



SCUG REPORT

Published for the Sarnia Computer Users' Group
Award Winning Newsletter & Website

www.scug.ca



Volume 22, Issue 1

\$1.00 Per Issue - Yearly Membership \$35

September 2004

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Please submit articles for the June SCUG Newsletter before Oct. 16th.
to: editor@scug.ca.

**Member of the Association of
Personal Computer User Groups
(APCUG)**
www.apcug.org

SCUG MEETING

St. Bartholomew's Church
718 Cathcart Blvd.
Sarnia, Ont.

Last Wednesday of the month
7:00 p.m. social time
7:30 p.m. call to order

Next Meeting
October 27, 2004



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

by Pierre Houle

Welcome Back for Another Season

First of all, I would like to welcome everyone back from the summer break. Hopefully you have all had a busy and worry free summer. I hope the nice weather will stay for many more weeks!

SCUG has already started the season with two SIG groups meeting already, namely the Digital photography SIG and the Windows SIG. They were both well attended, and everyone is showing keen interest. Hopefully, more members will step forward and offer their time to demonstrate topics of interest to both groups. Thanks to Rich for his presentation at the Digital group!

We the executive are busy finding topics of interest for future meetings. We are always looking for ideas, so if you want to see something in particular demonstrated, let us know. Some topics to look for in the coming months are: Using Photoshop CS, Accessing the internet while traveling, e-Bay, transferring LPs to CDs, to name a few.

Tonight, I am going to show a couple of my favourite subjects. Both can involve volunteering your time or computer for the common good. The first is called the Gutenberg Project, and involves digitizing books, and making them available online for free. They are looking for volunteers to proof-read. The second is seti@home. Seti is the "search for extraterrestrial intelligence", and seti at home is a program which runs as a screensaver, but also uses your computer to do complex mathematical computations which analyse data received from radio telescopes. These telescopes are listening for signs of intelligent life.

I am also interested in XP service pack 2. If anyone has had problems, please let me know.

Enjoy!

**Sarnia Computer Users' Group Est. 1982
2004 - 2005 Club Officers**

President	Pierre Houle	president@scug.ca
Vice President	Iain Smy	vicepresident@scug.ca
Treasurer	Dorothy Alexander	treasurer@scug.ca
Recording Secretary	Tom Deeprose	secretary@scug.ca
Membership Secretary	Val Conway	membership@scug.ca
Shareware Librarian	Dan Bilger	library@scug.ca
Editor - SCUG Report	Greg West	editor@scug.ca
Public Relations	Norm Lamoureux	pr@scug.ca
Program Coordinator	Bill Colotelo	coordinator@scug.ca

VISIT SCUG ONLINE: www.scug.ca

(SIG) Special Interest Group Leaders

Digital Photography	- Ian Campbell	- digital@scug.ca
Windows Group	- Pierre Houle	- windows@scug.ca

SCUG Advertising Rates

Full Page	1x - \$30.00	3x - \$25.00	6x+ - \$20.00
Half Page	1x - \$20.00	3x - \$15.00	6x+ - \$10.00
Business card	\$10.00 per year		

*One year = 9 issues, September to June
Full and half page rates are per insertion*

Disk Prices

CD Only	Members	Non-Members
Monthly Disk	Free	\$2.00
Utilities	\$1.00	\$2.00
Additional Disks	\$1.00	\$2.00

NOTE: Some of these programs are Shareware which must be registered and paid for if you like them and decide to keep them on your machine. This is your responsibility!

Please drop by our Website: www.scug.ca-5

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Your Secretary's Notes

by Tom Deeprose
secretary@scug.ca

SCUG Executive Meeting

30 August, 2004 St. James' Church, 140 Lansdowne Rd. North

In attendance: Pierre Houle, Iain Smy, Dorothy Alexander, Bill Colotelo, Norm Lamoureux, Helen Ginn sitting in for Tom Deeprose.

1. Membership. Val reported that, as of June 30, 2004 we had 90 Members + 44 Associates = 134 Total Membership. 1 new Member Renewals 4 Members Lapsed 0 Guests 2. Total Meeting Attendance 47.

2. Vice President's Input.

3. Secretary's Input - Helen Ginn sitting in for Tom who was away on vacation. Suggestion made by Helen to offer the newsletter electronically to those members who would rather have their copy that way. Discussion followed and the membership will be approached regarding their thoughts. A copy on line would not be available until after the meeting.

4. Treasurer's Report - Rental for the church confirmed. Dorothy will be away and needs volunteers to take her place while she is on vacation. Domain name for SCUG site to be added to the budget. The audit was completed by Ed Ginn - all in order. Budget proposal accepted.

5. Software Library Report - Dan - (no report)

6. Meeting Program - Jim Greenshields to be approached to do a presentation on Photoshop for September. Awaiting a reply from EBtech for October presentation regarding traveling with the Internet. November suggestion Buying on line from E-Bay, possible presentation by Dorothy. January suggestion for another presentation by Bill Colotelo on writing music to CDs from long playing records, compressing music etc.

7. Newsletter - Financial page to be separate from the newsletter format as it is not compliant with PageMaker. Discussion regarding electronic availability for newsletter.

8. Web page - Iain - Digital photography discussion regarding a contest for photos submitted to the web site, possibly a seasonal theme, rules to be set and a group

leader is needed for the Digital Photography SIG.

9. Program Co-ordinator - Bill reported accommodations set to the end of the year for meetings. Grace United available for Windows meetings. Review Status - Paul Witheridge reviewing data recovery software and Bill has reviewed two books, one about digital photography and another on XP. Comments from Bill: It is difficult to obtain both, offers to review, and donations of software for reviews.

10.Promotions - Norm - suggestions for a 50/50 draw for September, Photoshop book for October, another 50/50 draw for November.

11.New Business

12.Old Business - APCUG dues paid up \$50. U.S.

Meeting adjourned 9:15



Thanks Helen...

A virtual bouquet and a very special thanks goes out to Helen Ginn for taking the minutes of this meeting, while Tom was away.

**SCUG
NEEDS
YOU!**
Please flip over to page 6 now...

EMAIL ADDRESS CHANGE?

If you have a new Email address please forward it to Val (membership@scug.ca) This is the only way to receive prompt SCUG reports and news.

