

NEWSbits

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MAY : CD-BURNING SUCCESSFULLY WITH RAY PATERNOSTRO

Ray Paternostro, President of NOPC, and member of CCUG-PC was our May 1 speaker. His presentation was entitled, "How to Burn CD'S and DVD's Successfully."

At this meeting, Ray's goal was to introduce members to the various types of CD/DVD media available for purchase today, demonstrate the burning process using Nero Express (Nero Burning Rom) software and steps used to produce a project successfully. Ray accomplished his goal and more!

Starting with a CD-rom, he contrasted the various types of CD-media in the market. They included the CD-ROM (your average compact disC—notice the "c" is used for CD's while a "k" as in disK pertains to a disKette), the CD-RW (rewriteable), the DVD-R, DVD-RW, DVD-R+/-, etc. Grasping a Microsoft Security update CD,



Ray created a copy of the Microsoft CD with the use of the copy button in Nero Express and how painless it seemed to the viewers. As Nero Express takes you through a wizard of selecting the type of burner for the project (in the

event there are 2 or more types mounted in a computer), choosing the project of burning DATA, MUSIC CD's, Video/Pictures, Copying an entire CD, or saving an ISO (image of the CD) or saved project.

Ray explained that the alternate burning program he used was Roxio's CD-Creator which uses similar

projects activities, but in a more graphical way. Either program/method he explained is supported in most computer systems which come with a "burner" or CD/DVD writer. The newest versions help support DVD burning, he said.

(CD-Burning., continues on page 5)



**HP DVD 420i
DVD-RW Burner**

Preserve precious memories for future viewing on long-lasting, durable DVDs, which protect your video and movies transfer home video tapes, photos, music, data, and more. Store more than six CDs' worth of material on one DVD knowing that it will all work better together. Will you win today??

Get your tickets today. Now—7 for \$10.00!

Upcoming Presentation

Harry Cancienne

July

Tuning Up Your PC!



Many of you recall Harry's last presentation a year or so on Search Engines—a qualified successful presentation. Now Harry's back to help you with great ideas about caring for your computer equipment. Whether it's cleaning up your old files, defragging, seeking and removing errors or tips on keeping the 'puter in great shape Harry will show you how!!

Article

Get Rid of Spam or How do I Stop Spam?



Go a step beyond filters and the "unsubscribe lists" to block spam. This isn't about complaining or legislation. This is a method to stop spam from coming to your private e-mail address. I

don't know of anyone who likes to receive e-mail from from all of those unsolicited marketers, get rich quick, and scam artists. If you really want to stop junk mail from your coming to your inbox, take a look at this method. Here's how to eliminate the flow of junk e-mail to your personal e-mail account.

I've been online for a long time. My e-mail addresses were floating around for years, and I reached the point that I was receiving 10 to 50 junk e-mails every day! I tried filters and "junk lists" in my e-mail program to stop it. It doesn't work. New spam from a different source kept coming. Finally, one day I snapped. I went on a mission to stop spam in my daily life. It worked. Here's how I did it. Even if you don't do everything I've done, you can still put a serious dent in the amount of spam coming to your mailbox by following these tips:



Back to BASICS

"Have you tried "Back to Basics?" "Back to Basics" is a very popular member benefit.



Long time board member & Member Representative Margaret Wynn as well as other members have devoted themselves to helping members & new guests with their questions and problems in a

semiprivate environment that is a quickly growing segment of our membership! *Meets from 9:30-10:20 A.M. monthly before the general meeting.*

Try it once, you'll instantly want to join the group at a low price membership of only \$25.00 per year...(Where else can you get so much information at about 2 bucks a month?) We're the "best kept secret in the whole Metro area" according to *WWL-TV's Jerry Serigni of Digital Gumbo!* Don't wait—join today and enjoy *all the member benefits!*

Setup a SPAM magnet e-mail account. Junk e-mailers want to send you e-mail. They love to send you e-mail. They go to great lengths to force it down your throat. Fine. Give them a place to send it. Setup a free e-mail account at any of the many free e-mail access websites. Personally, I prefer www.hotmail.com for this "spam magnet" account for several reasons: 1) Because they are notorious for allowing spammers to operate. Use it to your advantage. 2) The account works in-hand with Microsoft's Passport scheme. Like most things from Microsoft, you'll probably end up having to use, or needing it at some point, anyway. 3) You can set hotmail to automatically dump all the unread (junk) mail every week. Just go into the account once every month or so to keep it active.

I go one step further. I set the option to always delete all mail unless the sender is in my hotmail address book. I never add anyone to my address book. The only one who can send me messages is the hotmail administrative staff. This is the address to give out. Use it when every you have to enter a valid e-mail address for a vendor, but you know you never what to receive anything from them. If they sell your address to a million spammers—you don't care! You'll never see it!

