

BGA-BYTES

Official Newsletter of the Bowling Green
Area Microcomputer User Group, Inc.,

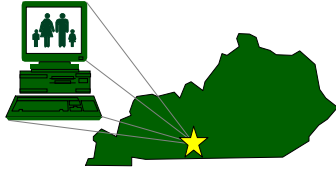
BGAMUG

Volume 18, Issue 4; April 2008
PO Box 50882, Bowling Green, KY 42102-4182

Member of



Association of PC User Groups



April 22th Presentation at Bowling Green Technical College

Buying and Selling on the Internet

Betsy Sheppard will lead this discussion of how to sell and buy with safety on the internet. Mike Moore will give a brief overview of PayPal, the “internet’s bank.”

Our special guest speaker, Kathy Jill Johnson, will talk about iOffer.com, a great alternative to auction sites.

We hope to see you at the Diamond W Farm with Gary and Karen Wickliff as our gracious hosts! Saturday April 26th, 2pm, rain or shine. BGAMUG will provide canned soft drinks, ice and grilled meat. Please bring a side dish to pass! [Please see the map on Page 4] (Note: No Workshops in April!)

The June Picnic WILL GO ON as usual, out in Alvaton at the Moore’s house, 158 Hunters Hill Ln. Date to be announced. A map will be published.

Spring 2008 has Sprung and so has BGAMUG

New plants and flowers are coming to bloom and the birth of new life is everywhere. BGAMUG members are also seeing some new things in 2008 as new growth is occurring within our club.

We had a very good meeting in March with 52 attendees. It was fantastic the way Bob Harder and family introduced Hector, the Lego Robot. For the first time, we hooked up a camcorder to our projector which allowed everyone a close-up video view of the action.

In addition to the CD burning presentation by Dick Schultz, Chuck Thomas demonstrated some of the features of the latest addition to his digital family, his new Mac.

We also want to thank librarian Karen Wickliff for making the increasing number of books and literature available at the meetings.

This month our presentations will be focused on buying and selling items on the Internet. Elizabeth (Betsy) Sheppard will give a brief overview of the ins-and-outs of auction sites like eBay and much more. As part of Betsy's program, Mike Moore will tell about how to set-up a Pay-Pal account and why buyers should use it for buying items online. As an added treat, a guest speaker, Kathy Jill Johnson, will present to us a site, IOffer.com, where buyers make offers and negotiate with sellers to purchase posted items.

Raymond Hunton will have several new door prize items. Starting this month if enough members attend, we may have two or three door prize drawings.

To cap-off the month, BGAMUG will have a Spring Social as we are invited by Gary and Karen Wickliff to their Diamond W Farm on Three Springs Road. See the details in this issue of BGA-Bytes on page 4.

We hope to see you at the April meeting.

Jerry Gillette



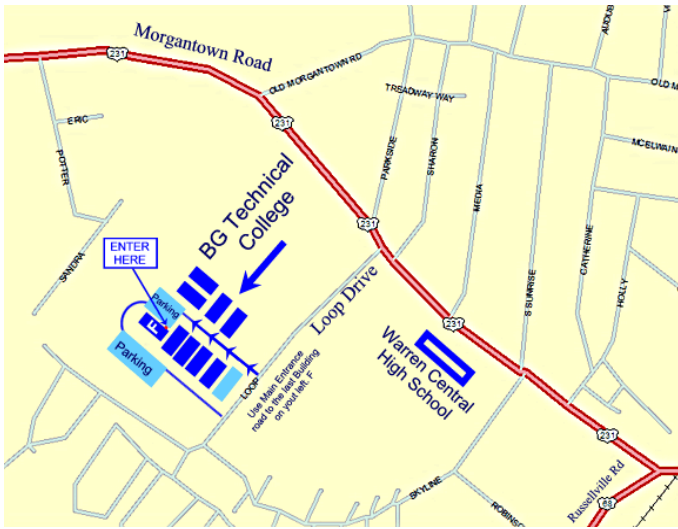
Page 1	Presentations, President’s Address
2	Dates, Maps, Meetings, Benefits
3	Spring Clean Your Computer
4.	Map to Karen’s and Kroger Cares Info
5.	Roxio Easy Media Creator v10 Review

Page 6.	Linux on a Stick
7.	PC Placement Quarterly update
8.	Word of the Month, Site of the Month
10.	Hulu.com—Free TV on your computer!
11.	Anniversaries, Birthdays

April 2008

Sun Mo Tue We Thu Fri Sat

		1 Board Meeting	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 Member's Meeting	23	24	25	26 Diamond W Farm Picnic!
27	28	29	30			



BGAMUG General Meetings are on the 4th Tuesday of each month. The next two meetings are on April 22nd and May 27th. These meetings are at the Bowling Green Technical College, Bldg F, at 6:30 PM. See the map above. Entrance to the BGTC campus on Loop Drive is clearly marked. Building 5 is the last building on the left, down the road through the campus.

BGAMUG Board Meetings are on the first Tuesday of each month. The next board meeting will be on May 6th, at our usual location, the Alamo Room at the Lone Star Steakhouse on Scottsville Rd, near Best Buy. Board members should come at 5:30pm for an optional dinner, and the business meeting starts at 6:30 PM. All members are welcome to attend.

