



NEWSLETTER

*The Best Accessory
for your PC!*

MAIN MEETINGS

West Side.....Tuesday, April 14

CollegeAmerica, 6533 N Black Canyon Hwy, Phoenix

East Side .Wednesday, April 15

University of Advancing Technologies

2625 W Baseline Rd, Tempe

(one block west of Fry's Electronics)

Fountain HillsThurs, April 16

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

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Vice President: David Yamamoto
Secretary: Chuck Lewis
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Steering Committee:

Officers and Members who are present
at the 6:00 P.M. West Side meeting.

Presentation

**David Yamamoto will be presenting
a look into Windows 7 and IE-8.**

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

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JUSTIN FROM OUR MEMBERS

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

This month David Yamamoto will be presenting a look into Windows 7 and IE-8. Should be interesting to see what's changed from Vista. Our thanks to Gene Barlow for his Acronis presentation last month. The Steering Committee developed a list of proposed presentation topics for future presentations. We can look forward to some interesting presentations this year. We encourage all members to attend the Steering Committee Meetings, you are a member of the committee. 6:00PM before the West Side General Meeting.

The Southwest Computer Conference is May 29, 30 and 31 at the Town and Country Resort in San Diego this year. Early registration \$60 and the hotel reduced the rates to \$109 this year. Rates apply 3 days before and after the conference.

The Merger Committee is still on hold because of a death in the ASCLi group's Hart family. The Fountain Hills General Interest SIG is on hold. Chuck Lewis, SIG leader, is out of town for a few months.

Our group was invited to attend an accreditation meeting at the University of Advanced Technology April 6th. UAT has been an excellent resource for this group, providing a meeting location for the East Side Meeting for many years. Lo Hardman attended as our representative and reported an interesting meeting. He made some useful contacts with other user groups.

Send me those Members Ask questions! We can share the information with the entire Group. Let's bring a friend to a meeting. Look around your neighborhood and invite someone to attend a meeting!

Dean Botchuck

FROM OUR EDITOR

Two columns will appear almost every month that depend on feedback from our readers. This is your Newsletter so get involved.

MEMBERS ASK (see page 7) is hosted by Dean Botchuck. If you can't make a "Q & A" meeting or the subject is too involved, then E-Mail that question to Dean at:

President@PhoenixPCUG.org

You may be the originator of his next article.

I will be hosting WEB TOUR and Hank Pearson will place it on the our Website. (See page 13). That way we will have an archive of all of our Web Tour sites.

www.PhoenixPCUG.org

Instead of time consuming typing of the site address, you can go to the our Website and click on the site you want. Zingo you are there. Let Hank do the work for you and you have the fun. Thanks Hank.

Bill Aulepp

SIG (Special Interest Groups)

GENERAL INTEREST:

Chuck Lewis leads this SIG.

At present it is on hiatus

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY:

Bill Funk leads this SIG

Meets: Wed April. 22nd 6:00 PM.

At CollegeAmerica

DIGITAL VIDEO:

David Yamamoto leads this SIG.

Meets: After Photography Sig.

CALENDAR

CALENDAR

For room and time changes,
check your website: phoenixpcug.org .

GENERAL MEETINGS

WEST SIDE: CollegeAmerica (see map - page 18)

- Tuesday, April 14, 2009
- 6:00 PM Steering Committee
- 6:30 PM - Q and A
- Followed by Presentation - Windows 7, IE 8, IE History Viewer

EAST SIDE: University of Advancing Technology (see map - page 18)

- Wednesday, April 15, 2009
- 6:30 PM - Q and A
- Followed by Presentation - Windows 7, IE 8, IE History Viewer

FOUNTAIN HILLS: Fountain Hills Library (see map - page 18)

- Thursday, April 16, 2009
- 6:30 PM - Q and A
- Followed by Presentation - Windows 7, IE 8, IE History Viewer

SIG MEETINGS

WEST SIDE: CollegeAmerica (see map - page 18)

- Digital Photography Sig
- Wednesday, April 22, 2009
- 6:00 – 7:30 PM – Q and A - Topic is Shutters
- Followed by: Digital Video Sig

Note : The Fountain Hills General Sig Meeting is on hiatus

SMART COMPUTING MAGAZINE - SUPPORT



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FILE MANAGEMENT—PART TWO

File Management – Part Two

Written by Ron Hirsch, Contributing Editor, Boca Raton Computer Society, Florida
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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).

This month's lesson picks up where we left off last month. We're now going to do some file operations on the special file we created for the exercise

1. First, we're going to set up a new folder, and prepare to move testfile.txt into that folder.

In the left hand listing, click once on the My Documents folder. Go to the menu at the top of the Explorer window, and click on FILE>NEW>FOLDER. Now you will see a new folder named "New Folder" directly below My Documents. It should be highlighted. If not, click once on it, and then click on the F2 key. This puts you in "edit" mode, and you can change the name of the folder. Change it to "Files for your name" (type in your name, without the quotes). After typing that in, hit the enter key. Now you have a new folder which is a personalized place for you to store your documents.

