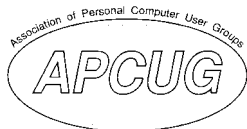




THE WYSIWYG



\$3.00

January 2008

Volume 20, Issue 1

STERLING HEIGHTS COMPUTER CLUB

PO Box 385

Sterling Heights, MI 48311-0385

TUESDAY JAN 8

Main Meeting

7:30 PM

“Social Networking Sites on the Internet” by Mary Lou Metzger from Sterling Heights Public Library

Visit a SIG. See details about the SIGS on page 3

IN THIS ISSUE:

The President's Pen	1
About SHCC	2
Resource People	2
SIG Meetings	3
Ask the Expert	4
Door Prizes	4
From The Dealsguy	5
Open Source Software—Mostly Free To Use And Modify	6
Portable Data	8
WYSIWYG Web Watch	9
SHCC January Schedule	10

The President's Pen

by Don VanSyckel



Remember January 1st, New Year's Day, is our normal first Tuesday so this month we are meeting on the second Tuesday, January 8th.

Well I did it! Again! I put Windows XP on my 'new' laptop. Actually the 'new' laptop is a few months old but it hasn't seen much use because it came with MS Vista and MS Vista throws up roadblocks to getting things done at every turn. The 'again' is because I put WinXP on the laptop the second day I had it. But I made a mistake, no, WinXP was not the mistake; I had neglected to record the models of the various built in peripherals such as the network interface, the wireless adapter, etc. Without the models I couldn't look for drivers.

Well, like I say, I might be crazy but I'm not stupid. I had made the system backup / recovery CD for the laptop before I did anything else. I put the CD in and restored MS Vista back on the laptop. I've been real busy with some other things and it took a while to locate the WinXP version drivers for the laptop. The problem is the laptop has some devices in it that weren't around when WinXP was current.

Recently I had time to put WinXP on again. I loaded the device drivers I had collected. Things are a lot better than

the first time; everything but the network (wired) is functional.

For now the wireless is getting me by, but the system is now usable. No more intrusive questions every third click!

I had to have a usable stable laptop because I received a GPS road map package for Christmas and had to have something to put it on. I didn't get a hand held unit; I opted for a laptop based system that I could actually see. I don't wear glasses for driving but can't see to read anything small without them. The hand held I need would have a screen 3 or 4 times as large as the one in the current popular models.

OBTW, do you realize that all the GPS systems use data from the government for the maps. You and I fund the government. So the next time your GPS vendor wants to charge you an arm and a leg for an update, remember, you, er we, paid to generate the data and your vendor is simply repackaging the data into their proprietary format. To say nothing of the advertising dollars they rake in to tell you there's a Wendy's at the next corner. I have been told that some or all of the boating info is now available for free. I look forward to the day when an open

(Continued on page 3)

Guests and visitors are welcome. People can attend any SHCC meetings during two consecutive months before deciding to become a member or not. Meetings include the main meeting and SIGs. July and August don't count since there is no main meeting. Membership includes admission to all SHCC functions and the newsletter. Membership is open to anyone. It is not limited to the residents of Sterling Heights.

DUES: \$25/YEAR

CLUB ADDRESS: PO Box 385, Sterling Heights, MI 48311-0385
CLUB E-MAIL ADDRESS: Info@SterlingHeightsComputerClub.org
CLUB WEB PAGE: http://www.SterlingHeightsComputerClub.org

Resource People:

Family Tree	Rick Schummer
Firefox	Don VanSyckel
FoxPro	Rick Schummer
Internet Explorer	-
MS Publisher	Rick Kucejko
MS Word	Rick Schummer
WordPerfect	Jim McNeil
Spreadsheets	Rick Schummer

SHCC Coordinators:

Associate Editor	Rick Schummer
Net/Comm. SIG	Betty MacKenzie
Door prizes	Sharon Patrick
Greeter	Lindell Beck
Newsletter publisher	Rick Kucejko
Novice SIG	Don VanSyckel
PC SIG	Jack Vander-Schrier
Program Coordinator	Jerry Hess
Publicity	Patrick Little
Resource People	open
Vendor Press Rel.	Jim Waldrop
Web Page	Don VanSyckel

