

SCUG



REPORT

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April 2007

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Executive Meeting	Digital Photography	Windows PC Computer	Genealogy Group	General Meeting
Next meeting is Apr. 30, 7 p.m.	Next Meeting is May 2, 7 p.m.	Next meeting is May 17, 7 p.m.	Next meeting is May 21, 7 p.m.	Next meeting is May 30, 7 p.m.
Dorothy Alexander President president@scug.ca	Pierre Houle Group Leader digitalsig@scug.ca	Pierre Houle Group Leader windows@scug.ca	Val Conway Group Leader genealogy@scug.ca	We welcome all guests. Come out, learn and have fun.

PresidentDorothy Alexander
president@scug.ca**Vice President**Bill Colotelo
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**Wilfrid Coulter
pr@scug.ca**Program Coordinator**Norm Lamoureux
coordinator@scug.ca**Webmaster**Dick Carpani
webmaster@scug.ca

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Report	2
Editor's Korner	2
Secretary's Notes	3
Windows SIG Report	4
Digital SIG Report	4
Disc of the Month	4
Genealogy SIG Report	5
Compuprize Winners	5
TID BITS	6
SCUG People	7
Sarnia Hobbyfest	9
XP to VISTA	10
Borrowed Windows Secrets	11
Information Sarnia Lambton	11
SCUG Financials	14
Advertising	15
SCUG Meeting Schedule	16

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What's Happening

* Next month is our 25th. Anniversary Party - May 30th.

* SCUG changes page 2.

* SCUG Elections page 5.

* 25th. Anniversary door prizes on page 9.

* SCUG gets back on track at Hobbyfest - see page 11.

* Linux back? - see page 13

What do you think is the top item in Internet usage? See page 11.

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

For the past quarter century, since SCUG's inception, the computer world has evolved dramatically. Computing and phoning wireless was unheard of back then.

How many of you have joined the wireless world with your usage?

If you are like me, you still have numerous wires connecting your computer tower, monitor, printer, scanner or perhaps a second computer.

Personally I feel like I have some control when I have wires! When a problem arises I can at least disconnect the connections and try and find the cause. (Note - it is a good idea to label what the specific cord is and where it goes!)

Having said that, we now see there are more and more things becoming wireless and even keyless. Have you looked at new automobiles lately? You no longer need a key to enter or even start on some models. Is security being jeopardized? Only time will tell.

SCUG's 25th. Anniversary is coming up fast and it is not too late to share your SCUG artifacts. Please contact Bill Colotelo (bcolotelo@cogeco.ca), chairperson the SCUG Anniversary Committee.

Tonight we welcome Jason Hannigan, Geographic Information System (GIS) Specialist of Lambton County, who will demonstrate computer mapping. He will show you local landmarks and tourism points of interest. On the county website (www.lambtononline.com/maps) you can even get driving instructions to a certain place within the county of Lambton.

Editor's Korner



Greg West

FREE COMPUTER HELP COMING SOON

SCUG is in the throws of change, as any organization is today. As we are more than know, computers, especially computer software, fail; they fail often. Members who have enjoyed using the SCUG email listgroup for questions and great answers are about to get a change.

The old SCUG email listgroup has failed. The system no longer is operative and Dick Carpani, SCUG's webmaster is looking to setting up a brand new email list group for SCUG members.

For anyone who has never ventured into this land of listgroups, this is where you sign up with a group of your peers (in this case other SCUG members only) and you can ask any computer related question that you may have. There is usually someone who has the answer and/or you get directed to a selection of websites that will enhance your quest for a better running system or a better how-to with a certain computer program.

It goes without saying, this type of listgroup is an invaluable source of information, and in my case has saved my membership fees ten times over with some excellent answers to computer-related issues that I seem to run across "all-too-often".

So, keep an eye out for Dick's brand new SCUG Email Listgroup (coming very soon I hope). Sign up and join in on this amazing computer topic sharing session with other SCUG members.

Oh yes, did I mention that Linux may make a SCUG comeback? If I didn't I should have...Please see page 13...



Secretary's Notes

by Tom Deeprise

SCUG Executive Meeting April 2nd, 2007 at St. James' Church. Wilf sent his regrets.