Setup an exception e-mail account. There's a catch. A lot of times, you need to give your email address online and you need to receive a response. For example, if you order a piece of software, or try a demo program, the vendor many times needs to e-mail you a registration key. Or, if you're shipping something, you may want to receive a notice. Or, you submit a technical support question on a form, and you need to get the reply. There are valid exceptions. Don't give out your private, personal e-mail account. Setup a free e-mail account at one of the many free e-mail access websites. Personally, I prefer www.yahoo.com for this "exception" account for several reasons. 1) Yahoo! has a great spam blocking system, so even if the address is abused by spammers, almost all spam messages automatically go into a separate "bulk e-mail" junk folder. 2) Yahoo! e-mail allows you to block mail from any individual sender simply by clicking on a "Block Address" link at the top of any message. Use this e-mail address for everything else.

Never give out your private "real" e-mail address. This one is important. NEVER. Don't write it down on a piece of paper, don't enter it into a screen, don't sign a guestbook using it, don't even give it to your mother or your best friend. Instead, give out your "exception" e-mail address. Then once communication is started, send a message to their e-mail address from your private "real" email program and let them reply directly to it. Encourage them to remember and use your exception address unless they are replying directly to you in an e-mail. Why? If your friend, mother, or "Dear Aunt Piddy" sends you something online (like an electronic greeting card, or a forwarded "Joke" e-mail that is copied to a dozen people) you're going to get picked up, and put a spam list. It's better that it is sent to your "exception" account.

(Get Rid of Spam, continues on page 8)



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hi CCUG-PC Members:

It's incredible!!

I'm referring to the degree of spam that's hitting the computers at an alarming rate. I consider this farce so appalling that I'm dedicating this issue of Newsbits to those who are suffering from the ill-will generated by the num-chucks that are responsible for it.

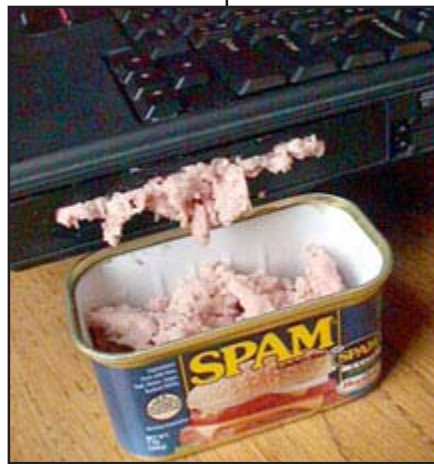
There are bills in Congress, laws on the books, detailed info throughout the web, magazines and media, and still we can't shake it loose from the bottom of our feet!

However, not all of you are getting spammed, Ad-trounced, virus-attacked and browser hacked and those of you who aren't are probably thinking that you're either doing something right, or I think that perhaps you're not doing *anything with the computer!* <smile>..

You just know idiots have to come from behind a good thing like the web and e-mail to want to tear the fabric of desire to use it. Those who I consider that in some cases, prison is just not harsh enough as a punishment! Since this is a family newsletter, I'll keep my politi-

cal verbiage and judgement to myself about what the punishment might be for those who disrupt, hinder, maim and plunder like Cossacks and the cyber-terrorists that they are.

I too, want to see justice rendered. Ieeeeeeeeeee!!! I could just scream!



However, I shall compose myself just long enough to *fight-the-good-fight!*

A great way to attack back is to through awareness.

Educate yourself to the way that Spam is introduced to your computer through e-mail primarily.

Reading and keeping abreast through our group is the way you can stay on top. Don't get discouraged. Pour your outrage on counter-attacking those who cause our anxiety. Read the article on page 1, be mesmerized by the cartoon in this month's newsletter and help me fight-the-good-fight without resorting to picks, shovels and axes. Do it electronically!

Jerry Montalbano

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NOTICE MEETING DATES!!

Upcoming in 2004

Jul. 10
Aug 7
Sep. 11 *All dates are subject to change with room availability permitted*
Oct. 2
Nov. 6
Dec. 4

ARTICLE CONTRIBUTIONS

1996 Lotus Intergalactic Newsletter



CCUG-PC

NEWSBITS Newsletter is published monthly by CCUG-PC. Articles for publication must be submitted, typewritten and on disk to our newsletter staff by the 15th of the month for publication. We welcome all articles of computing interest and we reserve the right to edit when appropriate. **SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES WITH US.** If you have a tip or technique with a software program (or hardware), please enlighten us. All computer related articles are welcomed. Please submit your contributions to us in a file of any disk format or upload to jerryccug@cox.net for our Newsbits Newsletter Staff. CCUG-PC would love to hear from you! Submissions from our members, or reprints from other publications are welcomed, but do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Board of Directors nor the membership. Reprints are granted when credit is given to the author. Submissions of any content, articles or materials become property of CCUG-PC for sole use and publication.

