

SCUG



REPORT

Sarnia Computer User's Group

Est. 1984

www.scug.ca

Volume 23, Issue 3

\$1.00 Per Issue - Yearly Membership \$35

November 2005

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGS) page 5.

Digital Photography

The next meeting of this SIG will be December 7th, 7:00 P.M. The topic will be the GIMP, which is a free image manipulation program.

Pierre Houle
Group Leader
digitalsig@scug.ca

Genealogy Group

The next Genealogy SIG meeting will be Tuesday, Jan. 31. 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The meeting topic will be announced at the General Meeting and posted to the web site in January.

Val Conway
Group Leader
genealogy@scug.ca

Windows Computer

Next meeting on Nov.19th. 7 p.m. Got computer problems? This is the place! All guests are welcome. Please bring a freind.

Pierre Houle
Group Leader
windows@scug.ca

Linux Computer

Next mtg. Jan 10th, 7pm

Rick Elnor
Group Leader
linux@scug.ca

General Meeting

Next meeting on Jan. 25/06. Iain Smy, SCUG's Webmaster will be demonstrating the various programs within the world of Google.

We welcome all guests - Please come out, check us out, share and learn about computers.

[For detailed info see the back page.](#)

Executive Board

President

Dorothy Alexander
president@scug.ca

Vice President

Ian Hunt
vicepresident@scug.ca

Treasurer

Ed Ginn
treasurer@scug.ca

Recording Secretary

Tom Deeprise
secretary@scug.ca

Membership Secretary

Jim Lapointe
membership@scug.ca

Shareware Librarian

Pierre Houle
library@scug.ca

Editor - SCUG Report

Gregory West
editor@scug.ca

Public Relations

Iain Smy
pr@scug.ca

Program Coordinator

Norm Lamoureux
coordinator@scug.ca

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Report.....	2
Editor's Korner.....	2
Secretary's Notes.....	3
Shareware Report.....	4
SIG Reports.....	4/5
Compuprize Winners.....	5
TID BITS.....	6
APCUG NOOZ.....	7
Browsing Web Rings.....	9
Windows VISTA - a peek.....	10
Reviewers Wanted.....	11
Locating Missed Files.....	12
Windows Recovery.....	14
Locked Out of Your Computer?...	15
SCUG Financials.....	16
Advertising.....	17
SCUG Schedule.....	18

MERRY CHRISTMAS



SCUG wishes everyone a safe and Merry Christmas. While you are enjoying the holidays, why not take some time out to think about computer topics you would like SCUG to demonstrate in the New Year...
Cyberspace is the Limit!

Reprint Policy

SCUG reviews and articles in this paper fall under these reprint guidelines: Permission is given to Computer User Groups to reprint, unaltered, non-copyrighted material, with credit to the author and SCUG Report. Please send an email to editor@scug.ca when reprinting SCUG textual matter.



**PRESIDENT'S
PERSPECTIVE**
by Dorothy Alexander

Here we are at the last day of November with Christmas is just around the corner. As we ponder what we are going to give our loved ones for Christmas let us take a moment to reflect. With the media constantly exposing us to all the natural disasters and questionable acts of terrorism, which are happening in the world today, we cannot help but feel fortunate to reside in Canada. We are indeed very privileged. So when

you do your shopping take time to include someone less fortunate.

This evening we have a representative from the Future Shop, giving presentation of the latest electronic toys that you may or may not be considering buying. Hopefully this presentation will give you some insight or ideas.

During this fall season our membership has grown and the attendance at the SIG meetings never ceases to surprise us. So overall it appears that we are doing something right! If you have something in mind that you think the members would enjoy, please let me (or one of the executive) know. We are always looking for new ideas.

During the month of December there will be no Genealogy SIG, Windows SIG or General Meeting. All of the meetings will commence January, 2006.

Last, but not least, I would like to wish each one of you a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY & PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

Editor's Korner

Send Letters to: editor@scug.ca



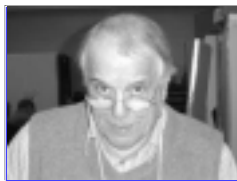
Greg West - Editor

SCUG Executive is working on a revamped edition of the our club's Constitution. A committee is in place, developing ways and means to make SCUG a fine-tuned-machine. The text should be published early in 2006 and we all look forward to the results of this committee's hard and dedicated work.

As with most other User Group Newsletters, SCUG now has an editorial reprint policy that was passed by the executive. This new policy does not vary from the way we have always acted, but now it is set in this newsletter to clear up any misuse and discrepancies thereof. You can find this reprint policy statement on the front page.

Our TECH TRENDS column, that is usually published monthly the Business Trends magazine, almost fell off the map...apparently this organization lost the editor and our column did not make the November issue. However, the new editor, Gord Bowes, emailed me last week asking if I was still interested in writing the column. I quickly answered in the affirmative. SCUG's TECH TRENDS column is again a monthly feature in the Business Trends magazine.

One final word to blow the SCUG horn, other User Groups and also APCUG are using our various articles that we publish. APCUG editor, Judy Taylour asked for the SCUG TID BIT section to send out to all the editors within the APCUG family...Anyone interested in writing for SCUG Report, please email editor@scug.ca



Your Secretary's Notes

by Tom Deeprise
secretary@scug.ca

SCUG Executive Meeting Nov. 7th, 2005 at St. James' Church, 140 Lansdowne Rd. North.

1. Approval Of Previous Minutes: Accepted as written

2. Membership Input: Jim reported that at October end, Membership stood at 131 (91 Members & 40 Associates) with seven Member & three Associate renewals, three new & two lapsed Members plus seven current Guests. The meeting attendance for the Counterfeit Money Presentation was excellent at about 70, including four guests. The Newsletter: it was decided that an increase to 110 would be appropriate for the Nov. GM. Jim suggested, and will also be providing, smaller and less expensive name labels for the NL.

3. Vice President's Input: Ian reported that the initiative on rerouting the power cables was on hold while the Church Wardens considered it. The sub-group tasked with up-dating the Constitution (the Constitution Review Team-CRT) had met twice, with steady progress made. It is planned to meet twice a month for the next while.

4. Secretary's Input: Accommodation at St. James for the Genealogy has been slightly rearranged to coincide with the dates shown on the October NL. The Exec. noted with regret the passing of Lou Van Delft, a veteran of SCUG and a worthy contributor. A memorial paragraph will be inserted in the NL and a sympathy card will be sent to the family. Tom to handle the latter. Contributions from Iain and Pierre in working on the St. James' IT needs are acknowledged with thanks.

5. Treasurer's Input: Ed's current Financial Report was approved. The BoM approved the use of their cheques with the outdated bank address until the current supply is exhausted.

6. Software Librarian's Input: Pierre reported 42 disks given out at Oct. GM. DOM for this month will contain "CCleaner", a program designed to remove unnecessary files from the computer and "hott notes 3", a post-it type provider for the Desktop.

7. Newsletter Editor's Input: Greg reminded everyone that submissions should be in plain text. Send logos & pictures by Web link with full pixels. Iain and Greg will interact on a new EBTECH advertisement. Greg re-emphasized that all reviews and must be routed through Norm to avoid error. Reviews should also be 600 words or less in length. Please contact the editor if reviews exceed 600 words. He also asked that all concerns with the NL be mailed directly to him, a.s.a.p, to avoid any confusion.