May 2008

Sun Mo Tue We Thu Fri Sat

				1	2	3
4	5	6 Board Mtg	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 Members Meeting	28	29	30	31 Abel Court Workshop

Executive Board Email Discussions

Between regular BGAMUG membership meetings our elected officers meet on the first Tuesday of every month to discuss and make decisions regarding BGAMUG programs and business. These meetings are called E-board meetings, short for Executive Committee Meetings. These meetings have always been open to any and all BGAMUG members to attend and participate in the topics being discussed. Prior to these meetings a series of emails flow between members of the e-board to exchange views, ask questions, and make suggestions. As everything we do during these meetings hinges around our members' needs and interests, we want to include any of our members willing to participate in these email discussions so we can make better decisions on your behalf. If you would agree to contribute your views and participate in the Eboard Email Discussions, please email Jerry Gillette, jagky@insightbb.com or any BGAMUG officer.

Membership Benefits

- Annual software distribution of recommended spy-ware, free software and reference material
- At least 22 high quality, short, basic, fact-filled presentations on topics that you request
- At least 11 follow-up sessions where we use an up-to-date workshop to focus on more advanced aspects of topics suggested by our presentations.
- Annual Picnic and Potluck in June and on other dates!
- Learn basic techniques in Plain English
- Monthly newsletter
- Discounts and preferred shopper status at various retailers
- Access to low or no-cost technical support for your computer issues.
- Build-your-own computer seminars
- BGAMUG Workshops at Abel Court

The Computer Corner – Spring Clean Your Computer

By Joe Shipley, Treasurer, Phoenix PCUG, Arizona (www.phoenixpcug.org) [joeship\(at\)cox.net](mailto:joeship(at)cox.net)

[Editor's Note: This article contains information on editing the system registry. Please proceed with caution!]

While you're cleaning everything else around your home and office at this time of year, don't forget to clean your computer. There is truth to the saying, "A clean computer is a happy computer."

With the time we spend creating and working on our systems, we should do all we can to keep them running smoothly and give them long, healthy lives. So here are some things we can all do to prolong the lives of our systems. As a cautionary note: **backup** all your important items before doing any maintenance on your system. If you don't feel comfortable opening your system or editing the Registry, then don't do it! But what I intend to discuss here is not rocket science. These items are the same ones I perform when I clean my clients' systems.

Blow the Dust Out!

Dust is your computer's enemy! So get rid of it. The electronic components in a system generate heat. Heat is bad for a system. The more dust in a machine, the hotter it will run. When motherboard components get overheated, they "take a powder" and just shut themselves off until they can cool down. By keeping the insides clean your system will run cooler, thus letting it run longer.

Most generic systems have 4 to 6 screws that hold the case cover on. If you have a Dell, HP, Compaq, Gateway or other major brand system, look in the owner's manual or online to find out how to open your case. By removing the sides of the computer you'll gain access to its guts which is where the cleaning can be done. I use a small hand-held vacuum to suck up the dust balls. I use the crevice tool, that's not the one with the brush. You can also use canned air or air from a compressor to blow the dirt out. Be careful not to bump or touch any components on the motherboard while cleaning. Keeping one hand on the metal case while you clean should discharge any static electricity that might have built up.

With the vacuum, don't forget to suck out the dust that has accumulated in the power supply. There are usually vents on the side opposite the circular fan. I vacuum out from both the fan-side and the vent side. Note: if you are blowing rather than vacuuming, don't blow air into the floppy drive or cdrom/dvd units. Unless they are filthy and already don't work, you don't want to risk getting dust on the optics inside. And remember, blowing air into a computer really just moves the dust from the computer to somewhere else! I suggest you do it outside, if possible.

If you have a mouse that has a ball, think about getting a mouse that uses laser light instead. But if you want to clean the mouse, open it up, wash the ball with warm, soapy water, and gently scrape the gunk off the three rollers inside. Your mouse will act like new after a good cleaning.

You can also vacuum your keyboard. You'd be amazed at how much junk you'll find if you just turn it over and shake it up a bit. I have even gone so far as to wash the keyboard to get rid of spilled soda. An hour or two in the Phoenix sun and the keyboard is ready to go!

Cleaning the Software

Before running software cleaners such as Ad-aware, Spybot Search & Destroy and a good antivirus program (I like the free AVG), it makes sense to delete unneeded files and programs. Might as well not clean any more than you have to! This might be the time to use System Restore to create a Restore Point before you eliminate something you shouldn't. Better safe than sorry.

In the Documents and Settings area, look for the Local Settings folder for each user. If you can't find it, you may need to turn on the "Show Hidden Files and Folders" option on your system. To do this, open up Explorer, from the menu bar at the top go to **Tools-Folder Options-View-Show Hidden Files and Folders**.

Under Local Settings, I delete everything in the Temp folder. I also delete everything in the Temporary Internet Files folder also. Once that's done, I go to the Windows folder, and delete everything in the TEMP folder. Caution: some of you create your own Temp folders into which you may put things you might not want to delete. Check that out before doing a mass deletion.

