Welcome to Trenton Computer Festival

Don’t Miss the Keynote Address

Keynote speaker for the 36th anniversary of TCF will be Larry O’Gorman from Alcatel-Lucent Bell Labs, who will speak on “Tales in Multimedia Security - From Digital Libraries to Biometrics to Telepresence” on Saturday, April 2nd at 2:35pm.

His talk combines a retrospective of past technologies and a look forward to a new one, with the objective of identifying common factors in the path from research to success. All work described involves multimedia signal processing and security.

Our retrospective begins with digital libraries. In the early days of the World Wide Web, content providers were reluctant to publish electronically for fear of theft of material, so technologists provided watermarking. How has this worked out for the content owners, the watermark technologists, and the speed of adoption of digital libraries? We next examine an anti-counterfeiting technology combining image processing with the then new technology of public key cryptography. This combination was innovative, but was it successful? Finally, we examine biometrics. How were early hurdles overcome leading to biometrics’ surge in research activity and global adoption? With knowledge of these past successes and challenges, we examine current work in telepresence.

Why, 46 years after AT&T’s introduction of the Picturephone, do most of us still travel rather than meet via video conference? Although many people might propose that bandwidth and network issues are still the problem, we suggest a more user-centric challenge, video privacy. If that is so, how can we overcome this to achieve telepresence success?

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Back Us Up, Mister Gates

Bob Hawes, ACGNJ

Just as Humphrey Bogart didn’t actually say “Play it again, Sam” in the movie Casablanca, William Shatner (playing Captain James T. Kirk) never said the exact words “Beam me up, Scotty” in any Star Trek TV episode or feature film. The closest he ever came was in Star Trek: The Animated Series (where he did provide the voice), when he said; “Beam us up, Mister Scott”. I’ve taken my title from that line, appropriately modified. (For further information, see Back Me Up, Scotty in our November 2010 issue). In my last few articles, I’ve been describing how I used various hard disk imaging programs to make emergency backups of the seven partitions in my 320 GB data hard disk. For my own purposes, I don’t consider any imaging program to be suitable for making regular backups of my data; but this was an emergency, and I used what I could get. Two issues ago, in Dat-A-Whirl (Part One), I relied on four DOS or Linux based programs that I’d already featured in previous articles, then backing up Operating Systems only. Last issue, in Dat-A-Whirl (Part Two), I introduced three Windows based programs that I’d never reviewed before. Currently, the manufacturers of these three programs have each been marketing their particular product as an all-around backup solution, for both Operating Systems and data. So that’s what we’re going to be looking at here.

Our three candidates are: ATI (Acronis True Image Home 2011 from Acronis Incorporated), GFW (Norton Ghost for Windows from Symantec Corporation), and IFW (Image for Windows from TeraByte Unlimited). ATI and IFW are recent trial versions that I downloaded from the Internet. GFW is now up to version 15.0, but they don’t seem to...

http://www.acgnj.org

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**Submissions**: Articles, reviews, cartoons, illustrations. Most common formats are acceptable. Graphics embedded in the document must also be included as separate files. Fax or mail hard copy and/or disk to editor; OR e-mail to Editor. **Always confirm**. Date review and include name of word processor used, your name, address and phone and name, address and phone of manufacturer, if available.

**Tips for reviewers**: Why does anyone need it? Why did you like it or hate it? Ease (or difficulty) of installation, learning and use. Would you pay for it?
have a trial download. However, I still have my version 9.0 CD from 2004, which their misleading advertisements made me think contained a new (and final) release of Ghost for DOS. (Actually, it didn’t. They just threw in a complete copy of their previous Norton Ghost 2003 CD, which did contain both DOS and Windows versions). Last month, I compared each of them against a Linux standard. This time, I stayed completely within Windows World, and compared them directly against each other.

I made six backups with each program. The first three were of partitions from my data hard disk (volume labels I_DRIVE, J_DRIVE and K_DRIVE). The fourth backup was of the Windows C: drive itself, which contained files totaling 6.6 GB. (However, since the 2 GB pagefile.sys was not backed up, that was really only 4.6 GB). For the fifth backup, I copied a previously prepared directory named NOT COMP from my USB Expansion Drive to that same C: drive. (It contained 40,170 files copied from another XP C: drive, totaling 4.1 GB. My theory was that the vast majority of those files would not have been previously compressed). For the sixth backup, I added another previously prepared directory, named ALL_COMP, to that C: drive. (It contained three Ghost for DOS image files, totaling 4.2 GB. I knew for certain that those files had already been compressed).

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I actually made my fourth backup (the unmodified version of the C: drive, containing 4.6 GB) twice. The first time, I wrote my image to my USB drive, as I’d done with all the other backups. The second time, just to see what would happen, I wrote my image to the C: drive itself. We’ll take the USB version first. Last month, IFW backed it up in 8 minutes, 32 seconds, producing a 2.70 GB image. (That was the only C: drive backup I made last month). This month, GFW backed it up in 6 minutes, 12 seconds, producing a 3.65 GB image; and ATI backed it up in 7 minutes, 17 seconds, producing a 2.73 GB image. Calculating compression, GFW yielded 1.260x, ATI yielded 1.685x, and IFW yielded 1.704x. Calculating speeds, IFW measured 0.539 GB/m, ATI measured 0.632 GB/m, and GFW measured 0.742 GB/m. Compressions went up (from “pitiful” to “average”), but speeds went way down (and GFW managed to come in first).

Now, here are the C: to C: results. (Whatever “behind the scenes” chicanery is required to make this process work, all three programs seem to have figured it out). IFW backed up the C: drive in 6 minutes, 21 seconds, producing a 2.83 GB image. ATI backed it up in 7 minutes, 42 seconds, producing a 2.79 GB image; and GFW backed it up in 17 minutes, 22 seconds, producing a 3.65 GB image. That long 17 minute backup time concerned me so much that I repeated this backup twice more, with similar results. I can’t explain such an anomalous result; but then again, I don’t have to.

Note that, for each program, I had to make all of this month’s backups at the same time. That’s because, after each set of backups finished, I had to uninstall the first program from my Windows system before I could install the second (and likewise for the third). Also note that because each program copied its own unique sub-set of files to C: when it was installed, the size of the C: drive for each one was, of necessity, not the same. For this article, I’ve assumed that whatever differences existed were negligible. (Besides, it’s not as if there was anything I could do about it, anyway). Because I did a complete step by step walk-through of the backup and restore functions of each program last month, I haven’t repeated that information here. If you need it, please refer to Dat-A-Whirl (Part Two). Therefore, we can now jump right to my results.