8. Program Coordinator's Input: Norm has Corel PS Pro out for review and many potential items in the pipeline. A draft of an updated Product Review Guideline Document is in the works for the consideration of the Review Committee.

9. Public Relations Input: Iain -Compuprizes For November: Since we have a vendor presentation, we can wait and see till nearer the GM date. For January- a popular Income Tax Program would be appropriate. For February- We go to the 50/50 draw. The new business cards and logo ideas in abeyance. The costs look high. A prototype brochure is coming along but again, for a coloured one, the run length and cost are again high.

10. Webmaster's Input: Iain reported that the SCUG Website still busy. Has been tied up setting up the wireless for St. James.

11. Meeting Program: October: The presentation by Jodie Sales from the Bank of Canada on Counterfeiting was very well received with interesting information and many member questions. For November: A presentation by Future Shop, with the details to be confirmed. January: Something on Google by Iain. A many faceted subject. Needs more thought. February: ?? March: Corel has confirmed their interest Ideas for the future: Computers in the medical field, for instance, in Personal Insulin Control, using Quicken etc., the latest AskSam, how do you prepare a DOM? Some of these could be combined as mini-presentations

12. Old Business -The extra equipment for offsite meetings- power cords, power bar etc. was purchased by Pierre. It, and the projector are now housed in a "Roughneck Bin" for storage and easy transportation. -Cupboard inventory-done but paperwork on the depreciated value needed.

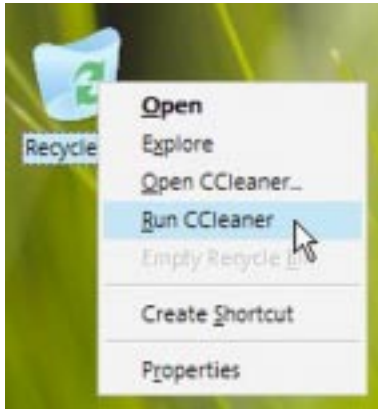
13 New Business -The APCUG copyright footnote question was thoroughly debated. It was decided that the standard note will be routinely placed in the NL and all relevant writings referred to it with a one line appendage. The updated Review Guideline will incorporate this change. -We need a proofreader for the NL -The status of the Anthony Chodus photography demo still in limbo. -COMP surveyed their members recently on their computer usage etc. with some interesting results, and it was thought that we could profitably do the same. Tom will list some key questions for debate.

Next Executive meeting will be Monday, January 2nd 2006





This month's offerings are as follows:

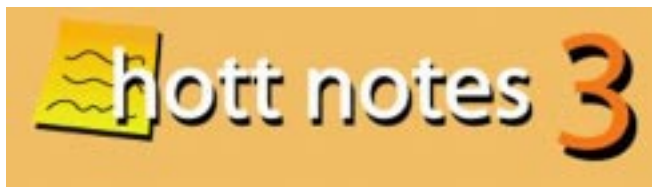


CCleaner: (as taken from the website, www.ccleaner.com) CCleaner is a freeware system optimization and privacy tool.

It removes unused files from your system - allowing Windows to run faster and freeing up valuable hard disk space.

It also cleans traces of your online activities such as your Internet history.

But the best part is that it's fast (normally taking less than a second to run) and contains NO Spyware or Adware! :) It runs on all versions of Windows.



Hott Notes 3: (as taken from the website, <http://www.hottnotes.com/>) hott notes is a free sticky notes reminder program for Windows.

Not only can create sticky notes on your desktop to help you remember, you can make checklists, scribble notes, set alarms, archive your notes, and much more.

What makes it different from most sticky note programs is that hott notes looks very slick, has lots of features, and is totally free (no ads or anything).

Check it out. Tested on Windows XP and 2000 only.

As usual, if you have any suggestions for future candidates for the disk of the month, or any other suggestions or comments, please e-mail me at shareware@scug.ca

Windows SIG

Thirty six members attended the November 17th Windows SIG. The topics were Backups and Using Google. This was followed by a Q and A session.

Pierre stressed the importance of backing up personal data regularly, when and how to back up. He demonstrated Microsoft Backup which can be automated. This can be helpful for those of us who are forgetful.

There was a general discussion of Google, with emphasis on exact phrasing to get an exact answer.

In the Q and A, Several items were discussed, including e-mail problems.

There will be no Windows meeting in December. The next one will be Thursday, January 19th, 2006, at 7:00 P.M., at Grace United Church, corner of Indian Road and Cathcart Blvd., Room 10. The topic will be CDs: types and problems with burning. As usual, we will have a Q and A.


Digital Photography SIG

Thirty Seven people attended the November meeting of the the Digital Photography SIG, including three guests. Welcome to new members Andy Langis and Ron Thurier.

I continued exploring Picasa 2, with help from members. Some techniques discussed were: cropping, enhancement using the "I'm feeling lucky" button, straightening, red eye removal, sharpening and other effects filters. We also looked at the export and the gift CD functions. Picasa is a simple program with many useful features. However, it lacks some basic functions needed for image enhancement, in particular, clone brush, masks and layers.

The next meeting of this SIG will be December 7th, 7:00 P.M. at St. James the Apostle Church, corner of Lansdown and Athlone. The topic will be the GIMP, which is a free image manipulation program. It has almost everything that Photoshop has except the price tag.

Come out and learn how to fix up your pictures!



Linux SIG

Rick Elnor
linux@scug.ca

Genealogy SIG

Val Conway
genealogy@scug.ca



No Report This Month

For The SCUG Wireless Members



"Based on the results, it's clear that cracking an 8 character password is possible within a year using the computational power 1,000 PCs but would be very expensive and impractical to target a home user with this level of computing power.

TIP Physically breaking in to your home would be much easier.

What this means is that it is perfectly safe using an 8 character alphanumeric pass phrase key to secure a home Wireless LAN using WPA-PSK or WPA2-PSK using these simple guidelines. A simple random 8 character alphanumeric WPA-PSK key would look something like 2b8uwo35 which is very easy to handle" (ZDNet).

Members Take a Research Trip

On Nov. 15, 12 members of the Genealogy SIG took a tour of the Lambton Room which is the Genealogy Library in Wyoming. We were lead into their vault where they archive old family files, bibles, county tax records, land records and much more.

The main area of the library holds Births, Deaths and Marriages, Ontario Census and other smaller collections on microfilm and their walls are covered with resource books including those of the Lambton County branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society.

The library specializes in Lambton County but also carries material from the surrounding area and much of their research covers the whole of Ontario.

Our thanks go to Anne Ashton of the Lambton Room for a very interesting and informative tour and help with our individual searches.



Finding "Marriage Records" was the topic of the Nov. 29th meeting. These records are some of the most valuable when doing genealogy. We can discover birth dates, places of residence, the bride's maiden name, and the names of their parents thus taking us back another generation.

The next Genealogy SIG meeting will be Tuesday, Jan. 31 at St. James the Apostle Church, 140 Lansdowne North, at Athlone from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Note: In January and in February the last Tuesday of the month is the week AFTER our General meeting. We will continue with our research of Vital Records and learn about where to find Birth Records.