Open the Registry

Again, if you're not comfortable editing the Registry, don't. You can back up the Registry (entirely or just specific keys) before proceeding. I mention this item in order to delete the "Compress Old Files" key before proceeding to the next step. You can either search for this key using the Find feature, or go to:

HKEY_Local_Machine\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\VolumeCaches .

The second key down should be the CompressOldFiles key, if it hasn't already been removed. If it's there, RIGHT click on it and delete it. You don't need it. Close the Registry and proceed.

Clean Up Drive

To clean up your drive further, go to My Computer. For each hard drive, RIGHT click on the drive, left click on Properties, and then click on Disk Cleanup.

(Continued on Page 9)

Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG)

Our parent group, to whom we owe so much, is doing what it can to promote and retain user groups. In addition to their annual event held in Las Vegas, APCUG will be sponsoring the Midwest User Group Regional Conference this year, hosted by the Chicago Computer Society. See <http://mwug.apcug.org/> for more details. APCUG provides ideas, solutions, newsletter articles, vendor presentation opportunities and various awards programs of which your own BGAMUG has been able to partake of several times in the last few years. Viva APCUG! We so appreciate you!



APCUG.NET

Association of Personal Computer User Groups

A message from your Librarian

We want to encourage all members of BGAMUG to use the Library and its resources and to return the articles for others to use after the ones borrowed have been used and reviewed. Also, please bring any old computer related magazines or books to add to the library. Any pertinent information will be kept in the library for members to review and return.

Thank you! **Karen Wickliff**



Pot Luck at Gary and Karen's House

Saturday, April 26th, 2pm — Bring a Side Dish!



DIRECTIONS

From Scottsville Road, take Three Springs Rd. 5 ½ Miles. At the Neal Howell Rd. caution light you only have 1 ¼ mile remaining. Watch for the Diamond W Farms sign on left.



Kroger Gift Card update

Jerry and Lou report that we are about half way to another \$5000 in Kroger Sales. Every \$5000 passed through these special gift cards creates a \$200 donation for BGAMUG! Keep reloading your Kroger Gift Cards. It is so easy and a win-win for all.

A big Thank You to Kroger for recognizing non-profit contributions of its employees! Kroger employees who donate time to non-profits, including BGAMUG, make their non-profits eligible for a yearly \$100 donation!

Roxio® Easy Media Creator® 10 Suite Reviewed

By Scott Stewart



Roxio Easy Media Creator® 10 Suite is a refreshing in handling media than its former predecessors. The last few CD/DVD editing programs I have used required more point and click than this new program. Everything you need to do comes up in the same window as soon as you open the program.

As in the past, Roxio's audio CD part of the program is easy to use. Creating audio CDs only requires you to find the file, whether it is mp3, WAV, or other audio files. The only real effort you have to put in this part of the program is setting up the parameters to your liking. After that, it will only take a minute or two before you are burning the CD.

Also included in the audio portion of the program is ripping CDs which is as easy as selecting what CD information you want on your audio files. Roxio automatically connects to the internet to find all the information from the commercial CD stored in its online library of music. If the music you are ripping is not in their library, you can easily input what you want to be stored in the audio file. This part of the program is also useful in editing information on audio files you already have stored to your computer's hard drive. For example, if you have an mp3 file that you may have ripped from a CD several years ago, the file's name itself may be correct, but when playing the mp3 it may only say a track number. Roxio allows you to access the actual file name so you can change information such as artist's name, CD title, track name, year of release, and type of music. For a long time music fanatic like myself, this was a huge plus. I had several mp3 files that when played only said track 3 or track 7. Now they show themselves as what they really are.

Included in the audio portion of Easy Media Creator 10 (EMC10) is a small sound editing program. It will take audio files and break them down into stereo left and right outputs. You can actually add effects to each side or both at the same time. Things like an echo effect or you can take echo out of it. It also lets you adjust the equalizer settings with an eleven band EQ or you can actually have it automatically take out the vocals of a song and save it. But I will warn you that doing so does lower the sound quality of the audio file and if the song is several years old, this effect does not work.

The final parts of the audio portion of EMC10 is converting tapes or LPs to audio files and converting all audio files to your preferred type of file. Converting all audio files to your preferred type of audio file, such as converting WAV formats to mp3 formats, is easy to start. You can either find the files yourself or let EMC10 find them for you. You don't have to do one file at a time. You can choose several files before converting them. The plus in that is because converting other files to your preferred type is a long process. Doing one at a time would

mean sitting at your computer for hours at a time. By choosing several at a time allows you to start the process and walk away letting your computer do all the work for you at once. Also a long process is converting tapes or LPs to your type of audio files. You have to have either an adaptor to plug your stereo into the computer's microphone jack or a soundcard that allows you to plug in a stereo directly to it. After doing so, EMC10 easily walks you through the process to get everything started but you have to allow tapes or LPs to play at their regular speed. EMC10 has settings to where it will determine each file from song to song as long as the song itself does not have a long pause. The audio editor also has a quick process to delete the pops and cracks you get from an LP or the hiss you get from a tape after you have converted music to audio files. Or, if you wanted to make a smooth sounding audio file have the old sound of an LP, the editor lets you add pops and cracks to it.

