

NEWSbits

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May 29, 2010

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CCUG-PC Banner

It Seemed Like Deja Vous

by Elaine Pitre

Formerly meeting at the Piccadilly Cafeteria in Covington, we made a switch to the Slidell Library. It is a suitable setting for a meeting and had a nostalgic feel to it, as we started out twenty years ago using the St. Bernard Public Library. For those of you attending the meeting, I think you will agree it was a relaxed setting. Fresh coffee was put out for us and the seating was convenient. It is not a large room, however with a decent attendance of members there, we were comfortable. Seating could be rearranged to accommodate more people. The downside is we have to wait until after the meeting to eat, but isn't this what we did in Chalmette?

The library offers a projection system, computer and Internet service free of charge. This was one main objective in finding a suitable place for meetings. *Ray Paternostro* offered to show a presentation he made for the New Orleans Personal Computer Group. Piccadilly Cafeteria would not have allowed us to use a projector, and I can't blame them. His presentation topic involved "The Internet and how it has evolved since its inception". The thirty minute movie



presentation was a film, made many years ago called "Computer Networks: The Heralds of Resource Sharing". There were interviews with some of the architects of what started as ARPANET and evolved into what we now know as the Internet. What may have been in-

teresting and factual a few years ago, did not come across as interesting information in the present form. Questioning Ray on the future, and what was forthcoming was interested to hear. I commend Ray for presenting and sharing his knowledge with us. Ray is a very

knowledgeable person and knows exactly what he is speaking about. Ask him a question, and he has an answer or will find it. At press time, we will continue to keep the Slidell Library as our meeting room until further notice.

The scheduled dates are:

May 29th and October 9th of this year
and **February 12th 2011, May 14th** and

(Deja Vous, continues on page 6)

RoundTable

At the Saturday, May 29th general meeting of Chalmette Computer Users' Group-PC, an old favorite style, the Potpourri RoundTable will once again highlight the morning.

Many of you will remember the SIGs and holiday Q & A meetings which seated members in a relaxed, and informative setting. Arranged similar to our recent luncheon meetings, members can participate by asking and helping to answer many of the issues, problems and concerns which face us every day in our computing world.

It's the finest in keeping up with our group's motto: "users helping users!"

Supporting Our Troops



Upcoming Event - May 29, 2010



St. Tammany Public Library (Slidell)

555 Robert Blvd. - (985-646-6470)

CCUG-PC will meet May 29 in Slidell for this meeting event from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. We all are looking forward to seeing you and old friends on Saturday. C'Ya!



Great Magazines for novices, intermediate and advanced users. Smart Computing, PCToday (mobile) and CPU (advanced) magazines can keep users ahead of the technology game.

Want to know more? Log onto:

<http://tinyurl.com/28sjynn> (user groups) or smartcomputing.com for more info about or subscription to these great magazines.



Back to BASICS



The Newsbits staff has kept this tiny corner to remind of us the good times we spent in Back to Basics. Margaret Wynn led this superb gathering each week with presentations, Q. & A and loads of fun and excitement.



Please keep Margaret in your prayers as she presently is challenged with her illness and wish her speedy recovery after operation and malady. If you cannot

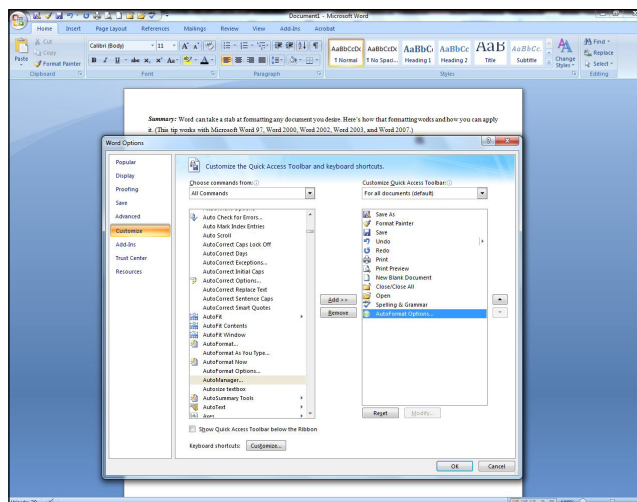
offer her well-wishes personally at a meeting, do write to offer her any kind words, at melody43@bellsouth.net. Get well soon, Margaret! Our prayers are a rock to your recovery!

Need to Autoformat in Microsoft Word?

Summary: Word can take a stab at formatting any document you desire. Here's how that formatting works and how you can apply it. (This tip works with Microsoft Word 97, Word 2000, Word 2002, Word 2003, and Word 2007.)

Word includes a feature that formats what you type, as you type it. You probably take many of these automatic formatting (AutoFormat) adjustments for granted. Word does things like changing your quotes to Smart Quotes, automatically creating bulleted and numbered lists, and changing the indentation of paragraphs.