MEMBERSHIPREPORT
Stats as of June 30, 2004

90 Members + 44 Associates = 134 Members
 New Members.....1 Members + 0 Associates
 Renewals.....4 Members + 0 Associates
 Lapsed Memberships.....0 Members
 and Associates
 Guests.....2 Guests

 Total Meeting Attendance..... 47



**SHAREWARE
 CD**
SCUG Librarian
Dan Bilger
 library@scug.ca

Another New & Exciting Season

Welcome to the new year of SCUG. We have finished the first year of the Shareware CD. I heard one constructive criticism to add a text file to let you know what was on the CD. I will be implementing that this year. If there are other ideas that I have not thought of please let me know along with favourite programs that you think others in the club might enjoy or find useful.

This month, September: on the CD, you will find: Mozilla: (formerly Netscape navigator) 5 years in the making and still going strong. Now includes HTTP 1.1 pipelining, more security and stability fixes. New Spellchecker for MailNews and Composer, major overhaul for ChatZilla, improved unstyled XML display, support for printing attachments and Deepnet Explorer: the first web browser to offer fully integrated P2P file sharing capabilities and a built-in RSS/ATOM news reader. Browse multiple web-sites simultaneously, block annoying pop-up ads, fill web forms instantly, and use Auto Login to memorize and fill website passwords automatically. Also share and download files with millions of users across the Gnutella P2P network while you surf the web, and view all the latest news and weblogs in one place with the RSS/Atom news reader. It's the all-in-one browsing solution - you can browse the web, share files, and read news simultaneously! Two alternatives to Windows Internet Explorer.

Next month bring the CD back with you and exchange it for another CD with a new program loaded on it. Repeat this procedure each month. If you forget to bring your CD back next month, you can wait until the following month or you can get another CD for the nominal price of \$1.00.

Please Note: Ta-Da, at the June meeting. This CD will contain the entire year of the SCUG SHAREWARE LIBRARY programs and it is yours to keep Non-members can purchase a CD for only \$2.00, however when you do become a SCUG member you will then receive the full CD included with the price of your membership. Utility Disks - \$1.00 each diskette Spotlight on Shareware There is a link on SCUG's www.scug.ca where you can download any of the programs that were listed in the Spotlight on Shareware in past issues of this Newsletter. Go to the SCUG website under: "Other Areas - DOWNLOADS"

New Members in June

Dr. Lucy Duncan.

Memberships Renewed in June

Jim Verdon, Ted West,
 Larry Windsor, Anna Harrington



Compuprize Winners

Here are the winners from the June Draw



And the winners are:

Jacques Poirier (Organizer and MS Works),
 Anna Hathaway (Brother Food Labeler, OPP
 Hat, Organizer), Joe Zatylny (Microsoft Key-
 board and mouse).

Special Interest Groups
SIG REPORTS

Digital SIG
LOOKING FOR A LEADER
digitalsig@scug.ca



Windows SIG
Pierre Houle
windows@scug.ca

Many ventured the nice weather and attended the meeting - excellent turnout!

There were thirty people who attended the Windows SIG this month, including two guests. Pierre led the meeting with a talk on Spyware. From the response, it was evident that spyware, adware and browser hijacking are top complaints, and are also, the chief reason for seeking repairs. Spybot Search and Destroy was demonstrated, and strategies were discussed to prevent infections. Browser hijacking can be avoided by using a browser other than Internet Explorer. To this end, Mozilla's Firefox was demonstrated.



Pierre gives advice during break to a few members.

The Q and A in the second half of the meeting was well used, with many questions about computer problems. Some were even answered.

The notes for the meeting can be found online at the club's website.

The next Windows meeting will be Thursday October 21st, 7:00 P.M. at Grace United Church. The topic is yet to be determined. If you have attended past meetings, or on the Windows SIG mailing list, a reminder and topic will be sent.

REMEMBER:

If you have an idea, or something that you just cannot figure out with your system, email Pierre and it may just become the next month's topic at the SCUG Windows SIG.



Rich Dolby, Presenter

Despite some equipment problems, Rich Dolby gave a very interesting demonstration of Windows Moviemaker. For additional information about the subject contact Rich at: Dolbyrd@xcelco.on.ca . 24 people attended the meeting, including at least two guests.

Since the demonstration was rather long (again, due to equipment problems), other business was not addressed at the meeting. Bill Colotelo has two books about Digital Photography which most of us would be interested in. He was going show us how interesting they were, and where to buy them. Hopefully he will do this at a future meeting.

Also, we still have the problem of Group leader. Over the next few weeks, I will be twisting arms (and hoping...pleading) for someone to step forward.

I will now go over the duties and perks of being a SIG leader. The leader is usually chosen by the group, and the group as a whole decide what topics will be discussed. The leader is responsible for scheduling, reminders, writing a brief synopsis of the meetings for the newsletter, getting any equipment, and running the meetings in an orderly fashion. Of course, some of this could be delegated, and all members of the group are encouraged to participate! The perks of being the leader are: membership to SCUG is free, and you have more say than anyone about what the topics, meeting times, etc. will be.

Again, Thanks Rich for the great presentation!

The next meeting will be Wednesday October 6th, 7:00 P.M., at St. James Church, 140 N. Lansdown.

The topic will be announced shortly, and a reminder will be sent out to those attending the last meeting who signed the attendance list.

Report by: Pierre Houle

Please see the separate page insert with this newsletter for a full financial summary report.



Come Early - Help and Learn!

Come to the meetings early to help set up...meet new people and learn more about how SCUG operates. Besides, when you come early and help putting out chairs, or connecting wires, you can easily question one of the Pros for computer tips.

SCUG NEEDS YOU!

SCUG is host to volunteers who present some aspect from the world of computers. To keep this interest going we need new ideas. Is there a program that you are interested in seeing demonstrated, or one that you just cannot seem to get to do the things it says on the box? Well, suggest it be presented.

Don't forget if you have a certain computer program or book that you would like to do a review on, contact Bill Colotelo, SCUG's Coordinator. Do you have some great digital photos that you would like others to see...contact Iain, SCUG's Webmaster. Is your computer broken, or do you think you may have a virus...why not use the SCUG email list group and pose that question you just cannot seem to get answered...maybe some other SCUG member has run into a similar problem and you will have a answer as fast as you can download emails. Go to www.scug.ca and sign up today to get the most from SCUG.