I_DRIVE contained files totaling 33.5 GB. GFW backed it up last month, producing a 39.8 GB image in 39 minutes, 43 seconds. This month, ATI backed it up in 36 minutes, 58 seconds, producing a 39.4 GB image; and IFW backed it up in 37 minutes, 52 seconds, producing a 39.4 GB image. Calculating compression, GFW yielded a compression ratio of 1.015 to 1 (hereafter to be referred to as 1.015x compression). ATI and IFW both yielded 1.025x compression. Calculating backup speeds, GFW measured 1.017 GB/m (GB per minute), IFW measured 1.067 GB/m, and ATI measured 1.093 GB/m. Those abysmal compression results indicate that many of the files in this partition had already been compressed, and thus couldn’t be compressed any further. (Indeed, when you try to compress an already compressed file, the resulting output file often gets bigger. This phenomenon might have actually reduced the net shrinkage realized from compressing those files that hadn’t already been compressed. Unfortunately, there’s no way I can think of to tell if this happened).

J_DRIVE contained files totaling 33.5 GB. ATI backed it up last month, producing a 32.9 GB image in 30 minutes, 59 seconds. This month, GFW backed it up in 33 minutes, 51 seconds, producing a 32.3 GB image; and IFW backed it up in 34 minutes, 29 seconds, producing a 32.9 GB image. Calculating compression, GFW yielded 1.009x, while ATI and IFW both yielded 1.018x. Calculating speeds, IFW measured 0.971 GB/m, GFW measured 0.989 GB/m, and ATI measured 1.081 GB/m. (How about that? GFW didn’t come in last this time).

K_DRIVE contained files totaling 37.6 GB. IFW backed it up last month, producing a 36.1 GB image in 35 minutes, 20 seconds. This month, ATI backed it up in 34 minutes, 13 seconds, producing a 36.1 GB image; and GFW backed it up in 39 minutes, 29 seconds, producing a 36.5 GB image. Calculating compression, GFW yielded 1.030x, while ATI and IFW both yielded 1.042x. Calculating speeds, GFW measured 0.952 GB/m, IFW measured 1.064 GB/m, and ATI measured 1.098 GB/m.

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Back Us Up, Mister Gates, continued

It’s repeatable, so it has to be taken as-is. I just accepted it and moved on. Calculating compression, GFW yielded 1.260x, IFW yielded 1.625x, and ATI yielded 1.649x. Calculating speeds, GFW measured 0.265 GB/m, ATI measured 0.597 GB/m, and IFW measured 0.724 GB/m. Again, compressions gained while speeds were reduced.

Next is the C: to USB backup of the first modification (adding the 4.1 GB directory NOT_COMP to the 4.6 GB C: drive, for a new total of 8.7 GB). ATI backed it up in 9 minutes, 22 seconds, producing a 5.85 GB image. IFW backed it up in 9 minutes, 27 seconds, producing a 5.93 GB image; and GFW backed it up in 10 minutes, 28 seconds, producing a 7.03 GB image. Calculating compression, GFW yielded 1.238x, IFW yielded 1.467x, and ATI yielded 1.487x. Calculating speeds, GFW measured 0.831 GB/m, IFW measured 0.921 GB/m, and ATI measured 0.928 GB/m. My theory assumed that compressions and speeds would be essentially unchanged. In practice, compressions went down while speeds went up. So much for theory.

Last is the C: to USB backup of the second modification (adding the 4.2 GB directory ALL_COMP to the first modification, for a new total of 12.9 GB). ATI backed it up in 10 minutes, 38 seconds, producing a 10.0 GB image. IFW backed it up in 14 minutes, 38 seconds, producing a 9.96 GB image; and GFW backed it up in 14 minutes, 43 seconds, producing an 11.1 GB image. Calculating compression, GFW yielded 1.162x, ATI yielded 1.290x, and IFW yielded 1.295x. Calculating speeds, GFW measured 0.876 GB/m, IFW measured 0.881 GB/m, and ATI measured 1.213 GB/m. My theory assumed that compressions and speeds would go down. In practice, all three compressions went down, and so did the speed for IFW; but the speed for GFW went up, and (for a final enigma) the speed for ATI went way up. Reality trumps theory again.

Except for a few outliers (only to be expected and endured), my measurements and calculations were remarkably consistent. (Especially for such a small sample). As far as compression went, ATI and IFW ran neck and neck, while GFW came in third. The same for speed, but not as consistently. The lower overall performance of GFW shouldn’t be considered significant, though. ATI and IFW are current products, using the latest cutting-edge algorithms, while GFW has been upgraded six times since my version was put out. I’d assume that the current release of GFW would use those same up to date algorithms, and thus perform just as closely. I did make test restorations of all of the above backups; but they were all successful, the C: drives all booted, and nothing remarkable happened. So I don’t really have anything to say about them here. For restoration information, please refer to Dat-A-Whirl (Part Two), in last month’s March 2011 issue of ACGNJ News.

Remember, this whole thing started because I needed to ensure the security of my data by making quick backups of the seven partitions on my 320 GB data hard disk.

However, I’m always on the lookout for newsletter topics. Therefore, rather than do them all with Clonezilla (a Linux program, and my current “go-to guy”), I turned that necessary task into a comparison of seven programs (one DOS, three Linux and three Windows), and got a series of articles out of it. Unfortunately, I didn’t have time to check out and report on such vital but ancillary features as full, incremental, or timed backups; and even if I had, there wouldn’t have been space to report about them here. This article has already grown quite long for inclusion in a Trenton Computer Festival issue.

So, to wrap things up: What can I tell a Windows user that might help him or her decide which program to buy? Not much, actually. After all, each one did do the job just fine. As far as actual performance goes, they’re pretty much the same. So all I’ve got are my personal impressions. At one time, I was an avid Norton Anti-Virus fan; but in the last ten years or so, Symantec has done things that make me leery. (Including, but not limited to, those misleading advertisements mentioned above). Plus, I don’t like only being permitted to restore a complete image of my C: drive by using the one single OEM CD that they provided. (They’re selling Norton Ghost 15.0 downloads over the Internet now, though, so that particular restriction may no longer apply).