This is fine and good for many people, but what if you get a document from someone else and it needs a lot of the "little touches" applied to it? This is where the real industrial-strength AutoFormat feature of Word comes into play. You see, AutoFormat doesn't just work as you type—it also is available, on demand, to format an entire document.



In Word 2007 the AutoFormat tool is not available on the any of the ribbon tabs. Instead you'll need to add it to the Quick Access toolbar by following these steps:

1. Click the Office button and then click **Word Options**. Word displays the Word Options dialog box.
2. At the left of the dialog box choose **Customize**.
3. Using the Choose Commands From drop-down list, choose **Commands Not In the Ribbon**.
4. Locate and select the **AutoFormat** command in the list of commands.
5. Click the **Add** button. The AutoFormat command moves to the right side of the dialog box.
6. Click **OK**.

(Continues on Page 6)



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hi, CCUG-PC Members!

Sorry about the change of meeting date. However, there are times beyond our control (in this case, the librarian "overused his pen" in scheduling). But, we'll get over it and I plan to see everyone this Saturday, May 29th at the Slidell, Library. It's my first time there also, as I lost my mode of transportation in February with my clunker unable to make the trek. I hope my hitched ride can help me get there from Baton Rouge for this meeting.

We're headed for June and It just felt as if I took down my Christmas tree last week!

At any rate, I promise to keep everyone fine-tuned with any change of meeting date or place to meet as far in advance as possible, then follow up close to the meeting (including sending out Newsbits with info as well).

As I understand, those who attended in February enjoyed the Slidell library meeting room. I'll get to experience it now for myself. It's been six months for me seeing all who have been attending this past year.

Yep, it's been a year already since we picked up meeting again as a group at Piccadilly's Restaurant. I understand that the library is equipped with audio-visual equipment for visual presentations and it's quiet in compared to the noisier restaurant.

ARTICLE CONTRIBUTIONS

NEWSBITS Newsletter is currently published Quarterly by CCUG-PC. Articles for publication *must* be submitted, typewritten and on disk to our newsletter staff by the **15th** of the month before a meeting date for publication. We welcome all articles of computing interest and we reserve the newsletter.



I also will be pleased that the socializing afterward at a local Slidell establishment will give us both great food and the location is a few miles away as it was in Chalmette after our meetings there.

After this Saturday's date, the *next meeting will be held on October 9th* after the hot summer months. Some of us will be planning vacations and experiencing the July 4th holidays and that upcoming meeting day in October will be perfect prior to the holidays. Then, we've scheduled February 12th in 2011. Of course, with dates stretched a bit, I'll make it my priority to keep info flowing on a regular basis to everyone to keep you well-informed of meeting dates.

Also, if you have any ideas about the topic of discussion or presentations upcoming, e-mail me with your ideas or pass it onto me or the group leaders. It's always great to collect your thoughts concerning content for meetings. Fresh, new ideas make it simpler than rehashing old-ones. Getting national presenters is tough considering our reduced member attendance in comparison to that in St. Bernard, but there's so many topics which we have yet to touch upon.

Retrogressing, I'd like to see more of you attend the meetings who has yet to do so. I remember every face in the past who were part of our meetings. When I looked around the audience from the podium I can still remember five years later either the crisp, smiling faces or any blank looks given from those who offered their early Saturday mornings to attend. Gee, I do miss any of you who have yet to grace our new gatherings. It's almost heart-breaking when I notice this absence.

It's a part of our old camaraderie—be a part of CCUG-PC and for many, it's lifelong. We designed it that way in our commitment to bring you computer technology and current events in technology. Along the way of achieving this, we have fun and enjoy each other's great company. See you on Saturday!

Jerry Montalbano

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NOTICE!

Upcoming Date to Remember

Saturday, October 9, 2010

Meeting place: Slidell,
St. Tammany Public Library

Feb. 20 CCUG-PC Meeting Reunion



Jim Diggs and Garland eyeball the laptop

“The Internet and how it has evolved since its inception ”



Ray Paternostro and Steven Frught



Ray Paternostro’s demo about the Internet



Members view the speaker’s presentation



Joe Villardo discusses computer issues to Andy



Elaine Pitre and Margaret Wynn



7 Secret Features of Google Maps by Kim Komando

Google Maps has become the go-to site for maps and driving directions. And, thanks to satellite and street-level photos, you can explore the world. But, these aren't the only tricks Google Maps has up its sleeve.

A variety of tools will help you plan vacations, find businesses and more. Let's take a look at some of the site's cooler "secret" features.

Find your location

Google Maps can show your approximate location. This is helpful when you're in an unfamiliar location. You can also use it if you don't want to type in your address when getting directions. This feature relies on your IP address and nearby Wi-Fi hotspots.