FROM THE DEALS GUY



by *Bob Click*, Greater
Orlando Computer User Group



Because of all the great feedback, I'll start this month off with more about interesting trade shows we have worked, but I'd like to change the topic next month to technology for homes.

March began with one of my favorite shows called MegaCon, otherwise known as the "Comic Book" show. I first worked it last year and was warned I would be seeing all those crazies and weirdoes. Well, I WAS certainly surprised, but I didn't interpret the attendees that way at all. I saw many people who loved their hobby and had even hand crafted their costumes to represent certain characters, such as comic book, game, space and other characters. Many costumes were absolutely gorgeous. I saw bodies and faces that required much time for makeup to get the necessary effect, and yes, some looked weird (like they are supposed to). I enjoyed the folks with the space suits and those looked pretty awkward to wear. One young woman was a bit too daring with her costume, but she was quickly noticed, escorted from the show and informed that paint does not substitute for wearing an upper garment in public, especially when there are children present. Never mind that the men loved it. We stopped another woman with extremely skimpy lower attire and referred her to show management.

Looking for a badge or wristband on people entering with costumes was not easy, but some held them out or pointed to them for us. The show occupied 108,000 sq. ft. of exhibit space with about a quarter of it devoted to special artistry tables, celebrity autograph tables, game tables and the food area. The rest was vendor booths. There were lots of things other than comic books, including robots and digital badges. This show also used several large meeting rooms off the lobby area that worked with such things as games and animation movies in 3D. They well exceeded the 20,000 expected attendees and the show floor was very packed. There were eight famous celebrities, such as June Lockhart and Angela Cartwright (of Lost In Space fame) signing autographs. We met most of them since they went through our entrance, and they were great people. My grandson took home my show guide so I can't list them all.

I talked to many attendees asking how they acquired their beautiful costumes and most said they had hand crafted it themselves with help from family members. I talked to many people with professional jobs and good incomes that loved this hobby. Even though I had a very intensive job, I was entertained all day long just by watching the people. I saw more daring cleavage during this show than any other I have worked. Remember, a badge or wristband (some won't wear a wristband on the wrist) might actually be looped anywhere so they are difficult to spot. Of all the

shows I have worked, this show's attendees were by far the nicest to work with. We were never angrily challenged for trying to enforce the rules and everybody simply asked what they had to do. Mostly, acquiring a proper badge or wristband was the answer. Even though this show was mostly young people, there were some older generation and a few seniors. Since there were three other trade shows in the building at the same time, some tried to use other badges.

We also worked the Home Electronics Expo [<http://www.ehx2004.com>] and [<http://www.virtualEHXspring.com>] in March and I was impressed with all the amazing technology that can improve your lifestyle (at a price). Most of it was about automated/remote lighting (low voltage), video and sound. All this can be controlled from anywhere in the house that you desire, and even remotely if you prefer. You can dial home (phone or computer) and check your refrigerator (if you're stopping at the store), start the food preparation, have your favorite music going and set the house temperature as well as take a look at the children or pets through a camera. There were lots of wall mounted thin screen TVs in the show, but the largest I saw on display was only a 60" plasma screen (they come as large as 80"). Many vendors specialized in cabling, or switching, only. Others specialized in audio or video specialty installations and a few distributors such as Worthington had booths. There were a multitude of audio speaker designs, including some wall mounted ones that blended in with the decor, but had great sound.

There were also electrically operated driveway gates, garage doors, and even windows that would close automatically, such as by a rain sensor, or by remote control. A couple of booths offered timed or remote controlled drapery rods and vertical blinds. My favorite booth was the one with weather stations. [<http://www.peetbros.com>] I was devastated when my own weather station went out a year ago, but it was a 20-year-old Heathkit and that company was gone years ago. I need a new one. I liked the design of these because of the illuminated readings rather than LCD, and it so happens their offices are within driving distance for me to check on a deal.

Unfortunately I missed working the Microsoft Show being held at the Gaylord Palms Resort, but we prefer not to work for the company that was given the security job, although they had asked us. Now here is what I have:



Reminder On A Great Software Deals

Colleen Toumayan from Executive Software called to remind us all that their special offer for Diskeeper Professional Edition 8.0 bundled with Undelete Home Edition for just \$49.95 is still good. Check at [<http://>

(Bob Click continues on next page 5)

consumer.execsoft.com/home.asp] to order this bargain. We all know what great products Executive Software produces.