Acronis True Image has a good reputation, and my overall impression of its operation was positive; but its interfaces seemed too “dumbed down” for my own personal taste. For example: A pop-up window containing a “time remaining” estimate appeared during backups, including a slide bar indicating the backup’s progress; but it was only a graphic element that slowly crept across the screen. There were no “percent completed” or “elapsed time” indicators. The same for restorations; and when finished, the restore pop-up window just disappeared, leaving behind no parting messages of any kind. Plus, I had a lot of trouble trying to create a boot CD using their Media Builder function. (See Dat-A-Whirl (Part Two) for further details).

Image for Windows performed flawlessly. I’ve previously tested its two “sister” programs (Image for DOS and Image for Linux) several times, and both always performed flawlessly as well. Except for one problem: During a restoration, neither one could change the size of a new Linux partition being written to the target hard disk. On the other hand, Ghost for DOS could do this quite easily; and any program that aims to take its place must be able to do it too. Image for Windows has this same limitation; but that wouldn’t really matter to a Windows-only user. Last month I said, “If I absolutely had to recommend a Windows program (say, if the fate of the universe depended on it), this is the one that I’d go with”. That sentiment still applies. In the last few years I’ve lost all trust, all respect, and all tolerance for Microsoft. So the best advice I could possibly give to any Windows user would be: “Learn Linux!”

See you next month. ☺

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ACGNJ News

April 2011
How to Publish a Book
Evan Williams <ewilliams@collaboron.com>, ACGNJ

Perhaps you have written a book that you wish to have published. Self publishing a manuscript is not hard nor is it as unpopular as it used to be. Here is how I published a book entitled “Building Consistent Websites, A Mathematical Approach Using Trees”. Admittedly there are a lot of different ways to publish a book.

Once you have written or are writing and have dreamed of how your book will look, a good first step toward self publishing is to get an ISBN number, an International Standard Book Number. Bowker.com (Bowker.com) is authorized to issue these numbers, which you need to sell your book. Bowker.com runs myidentifiers.com, where $125 will purchase this identification code for you and your publishing company. Your Company can be a sole-proprietorship registered under your own name, as is my company, New Holland Press (www.newhollandpress.com).

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You Have Reached a Voice Mailbox ... Beep
Cass Lewart, ACGNJ

Modern automation would be great, if only it were used with the consumer in mind. A friend of mine recently subscribed to a new high-tech phone service with innumerable options and features. When I called him and the line was busy I heard instead of the familiar busy signal, the cryptic announcement “You have reached a voice mailbox ... beep”. Did I dial the right number? What am I supposed to do with a voice mailbox?

With all the information available to the phone company it would be just as easy to announce to the caller: “Number 555-123-4567 is busy, please leave your message after the beep”. As I am a programmer, I know how easy it would be to implement such a meaningful message instead of a cryptic one.

In another recent phone call to schedule an appointment at a nearby location, I was prompted for my zip code. Then I was treated to an endless list of locations and submenus not related to my zip code.

The problem is that most companies respond only to customer complaints when the customer threatens to switch to a competing product. Unfortunately, most consumers are overwhelmed by the marketing hype, and are not technically savvy or vocal enough to demand a better product.

When providers of software stopped printing user manuals, did many people complain? A modern operating system has many features that would be useful to consumers if they would be aware of their existence. Without even rudimentary printed documentation such features are only known to a few techies.

Apple and other manufacturers started putting rechargeable batteries into all their portable products with a 1-2 year lifetime and no easy way to replace them. Without a working battery, portable products are useless. To replace a battery you have to ship the product to the manufacturer and attach a hefty fee. How can you beat it for planned obsolescence? Still, hardly anybody complained.

Well, not all is lost. I recently called my doctor and instead of a litany of automated prompts I heard a human voice, a live person who took care of me in a few minutes. Although in a recent Jeopardy game, the Watson computer won over live contestants, there is still a place left for us humans.
Windows 7 Tech Tips
Brian K. Lewis, Ph.D. (bwsail at yahoo.com), Sarasota PC Users Group, Inc., (www.spcug.org)

Have you ever wanted or needed information about the hardware in your computer? Did you know that Windows 7 contains a command that can provide you with a list of your hardware components including memory information? It does and it is very easy to explore and to save to a file. There are other helpful little bits of information hidden in the recesses of Win7, so let’s take some time to explore a few of them.

First let’s check out the system information command. Go to Start and type “cmd” in the Search box (without the quotes), then press Enter. This will open a command window in which you can type “systeminfo”, also without the quote marks. Press Enter again and you will get a detailed profile of your computer. This list will include the processor, BIOS version, operating system and updates, both installed and available memory and much more. In all, there are thirty-two categories of information provided by this command. You can scroll up and down through this information.

Then, if you want to save this info to a disc file, type the command “systeminfo /FO CSV > systeminfo.csv”. Again, without the quotes. This file will be saved in the directory shown at the beginning of the command line. So be sure you remember this location when you go to look for the file. A CSV file can be opened in a spreadsheet or a database program. Now you will have a ready reference for the components which make up your computer. It’s not a bad idea to create this file and keep it for reference purposes.

Of course, if you are a frequent reader of Dr Herb’s “Computer Buffet” you would have seen references to “Belarc Advisor”. This free program gives you a profile of all the hardware and software on your machine. It also highlights problem areas such as non-working applications. The software information can be quite extensive. The last time I ran this application on a Windows machine I had more than eight pages of information. Far more than I really wanted. The systeminfo command gives you a summary which is printable in one page.

There is another use for system information. If you type this “system information” command into the Start-Search box, it will bring up a list of applications before you finish typing. Select “System Information” from the list and click on it. You now have a double pane window with a tree of topics on the left and an information window on the right. The first item is a general summary of system information similar to the information we obtained in the command window.

If you have an image file of your hard drive, you can do a complete image of your hard drive, just backup your data, or make a system repair disc. If you did not get a Windows installation disc when you purchased your computer, then the first thing you should do is make a system repair disc. All you need for this is a blank CD and your computer, then the first thing you should do is make a system repair disc. All you need for this is a blank CD and then just follow the on-screen instructions. The next step would be to make a complete image file, preferably on an external drive. It’s really not a good idea to put it on the same drive you are imaging even if it is a separate partition. Why? Because when the drive fails you won’t be able to access the image file to restore anything to a new hard drive.

If you haven’t backed up your computer recently, then you should try the backup built into Win7. In previous versions of Windows the backup application provided by Microsoft was very slow and some versions were very limited in the media to which they would write the backup file. It was also useless when you changed your Windows version as the file formats in the backup file were not compatible with the newer version. In the Win7 help files there is information on how to restore a backup made with Vista to Win7. So at least the latest versions should be compatible.

