



Hendersonville Area Computer Society Newsletter

<http://hacs.org>

Volume 1 No. 6

June 2007

Meetings are held twice a month, January through November. We meet at the Opportunity House on the third Monday of the month with an educational meeting at 6:30 pm followed by a featured speaker presentation at 7:30 pm. Our SIG group normally meets the second Thursday of each month from 1-3 PM at the Henderson County Library.



SIG Meeting the THIRD Thursday in June!!!!!!
June 21st SIG Meeting at the Library will continue on
Basic Computer Maintenance

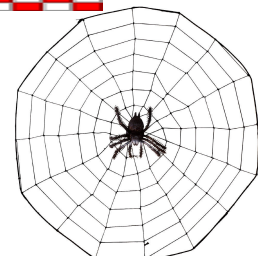
(Starting with the July meeting we will have a sequence of SIG meeting on genealogy orchestrated by Maurice Sarles and Bill Muller)

June 18th Programs
6:30 PM Education Program –
Come See Brian Fifield at his best

7:30 PM Windows Vista and Office 2007 Highlights from
Mindshare “Presentation-in-a-box” Program
presented by Jerry Liedl
(come prepared as Microsoft sent us some “neat” gifts!!)

Other Programming for 2007

July - Security Issues by John Monroe
Aug - Main ISP by Wally Brown
Sept - Digital Camera by Lamar Miller
and MORE!!!



Web sites of the Month

Web site development

<http://www.stormdance.net/>

Malicious Software Removal Tool

<http://www.microsoft.com/security/malwareremove/default.mspx>

Featured Google gadgets

<http://desktop.google.com/>



Thoughts on Upgrading PC Hardware and Software

By Dick Maybach, Columnist, Brookdale Computer User Group (BCUG) Brookdale, NJ
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I can think of three valid reasons for upgrading a PC: (1) to try something new, (2) to improve performance, and (3) to solve a problem. Trying something new means you are treating your PC as a hobby. In this case you don't really need to upgrade, but you want to. Just bear in mind that there are risks, which means that you may get more adventure than you planned on. Improving performance is difficult to justify, unless your system is very old. Almost any system will do just fine surfing the net, word processing, balancing your checkbook, etc. Upgrading your hardware will often provide no discernable speed-up, because the speed is really limited by your typing speed or Internet connection. Upgrading your software may actually slow things down, because newer software has more features and requires more computer resources. This leaves problem solving. Your hard disk may be full; your motherboard may have only old, slow version 1 USB ports; or your bank may require a recent version of Quicken for on-line banking.

You shouldn't upgrade to Windows Vista unless you replace the PC, and even then you may have problems. A friend of mine bought a new Dell PC with Vista and found his old printer wouldn't work and he could no longer access the Internet. Operating system designers can't possibly test every combination of hardware and software. As a result, they concentrate on new components, since most operating system sales are for new computers, and there may be problems with older peripherals and software.

You should back up all your files before you make any system change, no matter how trivial. And any time you open your system case, you should use a grounding strap to avoid damaging components with static electricity. This is especially important during the approaching winter months, when the humidity in your house is low.

Let's look at the easy upgrades first. Adding RAM is usually not difficult; just plug it in and look at your CMOS screen to be sure the PC has recognized it. (Of course you must use the correct chips. Check your PC manual.) You can usually add new peripherals, such a CD-ROM, DVD, or a second hard disk drive without problems, although if you have already filled all of the available ATA slots, you will have to add a second disk controller. Take your system to a reliable shop if you have doubts about your abilities. Replacing a hard disk is somewhat more difficult, because you must transfer all your software to the new unit, which requires disk copying software. You can't just copy your files with Windows Explorer.

More adventuresome is installing a new motherboard. Be aware that upgrading your motherboard may not result in a noticeable performance improvement unless you also upgrade your hard disk and/or your video controller. If your current motherboard is very old, you must also upgrade its case and power supply. Changing the video controller or monitor is also not too hard. Most monitors are plug-and-play so Windows should automatically recognize your new monitor.