2008 SHCC Officers

V. President: Ron Frederick
 Treasurer: Ed Trombley
 President: Don VanSyckel
 Secretary: Pat Little

Four Month Meeting Schedule:

JANUARY 2008

8 - SHCC- "Social Networking Sites on the Internet" by Mary Lou Metzger from Sterling Heights Public Library
 2 - COMP meeting
 13 - SEMCO meeting
 23 - Net/Comm SIG
 28 - Novice SIG
 30 - PC SIG

MARCH 2008

4 - SHCC- Main Meeting
 5 - COMP meeting
 9 - SEMCO meeting
 17 - Net/Comm SIG
 24 - Novice SIG
 26 - PC SIG

FEBRUARY 2008

5 - SHCC- "Where are OS's headed, What's on the Horizon" presented by Eric Blomberg from Apple Inc
 6 - COMP meeting
 10 - SEMCO meeting
 20 - Net/Comm SIG
 25 - Novice SIG
 27 - PC SIG

APRIL 2008

1 - SHCC- Main Meeting
 2 - COMP meeting
 13 - SEMCO meeting
 21 - Net/Comm SIG
 28 - Novice SIG
 30 - PC SIG

Other Computer Clubs:

As a member of SHCC, you can attend meetings of other clubs where we have reciprocating membership agreements, at no charge.

Computer Club of Marysville and Port Huron (COMP)
 Time: 1st Wednesday, 7:00PM
 Place: Mackenzie Bldg, Room 201, St Clair Community College, Clara E McKenzie Library-Science Building, 323 Erie St.
 Port Huron, (810) 982-1187
 Web Page: http://www.bwcomp.org
 Reciprocating: Yes

South Eastern Michigan Computer Organization (SEMCO)
 Time: 2nd Sunday at 1:30PM
 Place: ArvinMeritor Complex, 2135 W. Maple Road in Troy, across from Troy Motor Mall; 248-398-7560
 Web page: http://www.semco.org
 Reciprocating: Yes
The OPC (Older Persons Commission) Computer Club
 Time: Every Tuesday at 10:00
 Place: OPC in Rochester 248-656-1403.
 Web page: http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Village/1904/
 No cost for residents to join or attend meetings. \$150 fee for non-residents
 Reciprocating: No

Special Interest Groups:

MS-DOS (Main)	IBM compatibles
Net/Com	Computers communicating with other computers
PC	Intermediate users discuss various topics
Novice	Those starting out

Contact Information:

Lindell Beck	586-939-4278	ljaybeck48312@yahoo.com
Ron Frederick	586-294-5687	frederic@gdls.com
Jerry Hess	586-566-6166	jhess@comcast.net
Rick Kucejko	248-879-6180	rick@kucejko.com
Patrick Little	586-264-1497	pblittle@wideopenwest.com
Betty MacKenzie	586-254-0677	mackenzie79@comcast.net
Sharon Patrick	586-268-3626	espee@wowway.com
Rick Schummer	586-997-1451	rick@rickschummer.com
Ed Trombley	586-254-1172	ejtrombley@comcast.net
Don VanSyckel	586-731-9232	don@vansyckel.net
Jack Vander-Schrier	586-739-7720	jvanders@myself.com

Newsletter submissions are due 10 days before the club meeting, but the earlier the better. They should be sent to :
 WYSIWYG Publisher
 5069 Fedora, Troy, MI 48098
 OR at the e-mail addresses: newsletter@SterlingHeightsComputerClub.org

Unless stated otherwise, all materials contained in this newsletter are copyrighted by the Sterling Heights Computer Club. License is hereby granted to other clubs (non-profit) to reprint with credit.

The WYSIWYG was printed by STERLING PRINTING AND GRAPHICS, located at 35976 Mound, Sterling Heights, MI 48312.

SIG Meetings

Net/Comm SIG



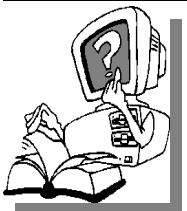
The next meeting of the Internet/Communications (Net/Comm.) SIG will be Wednesday, January 23, 2008, starting at 7:00PM at the Macomb County Library.

Each month the members of the Net/Comm SIG discusses topics to help members of the SHCC learn more about the Internet.

For more information about the SIG, call or e-mail Betty MacKenzie (phone number is on page 2), or check the club web site.