These latest versions of the backup applications are much faster than previous versions. To try the backup applications, open the Control Panel and select System Security, then backup and restore. Here you have several options. You can do a complete image of your hard drive, just backup your data, or make a system repair disc. If you did not get a Windows installation disc when you purchased your computer, then the first thing you should do is make a system repair disc. All you need for this is a blank CD and then just follow the on-screen instructions. The next step would be to make a complete image file, preferably on an external drive. It’s really not a good idea to put it on the same drive you are imaging even if it is a separate partition. Why? Because when the drive fails you won’t be able to access the image file to restore anything to a new hard drive. Even if you do have a Windows installation disc the repair disc plus the image file are a better solution for restoring Windows and your files after a drive failure. The image file you create will be more current than the original installation disc when it comes to Windows updates. It will also include the installation of all the applications you added after you purchased the system or upgraded to Win7.

Once you have the repair disc and the image backup you can start doing data backups, or you can create new image files periodically. There is no need to make image files un-
less you have added applications or made substantial changes to your system. Windows file backup can be set to run automatically to save your data files. It will also add new folders and files to the backup list when you create them. I would also recommend that this be saved to an external drive.

Do you have a need for a system to remember user names and passwords? Win7 has a credential manager which can be used for storing user names and passwords in an encrypted file. This application can be found in the Control Panel under User Accounts. If you can’t find it, try searching within the Control Panel.

I frequently have a need to write down short notes or references to information I found on the Internet or in other sources. This is where Sticky Notes comes in quite handy. You can run this application by typing “stikynot” in the Start – Search box and clicking on the program that shows in the popdown menu. Alternatively, you can go to All Programs – Accessories and click on Sticky Notes. These can be placed anywhere on your desktop. You can also pin the application to the taskbar so it will be readily available. Just right click on the menu item or one of the sticky notes and select “pin to taskbar”.

If you want to see the minute by minute performance of your computer, try typing “resource monitor” in the Start – Search box. The complete term will show up before you have completed typing and you can then click on the item. This brings up a window in which you can view the memory utilization, cpu utilization and other resources as you use your computer. It’s a great way to see which applications are using the most memory.

By playing around with the Control Panel and other aspects of Windows 7, you can find many helpful built-in functions. You can also query the Help files. On my system the Help response is much quicker than it was in Vista and XP. I also found that many subjects are better explained and more detailed. So if you are stuck on something, try the Help application that’s on the Start menu. The more you play with Win7, the more you will find that may be useful.

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.

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).

Finicky Flash

Rick Curry, Channel Islands PCUG, California (http://www.c ipcug.org/)

Flash is a special sort of movie player program that runs inside your browser. It usually opens a rectangular window inside the browser. Often a video advertisement, a movie clip, television clip, or a flashing repetitive cadence of words will be in this rectangle. It can also be complex enough to play a video game.

Toby (CIPCUG tech guru) has shown us how to block Flash using the NoScript add-on to the Firefox browser because Flash can be a source of continuous nuisance in the form of distracting images and sounds as well as being powerful enough to serve as a way for malicious programs to get inside your computer.

Alas, with all of its faults, many useful websites will not run without Flash. There will almost certainly be times when you find yourself telling NoScript that it is OK at a particular website (like your bank). So we want to have Flash installed.

Much like Windows or other programs, Flash gets updated to fix problems and introduce new features. Fortunately, Flash is configured to automatically tell you when it needs to be updated. Unfortunately, the netherworld of Internet-based thieves has come up with ways to pop up a window that looks just like Flash telling you to update.

If you use NoScript, make sure you allow JavaScript on this page! Your current Flash version will be displayed.

So if a window pops up and tells you to update Flash, treat it like a phishing scam where someone is pretending to be your bank and is sending you a false link. Do not do what it says to do. Close that window and ignore the instructions just the way you would ignore the email message that says: HI! WE ARE YOUR BANK! >>click here and see what happens<<<

We must not click on links to get our Flash updates. Type in the addresses by hand to check for new versions of Flash, for now. It is a nuisance, but it is the best way to be safe for the time being.

Close all of your open browsers and any pop-up windows, like the one telling you to update Flash. I check with Task Manager at this point to make sure that all of the browsers have been closed, but that step is very rarely necessary and somewhat dangerous if you do not know what you are doing.

Next open a new copy of your browser and see if you actually need any updates from the official Flash website by typing in this address: http://www.adobe.com/software/flash/about

If you use NoScript, make sure you allow JavaScript on this page! Your current Flash version will be displayed.
under the big rectangular picture. It is on the right under the heading “Version Information.” Further down the page is a table listing the latest versions of Flash. If you are already running the latest version, you are done. If you want to get the latest version of Flash, you can get it here:

My children just told me that they are having Flash programs hang (stop and never resume) while displaying: “loading.” They also told me that clearing the browser cache, closing all browsers, and then starting over seems to always be the fix. These strange problems reported in Flash are reason enough that most of us should check for updates to Flash.

While writing this article, I started checking. The first two computers at my house needed to be updated, and I never saw any update notice for either machine. Just make sure to go to the real website for your Flash updates.

If you update Flash and the update notice keeps coming back every time you start your browser, you may have picked up a virus or Trojan horse. If you think this has happened, it is time to seek help from a professional.

---

**IRS Info for TY2010**

Charles W. Evans, HAL-PC (www.hal-pc.org)

As conscientiously as you may plan ahead, there is always some obscure little form missing, or irksome question you need to ask at the last minute.

These sources should make life a bit less stressful and your tax preparation easier. I can’t make your preparation less arduous, but the information below will make it easier.

**NOTE:** On-line e-Filing is even more impressive this year and for many it is free! Most programs offer at least one free filing. I used the e-Filing last year and it does work – earlier refund and direct into my bank!

---

**Possible Personal Security Issue with Digital Photos**

by Ira Wilsker

Many of us take a lot of digital photographs. One of the many advantages of digital photography is the ease at which they can be emailed to others, and posted to social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter, and MySpace. What many users are unaware of is that many of the newer cell phones and digital cameras have a GPS location feature that records the precise location of the camera at the instant the photo is taken, often with an accuracy within 15 feet. While this “GeoTagging” offers the user the benefits of knowing precisely where the picture was taken, there are now cases where GeoTagged images were used for illicit purposes, such as by stalkers and pedophiles to locate targets for their illicit behavior.