The next major portion of EMC10 is the data and backup CD creator. This process is very easy to use. It walks you through everything you need to do to backup your work and burn it to a CD. It even lets you compress your work to save space or encrypt your work for privacy.

Another major portion of the EMC10 is the disc copy part. You can copy CDs or DVDs to another CD or DVD with ease. Copying CDs is not much different from other programs. Whether you have two CD ROM drives or one, it easily lets you make copies in a very short time. Copying DVDs on the other hand gives you greater control over what you want to do. Most DVDs today come with multiple languages and multiple closed-caption languages on them. EMC10 allows you to only copy what part of the DVD you want. Saving room on the single layer DVDs for the much needed space when copying dual layered DVDs.

The photo portion of EMC10 was not as impressive as the audio portion. It's a little more complicated to use than most photo editing programs. Although finding and saving photos to your preferred format was easily done, the actual editing process had me searching for effects and trying them out sometimes without knowing what they were. Although there are probably more things to do with photos on EMC10 than with most free software, it had me frustrated at times when all I wanted to do was clean up a picture. If you want a really in-depth photo editing program you might not want to consider EMC10 or if you just want to fix a little redeye I would recommend not using EMC10.

The video portion of EMC10 is loaded with several options to allow you to create movies. It starts from quick convert video files to DVD to an in-depth movie maker. The express DVD maker will clean up your chosen movie automatically and burn it to DVD with no fuss but it doesn't allow you to change the actual video. This portion of the program also allows you to convert home videos quickly to your preferred video format directly from your digital video recorder. Or with the correct adaptor, you can actually convert video tape to preferred video format but that process is much more time consuming.

(Please turn to the next page)

The CineMagic portion of the video program is simply used to choose a video, choose a soundtrack, set a couple of settings, and it will make a movie for you. The MyDVD part of this program is a much more in-depth and time consuming process. It does, however, allow you to make DVD menus, DVD shortcuts, and add audio sounds to the menus. You can choose a color background for your menu, a picture, or a design. You can also pick and choose portions of videos to make your own movie. You can edit out things you don't want and even add swelling music to just a small part of the video to enhance the moment. Add effects to small or large parts of each video section. My favorite part of the DVD/video editing portion of this program is that the program itself is stable. My past experience with other programs that I've used are not as favorable. Several times while editing a video, I would usually have to stop and save my work. The reason being is that the program would freeze up and I would lose whatever I had been working on. Using EMC10 was a wonderful delight to work with in this matter. I never once had the program freeze up on me, even when I had added visual effects and audio effects to the same portion of video.

The last part of EMC10 is the tools portion; label creator, erase disc, finalize disc, etc. Nothing fancy here, just your average point and click to do whatever you need to do. Although, if you have Windows Vista that has the LightScribe disc label burner CD/DVD ROM, the label creator is kind of fun if you don't mind just black and white disc labels.

All in all, the audio portion of this program is exceptional for a home music fanatic. The options you have are almost unlimited to what you can do with your music. The video portion is an exceptional one to a new user. It's easy to use and find what you need to do as a beginner. The photo section, on the other hand, is probably a mediocre one at best. It's too hard to use if you just want to do very little to a photo and not in-depth enough if you are a serious photo editor.

Easy Media Creator Suite 10 retails for \$99 and is available for less with rebates at leading software stores.

Scott Stewart is a new member of BGAMUG joining earlier this year, an accomplished musician, and VP of Johnstone Supply of Bowling Green.

For the Good of the Order

This is a time, generally at the end of official business, in which members can make comments, offer commendations, or just "clear the air" in an "off the record" manner.

The good of the order speaks to aims and values of the organization. It is often a good time for the offers and membership to come together, providing a "reality check" to make sure what we are planning is aligned with member's needs.

Our former webmaster, Chuck Thomas, sent me an e-mail a few weeks ago about a site he was looking at (<http://www.windowssecrets.com>). For those of you who don't know, e-mail from Chuck is like "anti-spam," you just can't make it through the night before taking a look at it. This little gem was no exception; it is an article on keeping an entire bootable operating system on a memory stick!

Most PC systems built in the last few years will boot from a USB flash drive, often called "keychain drives." Wait, stop. What does that mean, to "boot from a USB drive?"

Traditionally, the software that does all the housekeeping chores on your computer and allows us to operate meaningfully the various drives, printers, speakers and USB powered Nerf Dart Launchers, lives on your hard disk drive. This software is known as the operating system, and nowadays it comes in three flavors, when you get right down to it: Microsoft Windows, Mac OS 10, and about a thousand different kinds of Linux (pronounced LIN ecks). These packages are known as Operating Systems, but few are small enough or optimized enough to boot from, or even fit on a USB keychain drive.

Why am I so delighted there are versions of Linux (or any operating system) that will fit on a USB drive? For starters, it is really helpful to be able to turn a computer on and actually use it, without jumping through all of the hoops! The passwords, network trees and incantations typically associated with any unsuspecting computer are really just such a bother, aren't they? When you have one of these operating systems on your keychain drive, you sit down and start using the machine. Secondly, I don't need to worry about Mike Droppings.