We All Like Freebies

Sally Springette, Editor for The Rochester Computer Society Monitor [<http://www.rcsi.org>], sent me this URL that I found interesting and felt you might like it also. If you don't like rebates, then skip this and keep going. This URL [<http://www.freeafterrebate.info/index.php?topic=Hardware>] offers leads to purchasing products that will be free after the rebates. Be aware that third-party vendors offer these products and you should do your own homework diligently before you decide to order. It might even be an older or discontinued product and you will probably pay a shipping charge. With that caveat in mind, check it out and I imagine that it will change quite often.



Help For Your E-mail

I have a couple of friends who use MailWasher and say it works pretty well to eliminate spam, although it stopped a few legitimate e-mails at times. I questioned Hewie Poplock, a good friend whose opinion I value, who has used MailWasher for a two years and he is completely sold. He says if you set it up right, it won't filter out good messages, but if you get too fussy, it could happen. Sounds logical, but I have not had enough experience as yet. It incorporates learning by Bayesian statistics and uses FirstAlert!, a real-time global spam database. Something else I like is that you can check your e-mail right on the server instead of on your own computer, if you prefer.

Mathew Miller, Product Development Manager for MailWasher, made a special offer available for user group people and I asked him to extend the deadline so I could include it in my June column. He agreed so you get the price advantage. Mathew is offering us MailWasher Pro and a one-year subscription to FirstAlert for just \$29.95, a saving of \$7.00. You will need the promotional code of QTUGAD to order. This offer is good until July 31, 2004. Get more info on this tool for all that disgusting spam and download at [<http://www.firetrust.com/products/pro/>].

That's it for this month.

Meet me here again next month if your editor permits. This column is written to make user group members aware of special offers or freebies I have found or arranged, and my comments should not be interpreted to encourage, or discourage, the purchase of any products, no matter how enthused I might sound.

Bob (The Cheapskate) *Click ! !*



Common E-Mail Mistakes

by Kim Komando

Billions of e-mail messages travel throughout the Internet every day. Here are six easily avoidable e-mail mistakes.

1. Writing too much

The whole purpose of e-mail is brevity. If you want to write a letter, then write a letter. A long e-mail just encourages the recipient to skim it or worse, not read it at all. If what you have to say is really that complicated, you should probably pick up the telephone.



2. Using sarcasm

Try to look at your e-mail from the recipient's point of view. What may be acceptable in a face-to-face conversation does not always translate well in written form. The recipient can't see your body language. That's why some people use emoticons. They are the Internet equivalent of body language.

(Komando, continues on page 7)



(CD-Burning, continued from page 1)

Using the Nero program, Ray was able to take selected files and drag 'n drop files from one area of the hard drive into Nero as a DATA backup to CD's. He prefers using TDK, Memorex and Fuji for his burning projects.

"Burning songs is a cinch using the program," he mentioned. Although you can use the Audio feature (cautions that CD' called Music or Audio CD's are not better than a good brand of unlabeled for audio CD one), to create an audio/music CD which converts it into CDA's for playing in your standardly supported CD players, you can just use the DATA project to copy MP3's over to the CD for playing multiple files.

Just about every topic on CD burning (including safety, backups, purchasing, care and technique) was discussed in this wonderful presentation by Paternostro. The members got their notebooks and pens humming to record (and one member had a tape recorder as not to miss what Ray was saying) good tips and ideas about CD-Burning.

Our thanks to Ray Paternostro for a great job and hope that he returns for other great computer-related demonstrations!

