

NEWSbits

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May 12, 2012

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Celebrated our 21st
Anniversary!
1990-2012



CCUG-PC Banner

Audio, Visuals and Much More!

By Sue Wessing

 ur meeting got a late start due to the rainy weather....but once started it really rocked!

The video from Corning Glass showing future products available to us brought in a new member. We welcome guests and always get someone new to enjoy what we have to offer! The video is on YouTube and can be viewed at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X-GXO_urMow.

Jerry then showed Dragon Naturally Speaking 11, the speech recognition program from Nuance. The program is wonderful for those that can't type that well, or may have a disability. It is great for those of us that can't spell well; it can correct most errors in MSWord. You have to teach it ("learn, so to speak") to recognize your voice, but seems that is really a quick learner! More can be seen at www.nuance.com/naturallyspeaking. There are three different price levels, depending what level you may need (home, professional or premium versions—starting at



Supporting
Our Troops



\$99, but can be found online cheaper).

Ray Paternostro joined Jerry for a Q & A session, which fielded many questions from the members. Discussed were speed problems, different Internet

access programs, (ATT, Charter, Cox, etc.). They then answered questions about browsers, managing tool bars and error messages.

Ray showed a new program available to see your neighbors by www.whitepages.com/neighbors. It is an offspring of www.whitepages.com (the telephone directory). With this website, you'll be surprised about how some personal info about your

neighbors and yourself is available to the public!

Further discussions were how to remove unwanted programs, such as Incredimail, and differences in hardware routers for your networks.

Many prizes were awarded! Pens were won by Nita Conner and Jeanne Hays. Sue Wessing won a

(Audio, Visual, concludes on Page 10)

Coming
May 12



RAY
PATERNOSTRO

Join the CCUG-PC guys and gals this Saturday, **May 12th at 10:30 AM** when we present:

Ray Paternostro.

Ray's computer interlect and amusing personality qualifies Ray to charm you by sharing his knowledge of contemporary computing skills with others! Look forward to a wonderful meeting with him.

Seeking a particular subject for an upcoming meeting? Please, let us know your thoughts!

Where we meet . . .



St. Tammany Public Library (Slidell)

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

CCUG-PC will meet quarterly in Slidell for our general meeting events from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Meetings are *open to the public* and everyone is invited to participate. C'Ya!

New Computer and Perpherial Pondering—Your Decision

Getting a new computer is a lot like getting a new car. Chances are technology has evolved quite a bit since the last time you bought one, so you're going to have a lot of new features and options to play with.

Here is a list of things that you should keep in mind before buying and setting up your new computer and perpherials:

Get your content into the cloud

Using a cloud content management solution to store your files online is a sure-fire way to ensure that all of your information is safe, secure and easy to access.

One option is Box, which provides simple, secure content sharing that both users and IT love and adopt. Box allows you to view, access and share all of your content online.

Box allows you to:

Enjoy unlimited storage in the cloud

Share large files using a simple link, no attachments necessary

Move your old hard drive files to the cloud to access from anywhere with internet connectivity, including your new PC

Eliminate the need for FTP—store and share all of your content with Box

Storing and sharing information with Box is simple, and lets you focus on what's most important to your business—your data.

Your old computer may no longer be able to handle your dynamic PowerPoint presentations or fast-paced Solitaire games, but don't forget that you most likely still have a lot of information stored on that relic. So, how do you move things from the old computer to the new one without driving yourself crazy? It's actually much simpler than you think.

Portable USB (thumb) drives can store tons of information. If you're lucky, you can fit everything onto one drive and just reinstall it onto your new computer.

Windows 7 (more on that later) has migration tools that simplify the process of moving data from one computer to another.

Migration and installation

Hopefully you kept your original install disks; otherwise you might have your work cut out for you. Most new computers come pre-installed with a two-month trial of Microsoft® Office. Some versions of Office allow you to use it on up to three different machines, so you might get lucky and not have to repurchase it.

Software has limitations on the number of machines it can be installed or authorized to run on. So, don't just delete the program from your old computer—make sure you go through the appropriate steps of uninstalling and de-authorizing the software from your old machine before reinstalling.

Some consumer programs written for Windows XP won't work on Windows 7, but for the most part you shouldn't have too many problems with software migration.

