



\$3.00

THE WYSIWYG

November 2008

Volume 20, Issue 9

STERLING HEIGHTS COMPUTER CLUB

PO Box 385

Sterling Heights, MI 48311-0385

TUESDAY Nov 4

Main Meeting

7:30 PM

**“What's Hot for the Holidays,
”presented by Richard
Tapaninen from Micro
Center**

**Elections of 2009 officers
will take place in Nov.**

The President's Pen

by Don VanSyckel



It's a sign of the times. I work for a company which like so many other companies is located where there is no parking other than what they provide. In addition, company security monitors and regulates who is entering the property. People entering the site are not allowed to bring laptops onto the property unless previously authorized. I recently had occasion to drive my wife's car to work and not being registered with the company, I had to stop at the entrance and get a temporary parking pass. When I entered the gatehouse to get the pass there were several people ahead of me in line. They were contractors who had come for the day to do various work. They were not together as they were from different companies.

In a couple of minutes the man at the head of the line was finished and one of the security people walked out with him. They went to his vehicle and the man fished something out of the cab and passed it to the security person. Since there really wasn't anything else going on most of us in line were watching. We could see the item was a laptop in a case. One of the others waiting muttered “What does a refrigeration guy need with a laptop?” I immediately thought, well, he could have PDFs of the manuals of the equipment he works on. I choose to stay quiet being the only one dressed

to work in an office but it made an impression.

Later that same day after my wife dropped me off to pick up my car, I was coming home a different way than normal and happened to pull up at a light next to one of those special car haulers with the canvas sides because they haul either 'secret' (new model) or high end cars. I glanced over at it and noticed a laptop mounted on something where I supposed a passenger might have sat. My mind jumped back to the remark I had heard earlier in the day.

All I could think was a refrigeration man might carry a laptop to use a GPS and maps to get to his job and then once there use the laptop to view manuals and other information to do his job. It's a sign of the times.

This month we hold our elections for officers for 2009. We have one nominee for each office. Could this be the year we have more than one candidate for each office? Will the excitement never quit? Come find out! Make your voice heard! Run for an office, get involved!

We are please to welcome back Mr. Richard Tapaninen from Micro

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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

2008 SHCC Officers

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

Resource People:

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

SHCC Coordinators:

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

Special Interest Groups:

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

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Jack Vander-Schrier	586-739-7720	jvanders@myself.com

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

Four Month Meeting Schedule:

NOVEMBER 2008

4 - SHCC - "What's Hot for the Holidays" presented by Richard Tapaninen from Micro Center
5 - COMP meeting
9 - SEMCO meeting
19 - PC SIG
24 - Net/Comm SIG

DECEMBER 2008

2 - SHCC - "iPhone, iPod, iTouch, and Mobile Me" presented by Eric Blomberg from Apple Inc
3 - COMP meeting
8 - Net/Comm SIG
14 - SEMCO meeting
17 - PC SIG

JANUARY 2009

3 - COMP meeting
8 - SHCC - Main Meeting
13 - SEMCO meetin
Net/Comm SIG
PC SIG

FEBRUARY 2009

3 - SHCC - Main Meeting
4 - COMP meeting
8 - SEMCO meeting
PC SIG
Net/Comm 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

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



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SIG Meetings

Net/Comm SIG



The next meeting of the Internet/Communications (Net/Comm.) SIG will be Monday, November 24, 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



This SIG has been discontinued for now. All the Novice users have graduated to the Intermediate PC level!

This SIG may be restarted in the future, when there is a need and sufficient interest in the SIG.

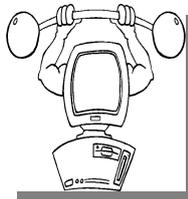


Attend A SIG

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.



PC SIG



The next meeting of the PC SIG will be on Wednesday, November 19, 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.



Club Record Changes

To update your e-mail address, phone number, etc., please e-mail the club secretary at: Secretary@SterlingHeightsComputerClub.org. Using this address will provide the smoothest and quickest venue for any changes.



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.



The President's Pen

(Continued from page 1)

Center. Richard has presented to SHCC several times and has always been well received. Richard will present "What's Hot for the Holidays" just in time to start your Christmas wish list. Remember to include the goodies that are available at Micro Center.



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@ Sterling-HeightsComputerClub.org.



Q: Dear Expert:

In a lot of my folders I find a file called thumbs.db. Each time I delete it, it keeps coming back. What is this file and what does it do.