2. Next we're going to move the testfile.txt document to the new folder. One simple way to do this is to drag it from its present folder to its new home. Get the listing of all the folders on C: in the left hand window. Then double click on My Documents. The new folder we just created should be showing in the listing on the left, and also in the right hand section listing the contents of My Documents. Click on "testfile.txt" to select it, and then drag it onto the new folder which you just personalized with your name. The file has now been moved. To confirm that, double click

on your new folder, and it should open and list the contents.

Depending upon what Windows version you are using, and what file manager you are using the dragging protocol may be slightly different. Generally in Windows, dragging moves the file, if you're dragging to any folder on the same drive. Dragging to a different drive, copies the file. And holding the CTRL key down while dragging, always copies the file, and using the Shift key always moves the files, irrespective of the target location. To be sure that you move or copy as you want to do, hold the SHIFT key down and drag to move, and the CTRL key down and drag to copy. This will work under any circumstance. Windows does give you a "hint" about this. If you drag and see a small + sign in next to the moving mouse cursor, the process you are doing is copying. If there's no + sign, then you are moving.

3. Next, we're going to copy this file to a floppy disk. Insert a floppy into the drive A. Left click on testfile.txt in the new folder to select it. Now, hold down the CTRL key while dragging the file to drive A. To confirm that you have copied to file, double click on drive A on the left hand listing of Explorer. It should show the file listed there. Then go back to the original folder for your documents, to see that it is still there also. If it is - you've succeeded. If your system does not have a floppy disk drive, or another hard drive, copy to a flash drive. If you have none, just skip this step

4. Since this isn't a file that you want to keep, let's delete it. Click on it once to select it on, wherever it was copied to. Then hit the delete key and OK. Repeat the process for the other location also.

NOTE: During these activities, you probably have noticed small "+" and "-" signs on certain of the listings in Windows Explorer

(Continued on page 6)

FILE MANAGEMENT—PART TWO

(Continued from page 5)

(or any file manager). The "+" sign indicates that there are subfolders within the folder listed. To expand the listing to show them, click on the "+" sign. The "-" sign indicates that the folder has subfolders, and they are already shown. To collapse that listing, click on the "-" sign. Clicking toggles the situation back and forth. NOTE: Windows Explorer is not "Internet Explorer", so don't get confused here.

This is the end of the exercise on the beginning basics of file management. Obviously you can modify any of the procedures given to suit your specific needs. And, if you are now adept at all the steps, you've got a good start on things. As with most things in Windows, there are generally several ways to do things. Rather than confuse things, I'm keeping things as simple as I can.

If you had difficulty following the previous steps, it might be a good idea for you to consider one of the introductory Windows courses given by various organizations in our area. When someone asks me "what do you mean by 'click'?", I pass for the moment. It's like the person who called Compaq tech support. He couldn't find the "any key", when the instructions said "click on any key", he said his keyboard didn't have an "any key."

Now that you can handle file management basics, you should consider getting a better file manager. There are two good choices out there. As with all things, if you plan on using a file manager often now, you should use a more capable program. It's like a car. If you plan on driving a lot, a new 2008 Lexus is generally more fun than a stripped down old 1965 Chevy.

It was disappointed when I saw that Microsoft has done very little with Windows Explorer. Of all the good programs MS may

have provided, Windows Explorer was not one. Not to worry though - all the things you've learned so far will carry over into any file manager. There are a variety of good and one GREAT file managers out there. Do a general Google search for "Windows file managers", and a bunch of hits will display. Some are add-ons to Windows Explorer, and others are standalone programs. If you want the finest file manager ever created for Windows, look at Opus 9 at <http://nudel.dopus.com/opus9/>. Be warned however, that this is not a cheap program. It costs about \$57 (US), but it is without peer. If you are an advanced user, this is the one to get. For others, there are lots of freeware and shareware programs. Review the Google search results to see what will fit you best, assuming you would like to work with something superior to Windows Explorer.

Another good (and free) choice is PowerDesk. You can get a free copy of version 7 of the program by downloading it from <http://www.snapfiles.com/get/powerdeskfree.html> <http://www.snapfiles.com/reviews/powerdesk/powerdeskfree.html>. ZDNet should also have it available. If you like the program, you can purchase a registered version, with a few more features, and no nag screens.

With any of these file managers, or Windows Explorer, the best way to learn is to "browse around", and play with things. Click on various menu items, practice copying and moving files, and be inquisitive. And, REMEMBER, all the things you learn in these exercises apply to all the programs you'll be using on your Windows computer.

