Phoenix PC Users Group NEWS

The Best Accessory for your PC!

March 2008

The Newsletter of the Phoenix Personal Computer Users Group
"Users helping users to understand computers"

PHOENIX PC USERS GROUP
5555 N 7TH ST STE 5 PMB 101
PHOENIX AZ 85014-2575

Note: West Side meeting locations have changed !!

Spring Cleaning for Your Computer

By Joe Shipley, Phoenix PCUG Treasurer

While you're cleaning everything else around your home and office at this time of year, don't forget to clean your computer. There is truth to the saying, "A clean computer is a happy computer."

With the time we spend creating and working on our systems, we should do all we can to keep them running smoothly and give them long, healthy lives. So here are some things we can all do to prolong the lives of our systems. As a cautionary note: **backup** all your important items before doing any maintenance on your system. If you don't feel comfortable opening your system or editing the Registry, then don't do it! But what I intend to discuss here is not rocket science. These items are the same ones I perform when I clean my clients' systems.

Blow the Dust Out!

Dust is your computer's enemy! So get rid of it. The electronic components in a system generate heat. Heat is bad for a system. The more dust in a machine, the hotter it will run. When motherboard components get overheated, they "take a powder" and just shut themselves off until they can cool down. By keeping the insides clean your system will run cooler, thus letting it run longer.

Most generic systems have 4 to 6 screws that hold the case cover on. If you have a Dell, HP, Compaq, Gateway or other major brand system, look in the owner's manual or online to find out how to open your case. By removing the sides of the computer you'll gain access to its guts which is where the cleaning can be done. I use a small hand-held vacuum to suck up the dust balls. I use the crevice tool, that's not the one with the brush.

You can also use canned air or air from a compressor to blow the dirt out. Be careful not to bump or touch any components on the motherboard while cleaning. Keeping one hand on the metal case while you clean should discharge any static electricity that might have built up.

With the vacuum, don't forget to suck out the dust that has accumulated in the power supply. There are usually vents on the side opposite the circular fan. I vacuum out from both the fan-side and the vent side. Note: if you are blowing rather than vacuuming, don't blow air into the floppy drive or cdrom/dvd units. Unless they are filthy and already don't work, you don't want to risk getting dust on the optics inside. And remember, blowing air into a computer really just moves the dust from the computer to somewhere else! I suggest you do it outside, if possible.

If you have a mouse that has a ball, think about getting a mouse that uses laser light instead. But if you want to clean the mouse, open it up, wash the ball with warm, soapy water, and gently scrape the gunk off the three rollers inside. Your mouse will act like new after a good cleaning.

You can also vacuum your keyboard. You'd be amazed at how much junk you'll find if you just turn it over and shake it up a bit. I have even gone so far as to wash the keyboard to get rid of spilled soda. An hour or two in the Phoenix sun and the keyboard is ready to go!

Cleaning the Software

Before running software cleaners such as Ad-aware, Spybot Search & Destroy and a good

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Contact Information

Kathy Jacobs   president@phoenixpcug.org
Bruce Jacobs   editor@phoenixpcug.org

Help Your User Group Grow

Bring a Friend to the Meetings

Contributors

Kathy Jacobs

Hank Pearson

Joe Shipley

John Curth

The March 2008 main meetings will be

West Side ....Tuesday, March 18

NEW Location !

CollegeAmerica, 6533 N Black Canyon Hwy, Phoenix, room 2

East Side ..... Wednesday, March 19

University of Advancing Technologies
2625 W Baseline Rd, Tempe
(one block west of Fry's Electronics)

Fountain Hills .. Thursday, March 20

Fountain Hills Library, 12901 N La Montana Drive,
Fountain Hills

The topic for the main meetings this month is:

Filing your Taxes Electronically with Tax Software

**Check our Website at
www.phoenixpcug.org
to verify subject matter and
time for ALL meetings!**

Inside this Issue...

Users Group News

March 2008 General Meeting Topic:

Filing your Taxes Electronically with Tax Software

This months AZACC presentation has been canceled.

Coming in April:

West and Fountain Hills:

Tip Jar

East side meeting:

Getting the Best Value

Out of your Printer

General Meetings start with Questions and Answers at 6:30 PM. This is followed by the general topic of the meeting. The meetings finish by 9:00 PM

CALENDAR

Check our website for room and time information and to check for last minute changes

March 2008

Tuesday, March 18 West Side (Tax Software)..................... CollegeAmerica

Wednesday, March 19 East Side (Tax Software) .... UAT

Thursday, March 20 Fountain Hills (Tax Software) ....Library

Thursday, March 27 (Photo SIG)... CollegeAmerica

Thursday, March 27 (Video SIG)... CollegeAmerica

April 2008

Wednesday, April 2 (Board Meeting)... Granite Reef

Thursday, April 10 (General Interest SIG) ....Library

Tuesday, April 15 West Side (Tip Jar)................................... CollegeAmerica

Wednesday, April 16 East Side (Printer) .... UAT

Thursday, April 17 Fountain Hills (Tip Jar)...Library

Thursday, April 24 (Photo SIG).. CollegeAmerica

Thursday, April 24 (Video SIG).. CollegeAmerica

The Official Policy of the Phoenix PC Users Group is that we do not condone software piracy in any form.

