THE WYSIWYG

MAIN MEETING: TUESDAY Oct. 4
7:30PM

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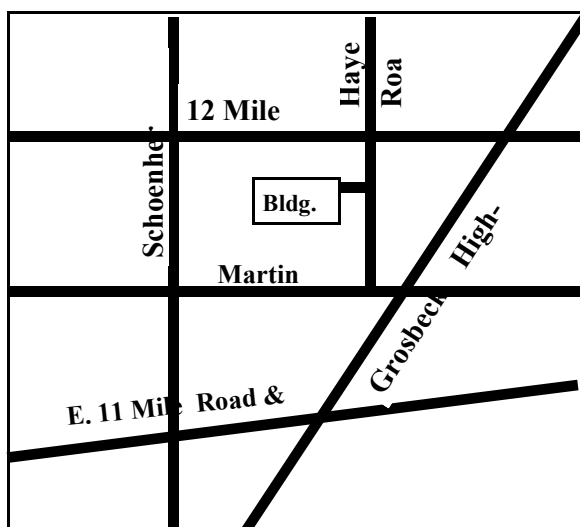
IN THIS ISSUE:

This month's Main Meeting Topic:

The meeting topic was not finalized at the time of publication.

This month's SIG Meeting

The SIG meeting will be at the Clinton-Macomb Public Library on Tuesday October 30 from 6:45p PM to 8:45 PM.

The meeting will be in the Auditorium for this month only, instead of the normal meeting room.

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Clinton-Macomb Public Library

The Library (Main Branch) is located at 40900 Romeo Plank Road in Clinton Township, on the east side of Romeo Plank, south of 19 Mile and Cass Roads, at the intersection of Romeo Plank and Canal roads (south-east corner). (Tel. 586-226-5000.)

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Guests and visitors are welcome. People can attend any SHCC meetings during two consecutive months before decid-ing 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

Resource People:

Family Tree	Rick Schummer
Firefox	Don VanSyckel
FoxPro	Rick Schummer
General Computer Questions	Jack Vander-Schrier
Hardware	John Rady
MS Publisher	Rick Kucejko
MS Word	Rick Schummer
Spreadsheets	Rick Schummer

SHCC Coordinators:

Associate Editor	Rick Schummer
Door prizes	Sharon Patrick
Greeter for visitors	Lindell Beck
Newsletter publisher	Rick Kucejko
Windows SIG	Jack Vander-Schrier
Program Coordinator	Jerry Hess
Publicity	Patrick Little
Resource People	open
SIG	Jack Vander-Shrier
Welcome & check-in desk.	Jim Waldrop
Web Page	Don VanSyckel

2012 SHCC Officers

V. President: John Rady
Treasurer: Ed Trombley

President: Don VanSyckel
Secretary: Rick Kucejko

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:

OCTOBER 2012
2 - SHCC—Main Meeting
3 - COMP meeting
7 - SEMCO meeting
30 - SIG meeting

DECEMBER 2012
4 - SHCC—Main Meeting
5 - COMP meeting
9 - SEMCO meeting
? - SIG meeting

NOVEMBER 2012
6 - SHCC—Main Meeting
7 - COMP meeting
11 - SEMCO meeting
? - SIG meeting

JANUARY 2013
2 - COMP meeting
8 - SHCC—Main Meeting
13- SEMCO meeting
? - SIG meeting

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: The Engineering Society of Detroit 20700 Civic Center Dr. South-field, MI 48076 Suite 450 4th Floor
Web page: http://www.semco.org
Reciprocating: Yes

The OPC (Older Persons Com-mission) 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

Contact Information:

Lindell Beck	586-939-4278	ljb48312@gmail.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
Sharon Patrick	586-268-3626	espee37@att.net.
John Rady	248-258-9515	john.rady@hotmail.com
Rick Schummer	586-254-2530	rick@rickschummer.com
Ed Trombley	586-254-1172	ejtrombley@comcast.net
Don VanSyckel	586-731-9232	don@vansyckel.net
Jack Vander-Schrier	586-739-5952	jvanders@comcast.net

(**Call Jack after noon**)

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

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

Door Prizes

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

Ed Zaremba won a DIY Securiety Camera Kit

Rick Kucejko won a mouse

Ray Forest won Suduko software

Don Hjelle won a fax machine

John Rady won a Maximum PC software CD

Don Suszko won a mouse pad

Pat Little won Video Studio 7 software

Ralph Osinski won World of Warcraft software

Ron Linsley won Mastering Windows - Tips and Tricks CD

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SHCC Emergency Cancellation

If a club meeting is canceled an email will be sent to members by an officer, at least an hour before the scheduled start of the meeting. If you have an issue with your email call one of the officers. 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.

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The President's Pen
by Don VanSyckel

October already and soon Halloween. Fall is slipping by! I've been busy with many things from leaves, yes already, to LAN design. My wife and I own a condo 'up north', well not that far up. The condo is 30 minutes west of Mount Pleasant so you basically go to Bay City, turn left, and go due west. I've finally convinced our condo association to purchase Internet. This would be like any business that provides Internet to their customers.