Computer learning can be likened to taking piano lessons - you can't learn to play if you don't practice. Maybe someday we'll be able to get a "chip" that we can plug into our brains to acquire all sorts of

(Continued on page 7)

MEMBERS ASK**FILE MANAGEMENT****Question: Change desktop icons****XP icons:**

1. Right click on the icon to be changed
2. Click on Properties
3. Click on Change Icon button
4. You have two choices.
 - a. select from Windows icons
 - b. browse from your selection of icons
5. After finding an icon, click OK
6. If you are satisfied, click Apply

Vista icons:

1. Right click on the icon to be changed
2. Click on Properties
3. Click on the Short Cut tab.
4. Click on Change Icon button
5. Click on Browse button
6. Navigate to Widows> system32> imageres.dll
7. Open the imageres.dll file
8. Select the new icon from the list
9. Click OK
10. Click Apply

You may have to close and reopen before the new icon shows. XP icons are 16x16 or 32x32, Vista icons are 256x256 pixels. Icons have an .ICO file extension. A large selection of ready-made icons can be downloaded from the Internet. Or you can make custom icons. Icons may be animated also.

Make your own icons with a free editor. Google 'ICOFX' and download the latest free version. I recommend you download it only from the ICOFX website. Most popular photo editors do not save in .ICO format. The ICOFX application is designed expressly for this purpose. Works great on all sizes of icons. I suggest that you read the Readme! Put the new icons in a folder and browse for them when you change icons.

Spruce up your Windows Explorer!

Dean

(Continued from page 6)

capabilities without the time consuming old-fashioned learning process. But for now, we have to rely on present techniques which take time and effort. But, in the long run, the effort is well worth it

Learning to manage your files is a very important activity for all computer users to learn. So, how about getting started on that right now. Remember, you don't always have to be doing a formal lesson. Start exploring and investigate all the areas where you haven't been before. Instead of surfing the Internet, surf you own computer. You'll find lots of exciting things. And remember, any time you want to get help on something, just press the F1 key, and a help window should pop up.

This concludes the brief learning experience of file management. Remember, you've only scratched the surface here. This is similar to learning chess. Many people think that when they have learned to move the pieces, that they know how to play chess - but they are a long way from being a "chess player." The name of the game is practice. This lesson is just a start towards a better understanding of that marvelous machine you have at your fingertips.

If you find this material useful, you may want to download this article in PDF format, from our web site www.brccs.org. This allows readers to keep the material either as a PDF file, and/or print it out, and place it in a loose leaf notebook for future reference.

MEMBERS ASK
is a Monthly Feature.
So email your questions to
Dean at:
president@phoenixpcug.org

BUSINESS CARDS



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Business Cards (2.0" by 3.5") \$ 5.00 (minimum of 3 months prepaid)

For questions please contact David Yamamoto 602 418-1249 or write to above.

Submission deadlines are the 25th of each month prior to month of publication. Prices subject to change without notice.

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Articles, photos, screen shots may be e-mailed over the Internet directly to the editor at:

editor@PhoenixPCUG.org

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 made in advance.

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KINDLE2 ARE NEWSPAPERS OBSOLETE ?

The Kindle2 May Make Newspapers Obsolete

Written by Sandy Berger, CompuKISS

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Every now and then a revolutionary new product comes along at a time when it is most needed. So it is with the just released Kindle2 wireless reading device, fondly called an e-book reader.

Up to now, electronic book readers have been very slow in taking off. Sony has had a book reading device for several years. Last year Amazon came out with the first version of the Kindle, which was impressive and fairly popular, but had a few drawbacks.

Now, however, the time for these devices may have finally come. At 8" x 5.3" the Kindle2 is about the size of a paperback. At about 1/3" thick, it thin but strong. In this second iteration, Amazon has corrected the design flaws of the original Kindle. It is now easy to use. The e-ink technology allows you to read the words on the Kindle just as you would read a book, with no eye strain or glare. You can adjust the size of the text to your liking. To turn the page you simply press a button. The reader even lets you read several books at once, always returning you to just where you left off. You can look up any word with the built-in dictionary. You can underline words and add your own notes to the pages. This Kindle will even read the text of most books to you. So if you are engrossed in a book on the Kindle and need to pick up the kids, you can take the Kindle along and have it read to you in the car.

The best part of the Kindle, however, is the reading material and how it is delivered. The Kindle2 can hold more than 1,500 books. You can choose from over 240,000 books in the Kindle's Amazon store. Most of the books are priced at \$9.99. You can also subscribe to newspapers and magazines on the Kindle. The books, newspapers, and magazines are downloaded directly to the device over a free

cellular network. I drove down a rural highway in North Carolina and downloaded a book and was reading it in less than five minutes. Better yet would be sitting on a beach and downloading a romance novel. In any case, the Kindle is ultimately useable. The biggest drawback for the Kindle right now is the price. At \$359, the Kindle is pretty expensive.

