology of DTV is more efficient than analog TV technology. DTV allows the same number of stations to broadcast using fewer total channels (less of the broadcast spectrum) which will free up scarce and valuable

spectrum for public safety and new wireless services.

What is the February 17, 2009 DTV deadline date?

Congress passed a law on February 1, 2006, setting a final deadline for the DTV transition of February 17, 2009. Most television stations will continue broadcasting both analog and digital programming until February 17, 2009, when all analog broadcasting will stop. Analog TVs receiving over-the-air programming will still work after that date, but owners of these TVs will need to buy converter boxes to change digital broadcasts into analog format. Converter boxes will be available from consumer electronic

products retailers at that time. Cable and satellite subscribers with analog TVs should contact their service providers about obtaining converter boxes for the DTV transition.

What is digital television (DTV)?

Digital television (DTV) is a new type of broadcasting technology that will transform television as we now know it. By transmitting the information used to make a TV picture and sound as "data bits" (like a computer), a digital broadcaster can carry more information than is currently possible with analog broadcast technology. For example, the technology allows the transmission of pictures with higher resolution for dramatically better picture and

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# Countdown to the Digital Deadline (cont.)

sound quality than currently available - called High Definition Television (HDTV) - or the transmission of several "standard definition" TV programs at once - called "multicasting." "Standard definition" digital TV pictures would be similar in clarity and detail to the best TV pictures being received and displayed today using the current analog broadcast system and TV receivers. DTV technology can also be used to provide interactive video

and data services that are not possible with "analog" technology.

Is HDTV the same thing as DTV?

No. HDTV is the highest quality of DTV, but it is only one of many formats. In addition to HDTV, the most common formats are Standard Definition Television (SDTV) and Enhanced Definition Television (EDTV).

SDTV is the baseline display and

resolution for both analog and digital. Transmission of SDTV may be in either the traditional (4:3) or wide-screen (16:9) format. EDTV is a step up from Analog Television. EDTV comes in widescreen (16:9) or traditional (4:3) format and provides better picture quality than SDTV, but not as high as HDTV.

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



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