

HORIZONS

Volume 27 Number 7
July 2009

The Official Journal of the Computer Users of Erie

Founded 1982

Next Meeting

July 12, 2009

CUE Summer Picnic



Time once again for the annual CUE Summer Picnic. Bring the family with you to enjoy a day in the sun as well as some tasty eats n treats cooked up by grill master Tom Kuklinski!

Bring a dish of your favorite picnic food to share with your fellow members (enough to feed about 8 is good).

10 am - 4 pm, Glenwood Picnic Grounds

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For the latest CUE Information, visit our website at www.cuerie.com

OR

Call the CUE Information Line at 814-746-4784

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Computer Users of Erie

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Horizons

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For fastest results, direct your email correspondence to the desired individual. (If no personal email address is found, direct your message to the CUE email address, and it will be forwarded. Please indicate the desired recipient).

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Upcoming CUE Events

July 2009

Sun	Mo	Tue	We	Th	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

- 1 Digital Photo SIG (LC)
- 4 Independence Day
- 7 **Genealogy SIG (DH)**
- 12 **CUE Family Picnic - 10am to 4pm, Glenwood Picnic grounds**
- 17 Newsletter Deadline
- 21 BUG SIG (TK)

August 2009

Sun	Mo	Tue	We	Th	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

- 4 Genealogy SIG (DH)
- 5 Digital Photo SIG (LC)
- 18 BUG SIG (TK)
- 20 CUE Monthly Meeting (HR)
- 21 Newsletter Deadline

August 2009 Meeting Topic:

Digital Photo SIG Meeting

Lou Cioccio will hold his monthly SIG meeting after our regular monthly business meeting, to give those in attendance a chance to see what happens at one of their regular SIG meetings. Feel free to ask any questions you may have about digital imaging!

Meeting Location Finder

DH Dave Howell • 3904 Myrtle • 866-7308 • dhowell63@neo.rr.com
 HR Holy Rosary • 1012 E. 28th (park behind school) • Contact Lou Cioccio • 868-1320 • louiscioccio@verizon.net
 TK Tom Kuklinski • 3699 Dogleg Trail • 814-746-9165 • tkuklinski@gmail.com
 LC Lou Cioccio • 5753 Glenview Dr. • 868-1320 • lcioccio@mac.com
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All meetings begin at 7 pm, except for Mac SIG, which is 9 AM (UNLESS otherwise noted by SIG leader).
PLEASE RSVP for all SIG meetings, to allow for planning changes or meeting postponements.

About CUE

Founded in March 1982, Computer Users of Erie has undergone many changes over the years to keep pace with the ever-changing world of computing.

The computer platforms vary; we have members using Windows XP, Windows Vista, Windows 95/98, Mac OS, Linux, and others.

Our members are versed in many different hardware backgrounds. In fact, our roots go back to the days of the old Tandy CoCo (Color Computer), which was the basis around which our group was formed.

CUE has always welcomed members from all walks of life, and all levels of expertise, from the novice just buying their first system, to the professionals that work in the computer industry as a way of life.

Visitors are always welcome to attend one or two of our monthly meetings before joining, just to see what is happening.

Benefits our members enjoy are the newsletter, our CUE Website, and a selection of SIG (Special Interest Groups) to give them a chance to concentrate in-depth on subjects

that are of interest to them. CUE also has a general Monthly meeting held on the third Thursday of each month, where all members are welcome to come and join in on the activities there. A demonstration or other presentation follows our business meeting, and questions are welcome...oftentimes in a 'Stump the Experts' session.

Special Interest Groups

There are several SIGs operating within CUE that our members are welcome to participate in. Current SIGs include:

- Genealogy
- Macintosh
- Digital Photo
- BUG (Beginners User Group)

There is no extra charge to join a SIG. You may join as many as you wish, or even start one focused on a topic not yet covered!

Why not stop at our next meeting and see what's up?

Membership News

New Members

None last month

Renewals Received

Kathleen Bolla

Renewals Due

Claudia Skerlong

Harold Kelley

Charles McKay

Eran Swartzwelder

Bob Huber

Remember, a CUE Membership makes a great gift!!

Secretary's Reports

Board Meeting

June 18, 2009
Holy Rosary School
6:00 PM

Lee Williams
Lou Cioccio
Gene Meeks
Mark Mattson
Sam Fletcher
Scarlett Skarupski

Lee:

Discussion of Speakers and agenda for rest of year. Important to have a backup, if October speaker unable, the November speaker would step in and be prepared to do October. October speaker would then do November if possible or make arrangement with speakers for another month.