Some of the downsides of a straight computer-to-computer migration include:

A fixed capacity for storage

Files that are easily lost

Unable to access/share files via Cloud

New Computer—continues on Page 4)



Deciding is the hardest part in the purchase planning

Smart Computing® In Plain English



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 smart-computing.com for more info about or subscription to these great magazines.



(Editor: It could be the second best choice to a user group membership)!





PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hi, CCUG-PC Members!

Dedication to CCUG-PC?

In the struggles to rebuild our lives after Katrina, we reflect on those days when the Pre-K era seemed so less troublesome and chaotic. Oh, but how a few short years can redirect our focus toward where we stand today with technology

Help others & stay up to date



and even where we are headed as the years march on.

We've rediscovered the use of our computer in these post years. What tempered our usage of computers and other modern technology we use now was during Katrina itself.

Remember after losing our most precious hardware and software how we scammed to repurchase equipment, printers, faxes, discs and other office supplies? We knew what we had to do with this technology, because we've had such an ordeal HAVING TO USE IT! We recall

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.



the daily faxing, printing, E-mailing, and mailing information to respective agencies which included FEMA, the Road Home, charitable agencies, friends and family, and a slew of contacts we've written or typed into data on our systems.

Knowing how and what we had to do helped strengthen us, now in a mock disaster for practice, but provided us a reality check

for the real thing. An unprecedented actual catastrophe! Imagine how much tougher the ordeal could have been had we not taken advantage of the skills we've acquired in prior years? Knowing how to use our computers and equipment, documenting each and every phone number, helping agency and communicating with others for vital information to help us though was a blessing we've come to realize as we reflect today almost 7 years ago.

CCUG-PC has also played a meaningful role before, doing, and now after-the grave event; by helping members to prepare, motivate, educate and support each other in sticking with its core motto: "users helping users".

Throughout its 21 great years, CCUG-PC members have unselfishly given time and energy to one another by sharing what we know - through presentations, interaction of knowledge and motivation to each other. We now reflect upon this as we move forward realizing the power of giving for the sake of this fine organization. Thanks!

Jerry Montalbano

CCUG-PC Board Members

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NOTICE!



Upcoming Date to Remember

**Saturday,
August 18, 2012**

**Meeting place: Slidell,
St. Tammany Public
Library**



**New Computer -
Continued from page 2**

Limited to no collaboration

Upgrade and update

We've mentioned Windows 7 a few times now without really discussing what makes the upgrade so important. Microsoft sums it up best with their 10 reasons to buy (or upgrade to) Windows 7.

Other than ensuring that your programs will run correctly and efficiently, it makes sense to upgrade simply for the peace of mind of knowing that your computer is running on the most up-to-date (and continuously supported) system.

Updating your drivers is one of the steps that many people forget about. Think of the drivers as the gears inside your computer that determine how well all of the other parts function. Knowing that, it makes sense that you would want all of your drivers updated to be as current as possible. As "programming bugs" are determined in the installation/drivers and a company feels the need to add "interim" or new features to existing versions of the software, the computer consumer should realize improvements right away upon updating or upgrading.

Work without wires

The ability to work from virtually anywhere with products like a creative laptop or (desktop) can be both a blessing and a curse, but no one can deny that having the option to work remotely with a laptop is worth its weight in gold.

Setting up a secure wireless network in your home or office gives you the freedom to create a dynamic environment that changes and grows as your work requires. Surprisingly, a wireless network can be less expensive than setting up a new network, and requires less time and technical expertise to do so. Of course, if you're going to run the laptop/desktop remotely, you'll need a router and a good one under \$100 from Linksys/Cisco is best and the tech support is enough (though outsourced at times) is enough to get you started and continue under the annual warranty.