New York’s WABC-TV documented the case of Adam Savage, one of the star characters of the Discovery Channel hit “MythBusters”, who posted a digital photo of his car on Twitter. The digital photo was taken outside of his house, and contained what is known as EXIF data embedded in the photo; if the camera or smart phone has a capable GPS in the device, it dutifully records that information into the
photo. Most image viewers can display that EXIF data, and
even display the precise location on a high resolution
Google Earth map. In the Adam Savage case, the precise
location of his home could have been used by a stalker or
other miscreant to do him harm.

Exchangeable image file format, better known as EXIF, is
automatically recorded by most modern digital cameras, in-
cluding dedicated units (just a standard digital camera), and
the cameras built in to most of today’s cell phones and alm-
most all smart phones. EXIF is imbedded into JPEG
images, most TIFF images, and WAV files. EXIF data is
not recorded in JPEG 2000, PNG, or GIF formatted images.
EXIF records a lot of useful information, including the date
and time the photo was taken, the make and model of the
camera or digital device, the exposure, F-stop, ISO rating,
dimensions of original photo, flash, focal length of lens,
and other technical information about the image and the
camera. If the digital device has a GPS, then the EXIF in-
formation also contains the latitude and longitude accurate
to six decimal places (one-millionth of a degree). As long
as the file format is one of those that support EXIF, this
information is included by default, unless the user has
selected to turn off all or parts of the EXIF writing function
of the camera. On most cameras that support EXIF coded
images, the degree of difficulty of controlling the EXIF
data displayed varies by camera make and model, although
many of the GPS equipped devices have the ability to turn
off the GPS function. With the GPS thus disabled, the loca-
tion of the camera when the image is made will not be re-
corded, and the remaining EXIF information is relatively
innocuous, and does not pose any significant threat to the
user. It is up to the user to determine if the GPS informa-
tion should be recorded, and many photographers regularly
use the GPS data embedded in the EXIF information to
document and record the location of the image. If the user
wants the GPS information embedded in the photo, leave
the GPS in the device turned on; this is typically the default
setting. If the user is concerned about privacy, or the poten-
tial threat that posting the location of the image may create,
then the user should check the camera or device instructions
about disabling the GPS function. If the camera or other
digital device offers the user the option of file formats,
choosing the universally compatible GIF image format will
provide a degree of safety in that a GIF formatted image
generally does not contain the EXIF information.

It is amazingly simple to display the embedded latitude and
longitude in a JPEG (.jpg) image if that photo was taken by
a GPS equipped camera. I went to my Twitter page (which
I rarely use), and opened some of the photos that were
linked by my friends on Twitter. Using my internet
browser, I right clicked on the image and selected “Save
Image As”, and saved the image to my hard drive. Using
my preferred image viewer, the popular free universal
viewer IrfanView (www.irfanview.com), the EXIF infor-
mation was very easy to display, if it was embedded into
one of the compatible image formats. Opening the image in

IrfanView obviously displayed the image, but clicking on
either IMAGE - INFORMATION, or the blue circle with
the lower case “i” displayed the information about the im-
age. If there is EXIF information embedded in the photo, a
radio button labeled “EXIF info” appears on the bottom
right corner of the information display; clicking on this but-
ton opens the EXIF window, with all of the embedded
information displayed. If there is a recorded latitude and
longitude, another button appears labeled “Show in Google
Earth” which will open Google Earth
(www.google.com/earth) if it is installed on the computer,
and display a high resolution satellite or aircraft photo
showing the precise location of the camera at the instant the
photo was taken. Google Earth can link directly to Google
Maps, and display a street map with the location high-
lighted, and then create driving directions to that precise
location. If someone wanted to do harm to the subject of
the photo, with this information, the potential victim may be
easy to locate, especially if the photo was taken near a
home, public park, or other readily accessible location. In
addition to Google Earth, IrfanView can also display the lo-
cation using several other mapping utilities by clicking on
the “Show in Geo-Hack Wiki”. I tried this by opening a
JPEG photo of my car in my driveway taken with my smart
phone, clicking on the Geo-Hack Wiki, and then selecting
the “OpenStreetMap” option; instantly a detailed street map
appeared, with a red icon noting the location of my drive-
way! If I posted that photo on the web, any miscreant
could easily find my house.

IrfanView is not the only image viewer that can display
EXIF information, as I tried several of the image viewers
that I have installed on my computer, and almost all dis-
played the same information. IrfanView and the other
image viewers are not the problem, as they are only dis-
playing what the camera recorded, just as they display the
image taken by the camera. If the user wants that image lo-
cation recorded, he should be entitled to do so, as there are
many legitimate uses for that information. As can be done
with many things that are legal, legitimate, and useful, they
can also be abused by those with crime in their hearts. It is
this risk that the user must consider if he decides to record
the GPS information with his photo. If the photo is to be
kept for strictly personal use, then there is no harm in using
that information, but if that image is to be posted on the in-
ternet, such as on a web site or on a social network service
such as Facebook, MySpace, or Twitter, then he must de-
cide if he wants the GPS information included, which may
be much the same as posting his home address on the in-
ternet along with his photos. There are several free and
commercial utilities that can edit or remove EXIF data
from images, and the user should search for these utilities,
and consider removing or editing the EXIF data on images

Continued above right

Continued below left

Continued on page 10
Security Issue with Digital Photos, continued

to be posted on the web. Likewise, there are several websites that have the instructions for deactivating the GPS feature on most smart phones and digital cameras. The choice is strictly yours; I choose not to include my GPS data on personal images that I post on the net. Play it safe, and do the same.

Facebook Security

Seth Colaner (http://www.smartcomputing.com/groups)

Unless you’ve been living on the moon for the last several years, you’ve heard rumblings, rumors, accusations, concerns, and general chatter about Facebook and its issues with privacy and security.

A few years ago, Facebook settings were delightfully simple to adjust, but recently, the process became more complex. After a loud outcry, Facebook simplified its security and privacy settings again to make it easier for users to regain control of their Facebook content and privacy. We’ll show you how to control who sees what when you post information on Facebook.

Account Settings

To reach the Account Settings area, click Account on your Facebook home page and select Account Settings. There are a number of tabs on this page that let you customize and edit your account, but the one to look at regarding privacy is the Facebook Ads tab. To make sure you or your photos are never used in a Facebook ad, click the drop-down menu next to Allow Ads On Platform Pages To Show My Information To and select No One. At the bottom of this same page, click the drop-down menu next to Show My Social Actions In Facebook Ads To and select No One. Then, click Save Changes.