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antivirus program (I like the free AVG), it makes sense to delete unneeded files and programs. Might as well not clean any more than you have to! This might be the time to use System Restore to create a Restore Point before you eliminate something you shouldn't. Better safe than sorry.

In the Documents and Settings area, look for the Local Settings folder for each user. If you can't find it, you may need to turn on the "Show Hidden Files and Folders" option on your system. To do this, open up Explorer, from the menu bar at the top go to Tools-Folder Options-View-Show Hidden Files and Folders.

Under Local Settings, I delete everything in the Temp folder. I also delete everything in the Temporary Internet Files folder also. Once that's done, I go to the Windows folder, and delete everything in the TEMP folder. Caution: some of you create your own Temp folders into which you may put things you might not want to delete. Check that out before doing a mass deletion.

Open the Registry

Again, if you're not comfortable editing the Registry, don't. You can back up the Registry (entirely or just specific keys) before proceeding. I mention this item in order to delete the "Compress Old Files" key before proceeding to the next step. You can either search for this key using the Find feature, or go to:

HKEY_Local_Machine\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\VolumeCaches .

The second key down should be the CompressOldFiles key, if it hasn't already been removed. If it's there, RIGHT click on it and delete it. You don't need it. Close the Registry and proceed.

Clean Up Drive

To clean up your drive further, go to My Computer. For each hard drive, RIGHT click on the drive, left click on Properties, and then click on Disk Cleanup. If you didn't remove the CompressOldFiles key earlier, it may take a long time before the system responds. If you did, shortly you'll see files which may be deleted from your system so you can recover space. After cleaning these up you may see an increase in available disk space.

Clean Up Internet Explorer and Firefox

One of the easiest things you can do to keep your computer clean is to get rid of Temporary Internet Files that are stored on your computer. Here's how to do this for immediate relief

Internet Explorer - delete Temporary Internet Files:

1. Open Internet Explorer.
2. Select the Tools menu.
3. Select Internet Options.
4. Select the General tab.
5. In the Temporary Internet Files section, click the Delete Files button.
6. Do not check the clear Offline Content box. Click Ok.
7. Click Ok to close the Tools window.

FireFox (Mozilla) - clear browser cache

1. Open FireFox (Mozilla).
2. Click the Tools menu.
3. Click Options.
4. Click Privacy.
5. Click the Clear button for Cache.

If you use Internet Explorer, go to

Spring continues on page 7

Tools-Internet Options-Advanced and almost at the end, put a check mark in the box that says "Empty Temporary Internet Files folder when Browser is closed" and IE will automatically delete the files when you close the browser.

Add/Remove Programs

In the Control Panel, you can add and remove programs you no longer need or use. If you are not sure, Google the program in question and then decide. You might want to opt to leave in any program you are not sure about. But if you still have games or programs you have not used in years, toolbars you don't want or need, or other items of no significance to you, clear them out. As I've said before, Google first, then if you're still not sure, leave them in. Often programs will have their own Uninstall feature. If you decide to remove a program, first go to **Start-Programs** and find the menu item of the program you want to delete. If it is there, check to see if there is an Uninstall menu choice and if so, I'd start with that before using the Add/Remove programs feature.

Spybot Search & Destroy and Ad-Aware

These are two FREE programs that do a great job cleaning up malware, spies, and other things that slow your system down. You can find them on the Internet at www.download.com , or just Google them. After installing them, make sure you use the update feature before doing a scan. These programs are updated almost daily, so it pays to take advantage of the latest updates.

Get Rid of the Language Bar

In the Control Panel, Regional Settings, Languages, Details, Languages, Uncheck the "Show Language Bar" box to get rid of the Language Bar

Task Manager

Quite often slow performance is directly related to the programs that are running. RIGHT click on the Taskbar to open and look at duplicate program entries under Processes – click on the title of the Processes tab to sort alphabetically. If you see multiple instances of the same program running, for example, outlook.exe, odds are you're having some kind of problem. If you're not sure about what a process is, Google it to find out or leave it alone. If you click on the CPU tab twice, you'll see which programs are using the most memory. Find the memory hogs, check them at Google, and then begin to end processes you don't need. If a process is critical, Windows won't let you close it.

MSCONFIG

Go to Start – Run and type in "msconfig" (don't type the quotes) and click on "OK" and look in the Startup and Services areas to check to see what programs might not need to start. If you know they are not needed, uncheck them. If you have a problem after restarting, then re-check them. If you're uncertain . . . Google the file names and learn about them.