What are Mike Droppings, besides the rather obvious and SO-not-funny image that phrase might elicit? They are the stuff I leave behind, and I'm not talking about private passwords and state secrets. Spy satellites will not fall out of the sky after I leave a computer. I am, unintentionally, I assure you, the last person you want using your computer, because I change everything, and I swear I do not even know I'm doing it. I resize desktops windows, I mess with registries, and uninstall stupid software. I scribble notes to myself to put it back the way it was, but, alas, rarely do. Co-workers have been known to scream my name after logging on, even when I have not been near their desk, honest!

It is nice to be able to slam in a USB drive on anyone's computer, bring the machine up and actually use it, without ever even touching the system's hard drive. What a relief. All my droppings stay on my USB drive. And you know what? It works, and it's fast, and you don't need a Propeller Beanie Cap to set it up.

Here is the link:

<http://www.pendrivelinux.com/2008/02/13/pendrivelinux-2008-install-from-windows/>

(end)

PC PLACEMENT PROGRAM - A THREE MONTH REPORT

By Gene Iglehart

(see photo next page)

Is it possible to be "Too Successful"? From the looks of what greeted us today, after a Nashville Doctor visit. It might be possible. Nearly 13 years ago when I first started building and placing computers, I never thought the above would ever happen. By that I mean, people donating computers by just bringing them by and leaving them. Many times not even identifying themselves or leaving a note. They just know that "The guy on Lehman Ave will take anything, repair it and put it to good use."

Originally we had to buy junked computers from Western, dumpster dive, or just pick them up along the road. Back then I had lots of good people searching for me and still computers were hard to come by. We have averaged 120 computers built and placed each year for several years now. At the end of March this year, I had personally placed 30. Right on track for an average year. "Average" meaning very time consuming, but very rewarding.

Two things I have learned, and must keep repeating to myself. FIRST, I can't possibly repair all the computers that come my way. There are just too many, and sometimes the reason they were given to me is just too hard to find and correct. Because of that we have been working with "poor boys" willing to work hard for a dollar by recycling, sorting, and selling the items that are just too overwhelming. They Make a few bucks and I have a little more room to work in. SECOND, I will never run out of people willing to accept a computer from me. Because of that I try to work with organizations such as Lifeskills, Family Resources and agencies who will pre- screen applicants for me.

Because of these two variables, we now have "Branch Offices" The one in Brownsville with Robert Priddy has been around for some time. He finds clients and supplies them with computers. The next "Branch Office Manager" is David Lozen in Munfordville. Stricken with polio before the vaccine, he still manages to do a good job with computers. He is a good technician despite the constant pain he endures. When he judges who needs help, he does it from a perspective I have never known. The third man we work with is Kenneth Salmon in Tompkinsville. Ken helped us with placing the computers we gave to the school there a few months back. He has proven to be a willing worker who needs our help and in return can help others. He also builds and places computers Mike and I give him. I am tempted to include Mike Moore as a "Branch Office" since he does the same thing, but he is hiding under the cloak of a "SIG." I believe we will soon have another worker in Glasgow. I am just beginning to work with him and he shows potential.

I am not sure I can stand many more phone calls each day for help, but I am grateful to be in the position to be able to feel I am needed. How many 77 year old guys can say that? "My cup runneth over." (Also, my garage, basement, utility room, etc.)

So really, I can't give an accurate number of how many computers we have placed so far this year. Lets just say "Many" and be thankful we were all a part of the effort.

Community Special Interest Group Report: Lewisburg Library

Our commitment to Lewisburg's Books To Go library ended in early April with the provision of three Pentium III computers for their Computer Lab and librarian desk. We also provided network and got them going with Logan Telephone's DSL internet. Special thanks to Gene Iglehart who got the project started a number of months ago.

Thanks to webmaster and Microsoft Authorized Refurbisher John Walker for ordering new Windows XP licenses for use in recycling old computers. Also we would like to thank our Board of Directors for funding this software, which we ask only \$5 per copy of our recipients. In exchange for this small sum, they are assured of a completely legal copy of their XP operating system.

BGAMUG Continues Monthly Hands-On Workshops

Debbie Fugate of Abel Court Apartments has agreed to allow BGAMUG to use their Computer Lab to conduct Workshops for BGAMUG members. These computers have recently been updated to support Windows XP at a minimum of 512mb of memory.

Special Workshops

April workshops will be postponed until May since we have our Diamond W picnic schedule on the Wickliff's farm. Hope you can attend the celebration!

May 31st workshops: To be announced!



Door Prizes (available to Members and Guests)

In March, Richard Jakel won some software and Vivian Hand got the toolset. In April we have a choice of Kingston 1GB keychain drive, a package of 50 CD-R discs, and a CD/DVD Travel Case, with up to three of these given away depending on meeting size.

Progressive Door Dollars (members only)

The current jackpot is now: \$70 in GOLD colored coins
YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN!

Got door prize suggestions? E-mail rhunton@insightbb.com



Software of the Month

Blocktality (<http://blocktality.sourceforge.net/>)

A top-down shooter game with puzzle elements for Windows. Open Source and completely free.

Site of the Month

<http://www.digibarn.com/>

This is about the coolest computer museum I've ever seen. I've put it on my places to go list!