Lou: Need to establish rest of the year with speakers.

- July 12th, Picnic, as in previous years, meats, rolls, condiments, pop, supplies will be furnished. Please bring dishes and deserts to pass. If poor weather it will be moved to the following Sunday, July 19th.
- August - Digital Photo Lou Cioccio
- September - Phishing Scams, Security Tom Kuklinski
- October - Snow Leopard Lee Williams
- November - Genealogy Dave Howell or Bill Ellis
- December - Holiday Party

Discussion on Holiday Party - To be held within the first week of December (1st - Tuesday thru 7th - Monday) Scarlett will check suitable accommodations, catering, menu's, prices, privacy, etc. Three suggestions: Oakwood Cafe (McGarry's) Siedenburg, Hoss's.

All **members** in attendance will be given \$10.00 to use toward their bill.

RSVP would be necessary for number of reservations.

Further discussion at August meeting.

- January - Taxes - Sam Fletcher

Meeting Adjourned
6:50 PM
Respectfully submitted,
Scarlett Skarupski

General Meeting

June 18, 2009
Holy Rosary School
7:00 PM

Members in Attendance 13
New Member : James Ruth

Lee opened meeting with roundtable self introductions.

May Minutes approved, passed, Scarlett Skarupski, Sam Fletcher.

Olen Seidler, VP unable to attend.

Tom Kuklinski, Treasurer, no report (working).

Scarlett: Secretary, Publicity, Format of Senior News changed to include our new information. Local News channels, WICU, WSEE, WICU, and the Local Educational Channel are running our information on their Monthly Calendars.

Mark Mattson, Newsletter, need articles for July, working on changing layout, suggestions welcome.

Lou Cioccio, Digital Photo, "Presque Isle Safari" Great time shooting sunsets, explanation of shutter and lens opening, power setting, remote lighting, flash, image. How to obtain a good sunset picture, "aim lens off to side and up". May, June, July, August, September SIG meeting will usually be outside. October thru April at Lou's house.

Next Photo, will be Saturday July 18th at 5:00 AM to 8:30 AM, SUNRISE, 2nd parking lot Presque Isle.

Gene Meeks, 50 / 50 \$21.00 winner Eleanor Craig \$10.50

Lee Williams, following meeting will be giving a presentation on iTunes.

Meeting Adjourned
7:55 PM
Respectfully submitted.
Scarlett Skarupski

SIGS and Such

By Bill Ellis, Computer Users of Erie

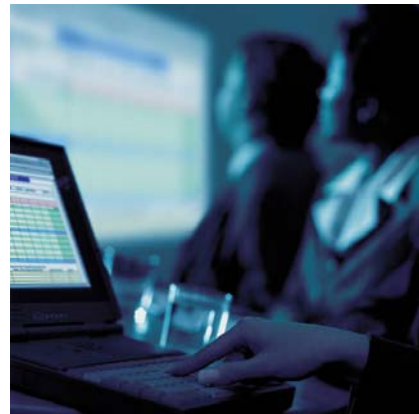
In all honesty, enough cannot be said about the importance of a SIG. In case you are not familiar with the term SIG, it's an acronym that stands for a Special Interest Group. For example, the group of people in our SIG are interested in genealogy. We may not all use the same method for genealogical research, but we are all looking to have a better understanding of our heritage. The same can be said for any special interest group, whether it's photography, journalism, financing, etc. Even interests that are not computer related, such as sailing, model building, flying and so on. Any time you can get a group of people together and discuss a common interest, you can be called a SIG.

Our genealogy SIG for June was quite informative. Everyone in the group came with questions. I am sure that everyone left with those questions answered or at the very least, a better understanding of their problem. One of the issues discussed was adding multiple pictures to the photo center inside of the Legacy program. Another issue was how to develop a time line for a given individual so it could be use during research. We decided that a chronology listing for that person might be more useful. Some of the members in the group are using different genealogical programs and some are not ready to start using a computer program at all. Some would like to move their family history information from one program to another, so we discussed how to export and import this information. We also discussed the differences of the using the open file option, compared to restoring a file and importing a file. As you can see, quite a few issues were discussed and solved.

I hope you get the idea of how important a SIG can be to your special interest. Don't be afraid to join one. Some of us are afraid to join in a group discussion because we may sound foolish, Nonsense! Be not afraid. A Special Interest Group is a great tool to help you straighten out that learning curve. None of us, in our group, have ever left a meeting without learning something.