The best of the rest

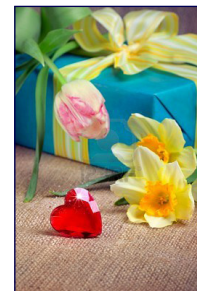
Most browsers now have handy features that make it incredibly simple to save your bookmarks, making them easy to install on your new computer. Most browsers allow you to install apps and upgrades to

make your web-browsing experience more enjoyable. *Google Chrome* is good (though boring in appearance) even lets you install a fully-playable browser version of *Angry Birds*, but don't tell your boss where you heard that. The other choices include the native browser to the operating system, Internet Explorer and a great alternative, *Firefox from Mozilla*. Some users carry all three on their computers in case of web inconsistencies/oddities are experienced. These can include web-favorite, facebook gaming, or other programs and webpages that lag behind when upgrading to the latest versions of the browsers. When the web-present business do so, users can then switch back to their favorite browser that addresses any issues the browser has given the user.

Wireless printers allow you print from another room, and in some cases, from the other side of town. If your printer has wireless capabilities, be sure you're taking full advantage of all the benefits of wireless printing. The router can help protect their IP (internet Protocol or address given to the printer) from hackers looking to enter the computer, much as each of them on the network.

Oh, there's lots to consider when thinking about upgrades and a few words of wisdom come to mind. Think about the cost and add about 20% to it to take the next most powerful system or printer, etc. That way, you won't have hindsight in wishing you had!

You also want to make a list of what you know about computer or other peripheral features, what you want to do with it and where you plan on placing them. Then, take the time to utilize the web as homework to make your choice. Do consider popular brands but study others' purchases on lesser-known models around the web. Being well informed improves your chances that your choice is based upon knowledge of the product and whether it best fits into your budget and lifestyle.



Happy Mother's Day, Ladies from
CCUG-PC to you and yours!



Having ‘The Talk’ with Your Teen/Grandteen

by Kim Komando

Hey parents. Have you had “The Talk” with your teen (or Grandchild) yet? No, I don’t mean that talk. But there’s another one that is almost as important these days.

I’m referring to the talk about staying safe with smartphones and social-media activity. Haven’t done that yet? If you’ve been putting it off because you don’t know what to cover, I’m here to help.

A recent report from the Pew Research Center indicates that one in four teens now owns a smartphone. While I use the word teen in this column, my advice also extends to preteens. It’s never too early to bring up the subject of online safety. As a parent, you no doubt realize that kids do far more texting than talking.

What you might not know is that kids are also doing a lot more mobile messaging through online social platforms, and this often includes sharing their location with friends.

If they’re not using location-sharing platforms properly, it can lead to real security and privacy risks. You don’t want your kids unwittingly broadcasting their whereabouts and other personal information to strangers.

Many of these tremendously popular social networking apps, such as Four-Square, are free. You may not even know your kids are using them or how they work.

Basically, they allow kids to “check in” to a location and tell friends what they’re doing. They may

be at a concert, a movie or a cool new coffee shop. As you might expect, businesses love location-sharing apps; owners often offer discounts or reward points to users who check in or achieve certain levels, such as “Mayor.”



Whose Privacy is affected?

For obvious reasons, you never want your teen checking in at home or at someone else’s home. There are a whole lot of people who do not need to know that information! Similarly, teach your child never to reveal a friend’s location without checking with them first. Your teen’s friends should extend the same courtesy.

Location-sharing apps usually sync with Facebook and Twitter. Unlike Facebook, which can be tightly restricted to friends and family, the communication taking place on Twitter is public and viewable to everyone. That’s just one reason that it’s important to start young teenagers with protected Twitter accounts until they demonstrate that they can use the site responsibly.

Kids also need to be smart about sharing pictures. Show them how to go into their smartphone settings and turn off geo-tagging. This pinpoints the exact location, time and date that photos are taken. Remind kids that school uniforms, license plates and

landmarks in photos can also give away too much information.

If your child has already been on the Internet and Facebook for a few years, you’ve probably already had The Talk about cyber-bullying. This issue has accelerated to a new level now, however, with so many kids carrying smartphones.

Encourage your child to bring up anything that has made him feel uncomfortable or scared online, in texts, or elsewhere. Take steps to block bullies at the first sign of trouble.

Help your child review and delete contacts occasionally. Kids fall in and out of friendships like they outgrow clothes. Some former friends may not need to know your child’s location.

Remember that technology is a two-edged blade. Location-based services can also give parents peace of mind.

You can insist that your child’s use of location-based services be visible to you. It may be a good idea to require them to check in with you at certain times. They’ll probably be more consistent in their communication to you if you allow check-ins in addition to just calls or texts.