June, 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>May 30</i> On Computers WODT AM 1280 12:05PM-3:00PM Web/CNet	<i>May 31</i> TechTV Daily-Mon-Fri The Screen Savers 6 PM Cox Ch.355	<i>Jun 1</i>	<i>Jun 2</i> Can you write an article about a product you've tried?	<i>Jun 3</i> We can use your help! Just submit it to us. We'll do the rest!!	<i>Jun 4</i>	<i>Jun 5</i> Security Risks to Your Computer with Jerry Seregni
<i>Jun 6</i> On Computers WODT AM 1280 12:05PM-3:00PM Web/CNet	<i>Jun 7</i> TechTV Daily-Mon-Fri The Screen Savers 6/11 PM Cox Ch.355	<i>Jun 8</i>	<i>Jun 9</i>	<i>Jun 10</i>	<i>Jun 11</i>	<i>Jun 12</i> Living with Electronics 10.am Radio 690 am
<i>Jun 13</i> On Computers WODT AM 1280 12:05PM-3:00PM Web/CNet	<i>Jun 14</i> Flag Day 	<i>Jun 15</i> Newsbits Deadline	<i>Jun 16</i>	<i>Jun 17</i>	<i>Jun 18</i> HOT!!	<i>Jun 19</i> Living with Electronics 10.am Radio 690 am
<i>Jun 20</i> 	<i>Jun 21</i> 1st Day of Summer	<i>Jun 22</i>	<i>Jun 23</i>	<i>Jun 24</i>	<i>Jun 25</i>	<i>Jun 26</i> Living with Electronics 10.am Radio 690 am
<i>Jun 27</i> On Computers WODT AM 1280 12:05PM-3:00PM Web/CNet	<i>Jun 28</i> TechTV Daily-Mon-Fri The Screen Savers 6/11 PM Cox Ch.355	<i>Jun 29</i> BOD Meeting 	<i>Jun 30</i>	<i>Jul 1</i>	<i>Jul 2</i>	<i>Jul 3</i> Living with Electronics 10.am Radio 690 am
<i>Jul 4</i> 	<i>Jul 5</i>	<i>Jul 6</i>	<i>Jul 7</i>	<i>Jul 8</i>	<i>Jul 9</i> NOTE: 10th ⇨	 CCUG-PC Meets: 10AM Fine Tune: Computers Harry Cancienne

CCUG-PC General Meeting

8201 W. Judge Perez (Gov't Complex Bldg.), Chalmette, LA.

Board of Directors Meeting

Nunez Community College Library Conference Room 1-102



with Jerry Montalbano

Q *I am frustrated and have decided to give up on spell check not appearing as grayed out in Outlook Express when I compose a letter. The tech help at ***** was worthless. The guy who promised to call me at 3:30 never did. Got another one who finally just hung up. Third guy was worse. I demanded to speak to a Supervisor, so the tech just walked off and never came back on line. I can live with out spell check. I sure appreciate the effort you put into helping me with my problem. You sure have a lot of patience.*

A Why give up when a solution is so close at hand, my friend! I've never run into this problem, but after the use of the wonderful WEB, I came across a solution. When you bought your computer, it didn't have Microsoft Office installed I bet. All versions of MS outlook Express uses the MS "spell checking engine" included in Office. Although there is a file called "Csapi3t1.dll" which can get corrupted in your "Program Files\Common Files\Microsoft Shared\Proof" folder and can be downloaded from the web (search), simply by installing your office (97, 2002, 2003), you'll get to enjoy the bliss that your spell checker in Outlook Express can once again provide for you! Good luck!

Q My Cox Toshiba PCX1100U modem won't connect from time to time. This morning it wouldn't work for heck and this afternoon it's working fine. I talked to tech support and they thought it was bad too. Could it be a glitch in Windows XP that it doesn't always work? This morning I rebooted several times and unplugged and replugged..the cable light just kept blinking. I bought a new one this afternnon at Office Depot, but when I started computer old one runs fine. This has been happening about every 2 weeks. Just wanted to know if you ran across similar....

A From time to time service is disconnected or being worked on. The 3 top lights should always be lit with the data 4th light, blinking exchanging info. If the 1st Power and Network (1st/3rd light), its a problem getting the "feed" from Cox. (Cable light). If the Power and Cable light is on and the Network light is off, it's your computer/network card problem).



(Komando continued from page 5)

Or, there's the sad face with the open parenthesis mark :-(.

Avoid using emoticons in business e-mail. But if you must, don't overuse them. They interrupt the flow of words. One or two should do the trick.

3. Expressing anger

Most people use care when selecting words when they speak with another. E-mail makes it easier to forget yourself. If you're really angry, a 24-hour wait might be in order. Remember: Once you send it, you can't get it back. And there's no body language to lighten the impact of your words. If they sound harsh, they will be taken that way.

Capital letters just drive your anger home. Using all capital letters is considered yelling in the e-mail world. Save it for good news. They may still irritate your recipients, but they shouldn't alienate them.

4. Forwarding junk

Don't forward virus warnings and urban legends. They are invariably hoaxes. These things are usually characterized by a vague reference to a news report months ago. And they always admonish you to forward the warning to everyone you know.

The anti-virus companies watch closely for new viruses. They immediately build antidotes into their software updates. Assuming the warning is not a hoax (it almost certainly is), an antidote would have been developed ages ago.

Same goes for urban legends. Bill Gates giving away money. Poodles in microwaves. Needles in movie theater seats. Busy people will not appreciate getting this stuff from you.

You can always check virus warnings and urban legends on the Internet. Hoaxbusters (<http://hoaxbusters.ciac.org/>) is a good place to start.

5. Moving too quickly

Careless grammar and misspellings will undermine the most important message. Sure, you're in a hurry. But if your recipient has to e-mail you for a clarification, you'll end up wasting a lot of time.