Special interest groups are not the only means of communicating with others with the same interests. You can find many groups on the Internet. Some of these are called blogs and some are just plain User Groups with the item of interest as part of their title. Such as cars, boats, airplanes, knitting, oil painting, etc. The list appears to be endless. Look around and see what group is available for your interest. You will also find groups locally, such as our own Computer Users of Erie.

At our June genealogy meeting, I had hoped to explore some of these users groups, but we ran out to time. Our meeting was so jammed pack with issues, we decided that we would never learned all there is to know about genealogy and genealogical programs. Our life span isn't long enough. However, we'll keep on trying. I hope you will join a group and try to.



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Fun & Games with Ubuntu

By Brian K. Lewis, Ph.D., Regular Columnist and member of the Sarasota PCUG, Florida
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As I said in my last article in the Monitor, this one would be about my experience getting Ubuntu up and running on my new Asus laptop. I had been running version 8.04 (Hardy Heron) on my old laptop. Since it seemed to be quite successful I decided to use it for the initial install on my new computer. Perhaps I should point out that Canonical, producers of Ubuntu, turn out a new version of their OS every six months! Compare that with Microsoft and its multi-year production cycle. Hardy Heron is a long-term support version with guaranteed support until April 2011. That's three years from its original release date. In the meantime, version 8.10 (Intrepid Ibex) was released in October 2008 and will be supported for two years. However, the latest version is 9.04 (Jaunty Jackalope) which was released on April 23, 2009. Since I was starting my installation the end of March, I decided that installing Hardy Heron should be fine. A bad guess, as it turned out.

The process of installing any Ubuntu version is very similar to installing Windows. The exception being when you want it to share the hard drive as a dual boot system with Windows. Then a few extra steps are needed. The first step is to download Ubuntu. This will be an ISO image file. That is a compressed file in the format specified by the International Organization of Standardization. It is almost 700 megabytes in size, so it's best to have a broadband connection for your download. (If you don't have a broadband connection, you can request a free CD from Canonical and have it mailed to you.) Once the file is on your hard drive it has to be decompressed and the image burned to a CD. Most commercial software can burn the ISO file image to a CD. I used CDburnerXP, a free Windows program, to burn the image to the CD. That gave me a bootable CD that either runs Ubuntu from the CD or it can install the OS to a hard drive as a dual boot with Windows/Vista or it can take over an entire drive. If you have two hard drives in your computer you could have Ubuntu take over the second drive and dual boot with Windows. There is also an option to install it as Windows software allowing you to run it within Windows or Vista. I haven't tried this option. It just seems to me that running Ubuntu under Windows you would lose many of the benefits of Ubuntu, especially its stability.

The hard drive on my laptop was already partitioned into C and D drives and formatted with NTFS. (That's the file system XP and Vista use.) My intention was to install Ubuntu on the second partition as a dual boot system. As I found out, if your hard drive is not already partitioned, don't change it. Let the Ubuntu installation do it for you. That is much easier. I ended up doing a more manual

preparation of the hard drive which requires a better understanding of how Linux systems need to be set up. You can find the info on the Ubuntu site, but why make things any harder than you have to! Once the drive was set, Ubuntu spent some time installing all the files needed for my hardware and the additional software. If you are interested in the details of installing Ubuntu, check out this web site: <https://help.ubuntu.com/community/GraphicalInstall>. They have a detailed graphical presentation (screen shots) of the steps involved.

During the installation Ubuntu asks for a user name and a password. I used my initials and a fairly secure password. I recommend that you do not shirk this password setup. It will help to protect your computer from problems caused by outside entry of worms or trojans through the Internet connection. The password has to be entered for software installation or any other administrative function. So using a strong password is advisable.

Now I was ready to do my part of the setup. I had to program my new USB modem so I could connect to the Internet. That requires some knowledge of the command line functions in Terminal. I had done this on my previous computer but some of the information for the new modem was different, so I had to find that first. It took a little hunting, but everything worked once I had the commands right. The other thing I had noticed was that the sound didn't seem to be working and the video resolution was not right. So I investigated both of these through the Ubuntu forums. That turned out to be far more difficult than I imagined it would be. My laptop has an NVidia graphics card. It turned out Hardy Heron did not have the drivers for my card, it was too new. The drivers available on the NVidia web site also didn't seem to help. My sound card was part of the Intel chip and the drivers just didn't seem to want to work with it no matter what I did. Then I also found that Hardy Heron didn't recognize my eSATA port. After doing more research in the Ubuntu Community forum, it seemed like I needed to try the Intrepid Ibex upgrade or maybe I would have to wait for Jaunty Jackalope to solve my problems.