Remember, we thrive on volunteers, so *please* think about helping out at meetings and SIG groups by simply getting involved.

Please see page 2 for contact email addresses.

Many Reasons to be a SCUG Member

- * Special Interest Groups
- * S.C.U.G. REPORT
- * Want Ad
- * Paid Advertising
- * Disk of the Month
- * Utility Disks (Set of 2 Disks)
- * Members Only Web Pages
- * Meeting Cancellation Notification
- * Local Discounts
- * Earn 1 Month Free Membership
- * Join in on Software Reveiws
- * Executive Postions
- * E-mail Reminders
- * Special E-Mails

FOR FULL INFORMATION ON SCUG BENEFITS SEE www.scug.ca

SCUG MEMBERS SAVE - UP TO \$60 AT EBTech

EBTech offers up to \$5/month discount to SCUG Members!

- * Contact Val Conway (membership@scug.ca) to be on the EBTech Discount List.
- * With your next EBTech renewal, simply identify yourself as a SCUG Member
- * Val notifies EBTech of eligible members so no further proof of identification is required.

10 hours per month - \$10 per month (\$2.00 per additional hour)
 SCUG members save on 6 & 12 month packages

100 hours per month - \$20 per month (\$1.00 per additional hour)
 SCUG members save \$5 per month

* Upgrade your existing account and you can apply the discount immediately!

TID BITS

Collected by
Greg West - SCUG Editor



WANTED: Letters and URLs

We look forward to Letters to the Editor, regarding these Tid Bits...and of course, if you have any neat things you have found on the internet that you may have been hoarding, well this is the place to share them. Please email your Tid Bits, or interesting web sites to: editor@scug.ca

Order your FREE Windows XPService Pack 2 CD

www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/downloads/updates/sp2/cdorder/en_us/default.mspx

“The full corporate install is on the order of 265MB, though the typical home edition is about 80MB. That is why Microsoft is distributing the update in three ways. Consumers who want it immediately can download the whole enchilada from Microsoft's Web site (www.microsoft.com).

You also can order a CD from the Web. But the most common method of download distribution is to turn on "automatic updates" and receive SP2 as part of a phased rollout.

But beware of the problems associated with this download and read up on the reports.

“IBM, for one, is holding off on installing the security focused update for Windows XP. In a note headlined "To patch -- or not to patch" posted Friday on its corporate intranet, IBM tells its employees not to download SP2 when it becomes available because of compatibility issues.” According to PCWorld article:
www.pcworld.com/news/article/0,aid,117297,00.asp

This issue seems like it has attached itself to a lawyer's convention for an opinion...too many for all sides, and to add further to this confusion, CNET news reports, “Major computer makers recommend consumers install

the update, but in many cases they also have a list of revised drivers and other software patches that should be installed before downloading and installing the operating system update.”

http://zdnet.com.com/2100-1104_2-5343593.html

If you go to Google and type in XP Service Pack 2 you will only get about 4 million sites to research this topic. Maybe we can look forward to a new SCUG SIG:

XP Upgrade to do or not to do SIG?

If you have downloaded this upgrade SCUG would like to hear about any problems you may have encountered. Please email your findings to editor@scug.ca

* * *

Get Pictures Out of Word Documents

The next time someone e-mails you a Word document with pictures in it, you can extract full-quality versions of those images without having to resort to any tricky screen captures or exporting operations. Just create a new folder somewhere on your computer (the desktop works fine). Open the Word document and choose File, Save As from the menu. Choose to save the file as a Web page and select the folder you just created as the save location. After you save it, open the folder and you'll find two versions of all the pictures in the file—smaller document-sized images, and full-sized JPEGs.

Make XP Always Open Explorer with the Same View Option

Windows XP Explorer opens folders with different views. There is an easy way to always display folders with the same view. Click on Start, and then on My Computer. Right-click on your C: drive and select Explore from the drop down menu. Double-click on a folder to open it. You can also just double-click on the My Documents folder that appears in the top right side of the My Computer window. Now set the folder view by clicking on view and then selecting Icons, List, thumbnail, etc. If you select List, you can also select Details to get more information about the files that are displayed in the list format. When you have finished setting your file view preferences, click on Tools and then on Folder Options. Click on the View tab, and in the Folder views section, click on the Apply to All Folders button. Click on Yes when Windows asks you if you want to set all folders to match the current folder's settings. You can reset folders to display according to the original Windows XP settings by clicking the Reset All Folders button on that same view tab.

From Pikes Peak computer club, Colorado USA.



Windows XP Service Pack 2 Install it or Not?

By Ira Wilsker

APCUG Board of Advisors (2nd term); Past President, Past Vice President Golden Triangle PC Club Presenter on CyberCrime at Spring and Fall APCUG events; Host, computer call in show KLVI; Faculty Senate, Lamar Institute of Technology

PART 1 of 2:

Microsoft has recently released the much ballyhooed major upgrade to Windows XP, referred to as Service Pack 2. Currently available as a huge download, possibly in excess of 200mb, or available on CD, this update does much to enhance the security of Windows XP. While there are several necessary improvements to XP that should be installed by all XP users, there may also be a slew of problems that occur on some computers after the upgrade.

Several new features are added to XP with Service Pack 2. Among them is a new Security Center intended to enhance PC security that lists the status of the firewall, antivirus software, and Windows updates. If a problem is detected, the Security Center will provide recommendations to resolve the problems. The Security Center will appear as an icon in the system tray near the clock, and will change colors as updates become available, or other security problems are identified. Since many users still have computers vulnerable to unauthorized network access or internet intruders, the integral XP firewall, upgraded with SP2, will be turned on by default. While this is generally a good idea, it may both be unnecessary if a third party firewall is installed and loaded, and may also be a source of problems in terms of software compatibility where it may block some features of some popular programs and games. With a firewall implemented, even the weak one included in XP, the computer will have some protection from worms such as Sasser, Blaster, and Nimda that have wreaked havoc in the past. It should be noted here that most third party firewalls, such as Zone Alarm, Outpost, EZArmor, and those from McAfee and Symantec provide significantly more protection from intruders than XPs integral firewall.