I presented several solutions or options to the board. These options ranged from simple to deluxe. The simple solution was to put one wireless router on the cable modem positioned in a central location like you do at home. This has several disadvantages. First the obvious one is the radio signal might not reach the locations in the complex farthest from the router or be weak and not support full speed. Another disadvantage, to me anyway, is every time someone has a problem I would have to deal with it as administrator of the router. Of course we could let multiple people administer the router but this is a recipe for disaster or at least problems. Then there is the fact that everyone on the router can 'see' each other. I trust all the owners but from time to time some of the condos are rented and who knows who the renters are.

Because I don't feel like writing a small volume about the various other options, I'm going to jump to the deluxe solution. This solution places the cable modem and router out of the way in a central location with the router wireless turned off. Then from the router, switches are used to provide enough connections to run a cable to each condo, the units interconnect, and this can be done. Then in each condo the owner can provide their own wireless router that they manage themselves. We can also limit the devices able to connect to the main router to the specific router in each condo. This prevents people from packet sniffing and some other hacking that I won't get into here. When any of the owners have company or renters, they can be told the code to get into that condo's wireless and there is no exposure of the PCs in the other units.

There are also other advantages to this approach. The amount of administration on the main router by me goes to almost zero because the wireless (radio) will be turn off. No codes to share. No connecting to the wireless. If someone replaces their router, I'll have to enter the new information so the device can connect. Other than this I believe most issues will be fixed by rebooting or turning the power off and on.

I have wanted to get a thermostat that would allow remote control and reporting. When we had a phone at the condo I check out various thermostats and never found what I was looking for. I have found what I believe to be a network thermostat solution. There is no out of the box solution for this that I could find and I could write a small volume about networked thermostats. The deluxe wired solution above also allows me to connect the thermostat. People leave the setting too low in the summer and too high in the winter and I would be able to correct this. Then there's the case if no one is there for a while and the heat stops working, I want to know so I can arrange for a little human intervention before there's freeze damage.

This is not all in place yet, I am still collecting the pieces to put it all together. More when it's all up and running.

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Club Officer Election Announcement

It is time to re-elect our officers. Here is the process, the jobs, and responsibilities:

The nomination process is simple. You can nominate yourself or have another person nominate you for one or more of the offices. All the offices (president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer) are elected for a one year term starting in January and completing in December. Nominations are taken in October and just before the elections in November. You must be a member to be nominated or to nominate someone.

The elections are usually held at the regular meeting closest to November 1st. This year they were delayed for a month. The easy way to remember this is that we hold our elections on the same night as the local and national elections are held, in years when there is a national election.

Only members of the SHCC can vote. Ballots will be handed out at the sign-in door. The elections are held during the business portion of the meeting. The person with the majority of the vote for the office is the winner, for each office.

The jobs of each office are flexible. Some are defined, some change from office to office depending on the officers' capabilities and availability. In reality the president makes sure the meeting topics are set, the speakers are prepared, writes thank you notes to presenters and door prize contributors, runs the regular club and officer meetings, publishes the minutes to the officer meetings, takes phone calls from potential members and sends information to them, audits the monthly treasurer report and membership databases, tracks door prizes, and handles most of the publicity issues for the club. The WYSIWYG column is optional, but a great forum to pass along information to the members. The president also makes sure that the different coordinators are appointed and do their jobs. The president enforces the constitution and Club's policies. The president does whatever things cannot be done by anyone else. The key to this job is delegation. The more the president delegates the less there is to do.

The Vice President has the catch all job. So far to date the vice-president has not had to step in for the president, and there have not been any state funerals that they have had to attend. This is an important job. The person must be flexible and be prepared to run the regular and officer meetings if the president cannot attend. This officer usually picks up a project or two during the year to lift the burden from other officers.

The secretary maintains the membership database which is tracked in an Access database. They also put together "New Member Packets" and give them to newly joined members, and members who renew. These packets are already printed, some assembly required! The secretary audits the treasurer report to make sure that the membership money collected matches the membership counts in the database, print the mailing labels for *WYSIWYG* mailing, and maintains several reports such as a membership list and attendance sheet. The secretary makes sure that sign-in table materials needed at each regular meeting are there before the meeting, and before people start showing up.

The treasurer maintains records for all the money taken in and paid out from the Club's checking account. The SHCC currently uses Quicken to track the funds and generate reports for the officers. The treasurer also audits the membership counts. The treasurer makes reports to the officers at the officers meeting and four times a year to the Club's membership. All the receipts are collected and maintained by the treasurer.

All the officers attend the officer meeting that takes place during the week after the club meeting. It starts at 7:30PM; time and date are flexible to the liking of all officers.