Word of the Month:

Mousetrapping

When a site uses browser tricks to keep a user captive, by disabling the back button, generating repeated pop-up windows, or creating web references that take the user in a circle. Mousetrapping is considered obnoxious and in complete violation of netiquette. Tricks like this are often used on online porn site and unscrupulous adware based sites because the more you click, the more revenue they produce. If you get caught in a mousetrap, the best policy is to just close the browser (right click on the browser icon on your task bar and ALT-F4) and don't return to the site.



Gene Iglehart tending to his latest trove.

Mister, can you take care of my little brother? I promise he don't eat much and won't cause you any trouble!

Can you believe it? Gene's getting flat panel monitors donated? Why would any one want to throw them out?

Any day now, we expect a Cray XM/P (below) supercomputer to show up on his doorstep.



The Special Interest Group with No Name Yet was given some very special assistance by our President. With nearly 100 hard drive-less computers sitting in my basement and garage, and no prospects for who would refurbish them other than myself, Jerry found three individuals who were willing to help on a volunteer basis. I will let Jerry tell you about those guys. John Walker has also agreed to help build computers. So now at least I have a means of reclaiming some space. What I would ask of you, the membership, is to find an individual or non-profit, school or church that has no budget for these wonderful machines, and with your assistance, we will put on in their hands (well, okay, on their desks). Also if you want to donate money or items, we have need for printer cartridges, mouse pads, and stereo speaker sets. We have approximately 50% more monitors (display screens) than we do computers, so if someone just needs a display, we can do that easily. If you have an interest in donating some time and learning about how to build and recycle computers, please let me know. I have produced what will be, ultimately, a sort of fake-book on how do turn out excellent machines, and I hope to have this refurbishing guide posted on our web site, www.bgamug.org, in a few days. Thanks for your support!

(contributed by Mike Moore)

(Spring Clean Your Computer, from page 3)

If you didn't remove the CompressOldFiles key earlier, it may take a long time before the system responds. If you did, shortly you'll see files which may be deleted from your system so you can recover space. After cleaning these up, you may see an increase in available disk space.

Clean Up Internet Explorer and Firefox

One of the easiest things you can do to keep your computer clean is to get rid of Temporary Internet Files that are stored on your computer. Here's how to do this for immediate relief:

✦ Internet Explorer - delete Temporary Internet Files:

1. Open Internet Explorer.
 2. Select the Tools menu.
 3. Select Internet Options.
 4. Select the General tab.
 5. In the Temporary Internet Files section, click the Delete Files button.
 6. Do not check the clear Offline Content box. Click Ok.
- Click Ok to close the Tools window.

✦ FireFox (Mozilla) - clear browser cache

1. Open FireFox (Mozilla).
 2. Click the Tools menu.
 3. Click Options.
 4. Click Privacy.
- Click the Clear button for Cache.

If you use Internet Explorer, go to **Tools-Internet Options-Advanced** and almost at the end, put a check mark in the box that says "[Empty Temporary Internet Files](#) folder when Browser is closed" and IE will automatically delete the files when you close the browser.

Add/Remove Programs

In the Control Panel, you can add and remove programs you no longer need or use. If you are not sure, Google the program in question and then decide. You might want to opt to leave in any program you are not sure about. But if you still have games or programs you have not used in years, toolbars you don't want or need, or other items of no significance to you, clear them out. As I've said before, Google first, then if you're still not sure, leave them in. Often programs will have their own Uninstall feature. If you decide to remove a program, first go to **Start-Programs** and find the menu item of the program you want to delete. If it is there, check to see if there is an Uninstall menu choice and if so, I'd start with that before using the Add/Remove programs feature.

Spybot Search & Destroy and Ad-Aware

These are two FREE programs that do a great job cleaning up malware, spies, and other things that slow your system down. You can find them on the Internet at www.download.com, or just Google them. After installing them, make sure you use the update feature before doing a scan. These programs are updated almost daily, so it pays to take advantage of the latest updates.

Get Rid of the Language Bar

Control Panel, Regional Settings, Languages, Details, Languages, Uncheck the "Show Language Bar" box to get rid of the Language Bar at the bottom of your screen. If you use the Language Bar, by all means don't get rid of it.

Keep Your Antivirus Updated!

Whichever AV program you use, if it is not updated you're not getting full protection! *Security suites slow systems down!* I don't use them. Google "AVG Free" to get a free antivirus that does a good job, and then configure it to have it updated and run it daily.

Task Manager

Quite often slow performance is directly related to the programs that are running. RIGHT click on the Taskbar to open and look at duplicate program entries under Processes – click on the title of the Processes tab to sort alphabetically. If you see multiple instances of the same program running, for example, outlook.exe, odds are you're having some kind of problem. If you're not sure about what a process is, Google it to find out or leave it alone. If you click on the CPU tab twice, you'll see which programs are using the most memory. Find the memory hogs, check them at Google, and then begin to end processes you don't need. If a process is critical, Windows won't let you close it.

(Concluded on Page 11)

Hulu Offers Free TV and Movies over the Net

By Ira Wilsker, APCUG Director; Columnist, The Examiner, Beaumont, TX; Radio and TV Show Host
iwilsker(at)apcug.net

Obtained from APCUG with the author's permission for publication by APCUG member groups.