In Firefox or Chrome, open Google Maps. In the upper left corner, you'll see navigational tools. Click the small box with the circle inside. You're prompted to share your location. Google drops a marker on the map showing your location.

Measure a distance

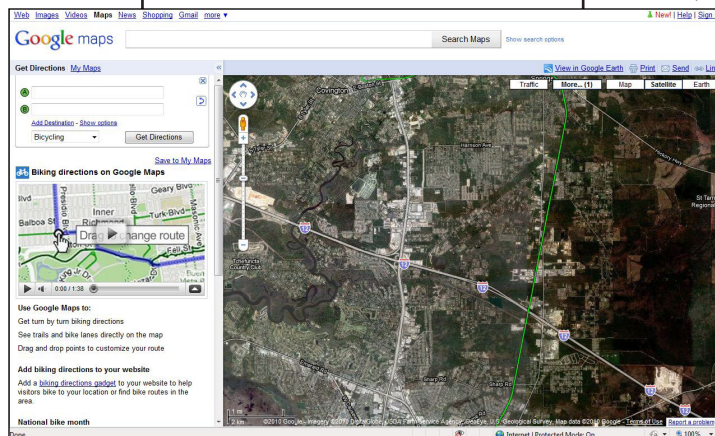
Maybe you want to know the exact distance of your morning jog. The Distance Measurement Tool will help. Enable it by clicking the green beaker in the top right of the page. In the box that opens, locate the tool. Select Enable and then "Save changes."

To use the tool, click the blue ruler in the bottom left. Click your starting point. Then, click the next point. You can add multiple points if needed. The distance is displayed in the left side of the window.



Get biking and walking directions

Everyone knows that Google Maps provides driving directions. But, it also provides directions optimized for biking, walking and public transport. Click Get Directions. Enter your starting and ending addresses. Select your transportation mode from the



drop-down box. Click Get Directions.

You can also get itineraries for walking tours at Google City Tours (www.citytours.googlelabs.com). Enter a starting address and click Search. Click "Change dates" to specify the number of days for your trip. You'll get a printable itinerary and map for each day. Click "Add/Remove sights" to change way-points.

Find nearby places

Maybe you want to see restaurants close to a friend's house. Fortunately, finding nearby businesses is easy. Search for an address. Then, click its marker on the map. In the box that appears, click "Search nearby." Enter a search term and click Search.

You can also see popular places close to an address. Click the green beaker in the upper right. Scroll to What's

Around Here? —and click Enable. Click Save Changes. Click What's Around Here? —by the Search box after searching for an address.

See photos taken nearby

Street View shows you street-level photos of a location. But, you can also see photos of the area uploaded to certain other sites. Google searches the sites for photos embedded with GPS data.

To see these photos, search for an address. Click the marker and select Street View. Click the Photos link in the upper right. (If no photos exist, you won't see this link.) You'll see photo thumbnails; click one to enlarge it.

Get directions via text

You don't always have Internet access. That doesn't mean you can't get driving directions. Google will send directions via text message.

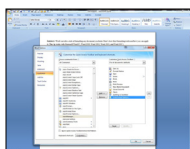
Simply send a message to GOOGLE (466453). It should say "Directions A to B." Substitute your starting point for "A" and ending point for "B." Use a street address, a town name or simply a ZIP code.

Get off Street View

Finally, many people see Street View as an invasion of privacy. It may show street-level photos of your house. Fortunately, you can have photos removed. First, search for your address. Then, click "Report a problem" in the bottom right.

In the box that opens, enter a description of the problem. Then, click "Report problem." You can use the same method to report other problems with Google Maps. For example, use it to report an incorrect business address.





*(Word's AutoFormat Command,
—continued from page 2)*

Once you have the AutoFormat tool available on the Quick Access toolbar, you can apply AutoFormat by following these steps in Word 2007:

1. Load the document you want to format.
2. Click the AutoFormat tool on the Quick Access toolbar. Word displays the AutoFormat dialog box. (Click here to see a related figure.)
3. Use the radio buttons to indicate if you want AutoFormat to work without stopping for your input, or not.
4. Click on OK.

If you are using an older version of Word, you don't need to go through any process to add the command to your toolbars. Instead, follow these steps:

1. Load the document you want to format.
2. Choose AutoFormat from the Format menu. Word displays the AutoFormat dialog box.
3. Use the radio buttons to indicate if you want AutoFormat to work without stopping for your input, or not.
4. Click on OK.

At this point, AutoFormat works its magic and your document is "reformatted" to appear as it would have if you had typed it yourself.

You should understand that it is very unlikely that AutoFormat will do all the formatting you need done. Each document is different, and you should make sure you examine the document after AutoFormat is completed to see if there are any other formatting tasks you need to complete.