Become an expert on privacy settings for whatever location-sharing app or service your child is using. Don’t worry that about whether this is too controlling; this is control you need,

(Spam - Komando, continues on page 10)



Mr. Grumpa

Aphomism:

The trouble with bucket seats is that not everybody has the same size bucket-harrumph!



Dealing: Stress/Anxiety in Technology

Stress and anxiety are very common when you work in the computer field or in dealing with technology. As a result, here is a list of techniques that a computer person can use to help manage their daily stresses and anxieties.

Sometimes, we get stressed when everything happens all at once. When this happens, a person should take a deep breath (literally) and try to find something to do something fun for a few minutes to get their mind off of the problem and relax from the stressor. A person could take a walk, listen to some music, read the newspaper or do an activity that will give them a fresh perspective on things or to help them make a more logical and wise business or work-related decision.

With that said, the technology in and of itself, when managed, can reduce your stress. An example of this can take place in the home environment by taking a break from TV, the chores of the evening, or just want to relax with your favorite computer, iphone or ipad/tablet game. Now, doesn't that make you feel better?

When facing a current or upcoming task at your computer job that overwhelms you with a lot of anxiety, divide the task into a series of smaller steps and then complete each of the smaller tasks one at a time. Completing these smaller tasks will make the stress more manageable and increases your chances of success.

Challenge your negative thinking with positive statements and realistic thinking. When encountering thoughts that make you fearful or depressed, challenge those thoughts by asking yourself questions that will maintain objectivity and

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common sense. For example, you are afraid that if you do not get that job promotion then you will be stuck at your job forever. This depresses you, however your thinking in this situation is unrealistic. The fact of the matter is that there all are kinds of jobs available and just because you don't get this job promotion doesn't mean that you will never get one.

Remember that no one can predict the future with one hundred percent certainty. Even if the thing that you feared does happen there are circumstances and factors that you can't predict which can be used to your advantage. For instance, you are at your place of work and you miss the deadline for a project you have been working on for the last few months. Everything you feared is coming true. Suddenly, your boss comes to your office and tells you that the deadline is extended and that he forgot to tell you the day before. This unknown factor changes everything.

In dealing with your anxieties at your engineering job, learn to take it one day at a time. While the consequences of a particular fear may seem real, there are usually other factors that cannot be anticipated and can affect the results of any situation. Get all of the facts of the situation and use them to your advantage. The more control you have over your stresses and anxieties, the better off you will be in the long run.

Get advice from your employees. It is important to consider other viewpoints other than your own. Ask your workers on what they think that you should do. These people know you and they can give you additional insights that you may be overlooking.

Take advantage of the help that is available around you. If possible, you can talk to a professional who can help you manage your fears and anxieties. They will be able to provide you with additional advice and insights on how to deal with your current problem. By talking to a professional, a person will be helping themselves in the long run because they will become better able to deal with their problems in the future.



However, don't let your choice just limit you to a professional. Don't forget about a very important weaponry in your arsenal of help: **a good user group pal whether it be in socializing at a meeting, by phone, computer e-mail or on a social network like Facebook**. All can be a fantastic tool in the battle against excessive stress. You'll find that by engaging socially, many users have faced similar circumstances of stress. They can help you cope with pressures. by giving real solutions to familiar-facing issues.



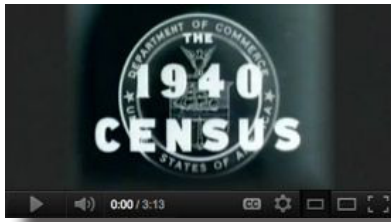


Genealogy Bits & Bytes with Sue Wessing

**St. Bernard Genealogical
Society, Inc.**

1940 Census Online!

The big buzz this year is the launch of the 1940 United States Census records. April 2 was the date they were posted. They will not be indexed at first, so you may have to go back to 1930 census records to see what enumeration district they lived in when that census was taken. If they are living in the same house or neighborhood you can use that information to find them in the 1940 census. Try city directories online to find where they were living in or before 1940. Sometimes that shows where the family was living. Many people moved about as they rented rather than owned their houses at that time. Remember they were coming out of the *Great Depression of October 1929* in those years. The following short video is provided by the National Archives:



<http://1940census.archives.gov/getting-started/>

City directories are available in libraries. Online resources may be found at the following link.