SCUG

Compuprize Winner

50/50 draw	Joe Zatylny
Book	Dorothy Alexander
Total Uninstall	Dick Carpani



*SCUG Genealogy Members Tour
Lambton Room, the Genealogy Library*



Do You Want a Faster Internet?

Of course, we all do and now it is easier than ever to boost your website page loads to cyberspeed. First of all, those of you who have switched over to **FIREFOX** browser there is a brand new add-on for you. It is called "FASTERFOX". I have been using this add-on since it first came out and have noticed an incredible difference in how much faster the web pages load up. The add-on is free, fast to download and available here:

<http://fasterfox.mozdev.org>

So, what exactly is the big deal with **FASTERFOX**? Here is what they have to say about this add-on: "Fasterfox - performance and network tweaks for Firefox.

- * Prefetch Links Dynamic speed increases can be obtained with Firefox's unique prefetching mechanism, which recycles idle bandwidth by silently loading and caching all of the links on the page you are browsing.
- * Tweak Network Fasterfox allows you to tweak many network and rendering settings such as simultaneous connections, pipelining, cache, DNS cache, and initial paint delay.
- * Page Load Timer A millisecond accurate page load timer tests the effectiveness of your settings.
- * Block Popups A popup blocker for popups initiated by Flash plug-ins is also included."

My Son-In-Law has an much older IBM Thinkpad and found it to be quite slow, even though after loading FIREFOX he did find a great improvement in the speed. But now, after downloading this add-on FASTERFOX, he says that "it is like I have a new laptop, I cannot believe how much faster it opens websites."

The Publisher of C/NET, Tony Gentilcore explains that "Fasterfox allows you to tweak many network and rendering settings such as simultaneous connections, pipelining, cache, DNS cache, and initial paint delay. Dynamic speed increases can be obtained with the unique prefetching mechanism, which recycles idle bandwidth by silently loading and caching all of the links on the page you are browsing. A pop-up blocker for pop-ups initiated by Flash plug-ins is also included."

Do You Want To Go Even FASTER?

Hang on to your computer seat because Google has done it again, they have come up with another neat program that increases your computer to "automatically load [websites] faster than before."

"**Google Web Accelerator** is an application that uses the power of Google's global computer network to make web pages load faster. Google Web Accelerator is easy to use; all you have to do is download and install it, and from then on many web pages will automatically load faster than before."

As for your privacy concerns, Google says that "Google Web Accelerator receives much of the same kind of information you currently send to your ISP when you surf the Web" and you can read up on this and all the other questions you may have at: <http://webaccelerator.google.com/support.html#basics1>

This program is so new, it is still in Beta form and available for you to try out.

Are You Into Blogging?

What exactly is a blog? "A blog is a website for which an individual or a group generates text, photographs, video, audio files, and/or links, typically but not always on a daily or otherwise regular basis. The term is a shortened+ form of weblog. Authoring a blog, maintaining a blog or adding an article to an existing blog is called "blogging". Individual articles on a blog are called "blog posts", "posts", or "entries". The person who posts these entries is called a "blogger" (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blogging>)."

More and more people are blogging today. In fact, politicians see the importance of blogging. The Republican National Committee (GOP) lists blogs on their website: <http://www.rnc.org> - Canadians have a blog site such as: www.blogscanada.ca where you can information from soup to nuts. Most news reporters have their own blogs, which ad a nice flavour to the news etc.

But a **recent search on Google**, with the search words: "**computer user group blogs**" revealed over a hundred blog sites from Computer User Group executives and members, covering a multitude of computer related subjects.

The second blog that turned up on a November 27th. search was entitled: "How to Thank the Leaders of Your Computer User Group". Seriously haha. It is written by the well known computer guru: Phil Shapiro. However, I typed in a query about SCUG blogs and got this: "Your search did not match any documents."

Is it time for **SCUG to get BLOGGING???**

NOOZ from APCUG

The Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG) is an organization dedicated to helping member computer user groups succeed. The APCUG helps to foster communications by operating as an informal network between user group organizations and also with companies that provide computer related and Internet related goods and services. The APCUG also assists member groups in the fulfillment of their educational missions and activities by sharing with officers of member user groups, the knowledge of what it takes for user groups to better serve their members. The APCUG operates as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Charlotte Semple is SCUG's
APCUG International Advisor
csemple@apcug.net

In this edition of NOOZ:

1. Elections
2. APCUG Annual Conference
3. 2006 Membership Drive
4. Consumers Trust Each Other More Than Advertising
5. Program Ideas
6. Microsoft Intergeneration Day Photo Story Contest

1. ELECTION Has your group voted? Voting closes on November 30 at 11:59 pm EST. The APCUG Representative (or President) for each eligible member group (more than 25 members) was sent a user name and password along with a link to our online voting. If you have any questions, please contact Rich Schinnell, OLS Chair at, election05@apcug.net.

2. APCUG ANNUAL CONFERENCE The conference will be held at the Stardust Hotel & Casino from January 2 through lunch on the 5th. You have until November 30 to register for the conference at the \$100.00 fee. After that date, the cost is \$150.00. Please remember to make your hotel reservations by December 2 to obtain the APCUG conference rate. Registration information may be found at , <http://conference.apcug.org/>, and hotel information at, <http://apcug.net/events/conference06/index.htm> /, click on Hotel Information.

3. 2002 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE Annual membership for the Association of Personal Computer Users Groups is \$50.00. Invoices will soon be sent to all groups but you can already renew your membership in

APCUG online by completing the form at http://apcug.net/contacts/forms/renewal_application.htm

After you submit the form, you will have the option of paying by check or credit card. Groups renewing by 12/31/05 will be entered in the renewal conference contest. Three groups renewing by that date will win a prize donated by one of APCUG's vendors (thanks to David Steward, Advisor, Region 8). The winning group names will be pulled at the Annual Conference (winner does not need to be present).

4. CONSUMERS TRUST EACH OTHER MORE THAN ADVERTISING Among one of the many benefits of belonging to a User Group is the ability to talk with members who use a program or product you are interested in purchasing, or to have it demonstrated by a vendor or group member at a meeting. User Group members are not hesitant to share their computer knowledge with even total strangers and are often asked by friends and relatives for advice regarding computer-related purchases. The below information, taken in part from an e-mail from Andy Marken, Marken Communication, affirms that User Group members are influential in the electronics industry.

The "2005 Consumer-Generated Media (CGM) and Engagement Study" a new study of consumer behavior by Intelliseek Inc., reports that consumers are 50 percent more likely to be influenced by word-of-mouth recommendations from their peers than by radio/TV ads. Consumer trust toward traditional advertising is being challenged by growing confidence in consumer-generated-media (CGM), and the recommendations of other consumers.

The research also finds important correlations between consumers who regularly skip over or delete television or online ads and those who create, and absorb consumer-generated media (defined as experiences, opinions and advice posted on the Internet by consumers for others to read and share). "Active ad skippers" are 25 percent more likely to create and respond to Internet message boards, forums and blogs.

Intelliseek CEO Mike Nazzaro said "The advertising landscape is... forcing marketers to broaden and redefine the concepts of media, influence and audience reach. If consumer-generated media is the most effective and trusted form of advertising, it's critical that marketers begin to measure, manage and influence it..."