So, next I downloaded the ISO file for Intrepid Ibex and burned it to a CD. That gave me a bootable CD that I could use to test how well this version would work with my laptop. When I booted from the CD, although it took some time to load, the video setup was perfect. It recognized my NVidia card and gave me the 1200x800 resolution that I had with Vista. It also had the expected 3D effects and other graphics features that my card supports. Next I tried the sound and had no problem playing some WAV files I had stored in the Linux partition. Better and better. With previous live CDs I had never been able to connect to the Internet with my old wireless modem. But I clicked on the wireless icon on the top bar of the window and it

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gave me a list of several local wireless networks and it also had a choice of a wireless broadband connection. So I tried the broadband connection and within seconds I was connected through my Verizon wireless modem to the Internet. This live CD also recognized my printer, but didn't have the drivers to print to it. However, everything was working much better with Intrepid Ibex than it had with Hardy Heron. So, I decided my next step was to upgrade to Intrepid Ibex.

If I had done an install from the live CD, it would have wiped out many of my files that had been created using Hardy Heron. It wouldn't affect my documents as they were backed up to my external drive. However, there were other files that I had created to help with hardware compatibility and additional software I had downloaded that would have disappeared. So I went back to the Ubuntu site to find out how to upgrade, rather than install Intrepid Ibex from the CD. It turned out to be much easier than I had anticipated. In the System-Administration menu there is a selection for "Software Sources". This contains the information on locations where the Synaptic Package Manager will find additional software. On the Update tab you will find the options for operating system updates. Mine had been set for "long term support" updates only. I changed that to "standard updates", clicked OK and exited the window. The package manager told me that there was an update available, version 8.10, and it could be downloaded. It also gave me an estimate of the amount of time it would take with my connection. The estimate was two hours, but it ended up taking 30 minutes less. Once the download was complete, the upgrade installation started. About an hour later, the screen announced that the system needed to be rebooted. Since I still have the live CD for Intrepid Ibex, I automatically have a backup CD, should problems occur down the road.

After the upgrade, the first thing I noticed was that the dual-boot menu reflected the new version of Ubuntu. Next, it took far less time for the user name/password request to show up. Then, very quickly, on the desktop there was the Intrepid Ibex. I will be replacing the Ibex graphic with my own wallpaper, another very easy task. But, I had noted there was no sound. So I clicked on the sound icon and found that the sound had been muted! Once I corrected that, it worked perfectly. First problem solved! Then I clicked on the wireless icon and there was the broadband choice. I selected it and within seconds I was on the Internet. Second problem solved. However, the screen resolution didn't seem right. With some hunting I found an NVIDIA X Server settings on the System – Administration menu. That allowed me to change the resolution to 1200x800. Third problem solved.

Next, I realized I hadn't tried to use the eSATA port when I was running the live CD, so now was the time to try that out. I plugged in my external drive and all three partitions appeared in the Places menu. I clicked on the main partition and all the files come up in the file manager (nautilus) window. So, everything that I had problems with under Hardy Heron seemed to be working with Intrepid

Ibex. And, the improvement came without having to do anything with the Ubuntu command line. In my mind, that makes Ubuntu much more ready for the average user. With an easy install, either single or dual boot, a great selection of software that is easily available through a graphics interface, it is becoming something that anyone can try and, probably, enjoy using. As for crashes, in more than 10 years of using various flavors of Linux, I have yet to have one crash. I certainly can't say that for Windows over the same period of time.

My next step will be to download a live CD of the latest version, Jaunty Jackalope, after the initial surge of business slows down. I really don't want to be trying to download almost 700 MB of data at a time when thousands of other Ubuntu enthusiasts are trying to do the same thing. By trying out the live CD version I can be sure that it will work with my hardware before doing an upgrade. I have already seen the problems that occur when you have to remove a newer version and revert back to a previous version. That is something I really don't want to do again. Windows has similar problems as those who replaced Vista with XP found out. I am also considering downloading the 64 bit version of Ubuntu. I am very curious as to how it would work with my hardware. You may be sure I will share the results with you.

So for all of you Windows/Vista users who are curious about Ubuntu, the easiest way to test it on your hardware is to download a live CD. From the home page, www.ubuntu.com, you can download either the latest version, or an earlier version. I would recommend that you not go back any further than version 8.10, Intrepid Ibex. You really should give it a try and download the CD, especially if you have a broadband connection. You'll also find the Ubuntu has a large selection of games that come with the installation. So, have some fun and games with Ubuntu!