Take the time to be sure that any attachments are actually attached. And be sure you're sending the e-mail to the correct person. If you're writing to someone about a third party, don't send the e-mail to the third party. That's easy to do and can be very embarrassing.

(Komando, E-Mail continues on page 10)

Get Rid of Spam, continued from page 2)



This works! I can't remember the last time I received a spam e-mail in my "real" e-mail program. Yet, I daily receive e-mail from friends, family, co-workers, and even some vendors that I communicate with.

My "real" e-mail inbox works exactly as I think we all wish ours did. Once a week (or two, or three) I check my "exception" account. (I also check it more often if I'm waiting for a specific response). In truth, this method worked out better than I thought when I first went on my mission to eliminate spam from my inbox.

What if I'm already receiving tons of spam at my "real" address? You can use all the advice on the page, and eventually the amount of spam will decrease. However, if you really want to stop the spam, the only way is to change your "real" address. Delete your current account and start over. Yes, it's painful, but it's probably the only way to stop the spam quickly.

Other Related Tips and Issues:

Uncheck all "can we notify you" type options on web forms. When you do have to enter information using your "magnet" or "exception" e-mail address, still uncheck any notification options. This is common on web forms, software registration, and other times when your name, address, and e-mail are used. Be sure to watch out for tricky scams like "Check this box not to receive offers from us".

Unsubscribe or Opt-Out. Here's where I disagree with the "experts". I've found that the majority of unsubscribe and "opt-out" of e-mail list options are legitimate. My rule is simple: If the unsubscribe process is a straight forward, use it. For example: Reply and enter "Unsubscribe" as the subject or message -- or a "simple click here to unsubscribe".

On the other hand, if the unsubscribe option requires me to do anything else (like go to a web page and enter information, or type in my e-mail address in a box) I don't do it. Regardless, remember to never use your "real address", even to "opt-out".

Don't post any of your e-mails addresses on-line unless necessary. Even with your "magnet" and "exception" accounts, don't needlessly spread your e-mail address where it will be picked up and spammed. For example, entering your e-mail address on someone's webpage guestbook will get you spammed. Why? Because spammers and the people that sell them your address troll the Internet, scanning web pages for e-mail address -- any e-mail address.

For this reason, if you have a web page, don't use a direct EMAIL ME button or link. Instead, use a form or guestbook

(like the free one at <http://htmlgear.lycos.com>). To see an example, you may look at my e-mail form or check out my guestbook. In either case, there's no way to see my "real" or "exception" e-mail addresses. Another neat trick is to put information in a graphic, and display the graphic containing personal information (i.e. with your name, address, and "exception" e-mail address).

What about rejects of "free accounts" as a valid address? Sometimes, you'll find a company that won't let you enter a valid free e-mail address. They demand to have your "real e-mail address". Danger! While these companies claim to be doing this to "protect you", careful examination of their practices or privacy policy usually reveals they're selling your personal information. Don't fall for this. Ask them what they do for people that don't have a computer or e-mail address. Don't give them your real e-mail account under any circumstance. If they won't relent, and you simply must deal with them, there are a couple of alternatives: 1) Give them some other real e-mail like one from your workplace. 2) Setup a domain and e-mail forwarding. This sounds complicated, but it's really not. You can purchase a domain name with free forwarding for just a few bucks. Cheap domain registration sites (like inexpensivedomains.com) can do this for \$10 to \$20 (or less). The "big" players like Yahoo! Domains will charge two to three times as much. Either way works. With your "real domain" and e-mail forwarding, you can give them a "real domain" e-mail address that goes to your magnet or exception e-mail account. I do it all the time.

Never "just hang up" on a telemarketer. Ok. This isn't about e-mail spam, but it lives in the same bad neighborhood, doesn't it? When telemarketers call, be abrupt, (rude if necessary). IMMEDIATELY ask "From what company are you calling". If they don't respond, repeat it without saying anything else. By law, they must tell you. Next, immediately say "Put this number on your don't call list.". Then hang up. By law, they have to remove you from calling lists. If you have the same company repeat calling, you can actually charge them money. I've only had a few "repeaters". Whenever I inform a "repeater" that I'm going to make a record of the call and charge them for next call, they never call again!

Never respond to questions from a telemarketer. Be rude. Stick to the above script. Once you get "put this number on your don't call list" out, hang up if necessary. Do NOT engage in any conversation. Do not respond in any way to their statements like "Yes sir, we'll remove you from our calling list. This may take a few weeks to take place, is this all right?"

DON'T ANSWER.