Novice SIG



The next meeting of the Novice SIG will be Monday, January 28, 2008, starting at 7:00 PM at the Macomb County Library.

We are using WinXP as the version of Windows to focus on. Since we are dealing with novice topics, virtually all of the information is directly usable by those using other versions of Windows, Win98, WinME, and Win2000.

For more information about the SIG, call or e-mail Don VanSyckel (phone number is on page 2), or check the club web site.



PC SIG



The next meeting of the PC SIG will be on Wednesday, January 30 2008, starting at 7:00PM at the Macomb County Library. The SIG meeting is generally the fourth Wednesday of the month.

Intermediate level topics are discussed, aimed at users with some knowledge of computers. Questions and answers regarding your computer will be discussed as always.

For more information about the SIG, call or e-mail Jack Vander-Shrier (phone number is on page 2), or check the club web site.



Directions To The Macomb Library

The Macomb County Library is located at 16480 Hall Road, in Clinton Township, between Hayes and Garfield, close to the light at Garfield, on the south side of Hall Road. A large red sign says "Macomb County Library". The phone number is (586) 286-6660.



Attend A SIG

If you do not attend SIG meetings, you are missing out on important club benefits available to you. These small groups get into more detail and question and answer sessions than is possible at the main meeting.



The President's Pen

(Continued from page 1)

source group supplies data and mapping software.

Until then, better come to the meetings and stay up to date. This month "Social Networking Sites on the Internet" will be presented by Mary Lou Metzger from Sterling Heights Public Library. Mary Lou was presented to our group before and always has an informative and entertaining presentation.

See you at the meeting.



Selling Your Used Computer Equipment or Software

If you have some computer equipment or software to sell, you can either place a free ad in the WYSIWYG, or bring the article to the club meeting. You can set up at the back of the room before the meeting, and sell your items to people at the meeting interested in buying them. Members are responsible for any damage, so bring a pad to prevent damage.



SHCC Emergency Shutdown

If a club meeting is canceled an email will be sent to members by an officer or the coordinator if a SIG meeting at least an hour before the scheduled start of the meeting. If you have an issue with your email call one of the officers of the coordinator of the SIG. Don't call too early, the decision might not be finalized yet. All members are encouraged to keep the club up to date with their email address.



SHCC Business

“Ask The Experts”

by Jack Vander-Schrier



Please send questions to “Ask the Experts” at the club’s PO address, or e-mail your question directly to the Expert at the club e-mail address: AskTheExpert@SterlingHeightsComputerClub.org.

Q: Dear Expert:

I am having problems with viruses and Trojans on my machine and it seems like every place wants to charge me money for their program. Is there any place that I can find some free programs?

Tired of Paying

A: Dear Tired:

Check out my website <http://jvanders.com> and click on the utilities tab, there you will find free firewalls, anti-virus programs, Trojan catchers and spam stoppers, along with assorted other goodies. If you have further free suggestions send them to the expert.

Expert

Q: Dear Expert

I keep loosing track of my cursor. Is there anyway to make the arrow bigger?

Can’t see the arrow

A: Hello Arrow:

The easiest way to change your arrow is to click on your start button,

the go to system settings, or control panel and then click on mouse. Then click on the pointer tab. Then click on the down arrow under schemes. You will see many choices for your pointers.

Have fun with them. Some even have butterflies or hummingbirds.

Expert



Member Classified Ads

Send any classifieds to the WYSIWYG Publisher at the club’s PO Box, or to his e-mail address posted on page 2 of the newsletter.

Ads are available to SHCC members and are limited to computer related items for non-commercial purposes. There is no charge for members classified ads.



Door Prizes

The SHCC offers door prizes at most regularly scheduled club meetings. In December the coveted winner’s circle included:

Paul Baecker won MS flight simulator

John Beauchamp won a MS T-shirt

Russ Canary won a Keyboard

Ron Frederick won a PrintShop Ensemble + magazine

Bruce Honeck –won aMacWorld magazine issue

Rick Kucejko won Digital Image Software

Ron Linsley won Notebook mousepad

Cliff Miller won a Memory Upgrade Kit

Ralph Osinski won a Photosuite magazine issue

Carole Polus won a PC World Magazine Issue

Phil Reynaud won a Mousepad

Marshall Steele won a Music Match disk

Basile Valtadoros won a MS T-shirt

Jack Vander-Schrier won Quickbooks 2006

Don VanSyckel won a Forty Gig Hard Drive

Jack Voyles won a Upgrading PC's Manual

James Waldrop won a Lexmark Printer



Last Month's Meeting

Last month SHCC member Jack Vander-Schrier presented "Email - Clients on the PC, Making it More Manageable". As always, Jack did a great job. Everyone seems to get too much email and some of the tips and tricks discussed will be used by all.