1. Approval of Minutes of Mar.5th / 07. Accepted as corrected and published.

2. Membership Input: Jim reported that, as of March 07 end, membership stood at 113 (78 Members & 35 Associates) with one new Member, ten Members and one Associate renewing plus six new Guests, bringing Guests on record to seven. There were 70 attendees, an excellent turnout. On the Newsletter, it was decided to print 90 for the April GM.

3. Vice President's Input: Bill said firstly he would report on the AC in New Business. Secondly, with Compuprize potential in mind, he mentioned the bargains available in Port Huron's Best Buy on blank CDs. Thirdly he is consistently disappointed in the help Members are giving in the meeting set-ups and has abandoned the pledge book as a waste of time. Fourthly, he will investigate the variety and price of wireless lapel mikes as a help to speakers. The new sound system is considered to be working very well.

4. Secretary's Input: Tom-Nothing secretarial to report. All accommodations are status quo.

5. Treasurer's Input: Ed's March financial statement was approved.

6. Software Librarian's Input: Pierre reported 41 disks were handed out. Problems with the Roxio "burning" program are unresolved at this point but the second choice XP system is working perfectly so no panic! The DOM for April is yet to be chosen.

7. Newsletter Editor's Input: Greg reported that efforts to improve the consistency of toner are spotty, some months good some months poorer.

8. Program Coordinator's Input: Norm reports that we have only two reviews outstanding, with nothing

new on the horizon. We need more ideas from the Members.

9. Public Relations Input: Wilf wrote that the planned prize for April was a 50/50 draw plus a SanDisk USB 1GB drive. Approved. He noted that we are short a prize for May. Bill produced three items that he had bought on spec. for just such a situation, a Kodak Dig. Camera, an external hard drive and a 4GB flash memory. After discussion the first two were approved as very suitable prizes. Wilf also offered his services if Hobbyfest is a go.

10. Webmaster's Input: Dick reported that he continues in his aim to devise a simple, user friendly website for Members.

11. Meetings - - April - Jason Hannigan, GIS Specialist, will describe the mapping system in Lambton County - May - The Anniversary Committee is heavy into plans, see later. - June - Staples Presentation MS cannot come but hopefully HP or someone else can pinch hit.

12 Old Business - -The Future Shop Presentation was very professional and gave an excellent coverage of the new digital cameras. It was well received by our members and the draw prize was much appreciated. - Michelle Medd still interested in offering her Scrap Booking later in the fall - High speed at St. James in 2007? Seems to be working OK, at least for this present meeting.

13 New Business - Hobbyfest: after much discussion the decision was to go for it. Norm will accept manning volunteers for July 15. - Greg suggested a copy of the newsletter, containing a thank you article and pictures, sent to each speaker. Accepted for consideration - On the Anniversary deliberations, Bill presented the seven major items put forward, after much hard work, by the A.C and as detailed in his memo to the Exec. They were accepted very positively. The AC will have its next meeting April 18, and then to the next Exec. Meeting for final approval.

ATTENTION PLEASE

Next SCUG Executive Meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 30th, 2007 at St. James' Church see p.14.

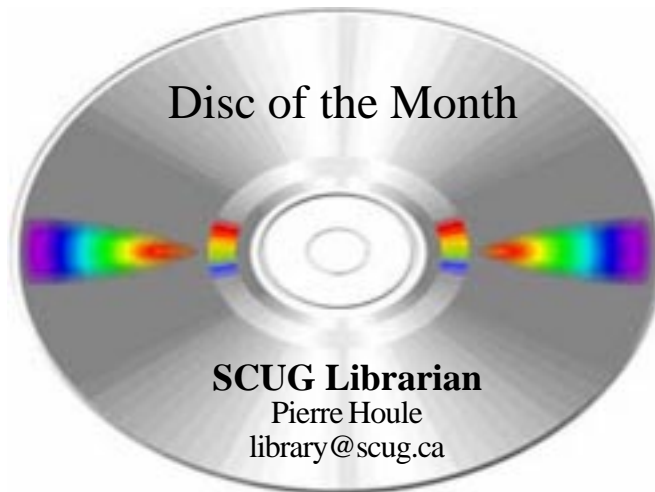




Special Interest Groups

Pierre Houle
windows@scug.ca

Windows SIG



This month's offering for the monthly CD is **Printmaster Express**, a free design program for creating Greeting Cards, Note Cards, Banners, Calendars and Photo Projects.