Why? There have actually been scumbag marketers that have recorded a person's voice saying "Yes" and used it as authorization to charge, send goods, or change service providers (like your long distance company). ➡

About Your Dues!

—*Bob Fauxcheux, Membership Secretary*

Uh oh. Here we go! We're going to talk about the dues. The alarm just went off--Houston we have a problem; *this is not going to be good.*

Well, maybe not, let's take a look. The board in its wisdom has decided to shake things up a bit. Firstly, in the past, for every new member you brought in you would get a \$5.00 credit when you renewed your dues. Now, for every new member you bring in, you will get a \$25.00 credit toward your dues. Yep, bring in one new member you have a \$25.00 credit; bring in a second new member and you will have a \$50.00 credit you can use to renew your dues. *That's the same as a two-year membership at no cost to you.* For now, we are going to give this idea a test run for one year; beginning April 1, 2004 through March 31, 2005.

Now, for the married folks in the group and any families that want to join. You can now be a member under the family plan. Here is how it works: For the cost of one membership you can have your whole family as a member of CCUG-PC. Everything is the same as if your family were a single member; one newsletter, one white ticket, one red ticket and one place to sign on the sign-in sheet. *But your whole family gets the benefit of being a member of the group.*

Hey!! So what about the married couples in the group that just renewed their dues? Well, any couples that have renewed their dues *since the first of this year will receive a credit for any amount above the cost of one membership.*

It's a good deal folks, take advantage of it and bring some friends to the meeting. They may like what they see and join, **and then everybody wins! BF**

(Get Rid of Spam, continued from page 8)

Instead of responding to any question simply say: "Then as soon as possible, put this number on your don't call list."




and hang up. Simply put, you do not have answer their questions. None! They do have to answer yours, particular those under the Consumer Protection Act. Keep that in mind the next time you get an annoying "spam phone call".

Go to Junkbusters. Junkbusters.com can help you deal with spam, junk mail and telemarketers. They have lots of good advice and forms you can mail to direct marketing companies to greatly reduce the amount of junk mail you receive. One caution, I've tried, and don't personally recommend using their "Guidescope" program for removing ad banners from web pages.

Didya Notice??!

At the May Meeting



-  Jerry "losing it" to laughter after he attempted to auction a 24 Baud modem. Someone bid a high \$1.00 for it!
-  Ray Paternostro, the May 1 speaker using his own computer system for the CD-Burning Successfully demo? Harry Cancienne was seen carrying in a huge 19" CRT monitor through the parking lot.
-  No new members joined in May (after establishing the fact previously that existing members get a year membership free with each new member brought in to join. However, let's work on that!)..



Hello CCUG-PC members, I just wanted to let you know about an upcoming event that I believe would be of interest to many of you.

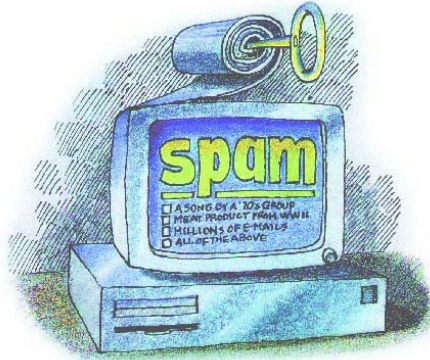
Many of you have seen or heard me talk about eBay. I wanted to let you know that eBay is holding their Third Annual Community Conference here in New Orleans this June.

What is this? It is a place to meet & greet many of the faces behind eBay and get a chance to talk to people from all over the US about their experiences on the most popular auction site. There will be many different "eBay University" classes going on, aimed at all the user levels from the beginning buyer to the experienced seller with an eBay store. This is a multi-day event, from Thursday June 24th to Saturday June 26th at the Morial Convention Center in downtown New Orleans.

The registration fee is \$50 until April 16, \$60 until May 31, and \$70 afterwards. This covers all the general sessions and the eBay U classes for all three days. (There is a different category for developers, see the site.)

The web site that gives much greater details and a link for registration as well as the class schedule is:
<http://www.ebay.com/ebaylive>

While you're on the eBay site, visit the Community message base and browse around to see what buyers and sellers are talking about. There are also eBay Groups for more specialized interests, such as eBay members from Louisiana (requires free eBay account to view). Hope to see you there. — Ray Paternostro.



Spam Filtering . . .

- * Song from the 70's
- * Meat Product of the U.S.
- * Millions of eMail
- * All of the above!



(Helpdesk, continued from page 7)

Cycling the modem hardware is important to "refreshing" (like rebooting the computer). Even sometimes you have to use the modem's RESET button.