Application Settings

Next, select Account and click Application Settings. All your Facebook applications will be listed on this page. To edit one, click Edit Settings. The settings will be slightly different depending on the application; some of the settings will be quite benign.

For example, the settings for the Facebook For iPhone application let you select or deselect whether the application can Access My News Feed & Wall; Login To Facebook Chat; and Publish Content To My Wall. For the Photo application (which you get by default with any Facebook account), you can select which groups can see your photos, such as Everyone or Friends Of Friends. You can also customize these settings. If you click the Additional Permissions tab, you can access additional settings.

Privacy Settings

There are two ways to get to your Privacy Settings page: either click Account and then Privacy Settings or click Manage next to Privacy under Account Settings. Once there, you can adjust a great many aspects of your Facebook account.

Under Basic Directory Information, click View Settings. On this screen, you can adjust who can find you with a Facebook search, who can send you friend requests and messages, and who can see your work and education information, interests, and more. Although the menu options vary slightly in each category, you can typically select from Everyone, Friends Of Friends, Friends Only, or a further customized set of options. You can select a different level of exposure for each item.

Back on the main Privacy Settings page, you can configure who can see what you share under Sharing On Facebook.

You can opt for a blanket policy by clicking Everyone, Friends Of Friends, or Friends Only, or you can make Custom settings. Click Customize Settings below the list to make changes.

At the bottom of the Privacy Settings page, you can edit settings for Application And Websites, Block Lists, and Controlling How You Share.

The Applications And Websites page offers similar (and in some cases, identical) options to the aforementioned Application Settings. (Why are some of the same settings in two different places? Only Face-book CEO Mark Zuckerberg really knows.) From this page, you can remove or disable certain applications, edit who can see your game and applications dashboards, what information others can access via your friends, what your Public Search listing looks like, and more.

Two important notes on this page: Click Edit Settings next to Info Accessible Through Your Friends. Pore over those checkboxes to see what you’re comfortable with, but note Places I Check In To. This is part of Facebook’s new Places feature that lets you make others aware of where you are at a given time. If that sounds dreadfully unappealing to you, uncheck that box, which is enabled by default.

The other item of crucial importance is Public Search. Click Edit Settings and enable or disable Public Search by...
Everyone now owns an iPad. Well maybe not everyone, however the number of sales are far reaching into the millions. If you look at a graph depicting the sales of Apple’s iPad you will see a line that looks like the path of the Space Shuttle taking off. The iPad has taken off with a huge explosion of sales. There is a good reason: Apps.

Apple announces the iPad has “thousands of apps...available in every category”, which is mind numbing to say the least. How does one sift through such numbers to find the top notch apps and not get stuck with one that, well let’s just say stuck with an app that is not the best? How does one find the best of the best in iPad apps?

Well you need to look no further. Peter Meyers’ book offers the easy solution to such a complex issue of sorting through thousands of iPad apps to make sense, with precise reviews on each one.

Meyers says that “this book helps do some serious chaff snuffing” in that he has gone through the thousands of apps to bring us the best. The book is sequenced with seven color coded chapters, making referencing easy. Each chapter takes us to a new use for the iPad: At Work - At Leisure - Creative Corner - At Play - At Home - Out and About - For Your Health. Browsing through these chapters is fun to see what you can really do with your iPad.

For instance, in Chapter 6, “Out and About”, you will find numerous apps that cover “Finding (and booking) a Restaurant”, “Finding Cheap Airfares”, to “Driving Instructions in Your Car”. For the more serious users you can get one for your “Health” such as: “Portable First Aid Reference”, “Dieting and Weight Loss”, and even “Bird Watching”. Games were not left behind, not at all. Meyers offers Chapter 6: “At Play”. Here you get to read about the best apps for “Arcade Games”, “Puzzles”, “Racing”, “Combat” and many more.

Each App review page lists the price, the version, and short synopsis about the App. The review page also includes a graphic and an explanation of how it works. From reading sheet music to drawing to gaming to buying online, Meyers book has it all covered and then some.


Gregory West is a Mac Computer Instructor at Lambton College, Ontario. He is also a crew member for TVCogeco. In his spare time he runs a free computer “drop-in” centre that assists people who want to learn about technology. http://goo.gl/U1oKGW For more tips visit his Blog: http://gregorywest.wordpress.com
Erase Data from Your iPhone

Interested in selling or giving away your old iPhone, iPod touch, or iPad but need to know how to make sure you’ve erased all your personal information from the device first? Luckily Apple makes it easy to securely wipe all your data.

Although we highly suggest performing a full firmware restore and setting up your iPhone, iPod touch, or iPad as “new”, if you’re not near your computer you can still get the job done:

1. Tap the ‘Settings’ icon
2. Tap ‘General’
3. Scroll down to the bottom and tap ‘Reset’
4. Tap ‘Erase All Content and Settings’

If you have a passcode setup, you’ll have to verify your credentials before being asked one last time that you’re positively sure you want to dispose of everything on your iPhone. The process can also take some time depending on how much music, video, apps, etc. you had stored on the iPhone, and Apple is writing over the data multiple times for security’s sake.

Once it’s done you’re good to give away or sell your iPhone, iPod touch, or iPad without having to worry about anyone getting into something you may have left behind.

Source: [http://www.tipb.com](http://www.tipb.com)

SIG News

C/C++ Programming

*Bruce Arnold (barnold@blast.net)*

http://www.blast.net/barnold

This is a forum for discussion of programming in general, beginning and intermediate level C, C++, C-Win programming, hardware, algorithms, and operating systems. We demonstrate real programming in a non-intimidating way, presenting complete code for working programs in 3-5 sheets of paper. Sample code is posted on our Web page after each demonstration.

**March:** The main presentation will be a small program, 300 to 1000 lines, which performs some useful function. It will be discussed and demonstrated in terms of its philosophy, algorithm, flow, code, challengers, options and improvements. The source code for the program will be handed out and is also available online.

For details and sample code, visit our Website. *Our next meeting April 19.*

Mobile Devices

*Brenda Bell (mobdevsig@acgnj.org)*

The Mobile Devices SIG meets the second Wednesday of alternate months, 7:30PM at SPRS in Scotch Plains, NJ.

The Mobile Devices SIG focuses largely on current-generation cellphones and smartphones (such as Blackberry, Android, iPhone) which bridge the gap between basic cell phones and traditional computers, and how they can help you manage and organize your life.