Key findings from the analysis: - Word-of-mouth behavior among "familiar" trumps all forms of advertising and is more trusted than news or "expert commen-

Continued on page 8

Continued from page 7 - APCUG NOOZ
 tary." - Positive word-of-mouth from a personal acquaintance carries just as much impact as negative word-of-mouth. - Consumers are on track to post close to 2 billion comments on the Internet by the end of 2005. - Key industries susceptible to GCM influence are health/medical, auto, electronics, video games and music.

5. PROGRAM IDEAS We are always looking for different program ideas or just a jazzy meeting title. One place where you can find new ideas is to check out the Online Newsletter list on, <http://www.apcug.net>, or the newsletters that you receive from other groups. Here are a few ideas from those sources: "Toy Time Show and Tell" : Geek Toys for the Holidays / Kennebec Valley Computer Society "Vandals, Tramps and Thieves" : User's Guide to an Existence Free of Hackers, Spam & Spyware / Boeing Employees' Computing Society "Joint meeting with your local Genealogy Society" : Colorado River Computer Club "Joint meeting with your local camera club" : Antelope Valley Microcomputer User Group "Using Mail Merge to help lessen the burden of sending out all of your Holiday Greeting cards" : Alaska Computer Society PC User Group "Computer Tutor Session" : Napa Valley PCUG has a member do a short tutorial during this session. "Win a Free Yahoo E-mail Account" : Orange County IBM PC Users' Group. OK, we all know it's free but a vendor canceled at the last minute so the group held a drawing to set up a free account for a member and showed everyone else how easy it is to have a throw-away e-mail address to collect Spam. "Alternative to Microsoft" : Try Linux without touching your hard drive! - SouthWest International Personal Computer Club. This meeting was based around a review of Marcel Gagne's book and accompanying CD. "Internet Explorer Tips and Tricks", based on an article by Richard O. Johnson, TUGNET, September PUSH article "9 Useful Bookmarks", by Richard Johnson, TUGNET, August PUSH article "Search Engine Tips & Tricks", by Richard Johnson, TUGNET, July PUSH article

6. FROM THE MICROSOFT MINDSHARE (USER GROUP PROGRAM) NEWSLETTER...

Intergeneration Day Photo Story Contest If you know an inspiring person from another generation—either older or younger than you—here's your chance to put together a great photo story about that person and qualify for some great prizes. Perhaps the person is a younger member of your user group, a relative, or a former professor who attends your meetings regularly. Put your heads together and come up with something creative. Then **SUBMIT** your photo story to the Intergeneration Day Photo Story Contest **BETWEEN OCTOBER 2 AND DECEMBER 2, 2005**. Winners will be judged on originality and creativity and use of digital tools.

CREATING AND SUBMITTING YOUR ENTRY

The Intergeneration Photo Story Contest is all about bringing generations together to tell a shared story in a unique and special way. Your photo story can be as unique as you are - with unusual, antique, modern, or artistic photos; with movement, sound, and more. Be creative! Have fun! But most of all create a story together in a way you will always remember.

Here's how it works:

- (1) Create a user name and password to register at <http://www.photostorycontest.com/>,
- (2) Get together with your story partner and gather the photos and captions you want to use,
- (3) Create your photo story using Photo Story 3 for Windows (see our links on the left for a series of Photo Story tutorials to get you started) and,
- (4) Submit your finished photo story here (by clicking Submit in the left column).

Independent judges will select 10 winners based on their creativity, design, and use of digital imaging and publishing tools. Winners will receive their choice of three fantastic prizes: An Xbox 360 Core System (retail value \$300), or A \$300 gift certificate to American Eagle Outfitters, or A \$300 gift certificate to Amazon.com

Under **GETTING STARTED**, you will find a series of articles to help you begin to plan out your own original photo story. Best of luck in the contest! We look forward to seeing your Intergeneration Photo Story soon!

That's all for this NOOZ. Please let me know if you find this information useful to share with your user group. It is a Benefit of your APCUG membership. If you have anything you would like me to include in NOOZ, just let me know.

Charlotte Semple: Your APCUG International Advisor
csemple@apcug.net



www.apcug.org

Browsing WebRings: Communities of Web Sites

By Gabe Goldberg

APCUG Advisor, Region 2

Columnist, AARP Computers & Technology Website

If the Internet is the largest library created in human history, where are its card catalog and friendly librarians to explain how the Internet's "shelves" are arranged? Where's a rhyme and reason for how things are arranged, and the Dewey Decimal System <http://www.oclc.org/dewey/> when we need it most? Search engines and directories like Google www.google.com and Yahoo! www.yahoo.com are helpful but can be overwhelming. And search results often appear jumbled, lacking the comfort of neighborhood libraries which shelve related books together -- so that if you find an interesting mystery, cookbook, or science tome, its nearby shelf neighbors may be an unanticipated bonus.

But the Internet does offer the equivalent of library shelves, called WebRings ("rings" for short). Not stashed where you can physically touch them, rings are linked sets of Web sites concerned with specific topics.

So rings exist for diverse topics -- physical fitness, photography, falconry, biking, etc. In fact, those topics were all featured on WebRing.com <http://dir.webring.com/rw>, a directory of rings, on the day I browsed it.

The WebRing concept is simple: Webmasters of sites with a common theme agree to link to each other, and to a hub Web site; each ring site includes links named Ring Hub, Random, Previous, Next, and Join Now. A ring's hub is like the center of a circle, with all the ring's sites connected to it. The hub describes the ring, gives statistics (how many Web sites belong, how many times the hub has been visited, etc.), and lists member sites with brief descriptions.

WebRing.com combines aspects of a portal site (linking to WebRing-related information and resources), a directory site (providing categories of rings such as Business & Finance, Family & Home, Health & Wellness, and Hobbies & Crafts), and a search tool. Searching is helpful when you're not sure which category includes your topic of interest or when the topic may span categories. For example, searching on "gardening" located 128 WebRings. That doesn't sound like many, but remember that each ring includes a few, dozens, hundreds, or thousands of individual sites. Among the first 20 rings, Friends of the Garden <http://e.webring.com/hub?ring=friendsgarden> has the most members, 243 Web sites. Its cheery greeting reads "Welcome to Friends of the Garden Web Ring. We are the largest gardening Web ring in the WebRing Community! Please visit our

members and if you have a gardening web page, consider joining! We welcome both the backyard gardener with his own home page or the commercial grower. All have something interesting to add to our virtual garden tour".

Navigating WebRing.com by topics provides a hierarchical view of its thousands of WebRings -- for example, clicking the Science category yields about two dozen disciplines including Astronomy, Biology, Ecology, Energy, etc. Biology includes an amazing 3200 rings, while the new science of Nanotechnology has only one ring.

Ring hubs offer a unique search tool with two pulldown menu choices. You can enter a keyword and search only the ring whose hub you're viewing (the Ring choice), or search the entire WebRing.com list of rings (the WebRing search choice). Searching within the ring can help narrow search results. For example, the Amateur and Pro Photography ring has 87 sites. If I'm interested in English photography, rather than touring the entire ring -- entertaining though that might be -- I can use the ring search for "England" and find the four relevant sites.