All Thumbs

A: Dear All Thumbs

Any time you turn on the thumbnail views in a folder to look at the pictures Windows creates this file. If you delete it, Windows will automatically recreate this file. There is nothing to worry about, just leave it alone

Expert

Q: Dear Expert:

Every time my computer starts up it automatically starts Windows Messenger. I don’t use Messenger. Is there any way I can stop it from starting.

Want it to Stop

A: Dear Want it to stop:

Yes you can. Right click on the windows Messenger Icon in your system tray. Click on open. Then click on tools and options at the top of the screen. Click on the preferences Tab.

Tab. Then uncheck the “run Windows Messenger when Windows Starts” and “Allow Windows Messenger to run in the background” and click ok.



Door Prizes

The SHCC offers door prizes at most regularly scheduled club meetings. In October the winners circle included:

Paul Baecker won Zoo Tycoon II game

Emmy Evangelista won a Smart Computing Magazine issue

Ron Frederick won a PC Magazine issue

Priscilla Galat won Post-It Notes

Jerry Hess won Post-It Notes

Don Hjelle won HTML & XHTML Manual

Harry Kenney win a PC Magazine issue

Susan Kokalari won Command Cord Clips

Rick Kucejko won some Pencils

Ron Linsley son Family Ties
Cliff Miller won a Cellophane tape packet

Ralph Osinski won Linux Bible book

Larry Piowar won Access 2002

Carole Polus won a Smart Computing Magazine issue

Basile Valtadoros won Learning Window

James Waldrop won an Office 97 Manual



Last Month's Meeting

“Explore TV and Video Online” was presented by Jan Lauder from the Troy Public Library. Jan did a great job doing a subject that she clearly both enjoys and is very knowledgeable in. Thanks Jan.



Presenters Wanted

The officers invite any member to make a presentation at the main meeting.

If there is some software you have been using and think others may be interested as well, or there is a computer topic you would like to present to other members, please call or e-mail Don VanSyckel. Making presentations is not that difficult. The hour goes by before you know it and there is always enough material to cover in a software package so that the hour is easy to fill.

If there is a topic you are interested in or something you would like demonstrated, please see any of the officers. They are always interested in what the members would like to see.



From The DealsGuy

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

(Editor's Note: Bob Click used to be a member of the SHCC.)

From The DealsGuy For November 2008 by Bob (The Cheapskate) Click, Greater Orlando Computer Users Group

***A Word of Caution;** I have not tried any of the items listed below so do your homework if you're interested.

***Share Your Artistry With The World**

Acoustica <<http://mixcraftlive.com>> has introduced a free service allowing anyone to upload their music, podcasts or sonic creations to share with the world. The site allows artists to create an account, upload artwork and publish up to 100 megabytes of music. Each artist account has a forum and a blog to help foster a community and fan database. Each song can be ranked and, if popular enough, can appear on the top song charts. Artists can update an event calendar with their 'gigs' so that their fans can find out when the next performance is. The service is completely free and can be used by anyone wishing to showcase their sonic creations recorded with Mixcraft.

Mixcraft is a multitrack music recording studio for Windows computers and has recently been awarded the Computer Music Value Award and the Keyboard Magazine Key Buy Award. It is seen as the Windows equivalent of Apple's Garage Band for price and functionality. MixcraftLive.com adds even more value to the software and is intended to showcase the musical skills and talents of artists recording with Mixcraft.

Mixcraft now includes an additional 574 new music loops and over 300 new sound effects which are automatically downloaded on demand. These

sounds are free to all Mixcraft customers. The loops include 13 exciting new Song Kits; Breakbeat, Crunk, Drum N Bass, Electro House, Film Score, House DJ, Jungle Drum N Bass, Progressive Euro, Southern Hip Hop, Synth House, Tribal House, Underground Hip Hop, and Urban Street Mix!

***Would You Believe Eyeball To Eyeball? (I can't remember where I read this one.)**

Eyeball Chat is a free product that you can use for talking on the phone and seeing each other at the same time; that is, if you are both using the product. At <<http://www.eyeballchat.com>>, you can download the software to accomplish all this. Of course, there is more to it than that, but at least this product is free for you to experiment with. Check out their Web site and you will find further information.