Our membership ranges from those who have recently acquired their first, basic cellphone to those who develop applications for today’s modern smartphones, iPods, and ultraportable computers. While we expect to spend much of our time investigating the built-in features and specialized applications available to modern smartphones, if you bring your basic (or multimedia) cell phone, iPod, or other mobile device with questions on how to use it, where to find applications, or what features they have, we are always happy to help! Meet and greet and plan where this event goes. Bring all your ideas, PDAs, fancy phones, etc. *Our next meeting May 11.*
We meet on the second Monday of the month (no meetings in July and August) to discuss issues of interest to novices or those who are planning to get started in computing. Watch our Web page for updates and announcements.

FireFox Activity
Firefox@acgnj.org

This SIG is intended to be an open forum for all FireFox and Mozilla techniques and technologies, to encourage study and development of web sites of all kinds. All browsers will be considered and examined. All are encouraged to “think out of the box” about new web site design. All members and guests are invited to check out the design concepts and voice their opinion. Next meeting, April 18.

NJ Gamers
Gregg McCarthy (greggmajestic@gmail.com)
http://www.NJGamers.com
www.lanparty.com

The next Friday Night Frag will be April 8, 6 p.m. to Saturday 12 noon — 18 hours for 5 bucks!
BYOC - Bring your own computer
BYOF - Bring your own food.
and if you don't like sitting on metal chairs... BYO chair!

LUNICS (Linux/Unix)
Andreas Meyer (lunics@acgnj.org)
http://www.acgnj.org/groups/lunics.html

LUNICS is a group for those who share an interest in Unix and similar operating systems. While we do quite a bit with Linux, we’ve also been known to discuss Solaris and BSD as well. We meet on the first Monday of the month at the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad. See the web page for directions and more information.

Our next meetings April 4, May 2

Window Pains
John Raff (jraff@comcast.net)
http://www.acgnj.org/groups/winpains.html

Our intent is to provide members with Windows oriented application discussions, Microsoft and Linux style. Presentation to be directed to more heavy technological level of attendee, although newbies are welcomed.

April 15: Bob Hawes will present on “Free Word Processors”

Main Meeting
http://www.acgnj.org/groups/mainmeet.html

Mike Redlich (mike@redlich.net)

April no meeting due to TCF. Next meeting May 6.

April 2011 ACGNJ News
## Guru Corner

If you need help with any of the technologies listed below, you can call on the person listed. Please be considerate and call before 10 PM.

### Software

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Software</th>
<th>Provider</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HTML</td>
<td>Mike Redlich</td>
<td>908-246-0410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jo-Anne Head</td>
<td>908-769-7385</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ColdFusion</td>
<td>Jo-Anne Head</td>
<td>908-769-7385</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSS</td>
<td>Frank Warren</td>
<td>908-756-1681</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jo-Anne Head</td>
<td>908-769-7385</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Java</td>
<td>Mike Redlich</td>
<td>908-246-0410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C++</td>
<td>Bruce Arnold</td>
<td>908-735-7898</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mike Redlich</td>
<td>908-246-0410</td>
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<td>ASP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Perl</td>
<td>John Raff</td>
<td>973-560-9070</td>
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<td>XML</td>
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<td>Genealogy</td>
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<td>Home Automation</td>
<td>Frank Warren</td>
<td>908-756-1681</td>
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### Operating Systems

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<tr>
<td>Windows 3.1</td>
<td>Ted Martin</td>
<td>732-636-1942</td>
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## Discount Computer Magazine Price List

As described by the DealsGuy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Magazine</th>
<th>1 yr</th>
<th>2 yr</th>
<th>3 yr</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Computer Games</td>
<td>$10.95</td>
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<td>Computer Gaming World</td>
<td>14.95</td>
<td>28.95</td>
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<td>Computer Shopper1</td>
<td>16.97</td>
<td>32.95</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Dobbs Journal</td>
<td>15.95</td>
<td>30.95</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mac Addict</td>
<td>10.97</td>
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<td>Mac Home Journal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mac World</td>
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<td>Maximum PC</td>
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<td>18.95</td>
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<td>Microsoft System Journal</td>
<td>21.95</td>
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<tr>
<td>PC Gamer</td>
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<tr>
<td>PC Magazine (22/44/66 Issues)</td>
<td>25.97</td>
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<td>PC World</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wired</td>
<td>6.00</td>
<td>12.00</td>
<td>17.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These prices are for new subscriptions and renewals. All orders must be accompanied by a check, cash or Money Order. Make payable to Herb Goodman, and mail to:

Herb Goodman, 8295 Sunlake Drive, Boca Raton, FL 33496

Telephone: 561-488-4465, e-mail: hgoodman@prodigy.net

Please allow 10 to 12 weeks for your magazines to start. For renewals you must supply an address label from your present subscription to insure the correct start of your renewal. As an extra service I will mail a renewal notice about 4 months prior to their expiration date. I carry more than 300 titles at excellent prices — email for prices.
Other Local Computer Groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group Name</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Linux Users Group in Princeton</td>
<td>7 pm, 2nd Wednesday, Lawrence Branch Mercer Library, Rt 1 &amp; Darrah Lane, Lawrence NJ, <a href="http://www.lugip.org">http://www.lugip.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Education Society of Philadelphia</td>
<td>Meetings &amp; Workshops at Jem Electronics, 6622 Castor Ave, Philadelphia PA. <a href="http://www.cesop.org/">www.cesop.org/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brookdale Computer Users Group</td>
<td>7 pm, 3rd Friday, Brookdale Community College, Bldg MAN RM 103, Lincroft NJ. (732)-739-9633, <a href="http://www.bcug.com">www.bcug.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linux Users Group in Princeton</td>
<td>7 pm, 2nd Wednesday, Lawrence Branch Mercer Library, Rt 1 &amp; Darrah Lane, Lawrence NJ, <a href="http://www.pmug-nj.org">www.pmug-nj.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PC User Group of So. Jersey</td>
<td>7 pm, 3rd Friday, Brookdale Community College, Bldg MAN RM 103, Lincroft NJ. (732)-739-9633, <a href="http://www.bcug.com">www.bcug.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunterdon Computer Club</td>
<td>8:30 am, 3rd Sat, Hunterdon Medical Center, Rt 31, Flemington NJ. <a href="http://www.hunterdoncomputerclub.org">www.hunterdoncomputerclub.org</a>, (908) 995-4042.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Jersey Computer Club</td>
<td>8 pm, 4th Friday, Armstrong Hall, College of NJ. Rich Williams, (609) 466-0909.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NJ Computer Club</td>
<td>6:15 pm, 2nd Wednesday except Jul &amp; Aug, North Branch Reformed Church, 203 Rt 28, Bridgewater NJ. <a href="http://www.njcc.org">http://www.njcc.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jersey PC User Group</td>
<td>2nd Thurs, Monroe Rm at Wyckoff Public Library, 7 pm. Maureen Shannon, (201) 853-7432, <a href="http://www.njpcug.org">www.njpcug.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Jersey Computer Club</td>
<td>8 pm, 4th Friday, Hunterdon Medical Center, Rt 31, Flemington NJ. <a href="http://www.hunterdoncomputerclub.org">www.hunterdoncomputerclub.org</a>, (908) 995-4042.</td>
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<td>Hunterdon Computer Club</td>
<td>8:30 am, 3rd Saturday, Hunterdon Medical Center, Rt 31, Flemington NJ. <a href="http://www.hunterdoncomputerclub.org">www.hunterdoncomputerclub.org</a>, (908) 995-4042.</td>
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Radio and TV Programs