From The DealsGuy

by Bob (The Cheapskate) Click, Greater Orlando Computer Users Group.

(Editor's Note: This is a new monthly column in the WYSIWYG. Bob Click used to be a member of the SHCC.)

Here are a few articles I found interesting.

*New Take On Returns

I saw this interesting article about Lowe's new system to handle customer returns. Even if you can't find your receipt, they can help you, but this new system also discovered 8,665 fraudulent return attempts in a six-month period <<http://www.informationweek.com/showArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=GRKIQW0E4P0V2QSNLPSKH0CJUNN2JVN?articleID=201806189>>.

*This One Concerns The Rapid Development of Linux

<<http://www.informationweek.com/news/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=202404635>> It had an accompanying article about seven features coming soon, but I couldn't find it on the Information Week Web site.

*From Spinning Platters to No Moving Parts

Are you tired of having a cup of coffee while your computer boots up? Read this article about the future development of computer hard drives that will speed things up. Just switch on the computer and start using it. <<http://www.informationweek.com/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=202404347>>.

*What a Fraud!

In November I included an announcement for Advanced WindowsCare Personal that was supposedly freeware. A reader informed me that after it scans your hard drive, it does not remove the errors it found unless you purchase the paid edition. Sorry about that one.

*Below are more announcements that I received, but I have not tried them. Do your homework if you are interested in any of them.

*Are All Your Simple Projects Organized? They Will Be Now!

SimpleProjectToDo.com announces the availability of SimpleProjectToDo 1.26, the newest version of its tool for keeping track of a small project. The software is aimed at individuals and small project teams.

When you launch SimpleProjectToDo you see a tabbed window listing the tasks to do along with the summary and notes for the currently chosen task. Clicking on any of the tabs opens the window that displays its tasks. Clicking on the Now tab lets you see the tasks that you need to take action on now and clicking on the Later tab shows those that can be done soon. Finally, the Much Later tab tells you about the tasks that can be completed much later.

To add a new task, click on the Add Task button, set its priority (Now, Later, Much Later), category (Problem, Improvement, Other), (Problem, Improvement, Other), and choose the status that can be Open or Closed. If you have ideas or technical details relevant to the task, you can add them too. Important tasks can be highlighted to look more prominent. Now the task is displayed in its assigned tab. Type in the keyword and the program quickly returns the results. Narrow your search for the tasks by enabling only those filters you are interested in. If you need to view or show the tasks list to someone else, you can print the tasks on paper.

It offers multi-user support, making it easy to collaborate within a team. When teammates make changes to the

tasks on another computer, those files can be merged together. Changed tasks are marked in red and the new tasks in blue.

SimpleProjectToDo 1.26 runs under Windows Vista, XP and 2000. It is available for \$49.95 (US) through the SimpleProjectToDo store. User group members get a 30% discount by using the coupon code "XW-7812-DEALS" when you download the product. The coupon is valid for single user licenses until January 31, 2008. Licensed customers get free upgrades and e-mail technical support for 12 months from the date of purchase. More information and its free trial copy, are available at <<http://SimpleProjectToDo.com>> Direct download link: <<http://simpleprojecttodo.com/uploads/file/SimpleProjectSetup.exe>>

*Do You Keep Track Of Your Own Finances? Try This, And Its Portable

Alzex announces the release of Personal Finances Portable 2.1. When you get a pay raise, you might start considering a major purchase, or perhaps saving money for your child's education, based on the fact that you will have some spare money. But the month with a pay increase comes to an end and you realize that, actually, you've ended up with no extra money because, somehow, you spent it all. In that case, Personal Finances may come to your rescue. It'll record all expenses and help you see where your money goes. It shows the total sum and percentage structure for categories, overall balance and balance on accounts.