<http://sites.google.com/site/onlinedirectorysite/Home/resources>

Once you find their address, you may be able to find their enumeration district at sites such as Steve Morse's online ED finder at the following site:

<http://stevemorse.org/census/quiz.php>

The National Archives has much information on the 1940 Census as they are the ones that have posted them online. This is their site:

<http://www.archives.gov/research/census/1940/>

Ancestry.com has provided the following Guide to using the censuses.

http://c.mfcreative.com/email/newsletters/amu/2012/0312/March_AMU_Guide2.pdf?o_xid=50556&o_lid=50556&o_sch=Email

http://www.census.gov/history/www/reference/genealogy/1940_census_records.html

The actual blank forms are available to see what information is available on the 1940 US census.

http://www.census.gov/history/www/through_the_decades/questionnaires/1940_1.html

Be patient, the 1940 census will be indexed by volunteers and paid sites in a very short time. Read more about all censuses on the above links. Find your ancestors on the censuses that are already available online to get a further picture of your family. Be ready for differences in names, the enumerators may have spelled names wrong, or the indexers that have done previous indexing may have misread the names. I like that Ancestry.com allows for you to submit corrections to mistakes, and provides variations on names that are posted. It is a paid site, but is available in many libraries for your use if you don't subscribe. Happy hunting! SW

(For upcoming meetings and speaker - check our website www.ccugpc.org/sbgs/sbgs.htm for our schedule coming soon in 2012).

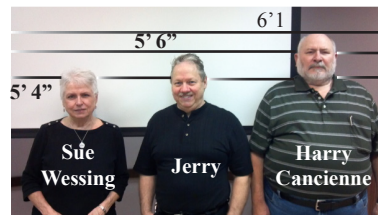


**Suzanne Doole Wessing, President of
St. Bernard Genealogical Society, Inc.**

E-mail: suewessing@gmail.com



2012 ELECTION RESULTS LINEUP

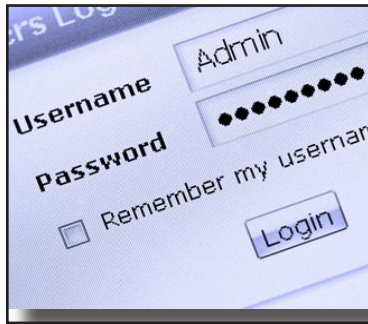


On Saturday, February 18, CCUG-PC members selected their choice of officers (*just kidding about the lineup!*) in the 2012 election.

The new 2012 officers are as follows: **Jerry Montalbano** - serves as *President (Newsletter editor)*; **Sue Wessing**, VP/Programs Coordinator/Secretary & **Harry Cancienne** as *Treasurer/Membership Secretary*. Thanks to Sue, Jerry and Harry for their unselfish dedication to CCUG-PC.



World's Worst Passwords for 2011-2012



SplashData (what does the company do?) compiled a list of the 25 worst passwords of 2011 based on passwords posted online by hackers (find tips to create a hack-proof password). The worst is “password,” followed by “123456.”

“Baseball,” “Michael” and “iloveyou” also made the list (find the full list). SplashData says that if your password is on the list, you should change it immediately.

A list of the 25 worst passwords of 2011 has been released and in the months ahead, 2012 will be provided. Mashable’s Zoe Fox gives this “pro tip” with the list and notes that choosing the word “password” as your online password is the worst idea for protecting your account.

Security firm SplashData compiled the list - released this posted online by hackers.

Along with “password,” more obvious examples made the list including the numbers 1 through 8 (in varying lengths but always in order) along with other easily cracked passwords such as “qwerty,” “abc123” and even “111111.”

See the complete list below.

The weak link is always your password, so what is the best way to create a hack-proof password?

MSNBC cites Gus Dimitrelos, a retired Secret Service agent and now a Cyber Forensic expert who says one way is to use random characters, random numbers, random symbols by using shapes on the keyboard with a starting point to make it easy to recall.