Digital Photography SIG



We had about 23 members and guests attend the April Digital Photography SIG. Pierre led the session with a demonstration of transferring files from a digital camera to a computer. This was followed by a basic Photoshop lesson on changing image resolution without degrading the image and using layers in Photoshop.

The next meeting of this special interest group will be Wednesday, May 2nd, 7:00 P.M. at St. James Church, 140 Lansdown at Athlone. The topics will be:

- 1) Photoshop tips: transferring a particular shade of colour from one image to another and transposing one image onto another
- 2) How to make greeting cards using your own photos hope to see you there!



Other features include an address book complete with event reminders for birthdays and anniversaries, plus mail merge capabilities that let you send personalized letters, invitations, and newsletters.

Please let me know if you have any ideas for future program offerings. Please return your disk every month to be exchanged for an updated disk with a new free program.

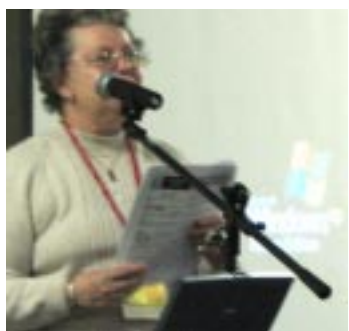
Any questions concerning these programs, go to the program website first before contacting me:
<http://expressit.broderbund.com>

PrintMaster Express is perfect for creating and using:

- * ExpressIt Projects
- * Greeting Cards
- * Banners
- * Brochures
- * Certificates
- * Calendars
- * Labels & Envelopes
- * Business Cards
- * ExpressIt Art
- * Note Cards
- * Fax Covers
- * Letterhead
- * Newsletters
- * Crafts
- * Photo Projects
- * Animated Greetings and More!

Genealogy SIG

Val Conway
genealogy@scug.ca



GUESTS ARE WELCOME

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

Do you know what catchy phrase represents each of these: Wikipedia, YouTube, MySpace, and Flickr, or mashups that combine enterprise apps with blogs and podcasts? ...Answer on page 8.



PLEASE ADORN SCUG NAME TAGS

Don't forget to wear your SCUG name tag at all meetings. If you have lost it please contact an executive member for assistance.

SCUG ELECTIONS COMING SOON

please consider helping out and run for a position



CONGRATULATIONS!!!

SCUG Compuprize Winners



Kathy Witheridge
JPG Camera
donated by
Future Shop

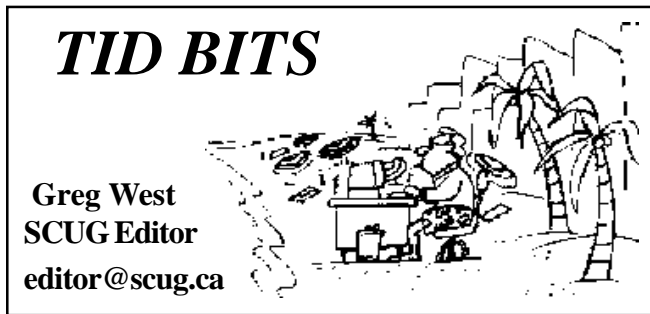


Howard Bartlett.
JPG 2gb
thumb drive
by SCUG



Vic Sterry.
JPG
Typing tutor
by SCUG

Don't forget to get your ticket tonight.



Why is my computer running soooooo sloooooow?

We have all experienced this problem and moreso lately. Yes we all know about the START - RUN - and type in msconfig and then when the box opens you click on STARTUP to see all the programs that run when you turn on your computer. Of course, there are programs that you may never use, programs that you don't even know got downloaded to your computer (without your knowledge or permission). Most of the programs etc. that are listed in this STARTUP box are for the Computer Einsteins of the world; the list is certainly not for us average computer users. The day is saved, or rather the road is paved smoother now that PCWorld has come across a website that "describes thousands of Windows services and programs, and tells you whether they're necessary." Head on over to: www.processlibrary.com.

BUZZ TERMS/WORDS & Water Cooler Talks

More and more these days, people are talking computer talk. Many people from all walks and talks and ages are rapping out computer terms and words in regular conversation. Even the local news broadcasters are in on the act. A conversation could go like this: "I was on 'a website that combines content from more than one source into an integrated experience' and found out through Wikipedia that this is a mashup, as found it was also a wiki that allowed me to interact with the site and I thank my Greasemonkey for enabling me to tweak my Gmail and Google RSS browser."