This tip applies to the following Microsoft Word versions: 97 | 2000 | 2002 | 2003 | 2007.

DISCLAIMER

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*(Deja Vous,
continued from page 1)*

Oct. 8th of next year.
The time is 10:30 a.m. to
12:30 p.m.

St. Tammany Public Li-
brary, Phone: 985-646-

6470 - Address: 555 Robert Blvd. Slidell, LA 70458 .

Directions:

Coming east from Mississippi the quickest route is getting off I-10 on Gause Blvd/Hwy 190 (right turn) then going about 4 Traffic signals to Robert Blvd. (Textron and Slidell Memorial at that corner. Turn right go two more traffic lights, library is on left just after the Intersection of Robert and North Blvd/Audubon Blvd. (both streets meet at Robert Blvd.)

From west or Covington area you can exit I-12 Exit 83 (Hwy 11/Pearl River Exit), turn right onto Hwy 11 (Front St), then turn left at next traffic light (North Blvd.) Follow winding street to Robert Blvd. The Library is on the left (behind the trees). There is construction going on at the I-12 intersection.

From New Orleans get off Gause /Hwy 190 west exit (left). Follow along until Robert Blvd as above.

Until our next meeting and luncheon afterwards, EP



Get the Picture?

**CCUG-PC
—Users Helping Users!**



Genealogy 2010

By Sue Wessing

St. Bernard Genealogical Society, Inc.

Genealogy resources to research locally:

The following are some of the locations and websites to research for genealogical records. It is by no means all inclusive. Included are the genealogy societies for each area. You may want to contact them for what is available at their local libraries if it is not included in the websites.

New Orleans Public Library Loyola Branch 3rd Floor, LA Division and Special Collections has Microfilm records of successions, newspapers (obituaries), card file of Orleans Parish Justice of the Peace marriages and much more. See the website for location and information: <http://nutrias.org/~nopl/spec/speclist.htm>

Genealogical Research Society of New Orleans: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~lagrsno/genesis.htm> (searchable index of their publication)

St Bernard Parish: Elaine P. Nunez Community College has the collection of St Bernard Genealogical Society which includes the 1978 – 2004 L'Heritage which was the publication of the society. <http://www.nunez.edu/Library.htm>

Call for Library hours: 504-278-6230
St Bernard Genealogical Society Inc:
<http://www.ccugpc.org/sbgs/sbgs.htm>

* Westbank Regional Jefferson Parish
<http://www.jefferson.lib.la.us/branches/jplpage.westbankregional.html>

* Westbank Genealogy Society:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/WestBankGenealogySociety/>

* Eastbank Regional Jefferson Parish
<http://www.jefferson.lib.la.us/branches/jplpage.eastbankregional.html>



* Jefferson Genealogical Society
<http://www.jgs25.com/>

* Louisiana State Archives – Baton Rouge: <http://sos.louisiana.gov/tabid/88/Default.aspx>

* Orleans Parish birth records for 1819-1907 (births over 100 years ago). (Index for 1790-1818, but no records) Orleans Parish marriage records for 1870-1957 (marriages over 50 years ago)** (Index for 1831-1869, but no records.)

• Orleans Parish death records for 1819-1957 (deaths over 50 years ago)*

(Index for 1804-1818)

• Statewide death records for 1911-1957 (deaths over 50 years ago)*

• Confederate pension application records

• Cemetery records

• Passenger manifests

St Tammany Parish: Special Collections - located at the Covington Branch. This collection includes census on microfilm, family charts and histories, and a local newspaper archive: <http://www.sttammany.lib.la.us/covington.html>

St Tammany Genealogical Society:
<http://www.sttammanygs.org/>

Mississippi (early Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama records)– Pascagoula Library at <http://www.jgrls.org/genealogy.html>

List of Mississippi historical and genealogical societies: http://mdah.state.ms.us/admin/all_societies.html

Archdiocese of New Orleans for Catholic Church Records: Research at your local library first for older records if they have the Archdiocese of New Orleans Books 1 – 19.

(1718-1831). <http://www.archdiocese-no.org/archives/index.php>

For more links visit our genealogy website at:

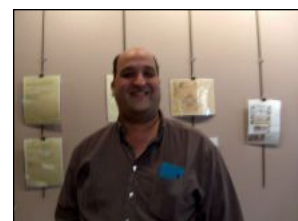
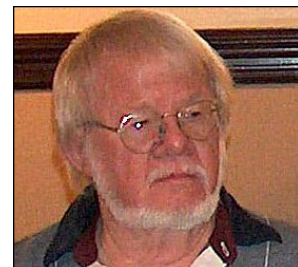
www.ccugpc.org/sbgs/sbgs.htm



Suzanne Doole Wessing

HAPPY CCUG-PC PRIZE WINNERS

At the past February 20 meeting, Carolyn Wagner, Garland Hilton, Andy Cook and Steven Fraught were winners of the *Smart Computing Magazine* subscription drawing. Congratulations to each!!