Defrag Your System Regularly

Go to http://www.auslogics.com/en/software to find free software to defrag your hard drives. I recommend defragging at least monthly to keep your system running smoothly. This is a nice program, FREE, and it's pleasant to watch. Keeping your hard drives defragmented will add life to your system and speed up performance when saving and retrieving files.

The suggestions above are based upon a system running Windows XP Pro. With Vista things may

NOTICE TO ALL PPCUG MEMBERS

A committee is being formed to move forward with the proposal for a merger. Your HELP is needed and you may be compensated for your time. Please contact the Vice President John Curth at:

jlcurt@hotmail.com

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Did you know that you can get your newsletter electronically each month?

Or did you expect to get a copy electronically and still received a paper copy?

Just send us a note or check the box on your membership Application. You will get a notice each month when the newsletter is available on the website.

Make sure you include your email address. At least one member who requested an electronic copy did not include the email address on the membership application.

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be in different places. The operation should be very similar, however, so doing a search in the Help & Support area may provide the answers you're looking for.

For a PowerPoint slide presentation with screen shots of locations referred to in this article, please visit **http://www.phoenixpcug.org/articles** and look for the link.

Joe Shipley is the owner of SMART IDEAS!, is a computer consultant, independent network administrator, builds custom computers, trains users on software, and sells software and hardware in Mesa, AZ. You can reach Joe at (480) 831-8332 or by email at joeship @ cox.net.

Check Alternative Travel Site for Deals

By Ira Wilsker, APCUG Director; Columnist, The Examiner, Beaumont TX; Radio & TV show host Iwilsker(at)apcug.net

WEBSITE:
http://www.ultimatefares.com

We have all seen the TV commercials with the gnome fretting over travel problems, and have seen the black clad inspectors prancing all over a hotel snooping in every nook and cranny. One thing the internet is not short of is travel websites that offer airline tickets, hotel rooms, cruises, rental cars, and package deals combining all of the above.   Many of the proprietary airline and hotel sites, such as Continental.com and Hilton.com themselves guarantee the lowest rates, but neglect to show what the competition is offering.

One advantage to the direct sale proprietary travel sites is that they generally do not add a service fee for online bookings, unlike the fees charged by the independent commercial travel websites. On the other hand, the commercial travel sites can show the rates and fares from multiple providers, allowing for comparison shopping for both cost and schedule. While there are many well advertised mega-travel sites like Expedia, Hotels.com, Orbitz, and Travelocity, there are also some lesser known web sites that offer a service that some of the mega sites are lacking.

One such site that I recently learned about from a professional acquaintance is Ultimate Fares, at www.ultimatefares.com. While similar to the mega travel sites in appearance and function it had some different travel results when I compared it to some of the mega sites and proprietary web sites in a side by side comparison.

In one example, I was looking for the lowest possible airfare from Beaumont to Las Vegas on some specific peak travel dates. Travelocity and Expedia displayed a nearly identical selection of flights and airfares, many of which were duplicated on Ultimate Fares. What was unusual on the Ultimate Fares website was the ability of the user to choose from some unusual indirect routings where the user had the choice to choose between a lower fare (not offered on the mega sites) and a longer flight time, including connections. If for the traveler, at his personal choice, it is worth saving in some cases over a hundred dollars in airfare, in exchange for a two or three hour longer total flight time, the user at least has that choice.

One specific example was on the Beaumont BPT – Las Vegas LAS example on some peak travel days in the Christmas – New Years time period, when the airlines were extremely busy and heavily booked. While the traveler could select a direct Beaumont – Houston IAH – Las Vegas route from one carrier, or a combination of carriers, both by changing planes in Houston, Ultimate Fares had some lower fares listed with some unusual city pair combinations. When I ran the comparison for this column, Ultimate Fares showed several lower fares than the mega sites, but with the longer flight times by about two hours by going from Houston IAH to the Orange County, California John Wayne airport, another change of airlines, and then a short direct flight back to Las Vegas. If the traveler is on a tight budget, and the

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The New, The Best, and The Worst

Collected by Pim Borman, Webmaster, SW Indiana PC Users Group, Inc.
http://swipcug.apcug.org
swipcug(at)gmail.com

January 2008

Needles, Haystacks and Processing

Finding the needle in a haystack is the proverbial example of an impossible task. Wrongly so. Spread the contents of the haystack out over a large area and get 1000 helpers to each check a small amount of hay. The needle will be found in less than no time. It is a basic example of parallel processing.

According to WIKIPEDIA (http://en.wikipedia.org/ wiki/SETI), as far back as 1960 astronomers were speculating that any intelligent life forms present in the Universe might be detected by electromagnetic signals reaching us from space. Some astronomers started a Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence (SETI) on a limited scale that over the years grew to include multiple radio-telescopes searching more and more radio bands for significant signals.