***Do You Love Games?**

MyRealGames has launched a free gaming portal that provides downloadable and online casual games. The portal <<http://www.MyRealGames.com>> is aimed to ensure a great pastime for audiences of all ages. Arcade, puzzles, shooters, dress-ups, sports and more are all free now. The portal also features free games, which were only available in "try-before-you-buy" versions before. MyRealGames.com can be recommended to those who are tired of advertisements in games because they don't have disturbances like annoying banners between levels. The only thing obligatory is a visit of the site after a user exits a game. The games are available in both 2D and 3D, and have three working languages.

With more than two hundred games, MyRealGames.com has something in stock for everybody. If you're an arcade

game lover, don't forget to check out Space Bubbles. There are extraordinary power-ups and amazing bonuses to discover within every puzzle! Enjoy endless hours of bubble blasting action: <<http://www.myrealgames.com/files/space-bubbles.exe>>.

Exercise your billiard skills with the help of Billiard Masters or Cool 3D billiards, which you can play against computer or friends. The atmosphere of a comfortable place makes the game even better. Join billiard club at: <<http://www.myrealgames.com/files/billiard-masters.exe>>.

Try Nuclear Bike. Complete levels as fast as possible to achieve maximum score points. Speed up! Traffic police can't catch you here: <http://www.myrealgames.com/en/play_online_nuclearbike.html>..

***Here Is Another Free Defrager, This One Has Rave Reviews!**

IObit is proud to announce the release of Smart Defrag. Smart Defrag was in development for 1 1/2 years, tested by over one million users, and is now available to all PC users for free. Most users cannot clearly know the current fragmentation status of their hard disk, and have no good control over performing the defragmentation. "We have taken care of PC users' needs in our free Smart Defrag" says Hugo Dong, president of IObit.

Smart Defrag features include:

- An "install it and forget it" feature that works automatically and quietly in the background of the computer.
- Besides defragmenting, it also places the frequently used data into the fastest area of the disk.
- Smart Defrag has the industry's leading defragmenting engine, specially designed for modern, large hard drives.
- Free for home, organization, and business and 100% safe from any spyware, adware and virus.
- Designed for Windows 2000, XP, Vista and future Windows 7.

Smart Defrag is now available in English and other languages. More information and free downloads are available at <<http://www.iobit.com/jobitsmartdefrag.html>>.

Everybody Talks About It, But Here is More Than Talk

Other than spam, a frequently discussed subject is the privacy of your computer. There is a place on the Web where there is help. Check into <<http://www.saltmeadow.com/privacy>> where you will find seven tools for working on the privacy of your computer. Some of them you may already know about them, and others

you may not. Best of all, it is a collection of all freeware for your use.

That's it for this month. I'll have some other new product announcements on my Web site. 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 at bellsouth dot net>. Visit my Web site at <<http://www.dealsguy.com>



Your Next Computer Will Be Green

by Marjie Tucker, Editor, Mountain Computer User Group, GA

www.mcug.org [mcug\(at\)dnet.net](mailto:mcug(at)dnet.net)

With Europe leading the way, the computer industry is decidedly becoming "green." The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) and the Restriction of Hazardous Substances (ROHS) directives went into effect earlier this year. These two directives state that certain electrical and electronic equipment must cut down on hazardous materials such as lead, mercury, and cadmium. They also give customers the right to return their equipment free of charge. Companies have several years to fully implement these directives, but the leaders have already started to make changes.

Dell, for example, is advertising Energy Smart workstations and notebooks that can reduce power consumption by as much as 78%. The Energy Smart configuration uses a default power setting that is designed to reduce consumption and energy costs right out of the box. In addition, the power supply, fan, and motherboard use significantly less energy to maintain cool internal temperatures.

HP is using 80 Plus power supplies to lower energy bills and AMD technology that reduces heat output and PC power consumption. In addition, they have already introduced an HP recycling program where you can trade in or donate the products.

Government Initiatives

Many U.S. government agencies have implemented standards and regulations to encourage green computing. The Environmental Protection Agency launched an Energy Star program in 1992 and strengthened its requirements in 2006. In 2003 the California State Senate enacted the Electronic Waste Recycling Act and in 2007 President Bush issued Executive Order 13423 requiring all federal agencies to use the Electronic Products Environmental Assessment Tool when purchasing computer systems. In addition, a global consortium called The Green Grid was founded in 2007 by AMD, APC, Dell, HP, IBM, Intel, Microsoft, Rackable Systems, SprayCool, Sun and VMware.