June, 2010

Bob Click, *Greater Orlando Computer Users Group*



We've been working a few trade shows and I always find them interesting. I work an assigned post these days, usually on a loading dock, and can't look things over unless we go in early, which I rarely do. However, occasionally during the show setup days, I get to visit with a few exhibitors, whose booth is located near my dock, as they go outside for a smoke. Other times, I only get to see the setup contractors who are assembling booths.

The PGA (Pro Golfer Association) show in January was smaller this year, yet well attended. Attendance was about 30,000. There was a booth near my post that sells a unique device that calculates data to improve a golfer's swing. They call it the Game Changer, or the GC2. It doesn't look like much because it's a small electronic device. It's a bit large for your jacket pocket, but fits easily in your golf bag. The device opens up and you place it on the turf off to the side of your golf tee so it can photograph your swing. It has two cameras in it a few inches apart and when you make your drive, both cameras snap a picture, and then almost instantly, the device calculates all kinds of data pertaining to your drive, consisting of your launch angles, speed, spin and much more.

When I watched the guy in the booth drive the ball up against a curtain, I saw the flash of the cameras, and in a few seconds, an entire screen of data was quickly displayed including a heavy line designating exactly where the drive would travel and land. They had it connected to a 42" plasma TV in the booth to display the data, but it could be hooked up to a variety of handheld smart-devices via Bluetooth. It has a USB output enabling the data to be used by various customized applications. The GC2 also has speakers to announce the data if you prefer.

If this gadget fascinates you, check their Web site at <<http://www.foresightsports.com>> for more information and a picture of the GC2. If you are an enthusiastic golfer and feel this item might help you, why not pop for the six grand and buy it for yourself for Christmas, birthday, Father's Day, or any other occasion that you can think of. After all, don't you deserve it? Some guys might buy their wife one for Christmas, and then borrow it.

I saw another interesting item, although much less expensive, for improving your swing. It's a specially designed club that helps to find out what's wrong with your swing, and can be used either inside or outside. I watched guys take a nice

swing and the ball simply flipped up in the air and dropped behind them because they didn't swing right. Others did better. I didn't understand what was going on, but you can visit <<http://www.slingergolf.com>>. Priced at \$89.95, this must be for the blue-collar gophers.

I also saw a guy walking along with a three-wheeled electric golf caddy trailing behind him and when he stopped, the caddy stopped, then when he went on, it followed. He said it was a prototype. I loved that one, but show management showed up and told him to please keep the machine in his booth, so I didn't see him again. I'm sorry I didn't get any information from the guy. There were many booths with electrically operated golf-bag carts so it was easy to miss.

Bat-Caddy had an electric golf caddy selling for \$590 and was manually controlled. They also had a model you could run with a remote for \$995. Their Web site is <<http://www.batcaddy.com>>. When finishing this column, I noticed they had special deals on their Web site that ended April 30, 2010, but why not check for deals when you read this just in case they have another deal. Would an electric caddy mean "going green?"



Ready For A Different Way For To Hold A Conference?

The FACUG 2011 Spring Conference Cruise is shaping up gradually, but surely. The deadline has been extended to June 30, 2010 so it's not too late to sign up. People are slow to register, but the last I heard, 180 were signed on. There are no special restrictions for who can sign up, but one person from each cabin must register for the conference and be a user group member. You can check it out on the FACUG Web site <<http://www.facug.org>>. Looking at the 2011 FACUG cruise, you can't go wrong with such great people leading the sessions. Looks like all fees and taxes are included in the prices, but look it over for other incentives. I believe no cruise will be planned for 2012 because not everybody wants it done on a cruise ship and it is a problem for an individual attendee.

I Tried To Refurbish My Computer With A Software Product



My computer is not acting very normal so I decided to try Reimage Repair to see what it could do. I read Ira Wilsker's favorable review of Reimage, and it's also listed on the Windows Secrets Newsletter, which I respect, so I downloaded it when they offered a discount to see if it would improve my computer's performance. My experience hasn't worked well as yet. I had to try four times before it would finish, and it never did actually finish as it should have. Only one of my problems was helped so far. I sent them a message asking for suggestions via e-mail and they responded that I should try the repair with the machine in "Safe Mode." I tried to do that, but while in safe mode I

(Continues on Next Page)

am unable to connect to the Internet and it won't work that way. I sent another message stating my problem and they are suggesting a remote control session. I need to set up a time to do that so I am in the process of arranging it.