Clicking the Random link is like closing your eyes and hopping to an unknown site -- it can be entertaining or not, depending on luck. Previous/Next links navigate around a ring's sites so you'll eventually return to your starting point. And Join Now is for Webmasters to enroll sites within a ring; this requires first creating a free account on WebRing.com.

WebRings don't replace search engines, directories, portals, one's own bookmarks, and referrals from friends for finding worthwhile material. And they only link sites that have chosen to enroll. But they're a useful and powerful tool for locating and navigating congenial and related Web sites, and they give topics such as gardening and photography much more a sense of community than do bare links from a search engine.

This article originated on AARP's Computers and Technology Web site, www.aarp.org/computers, and is copyrighted by AARP. All rights are reserved; it may be reproduced, downloaded, disseminated, or transferred, for single use, or by nonprofit organizations for educational purposes, with attribution to AARP. It should be unchanged and this paragraph included. Please e-mail Gabe Goldberg at gabe@gabegold.com when you use it, or for permission to excerpt or condense.

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.



Windows Vista™

THE NEW, THE BEST, AND THE WORST

Collected by Pim Borman
SW Indiana PC Users Group, Inc.

Vista

A distant view or prospect, especially one seen through an opening, as between rows of buildings or trees. (Dictionary.com) It is also the name of the long-awaited next version of Microsoft Windows, not available until at least the second half of 2006 but already widely previewed and discussed in the PC magazines. What do we glimpse in the distance? Should we fight or switch?

The most significant improvement in Vista might well be security, stated to be a primary goal. Only time will tell we'll still be facing continuing patches, updates and periodic Service Packs, I expect.

New Internet Explorer 7 will be a major makeover, mostly to catch up with features long since available in Opera and Firefox. It will also be available to current Windows XP users. Windows Media Player gets a boost, but will also be available in Windows XP.

Vista will appear in 32 and 64-bit versions, to accommodate the new 64-bit CPUs now available from AMD and Intel. Visually, the windows will sport new folder icons that show thumbnails of their contents, although I wonder how they handle folders with dozens of subfolders and files. If your graphics card can handle it, the icons will also be semitransparent, wow!

Originally, Vista was supposed to support a new file system, WINFS. I understand that this file system does away with branching directory trees to store files. In-

stead, files all are dumped in large containers, maybe such as the current My Documents areas. Instead of assigning unique file names, you label the files with any number of suitable tags, similar to the labels currently used in Picasa2 (see the minutes in this issue to read about Larry Goss's presentation in October). The contents of the files are also indexed on the go to facilitate a search for keywords such as already provided by Google Desktop Search and Yahoo Desktop Search. Vista is expected to include a similar search function even before WINFS eventually is implemented. But WINFS will not initially be part of Vista.

As PC Magazine puts it it increasingly appears that Vista's differentiating features, aside from the sleek new shell interface, will be the ones that are less visible to typical users: hardened security, better diagnostics, and improved manageability in enterprise environments.

Vista will require an up-to-date computer system, with plenty of processor speed, memory, and graphics capability. Manufacturers of scanners and printers will surely provide the necessary drivers for newer equipment, but older peripherals may no longer work. Will it be worth the additional cost and aggravation to upgrade?

Dedicated gamers will love it they need all the speed they can get, at any cost. Also, if you work with demanding graphics programs, large databases or similar CPU-intensive programs you'll probably want Vista for better support of multi-core, 64-bit CPUs. Media enthusiasts will love the new features, but why use them on a general-purpose computer?

For the rest of us, we're probably better off waiting until we need to buy a new computer that is almost certain to include Vista, whether we like it or not. At least

“When a new generation of students gets weaned on Linux, they are likely to continue using that operating system in the future...”

we'll get it at a discount. I estimate that MS Windows, Office and Media Player contain at least 50% bells and whistles that are of no interest to 75% of its users.

Last year Microsoft announced a crippled version of Windows, called Windows XP Starter Edition, being made available at low cost in certain developing countries. According to CNet News.com (<http://snipurl.com/winstart>) the local versions of the program were made available in Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, India and Russia. Cost in Thailand was reported to be \$36, not including MS Works. Its intended use is in local schools for the obvious reason: catch 'm young. Read on...

...Or Else?

Continued on page 11

Continued from page 10 - VISTA

The MIT Media Lab has launched a new research initiative to develop a \$100 laptop a technology that could revolutionize how we educate the world's children. To achieve this goal, a new, non-profit association, One Laptop per Child (OLPC), has been created.

“...high school students returning for the fall semester will find brand-new Linux desktops in their classrooms...”



The machines, which will run a version of the Linux operating system, will also include other applications, some developed by MIT researchers, as well as country-specific software. ' Software has gotten too fat and unreliable, so we started with Linux.' (<http://snipurl.com/mitlap>) These two quotes from recent MIT press releases point at new directions in the Computer Revolution.

First of all, there is the realization that computers are here to stay as a necessity in a civilized society. To the **three Rs** of basic education we need to add a fourth Requirement, computer liteRacy. The cost of general-purpose computers has to come down further to make them available to every schoolchild, even in this country, let alone in the developing nations. That includes the need to eliminate the high cost of the MS Windows operating system and commercial productivity programs written for MS Windows. Essentially free Linux is the obvious alternative.

Here is another quote, from desktop.linux.com (<http://snipurl.com/INaccess>): A number of Indiana high school students returning for the fall semester will find brand-new Linux desktops in their classrooms. Under the Indiana Access Program, which uses desktop Linux systems and standard hardware configurations to keep costs low, Wintergreen Systems Inc. and Linspire Inc. are providing computers for classrooms.

The arrangement could result in as many as 300,000 Linux machines being deployed during coming years, the companies said in a statement. And Indiana is arguably not a third-world nation.

When a new generation of students gets weaned on Linux, they are likely to continue using that operating system in the future, creating the critical mass that it takes to become generally accepted as an alternate desktop tool. Some of the students will inevitably be interested in hacking the system, resulting in new and improved programs, as well as some new Linux viruses, I fear. Their efforts will be facilitated by the availability of all the underlying code, in contrast with MS Windows programs that jealously hide the source code.

Besides the effort to introduce Linux in school computers, several large cities as well as developing nations, notably China, have made it a priority to deploy Linux-based desktop computers. In the near future most of the growth of Linux will probably take place in developing areas of the world. Acceptance in the USA and other Western countries will be slowed by the difficulty or reluctance to transfer databases from MS Windows-based programs to comparable Linux programs.

It may take another generation, but after maturing overseas Linux is likely to return in force to the Western world.

Book Reviewers Wanted

O'REILLY®



SCUG is looking for members to review computer books for O'Reilly Publishing. Reviewers can order the book they choose for a review and after the review is published the reviewer gets to keep the said book. Anyone interested in doing a book review, please contact:

Program Coordinator
Norm Lamoureux
coordinator@scug.ca

For a complete list of books at O'Reilly's go here:
<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/prdindex.html>

Benefits



Do you want to really learn about computers and get more from your club? How about helping out by volunteering...getting your hands dirty, so to speak, and learn by doing. **NO PUBLIC SPEAKING INVOLVED**

haha - We promise...only if you wish to get up and give demos and talks. There are many ways to help us out...please contact an executive member today.