**If a problem is detected,
the Security Center will
provide recommendations
to resolve the problems.**

If these third party firewalls are installed and running, the XP firewall becomes uselessly redundant.

Many spyware programs and other nefarious utilities may take control of Internet Explorer, and be used for illicit purposes, changing the startup page, stealing personal information, and other such problems. SP2 adds a utility to Manage Add-ons that allows the user to protect Internet Explorer, and control what add-ons are running while using IE, with the simplicity of an Enable and Disable button.

Another system enhancement, which has already been met with mixed emotions, is the feature that by default turns off the viewing of images in Outlook Express. The reason for this is that many worms and viruses that may be transmitted by email are now disguised as an image file, which could run as the pseudo-image is viewed in Outlook Express. The viewing of images in OE can also utilize a controversial item known as web bugs, which may possibly be used to compile personal information. Web bugs will now be blocked by default. HTML viewing will also be turned off by default in order to make it more difficult for illicit content to be executed in OE, but can be selectively turned on to view selected emails. OE will also have a new Attachments Manager which will help control unsafe attachments, such as those falsely labeled as a txt or graphics file, which are really executable files typically containing a worm, virus, or Trojan.

While Microsoft has for years urged that Windows users turn on the auto-update feature, such that critical patches will be automatically downloaded and installed, users will now be forced to choose on or off when installing the service pack.

Some invisible security features that will be installed with SP2 are intended to harden the computer from some forms of Trojans that historically have taken control of the communications protocols used by windows in a networking or online environment. This substantially closes the buffer-overrun vulnerability that many trojans have utilized to jeopardize countless computers.

Internet Explorer will also have some security enhancements, but still retain its version 6 moniker. One obvious change in IE will be the new information bar that will appear near the top of the window. This new bar will show items that have been blocked, such as scripts, automated downloads, and blocked pop-ups. The bar

will also display a variety of security warnings if the software determines that the level of IE security is inadequate for the pages being viewed. Another security improvement is the additional information provided by IE if a website attempts to load an ActiveX program, enabling the user to better determine if the ActiveX is a legitimate utility, or something being loaded that may be dangerous. IE will also be hardened against phishing where illicit websites commonly used for identity theft conceal their true internet address, but instead make the address appear to be a legitimate bank, retailer, or financial service company. Another useful feature will make it more difficult for those script files, often pornographic, that infinitely open new browser windows that can not be easily stopped or closed without shutting down the computer.

Even though there will be heavy media promotion encouraging all XP users to install SP2 immediately, there still are some concerns about SP2, and some already identified problems and conflicts.

PART 2:

Last week in the Examiner, I presented the powerful reasons why Microsofts newly released Service Pack 2 for Windows XP should be installed on most computers running XP. I also mentioned that there may be some problems on some computers when the service pack is installed, which Microsoft has recently acknowledged.

Microsoft recently released a lengthy list of programs that will not properly run after SP2 is installed. One bulletin, Microsoft Knowledge Base Article 875357 explains that the new firewall can create some problems with some software, and explains how to enable those programs. Microsoft Knowledge Base Article 842242 lists dozens of programs, many of which are popular, that may not run properly with SP2 installed, citing possible conflicts with the new SP2 firewall. These programs include multi player games played online, and files exchanged through instant messaging programs such as AOL Instant Messenger, ICQ, Microsoft Messenger, or Yahoo Messenger. Also many FTP clients, typically used to upload and download files from an internet server, will have difficulties or conflicts with the Microsoft firewall. Other problems listed where formerly functioning programs may cease to function include multimedia streaming software (such as streaming audio and video; RealPlayer was explicitly mentioned in one published article), and the

new mail notification functions of some email programs. According to Microsoft, some of these programs may function if the new SP2 firewall is appropriately configured when a dialog box appears saying that the program has been blocked. According to Microsoft, 1. In the Security Alert dialog box, click Unblock this program 2. Click OK.

Some of the better known and popular programs listed by Microsoft in bulletin 842242 that may have problems after SP2 is installed include Symantec AntiVirus Corporate Edition versions 8.0 and 9.0; Smarterterm Office 10 and Smarterterm 11; Cute FTP 5.0 XP; AutoCAD versions 2000, 2002, and 2004; Backup Exec 9.1; Xerox Windows Scanner and Camera Wizard; McAfee NetShield

4.5; and Computer Associates eTrust 7.0. Some popular multi-player games that may not function properly after SP2 is installed include Chess Advantage III; Lego Chess; Need for Speed Hot Pursuit 2; Atari Unreal Tournament 2003; Atari Unreal Tournament Game of the Year Edition; Midnight Outlaw: Illegal Street Drag 1.0; Atari Scrabble 3; and Star Trek StarFleet Command III 1.0. According to Microsoft, the publishers of these titles are aware of the problems and may either provide a patch or upgrade to enable these programs to run on computers which have had SP2 installed. Symantec, the publisher of Norton AntiVirus, has already posted a patch on its website, and is encouraging

its users to download and install the patch prior to the installation of SP2. Other antivirus programs, not listed on the Microsoft list, that recently posted SP2 compatibility patches include F-Secure (F-Prot), and Trend Micro (PCcillin), have posted patches to improve SP2 compatibility.

Zone Alarm, one of the most popular firewalls, recently posted an upgrade on its website that is compatible with SP2 and which will properly interact with the new SP2 Security Center.

There have also been several published reports that some (many?) computers will fail to boot after SP2 is installed, despite the notice that the upgrade was successful. Other reports have stated that the upgrade was more difficult to install than expected, and recommended downloading individual patches from the Microsoft website (windowsupdate.microsoft.com) rather than installing the complete package. For these reasons, as well as many other reasons, it is absolutely imperative that a full backup of the hard drive must be created prior to the installation of SP2. With a full backup, if the upgrade to

Con't. page 10

“it is absolutely imperative that a full backup of the hard drive must be created prior to the installation of SP2”

Con't. from page 9.

SP2 fails, the computer can be restored to its pre-SP2 functionality.