Reminder



The special offers for Diskeeper products are probably still good so keep that in mind. Their new technology for preventing fragmentation before it happens is unique and I read a favorable review about it in a user group newsletter. Here are the URLs for the deals:

Diskeeper 2010 Home 2-pack \$49.95 (Save \$30) <https://www.diskeeper.com/store/checkout/addtocart.aspx?item=49115&qty=1&srchash=_ioxswm_p>

Diskeeper 2010 Professional 2-pack \$99.95 (Save \$20)

<https://www.diskeeper.com/store/checkout/addtocart.aspx?item=49365&qty=1&srchash=_ioxswm_p>

Diskeeper 2010 Pro Premier 2-pack \$169.95 (Save \$30)

<https://www.diskeeper.com/store/checkout/addtocart.aspx?item=49366&qty=1&srchash=_ioxswm_p>

Undelete 2009 Home and Diskeeper 2010 Home bundle \$49.95 (Save \$20)

<http://www.diskeeper.com/store/checkout/addtocart.aspx?item=50519&qty=1&srchash=_ioxswm_p>

Take A Look At Specials From Your Favorite Vendor



I sometimes get an announcement from Corel, but the discount usually expires before you editors could get it published for your members since I write this column two months in advance. However, here is an announcement for some full products and upgrades that I just received, and I have no idea what the deadline is. Hopefully you can beat it if there's something you need.

For CorelDRAW Graphics Suite X5: The full version price seems is \$49.90, but the upgrade price is \$19.90 less than the regular price.

For Corel DESIGNER Technical Suite X4: The full version price is \$100 below the regular price and the upgrade price is the same as the regular price.

For WordPerfect Office X5 Standard: The full version and upgrade prices are \$25 below the regular price.

For WordPerfect Office X5 Professional: The full version price is \$25 less than the regular price and the upgrade version is \$21 below the regular price.

For Photo & Video Bundle: The price is \$6.50 below the regular price, but there seems to be differences in the bundle contents e.g. X2 in yours vs. X3 in the regular version.

Corel has always been a favorite with user groups. Here are some URLs to check for better information and additional products. Hopefully you can find all the information you need to make a decision: <<http://store1.corel.com/corel/category.jsp?cat=cat3450073&trkid=31Mar10NACDGSX5LicenseUGeDMeDM>>, <http://www.corel.com/content/pdf/cdgsx5/CDGSX5_version_comparison_matrix_en.pdf> and <<http://www.corel.com>>. Check for additional information and comparisons. There are differences in the pages so do your homework. To order by phone call 1-877-502-6735 and use promo code 4212 (Mon-Fri, 9am to 7pm EST)

That's it for this month. I'll have some more new product announcements on my Web site that didn't offer discounts.



Meet me here again next month. 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!!



Following at least two reported cases of batteries catching on fire, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission has announced a recall of 70,000 lithium-ion batteries used in Hewlett-Packard and Compaq laptops. Reportedly, this particular recall is nowhere near the size of the massive battery recall that hit Apple, Dell, and Lenovo among others in 2006; this latest recall of HP laptop batteries is undoubtedly a frustrating event for a laptop manufacturer that heavily touts the quality of battery that comes with their machines.



LifeLock CEO Todd Davis, whose number is displayed in the company's ubiquitous advertisements, has by now learned that lesson. He's been a victim of identity theft at least 13 times, according to the Phoenix New Times through someone who has used his SSN fraudulently. The company was fined \$12 million in March by the Federal Trade Commission for deceptive advertising. Lifelock promised in ads that its \$10 monthly service would protect consumers from identity theft. The company also offered a \$1 million guarantee to compensate customers for losses incurred if they became a victim after signing up for the service.

Choosing a Scanner for Genealogy by Jerry Montalbano



A scanner can be an invaluable tool for your genealogy research.

A scanner can be an invaluable tool for your genealogy research. Computer equipment can be an asset when keeping your genealogy records. Getting a scanner can really

help you keep your many old photos and documents handy and accessible.

Being able to transfer your various documents and old photos to a digital format can make for much easier retrieval and storage. Especially if the documents are just on loan. Scanners are becoming a common piece of computer equipment and you might want to consider one. But for genealogy purposes, you have other things to keep in mind.

Resolution

Resolution refers to the number of tiny dots per inch that a scanner will record (dots per inch, also known as dpi). Average scanners are usually around 600x600 dpi, which is basically fine for most scanning. If you are only scanning photos so you can record your relatives likeness, that would be OK. If you think you might be scanning very old and discolored photos, or faded documents, you will want all the resolution you can muster. There is one warning to this though. Hi-res images are pretty huge in terms of file size, and you will find your hard drive filling up quickly if you plan on doing a lot of scanning. So you can adjust the scanning resolution to only use the highest resolutions settings when necessary.