When you buy new peripherals, be sure you get any drivers they need. Many PC manufacturers don't include a complete Windows, but strip off all the drivers except for the

equipment they sell you. If necessary, download any missing drivers from the Internet before you change your hardware.

An alternative to an upgrade is a complete new system, and the vendor will insure that all the software and hardware plays well together. This leaves your old system intact so you can transfer your files without risk of losing anything.

Regardless of your approach, you must also choose where and what to buy. *Where* is a choice between mail order and a local dealer. *What* is a choice between name brand and commodity hardware.

The choice between mail order and local dealer depends on how much experience and time you have. The low profit margins in PC hardware mean that both component manufacturers and system assemblers spend little time on testing. Dead-on-arrival hardware and infant mortalities are common. When this happens you are entirely dependent on the company that sold it to you. If you purchase from a mail-order firm, you must either trouble-shoot any problems yourself or ship the entire system back to the seller, while a good local dealer can often make repairs in a few hours. You are trading off convenience for cost, because using mail order can often save you a few dollars.

Name brand hardware costs more than its commodity equivalent. The difference is between Sound Blaster and "Sound Blaster equivalent". I favor name brands. You can be sure that every vendor of software that uses sound has tested its products with Sound Blaster cards, but it is impossible for a small manufacturer to test its sound card with every program.

The less you pay for a system, the more likely it is to contain commodity parts. System manufacturers and assemblers usually purchase components on an Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) basis, and most parts sold at computer shows are OEM. The cost of these is less because the dealer relieves the manufacturer from all customer support. This means that the component manufacturer often won't even talk to the end purchaser. Your only warranty is from the seller, and you must select him or her with care.

Finally, schedule any upgrade when you have some time. Plan on taking a weekend for simple jobs and more for complex ones. I've found that I need a couple of weeks (not full time of course) to get my PC fully functional after reinstalling an operating system for example.



Tip of the Month!



How to use Windows Update Properly

If you want to save your files to your hard drive, so after a format you dont have to download them all again, here's How:

- Logon to Windows Update
- Choose Windows Update Catalogue (left hand pane)
- Choose Find updates for Microsoft Windows operating systems (right hand pane)
- Choose your version and language then Search
- Choose one the following:
 - Critical Updates and Service Packs
 - Service Packs and Recommended Downloads
 - Multi-Language Features (0)
- Once chosen simply click on what you want to download and then back at the top click Review Download Basket
- You are taken to the next page where at the top you can specify where the downloads are to be saved.

- Click Download now. Each patch will make a directory under the root of the folder you saved them to.

Once finished you need to go to where you saved the file (s) to and then simply install all your patches.



The New, the Best, and the Worst

Collected by Pim Borman, Webmaster, SW Indiana PC Users Group, Inc.

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Online Mania.

Millions of people of all ages, worldwide, spend a large part of their lives in the make-believe online world of the Internet. **MySpace.com** is representative of several virtual social gathering places where participants, young and old, meet to chat and make virtual friends. So far, so good. But for many it has become a measure of someone's popularity how many "friends" they have and how cool they are. According to ZDNet (3/20/07), "Barack Obama is en route to a landslide victory over Hillary Clinton in the MySpace friends contest: Obama 55,674 friends versus Clinton 26,702 friends....John Edwards calls his MySpace friends Pals. He has 12,319 of them ... Republican candidates are trailing the Democrats overall at MySpace, big time: Rudy Giuliani 928 friends, John McCain 340 friends, Mitt Romney, 308 friends."