In other cases, some computers cannot connect to a VPN (Virtual Private Network) due to a loopback problem acknowledged by Microsoft in Knowledge Base article 884020, where a hot fix is also provided.

Despite its recent release, a variety of sources have already identified real and potential security flaws in computers patched with SP2. With millions of lines of code, it is nearly impossible to have a perfectly secure operating system, and as often happens, some security holes are newly discovered, and as one hole is closed, other vulnerabilities appear. Immediately after the release of SP2, the first new vulnerabilities were identified by security specialists and hackers. One of the first is referred to as a drag and drop vulnerability. The vulnerability in Internet Explorer allows a malevolent website to insert a program into the users startup folder, where the program would load and run the next time the computer is booted.

Some users may have problems loading some legitimate websites in the newly patched Internet Explorer due to its enhanced default security settings.

These new default settings restrict ActiveX, reduce popup windows (many popup windows are legitimate and not unwanted advertisements), restrict downloaded files, and may stop Microsoft Java Virtual Machine (MSJVM) from executing. There is not much users can do to resolve these problems, other than lowering the security settings in IE (not recommended) or switching to an alternative browser such as the excellent Firefox or Opera browsers. To help the webmasters modify their web pages to be compatible with the SP2 upgrades to IE, Microsoft has posted a guide on its website, How to Make Your Web Site Work with Windows XP Service Pack 2.

Despite all of the potential problems, in order to have the security enhancements, I will install SP2 when I get a copy on CD but first I will make a full backup of my system, just in case. *Murphy* is alive and well, and his laws apply now even more than before.

There is no restriction against any non-profit group using this article as long as it is kept in context with proper credit given the author. The Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization of which this group is a member, brings this article to you.

For more see page 12.

Just in from APCUG

Have you ever wished you had more influence on what APCUG does and what services it offers?

While we like to think our advisors are letting us know what the members really think, there may be times when that communication channel is disrupted. Well now you have a chance to help us fix that disruption.

There are currently two openings on the APCUG Board of Advisors, and three more seats where the current advisor has not indicated whether they intend to seek reelection, and the August 1 deadline is less than a month from now.

If you, or anyone else from your UG would be interested in running for office in the APCUG elections, see

<http://www.apcug.net/APCUG/election/04/announcement.htm>

* * *

Whether you're an officer, editor, webmaster, or concerned volunteer, you'll find something on these pages that will benefit you and your User Group. There's a little bit of everything from newsletters and websites, to fundraising and running a successful, interesting meeting.

You'll find articles from writers like Steve Bass, award-winning editors and webmasters, and successful, current and former User Group officers and volunteers.

To help you find your way through the wealth of information, we've categorized the tips and tricks for you. Just select one of the topics, and browse through the articles. You can return to this page at any time by clicking on the Help Main topic. To return to our main page, click Home on the top menu.

And, if you've got some successful Tips and Tricks...we'd like to know about them. If we publish your ideas, we'll give full credit, and, who knows...you could end up famous. Let us know about it here.

Most of all, remember to check back often.....we've made a hobby of collecting Tips and Tricks, and we like to share ! www.apcug.net/Help/index.htm

Global Positioning System Where Exactly Are You?

By Joe Schmitt

Tampa Bay Computer Society, Florida

This is the first of a three article series on the Global Positioning System. The first discusses what the system is and how it works. The two subsequent articles will delve into receivers and uses to civilians.

For centuries, man has relied on the most rudimentary of tools to navigate. Things like a compass or sextant, and later a timepiece, were the best he had. In the past, the most difficult task of a ship's captain was to maintain the location and heading of a ship pounded by winds and currents. As time went on, those tools were perfected and improved. Though they worked well, they were not perfect. It was a time consuming process to mark position; early airplane pilots often navigated using existing landmarks and roads because the speed of their craft made traditional methods cumbersome.

A system called Loran (Long Range Navigation) was developed in the 1940's that utilized radio pulses which were projected on board a ship using a cathode ray tube, similar to your computer monitor. Though accurate to a degree, this system was expensive and offered only a limited area of use.

The global positioning system is a revolution in the way we navigate today. The global positioning system is a set of satellites that just like Loran that use radio signals to determine position. Popularly known as GPS, the system uses a "constellation" of 24 satellites in high orbit to determine position in latitude and longitude. In addition to position, the system also can determine altitude and speed.

GPS was first implemented in the early 1970s as a way for the military to improve its ability to navigate and position vehicles. This system eventually evolved to include civilian as well as military uses. In the early days of GPS the signal was intentionally diffused to deteriorate the accuracy of civilian receivers. This use of selective availability as the Department of Defense (DOD) calls it, rendered civilian receivers accurate only within a hundred yards or so. Imagine having the unit telling you make a turn on the next road after you've passed it. In 2000, President Clinton took a serious look at the system and

its potential to the civilian population. Selective availability was disabled on May 2, 2000 making the system accurate to within thirty feet or so.

So how does all this work? Well, as mentioned previously, there are 24 satellites orbiting the earth that broadcast radio signals. To better understand the system, a simple idea of two-dimensional navigation must be explained. Suppose you are in a field with one of those sign posts that point to a bunch of different places with distances. The top arrow of the sign says Montgomery, Alabama - 139 miles. The next arrow down says Savannah, Georgia - 217 miles. The third arrow points to Nashville, Tennessee - 231 miles. Now sit down at your favorite map and draw a circle around Montgomery with a radius of 139 miles. Next draw a circle around Savannah and Nashville with the radius the distance on our imaginary sign post. Where those three circles all intersect is roughly Atlanta, Georgia. Easy enough to understand, huh?

In 2000, President Clinton took a serious look at the system and its potential to the civilian population.

GPS works with the same principal. The receiver determines its location by its distance from the satellites. Hold it one minute! But those aren't satellites stationary? Well the satellites move on a predictable path and within a consistent time frame. Inside each

GPS receiver, is a programmed almanac of the position of each satellite based on time. Each satellite broadcasts a signal which moves at the speed of light. By measuring how long the signal takes to reach the receiver, distance from the satellite is determined. Using three or more satellites the receiver can then triangulate its position very much the same way we did with our imaginary signpost.