Well, you may not actually hear someone utter all of these terms in the same breath, however these terms are becoming the new web norm. The important thing here is that the web is changing from the ole days from your simple searches and readings. Today we have a very interactive web that users can manipulate sites to run the way they want and need them to for better personal usage. More on this later...But how about these weird terms:

Wikipedia: Many researchers, including journalists such as Amber MacArthur (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amber_MacArthur) and Leo Laporte (<http://leoville.com/Main/Bio>) who host the infamous Podcast online: Net@Nite (www.twit.tv/ITN) are hooked on this

online all-in-one research tool. For full details on Wikipedia, an online resource that is fastly becoming very popular in all sectors of society, head on over to <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:About>

Mashup: No, this has nothing to do with potatoes. The original term: "is a Jamaican Creole term meaning to destroy" (Wikipedia).

Today's use for the term, Mashup, is reserved for websites that utilize more than one program from various sources. For instance: "Say, for example, you create an application that compares Google, Yahoo, and MSN search results" (www.1keydata.com/blog/2006/10/depository-of-mashup-programs.html). This would be considered a mashup.

Many community websites, as well as professional sites are now using Mashups. Google maps are intergrated with mashups: "These so called Google 'mashups' are being used by community groups for purposes such as disaster relief and there are now hundreds available. Services such as Frappr build on Google Maps to provide easy access without the need to write any code. In general a mashup is any web feature that builds on services provided by other sites" (<http://fullmeasure.co.uk/mashups/ecsitemap.htm>).

Greasemonkey: This program allows the web user to design scripts that make websites do what you need them to do.

Greasemonkey is a "a browser extension that enables users to customize how Web sites display on their computers. Once Greasemonkey has been installed, user scripts enable changes to the elements of Web pages. A user script may be either general or specific to a particular site. For example, a user script for Google called "Butler" makes it possible for users to remove advertisements and add links to Google search results" (http://whatis.techtarget.com/definition/0,,sid9_gci1081776,00.html).

Mark Pilgram, from O'Reilly's, explains it this way: "Greasemonkey is a Firefox extension that allows you to write scripts that alter the web pages you visit. You can use it to make a website more readable or more usable. You can fix bugs that the site owner can't be bothered to fix themselves. You can alter pages so they work better with assistive technologies that speak to a web page aloud or convert it to Braille. You can even automatically retrieve data from other sites to make two sites more interconnected." For the detailed data on this subject: (www.oreillynet.com/pub/a/network/2005/09/01/what-is-greasemonkey.html).

IE users can get: GreasemonkIE - Be careful out there



SCUG PEOPLE HARD AT IT...

Jim Verdon
SCUG Member



Jim Verdon is one of the founders of SCUG back in 1982. Jim is also involved with our Sister club in Port Huron: "Computer Operators of Marysville and Port Huron". For more about COMP go to their exciting new site: www.bwcomp.org and say hello. Don't forget SCUG members get a one-way token paid by COMP to attend their meetings.



Norm Lamoureux
SCUG's Program
Coordinator

Interested in a brand new computer program? Norm is the person you need to talk to...

Everyone knows Norm. He's the guy who probably holds the record for attending the most SCUG meetings, including SCUG Executive meetings. If you want to know ANYTHING about SCUG, Norm's the man.

Norm also is SCUG's contact person for computer companies. If there is a computer program out there that you like to test drive, again Norm is the guy. Simply contact Norm and tell him the program that you are interested in doing a review on and he will do his utmost to get that program for you. And don't forget...Once you complete the review for SCUG Report you then get to keep the program. So, contact Norm now: coordinator@scug.ca



Bill Colotelo
SCUG's
Vice President...

Like Uncle
Sam, **BILL
WANTS
YOU!!!**

Each year at this time the SCUG VP begins to organize the SCUG election. All positions (listed on the front page of this paper) are up for grabs. If you are in-

terested in any position within the SCUG Executive, or giving us some of your most valuable time; we are always looking for volunteers to help out with our meetings, such as putting up chairs before hand, helping Linda with the coffee, helping Pierre with the setup and helping out other Executives who need a hand setting up the tables. Most of these duties require ONLY that you come a tad early to give us a helping hand. Please give a thought to helping out with your club...Contact Bill today: vicepresident@scug.ca