Another initiative formed by a group of Global-minded IT executives, the Green Computing Impact Organization (GCIO), was created to be an active participant in transforming the IT community from an environmental liability to an Earth conscious example of responsibility. GCIO is a nonprofit organization that is based on environmental audit programs for consumers and small business homes with respect to general energy-efficiency programs (including lighting, heating, insulation, etc.). GCIO's mission is to educate and assist enterprise technology users in the design of environmentally aware and responsible information system operations. They help consumers become more environmentally responsible by reducing energy consumption and electronic waste in an effort to protect the Earth.

GCIO is sponsoring educational programs across the country and participating in a Green Computing Summit that will be held in Washington, DC on May 20th. The summit will address how public sector IT managers, procurement officials, and program managers public sector professionals can transform their IT and data center operations into more environmentally conscious yet efficient solutions. This conference will attract senior government IT professionals and their industry partners tasked with helping agencies become greener in the coming years. Attendees will represent federal, state and local governments, public policy organizations and suppliers to government. You can read more about this event at www.e-gov.com/EventOverview.aspx?Event=SGCS08.

Features of Green Computing

Power management is the most popular method. The operating system of the computer can be set to directly control the power saving aspects of the hardware. It can automatically turn off the monitor or hard drive after a

period of inactivity. Or, the entire system may hibernate, turning off most of the components such as even allow the user to manually adjust the voltages supplied to the CPU to reduce the electricity consumption and the amount of heat that is produced. As of July of 2007, all new Energy Star certified desktops must have a power supply that is at least 80% efficient.

Other features include using motherboard video output instead of a video card, hard disks that consume less power, flash based solid state drives that require fewer write cycles, and lower energy monitors. And, manufacturers of networking equipment are developing switches and routers that reduce energy costs.

Recycling Materials

Obsolete computers can be reused for charities, non-profit organizations, and developing countries. Parts from really old systems can be recycled through some recycling centers. Some recycling charges can be passed back to the manufacturers.

Recycling this equipment keeps the lead, mercury, and chromium out of our landfills. In addition, computer supplies such as cartridges, paper, and batteries can be easily recycled.

How Can We Work Greener?

Visit the website for Climate Savers Smart Computing at www.climatesaverscomputing.org to view a three step program to go green. Here are the basic steps that they suggest:

Step One - Turn on Power Management. Since the average desktop PC wastes nearly 50% of the energy it consumes as heat, it makes sense to use the power management features that are built into Windows XP and Vista. The benefits? You will reduce your electricity bills and your energy footprint will be lowered as you reduce

your greenhouse gas emissions. The Climate Savers organization predicts that the power management features on your computer can save nearly a ton of CO₂ and more than \$60 a year in energy costs.

Step Two - Buy an energy efficient computer. Energy Star, the program designed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, specifies the standards that equipment and appliances must meet to wear the Energy Star badge. You can visit their website at www.energystar.org for specifics. Basically an Energy Star compliant PC uses 15 to 25 percent less energy. This program is expected to save U.S. consumers and businesses more than \$1.8

billion in energy costs over the next five years and prevent greenhouse gas emission equal to 2.7 million vehicles. Step Three - Unplug from phantom power. As long as your computer is plugged in it still uses electricity, even while it is turned off or in standby mode. A computer that is turned off, but still plugged in, can use up to 10 watts. The Climate Savers estimate that you can reduce your electricity bills by as much as 10% by unplugging your appliances and electronics when they're not being used.

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



For Anybody Who Has Thought About Trying Linux

by Joe Nuvolini, Webmaster & APCUG Rep,
Pikes Peak Computer Application Society, CO
<http://ppcompas.apcug.org/> [nuvo\(at\)nuvolini.com](mailto:nuvo(at)nuvolini.com)

For anybody who has thought about trying Linux, it has become easier than ever before with Ubuntu 8.04 LTS Hardy Heron. As with most Linux distributions, Ubuntu is available as a free download and is freely distributable. It is even available already installed on Dell computers. The most common method is downloading the ISO image from Ubuntu's website (<http://www.ubuntu.com>) and burning it onto a CD.

From the site, you can download the Desktop version or Server for 32-bit and 64-bit systems. There is even an option to download what is called an alternative version which is just the installer and does not include the LiveCD portion, which also includes an installer. If you are like me, until a couple months ago, and living on dial-up or you do not have a CD burner handy or just don't want to put in that much effort then you can order a free CD through the corporate sponsor of

Ubuntu, Canonical, ShipIt department. I have been very pleased with the speed with which their CDs arrive. Alternatively, the website contains links to vendors where you can buy the CDs from under \$5 to more, and they can handle large orders as well.