WEBSITES: <http://www.hulu.com>

One of my readers recently emailed me about an offer he received via email (probably a spam email) about a \$50 program that will allow him to view what was described as satellite TV over the internet, without paying a monthly fee. According to the email, with this program, he could discontinue his cable or satellite service, and watch over 3000 channels on his computer. I researched the product he referenced and found that it was a multilevel marketed program that was, in my opinion, deceptive in that it did not offer real satellite TV, but instead only offered a software utility that could receive the thousands of streaming videos already available for anyone to view for free, and that often required no special software to view. I strongly recommended to the reader that he not purchase the product, and instead just search for streaming video, and to keep his current TV provider.

In researching this service I came upon a recently released and legitimate way to view thousands of TV programs and movies over the internet, for free, and only using any of the common internet browsers. This free service (registration required) is the Hulu service available online at www.hulu.com. Hulu was founded in March of 2007, and is a joint venture owned by NBC Universal, and News Corp, and financed by \$100 million of venture capital. As I type this, Hulu is offering advertising supported content from over 50 sources, such as Fox TV, NBC, MGM, Sony Pictures, Warner Brothers, Lionsgate, 20th Century Fox, and other providers. The content available for viewing includes TV shows, full length feature films, and clips. Several full length, prime time shows are available on Hulu the morning after they air, and include such popular shows as The Simpsons, and The Office. There are also dozens of classical TV shows, available as full length episodes, including such favorites as Miami Vice and Buffy the Vampire Slayer. If users are willing to put up with unobtrusive ads, often in the lower right corner of the image, or standard TV type commercials, they can watch for free such full length feature films as Ice Age, Three Amigos!, and many others. Hulu is headquartered in Los Angeles, with research and development being done in China.

Hulu will play on almost all current browsers as they are currently configured, and requires no special software or add-ons to utilize the service, and requires a broadband connection to view the videos. Almost all computers already have Adobe's Flash Player installed, but if not, Flash Player is a free download from Adobe at www.adobe.com.

Once registered at hulu.com (free registration), a broad selection of videos becomes available for viewing at will. As I type this, there are about 11,200 full length TV episodes and feature clips available, with more being added daily. Currently available for viewing are almost all of the episodes of The Simpsons, 30 Rock, The Office, Knight Rider, House, Medium, Bionic Woman, American Dad!, Buffy the Vampire Slayer, 24, Prison Break, Heroes, about 160 full length children's cartoons

(Woody Woodpecker, Spiderman, Astro Boy, and many others), and other TV shows of all genres. For those partial to Saturday Night Live skits, there are about nearly 500 available, including such contemporary issues as presidential politics. TV wrestling fans would appreciate the over 300 matches available for viewing, while NBA fans can view over 140 clips from professional basketball games. A collection of recent (2008) full length college football games, including many of the bowl games are available for viewing, including the 2007 and 2008 Sugar Bowl, Cotton Bowl, Fiesta Bowl, and others, enough to satiate any college football fans, and keep them glued to the computer screen for days on end. Soap opera addicts will appreciate the well over 100 clips from Days of Our Lives. In total, Hulu lists 25 different TV genres for every taste, making something available for everyone. The large assortment of TV shows (and movies as well) can be displayed by clicking on "Type" (TV or Movie), and then "Genre"; this will display only those selections that meet both criteria. Simply clicking on the image of the selection will play that selection. All of the TV shows can be displayed in one window alphabetically at www.hulu.com/browse/alphabetical/tv, and can be run by clicking on their titles. All of the TV shows can also be displayed in one window, sorted by genre at www.hulu.com/browse/genre/tv.

Hulu is not just about TV, but also full length feature films, clips, and trailers. As I type this, there are 760 movies available, of which 80 are full length feature films, the remainder being shorts, clips and trailers. According to Hulu, the most popular full length films viewed by members are Ice Age, Master and Commander: The far Side of the World, The Girl Next Door, The Jerk, Usual Suspects, Planet of the Apes, Weekend at Bernie's, Dragon – The Bruce Lee Story, Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea, Three Amigos!, All Dogs Go to Heaven, and dozens more. Movies are divided into 10 genres, including action and adventure, animation, comedy, crime and mystery, documentary and biography, drama, family and kids, horror and thriller, music, and sci-fi and fantasy. Movies can be selected by genre, or by studio. Opening www.hulu.com/browse/network/movies will display movies alphabetically by studio, with full length features being clearly indicated. Each of the movies shown is hyperlinked (click on the title) directly to the movie. Similarly, all of the movies can be sorted by genre, and displayed in one window at www.hulu.com/browse/genre/movies.

Hulu is about to roll out "HD" (High Definition) videos, and currently has 20 HD movie trailers available to demonstrate the service at www.hulu.com/hd. Since HD video carries more data than conventional video, the system requirements are higher to view HD. In order to view the HD videos, the computer must have a minimum of Flash Player 9.0.115.0 (a free download from Adobe, available for most operating systems), a 2.5Mbs or faster broadband connection (many of the basic broadband services are incapable of operating at this speed, and a premium or upgraded broadband may be required to view HD), a fast processor (3Ghz minimum for Windows or Linux, or a 1.83Ghz Intel Core Duo for Mac). Almost all modern computers of recent manufacturer meet the minimum RAM and video requirements to view HD videos.