These kinds of accurate calculations with radio signals require precise timing, so on each satellite is an atomic clock which is monitored and corrected by ground stations. Using the accuracy of the atomic clock, a code pattern is broadcast from the satellite at a starting point. The receiver knows what time the signal left the satellite based on the portion of the code it is currently receiving. Measuring the time it took for the signal to reach the receiver by comparing the segment of code received with the time in the receiver, the distance to the satellite is determined. The distances from three or more satellites are compared and the position is formulated. That position is then displayed on your receiver as a set of coordinates, or graphically on an electronic map.

Using this pattern the receiver checks and adjusts its internal quartz clock to match that of the atomic clock. So, in addition to knowing where you are, you also know the precise time. Imagine having an atomic clock in your pocket! The receiver also can determine speed by measuring its change in position over time. This is a three dimensional arrangement and so altitude is also calculated.

This is all great and wonderful, but there are some issues. Gravitational pulls from the sun and moon affect the orbits of the satellites. Changing atmospheric conditions also can affect how well the signal travels from the satellite to the receiver. To combat this, the DOD has several ground stations that constantly monitor the signals and make adjustments in the satellites as necessary. In addition, there are two geo-stationary satellites which are in a fixed position in the sky on both sides of the earth. These systems are called WAAS, or Wide Angle Augmentation System. This system's sole purpose is to correct for the issues that affect the accuracy of the broadcast code.

Now with a simple receiver, John Q Public can use a multibillion dollar DOD system. At this time it is estimated that there are approximately 200 civilian users for each military user of the system!

Next month, I'll discuss the different types of receivers available to you as a consumer and some neat things that can be done with them. In the mean time, check out these interesting sites:

Official page for GPS management Gps.losangeles.af.mil

NASA page on GPS Gpshome.scc.nasa.gov

U.S. Navy GPS Timing Operations Tycho.usno.navy.mil/gps.html

Block II specifications: http://www.spaceandtech.com/space_data/constellations/navstar-gps-block2_conspecs.shtml

There is no restriction against any non-profit group using this article as long as it is kept in context with proper credit given the author. The Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization of which this group is a member, brings this article to you.

Computer Users are Deserting MS IE, Big Time!

"Computers experts urged Internet users to install firewalls and antivirus software and to download the latest updates. A CERT alert said Explorer users also can protect themselves by turning off the JavaScript function in their browsers. That change, however, can impair Internet browsing since JavaScript is a programming language used to add interactive functions to many Web sites.

The attack takes advantage of several recently discovered security flaws in Microsoft's Internet browser and Internet Information Services Web software. Microsoft released a patch in April to fix one security hole in its Internet browser; the company is still working on a patch for the other flaw, which security researchers publicly detailed less than two weeks ago.

CERT recommends that Explorer users consider other browsers that are not affected by the attack, such as Mozilla, Mozilla Firefox, Netscape and Opera. Mac, Linux and other non-Windows operating systems are immune from this attack. For people who continue to use the Internet Explorer, CERT and Microsoft recommend setting the browser's security settings to "high," but that can impair some browsing functions." (Note: CERT stands for U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team (US-CERT), a division of the Department of Homeland Security).

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A6746-2004Jun25.html>
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A6746-2004Jun25.html>

SCUG Gets Free Advertising

It is a small world on the Net...I seems that we (www.scug.ca) have been the topic of some discussion, or rather "critiqued" on the net. We are getting good response from others. See:

http://www.sitecritique.net/pages/site_directory/sitedetails.php?id=1102

Also, the local website, Information Sarnia Lambton, lists SCUG meetings on their page (thanks Norm) (<http://www.information.sarnialambton.org/events.php>)

SCUG Book Review
Simplified Tips & Tricks
Windows XP
 By Bill Colotelo

Name - Windows XP Top 100 Simplified Tips & Tricks
 Author-Ruth Maran and Kelleigh Johnson Publisher-
 Wiley Publishing E-Mail- www.wiley.com Cost- 29.99
 Cdn

General - Windows XP Top 100 Simplified Tips & Tricks, is one of many books written by the Maran family who reside in Mississauga Ontario and published by Wiley Publishing, with headquarters in New York NY. Other books include- Digital Photography, PhotoShop Elements 2, Word 2003, and Excel 2003. By viewing www.wiley.com/compbooks you can see a complete listing.

Description - To best describe this book I will quote from the author, as I believe they have stated the book's basic description in as clear and as concise a manner as anyone.

Windows XP Top 100 Simplified Tips & Tricks includes the 100 most interesting and useful tasks you can perform in Windows XP. This book reveals cool secrets and time saving tricks guaranteed to make you more productive in Windows XP.

Who is this book for? Are you a visual learner who already knows the basics of Windows XP but would like to take your Windows XP experience to the next level? Then this book is for you.

Steps - This book walks you through each task using step-by-step approach. Lines and "lassos" connect the screen shots to the step-by-step instructions to show you exactly how to perform each task.

Task Numbers- Task numbers ranging from 1 to 100 indicate which each self-contained lesson you are currently working on.

Difficulty Level- For quick reference symbols mark the difficulty level for each lesson. A one symbol denotes a simple task while four symbols indicate the most difficult task. (Note these symbols are the authors interpretation, you may find the lessons somewhat simpler or more difficult than indicated).

What is in the Book?

The book has 8 chapters. Each chapter has a particular theme, and this theme is divided into approximately 12 lessons. For example,

Chapter 1, titled "Maximize the power of your Files and Folders," tells you how to Rename multiple files at once, How to permanently delete a confidential file and how to Save storage space using zipped compressed folders, and much more.

Chapter 5 titled "Boost your Computer's Fun Factor" shows you how to copy songs from a music CD to your computer, copy pictures from your digital camera, copy songs to your MP3 player, place a 100 or more songs on a single CD, and burn your own Music CD, and much more. (You will enjoy this chapter). This chapter alone is worth the price of the book.

Chapter 6 is called "Simple solutions for Computer Problems". An interesting chapter as it shows you how to turn back the clock on computer problems, how to run an older program in Windows XP, how to stop Windows from reporting errors, how to get assistance online from a friend and much more.

Chapter 8 is titled "Tips and Tricks for E-Mail Faxes and Instant Messages". This chapter has such topics as, how to print your address book, send an automatic e-mail message when on vacation, e-mail pictures at "lightning" speed and see and talk to another person over the Internet.