Dr. Lewis is a former university and medical school professor of physiology. He has been working with personal computers for over thirty years, developing software and assembling systems. He can be reached at [bwsail at yahoo](mailto:bwsail@yahoo.com)



Computer Performance Considerations

By Gary Bentley, editor, SouthWest International Personal Computer Club (TX) www.swipcc.org bentley.gary@gmail.com

This article has been obtained from APCUG with the author's permission for publication by APCUG member groups; all other uses require the permission of the author (see e-mail address above).

When I evaluate what might be done to maximize the performance of a computer system, whether that be a system already in use or one I might be specifying for order (i.e., specifying the hardware with a particular level of performance in mind for the intended application) I look at several key factors.

The most critical factor is how much system RAM is available (if you are ordering a new system then you can also order faster RAM and be cognizant of addressing issues). I will state flatly that, all factors being equal, the more RAM available, the faster your computer system will operate. In the same vein, if you want to make full use of that system RAM, get an external graphics card with its own RAM so you don't force your system to share RAM with the video display. If you are specifying a new computer, get the fastest FSB (front side bus) speed you can afford with the microprocessor and then match the RAM bus speed to take advantage of that high bus speed. Don't let a computer maker fool you with a low system price while handing off old slow RAM to you when the motherboard and processor would support faster bus speed RAM. New systems will always use DDR RAM, so that should not be a consideration (and older systems will not be able to use it). Don't be confused by discussions of virtual memory and page files. If you have a large amount of RAM (1 GB or more with Windows XP—3 or 4 GB with Vista, the OS memory hog of all time), your system will rarely need to page out process memory onto the hard drive paging file. You can check that in Task Manager (hit CTRL SHIFT ESC or CTRL ALT DEL or right click the Task Bar and select Task Manager) by looking at the Performance tab and the Physical Memory Total in conjunction with the Commit Charge. The Physical Memory Total is the amount of RAM you have in your system. The Commit Charge is the total memory allocated to programs and the operating system. If the Commit Charge (Total or Peak) doesn't exceed the amount of RAM, then the hard drive pagefile is rarely if ever being used and your system should be running at full RAM speed without hard drive performance issues (except when loading the OS and starting an application, etc.). You can also use Performance Monitor (Start, Administrative Tools, Performance)

and look at the Memory, Pages Output/Sec parameter. Even if the amount of committed memory exceeds available RAM, if the actual Pages Output/Sec is low or zero most of the time (quoting Microsoft) there is no significant performance problem related to available RAM. I doubt there would be any reason for the typical home user to require a 64 bit computer in order to utilize sufficient RAM.

The second most critical factor is the performance of the hard drive, i.e., the amount of utilization of your hard drive (present or anticipated for the application), the speed at which the drive platters rotate, and the speed of the interface to your hard drive. You never want to reach 50% of capacity of your hard drive. The more data you have on a hard drive the farther the disk drive read/write head has to move inward on the spinning platter to get to the data (on the average). This increases the seek time, the time required for the read/write head to position itself over the desired concentric data track on the spinning disk platter. So, use a hard drive with sufficient storage that you do not exceed 40% or so of the storage capacity (high performance server hard drives often are destroyed or short stroked, i.e., limited to 40% or less so as to keep the data on the outer edge of the platters where it can be quickly reached). Once the read/write head reaches a track then the rotational speed of the platter comes into play, introducing latency, the time required for the desired sector of the track to rotate into position beneath the head. How do you reduce latency? Get a hard drive that spins as fast as you can afford. Most desktop hard drives now spin at 7200 RPM (don't let them slip you a 5400 RPM drive on your desktop or your laptop!). If your drive has a slower RPM, you can increase performance by purchasing a 7200 RPM drive. Note that high performance server drives spin at 10,000 and 15,000 RPM, but those drives are expensive. If you are evaluating a replacement drive (or specifying the hard drive in a new system), look at the access time parameter for the drive. This will generally be around 11 milliseconds for 7200 RPM desktop PC ATA/SATA drives. The access time will include seek time and rotational latency. As for the type of interface, ATA drives (which peaked at around 133 MB/sec interface performance, setting aside internal data rate of around 60 MB/s and PCI bus rate considerations) are no longer offered, so you will see SATA (serial ATA) drives in a new com-

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puter. I wouldn't bother attempting to replace an ATA drive in an old PC with a SATA drive. You would need a SATA controller card as well as SATA drive and you might as well just purchase a new computer. The current SATA interface rate is 3 Gbps (the initial SATA interface was 1.5 Gbps), i.e., 3 gigabits per second. That translates to approximately 300 MB/sec. However, the actual rate that the read head can read the data off the spinning platter of the drive is closer to 100 MB/sec (the internal data rate). You therefore can benefit by having a drive with a large cache memory, where a large amount of data has been read internally by the hard drive before the interface is accessed, at which time the interface can burst perform at the full interface speed of 3 Gbps/300 MB/sec. I note that even the expensive server grade SCSI and SAS drives have about that same external interface transfer rate, i.e., 300 – 320 MB/sec, so their increased performance is coming directly from the high rotational speeds (10 – 15 K) and fast seeks, giving access times of 3 – 5 ms vs. 11 ms or so for desktop SATA drives. Defragmenting your drive regularly will help keep the drive operating at peak efficiency.