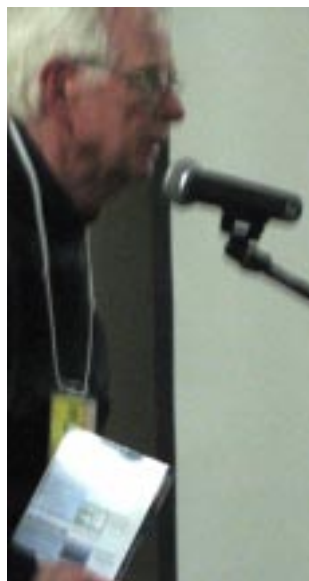


Wilf Coulter is
SCUG's
Public Relations

...and also

The GOODIE GUY

Wilf is the person who goes out to the various local computer related companies to try and get them to advertise with SCUG.



Wilf is better known for the Compuprize getter and he does a great job at getting us some amazing prizes each month. There are some great prizes for the Anniversary in May...*search the rest of this paper for details...*

Thanks to FUTURE SHOP Guests at the March General Meeting.



R - Matt Fisher-Product Expert & Department Lead
L - Ged Smyth-Dept Sales Manager



Matt and Ged fielding many questions



Ged demonstrating an underwater camera in a bowl of water that actually survives the test.



Matt handing out 10% discount coupons for Future Shop, a SCUG perk for members.

Once again, SCUG would like to thank Future Shop employees, Matt and Ged, for an excellent demonstration of what the future holds in technology. SCUG thanks Future Shop for their generous prizes and we look forward to many more of their demonstrations in the future.

Get Organized Now!!

By Sandy Berger
CompuKISS
www.compukiss.com
sandy(at)compukiss.com

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

With today's complex world and multi-tasking, it is not surprising that we all seem to have too much to remember. The time-honored "to-do list" is still a suitable way to keep all of your tasks remembered and organized. Now the to-do list has gone high tech with Gubb an online list-maker.

Gubb is simple, effective, and free. Just surf over to www.gubb.net and click on the large Start Here button. Enter your email address and the username and password that you want to use. Gubb will present you with preformatted lists or you can create your own from scratch. Each list can have a different background color or you can make them all the same.

Gubb made PC Magazine's list of the 10 worst application names, but don't let the name throw you. Gubb is a winner despite its name. Gubb's clean and simple interface makes it easy to create lists and to add, edit, or delete items. Important items can have one, two, or three stars. You can sort items by priority, date due, completed items, or alphabetically. Especially useful is the ability to rearrange items in a list by dragging and dropping them. You can also drag and drop the lists themselves to position them on your screen. If your lists get too long, you can collapse them so you see only the title, opening them to full length as you need them.

If crossing items off your list as you complete them gives you a sense of satisfaction, Gubb will let you perform that task quite easily. Just click in the check box next to each item and Gubb puts a line through the item and marks it as completed. Gubb can also move the item to a completed list automatically or you can set it up so that you can archive your completed items at the end of the day, or any time of your choosing. If at anytime you need to see if, or when, you completed a task, you simply click on the name of the list to look at all the completed items and the time and date that you marked them complete.

These features alone make this Web service worthwhile, but there is more. You can share your lists with others. You can email or text message items right into your lists. You can have any of your lists emailed to yourself or to others. If you have an Internet-connected cell phone,

Continued on page 9

Continued from page 8 - Organized lists can also be sent to your phone. So if you were in a grocery store and needed your shopping list, with the right equipment, you could access it from Gubb on your cell phone. All this may sound a bit complicated, but Gubb has done an exemplary job of keeping all these tasks easy to do.

My husband and I have each created multiple lists. We also have several lists that we share. Since we work together, this has really helped keep us organized both at home and at work. He can add items to my office or home lists and I can add anything I like to his office or home "honey-do" list. Gubb is helping us keep synchronized as well as organized.

Gubb is not perfect, but it is close. My complaints are pretty minor. I would love the ability to create several categories within each list. I would also like to be able to easily see if my husband added something to my list or vice versa. The program offers 3 shades of each of the following colors: blue, red, yellow, green, orange, pink, and gray. That's 21 colors to choose from so I am really being picky when I say I would like to be able to use purple, turquoise blue, and lime green for my lists. Okay, I know I am being hard to please, but maybe the Gubb creators will accommodate my wishes.