But if you are you ready to watch the ebook market explode, stick around for awhile. The Kindle2 has appeared on the horizon just as the economy is slumping. There are many hard-hit business sectors, but the newspaper and magazine industry is already showing signs of cracking. CNN reports that many major newspapers are struggling including the San Francisco Chronicle, the Chicago Sun-Times, the Minneapolis Star Tribune, and the Miami Herald. Certainly online versions of newspapers and magazines are an alternative, but up to this point very few newspapers or magazines have been able to support themselves with online subscriptions and/or advertising.

As the print industry is looking for ways to cut costs, ebook readers may be an answer. If there were no print costs, perhaps large newspapers would be able to provide e-book readers to subscribers as part of the subscription costs or at least at a highly reduced rate. If the electronic device were done well enough, it could mimic the printed version and be filled with ads just like the print newspapers and magazines. Normally I would expect that this type of transition would take a few years, but the economic woes may put a rush on this type of move. The Hearst Corp., one of the largest publishers, is already planning to launch its own wireless e-book reader. Most are speculating that this would be a device with a larger screen that would more closely imitate the newspaper and magazine reading experience. Hearst, who is a mega-publisher, would be in a great position to create the liaisons needed to make this type of device and its content work. Fortune reports that the Hearst device will be available sometime this year.

There is no doubt that we live in a world that is changing because of technology and this type of technology may be in your hands sooner than you think.

I'VE BEEN HACKED

My PayPal Account's Been Hacked

Written by Steve Bass, a former Contributing Editor with PC World, a 23 year veteran of PIBMUG, and a founding member of APCUG. He's also the author of PC Annoyances: How to Fix the Most Annoying Things about Your Personal Computer, O'Reilly Press. It's available on Amazon at dirt cheap prices. <http://snipurl.com/annoy2>

This column originally appeared in Bass's TechBite newsletter. Subscribe to Bass's free weekly newsletter and read Bass's blog at www.snurl.com/techbiteblog. Contents copyright 2009, TechBite, LLC.

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The e-mail from PayPal said I'd sent \$400 to a gaming firm in Germany. It's a dopey phishing expedition, I thought, and authentic-looking, for sure, but nothing to worry about.

The trouble was that when I logged on to PayPal, I really did have a \$400 withdrawal. It was clear that someone had my password.

Quick Password Tips

Here are the three essential things you need to know about password security:

- Use a password generator, a program that will create a long, complicated password.

- Don't ever use dictionary words, even if you stick in symbols, like bill\$gate\$. They're very easy to break using simple hacker programs. (LOL -- Thanks, Rod.)

- Use a different password for every important site. Using the same password on every site, especially critical ones, such as banking, is risky. Imagine using your one password on an unsavory, and possibly unscrupulous site. With that golden password, and a few guesses on your login name -- stevebass, steve_bass, sbass -- and they're in like Flynn.

Who's Got My Password?

I contacted PayPal (888/221-1161), supplied the details, and they opened up a case. My account is frozen and I don't doubt PayPal will credit me for the loss. (As I started editing this newsletter, PayPal reversed the charges.) PayPal is investigating, but I don't think they'll ever find out how someone got into my account, though it was clear the person had my password. The rep said I probably fell for a well-crafted e-mail spoof.

That's a blow to my ego. I see myself as suspicious - verging on paranoid -- when it comes to phishing e-mails. What better prize than bragging rights to

hacking a PC World guy, right? So I'm as vigilant as my dog is when I try to get her to take a pill wrapped in peanut butter. (Hey, you can't fool me, pal, she probably thinks...)

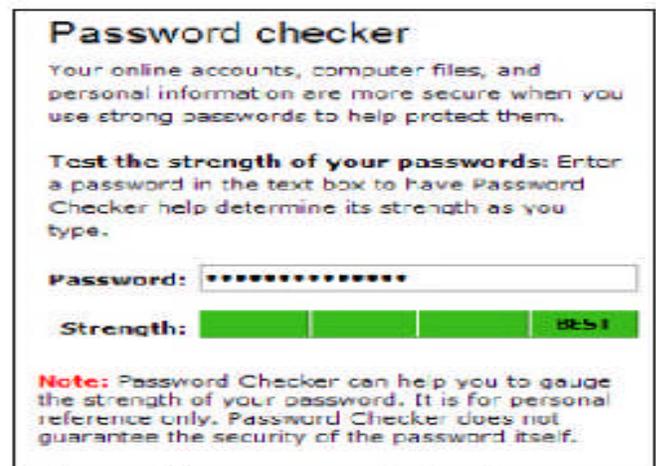
If an e-mail -- suspicious or not -- refers to any of my important accounts and provides a link to click, I ignore the offer. It's safer to manually type the URL into my browser's address field. And yes, I'll cover phishing hassles -- and ways to guard against it -- in a future newsletter.