A less critical factor is the speed of the microprocessor itself (FSB considerations aside as they relate to RAM access speed). A faster microprocessor or a dual or quad core processor will allow applications, their processes and threads to execute faster (to actually run the microprocessor instructions of which a program is composed) once the instructions and data reach the microprocessor.

So, if you have processing intensive applications like video or music (studio) production and editing (or scientific number crunching), faster and more core processors will speed things up considerably, but only if you have plenty of RAM and a high performance hard drive.

Mr. Bentley studied electrical engineering at the University of Texas, began working in the electronics industry in 1978 with GTE Network Systems (Lenkurt), then software engineering with various startups in the 1980's, designing and implementing, among other things, pre-Internet email communications systems multitasking on Intel platforms and MSDOS PC's. 1984 - 1986. Gary now provides Information Technology consulting services in the El Paso, Texas and Las Cruces, New Mexico areas. Gary has edited and contributed articles to the award-winning Southwest International Personal Computer Club monthly magazine, "Throughput", since December, 2003.



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Let's never forget the first king: DOS

By Rick Smith, a member of the Channel Islands PC Users Group, CA www.cipcug.org Rants@vcmail.net

Oh where, oh where has my little DOS gone.
Oh where, oh where can it be,
with its life cut short and windows cut long
Oh where, oh where can it be?

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Some might say that I'm losing it, but you cannot lose what you never had.

Where has DOS gone? Some might say it's still around in the various forms of Linux. Others might say it's buried deep in Microsoft operating systems waiting to be called out by a powerful wizard to cast potent spells with a command prompt. But most of us just believe that it's just lost, never to found again. Like a lost pet that you once had affection for, once it's gone you seem to remember only the good times and seem to forget all the problems that it caused you.

DOS does that to people. There are still a few of you "old-timers," and you know who you are! Those who sit at the doughnut table at club meetings and reminisce about the "good ol' days" when all you needed was a Northgate keyboard and a monochrome screen to have absolute power over your world. You know what I'm talking about. Way back when people spoke about computers with fear and awe. They were things better left to experts and shady government entities. The quickest way to kill a conversation in those days was to talk command line technobabble. It always made everyone in the room feel uncomfortable that they couldn't understand you, like you were speaking a different language.

On the flip side, though, it gave you an incredible feeling of power, that you, and you alone, could master the savage beast and control your own destiny. Neh Ahh Ahh Yahh. (Sometimes I think all those comic books I read have permanently warped my thinking.) But really, didn't you feel special? That you and you alone, could master something that would make others wince and shirk away. You didn't have to be popular at school. You didn't have to be good looking. You didn't have to be wealthy. You did not have to have any of those things that everyone else needed to be important. You had knowledge.

And knowing the secrets of the PC universe, did you use that knowledge to gain wisdom or for greed? I think most of you, unfortunately, like me, used it for personal greed. We gave ourselves over to the dark side of the force and used our skill to enrich ourselves financially. But eventually as we all grew older, and some of us wiser, we started using our skills to teach and help others, which led you to me, to read these words and words of others in this tome. You all became a band of brothers forming the fellowship of the DOS.

And just! And just as your powers were at their peak, everything came crashing down like the Jedi of old. A new power rose in the universe to supplant the old ways. Windows came rushing down like a wind from heaven with trumpets blazing and fire and smoke billowing up in great clouds. And when this behemoth came to rest. its great weight crushed the last vestiges of DOS underneath its feet.

A new group came forth to rule the PC world. A group of men, and, yes, women, too. who knew nothing of the old ways but were formed from clay in the new ways. These new acolytes grew up in the ways of the PC, each having their own since they were young.

Gone was command prompt. In was the mouse. The wizards of old became legend. And after time they have become forgotten to be remembered by only a few at computer club meetings. There are still a few prophets preaching to us not to forget the old ways. I saw one at last month's meeting giving a history lesson at the club meeting. But they are old and feeble now with most of their words echoing on deaf ears.