Each lesson is clearly explained and graphically illustrated. I had no problem following the lesson that I undertook (I must admit I did not do all 100 lessons). However I did a sufficient sample to convince me that what is illustrated is clear and easy to follow.

Conclusion - Eight chapters packed with information that can be used daily by most computer users. I found the book both interesting and useful. I now keep it by my computer and use it as a daily reference. There are some lessons that I may never use, such those on the use of faxes, or setting up the computer for strangers. However, for \$29.99 plus tax it is well worth the money.



“ONLINE”: A New Colmun?

The Internet for many has become old hat; however there are more and more people connecting each day who have little or no experience "surfing". For some the Internet can be quite an overwhelming experience, with so much information and interesting things out there, that one can easily get lost. We should be sharing our finds on the Net with others who may be interested in the very same things. It has been said that TV networks have lost millions of viewers (and ad dollars) due to the Internet. People, during prime time, have switched from the tube to the Net, and for just cause - it is better entertainment by far!

The Internet has been around in various forms for many years and once source states its' original origin as "*The first recorded description of the social interactions that could be enabled through networking was a series of memos written by J.C.R. Licklider of MIT in August 1962 discussing his "Galactic Network" concept. He envisioned a globally interconnected set of computers through which everyone could quickly access data and programs from any site. In spirit, the concept was very much like the Internet of today.*" From (www.isoc.org/internet/history/brief.shtml#Origins). But enough of that...

With well over 100 members at SCUG, there must be a vast knowledge base as far as surging goes. Everyone uses the Internet for various reasons and purposes to search out things of interest, or for help in a multitude of issues from everything under the sun.

I would like to see a new column in this paper, one that deals directly with how the Internet is used by members of SCUG and illustrate some of the interesting finds you have come across in your many searches. Is there a nifty free program you have found that may help another member? Is there a great Online radio station that you listen to that is better than any stations on FM or AM? Are you watching any of the new broadcast shows and are they any good? How about that Digital camera site you found that has made your picture taking and editing experience much better? What sites have we found that have been extremely helpful, or just plain interesting and fun?

There must be hundreds of sites we, as a collective group, have come across that will be of help or interest to many others. Please share these sites and they will be posted in this new column each month. Send your findings to: editor@scug.ca

Please HELP and get involved, as this is what we are about, helping one another!



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SCUG Book Review

**Top 100 Simplified Tips & Tricks
Digital Photography**

By Bill Colotelo

Name Digital Photography Top 100 Simplified Tips & Tricks

From maranGraphics
 Publisher Wiley Publishing
 Website www.wiley.com
 Cost- 28.99 Cdn

General Digital Photography Top 100 Simplified Tips & Tricks is one of many books by the Maran family who reside in Mississauga Ontario and published by Wiley Publishing, with headquarters in Hoboken NJ. Other books include- Windows XP, PhotoShop Elements 2, Word 2003, and Excel 2003. A complete listing can be viewed by going to www.wiley.com/compbooks.

Description - This Digital Photography book can best be described as providing the reader with 100 interesting and useful tips and tasks that can be performed to enhance the pictures taken by their digital camera. This book also provides many ideas and time saving methods to make you more productive in using image-editing software.

“this book is well worth the money”

For those SCUG members who attended the Digital Camera SIG’s last few sessions of last year, many of the points covered by our President, Pierre Houle, on digital camera basics, are also illustrated in this book. In addition the book provides illustrations when particular actions are taken to enhance or to provide a special effect.

In total there are 10 chapters, each chapter covers approximately 10 tips for Digital Photography enhancement.

- Chapter 1 is about Getting Ready to Take Photos
- Chapter 2 discusses how to Take Better Photos
- Chapter 3 is about Exposure
- Chapter 4 is titled Control Focus and Depth of Field

- Chapter 5 is about Light and how to use Light for different requirements
- Chapter 6 discusses Creative Photo Ideas
- Chapter 7 is about Editing your photos
- Chapter 8 discusses adjusting Tonal Range and Color, which includes exposure, shadows and understanding contrast
- Chapter 9 is about printing your photos, and
- Chapter 10 is about Photo Projects.

This Digital Photography book devotes many chapters to understanding how better pictures can be taken, and the author relates this information to digital photography. However much of this information is also pertinent to non-digital photography.

The book illustrates with photographic examples how to take better pictures. For example a photo is shown with digital noise and a similar picture where digital noise is reduced by using a lower ISO speed. The photos are of excellent quality and well illustrate the point the book is making.

This book was not written to illustrate how a particular make of camera can/could accomplish all of their illustrations nor how any one piece of software could do all of things mentioned (although I am certain that Photoshop SC could). The author does mention a few cameras, only to illustrate a point and the software Photoshop Elements is used to illustrate a point.

Conclusion - For those of you who want to take better photos with your digital cameras and are willing to take a few hours to better understand how this can be done, Top 100 Simplified Tips and Tricks Digital Photography is a good place to start. However it is not a book that you can read as a novel, and then think you can take pictures as seen in the National Geographic. Each chapter is an experience unto itself and may take you a few hours of experimenting with your camera to accomplish that which you want.

I certainly suggest that this book is well worth the money.

Remember that every picture you take will not win a Pulitzer Prize but will provide you with some memory of the past.

Review Of MailWasher Pro 4.0

MailWasher Pro 4.0

By Bill Colotelo

Sarnia Computer Users Group

MailWasher Pro 4.0 is a software program from Firetrust Limited, headquartered in Christchurch, New Zealand. Home page-www.firetrust.com

Minimum system requirements include Microsoft 98, NT, 2000, XP, and Me

It is compatible with all pop3 e-mail programs, including Microsoft Outlook and outlook Express, AOL, IMAP, MSN, and Hotmail e-mail accounts.

Price is \$37.00 US for a single-user license.

A free 30-day version is available from the site.

Home Address

Firetrust Limited

Level 2, Strategy Building, 374 Montreal Street,

PO Box 25-297, Christchurch 8001

New Zealand

General Description:

I quote from the company's literature, as I believe it best describes what the software is capable of accomplishing:

"MailWasher Pro 4.0, Firetrust's next generation of award-winning anti-spam software, has evolved to a more intuitive, convenient and easy-to-use tool by providing a better email experience to users with its new features, which are:

Learning Filters:

Intelligent filters that learn to identify good email from spam, and deliver a robust and efficient approach to solving the barrage of unwanted email.