Once you have your CD in your hot little hands, trying Ubuntu is as simple as placing it in your CD-ROM tray and rebooting your system. If system will boot from the CD and after a short moment you'll be greeted with the Ubuntu welcome screen.

If you want to "try before you buy," then you can choose the default "Try Ubuntu without any changes to your computer" and your hard drive will not be touched during your session unless you choose to. You don't even need a hard drive to select this option; you just will not be able to install it from the session.

If you are more certain or just daring

then you can go straight into the installer and in about 60 minutes (45 minutes if you know what Different Strokes For Anybody Who Has Thought About Trying Linux by Drew Kwashnak you are doing) you're booting to your new Ubuntu installation.

Ubuntu will scan your hardware and load the modules and drivers necessary for your system. If you have hardware that has proprietary drivers available, Linux cannot include them in the CD for legal reasons. Ubuntu works around this by providing a Restricted Drivers tool that lists all such hardware found on your system and provides the ability to download and install the necessary drivers in a click or two, legally.

Now that you have Ubuntu up and running on your system, what can you do? Plenty! Ubuntu brings you a full featured operating system complete with:

Firefox 3.05 beta web browser
OpenOffice.org 2.4 full featured office suite compatible with pre-Office 2007 Word, Excel, PowerPoint and some Access files.

Evolution personal information manager for email and calendar goodness, a Microsoft Outlook user can feel comfortable with. There is even plug-ins to allow Evolution to access existing Microsoft Exchange servers.

Pidgin multi-protocol instant messenger including Yahoo, MSN, AIM, Jabber, IRC and more.

Gimp (GNU Image Manipulation Program), a powerful Photoshop-like image editing program that includes filters, layers and a host of goodies. F-Spot image manager for categorizing and minor editing of all of your pictures as well as easily importing pictures from your digital camera.

And much, MUCH more...

If Ubuntu doesn't come with a particular application, thousands of free appli-

cations are available from the Ubuntu online repository which are easily installed and updated from the Synaptic package manager.

When you decide to install Ubuntu onto your hard drive or virtual machine you only need to click the "Install" icon on the desktop to start the process. After seven or so easy questions the installer will copy the files over to the hard disk. Depending on your system's speed this could take about 60 minutes, more or less. It will even detect if you have Windows installed and offer to transfer over your files and compatible settings from your Windows accounts!

Of course, if the limitations of the LiveCD, such as settings are not saved from session to session, and you are hesitant to partition and install the full operating system on your hard drive Ubuntu offers yet another alternative called Wubi. Wubi is, from the Ubuntu website: "Wubi is an officially supported Ubuntu installer for Windows users that can bring you to the Linux world with a single click. Wubi allows you to install and uninstall Ubuntu as any other Windows application, in a simple and safe way.

Are you curious about Linux and Ubuntu? Trying them out has never been easier!" Wubi can be downloaded as an .exe file directly. With Linux the installation is not the end, only the beginning! Whether you try the LiveCD, Wubi or a full installation you will find a wealth of quality applications, refreshing freedom and a community unlike any other.

Drew Kwashnak: Has been losing more nights of sleep with Linux since 2002 and just can't keep from downloading and trying the latest versions. When not working with Linux he works with ASP.NET and Microsoft SQL Server for a small financial company

Links:

Ubuntu:

<http://www.ubuntu.com>

Get Ubuntu:

<http://www.ubuntu.com/getubuntu>

ShipIt:

<https://shipit.ubuntu.com/>

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

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Smart Computing Renewals

If you are going to subscribe to or renew a subscription to Smart Computing Magazine, use the user group sign up and give SHCC some credit. For every 5 subscriptions or renews SHCC receives a 'subscription credit' which we give away as a door prize. Help us out, it costs you nothing. Idea, if multi-year subscriptions aren't cheaper, renew a year at a time; more credits.

To give SHCC credit you must subscribe or renew using a certain method. Do NOT go to "Subscribe & Shop" on the main page.

1) There is a menu on the left of the main page. In the dark blue section click on "User Groups."

2) This will open the "User Group Program" page. On the left there is a yellow menu, click on "Subscribe or Renew Today!"