Password: z24x680uBS4!44

I'm also careful with my passwords and, at least until now, thought they were super stealthy. For example, on PayPal I used four numbers, a symbol, and three letters. According to Microsoft's Password Checker, my standard password pattern -- 1600% wtf -- is strong. But it could be better.

Microsoft says that the most effective passwords are 14 characters and have a combination of upper and lower case letters, numbers, and a symbol or two. For example, z24x680uBS4!44 is strong enough for them to call it "best."

Test your passwords on Microsoft's site and see how well they stand up. Then browse Microsoft's excellent Strong passwords: How to create and use them. I promise you'll learn something. <http://tinyurl.com/2e7tmw>



Use Microsoft's Password checker to test your password's strength. You might be surprised. <http://tinyurl.com/ypc3dc>

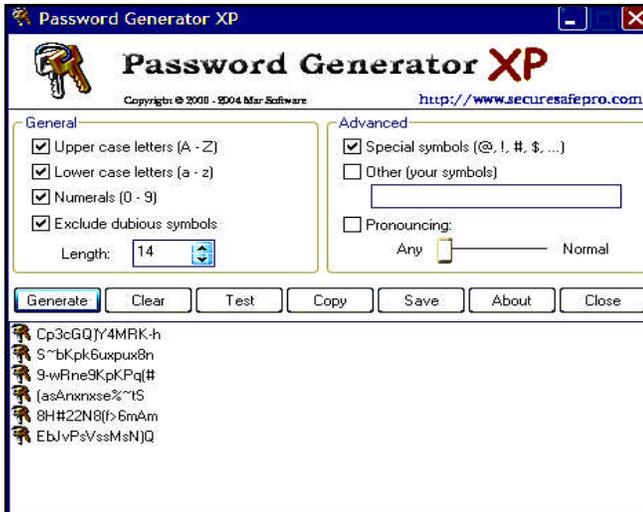
Generating Strong Passwords

Creating a strong password is easy, provided you don't try to think one up on your own. There are dozens of Web sites that'll create passwords, but I don't use any of them. The last thing I'll do is trust someone online watching me create new pass-

(Continued on page 12)

I'VE BEEN HACKED

words. Instead, download Password Generator, a freebie, and crank out all sorts of 14-character passwords.



<http://tinyurl.com/4j8e8>

Keeping Track of Your Passwords

I just looked and counted roughly 220 sites I use that require a password.

Some site passwords, however, are immaterial. For instance, I use a simple-to-remember word for spots I rarely visit, places such as newspapers that force you to register and log in just to read articles, or tech sites with forum messages.

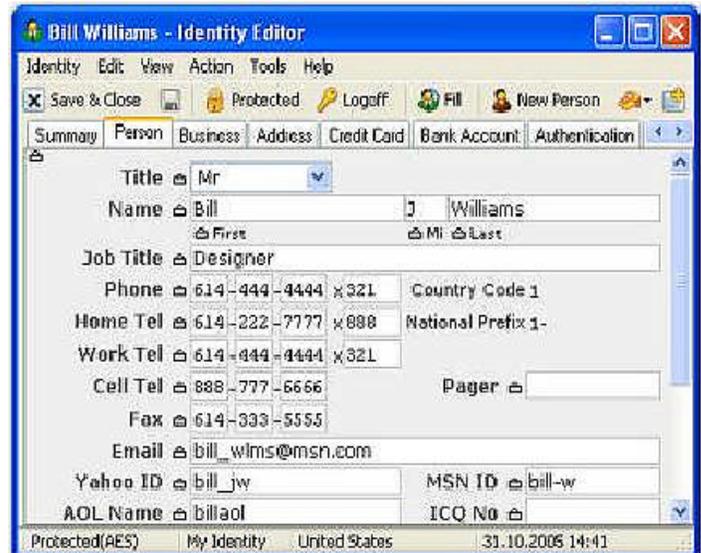
However, ever since the PayPal fiasco, I've changed every significant password on my system to a 14-digit gorilla.

Remembering all those passwords is a PITA, so you ought to consider using a password management tool. There are lots available. Many people like KeePass, a freebie; others swear by LargeSoft's \$30 Password Manager. I anticipate easily 100 e-mails -- no make that 200 -- kvetching that I haven't mentioned your favorite. But as far as I'm concerned, RoboForm is the best one around, and I've used it since it was first introduced.