“What we like to do is go in one direction whether its a star, a straight line, up and down across as long as you know what that pattern is the next thing you need to know is where you start,” said Dimitrelos. “You can create a pattern like a diamond on your keyboard, starting with a letter you recognize and remember you create the pattern, lets say a shape like a cross or a line up or down anywhere on the keyboard.”

He continues: “That cannot be broken using brute force password techniques. If you want to be more secure you do a spacebar and repeat it that’s called mirroring so you are using a pattern password and in addition your are mirroring it with a space in between.”

According to the report, “experts say it would take years for a hacker or any hacking program to ID a random password. Mirroring a password can be made even stronger by adding symbols or numbers.”

The company provided some tips for choosing secure passwords in a statement:

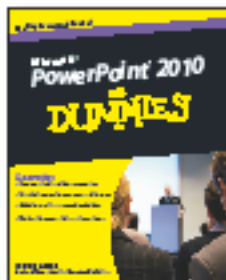
1. Vary different types of characters in your passwords; include numbers, letters and special characters when possible.
2. Choose passwords of eight characters or more. Separate short words with spaces or underscores.
3. Don’t use the same password and username combination for multiple websites. Use an online password manager to keep track of your different accounts.

Here is the complete list of the worst passwords on the list:

1. password (*who would have think it?*)
2. 123456
3. 12345678

CCUG-PC now has Dummies Support!

From Windows to Word, PCs to PowerPoint, And everything in between, *Dummies* has a Book for all your computing needs *at 20% off!*



Special CCUG-PC Offer!
 Visit www.dummies.com/go/ccugpc today
 and use promo code CCUG2 to save 20% on selected
 Dummies titles. Offer expires December 31, 2011.



- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 4. qwerty | 15. sunshine |
| 5. abc123 | 16. ashley |
| 6. monkey | 17. Bailey |
| 7. 1234567 | 18. passw0rd or password1,
Password 2, (etc.) |
| 8. letmein | 19. shadow |
| 9. trustno1 | 20. 123123 |
| 10. dragon | 21. 654321 |
| 11. baseball | 22. superman |
| 12. 111111 | 23. qazwsx |
| 13. iloveyou | 24. michael |
| 14. master | 25. football |

Let's be real, now. Are your favorite passwords listed above? Really?? If they are, perhaps you might reconsider make changing them. If you keep a list print them out and keep them in a really safe place (and keep them off the computer).

Hmm, strange how birthdays, 000000 or 012345, pets, loved ones' names, addresses, phone numbers, social security numbers or intimate info haven't made the top 25? Perhaps they will start with you at *number 26*?



Upcoming Presentation . . .
Dragon Naturally Speaking
Voice Recognition software.



Mr. Grumpa

Aphomism:

“Scratch a cat and you will have a permanent job.”



Which Video Game Had The Most Expensive Production Budget?

- 1) Final Fantasy: XII
- 2) Star Wars: The Old Republic
- 3) Too Human
- 4) Halo 3

Can't guess? We can't keep you in suspense too long. Look at right frame <chuckle>.



Star Wars: The Old Republic is the answer. Video games are big business and the most popular games have budgets rivaling Hollywood blockbusters. Among the dozens of games with eyebrows raising production budgets, none comes even close to touching Star Wars: The Old Republic.

Although the developer of the game BioWare has not formally disclosed the production budget, industry analysts have estimated the Star Wars-themed MMORPG cost between \$150 to \$200 million dollars to produce. In addition to holding the record for largest production budget, the game also holds a record for the largest video game voice over project. Star Wars: The Old Republic has over 200,000 lines of recorded dialogue.

Other notable big-budget games include Grand Theft Auto 4 (\$100 million), Too Human (\$60 million), Halo 3 (\$55 million), and Final Fantasy XII (\$48 million).



What's The Most Popular Cellphone World wide?

The Nokia 1100 is the most ubiquitous cellphone in the world. Since its introduction in 2003, Nokia has sold over one billion of the palm size candy-bar style phones. From the streets of India to Nigeria to Chile, the inexpensive, durable, and dependable cellphone has brought phone service to hundreds of millions of users. The phone wasn't anything to run a cover story about in 2003 and at this point it's about as dated as cellphones come, but cutting-edge technology isn't the reason it flies off the shelves. The phone is a near perfect match for users in developing countries. It has a terrific battery life (and can be easily charged from a variety of sources like hand cranks and bike-powered dynamos), a membrane keypad that is dust and water resistant, a rubberized body that is light and easy to keep a grip, and a simple to activate flashlight. In addition the embedded software doesn't need updating or any sortfancy routine maintenance like modern smart phones.