Personal Finances has a user-friendly multilingual interface, scheduler, password protection and a very useful expense addition ability with one click. It can import/export data from/to .txt or .csv files. The application has a multiple database support and allows you to create an unlimited number of databases. Detailed information on all transactions is available for any time period. There is also an unlimited

number of sections, subsections, categories, etc. Besides the basic ones, the application allows users to add more currencies upon inserting the exchange rate. Personal Finances allows you to sort by fields and group names, or by transaction. The program has the capability of logging regular transactions automatically.

If you are an active and mobile businessman, or just a globetrotter, why keep a record of expenses in an ordinary notebook and copy those notes into your home PCs after returning home. The features making Personal Finances Portable unique in its category is that you can install and run the application from a USB flash drive; consequently, your "personal accountant" will be portable and always at hand.

Personal Finances Portable 2.1 runs under Windows 98/Me/2000/XP/2003/Vista and costs \$24.95 (USD) for a single-user license. User group members get a 20% discount on the purchase of Personal Finances Portable by using the coupon code "pf43M5G," valid from now until March 2008. Licensed customers are entitled to priority technical support and a year of free upgrades. Your purchase is secured by a 30-day money-back guarantee. Additional information on Personal Finances Portable 2.1, as well as its evaluation copy with a 30-day trial period, is available at <http://www.financesoftware.com>.

Download link: www.financesoftware.com/downloads/PersonalFinances_v2.1.exe (2,73 Mb)

*Another Portable Application For Road Warriors

Smart PC Solutions, Inc. announced Reach-a-Mail 3.0, a portable flash drive e-mail client which lets you use another computer to send and receive e-mails without leaving any traces behind. There is no need to install any

additional software, or fear that someone may steal your login and password if you send an e-mail through the online mailing service at an Internet café. This utility supports 10 languages and includes a collection of artistic smiley faces. Reach-a-Mail is a small program that you download to your desktop computer and install onto almost any kind of portable memory device, such as a USB flash drive. The program comes with its own default configuration. All you need to get started is to set up your e-mail accounts and import your contact lists.

This program has a straightforward import feature that lets you import, not only accounts from your desktop Outlook Express, but also e-mail messages and contacts so you don't have to tediously copy-and-paste the data or perform extensive typing. You can also import account settings from another Reach-a-Mail installation. Reach-a-Mail allows you to export e-mail messages and contacts, as well as save attachments. Importing takes only a short time depending on the volume of information you are loading.

Once you have everything in the flash drive, you're free to travel around the world! Simply go to an Internet café or some other place where you can find a computer with access to the Internet,

plug the flash drive into the USB port to run Reach-a-Mail and go about sending and receiving messages as you normally would. When you're finished, remove the drive and that's it. No traces are left on the computer and your e-mail correspondence is safe.

Reach-a-Mail 3.0 runs under Windows 95/98/ME/NT/2000/XP/2003/Vista. It is freeware and is available immediately from www.smartpctools.com. A commercial professional version of Reach-a-Mail with RSS reader functionality, no ad attachments in messages and better speed is also available for \$29.95 USD at <http://www.smartpctools.com/order.html>.

That's it for this month. I'll have more new product announcements on my Web site (most not offering a discount). Meet me here again next month if your editor permits. This column is written to make user group members aware of special offers or freebies I have found or arranged, and my comments should not be interpreted to encourage, or discourage, the purchase of any products, no matter how enthused I might sound. Bob (The Cheapskate) Click bobclick@bellsouth.net. Visit my Web site at <http://www.dealsguy.com>



Open Source Software – Mostly Free to Use And Modify

by Ira Wilsker, APCUG Director; Columnist, *The Examiner*, *Beaumont TX*; radio and TV show host [Iwilsker\(at\)apcug.net](mailto:Iwilsker(at)apcug.net)

WEBSITES:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open-source_software
<http://mashable.com/2007/09/23/open-source>
<http://openoffice.org>
<http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/thunderbird>

Wikipedia defines Open Source Software as, "... computer software which source code is available under a license (or arrangement such as the public domain) that meets the Open source definition. This permits users to use, change, and improve the software, and to redistribute it in modified or unmodified form. It is often developed in

a public, collaborative manner.” Open Source software has been around in its current context since 1998, and hundreds of titles are available for almost any computing need. As a general rule, Open Source software is free to use, modify, and redistribute as the user sees fit. For this reason it has evolved from products that only a geek could love to software that it widely used in corporate, academic, and home environments. Some Open Source software, such as the comprehensive and free office suite, Open Office, has in some places taken a substantial market share from its pricey commercial competitors with hundreds of millions of users. Much of the Open Source software is now in the mainstream, and is no longer in the exclusive realm of nerds.