RoboForm, The Master at Passwords

RoboForm is a \$30 program with more features for password management, privacy, and password identification than any other program I know. You provide RoboForm with all the vitals you might need to complete a site's form--name, address, phone numbers, and even credit card numbers. When you click the Fill Forms button, the program does just that. I've created multiple identities, each with different info. For instance, I have one with

MasterCard info, another with VISA accounts. I have another identify I call "anonymous" that I use to fill in forms on sites that I'll never visit again.



Enter data into RoboForm's Identity card and fill in online forms.



Click a Web site from the RoboForm Passcard screen, and RoboForm transports your Web browser to the site, logging you in if necessary. Need an industrial-strength password? RoboForm will generate one for you. And don't worry about security: RoboForm is itself password-protected. The program will also safely send an encrypted password through e-mail to another RoboForm user. (I was recently discussing with my wife the fact that neither of us can function without it.) BTW, RoboForm foils keyloggers (programs that watch keystrokes) because instead of typing, RoboForm inserts characters into form fields.

(Continued on page 13)

WEB TOUR

This month we provide some excellent programs that will provide the "must have" features your PC deserves and they are all free !

If you have better choices or know of items we have missed please email us at:

Editor@PhoenixPCUG.org

WEB BROWSER

Firefox

<http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/firefox/firefox.html>
The latest security and stability release.

EMAIL SERVICE

Thunderbird

<http://www.mozillamessaging.com/en-US/thunderbird/>
Thunderbird email client includes intelligent spam filters, powerful search and customizable views.

OFFICE SUITE

Open Office

Includes word processing, spreadsheets, presentations, graphics, databases and more.

<http://www.openoffice.org/>
This complete All-in-One Office Suite contains all that is needed for a productive day at the office. Featuring word processing, spreadsheets, presentations, graphics, databases and more.

MEDIA PLAYER

VLC

<http://www.videolan.org/vlc/download-windows.html>

This is a highly portable multimedia player for various audio and video formats (MPEG-1, MPEG-2, MPEG-4, DivX, mp3, ogg, ...) as well as DVDs, VCDs, and various streaming protocols.

CD/ DVD BURNING SOFTWARE

Infrarecorder

http://infrarecorder.org/?page_id=5

It is a burning solution for Microsoft Windows. It offers a wide range of powerful features; all through an easy to use application interface with Windows Explorer integration.

PHOTO IMAGE SHOP

Gimp

<http://gimp-win.sourceforge.net/stable.html>

An image manipulation program with a new GUI (graphical user interface) that makes it easier to use.

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING

GNU Cash

<http://sourceforge.net/projects/gnucash/>

A complete personal and small-business financial-accounting software.

AUDIO RECORDER

Audacity

<http://sourceforge.net/projects/audacity>
Multi-track audio recorder and editor.

REGISTRY AND FILE CLEANER

Advanced SystemCare Free v3

<http://www.iobit.com/advancedwindowscareper.html>
Help protect, repair, clean, and optimize your PC

ZIP COMPRESSION TOOL

7-Zip

<http://www.7zip.com/>
7-Zip is fast, efficient and free

REMEMBER: All of the Web Tour sites are archived and instantly available on our website. Don't waste time consuming typing of the site address when you can get there with a simple "click".

www.PhoenixPCUG.org

I'VE BEEN HACKED

(Continued from page 12)

Here's a summary of RoboForm's features (<http://www.roboform.com/features.html>), a comprehensive FAQ (<http://www.roboform.com/faq.html>) with answers to your most technical RoboForm questions and a way to compare the free and Pro versions (<http://www.roboform.com/why-pro.html>).

If you need portability, RoboForm2Go gives you the same protection when you carry your passwords on a flash drive and use it outside the office. Both the RoboForm program and your password files reside on a USB key, so you can take them from one computer to another. The tool costs \$40, but if you buy it at the same time you get RoboForm, the price drops to \$20. If you dig around, you'll occasionally find discounts. (Google RoboForm discount.)

Siber Systems offers a 30-day trial of both products. They work in all versions of Windows and support IE and Firefox, but not Google Chrome, Opera, or a few other browsers. Take a look at the compatibility list. <http://www.roboform.com/browsers.html>

There's lots more to say about password management, but I'm almost out of space. So while you're hot on the topic, read Bitmill's smart series of Password Security 101 articles. They're less basic than you might imagine. <http://www.thebitmill.com/articles/>

XP UTILITIES

XP Utilities

Written by Warner Mach, Editor of the SEMCO DATA BUS, newsletter of the South-east Michigan Computer Organization

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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).

I have discovered that Windows XP is chock full of various utilities to solve various kinds of problems. Some of the utilities that I have occasion to use in recent months:

(1) Windows Task Manager

You bring up the Windows Task Manager by holding down cntl-alt-delete. Some of the useful features are: (a) Go to the applications tab. This shows the running tasks and is useful for ending a task that refuses to go away. (b) Go to process tab. This shows all the miscellaneous tasks in the system and shows the CPU time that each is using. This can frequently be useful when you are not sure what the system is doing. (c) Go to performance tab. This shows the use of resources. Especially useful is the dynamic graph of CPU usage.