Tips for Locating Misplaced Files

By **Dave Gerber**
APCUG Advisor, Region 5

Dave's Bits & Bytes, A Periodic Newsletter for the Members of the Sarasota PC User Group and the World!! Director, Sarasota PCUG, Florida (dave_bytes@comcast.net)
www.spcug.org / http://davebytes.com

Losing files on your PC is a lot like misplacing your car keys in a cluttered apartment. You know the things you're looking for are close by, but actually finding and using them can be a challenge.

Unlike your apartment, though, Windows has a helpful feature that can locate wayward items and save you a good deal of frustration. In Windows 95/98 (Win9x), this feature is called Find. In Windows XP and Windows Me, it's called Search. There are also third-party programs that can ensure that you never have to endure the loss of an important file again.

In this article, we'll show you one of the more popular ways to find lost files and some techniques to keep you from losing files in the future. We'll start by covering the Find feature in Win9x. The WinMe and WinXP version of this feature is significantly different and warrants a separate explanation. Note, however, that many of the tips included in the Win9x section apply to later versions, so don't skip ahead.

Find It In Windows 95 & Windows 98 There are two fast ways to access the Find feature in Win9x. One method is to click Start, point to Find, and click Files or Folders. Shortcut keys also work for this feature; press Windows-F to display the search program instantly. If you're certain a file is in a specific folder, don't use the Find feature from the Start menu; a faster way is to press the F3 key in Win9x (or CTRL-F in WinMe) when you're already at the right folder window or have the folder displayed in Windows Explorer. This will display the search window already set to search the current folder.

Whatever technique you use to launch the Find utility, you end up with a dialog box named Find All Files. It has five menu options: File, Edit, View, Options, and Help. The Name & Location tab is the most commonly used area of the Find command, as it includes the Named and Look In text boxes. Win98 also has a Containing Text text box listed here. (In Win95 this option is on the

Advanced tab.) If you know the name of the file you want to locate, just type it in the Named text box, make sure the Look In path is directed at the correct drive location, and click Find Now. You'll know the search has started because the magnifying glass icon begins to move in circles. When the search is complete, matches appear in the results window. This window shows all relevant information about the file, such as file name, type, size, location, and date modified. Remember that you don't have to let a search complete its examination; click the Stop button to bring things to an immediate halt. This is especially useful when you accidentally start a search over a gargantuan hard drive that takes several minutes to inspect. There are many variables that can help you narrow your searches and save time. If you're fairly certain of the folder in which a file is hiding, click Browse on the Name & Location tab and specify the correct folder. On the other hand, you might not have a clue as to which folder to look in; in that case click the Include Subfolders checkbox to investigate a folder hierarchy from top to bottom. In all Windows versions, there are some other options that let you control the search. The Date and Advanced tabs in Win9x let you find files by type and size. The Containing Text text box lets you constrain results to those with specific phrases in them. In Win9x an Include Subfolders option lets you widen your search. (In WinMe click Advanced Options, which lets you Search Subfolders or look for file names using the Case Sensitive option.)

Losing files on your PC is a lot like misplacing your car keys in a cluttered apartment.

Search Windows Me & Windows XP WinMe and WinXP have their own version of the Find command, called Search. To get started click Start, point to Search and click For Files Or

Folders, or press Windows-F. You will see a Search Results dialog box that's laid out like a Web browser, complete with Back and Forward buttons.

In WinMe type the name of the file you need in the Search For Files or Folders Named text box. The Containing Text option is listed just below, as are the various search options, such as Date, Type, Size, and Advanced Options, all of which work similarly to Win9x.

In WinXP you will need to select the type of file you are looking for before you can begin a search. We recommend selecting the All Files And Folders option because it will search your entire hard drive for the file. If that takes too long, the other options, such as Pictures, Music, or Video, will narrow the search parameters and likely make the search more efficient.

Once you've outlined the parameters of your search, click Search Now or Search. After Windows completes

a search, you can press F3 or CTRL-F to alternately shrink and enlarge the Search Results window, providing more (or less) information about selected files on the left side of the screen.

Both operating systems have useful extras on the left side the Search Results window, including image file preview. In the past when you wanted to know what was in a mysterious graphics file (usually with a file name extension such as .JPG, .BMP, or .TIF), you had to open the file with a separate program, which takes time. With WinXP and WinMe, you can use the Preview function instead. Just click the file, and a tiny version of the image appears in the Search Results area. To see thumbnails in WinXP, from the View menu, click Thumbnails to make image thumbnails appear.

If it takes too much time to complete searches, you may want to streamline the search process in WinXP by using the Indexing Service feature. With this feature, your computer will maintain an up-to-date list of the files on your hard drive, which makes subsequent filename searches much faster.

To use the Indexing Service, in the Search Results window, click Change Preferences in the left pane. Click With Indexing Service and then click the Yes, Enable Indexing Service radio button. Click OK, and your PC will run the service when the computer is sitting idle.

Find files with dates. If you don't find your files with an initial search or WinXP index searches, you might want to search for files by date. In Win9x from the Start menu, point to Find and then click Files Or Folders. In the Named Or text box, type *.xls (or *.doc, or whatever file type you most often use). Click the Date Or Date Modified tab and click Find All Files Created Or Modified. Click the During The Previous option and then adjust the number of days you'd like this search to work for. (A week is probably a good starting point.)

You can do this in WinMe by clicking the Date checkbox. Select Files Modified, Files Created, or Files Last Accessed from the drop-down menu. Then click the In The Last option, followed by the number of days you want the search to cover.

In WinXP after you click All Files And Folders, you can enter part of the file name and then click When Was It Modified? to narrow your search to a range of dates. You can also use What Size Is It? and More Advanced Options to make searches more specific; you can even include hidden files in the search if you prefer. After you set the parameters in your OS, run the search by clicking Find Now, Search Now, or Search.

Windows Me's Search feature works like the Find option in previous Windows versions but has some extra power under the hood.

Saving a search. Once your PC completes its file hunt, you may want to save your search settings to reduce the amount of data entry you have to complete for your next complex search. After a search ends, from the File menu, click Save Search. This saves a shortcut on the Windows Desktop or a folder of your choice with a name that refers to the search. When you want to do a speedy search for commonly accessed documents, just double-click the shortcut and the search parameters will load automatically.

Win9x will also let you keep the results of searches, plus the parameters that created those results. From the Options menu, click Save Results. To create a shortcut to these results, click Save Search from the File menu.

More search options. More archaic computer skills also sometimes come in handy for searches, the best example of which is the use of older DOS commands to aid your search. The easiest to use is probably the asterisk symbol. It acts like a wildcard, standing in for at least one character in the name of the file or folder you want. For instance, if you know you want to find a file that ends in .INF but aren't sure what the first part of the file name is, you'd type *.INF, which instructs the search utility to display every file ending in .INF.

The question mark is also useful; unlike the asterisk, it replaces only one character in a name. For example, entering Sysfile?.DOC would find every file with one character following the Sysfile name that ends with .DOC. The search variable can also be used together in flexible combinations. For example, enter *dos?.* to locate file names with any filename extension and that start with any number of characters, following by "dos," and then any single character.