FirstAlert!: A global network of users who actively report spam and interact with the database in real-time. Any messages in the users' email that correspond to identical fingerprints in the database are automatically identified and eliminated.

MailWasher Pro provides the easiest-to-use and most effective spam filter available. Unlike other anti-spam solutions, which are integrated into the email client, a key benefit of MailWasher Pro is that it works outside the email client, so users are better protected and eliminate the risk of downloading unwanted messages or viruses and worms. By reviewing and deleting content at the email server, users are protected from objection-

able content including graphics, web bugs are rendered inactive, bandwidth is protected, and viruses and malicious script is stopped from spreading. In addition, users can preview, delete, blacklist and even create an "invalid email address" message and bounce the unwanted email back to the spammer making it appear that their email address no longer exists."

My View:

I personally cannot verify whether this software stops the spread of viruses, however, as far as identifying, blacklisting, bouncing email back making it appear as if the email no longer exists. I can vouch for it to do these things. If in doubt you can also preview the mail before formally opening the mail. If you ask me how does it do this, I haven't the faintest idea, but it does it very well. I have tried sending myself mail and trying out the features mentioned above and it does the things as advertised.

Downloading Software:

I have left the explaining of the downloading until now so you can better understand that the software must work with your mail server to accomplish it's features.

Although the downloading is relatively simple and only requires a few minutes, it is a little more complicated than downloading most software, which is very automated. You must have your mail server address, your computer password, and your email address. You are walked through the process simply, however you must be careful to fill in the appropriate slots correctly. I may have been fortunate as I had a previous version of MailWasher and only had to upgrade. I didn't have any trouble to get MailWasher to work the first time. The program does have a good help section, and it does have a good section on how to get started to incorporate the features of MailWasher. If you go to their web site www.firetrust.com, you will see illustrations on what your monitor shows you with MailWasher engaged.

Conclusion:

I have tried three or four other software, which claim to identify spam, etc, however, I have found that MailWasher Pro 4.0 is the only one to date that does the things that I want from a control point of view. I like it and encourage anyone who wishes to have an excellent piece of software the will eliminate the hassle of getting rid of spam and other disturbing factors the some people enjoy sending through the web.

Try MailWasher, at least the trial version, you will like it.

Online and In Person

by Billy Mabray

Oklahoma City PC Users Group

In the early days of the Internet, a common fear was that people would spend too much time online, creating a world of isolated loners. Computer users would stop spending time in the real world, preferring to type instead of talk. While this may be true for some people, many others are finding the Web has enhanced their social life, not hurt it. The proliferation of e-mail, instant messaging, and chat rooms are evidence that people are connecting more now than ever before.

What about real life social interaction? People still like to meet in person, and there are many Web-based services to help people do just that. These services are blurring the lines between virtual and real communities. People are finding friends online and getting together in real life. Others are using the Internet to keep in touch with their real-life acquaintances. Internet users are finding they can connect with other people better than they ever have before.

A common example of virtual communities creating real-life friendships is PC user groups. People typically learn about their local group through that group's Web site. Much of the group's communication is done online. For these groups, though, the real point of using the Internet is to facilitate real-world get-togethers. Meetings, presentations, and study groups bring people together who have similar interests, but would otherwise have not found each other. Web sites and mailing lists allow for efficient communication, while group activities create opportunities for learning new things and meeting new people. Meetup.com offers a similar service, but for a broader range of topics.

Meetup.com arranges monthly gettogethers in cities around the world on a vast array of topics. For example, the third Tuesday of every month is International Poker Meetup Day. If you are interested in meeting poker players in your area, visit the Web site, type in your zip code, and join the poker meetup nearest you. Members vote on where to meet each month, and they RSVP through the Web site. If enough people RSVP, the get-together will take place. Meetup.com offers many features for communicating with other members, planning agendas, and more. There are literally thousands of topics, with new ones being added all the time, so you are bound to find something you are interested in.

For those who are interested in communicating and

spending time with friends they already have, there are online services to help with that too. Yahoo Groups, for example, lets you set up your own personal portal. A Yahoo Group includes a mailing list, photo gallery, polls, online chat, and more. You can set up a group for your family and invite all your relatives to join. Then the whole family can upload photos, plan the next reunion, or talk about what's been going on in their lives. Similarly, sites like Classmates.com or Reunion.com allow old classmates and military personnel to reconnect with each other. These services are a great way for people who don't get to see each other very often to stay in touch.

Along the same lines is a wave of new services known as social networking applications. There has been an explosion of these sites in the past year: Friendster, LinkedIn, Orkut. The idea here is to map relationships someone invites you to join, and you in turn invite all your other friends to join. The Web site shows you people who are directly connected to you (friends), as well as those who are connected to you through other people (friends of friends). You can then use the service to keep in touch with your friends, and to meet new people through friends you already have.

So, are these virtual or real communities? The line is blurring, and the distinction between the two will most likely disappear in a few years. Technology continues to improve the way we interact. Rather than turning us into loners, the Internet is helping us to make new friends, and to keep in touch with old ones.

Billy Mabray and his wife, Angela, own Smart Goat, a local software development and Web design business. They are members of the OKCPCUG. Comments or questions on the article are welcome and can be addressed to: billy@smartgoat.com.

The Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization of which this group is a member, brings this article to you. (www.apcug.org)

Windows XP Service Pack 2 SERIOUS FLAW FOUND

"Windows XP Service Pack 2 with Advanced Security Technologies helps you protect your PC against viruses, hackers, and worms." - this is how Microsoft promotes its Service Pack 2 on its website. What the company does not say: Instead of viruses, worms, and hackers, the supposedly safe SP2 for Windows XP invites any Internet user to have a look around your PC." From PC+WELT online.

For the full article on this go to www.scug.ca (front page) and scroll down to "File and Printer Sharing Insecure in XP SP2".

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General	27th	24th	



- * Exec and Digital meetings at St James Church-140 Lansdowne North (corner of Lansdown and Athlone)
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