Open Source software should be seriously considered as an alternative to commercial software. One website that lists almost 500 categorized Open Source products is online at <http://mashable.com/2007/09/23/open-source/>. This website contains a wealth of resources that are mostly free for the taking. All businesses, and many households, need some type of accounting software, and Open Source is a viable choice. Some of the accounting programs listed provide budgeting help, personal finance assistance, point of sale (POS) applications that work with barcode readers, inventory control, and other fiscal functions.

Many businesses are now dependant on “Customer Relationship Management” software, known in the industry as CRM. About 20 CRM titles are listed on the mashable.com site listed above. Generally, these titles allow for the recording and utilizing of customer data. One product intended for charitable or religious use, is listed as “CiviCRM - The world’s first downloadable constituent relationship management system; fund raising software that allows users to manage information about donors, volunteers, etc.”

CRM software generally allows for the creation and maintenance of mailing lists, client tracking, project management, and other customer related information.

Many of us would like the opportunity to customize what we see on our Windows desktops, and not be forced to utilize what Bill Gates provides us. Open Source obliges by providing about a dozen “Desktop Environments and Shell Replacements”. Some of the functionality added to Windows by these programs includes enhancements like minimizing windows to floating icons, freeing the taskbar, controlling wallpaper and icons, real-time wallpaper effects, and other customizable functions. For those who like to tinker with Windows, these desktop environments and shell replacements can be a lot of fun to play with.

One computing function that almost all of us deal with on a daily basis is email. While the industry leader, Microsoft’s Outlook Express is free (bundled with Internet Explorer), and its commercial big brother Outlook is commonly bundled with Microsoft Office, there are some excellent alternatives in Open Source software. One of the most popular Open Source email clients is Mozilla’s Thunderbird, which is a very full featured email client with millions of users. Thunderbird can be downloaded (free) from www.mozilla.com/en-US/thunderbird. Thunderbird has much of the look and feel of Outlook, but provides many advanced features not available in Outlook. Thunderbird is compatible with almost all email services, and is easy and quick to configure. Thunderbird generally provides better security than Outlook, and includes some protection from phishing (identity theft) scams. Spam email is the bane of email, and Thunderbird offers active spam filtering which routes suspicious email to a junk mail folder for quick review and deletion, if desired. It is also a universal email client in that it

can run on Windows, Mac OS-X, and Linux, and is currently available in over 30 languages. Thunderbird would be a great alternative for those who want to get away from Microsoft products. Thunderbird, as popular as it is, is not the only Open Source email client listed; there are about a dozen email clients listed. The selection is good, and the price can not be beat.

Another computing function that many of us partake in is ripping music, and converting it to formats that can be utilized by our portable music players. Some of us edit videos, such as the ones we take with our camcorders. The Open Source website at mashable.com/2007/09/23/open-source lists over three dozen ripping, music editing, and video editing utilities. Formats supported by some of these Open Source utilities include MP3, MPEG, MPEG1, MPEG2, DivX, WAV and several other formats. Some of the software will edit and repair damaged audio and video files, while others allow for the conversion of DVDs to other video formats. There is an impressive selection of audio and video utilities available as Open Source, and they are worthy of consideration. Once media is available in digital formats, some means of playing it may be necessary, and this website lists several dozen media players.

Another popular computing task is file sharing and “FTP” (File Transfer Protocol), and there are about three dozen free utilities listed. While some are for traditional file swapping, others allow for the remote access and synchronization of computers.

Many of us are artistic and graphically inclined, but the major commercial graphics design programs are often expensive. Open Source can come to the rescue with about 40 titles to choose from, allowing for an excellent selection. Some Open Source graphics utilities are simple photo editors, while others include 2D and 3D animation.

Other Open Source utilities provide sophisticated webpage authoring tools where a novice can produce a professional appearing webpage.