It soon became clear that looking for intelligent signals amongst the enormous volume of recorded data was even worse than finding a needle in a haystack. Parallel processing to the rescue! With an untold number of personal computers worldwide, capable of Internet access and sitting idle most of the time, an enormous amount of potential processing power was going untapped. The University of California at Berkeley (UCB), with sponsorship of The Planetary Society, started project **SETI@home** in 1999 to put many of those computers to work. They found many volunteers willing to download a small program on their computers, running in the background, to analyze small chunks of radio-telescope data for signs of intelligence and return the results. As of now there are some 3 million contributors, but nary a sign of intelligent life yet. In any case, the enormous amount of computer processing by this project far surpasses what the best supercomputer might be able to do, at least until quantum computers will have been perfected.

The success of SETI@home inspired many other volunteer computing projects supporting worthwhile scientific causes. According to *The Economist* (12-8-2007) these include design of drugs against AIDS, search for new prime numbers, climate modeling and many others. It requires some snappy programming skills to send small chunks of a large problem to thousands of computers, provide them with the means to perform a set task, return the results, and combine the results for final evaluation before sending out a new crop of queries. That task has been made easier with a dedicated program, **BOINC** (Berkeley Open Infrastructure for Network Computing), made available by UCB. Over 40 BOINC projects are in operation, including many life sciences, Help Conquer Cancer, and Discover Dengue Drugs.

Impressive as the computer power may be that is being exerted on these projects, there is still room for significant improvement. The short history of the PC not only includes a dramatic improvement in CPU processing speed, but also in auxiliary components that speed up graphics performance. In response to the extreme image rendition

Coming in May

"The Future of Social Security, Medicare Updates and Online Services"

Whether you are young or old, male or female, single or with a family-this presentation is for and about you. That is because Social Security programs affect everybody. This is an opportunity to see and hear a presentation delivered by the Social Security Administration and ask questions about your benefits. The Arizona Public Affairs Representative for SSA will offer information about "The Future of Social Security, Medicare Updates and Online Services" and how to obtain information about your benefits.

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will requirements of computer games, fast graphics cards have become available that use special processing chips and hardware to relieve the load on the Central Processing Unit. Rendering the millions of pixels that make up a screen image is perfectly suited to parallel processing, a task for which the graphics chips are optimized. Further adapting these chips to participate in general purpose programming may be a way to increase the parallel processing power of a desktop computer anywhere from 10- to 50-fold. NVIDIA and AMD, the largest graphics-card manufacturers, are working on it. Nvidia has already set up a product line for non-graphics applications and is developing a specialized programming language to go with it.

Next time you hear complaints that something is like finding a needle in a haystack, tell them it's easy: many hands make light work.

Foxit Reader for PDF Files

Acrobat Reader is now at version 8 and has been getting more powerful but also more cumbersome with each successive iteration. Steve Bass (*PC World, January 2008)* found a free program, Foxit Reader and Printer, that is compact, fast, and includes some nice extra features. I especially like that it allows searching all the PDF files in a directory for keywords. I tried that on a directory where I keep all the newsletter files since 2000 and got almost instantaneous results. Impressive! The ⨛print function works just fine. Foxit also has more sophisticated tools for annotating and writing PDF files and forms, but adds evaluation marks to the output unless you buy the Foxit Pro version ($39). You may not need that, since there are several other (free) ways to create PDF files, including openoffice.org Writer and MS Office 2007 (with a special download from Microsoft). My Epson scanner can scan images and also output them as PDF files. But at $39 Foxit is a bargain compared to Acrobat 8 Standard at $299.

Download Foxit Reader and Printer free from http://www.foxitsoftware.com/. Linux versions are also available.

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difference in cost (savings) is worth more than the hours of additional time each way and inconvenience, then this could be a good alternative. My only concern would be for the timely arrival of the baggage after being on three different airlines! Ultimate Fares will email two confirmations to the traveler, the first the purchase confirmation, and the second will be the airline confirmation number and itinerary. This second email is the document that will be required to pick up boarding passes at the airport, so be sure to save it and print several copies, and bring the printout with the airline confirmation number to the airport!

Another area of travel deals where Ultimate Fares had rates as good or in some cases even better than the competing mega sites was cruise deals. I randomly selected some dates, and compared the featured cruises on each of the websites, and then found the comparable cruise on the other sites. In many of the cruises compared, Ultimate Fares had lower rates and larger discounts than the mega sites. In one specific example, I selected next September for a date range, and compared Caribbean cruises. Ultimate Fares showed rates for interior, ocean view, balcony, and suite cabins that were very competitive with the mega sites, and in some cases, better deals. According to Ultimate Fares, some of the best deals offered savings off of the published cruise line brochures of "up to" 77%, 75%, and 72%! Remember that on almost all travel sites, taxes and fees will be added to the quoted price, and should be included in any final comparison.