Searching by file type is another useful parameter. Select this option, and you'll see dozens of file types from which to choose. The best thing about this option is that file types aren't displayed with cryptic extensions. Instead, there's a short description of the type (an AOL email, for instance).

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.

Windows Recovery or Restore Disks: Problems and Alternatives

By Vic Laurie
Princeton PCUG, New Jersey
victor@vlaur.com

Once upon a time you received a copy of a full Windows installation disk when you bought a computer. This allowed you to reinstall individual system files or Windows components if anything went wrong. But no longer. These days the best you can hope for from many vendors is a so-called "recovery" or "restore" disk". And many major vendors do not even provide that much. Instead they put stuff on a hidden partition on the hard drive. This is all the backup that you get, and if the hard drive crashes, the hidden partition goes too. Then you have no way of reinstalling Windows on a replacement hard drive without getting a disk from the original PC vendor. From what I read on the Web, this last process can take some time and effort, if you succeed at all. If you are out of the warranty period, you may be completely out of luck.

Some vendors may provide a Windows disk when you buy a PC if they are prodded hard enough. However, there may be some kind of "handling and shipping" fee. Note that, if you do finally get a disk, it will probably be an OEM (original equipment manufacturer) version and may lack some features of a full-fledged version. Also OEM versions of Windows are often not eligible for upgrades.

The failure to provide an actual Windows installation disk with new computers is convenient for Microsoft and the computer vendors but can be a real problem for the PC user. There are many problems that can be fixed by copying a single system file or reinstalling small portions of the Windows operating system. Without an installation disk, PC users need to have some other source for these files. If you put a recovery disk into your CD drive, it will want to reformat your hard drive and reinstall an image of your computer that is a replica of the way your system was on the day you bought it. Any changes that you have made will be wiped out. All those programs you installed, all those Microsoft patches, XP SP2, all of it will be gone. The same thing applies when you restore from one of those hidden partitions.

Therefore, an alternative is needed. At the very least, a source of files for adding and removing Windows components and restoring corrupted files should be available. Sometimes the vendor will have put the Windows installation files in the root of your hard drive or in the

Windows folder. In Windows XP look for a folder named "I386" (without the quotes). If you do have one of these folders, burn a copy to a CD for backup. This CD will not have all the functions of an installation CD since it will not auto-run nor will it boot. However, reinstallation can be initiated by clicking the file Winnt32.exe (assuming that you can get your system to boot). If you have a FAT32 disk and can use DOS, Winnt.exe is the appropriate file to access from a DOS boot disk.

A problem is that you will have a disk that lacks any of the multitudes of patches and updates that will have come out since you bought your computer. Therefore, you need to "slipstream" with the XP SP2 update. Slipstreaming is a way of merging updates with the original files so that everything is updated. This is not a quick job but it is worth doing. An excellent detailed step-by-step procedure is given at the Elder Geek site. If you can borrow a Windows XP installation disk (almost any version will do) you can extract the image that is needed to make the CD bootable and add that to the disk. Details for using common CD burning software to do all this is given at the reference cited above.

One more problem can be getting the Windows XP product key for your system. It may be pasted or written somewhere in the documentation that came with your computer. Be sure to make a permanent record of it. If you cannot find the product key, there are several free applications that will retrieve it from your system. One is ViewKeyXp and is available here. Another is Keyfinder, which is available here. Also, system information applications like Belarc Adviser can reveal the key.

At the end, you will still have something that provides backup only for the Windows operating system. Since I want to be able to restore everything, including software that I have installed, I prefer to spend a few dollars and use disk imaging software. It makes keeping up-to-date backups on CDs or other external media very easy. Norton Ghost, BootIt Next Generation or Acronis True Image are all reasonable choices.

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 your next SCUG meeting, why not bring a friend, and don't forget to spread the word that guests can attend any 3 meetings for free - what a deal...one that should be told.

Locked Out of Your Computer?

Vinny LaBash
Sarasota PC Users Group, Florida
labash@spcug.org

Some time ago one of my students came to me with what appeared to be an insurmountable problem. She had lent her laptop to a relative who changed the password allowing her access to the hard drive. A dispute developed between the two, and the relative refused to disclose the new password. Upon boot-up, a message appeared that the hard drive was now password protected. She asked me, "How can I break this password and access my computer"?

I had mixed feelings. Most people ask me how to protect their data and equipment, and prevent unauthorized access. I was now being asked to break into a machine. Even though the woman was the legitimate owner of the laptop and the data recorded on it, it felt strange to be on the other side of the fence. After dusting off my notes, we tackled the problem.

Before revealing what actually worked, let's examine what you can do if you are ever locked out of your own computer.

There is nothing immoral or illegal about trying to retrieve your own data.

We started with the presumption that the password was embedded in the BIOS, which stands for Basic Input/Output System. Your BIOS is a set of instructions that tells the computer who it is and what it has. Imagine that every morning you woke up with total amnesia and someone had to tell you not only who you were but how to walk, talk, read, and how to use your brain. The BIOS is like that.

To make things more obtuse, the settings in the BIOS are dynamic. They need some kind of electric power to work. If you take out the battery on your motherboard or let it drain, the BIOS settings are lost. What saves you is that the BIOS resides in ROM (Read Only Memory), which is not battery dependent.

Try resetting the BIOS to its defaults. This can be done by removing the CMOS battery after turning the computer off. The CMOS battery is about the size of a five cent piece, and you'll find it on the motherboard. Some motherboards will let you reset the BIOS by using jumpers. Your owner's manual may be helpful. If you don't have an owner's manual, go to the manufacturer's web site, and look for an online version. Some sites list the default BIOS password. Don't hesitate to call the manufacturer and ask for help. Sometimes the company will have a master password, but you will need to provide the serial number of the machine. If you're dealing with

a laptop, the manufacturer may have more stringent requirements for proof of ownership since theft is a serious issue with these machines.

Many people use dumb passwords like their pet's name, child's birthday, anniversary or birth dates, employer's name, brand of car, etc. Generic passwords like these examples can be easily defeated. Don't forget to try "password". I never cease to be amazed at how often this works. The other two most common passwords are God and love.

BIOS manufacturers have their own list of passwords. This website may be helpful. <http://www.elfqrin.com/docs/biospw.html>.

There are cracking programs that will reveal passwords in many cases. If you decide to go this route, make sure you check for viruses. You can find free programs at the following sites: <http://www.cgsecurity.org/> <http://www.11a.nu/> <http://natan.zejn.si/rempass.html>

Before accusing me of giving lessons on how to hijack computers, keep in mind that the bad guys already know these tricks and a lot more. There is nothing immoral or illegal about trying to retrieve your own data.