1. Turn off computer
2. Wait 3 minutes (not 1 minute).
3. Restart any Router/Switch if applicable, waiting for all lights normally lit on the router is lit.
4. Then the modem. Wait until all lights are lit (or perhaps only 2 or 3 might light until the system starts)
5. Finally, start the system. Check the Internet.

If you had a router, switch, etc. device, it's best to check things directly from the wall to the modem, beforehand to eliminate any other hardware device than the modem (basics). The modem being bad is always possible, but the last choice after the "power cycle" is completed.

Beyond that, I found that one just has to "wait" a while until service is restored (sometimes, it's a few hours). I've found this to be the case on occasions even though Cox says there's no report about any outage in the New Orleans area. It's the case of "bureaucracy" where the "right hand doesn't know what the left hand is doing". I've complained about this because it's important to users to have their local ISP notify Cox (who might be in Tennessee or Florida, etc) about what's happening so that they can pass info to us to relieve "computer stress" we don't need.



(Komando, continued from page 4)

6. Falsifying the return address

If you're sending something unpleasant, don't bother using a false return address. The e-mail can be traced back to your Internet service provider or even, your own computer. It's all in the e-mail header.

All major e-mail programs can display header information. Here's how to see the headers of an e-mail:

- ✓ *In America Online, click the Details button.*
- ✓ *In Microsoft Outlook, click View and Options.*
- ✓ *In Microsoft Outlook Express, click File, Properties and the Details tab.*
- ✓ *In Eudora, click the Blah Blah button.*
- ✓ *In Netscape, click View and Message Source.*

The sender's revealing information begin with "Received:." The originating computer is in the bottom "Received:." That section will have an Internet Protocol (IP) number, such as 124.213.45.11. While the IP number is probably assigned to the sender's Internet service provider, the ISP will be able to identify the sender using that number.

Remember the header if you're tempted to send an anonymous e-mail. You are less anonymous than you think.

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Any of you who haven't joined the CCUG-PC Yahoo On-line Group are doing yourself and your PC a disservice. With all the things that are packed into a limited time frame for the monthly meetings we can't possibly answer

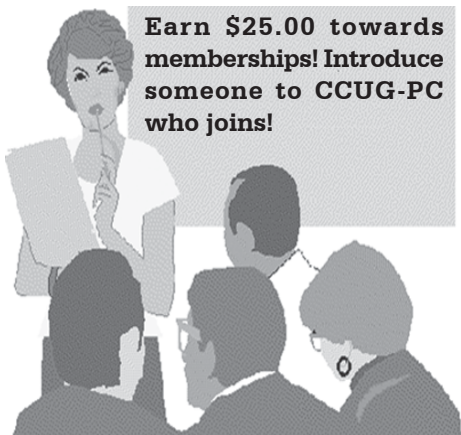
all your questions fully or tell you: the latest news and virus alerts, software bugs and patches, scams, Trojans, spywares, new technology, workarounds, new software, great sites for pc resources, hardware and software bargains, the many MS bulletins that come out each month and more.

There's no time limit on our CCUG-PC Yahoo On-line Group We have over 500 members from all around the world who will take all the time needed to get your questions answered and your problems solved. You can post anything pc related and if it needs a reply check back at your convenience and see if anyone has one for you.

It also takes some of the stress off of Jerry and other techs as they can respond when time is available and not have to rush to something else to keep on schedule.

This is the best Free Support you'll find anywhere and you can do it from work or home! Try it, you'll like it.

Buster Matthews, Yahoo Group CCUG-PC On-line Moderator



Volunteer!

It's a ridiculously *simple* word — yet it means all the love in the world to organizations!

Member Classifieds

Selling?



Jerry Montalbano, Editor at 279-2761

Advertising Policy—Members are welcomed to place an advertisement for personal computer-related items in *Newsbits* at no cost. There could be limit-spacing on a first-come basis. Commercial ads from members and nonmembers are welcomed. ***Please notify us when sold or cancelled!***

CLASSIFIEDS



Your Member Ad here!

Linksys EtherFast Cable/DSL Router with 4-Port Switch, wired. \$30. Call Elaine at **271-0931 or EMPitre@hotmail.com**.



Have you a tip for a great utility, a cool website, a cure for a PC problem a lot of people have, or any local technology new? Please have them send it to Jerry Seregni (jerry@wwltv.com). If Jerry uses it for a 'Digital Gumbo' segment, he will send them a token of his gratitude and give you credit on-air!

Disclaimer

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Membership Dues:

CCUG-PC's *annual membership dues* are **\$25.00**. Please keep abreast of your membership dues date. You can determine your expiration date by doing the following:

1. Check your *Newsbits* mailing address label.
2. Inquire at the membership table.
3. Remember your dues date from the time you joined.

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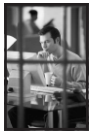
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