(2) Event Viewer

The Event Viewer has a log of recent events, including events at power up and power down. This was of value to me when I was attempting to learn about certain messages that were appearing at power down time. Under the 'application' and 'system' tabs the logs are listed. To get more detailed information on a particular problem, double-click on the 'type' portion of a particular entry. This will give some

keyword search hints that can be typed into Google. You bring up the Event Viewer by going to start=>run and typing 'Eventvwr.msc' into the box => OK.

(3) System Configuration Utility

The tab that was useful to me was the 'startup' tab. These are tasks that automatically come up at startup. By unchecking groups of entries (and saying 'apply' and then rebooting) I was able to zero in on one particular entry that was causing a problem. You bring up the System Configuration Utility by going to start=>run and typing 'msconfig' into the box => OK.

(4) Check Disk

This utility checks the space usage on the disk. It also checks the control block chains to be sure that they are correct. Go to start => all programs => accessories => command prompt and type in 'chkdsk.' If the program detects bad command chains and you want to correct the situation then type in 'chkdsk /F'. This command may require a reboot during which it runs stand-alone.

The Event Viewer has a log of recent events, including events at power up and power down.

Useful Resources

There is a useful list of utilities, with examples and explanations at:

<<http://tinyurl.com/9um8or>>.

There is also information about the Microsoft '906569' update at:

<<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/906569>>.

This update "... adds the tools tab to the System Configuration Utilities in Windows XP Service pack 2." But even if you don't want to do this, there is a list of useful utilities with an explanation of their function.

VISTA'S NEW SEARCH FEATURE

Moving on to Vista - Part 14

by Neil Stahfest, Librarian, Tacoma Area PC User Group, Washington

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One of the features that I liked about previous versions of Windows was the *Search" feature. Just click on the "Start" button", Click on "Search" and enter the file name that you want to find. If you have multiple hard drives, you can specify which ones to search. Its easy and simple.

Vista is different. Vista has a totally new search feature that is in some ways easier to use, fast and very sophisticated. It doesn't just try to match file names. It looks inside files and reads and searches the contents of text files, your Windows Contacts and Calendar as well as any Microsoft Office files (documents, spreadsheets and PowerPoint files). To do this Vista automatically maintains an index file which contains all this information for the file linked to your personal user folder. To keep the index file from becoming too large and to speed up the search process, it does not maintain a list of files located in your Windows system folder, contents of application file folders or on a local computer network (information usually only useful to computer programmers). When you start searching for a file or word, it only has to check this index file to find what you want. The results are displayed almost as fast as you can type the search name.

To use the most basic features of Vista's search engine, click on the "Start" button. When the "Start Menu" appears, a "Start Search" box appears directly above the "Start Button". As you start to type a folder or file name, a list of folders and files appears above

the box. As you type more letters, the list of names becomes more specific. If you don't see what you are looking for, at the bottom of the list is an option to search for the file name

on the Internet (assuming that you have an Internet connection of course). When you do this, the Internet search uses your default Internet search engine whether it be Microsoft, Google, Yahoo, etc.

The Search Results window does not show the name of every file match found. Using some form of artificial intelligence Vista limits itself to to the 20 most likely matches. It shows them under file group headings such as "Programs", "Files" and "Communications".

An interesting aspect of this feature is that you can point and click on a program listed in the Search Results window and actually run it. Document or spreadsheet files can also be accessed this way. Printing at the file name activates the default file program, such as Microsoft Word.

Using this feature of Vista's search function moves it beyond just a way to locate files and folders. It becomes a way to quickly locate files and then take action to use them. To prepare this column I simply went to my desktop, clicked on the Start Button, entered "vista.rtf" in the Search Box and then clicked on the file name to open it with my word processing program. How simple is that! No need to open a series of folders to burrow down to my Vista column files.

In most cases, doing the above steps will locate the information you are looking for. But suppose it doesn't. Windows will tell you that the information can't be located and suggest that you use some of the advanced search features. We'll address advanced search features next month.

*KEEP CURRENT
CHECK OUR WEBSITE
www.PhoenixPCUG.org*

ONLINE BACKUP SERVICES

Online Backup Services

There Are Pros & Cons But They Are Up & Coming

Written by Ira Brickman, President, ICON PC User Group, Inc., New York
 From The ICON Graphic, Newsletter of ICONPCUG, October 2008 Edition
www.iconpcug.org
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The changing face of how we use our computers includes the latest concept: using programs and services directly from the Internet. Many of us, for example, have found it

more convenient to access our email using a Web browser (a.k.a. "Webmail") instead of a dedicated client like Outlook Express. The Internet's evermore ubiquitous nature means that receiving email is as simple as finding an available computer with browser software. Backing up your hard drive using an online service is one of the up and coming online services. The advantages are:

- No need to buy backup software or purchase external USB drives or optical media to backup to.
- Not storing backups where the computer is located secures against fire, theft, and other risks.
- Like Webmail, the backups are available from any computer with an Internet connection & a browser.