Lesser mortals are also competing for friends in the popularity contest. It's not only the number of friends that counts, but they have to be cool and glamorous. Enter Brant Walker who noticed, while browsing MySpace pages, that "some people would have a lot of good-looking friends, and others didn't." He came up with the idea "to turn cyberlosers into social-networking magnets" by providing fictitious postings from attractive people. So he set up a business, **FakeYourSpace.com**, to provide MySpace inhabitants with photographs and comments from hired "friends" — mainly attractive models — for 99 cents a month each. He used photographs of models from **iStockPhoto.com** until they found out about it and put a stop to it. According to *The New York Times* (2/26/07) Walker is regrouping and may soon be back in business again, together with others anxious to get in on a social reputation enhancement scam.

Meanwhile, online gaming continues to be an addiction for many. Although many of these games are violent and crude, others offer many examples of complex play that involve social interaction, collaboration and long-term goals. The major games, often referred to as **MMORPGs** (Massively Multiplayer Online Role Playing Games), involve tools, weapons, and other artifacts that the players collect while playing the game over a period of time. Since some games started to allow transferring those artifacts to others, a lively market has sprung up on E-bay and similar sites where they are sold for real money. As a consequence, game "farms" have sprung up, mostly in third-world countries in the far East, where thousands of players are being paid to play MMORPGs all day to generate in-game goodies for sale at a good profit.

The amount of money involved is mind-boggling. In November 2006 *Business Week* reported that **Second Life** player Ailin Graef had become the first millionaire (in US dollars) based on the value in game dollars of land holdings by her avatar, Anshe Chung, in the online virtual world. A runaway success, Second Life is the creation of Linden Labs and its currency, Linden dollars (L\$), is pegged at about L\$270 to the US dollar (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_life). There are currency exchanges where game dollars can be traded for real currency, and Linden Labs

<http://www.lscs.us/presentations/070412%20Thiel%20Going%20100%25%20Digital%20Handout.pdf>

In my presentation -- which was based on an excellent article with a similar title by Dick Eastman in his outstanding Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter Plus Edition -- I extensively described the Xerox DocuMate 152 scanner that costs about \$500 with bundled software. This, of course, was the one Mr. Eastman had obtained and on which he based his fine article.

Well, for me at least and for many the roughly \$500 for the DocuMate 152 was a little bit on the pricey side and also it is more of a work group scanner with office document scanning as its primary design criteria.

One of the alternative scanners I found in my research for the presentation and also mentioned in my presentation was the Xerox DocuMate 510, flatbed scanner with an Automatic Document Feeder (ADF) rated at 10 pages per minute. About a month ago I decided to obtain the DocuMate 510!

PC World has a very nice review of the Xerox 510 at the following web site; <http://www.pcworld.com/article/id,114941-page,1/article.html> -- two paragraphs were extracted in the text below. "If you need to turn a stack of paper documents into editable electronic text, using a scanner with optical character recognition software and an automatic document feeder attachment--like Xerox's new \$350 DocuMate 510--is a speedy alternative to typing."

"While the DocuMate 510 is a flatbed model--and therefore takes up more desk space than slimmer sheet-fed scanners--its removable lid allows you to scan pages from books or other bound volumes, including oversize originals. For any business or workgroup that needs an affordable document scanner, the DocuMate 510 is a solid choice." End Quote

I was able to find the 510 on the internet from a low of \$298 to a high of \$359. I paid \$312 from Buy.com; however, I found that the local Office Depot (Mount Dora, FL) has the DocuMate 510 for \$299, complete with bundled software.

And of special note, through June 30, 2007, Xerox is offering a \$50 mail in rebate. So far I am totally pleased with my DocuMate 510! Scanner assembly went effortlessly with the aid of a very well illustrated assembly schematic manual. Installation requires that the software be installed before connecting the 510 to your computer via the USB port. The 510 came with ScanSoft PaperPort 9.0 which controls the scanner, TextBridge Pro 9.0 for Optical Character Recognition, and ArcSoft Photo Impressions editing software all on one CD-ROM. It also came with a 58-page installation and scanning manual done quite nicely in slick paper, and a 12-month warranty.