Hotel rooms and airline seats are considered as perishable commodities if not booked, and go unused. Hotels often have some last minute unsold rooms, airlines have unsold seats, and rental car companies have cars left in the lot. Ultimate Fares

offers "Last Minute Deals" which offer combinations of flight, hotel, and car deals which can be booked up to 14 days in advance, and offer package discounts of up to 70%. These last minute deals would be ideal for the person or family who has the flexibility of date and location, and will accept a smaller combination of offerings in exchange for deep discounts. The smaller combination of possible offerings is not a sparse offering; as I type this in late December, Ultimate Fares has a lengthy list of last minute deals from Houston, including 230 last minute flight and hotel deals (double occupancy, car optional), 115 flight and car deals, and 47 hotel and car deals, all at package prices of up to 70% off retail rates.

Many of us rent cars at our destination when we fly to distant cities. As an example, I compared rental car rates for an upcoming week at DFW airport. Ultimate Fares listed the rates for 10 different car companies, ranging from no-name deep discount companies, to the major national rental car companies. Ultimate Fares quoted rates up to 40% less than the mega travel sites for the same cars on the same dates! Just remember to include taxes and fees, which are quoted by the website prior to actual booking, in any comparison.

Now, I always heard that if a deal is too good to be true, it probably is. Ultimate Fares, while not well known, has privacy certificates from Verisign, and Trust-E, and is a member of the ASTA (American Society of Travel Agents). I looked up some of the online reviews of Ultimate Fares and they were a mixed bag of positive and negative reviews. One often repeated warning in the online reviews of Ultimate Fares (that also applies to all other travel sites as well) is to be fully cognizant that the original price quoted does not include all taxes and

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fees; fees and taxes can substantially increase the total cost of the trip! To be fair, Ultimate Fares, just like almost all other travel websites, does indeed disclose the taxes, fees and total price prior to the traveler entering any credit card information. I did find when comparing taxes and fees on some sample airfares between Ultimate Fares, the mega sites, and the airline websites directly, that the Ultimate Fares taxes and fees were about $10 to $30 a ticket higher than the airline site which only charges taxes and mandatory fees (but no surcharges), but competitive with the mega sites that have the same taxes and mandatory fees, but also add on some type of surcharge.

Before buying any travel services from anyone online, checkout the reputation of the seller, and use a major credit card that is likely to side with you in the event of a dispute. Be emphatically sure to review the itinerary and any taxes and fees prior to entering credit card information and finalizing the booking process, as many fares and deals are rigid and non-refundable, or have hefty fees to change an itinerary.

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SIG Notes

Digital Photography

Bill Funk runs the Digital Photography SIG.   This month's topic will be:

MEGAPIXELS

A digital camera has one characteristic that we are all usually aware of: how many megapixels it has. It's an easily marketable number, and more is better.

Or is it?

This month's Digital Photography SIG will help you understand what a megapixel is, what it means to your pictures, and why you may not need as many as the ads say you do.

March 26, 6 PM

If you're on the Digital Photography SIG mailing list, Bill will let you know where the meeting will be. If you're not on that list, but would like to be, let him know:

Bfunk @ pippina.com

Video

David Yamamoto leads the Video SIG, which meets right after the Digital Photography SIG.

General Interest

Chuck Lewis leads the General Interest SIG. This SIG meets in the Fountain Hills Library conference room. Email for this SIG can be sent to genint@phoenixpcug.org

New Gadgets for 2008

By Sandy Berger, CompuKISS.com
www.compukiss.com
sberger(at)compukiss.com

Every year my husband and I attend the Consumer Electronic (CES) in Las Vegas to see the latest and greatest high tech gadgets. This year didn't disappoint. We found everything from a Leggett & Platt's $20,000 Starry Night bed with an HDTV projector, pop-up speakers, snoring sensors, iPod dock, automatic lighting system, and breathing pattern monitor to a General Motors Chevy Tahoe prototype car that drove itself. While I don't expect this GM prototype to make it to market anytime soon, some of the technology that it is built in will evolve and is sure to find its way into our future automobiles.

We also found a few more down-to-earth gadgets and gizmos. In fact, there were several devices that you may want to check out for your own gaggle of high tech products. For instance, if you hate cleaning the gutters, the iRobot Looj has you covered. This robotic gutter cleaner cleans a 60-foot section of gutter in just 10 minutes. Yes, you must use a ladder to place it in position, but you don't have to move the ladder multiple times as you do in regular gutter cleaning. The demos looked marvelous. iRobot also have robotic vacuum cleaners and floor scrubbers.