(Spam - Komando, continued from page 5)



especially when it comes to who your child's whereabouts. Monitor and review settings regularly. Work together to create an approved list of friends who will be allowed to see location updates.

Glympse is a location-sharing app that is very popular with parents. After you've loaded the free app on your teen's phone, you can track it on a Google map. You can specify that only you see the information and set a time limit for tracking.

If your child is driving to a friend's house 20 minutes away, for instance, you can monitor him on the way and set the timer to stop after 20 minutes. Knowing where your child is and that he's safe is a great comfort. After all, he and his friend are probably even using their smartphones to do homework.



Kia



Course Of Action To Combat Dust!

Dust (cough! cough! COUGH!! - Sneeze)

It has been the longtime nemesis of computer users for decades. According to manufacturers, the result of dust that accumulates on the fan blades of a graphics card is the reduction in cooling performance that can lead to a GPU's working temperature rising by 15 degrees Celsius. Take for example, a graphics video card and its dust removal technology, now available on many modern and extremist cards/boards. (Expect the technology to show up in other cards down the line.) So, what does the technology do exactly?

Interestingly, nothing more really than spin the fan blades in reverse for 30 seconds upon booting a system up to kick dust off the blades (and hopefully out of the system). You can also head to *youtube video sites* for videos demonstrating the technology in action.

While you're at it, if you have a desktop computer that can no longer breathe correctly because dust has clogged up its CPU and inner and outer blowing fans. Perhaps once a year, it would not hurt to blow dust out the computer's inners. Many people mark the cableing (for laster attachment), then use a can of compressed air (ie. Wal-Mart brand or something like Dust Remover & please read instructions)

to blow out dust over chips (including CPU fan), motherboard, video card, etc. This way, by doing so, you can help eliminate the "blanket of heat" that coverheat producing parts as well.

Many people find that transporting the unit to a place outside the computer room works great for an enviroment to tackle this dust-producing job. A back porch, patio or garage works fine and "doctors of dust" should protect their eyes and face with safety glasses and hygentic paper-filtered mask to keep dust from all allergies and breathing in unnecessary airborne elements produced by the cleansing.

Most computers use screws or hatches to remove the outer cover, so see your owners manual or your manufacturer's computer site for cover/hatch attaching itself to the unit.

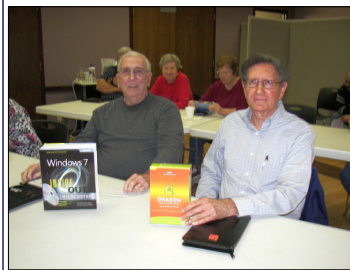
After cleaning, attach cover and cabling and you'll basically "breathe easier" knowing your system has taken its semi-annual to annual clean-up.



Well-Kept Computer Room Example?



(Audio, Visual, continued from page 1)



Microsoft user group backpack. **Mary Cancienne and Shirley Bourquard** won T-shirts. **Carolyn Cavalier** won a MS User Group organizer box and **Harriet Ordes** won a MS Stainless Gocup.

After returning all tickets to the drawing the main prizes were won by **Elwood LeBlanc**, a **Windows 7 Book (valued at \$69)**, and **Lance Castellanos** won a **Dragon Naturally speaking package (valued at \$99)**! Congrats all! SW 🐼

Q. Can you please recommend a printer, scanner, fax combination? I'm using Windows 7, love working with genealogy and the Internet.

A. Some considerations come to mind when selecting a printer. They include, desired cost limitations range (\$300? Max), usage, (in your case, not a lot as in an office environment), a scanner-printer-fax MULTI-FUNCTION one, and brand. Most of the popular brands are:

Canon, Hewlett Packard, Brother, Lexmark, Dell. And Epson

You've heard of most. I've personally owned a Brother, Hewlett-Packard, Lexmark and Epson. All seemed fine. Most make the most money off the ink—after the sale which tends to be pricy from \$20-\$50 per cartridge depending upon cartridge quantity. All are about the same pricing-wise.