After the software was installed, the scanner components were connected to power and then I connected it to the computer with the USB cable. When I attempted to scan a document, however, I received an error message. By entering the error code into Google I was quickly able to determine that I had failed to adequately unlock the shipping lock slider switch. After sliding the switch, the scanner worked perfectly. The sheet feeder works very well and even handles quite thin papers although hearing those go through the feeder may give one cause to worry a bit.

The ADF handles variable length paper from about 6 inches to up to 14-inch legal length papers -- all in the same stack in the ADF. And the fact that the scanner's cover may be easily removed to copy from books is also a plus for genealogists and for general home applications. Mr. Eastman, and others, speaks at length on what these scanners and their software, collectively known as a Document Management System, will mean -- reducing the number of filing cabinets, safer storage and more rapid and complete retrieval.

All of these are, of course, quite true, but you should be aware that to convert all of your existing file cabinet's contents to digital information is not something you will be able to achieve quickly! Scanning all of your existing documents, whether your genealogy documentation or your credit card, banking or utility records, will take an appreciable amount of time and effort regardless of the scanner you employ.

At present I am scanning my bank statements, utility bills, medical Medicare and supplemental insurance statements, medical reports and lab analyses, credit cards and the like. I have not yet begun to scan my Genealogy documents, but intend to -- this will be a daunting task; not the scanning but the organizing and assembling of the documents that I have to get them ready for scanning. When you convert records to a document management system as I am doing with the 510, you need to decide what conversion scenario you will follow: scan all the documents that exist in your files or scan from the day you begin scanning forward. I have decided to convert most of my documents starting from today forward (except of course for genealogy records). This is simply because it is easier to do this than to "empty the file cabinet first."

Unlike the DocuMate 152, which is a duplex scanner meaning that both the front and rear of a page are scanned simultaneously with the same pass of the paper through the scanner, the 510 is a simplex meaning that only one side is scanned at a time. However, the PaperPort Deluxe 9 scanning software packaged with the scanner handles this situation very well. Simply load the stack of papers and scan the front side of all pages. PaperPort will then ask "scan the other side?" and if you wish to you simply turn the stack over and scan the reverse side. The software handles the pagination automatically. The 510 is very simple to use; one of the more difficult aspects of using it is to remember to load the paper with the face up! The PaperPort 9.0 software, originally offered by ScanSoft and now by Nuance, works very effectively. One item I would like improved is the default file name, which is "Day of week, Month, Day and Year.pdf." Other options are available but it appears that all use the current date in one form or another. So far I have not extensively used the OCR capability as that is a slower scanning process. Another very useful feature of the PaperPort software is that it is a printer and may be used to print any document directly to a pdf, including documents from the web. Managing the scanned documents effectively can also be challenging. I created a file folder structure similar to my physical filing cabinet and that seems to work very well so far.

I scan a document or set of documents and then merely drag these and drop them in the appropriate folder. I then rename the file to usually "YYMMDD Plus a Few Descriptive Words" in front of the default file name. PDF. A medical record, for example, would contain the year, month and day of the medical service, the physician's name and procedure, followed by the default scan date. I find that using YYMMDD format for my records allows me to sort or otherwise keep a logical file and folder order sequence by date; to use the standard MMDDYY format will not sort logically. If you are going to scan older records then you should spend some time in document preparation before beginning scanning. Ensuring that documents are in proper order, staples removed, corners straightened, etc., will speed up the scanning process. And you must verify your copy before discarding the paper document! I am discarding most of the documents I have scanned so far.

All of my scanning to date has been black and white and at 300 dots per inch resolution, which in most cases has been adequate. This will result in a pdf file of perhaps 35KB per page. If you decide to convert your paper files to 100% digital records, then you simply must practice excellent and very frequent backup procedures. Otherwise you will lose everything! I make a copy on an external drive after every session.