So I say to all today! Remember the DOS! Don't let the old ways die, as you never know when you will be called upon as I have this week to use my skills again. Fortunately. I have not been found wanting as I was able to vanquish the beast with my skill at the command prompt. I have beaten down one enemy, but more are waiting to attack.

So be on your guard, be ready, and be faithful to the cause. Put away your mice as they are no use against such foes. Operate you PC only with the keyboard and keep yourself ready for the fight. For it shall come. It shall come.

Mac Hints and Tips

Compiled by Paul Taylor www.machintsandtips.com paul@mac-hints-tips.com

General

Wipe Down an Old Mac with Target Disk Mode

A reader recently contacted us with a question regarding her decision to recycle an older iMac computer. She wanted to know how she could clear/reformat the hard drive, but didn't have the disks that came with the system. So, we thought we would take a minute to tell you how you can cleanse your hard drives before getting rid of your computer. I'm going to show you how to wipe the hard drive using Target Disk Mode, since this will work even if you don't have the install disks.

Step 1: Get a FireWire Cable

Both of the Macs will need to have FireWire, which means everything between the iMac DV and the current lineup (except for the MacBook Air and unibody MacBook) are eligible. You will also need a FireWire 400 cable so you can connect one end to the old Mac, and the other end to another Mac. If you don't have one of these cables, you can easily pick up one online or at a retail store. If both of the Macs support FireWire 800, you can use one of those cables as an alternative to 400; it will be faster. If one has only a 400 port and the other has only an 800 port, a converter cable (available online for less than \$10) is what you need. Once you have the FireWire cable, just simply connect the two computers together.

Step 2: Boot into Target Disk Mode on the old Mac

Shut down the old Mac that will be receiving the hard drive cleaning, and reboot it while holding down the "T" key on your keyboard. After a few moments, you should see a FireWire symbol appear on the screen — when you see this, you are in FireWire Disk Mode (FDM). When in FDM, your old Mac's hard drive should show up on the new Mac as a connected external FireWire drive.

Step 3: Do some Disk Utility magic

Open Disk Utility.app on your new Mac (located in / Applications/Utilities), and click on your old Mac hard drive in the selection area on the left. Note that you should click on the drive, and not the partition (often called "Macintosh HD") to ensure a complete disk wipe. The disk drive will most likely have a FireWire icon to denote that it is connected as an external disk. Once you select the drive, click the "Erase" tab, and click "Security options."

In this section of Disk Utility, you will be able to select a few different erase options that will also add security to

the standard disk erase. First, let's specify a name for the drive — in the "name" field, type what you would like the drive to show up as when it is erased, otherwise it will default to "Untitled."

If you click the "Security Options..." button next to Erase, you will be presented with a few options that can add security to a standard erase. By default, Disk Utility erases the disk directory instead of the data on the drive, meaning that a recovery utility could bring back your information. This is the least secure method, and isn't appropriate if you have sensitive items on the old drive. I recommend that you do a "zero out" or "7-pass" erase. If you select "zero out data," your hard drive will have 0s written in place of all the information stored on the disk. If you want more security than that, you can select the 7-pass erase; with this method of erasing, the drive will be fully erased 7 times. This method is the same security measure that the United States Department of Defense recommends to securely erase magnetic media.

Once you select your method, click "OK," and then click on the "Erase" button. Depending on the erase method you selected and the size of the old drive, this process could take from a few minutes to several hours — for a 7-pass erase on a large drive, I'd suggest starting it and letting it run overnight. Once it is erased, you will see the drive show back up in Disk Utility with the new name that you specified. At this time you can eject the disk from your new Mac and turn off the old Mac. Your old machine has been completely erased and you can rest assured that your important information will not get into the wrong hands. Of course, the old machine will need an OS install before it can be used, but that's the next person's problem. ~ Cory Bohon

TUAW.com

Tips for Saving Power

Slide It Down

Apple's Energy Usage Calculator (www.apple.com/environment/resources/calculator.html) estimates a 75 percent savings when using the Energy Saver features on a Mac Pro or iMac, compared to keeping it running 24/7 with no energy-management enabled. The feature defaults to sleep mode after 10 minutes of inactivity, but try nudging the slider down to 5, and put the display to sleep even sooner than that. Give yourself a few days to get

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

used to it — you can always slide it back up if it's really that annoying to have to wake your Mac up after it's been idling. But the savings can be significant.

Double Take

If you have a laptop, don't forget that you can use different settings when you're using the battery and when the Mac is plugged in. Under the "Settings For" dropdown, make sure to visit all the preferences for both Battery and Power Adapter.