Size

There are scanners on the market specifically designed for scanning photos, and you may be tempted to get one of these, especially if you are short on desk space. Be aware that you may be limiting yourself in your future research. You may only need one for photos now but you never know what kinds of documents you might come across later on. Also, photos do come in a variety of sizes. You could get frustrated with your small scanner when you have an enormous wedding family photo to scan.

Shape

When I say shape, I mean whether you should choose a flat-bed scanner or a more compact model that you feed the documents in through rollers (like a printer or fax machine). A feed-through scanner is limited to a certain size of document, and I've already mentioned how that can be a problem. But besides the size issue, these kinds of scanners are not good for use with delicate or fragile items. Some of them will bend your pages at quite an angle, and you could end up damaging old papers or photos. Another great feature of the flat-bed scanner is that you can even scan really large items, though it might take several scans to get the whole image.

So basically, for genealogy research I would personally recommend a flat-bed scanner with high resolution capabilities. How Does a Photo Scanner Work? How to Evaluate Scanner Features?

Understanding how a photo scanner works will help the consumer choose the best scanner solution for their scanning

projects. A common issue in photography is file size and resolution. Many times people will get an image for a project or for print and find that image is not suitable for the particular application because the file is either too large or too small. Different output applications require different resolutions. Large files can be a direct result of high-resolution and take a length of time printing. Knowing how photo scanners work will give the consumer a better idea of what type of scanner is best suited to their needs.

Analog to Digital

Scanners convert analog photos into *digital files*. Flatbed photo scanners use a charge-coupled device (CCD) sensor. Light is passed across a photograph, the CCD reads the information and converts light into digital information in the form of pixels that make up an image on the computer.

Resolution and Dynamic Range

- Resolution or ppi (pixels per inch) is the number of pixels the scanner acquires during the scan. Pixels are the digital information or interpretation of the film image. A large resolution allows an image to be enlarged and still maintain a good print quality in the image. Flatbed scanners scan one row at a time and continue down the photo with carriage moves. A 1200x2400 dpi (dots per inch) scanner reads 1200 color samples per inch. The first number is the optical resolution of the CCD and the rating of the scanner, i.e. 1200 dpi scanner. The 1200 dpi is the amount the CCD scans. The larger number is the possible positioning of the carriage stepping motor. Stepping motors move in precise steps, at each pulse the motor moves only 1/2400 inch vertical steps. The motor rating of 2400 does not add to the optical rating.
- Bit depth is also important for overall image quality. An 8-bit scanner reproduces 256 colors and a 24-bit scanner reproduces 17 million colors and so on up the range of numbers.

- Dynamic range is the amount of recordable colors and shades from pure white to black. A high dynamic range means less noise in an image and greater highlight and shadow detail. The higher the dynamic range of the scanner the more pixels a scanner can acquire.

Scanner Software and Physical Components

Many scanners come with some sort of *interpolation* software that lets the user make minor adjustments before the scan. A preview window will open where the scan parameters are set and any edits can be made here. Since CCD scanners have some trouble reading some highlight and shadow detail, it is best to do a raw scan and make edits in a dedicated software-editing program. Those with CCD sensors have improved in quality. The basic assembly is a light box, a glass surface to lay the copy onto, a carriage with a CCD sensor that moves under the glass to scan the image and a cover (or lid). These scanners use high-luminance white LED lamps as their light source. These lamps do not need any warm up time, they use less power to operate and do not contain any mercury so they are environmentally friendly. In addition, they are user friendly: just put the photo on the glass, close the lid and set the scan.

All-in-One's

Also consider, the multi-function scanners. AIO scanners are available which can reduce desktop space and produce nice resolutions as well. They range from \$100 to \$600 or so. *



Q. Where is Outlook Express in Windows Vista and 7?

A. Microsoft introduced Windows Mail with the release of Microsoft Windows Vista and has also included this program in Windows 7. If you're wanting to use a Microsoft mail program while in Windows you must now use this program. You can quickly get into this program by clicking Start and in the Run line type: mail and pressing enter or clicking on the found Windows Mail icon.

Q. The fan in my laptop computer speeds up and gets louder. I'm concerned? Any suggestions?

A. While working on your computer you may notice the fan inside the computer will randomly speed up and slow down? Does it often sound louder and then quieter as it changes speeds? As long as the fan continues to spin and doesn't completely stop this is completely normal for computers, especially laptop computers.

To help keep the noise down in computers most manufacturers today have variable speed fans, which means that the fans within the computer are capable of changing their speed depending on how hot the computer is getting. Usually you'll notice that the fans will speed up when working on the computer or playing games. Each thing you do on your computer cause your processor, graphics card and other devices in your computer to work, which causes heat. If the speed of the fan is not taking out enough of the hot air or bring in enough cooler air the fans will need to increase their speed to help keep your computer cool and prevent any damage.