Adobe's PDF (Portable Document Format) has become the de-facto standard for saving and distributing documents in "What you see is what you get" (WYSIWYG) format. While Adobe Acrobat (writer) is an expensive utility, there are about a dozen Open Source programs that can perform a similar task for free.

A lot of busy individuals need a "PIM" (Personal Information Manager) to keep track of their personal information, appointments, calendars, address books, to-do lists, and other daily mundane tasks. About a dozen "Personal

Information and Task Managers" are available as Open Source, which may provide some help in controlling our often hectic lives.

There are several other categories of Open Source software listed, including project managers, reporting tools, RSS (news) feeds, system utilities, office suites, office programs, and web browsers such as Firefox. Open Source is here to stay and may be a key player in the future of software. It is definitely worthy of a serious look and consideration.

Obtained from APCUG with the author's permission for publication by APCUG member groups.



considerably. You can pick up a 1 Gigabyte UFD for around \$15. A large UFD currently available is a 16 Gigabyte that sells for \$133 at www.newegg.com.

Finally, your choice of UFD can reflect your individuality. You don't have to settle for the standard gray plastic housing. You can buy UFDs that look like twigs <http://inhabitat.com/2006/02/08/ooms-twig-usb-drive/> or even animal characters <http://lab.mimoco.com/>.

So, if you find you need to transport data files from computer to computer, a UFD is an easy solution. They are available anywhere you can buy electronics.

A word of caution. To avoid losing data, be sure to eject a UFD before removing it from the USB port. You can go to MyComputer, right click on the UFD device and select eject. Or you can use the Safely Remove Icon on the lower right corner of your desktop.

This article has been provided to APCUG by the author solely for publication by APCUG member groups.



Portable Data

by Corinne Goeke, a member of the Computer Club of Green Valley, Arizona
Cmgoeke(at)yahoo.com <http://gvcc.apcug.org/>

Which of the following is an item for storing computer data?

- A) Thumb Drive
- B) Jump Drive
- C) Flash Drive
- D) Key Drive
- D) Memory Stick
- E) USB Stick
- F) UFD
- G) All of the above

If you guessed "G," good for you. All of the above names refer to UFDs or "USB Flash Drives." USB, of course, refers to those little rectangular ports you can find (although there never seems to be enough of them) on the back and front of most computers.

So what is a UFD? You see them connected to people's key chains, hanging around necks on a cord and stuck in pockets and purses. Simply put, a UFD is a really convenient data storage device. Think of a one-gigabyte

UFD as being 694 floppy disks all packed into a two-inch long by 1/2-inch wide package.

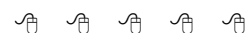
UFDs are data storage devices that have replaced CDs, floppies and other methods of carrying data from computer to computer. Plug one into a USB port on any computer, and you can read and write files on it. It is now the method of choice for transporting data that you need often.

In fact, there is a special class of UFDs called U3 that can also store applications. Plug one of these UFDs into a computer, and you can run Mozilla Firefox, Open Office, or even utilize an operating system such as Linux.

The cost of a UFD depends upon the number of bytes it can hold. A 64 megabyte UFD used to be considered more than enough storage. But as the size of data files has increased, so has the size of UFDs. Fortunately, the prices for large storage have dropped

SHCC Post Office Box

After 9-11 some of the rules have been changed concerning post office boxes. These changes are intended to make it more difficult for persons using post office boxes to remain anonymous, at least to the post office. If you send anything to the club's PO box don't put a person's name on it. It's OK to use titles such as President, Treasurer, and such. If you use a person's name, your mail will sit at the post office until that person can get to the post office with ID and claim the mail. This just slows down you mail and inconveniences the addressee.



WYSIWYG WEB WATCH (www)

By Paul Baecker

webwatch@sterlingheightscomputerclub.org



This column attempts to locate sites containing valuable, amusing and free content, with no overbearing pressure to purchase any-

thing. Send your favorite entertaining, helpful or just plain useless sites (a description is optional) to the e-address noted above, for inclusion in a future WYSIWYG issue. Also check the SHCC web site ("Web Page Reviews") for previous gems.