Put Hard Disk to Sleep

Check this box, and your drive will spin down when it's not needed. If your Mac is doing light duty (say, you're shopping on eBay) and the hard drive isn't being read or written to, it doesn't need to be spinning; the Mac just uses its main memory, the RAM, instead.

Don't Forget the Keyboard

Apple keyboards have screen brightness adjustments along the top row — use them! If your Mac notebook has backlit keys, you'll save a little electricity by leaving them off when you can, especially if you use an external keyboard.

Be Stingy

Devices plugged into your USB or FireWire ports draw electricity too — not much, but enough that you should unplug them when you're not using them.

Can't Charge Past Full

When your laptop is charged to 100 percent, unplug it! Let it run down to 20 percent or so, then plug it back in. You'll be conditioning your battery and using a little less electricity to boot.

Get Advanced

Lights Out (\$9.99, www.northernsoftworks.com) gives you more flexible power management than what's offered in System Preferences. Use it to customize "Energy Saver" settings for specific apps, and even have the Mac shut down (instead of just going to sleep) after a specified period of idle time.

A Real Turn-off

Remember that you don't need to have Bluetooth or AirPort on if you're not using them — they use electricity, and it's a snap to turn either one off by clicking its icon in the menubar and selecting "Turn Bluetooth (or AirPort) Off."

Safer Sleeping

Putting the display to sleep will save more energy than using a screensaver. Remember that you can add a layer of security — and keep your Mac from "waking all the way" just because you bumped the desk and jiggled the mouse a little — by requiring a password to return from sleep or the screensaver in System Preferences > Secu-

rity,

Schedule Some Shut-Eye

Click the "Schedule" button in the "Energy Saver" panel to set a startup/wake-up time and sleep/shutdown time so your Mac isn't on all night long. If you do find yourself burning the midnight oil, just click "Cancel" when the shutdown dialog pops up at your prescheduled zero hour.

Mac Life Magazine

Enlarge Screen Items for Better Visibility

If you want everything on your Mac screen to appear larger, go to the Apple menu and choose "System Preferences." In the Hardware section of the System Preferences window, click the "Displays" icon and choose a lower-numbered resolution. Excerpted from [The Little Mac Book, Leopard Edition](#) by Robin Williams

Peachpit Press

Receive Faxes from Your Mac

Again, you have to have a telephone line/modem connected to your Mac. You can set up the Mac to answer a Fax by going into the System Preferences/EnergySaver and Options, turn on "Wake when the modem detects a ring." If you do not have a dedicated fax phone number, you won't want to do this because every call that comes in will be treated as a fax call. In that case, you need to receive a fax manually by setting it the same way but changing the settings when you are finished. ~ Linda Cameron

The Finder, Mid-Columbia MUG, Kennewick, WA

System Preferences Sorting

By default, the System Preferences are grouped into categories. If you would prefer to see it alphabetically, go to the View menu and choose "Organize Alphabetically." ~ Linda Cameron

The Finder, Mid-Columbia MUG, Kennewick, WA

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	Hardware			
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	Genealogy			
	Beginner's Group			
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Holy Rosary School

CUE Members and Visitors

Arriving at the school, turn into the drive between the Church and the School building.

Proceed through the chain poles at the rear of the drive into the main parking lot.

Turn **RIGHT** in the lot, and proceed to the far end of the parking lot.

Park anywhere near the ramp and steps. Enter through that doorway, the meeting room is to your **LEFT**.

****If the chain is up at the rear of the drive, go around the corner and into the lot from 27th Street****

Finding Holy Rosary

From the West

Take 26th St. (Rt. 20) to the intersection of Parade Street. Turn right, go to the next light. Make a hard left turn onto 28th St. Follow to the school, which will be on your left.

From the South

From Rt. 19 (Peach St.), Rt. 97 or Rt. 8, follow that street to 38th Street. Head east on 38th street. Turn **LEFT** onto East Ave. from East 38th street (first traffic light east of the intersection of Rt. 8 (Pine Ave.) and East 38th St.) The school will be immediately in front of you when you reach the T-intersection of East Ave. and 28th St.

From the East

Follow Rt. 20 **WEST** to Broad Street. Follow Broad street until you see Wal-Mart and McDonalds on your left. Turn **LEFT** onto Burton Ave. When you reach the end of the street, turn **RIGHT** onto 28th St. School will be on your right in approximately 3 blocks.

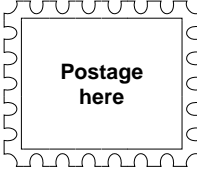


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