3) This opens a form to use to subscribe or renew. Make sure to choose "Sterling Heights Computer Club" in the "User Group" select box.

Again if you use the "Subscribe & Shop" on the main page you will NOT be given an opportunity to specify a user group and you can NOT have it undone.

☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺

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.

Design contraptions to get the wheel into the goal.

<http://fantasticcontraption.com>

Tech support, manuals and troubleshooting for consumers ~ browse by manufacturer, then by category of product.

<http://www.fixya.com>

A fast-paced, colorful presentation of how CFLs and LEDs can save money and energy.

<http://unscrewamerica.org>

Free program to open / create / edit / extract CD/DVD image files, and convert bin to iso and back.

<http://www.magiciso.com>

Internet speed test ~ are you getting what you are paying for?

<http://speedtest.aeronetpr.com>

Large collection of professionally-produced and user-generated how-to videos.

<http://www.monkeysee.com>

Entertaining collection of feline pics.

<http://www.funnycatsite>

Optical illusions. Click on "View Thumbnails" to see more groups of i l l u s i o n s .

<http://www.mindfake.com>

Entertaining collection of canine pics.

<http://www.funnydogsite.com>

Users sing karaoke, practice singing and challenge friends ~ mic is optional.

<http://www.karaokeparty.com>

Some proverbs and famous quotes.

<http://www.citate-celebre.com/famous-quotes/>

Instructions for building a matchbox pinhole camera.

<http://www.matchboxpinhole.com>

Graphical ways of looking at income, ancestry, population, wealth, taxes, more. Downloadable posters. Search for graphs or browse through categories.

<http://www.visualizingeconomics.com>

A selection of television shows, movies, clips and other visual content.

<http://www.hulu.com>

Darwin Awards ~ a dimwit for all seasons. (8-minute video)

<http://www.drunkenfairies.com/darwin-awards-candidates-and-winner/>

Find the key and open the door to move to the next room. ANYTHING is possible to find the key and the door.

http://escape-game.com/dak_en.html

Recipes for cleaning all sorts of things.

<http://www.howtocleanstuff.net>

Collection of furry pet portraits.

<http://www.furtographs.com>

Search for a location, or just mouse around, and view photos of the mapped surroundings.

<http://www.panoramio.com>

Enter an address and view the roads that have the highest number of traffic fatalities in a specified area.

<http://www.saferoadmaps.org>

Paper Mache artist at work in videos.

<http://www.monster-man.com>

Digital clock display using Flickr photos.

<http://www.hottoast.org/convexstyle/flickrtime/>

Online canvas with unique artistic tools.

<http://electricowlstudios.com/sandbox/splash2/splash.php>

A timeline of recording technology history ~ tinfoil cylinders to MP3 players ~ with loads of links to related topics.

<http://history.sandiego.edu/gen/recording/notes.html#helical>

Pics and videos of steam-driven and robotic creations.

<http://www.crabfu.com>

Free extensive system information utility displays detailed information about your system properties and settings.

<http://www.gtopala.com>

Collection of civil war related materials.

<http://www.civil-war.net>

Over 1,000 Civil War images, photographs and cartes de visites.

<http://www.civilwarphotos.net>

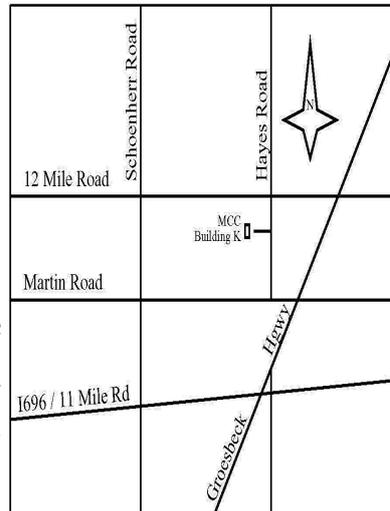


NOVEMBER AT SHCC

TUESDAY NOV 7
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)

**“What's Hot for the
 Holidays, ” presented
 by Richard Tapaninen
 from Micro Center**



SIGs

MONDAY **November 24**
 Net/Com SIG 7:00PM at the Macomb County Library.

WEDNESDAY **November 19**
 PC SIG 7:00PM at the Macomb County Library.

**DECEMBER MEETING: “iPhone, iPod, ITouch, and
 Mobile Me” will be presented by Eric Blomberg from
 Apple Inc**