Although we have been hearing about wireless technologies for what seems to be eons, this year some of that wireless technology became mainstream. Wireless speakers, which up to now were feeble and erratic, have finally found their voice. The Griffin Evolve is a great example. It is a compact speaker system for an iPod. It has two wireless speaker cubes that can be placed in any room in the house. It sounds great and is also

easy to use. At about $300, this is a great solution to distribute music from your iPod throughout the house.

While prices of technology gadgets continue to drop, it seems that ink for that inexpensive ink jet printer often costs more than the printer itself. Well, thanks to Kodak, this trend may be coming to an end. The new Kodak printers are said to use 50% less ink and ink cartridges are reasonably priced at $15 for color and $10 for black.

Polaroid, another well-known name in photography has also released a breakthrough product. Their new inkless printer is made for printing pictures from a cell phone or digital camera. Not only does the printer use Bluetooth wireless technology, but it uses special paper that is embedded with 100 billion colored dye crystals. The colors appear when the printer applies heat pulses to the paper. This ink-less technology is called Zink, for zero ink. The 2-inch-by-3-inch prints cost about 30 cents each and the printer sells for $150, which is not bad for cutting-edge technology.

Although computers are not the focus of the CES show, there were many computer manufacturers showing their wares. Lenovo, the Chinese company who bought IBM's PC division three years ago has previously focused on their ThinkPad business laptops, but this year they introduced a line of consumer laptops called IdeaPads. These include facial recognition technology. Lenovo, Sony, and others will follow Dell's lead with the introduction of laptops in a variety of bright colors.

Tip Jar

In April, Hank Pearson will present

Tips and Tricks

He needs to collect lots of tips and tricks to show at the general meetings. He is interested in what you have discovered or learned to make it fun and easy to work in Windows and your favorite popular programs.

Send your tips and tricks to
TipJar@PhoenixPCUG.org

Any wording is just fine. Don't worry about format. Your text won't be quoted, but you will get credit, or remain anonymous. Just let Hank know.

Anything, no matter how simple or complicated, is just what he needs. He'll show as many ideas as he can, and list the rest. So don't worry about how long your ideas might take. Just send them in. If he needs more info, he'll ask or try to find out.

You don't want to write your ideas? No problem. Just send in your phone number, and Hank will call.

This will be fun!

Send your tips and tricks now and as you think of them. No need to store them up. The more, the better. Thank you!

TipJar@PhoenixPCUG.org

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Bright colors were the norm at the show. There were MP3 players, cell phone, and gadget covers in every color imaginable. There were red and blue ladybug-shaped iPod speakers and speakers that pulsated to the beat in vibrating, changing colors. There was even pink CAT-5 networking cable, whose purchase supports the National Breast Cancer Foundation.

Oh, and you can expect to be even more confused by television display technologies in the future. Sony's $2500, 11-inch Organic light Emitting Diode (OLED) was small but clearly better than anything else on the market today..... and it was only as thick as 3 credit cards. Mitsubishi's laser television was also a dramatic improvement. Samsung and Sharp announced backlit LCD televisions. While these technologies may take awhile to go mainstream, other manufacturer's announced Internet-enabled televisions that are sure to appear quite quickly. For instance, the Sharp Aquos Net television displays small icons called widgets that showed news, weather, and traffic data from the Internet right on the television screen. Also next year, when digital television goes mainstream you will see digital TV broadcasting in a variety of devices including cell phones, cars, buses, and anything else they can possible think of. One car at the show already had TV's in every door and drop-down television screens for every passenger.

While we may not all be interested in watching television all the time, we will find some of these new technologies making our lives just a little more pleasurable in the future.

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OnPPT

MVP
Microsoft
Most Valuable
Professional

Kathy Jacobs

1464 S. Stapley Dr., # 1045
Mesa AZ 85204

Phone: 602-569-6430 or 602-791-1138
call_kathy@cox.net or kathy.jacobs@gmail.com

David Yamamoto
Computer Consultant
1401 W. Rovey Ave
Phoenix, Az 85013

Member
www.phoenixpcug.org

(602) 995-0053
(623) 872-1114
(602) 418-1243=Mobile
dydavid@ix.netcom.com
http://dydavid.tripod.com