- **Computer Radio Show**, WBAI 99.5 FM, NY, Wed. 8-9 p.m.
- **Software Review**, The Learning Channel, Saturday 10-10:30 p.m.
- **On Computers**, WCTC 1450 AM, New Brunswick, Sunday 1-4 p.m. To ask questions call (800) 677-0874.
- **PC Talk**, Sunday from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., 1210 AM Philadelphia. 1-800-876-8965, Webcast at http://www.pctalkweb.net.

Directions to Meetings at Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, 1916 Bartle Ave., Scotch Plains NJ

**From New York City or Northern New Jersey**
Take Route 1&9 or the Garden State Parkway to US 22 Westbound.

**From Southern New Jersey**
Take US 22 Westbound. Exit at Park Avenue, Scotch Plains after McDonalds on the right, diagonally opposite Scotchwood Diner on the left, immediately before the overpass. After exiting, turn left at the light and use overpass to cross US 22. Bear right at bottom of ramp to continue south on Park Avenue. Turn left at the second light (a staggered intersection). Scotch Plains Rescue Squad (2-story brick) is on the right. Do not park in the row next to the building — you’ll be towed. We meet on the second floor, entering by the door at the right front of the building.

**From Western New Jersey**
Take US 22 Eastbound to the Park Avenue exit. The exit is about a mile past Terrill Road and immediately past the overpass. Exit onto Park Avenue South and follow the directions above to the Rescue Squad building.

**From I-78 (either direction)**
Take exit 41 (Scotch Plains); follow signs to US 22. Turn right at light bottom of hill and use overpass to cross Rt. 22. Follow US 22 Westbound directions.
The Egg and You
These “Eggs” are Subversive and Fun!
Charles W. Evans (reviews (at) hal-pc.org), Houston Area of PC Users (www.hal-pc.org)

Crack one open. Did you ever marvel at the engineering of an egg? What else makes an egg so fascinating, you ask? Enjoy these web sites, from real eggs to man-made eggs, including the “care and feeding” of eggs!
I hope you don’t think computer programmers are dry as bones and boring as cactus. The fact is, sometimes they will just outright surprise you. Buried within many software applications are delightful, little, hidden, amusing tidbits called “Easter Eggs”. Some are ordinary and others will amaze you. Several seasons of “Lost” have eggs. Learn where to find them at: www.eeggs.com.
Next time you crack a farm fresh egg, think about the road it traveled from the hen pen to your plate and all the stuff along the way, plus egg safety. Surf to: www.aeb.org.
OK, before you read #5 and for those who are chronically eggchef challenged, the eternal question is now answered here, plus egg selection, separating, poaching (eggs, not deer), etc. Yah, yah, I know, real men don’t “separate” eggs, but this site will show you how, for those times when you are alone! Surf to:
fabulousfoods.com/school/csingred/eggs.html or www.joyofbaking.com/eggs.html.
And now for something completely different. Magnificent manmade eggs, courtesy of Mr. Faberge of Russia. Surf to: www.pbs.org/treasuresoftheworld/faberge/fmain.html.
The flames of your passion, or whimsy, will explode because there is an egg recipe for all occasions, all tastes and all people. Surf to: www.recipelink.com/rcpeggs.html.
I know, I know, enough is enough, but I thought this brief foray would be eggsactly perfect to break the doldrums of working at your computer...and the tedium of thinking about your 2010 taxes.

Crossword Puzzle Help
Sandy Berger, CompuKiss (sandy(at)compukiss.com) www.compukiss.com

When the hustle and bustle of the holidays start, you have to take time to relax. More than 50 million Americans relax by filling in a crossword puzzle. Whether you are working on your first crossword puzzle or are a crossword puzzle addict, you can always use a little help.
This website is the place to go when you are really stuck. At OneAcross (http://www.oneacross.com/), you simply put in the clue and the number of letters in the word and you will get possible answers. If you already have a few letters of the word filled in, you can enter a pattern using question marks for the missing letters, like ??h?b?? Remember, it’s not cheating...It’s learning. And this is one website that can not only help you learn, but can make you feel good when you fill in that last missing word. This website also has help with cryptograms and anagrams and there is also a dictionary. It’s a good site to bookmark.

ACGNJ MEETINGS

For the very latest news on ACGNJ meetings visit the ACGNJ Web Page (http://www.acgnj.org)

Tuesday, March 29
7 P.M. - Board of Directors meeting.
Friday, April 1
8 P.M. - Main Meeting is cancelled due to TCF
Saturday & Sunday, April 2 & 3
Trenton Computer Festival
Monday, April 4
8 P.M. - Lunics, Andreas Meyer (lunics@acgnj.org)
Friday, April 8
6 P.M. to 5 A.M.- NJ Gamers. Gregg McCarthy (greggmcc@optonline.net), 732-721-6507. Break 8 to 10 P.M.
Monday, April 11
8 P.M. - Layman’s Forum, Matt Skoda (som359@aol.com), 908-359-8842.
Tuesday, April 12
7:30 P.M. - Java, Mike Redlich (mike@redlich.net) 908-246-0410.
Thursday, April 14
8 P.M. - Investing, Jim Cooper (jim@thecoopers.org).

All meetings, unless otherwise noted, are at Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, 1916 Bartle Ave., Scotch Plains, N.J.

Directions and map inside back cover.