A recent survey showed that 25% of New Year resolutions are completely forgotten, but now you can use Gubb to resurrect your "I am going to be more organized." resolution. Sometimes getting organized means buying shelves, bins, baskets, and folders, but if you have an Internet-connected computer, Gubb will help you get organized without any expense. Go ahead. Do it. It will feel great to get all those scraps of paper and to-do notes off your desk and to get all those to do items off your mind. I know, because Gubb has helped me do just that!

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25th. SCUG ANNIVERSARY PARTY PRIZES

Portable Hard Drive-80 GB. USB Powered, no separate power supply needed.

Kodak EasyShare C533 Digital Camera, 5.0 MP, 3X Optical Zoom

(prizes at SCUG's 25th Anniversary Party May 30th.)

SARNIA HOBBYFEST - July 15, 2007 SCUG IS BACK IN ACTION



Contact Norm for more information. We will post more on the upcoming HOBBYFEST as we gather up the info. All members are encouraged to stop by to say hi, and to support the club at this great event. Many SCUG members joined via this event. Norm: coordinator@scug.ca

Canada ranks as the 11th country in the world for Internet usage with 20.45 million users, 63.5% of the total population. 53.6% of Canadians connect to the Internet using a type of high-speed connection, compared to 33.8% in the US. Canadians differ greatly from Americans. In particular, 48% of Internet users connect at least three times per day (Wikipedia)



ATTENTION ALL SCUG JAVA USERS...



During the General Meetings coffee is provided at a minimal donation of 50 cents. This amount is to offset the costs. We will continue to provide this service at each General Meeting. If you wish to give Linda a hand...She will appreciate it. Thanks for your continued support. For the upcoming Anniversary meeting May 30th. the coffee will be FREE.

Windows XP Upgrade to Vista

By Vinny LaBash

Member of Sarasota PCUG, Florida
www.spcug.org - labash(at)spcug.org

Previous versions of Windows always accepted an installation disk as proof you had a legitimate copy of Windows. This entitled you to install the upgrade version of the latest release of the operating system. Vista doesn't work the same way. The only thing it will recognize is a copy of Windows already installed on a hard drive. Why Microsoft did this remains a mystery, but perhaps there really are things that mere mortals are not meant to know.

Don't go out and splurge on a full version of Vista. Read on and save some money. There are four primary versions of Vista:

Vista Home Basic
Vista Home Premium
Vista Business
Vista Ultimate

The difference between the full and upgrade versions of each variation of Vista ranges between \$72 and \$155. Even though Vista is a big improvement over XP, why spend the extra money for a full version if you don't have to?

If you're attempting to upgrade from a version of XP or Windows 2000 that's already installed on your hard drive, the upgrade version of Vista will install as soon as it recognizes the older version of Windows on your system. However, if you've formatted your hard drive, Vista refuses to accept an installation disk from a previous version of Windows as evidence that you do indeed own a legitimate copy of Microsoft's flagship product.

Fortunately, there is a legitimate method to work around this otherwise severe and unnecessary restriction. There is an undocumented procedure that allows you to do a full clean install of Vista to a physical hard drive without a previous version of the operating system installed.

The setup program in the Vista upgrade is the tool that lets you perform a full clean install of the product. In addition to XP and Windows 2000, Vista will recognize a copy of itself that has not yet been activated. What if we install Vista twice? We are going to install Vista, and then "upgrade" to Vista. Before you do ANYTHING, please read the entire 20 step procedure first. I'll wait while you do this. OK, let's get started.

1. Boot your PC from the Vista DVD.
2. In the dialog box that comes up select "Install Now". DO NOT enter the product key at this time. You'll do that later.
3. Turn off the option that that says Automatically activate Windows when I'm online.
4. Another dialog box comes up. Confirm the Vista installation without the product key.
5. Tell the installation program what version of Vista you're installing. Don't fib about this.
6. This step is important. Select the "Custom (Advanced)" install, NOT the "Upgrade" install.