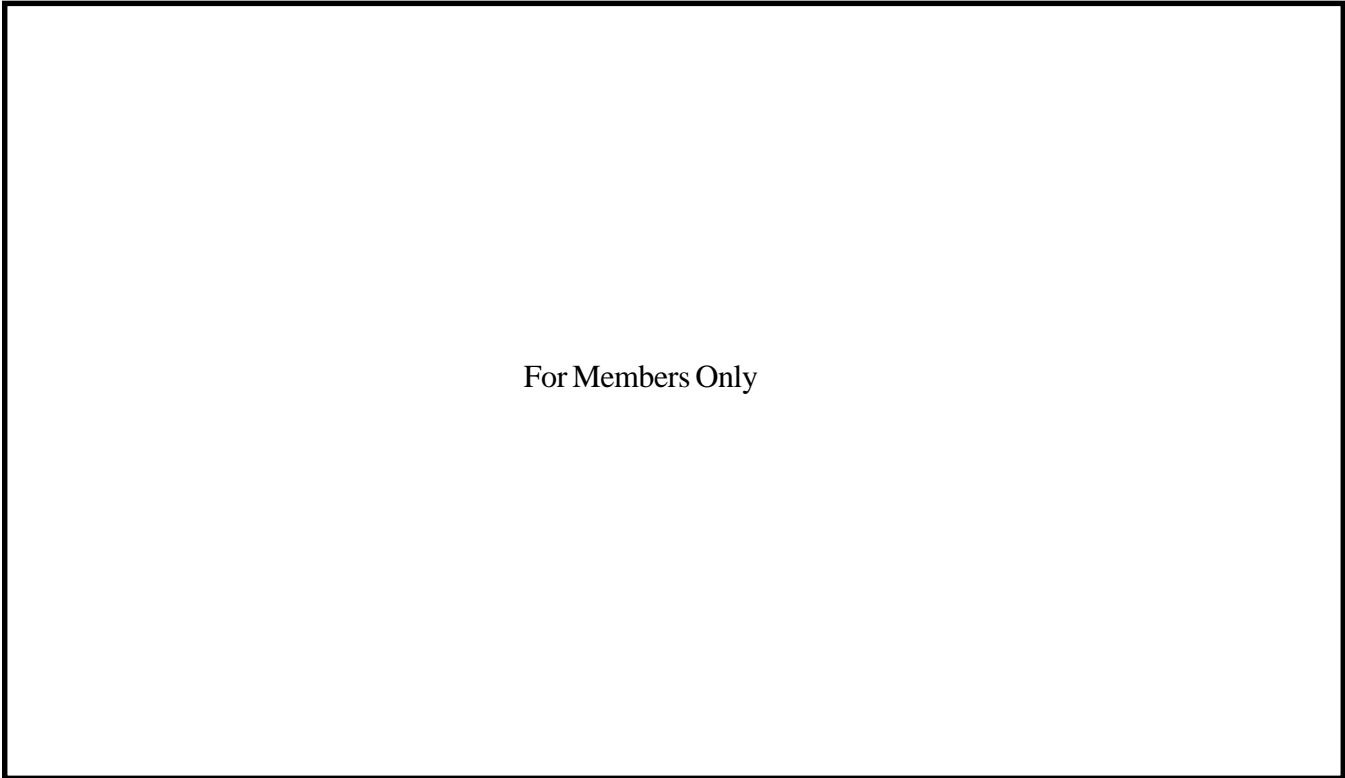
More drastic steps would be to take your machine to a computer repair shop and have the BIOS replaced. You could also have the hard drive replaced, but this would mean losing all information on the disk, and you would need to reinstall your operating system and applications.

What finally worked? The woman baked her cousin's favorite pie and sent her daughter to deliver it as peace offering. The password was shortly forthcoming. Go figure.

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.

Please wear your SCUG ID Card at all SCUG meetings.





For Members Only

SCUG MEMBERS SAVE - UP TO \$60 AT EBTECH

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

Contact Jim Lapointe (membership@scug.ca)
to be on the EBTECH Discount List.

SCUG Computer Disc 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 that come with a trial period, after which, they must be registered and paid for if you like them and decide to keep them on your machine.

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*

ISLAND INKJET
RON AND KAREN RUPERT
 OWNER / OPERATORS

The Refill Guys! Lambton Mall
 1380 London Road
 Sarnia, ON. N731P8
 lambtonmall@islandinkjet.com
 www.islandinkjet.com

WANT TO SELL CAMERA EQUIPMENT?

Ask me about selling your
 Cameras, Lenses, & Accessories
 on Ebay.

Fred Abma
 fab@xcelco.on.ca



**SELLING
 YOUR VEHICLE?**

Advertise your car for **FREE!**

Visit...
www.SarniaUsedCars.net

Want to learn about OPEN OFFICE?

The Port Huron Computer Group is hosting a demonstration at their general meeting January 2006. For full details and address info, go to the COMP website at: <http://www.bwcomp.org>

Slide and Film Scanning 35 mm
High Resolution

Call Pierre for a free quote

Phone: 344-1379
Email: pahoule@sympatico.ca



apcug
 Medium-Sized Groups
**1st Place
 2003**

**Visit our award winning website for all SCUG
 Information and Events: www.scug.ca**

GUESTS ARE WELCOME

Beginner
 Average
 Advanced
 Computer Owners/Operators/Users
COME OUT AND HAVE SOME FUN

**ALL GUESTS WELCOMED
 GENERAL 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

Meeting Schedule:
see the last page of this paper!

Donate your old computers!

Here's a way to help the Sarnia Sea Cadet Corps start a computer lab. This lab is greatly need to help educate the cadets in their training and music programs. We have found that using computers to teach some seamanship skills, simulated sail training, music theory, and to communication with other corps would improve their knowledge and keep them up to date. This program is free to all girls and boys between the ages of 12 and 19. By improving our training equipment we can better keep the interests of the cadets. Please help us provide the best possible program by a donation of your used computer equipment. Contact us by calling and leaving a message at the Corps office 519- 337-9842.

SCUG MEETINGS 2005 - 2006

Guests are Welcome to Visit
www.scug.ca

MEETING LOCATIONS

- * **Executive and Digital** - St James Church-140 Lansdowne North
- * **Windows - PC** - Grace United Church, 990 Cathcart
- * **General Meeting** - St. Bartholomews Church, 718 Cathcart
- * **Genealogy Meeting** - St James Church-140 Lansdowne North
- * **Linux Group** - St James Church-140 Lansdowne North

SCUG MEETING SCHEDULE					
Executive	Digital Photo	Windows-PC	General	Genealogy	Linux
Dec 5	Dec 7				
Jan 2	Jan 4	Jan 19	Jan 25	Jan 31	Jan 10
Jan 30	Feb 1	Feb 16	Feb 22	Feb 28	Feb 14
Feb 27	Mar 1	Mar 16	Mar 29	Mar 28	Mar 14
Apr 3	Apr 5	Apr 20	Apr 26	Apr 25	Apr 11
May 1	May 3	May 18	May 31	May 30	May 9
Jun 5	Jun 7	Jun 15	Jun 28	Jun 27	Jun 13

THREE FREE MONTHS of MEETINGS for GUESTS

Email us today: president@scug.ca or check us out online: www.scug.ca

Everyone is welcome to come to a meeting and receive a Guest Pass entitling you to sample our various meetings over a 3 month period. An annual family membership in S.C.U.G. is \$35. This allows you to attend all meetings, a free shareware program each month, and a copy of our monthly SCUG Report. Come out and meet people like yourselves who want to learn about computers and digital photography. **Go to our website for all details: www.scug.ca**

Many reasons for you to become 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



www.apcug.org