As good as that sounds, some of the other considerations are:

- There are some costs usually involved.
- Backup privacy and security is dependent on a third party and transmitting your

data over the Internet adds privacy and security risks.

- You become dependent the backup service staying in business. If not, you are out of luck.
- It takes a lot longer to backup or restore than using a local hard drive.
- There is no imaging which means you are not backing up a picture of your hard drive, including your operating system installation. Rather you are backing up folders and files.

All in all, the pros certainly make trying online backup worthwhile. The cons, however, mean you have to judge how private the files are and how large your backups will

be. And the risk of a service folding means you should be wary of using smaller, totally free backup services for anything very critical to you.

There are some well-known, reliable services which can be free to use, within certain limitations. Or for a small monthly fee, you can get all the pros and limit your risks.

If you want to use an online backup services, there are three commercial services you can explore and consider to start with. They are: Amazon S3/Jungle Disk, Mozy, and Carbonite. All three have similarities:

- They require that you download and install a desktop client to configure backups, manage restores.
- Once your first backup is created, the client program then works in the background to backup of new and altered files.
- All three encrypt your data before transmission and store it in encrypted form on remote servers.
- None require you to restore from the original computer.

(Continued on page 18)

ONLINE BACKUP SERVICES

(Continued from page 17)

You can also restore your data to a different computer.

If you search the Web, you will find an abundance of reviews about each of these services. There is much that has been positively written about Jungle Disk and Amazon's Simple Storage Service (Amazon S3). The S3 service is part of a package of Amazon services meant to be accessed through third party software. Jungle Disk is

the leading program to do that. It "mounts" the online storage so that it seamlessly appears as another drive in your Windows Explorer. Jungle Disk can schedule automatic backups, but the mounted drive means you can drag and drop to manually backup files and folders. And it allows for incremental backups.

This last is important because there are costs involved. Amazon currently charges 10 cents per Gigabyte per month for storage and another 17 cents per GB for the data transfer. Incremental backups mean the transfer costs are kept to a minimum after your initial backup.

JungleDisk costs \$20 after a 30-day free trial. Amazon S3: <http://tinyurl.com/qx87a>

Jungle Disk: <http://www.jungledisk.com>

Mozy, at <http://mozy.com/>, on the other hand, can be free if you use the "MozyHome" alternative, limited to 2Gb of storage. But for \$4.95 per month, Mozy offers unlimited backup of a single home computer. Though not as convenient as Jungle Disk, the MozyHome software makes backing up easy and has many backup options..

Carbonite, <http://www.carbonite.com/>, offers a yearly subscription for unlimited

backup of a hard drive, starting at \$49.95 per year, with lower costs for upfront payment

of multi-year subscriptions. This makes it a little less expensive than Mozy per year. The Carbonite software might be a little easier to use than Mozy. Some reviewers found Carbonite to be slower and the Carbonite Web site does contain a caution about speed.

With costs potentially less than the upfront cost of a hard drive, these backup services are at least worth a look for their convenience for computer users.

PPCUG's Ride Sharing Program

Bill Aulepp, long time group member has volunteered to coordinate member communication for those who need rides and those who can provide them.

To join the program for either side, email Bill at bill@aulepp.com. Provide your name, your address, a way to contact you, and whether you can give or need a ride. Please do not wait until the last minute to request a ride,

Bill will gather the information from everyone who responds and connect up drivers with riders. It will be the responsibility of the individual members to organize the actual rides, dates, and pick up information.

Able to Provide a Ride?

Are you willing to pick up, transport and drive another member to one meeting a month? As an added bonus, any driver participating will receive one extra raffle ticket each time they drive a member to a meeting.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

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

*DUES
\$36 FOR YEAR.
JAN 1, THROUGH DEC 31, 2009*

Phoenix PC Users Group Membership Application

First: (Please Print) _____ Initial: _____ Last: _____

Address: _____

City, State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Ext: _____

Please note: We DO-NOT share phone numbers outside the club, and will generally only use your phone information, if we cannot contact you in timely fashion, via e-mail, or the club web-site

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

E-mail address: _____ Signature _____ Date ___/___/___

May the club share your e-mail address with other members only? Yes No

With club approved vendors? Yes No

Please do not share my e-mail address

Receive Electronic newsletter in place of printed one Yes No

Mail this completed form with payment to:

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



*The Best Accessory
for your PC!*

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phoenixpcug.org

April 2009

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