The reason you're more likely to encounter this situation with laptop computers is because of the size of the fans in them. Smaller fans don't move as much air as a bigger fan and therefore must go faster when a computer is getting hot.

With most laptop computers cooler air comes in through the bottom of the laptop and the hot air escapes from one of the sides. If you're working on the laptop from your lap, this will often constrict the airflow causing the computer to heat up more. Try working on a hard flat surface instead of your lap. Having a cooler pad or other device that gives the laptop even more room to breath beneath it can also help reduce the need for the fan to speed up.

Q. How can I tell if a CD or DVD is fake?

A. When buying software online, whether in an auction (or on the streets of New York<g>), or perhaps at a flea market—it's important to know if you're purchasing a legitimate copy of the program or game. There are several reasons of why you shouldn't purchase pirated or otherwise illegally made programs. Below are some steps that can be taken to help identify fake CDs and DVDs.

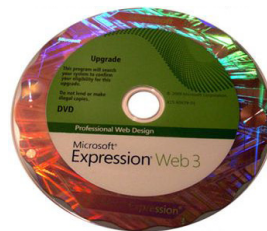
Look at the bottom of the disc.

One of the most common and easiest ways is to look at the bottom of the disc. Recordable discs like those shown in the below picture will often have a green, purple, or other color of tint to them unlike the traditional CD and DVD. When CDs and DVDs are made in the factor the data contained on them is actually stamped onto the disc and not burned.



Look at the label

Another easy method of identifying a fake CD from the real thing is to look at the label of the disc. If the disc label is hand written with a marker or looks as if the label was printed off an ink jet printer, it's obviously a fake CD or DVD. Unfortunately many individuals are becoming more sophisticated and are now capable of matching labels that are identical to the real label. This has caused companies such as Microsoft to create more sophisticated and harder to duplicate CDs and DVDs. Below is a picture of one of these discs, which as you can see has a hologram type border. All of the Microsoft discs today have a look similar to this.



In an attempt to duplicate this type of look some people will photo copy this label onto a sticker and use it as a label on the disc. Of course when rotating the disc in your hand it's easy to quickly identify this is not a hologram. Others may actually

use a holographic sticker making it look legitimate, however, these too can be quickly identified if you look at the edge of the disc and it appears that holographic sticker can be peeled away from the disc. Examples of pirated software seized by Microsoft can also be seen on their how-to-tell page.

Also, regard prices *too good to be true* or discs intended to be sold with a computer, without original cases, or any glossy case inserts lacking as red flags--perhaps illegitimate copies.*



**Yahoo
Online**
**Help from
CCUG-PC!**

Any of you who haven't joined the CCUG-PC Yahoo Online 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, work-arounds, 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 Online Group. We have over 400 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 Online Moderator
Worldwide CCUG-PC Yahoo Club:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ccugpconline/>

Where are we today?

Nearly five years later and it begs the question, "where are we today" with our computer knowledge, careers and interests? Have we grown technically, professionally, and skill-wise concerning these matters? Have we taken advantage of the Internet, reading materials and courses, user groups, and other choices which help us to better the usage of these marvellous pieces of technology? Perhaps some have added more tools of technology such as mobile devices (Apple iPhone, iPod, SmartPhones) as well as portable laptops, satellite phones, and peripherals. *Just where are we, today?*



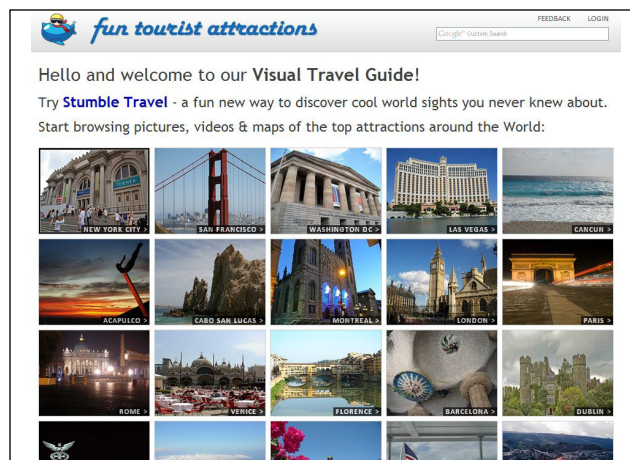
CCUG-PC CHUCKLES
"Laugh til' you chuckle"



"My name is David, but that sounded old fashioned. So I shortened it to DVD!"

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<http://www.funtouristactions.com>



Fun Tourist Attractions has 8983 pictures and 24542 videos of 3979 tourist attractions in 140 cities and 24 countries around the world! You can see each attraction by List of attractions, Associated videos of the area, Interactive map of attractions and a Forum to exchange info and ideas. You can also check locations by clicking each attraction for pictures, videos & maps. Interesting way to travel virtually before you set out on your destination.

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