7. Wait for the install program to copy files. Your system will probably reboot several times. Don't touch anything. Let the install complete.
8. Eject the installation DVD WITHOUT activating Vista.
9. Reboot to make sure everything is working OK.
10. Reinsert the Vista installation diskette and run setup again.
11. Click "Install Now".
12. Select Do not get the latest updates for installation. You can do that later.
13. Enter the product key.
14. Turn off the option to Automatically activate Windows when I'm online.
15. Now select "Upgrade," not "Custom (Advanced)." This is where you do the actual "upgrade" to Vista.
16. Pay attention! Don't do anything while the setup program copies files and does a reboot.
17. At some point the system will ask if you would like to boot from the DVD. Decline the invitation.
18. No matter what happens on the screen, leave the keyboard and mouse alone. Resist the urge to do something. Vista setup is making all the right choices for you automatically.
19. The Thank You dialog box will eventually appear. Click Start.
20. Vista's login screen will come up shortly. Enter the user name and password you created during the first installation.

Congratulations! You're finished upgrading to Vista, but you still have a housekeeping chore to perform. You have to activate Vista within 30 days of installation or it will cease working properly. To activate Vista:

1. Reboot your machine.
2. The Welcome Center appears.
3. Click Show more details.
4. Click Activate Windows now.
5. Activation will now take place automatically over the internet.

It is unknown why Microsoft programmed this procedure into the setup program. My conjecture is that the procedure was implemented for the convenience of programmers while testing the product and someone decided that it was too much trouble to remove. Another possibility is that when Microsoft management gave the order to stop development and concentrate on fixing bugs, there was no time to remove the feature before product release. Whatever the case may be, let's use Microsoft's perhaps unintentional gift to save a few bucks.

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INFORMATION SARNIA LAMBTON

by Norm Lamoureux
SCUG Program Coordinator

ISL has more changes...

A lot has happened to Information Sarnia Lambton since its beginning in the 1960's.

In 1996, when I took over as database Manger, we were using a DOS based database called Edibase. In 1999, when we moved into a website, we were using ASK SAM, a Windows free form database but still needed to cut and paste and create over 900 web pages for our database.

In 2007, we are now using the CIOC database, which many Community Information Centres now use. It includes mappng of locations through Mapquest and also makes publishing our printed book easier and faster for me. Before it would take over a month to create a printed book, now with this software, it takes 10 seconds and also has name and subject indexes.

ISL will be printing a 2007 Community Services Directory soon but it needs to be updated. If you are a non-profit group in Sarnia or Lambton County, please go to our website and check your listing. ISL has now moved its data to CIOC software, which now includes location mapping and easier book production. For more information, go to www.informationssarnialambton.org or phone 519-542-5757.

According to Stats Canada, "Among home users, over 4 out of 10 (43%) men aged 18 to 24, and about one-third (34%) of their female counterparts, spent 10 hours or more on-line during a typical week."

I'll bet that SCUG members blow these figures right off their LCD screens.

TO VISTA OR NOT TO VISTA???

Are you switching to Windows Vista? If so, let us know how the switchover went for you and we are interested in how you find Vista compared to your old operating system.

Fred Langa, Editor of Windows Secrets free newsletter reports that some say you need 4 GB of RAM to run Vista. However, Fred points out the real stats your computer needs to run this new operating system:

"Microsoft's "recommended" standard — including a 1GHz CPU, 1GB of RAM, a graphics card with at least 128 MB of video RAM, a WDDM driver, and 32 bits/pixel output — is a more realistic minimum for real-life use, where you'd actually be trying to be productive with Vista. A system like this should allow all the key components of Vista to load and run. But even then, a "recommended" hardware standard is not the same as an "optimal" setup."

Personally, I think that I will keep on computing with my Windows XP. That is until my computers say they don't want to play anymore and it is time for a new system. Maybe the price of Vista will be lower and all the bugs will be gone...Wishing thinking? Probably, but time will tell. A long time, I hope. I have not see any real features in Vista, thus far, that makes me want to envy anyone who has it on their computer, and until such time, I will stick with my Windows XP thank you.