Granite Reef Senior Center
1700 N. Granite Reef Road,
Scottsdale

Please note that the
April board meeting will be
announced
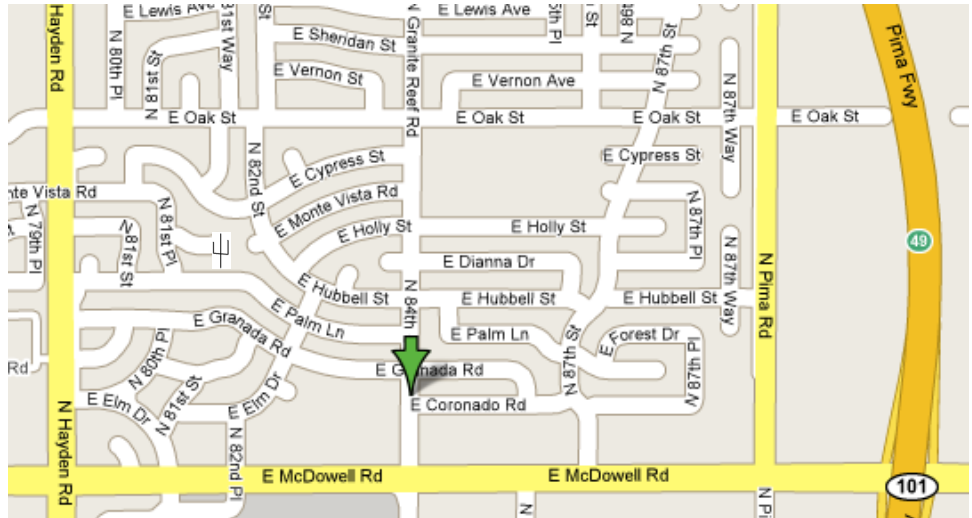
Phoenix PC User Group Membership Application

First: _____ Initial: _____ Last: _____

Address: _____

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Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Ext: _____

Release my address to venders?   ☐Yes ☐No   Note: Phone numbers **will not** be listed.

E-mail address: _____

☐ Standard * $36.00 per year
* Individual member and/or their spouse and children under 18.

Receive Electronic newsletter ONLY
☐ Yes ☐ No

Mail this completed form with payment to:

Phoenix PC Users Group
5555 N. 7th Street, Suite 5
PMB101
Phoenix, AZ 85014

Submissions to the "News" should be in MS Word, RTF or unformatted text.

Articles, photos, screen shots may be e-mailed over the Internet directly to the editor at jacobsbd@cox.net. Please include the author's name, address, phone number and e-mail address on the first lines of the article.

All materials submitted will be considered for inclusion in the "News", but the Editor reserves the right to edit as necessary, to maintain standards of literacy, grammar, and length requirements. No materials will be returned unless arrangements are made in advance.

Smart Computing Magazine

There is a way you can support your user group. Smart Computing Magazine will give a gift subscription to the Phoenix PC Users Group to be used as a door prize, raffle, etc., for each five subscriptions received from our group. Subscriptions can be applied for with the subscription coupon below or by phone as long as you use our group's unique source code number (8305) when beginning the subscription.

For each paid subscription using the source code 8305, our user group will be credited one credit. Results are calculated each quarter, and credits will accumulate until the group reaches five paid subscriptions, at which time they will contact the PPCUG.

In the event our group does not reach the five paid subscription mark by the end of the quarter, credits will be carried over into the following quarter until the amount reaches five paid subscriptions, at which time a free subscription will be issued.
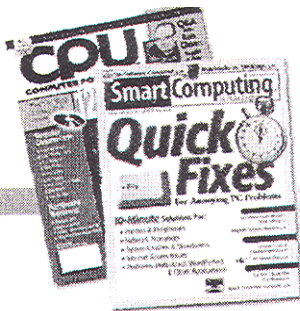
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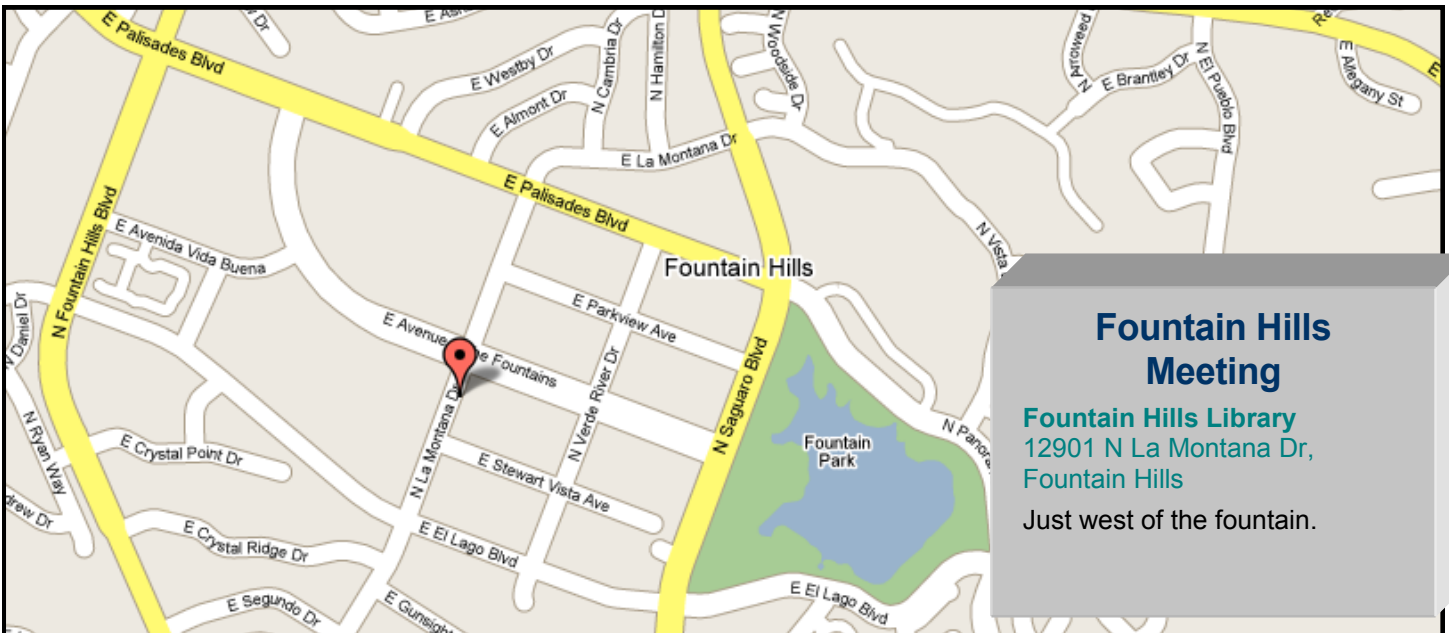
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SmartComputing.com/groups