The choice is yours of course, but my advice is: "Go 100% Digital, and do it now!" ###



Computer Humor



MURPHY'S LAWS OF COMPUTING

- For every action, there is an equal and opposite malfunction.
- To err is human... to blame your computer for your mistakes is even more human; in fact it is downright natural.
- He who laughs last probably made a back-up.
- If at first you don't succeed, blame your computer.
- A complex system that does not work is invariably found to have evolved from a simpler system that worked just fine.
- The number one cause of computer problems is computer solutions.
- A computer program will always do what you tell it to do, but rarely what you want it to do.
- When computing, whatever happens, behave as though you meant it to happen.
- When you get to the point where you really understand your computer, it's probably obsolete.
- The first place to look for information is in the section of the manual where you least expect to find it.
- When the going gets tough, upgrade.
- When you need to send an email quick, that's when the modem won't connect!



Program	Version	Name	E-mail	Phone
WORD	Ver. 2002 SP-1	Maurice Sarles	maurices1931@bigfoot.com	685-7263
	2000	Carl Christiansen	arlchristiansen@bellsouth.net	692-7273
Excel	Ver. 2002 SP-1	Maurice Sarles	maurices1931@bigfoot.com	685-7263
	2000	Carl Christiansen	arlchristiansen@bellsouth.net	692-7273
PowerPoint				

Access				
Publisher				
Internet Explorer				
Firefox				
Outlook				
Outlook Express				
Eudora				
Front Page		Ray Pierce	repierce@brinet.com	697-7732
Dreamweaver		Jerry Liedl	jerry@liedl.org	692-4855
Microsoft Money				
Quicken		Jim Bailes	jimbailes@highstream.net	693-6990
Acrobat				
Photoshop		Chris Ring	eykonic@yahoo.com	685-9031
Paint Shop Pro				
Irfanview				
Imaging in general		Chris Ring		
Family Tree Maker	v-10	Maurice Sarles	maurices1931@bigfoot.com	685-7263
	2005	Bill Muller	muller1938@yahoo.com	684-6899
Roots III		Maurice Sarles	maurices1931@bigfoot.com	685-7263
Personal Ancestry File		Maurice Sarles	maurices1931@bigfoot.com	685-7263
Installing/setup Windows XP		Chris Ring	eykonic@yahoo.com	685-9031
Installing/setup Windows 2000		Chris Ring	eykonic@yahoo.com	685-9031
Installing/setup LINUX		Chris Ring	eykonic@yahoo.com	685-9031
Building Computers		Chris Ring	eykonic@yahoo.com	685-9031



HACS News

Bill Muller and Maurice Sarles are preparing a sequence of “killer” SIG sessions on genealogy. We are still looking for volunteers to offer help on specific software applications (when we published the “A:Prompt” there were people listed for a variety of programs and one could contact them via phone and/or e-mail) We would like to have such a list on the member’s only part of the web site and published it in the newsletter. This is a way to share our collective knowledge.

Send the information of what software you would be willing to be a resource person. Send it to jerry@liedl.org

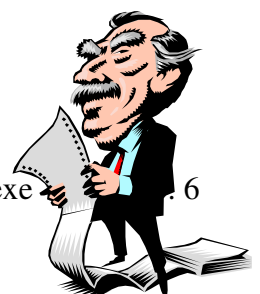
Member Profiles (NEXT?)



HACS Officers/Executive Committee

President - Jerry Liedl - jerry@liedl.org

Vice-president – Jack Sokol docsok225@bigfoot.com



Past-president – Brian Fifield - brian@cyberclix.com
Secretary – Joy Capps - joycapps@tds.net
Treasurer – Jim Bailes - jimbailes@highstream.net
Public Relations – Fred Haddad - f.haddad@mchsi.com
Program Committee – Interim chair is the Vice President
Membership – Interim chair is the Treasurer
Door Prizes – Bill Muller - muller1938@yahoo.com

THE  **END**