While not a substitute for cable or satellite TV, Hulu can provide countless hours of entertainment for free. Since new content is frequently added, and additional providers are being solicited, Hulu has the potential for becoming a major entertainment resource. (end)

BGAMUG Club News

Birthdays



Carol Brodeur - April 26th
Jay Eatherly— April 18th
Ramona Bobbitt— May 4th
Pat Vincent—May 12th
Ward Coleman—May 22th

Anniversaries



Edwin & Eleese Phelps April 28th
Bob & Tracy Harder May 1st
Ruth Daniels & Jesse Puckett—May 7th
Laura Whites—May 12th
Bill Hullhorst—May 16th

For Kroger Cares™ Information,
contact Jerry Gillette at
jagky@insightbb.com 781-6309

For Abel Court Information,
contact Debbie Fugate at
aca0401@bellsouth.net 842-4114

BGAMUG's Special Interest Group
Info, contact Mike Moore at
ml.moore@insightbb.com 843-9535

The Editor is indebted to Betty Lyne for her copy-editing
eagle eye and split-infinitive-smashing red pen!

2008 Club Officers

President / APCUG Rep Jerry Gillette 781-6309 jagky@insightbb.com	Program Director
VP of Membership Dick Schultz 393 0120 dschul41@yahoo.com	Web Master John Walker 320-5646 john@johnawalker.us
Secretary Lou Travelsted 776-0649 ltravelsted@bellsouth.net	VP of Protocol Linda Todd 781-7872 linda.todd@wku.edu
Treasurer Lou Travelsted 776-0649 ltravelsted@bellsouth.net	Newsletter Editor Michael Moore 843-9535 ml.moore@insightbb.com
Sergeant at Arms Gilbert Lakes 202 0312 gilbert.lakes@insightbb.com	Librarian Karen Wickliff 842-2715 kwickliff@bellsouth.net
Officer At Large Fran Tully 746-0989 fit79@insightbb.com	Officer at Large Pat Vincent 782 1191 pat.vincent@wku.edu
PC Placement Program Gene Iglehart 842-4570 iglehart@aol.com	BGAMUG Historian Ginny Molloy 846 7274 charmcat@aol.com

(Spring Cleaning Your Computer—from page 9)

MSCONFIG

Go to **Start – Run** and type in “msconfig” (don’t type the quotes) and click on “OK” and look in the Startup and Services areas to check to see what programs might not need to start. If you know they are not needed, uncheck them. If you have a problem after restarting, then re-check them. If you’re uncertain . . . Google the file names and learn about them.

Defrag Your System Regularly

Go to <http://www.auslogics.com/en/software> to find free software to defrag your hard drives. I recommend defragging at least monthly to keep your system running smoothly. This is a nice program, FREE, and it’s pleasant to watch. Keeping your hard drives defragmented will add life to your system and speed up performance when saving and retrieving files.

The suggestions above are based upon a system running Windows XP Pro. With Vista things may be in different places. The operation should be very similar, however, so doing a search in the Help & Support area may provide the answers you’re looking for.

For a PowerPoint slide presentation with screen shots of locations referred to in this article, please visit <http://www.phoenixpcug.org/articles> and look for the link.

Joe Shipley, Owner of SMART IDEAS!, is a computer consultant, independent network administrator, builds custom computers, trains users on software, and sells software and hardware in Mesa, AZ. You can reach Joe at (480) 831-8332 or by email at joeship(at)cox.net.

BGAMUG
P.O. Box 50882
Bowling Green, KY 42102-4182

Newsletter Editor 1/25/2099

Michael Moore

158 Hunters Hill Ln.

Alvaton, KY 42122

**Don't forget our March meeting at
the B G Technical College,
Building F,
April 22nd, 6:30 PM.**

BGA-bytes is online, in two handy resolutions. Please see <http://www.bgamug.org>

To see our online edition of the newsletter you will need **Adobe Acrobat Reader** installed on your computer. If you do not have it, then please download and install Acrobat Reader by accessing;

<http://www.adobe.com/go/BONRM>

BGA-bytes is the monthly newsletter publication of the Bowling Green Area Microcomputer User Group, Inc. (BGAMUG), which is a nonprofit, charitable educational society recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)3 tax-exempt charitable organization. Donations to BGAMUG may be tax-deductible.

The views expressed in BGA-bytes are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the official views of the organization. BGAMUG is a member of the Association of PC User Groups (APCUG) membership.

BGAMUG holds regular presentation/membership meetings the fourth Tuesday of each month (except December) at the Bowling Green Technical College (BGTC) on Loop Drive in Bowling Green, Kentucky. **The public is invited to attend our regular presentation meetings. To join, our annual membership dues are \$25 for an individual and \$35 for a family.** Loop drive intersects Morgantown Road just West of Warren Central High School. There is a stoplight at the intersection. The access road to BGTC from Loop is clearly marked with a sign. The meeting building is Building F in the last group of buildings down the access road. A map is inside this newsletter.