Personally, I love the Hewlett-Packard ones having used them the most in my computing career. They offer me reliability, service; quality and I get speedy prints. I am still using a 4 yr. old HP Officejet Pro All-in-One, L7700. However, the upgrade would be the **HP Officejet Pro/Premium 8500A**



wireless and a 50 page top-loading document feeder at about \$300-\$350. It has a dual-tray for 2 size papers It's as rock solid as they come. (See: <http://printers.toptenreviews.com/all-in-one/>). I'm sure many of our members can attest as well

to the multi-function printer they have currently used, but to me, the HP models are my sole choice of printers that can handle most small office and home-office environments and should be long lasting (these days any over 3 yrs. old is considered long lasting).


For the economy user one can substitute the HP 8600 model for about \$150-\$190 and gives a 250 sheet capacity for 8 1/2x11in sheets and for an additional \$80 or so get a legal tray to go with it for 8 1/2x14in. needs. http://www.hp.com/hpinfo/newsroom/press_kits/2011/InnovationforImpact/OJ8600_Series_FeaturesGuide.pdf

Therefore, I believe the OfficeJet is one of the best All-In-One printer models (all-around) available on the market to date considering the usage mentioned. And, if one is interested in larger paper types/bins/trays for legals (8 1/2x14 in. sheets, can also expand the capacity upwards of 400 sheets. http://h10025.www1.hp.com/ewfrf/wc/document?docname=c02173269&cc=us&dlc=en&lc=en&product=4173593&tmp_track_link=ot_search#N1386

Standard Rule of Thumb for Printers in General:

Choosing the right printer can be a daunting task. There are several different types of printing technology to choose from, each suited for different needs. Printers come in all shapes and sizes, from tiny travel companions to work-group workhorses; some are geared toward photographers, others are for multi-taskers. And the many specifications for resolution and speed can be misleading. As a rule of thumb, inkjet printers are a must for long-lasting photos, while laser printers are best to produce speedy text documents.

Q. How about any device that connects two PC computers via their USB ports and can transfer files from one to the other without any software.

A. The device you're referring to is called "The Tornado." You can buy it through their Web site: www.thetornado.com. A new model will even allow transfer between PC and Mac computers. The device, when plugged in, loads its own program and is simple and straightforward to use. 

Meeting Pics



(L) Jerry outlines and details the events and activities of the day



(R) Jerry and Ray Paternostro field terrific questions from the members in the Q & A session of the meeting



(L) Members await the start of the exciting February 18th General Meeting



Yahoo Online & Facebook

Help from CCUG-PC



Any of you who haven't joined the CCUG-PC Yahoo and facebook Online Groups 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, spyware, 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 Online Groups. We have many members from around the world who will take 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 to see if anyone has your answer. This is an excellent free support community and you can do it from work or home!

Buster Matthews, Yahoo Group CCUG-PC Online Moderator Worldwide CCUG-PC Yahoo Club:
Yahoo: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ccugponline/>
Facebook: <http://tinyurl.com/3mtox6h>



WATCH FOR ONLINE STORAGE FROM GOOGLE



Although no final product was in public view as of press time, The Wall Street Journal reports that Google is getting close to launching an online storage service, called Drive, which would keep files in sync between devices and the cloud (i.e., Google's servers).

Integration with Google Apps is likely, which means that Drive would have a business-oriented component, as well. It appears that Drive will also be available for consumer use and will compete with such services as Dropbox and Apple's iCloud.



CCUG-PC CHUCKLES

"Laugh til' you chuckle"



I'm certainly no expert, but I think it's time this company invests in newer technology!

websites of the MONTH

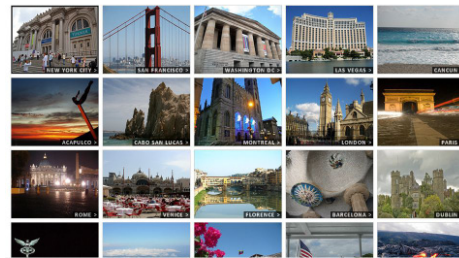
<http://http://www.funtouristattractions.com/>



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