Blue Ball machine.
<http://blueballfixed.ytmnd.com>

A couple dozen dynamic optical illusions.
<http://www.skytopia.com/project/illusion/illusion.html>

Click on red dot and guide it through the maze, using steady mouse control.
<http://www.mazefrenzy.com>

All 256 alt code characters and how to use them.
<http://www.alt-codes.net>

Test your knowledge of global geography.
http://www.rethinkingschools.org/just_fun/games/mapgame.html

Cocktail recipes and drinking games.
<http://www.barmeister.com>

Moneychimp "seeks to be the most coherent, logical, useful and accessible financial education resource".
<http://moneychimp.com>

Graphical representation of major players in the stock market and their daily

movement.
<http://www.smartmoney.com/marketmap/>

Play around with attraction, repulsion and friction among a group of particles.
<http://www.seb.cc/particles/>

Pick a point on the globe and find the region on the Earth's surface which is diametrically opposite to it.
<http://www.antipodemap.com>

Condiment packet gallery.
<http://condiment.portablefolkband.com/packets.php>

Visit the Virtual Museum for descriptions of da Vinci's many machines and 'ideal city'.
<http://www.museoscienza.org/english/>

Drawings of Leonardo da Vinci. Downloadable zipped file.
<http://www.drawingsofleonardo.org>

San Francisco Fleetweek '07 pics of military aerial skills.
<http://home.comcast.net/~bzeela/>

Lots of how-to articles for Windows XP & Vista & Office, Linux, Firefox, more.
<http://www.howtogeek.com>

Select from many genres of music to locate streaming music channels in many languages.
<http://www.filtermusic.net>

Over 1000 words and expressions that differ in their usage between the US and the UK.
<http://www.effingpot.com>

Spiral shapes.
<http://spiral.gallery.sytes.org>

Enter name of CD/DVD or artist to display lots of high quality CD and DVD covers within seconds.
<http://albumart.org>

View brochures and manuals of old cars...Maxwell, Chalmers, Desoto, Hudson, more.
<http://www.oldcarbrochures.com>

Video describing how to save videos from the web to your PC.
http://www.metacafe.com/watch/307956/how_to_save_videos_youve_watched_online/

Photos of nature, panoramas, lighthouses, landscapes, plants, industry, more.
<http://www.wildnatureimages.com>

Works of South Californian artists.
<http://www.piersidegallery.com>

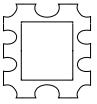
Rock albums 1965 - 1978 with performers' photos and videos.
<http://www.qkly.com>

Someone's list of great burger recipes ~ beef, lamb, veggie ~ including a few popular brands. Select 'Burger recipes'.
<http://www.worldsgreatesthamburgers.com>

Misplaced your glasses? You can still see in an emergency. Select 'Science Videos', then #37 "Emergency Glasses".
http://krampf.com/experiments/Science_Experiment37.html

Photos, paintings, biography of Salvador Dali.
<http://www.virtualdali.com>





**STERLING HEIGHTS
COMPUTER CLUB**
PO Box 385
Sterling Heights, MI 48311-0385

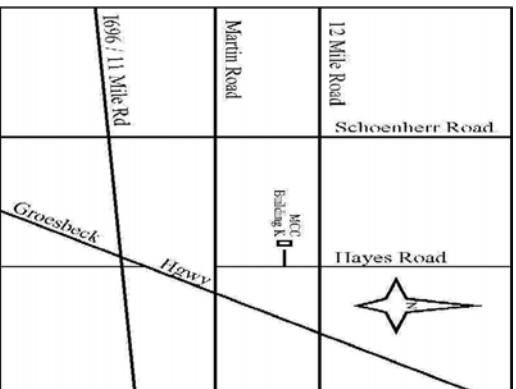


JANUARY AT SHCC:

TUESDAY JAN 8
Main Meeting. 7:30PM

Macomb Community College
South Campus
14500 E 12 Mile Road, Warren
John Lewis Community Center
(Building K)
(Enter from Hayes Road)

“Social Networking Sites
on the Internet” by Mary
Lou Metzger from Sterling
Heights Public Library



SIGS

WEDNESDAY January 23
Net/Com SIG 7:00PM at the Macomb County Library.

MONDAY January 28
Novice SIG 7:00PM at the Macomb County Library.

WEDNESDAY January 30
PC SIG 7:00PM at the Macomb County Library.

February - “Where are OS’s headed, What’s on the Horizon” presented by Eric Blomberg from Apple Inc