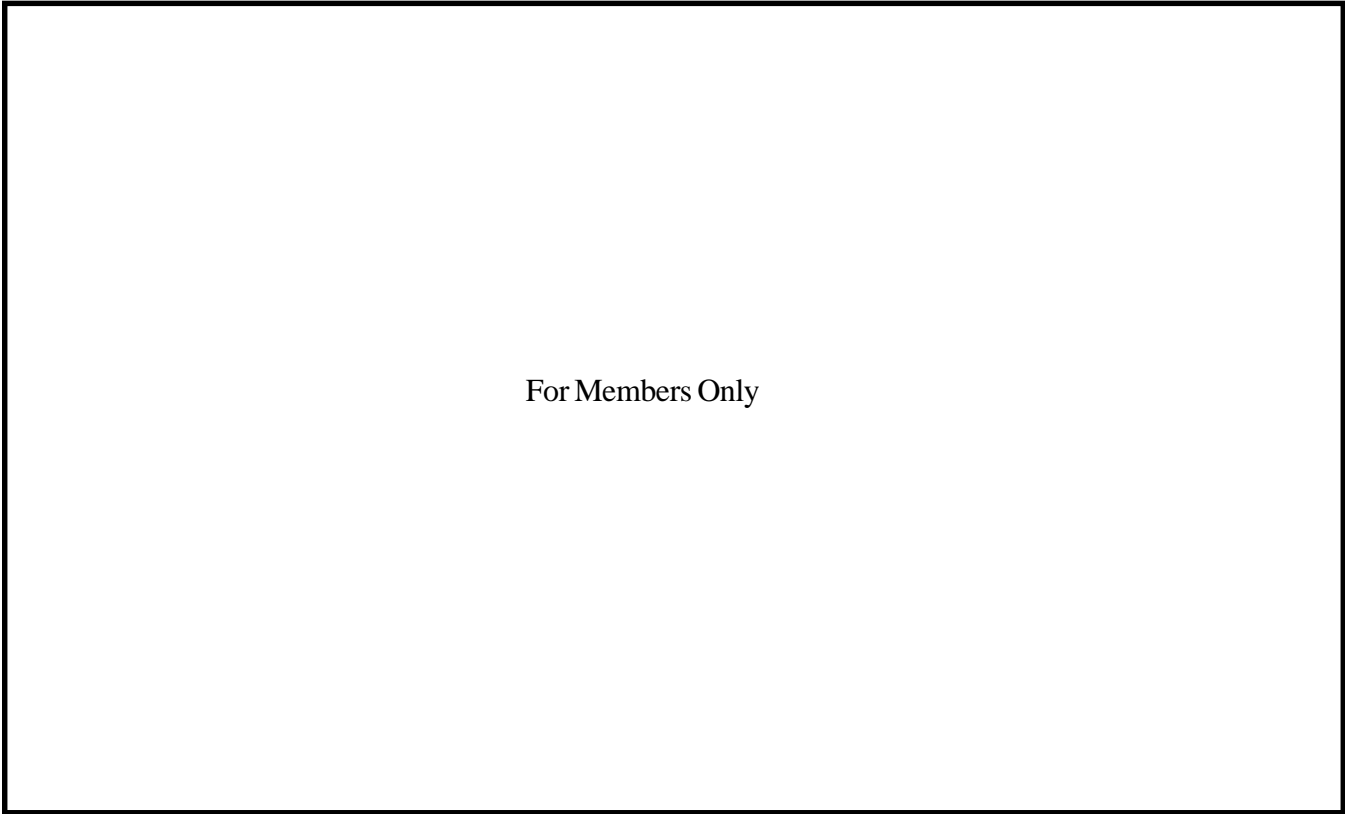
HOW LONG DO CDs & DVDs LAST???

Fred says the jury is still out on this topic, however he does offer "The honest answer is that no one really knows how many years these discs will last, because burnable CD-Rs and DVD-Rs haven't been around long enough. All the studies you see on the life expectancy of CDs and CD-Rs are based on accelerated-aging tests, which are really just a form of educated guess."

A very interesting site discussing the life of CDs and DVDs, that has logged over 7 million hits, and is very informative about the life and death of this medium is here: www.cdrfaq.org/faq07.html#S7-5

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For Members Only

LINUX Ubuntu MADE REALLY EASY WITH A DUAL BOOT TO BOOT



Linux made REALLY easy this time. You can even test drive it with only a few clicks. And the best of all thing about the new Ubuntu Linux is that it comes with a dual boot, meaning you can EASILY switch back and forth on your computer between Linux and Window with quick click. In fact PCWorld states that, "Creating a dual-boot setup on a Windows machine is as easy as selecting that option when you install Ubuntu. As you switch between the two operating systems in your day-to-day work, you'll be able to assess for yourself the killer features, incompatibilities, and showstopping flaws that make one a better choice than the other." For the entire scoop on Ubuntu Linux go here: www.pcworld.com/article/id,128136/article.html - Maybe some SCUG members will resurrect Linux SIG?

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June 2007

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