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East Side Meeting

The University for Advancing Technologies

2625 W Baseline Rd, Tempe

South side of Baseline Rd, one block west of Fry's Electronics.

Fountain Hills Meeting

Fountain Hills Library
12901 N La Montana Dr, Fountain Hills

Just west of the fountain.

West Side Meeting Location has Changed !

You may have noticed that frequently over the past year we have had changes to the rooms where the west side meetings were taking place.

Some times these changes had been made after we arrived for the meeting. This was mostly due to the remodeling that DeVry has been doing, the increasing schedule of night classes and other factors. The amount use of the building by the school after 6 PM is obvious to regular attendees.

DeVry has informed the group that because of the difficulties they have been having finding an available room they will not be scheduling rooms for us as of the start of this month.

This means the board needed to find a new location for the meetings.

Members of the board spent some time looking for a location and found a new free location near-by: CollegeAmerica

This is a small school, with 60 students on campus and additional students taking online courses. They offer degree programs in medical and computer fields. This campus is one of two in Arizona and 12 nationwide.

The facility is small but quite adequate. The classrooms have ceiling-mounted projectors, screens, internet, and comfortable swivel armchairs. We received a very friendly tour and warm welcome. The school is easy to get to, on the I-17 frontage road.

This location will be used for the West Side general meetings and for the Photo and Video SIG this month and until further notice.
As this is a new location for the group, please do not bring food and/or drink to the meetings until

we know what the policy is and if it is enforced.

Thanks are due to the following board members for there efforts in finding a new location in a timely manner and evaluating the location and making the initial arrangements:
Bill Aulepp, Dean Botchuck, and Hank Pearson
The new location is about 2 1/4 miles south and a little west of the DeVry building .

Here is a map to help you find the location of the meetings:
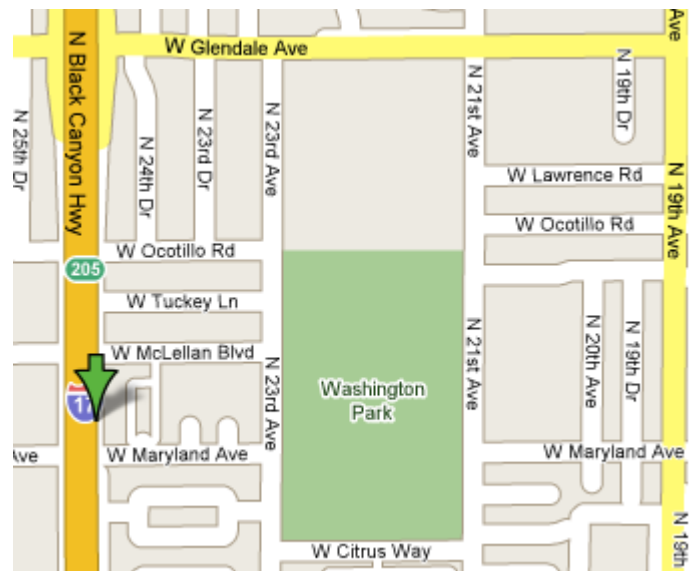
CollegeAmerica
6533 N Black Canyon Hwy
Phoenix

Directions
Take I-17 to Bethany Home Rd.
Take northbound frontage road 0.6 mile
(past pedestrian overpass).
Turn right (east) on McLellan Blvd.
Immediately turn right (south) into parking lot.
6533 N Black Canyon Hwy.

We meet in room 2.