We hope everyone considers this invitation, this call to service. It is some work, and it is a lot of fun. Normally it takes 3 to 5 hours a month (give or take a few hours) outside of the meetings. The president's job might take a little more, but remember that delegation can lower the burden. If you have any questions concerning the duties, feel free to give any of the officers a call.

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Last Month's Meeting

Last month Mike Bader, who owns LAN Solutions in Warren, presented "Making your Internet connection faster, more reliable, and safer using OpenDNS". Domain Name Service (DNS) is the process or service that your PC uses to look up a domain name such as: "SterlingHeightsComputerClub.org" and get the IP address. Then the IP address is used to contact the web site. This process goes on 'under the hood' so to speak and many people know nothing about it much less that there are alternatives to the default that could speed up their web browsing. Mike gave a very interesting and informative presentation.

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If your e-mail or mail address changes, please e-mail: secretary@SterlingHeights ComputerClub.org

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Making A Good Video

by Greg Skalka, President, Under the Computer Hood User Group, CA
www.uchug.org   president@uchug.org

I've discovered it is a lot harder to make a good video than it is to take a good photograph. It is definitely a lot more work.

For the most part, the majority of the effort involved in taking a good photograph occurs before the picture is taken. While some augmentation and enhancement can occur after the exposure, through the marvels of digital photo editing, much of the merit of a photo comes from basics like subject, composition, focus and lighting. While photo editing software can enhance a photo, perhaps making a good picture great, it can only go so far in fixing a poor photograph.

In making a great video, once you have captured the action, your work typically has only begun. In spite of all the star-centric hoopla surrounding the Academy Awards, have you ever noticed that the majority of the awards don't go to performers, but to creators.

There are only a few categories of awards given to actors and actresses. The majority go to writers, directors, film editors, cinematographers and designers of sound, sets, costumes and effects. In a lot of movies made today, most of the work is done after the filming is over. The difference between raw footage and polished final product is much greater for video than for still photography, indicative of the amount of post processing work usually required. As with photography, however, it is still hard to turn poor exposures into a good final product.

I got my first still camera in 3rd grade, taking black and white film photos. In the 40-something years since, I learned to take decent photos (at least by my standards) using mostly slide film, where there was no chance for corrections after the exposure. I've had a digital camera for eleven years,

but still don't typically edit or enhance my pictures after taking them. I've spent more time making digital corrections on the slides I have digitized, to fix the effects of film aging and imperfections, than on any of my recent digital photos.

Growing up, my family never had a movie camera. A neighbor friend my age got access to their family's old 8 mm movie camera, and he and I made a two-reel epic titled "The History of Aviation". Through careful planning and filming, we came up with a pretty impressive movie for a couple of grade school kids, though we probably destroyed most of our collections of model airplanes in the process (in addition to scorching the underside of his family's metal patio cover during our "reenactment" of the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima). I'd love to see that film again, if it still exists.

When my wife and I had kids of our own, my in-laws gave us one of the early shoulder-mounted video cameras (it was so big and heavy, you had to rest it on your shoulder), which recorded directly on VHS tape cartridges.

It recorded some of the early moments in our children's lives, but being analog tape, the results were of mixed quality and could not be edited. We still have some of those 20-year-old tapes around (we should digitize them), but unfortunately I think a few were taped over at some time in the past. Later, we bought a smaller handheld camcorder, which used the smaller VHS-C tapes and was more convenient to take on family outings. These too would not be editable unless digitized.

My very first digital camera had a primitive video capture capability of

320 x 240 with no audio, which was about half the 704 x 480 equivalent resolution of the camcorder NTSC video, but was much more convenient to carry. It still resulted in only video snippets of our lives being captured. Even after graduating in 2007 to a new digital camera with 640 x 480 video and sound, I only shot occasional video clips, and never tried to find a way to edit and combine them into a coherent video feature.

For my birthday late last year, my wife surprised me with a Panasonic SD40 HD video camcorder. It records HD video (1920 x 1080) in the AVCHD (Advanced Video Coding High Definition) file format. Depending on the card size, it can store hours of video on an internal SDHC memory card.

One of the first things I learned about shooting HD video with this camcorder is that I'm going to need more hard drives. I think I shoot a lot of digital photos, sometimes hundreds per month. Using my 12 Megapixel camera, this averages 5 MB per photo, I'm generating around 0.5 GB of new photos per month (assuming 100 photos), or 6 GB per year. I first used my new camcorder in earnest during family festivities on Christmas Day, and managed to fill up the 8 GB SD card that came with the camcorder that day.

If I hold my filming down to 16 GB of video per month, that means I'll generate nearly 200 GB of video data every year. How am I going to store it all?

The second thing I learned about shooting HD video is that not every computer can easily play it. I normally use my XP laptop PC to copy my still photos from memory cards to hard drive and to view them, so I plugged in the SDHC card from the camcorder. Unfortunately, I could not view the .MTS AVCHD video files with any program on that computer. When

I put the SD card in my wife's new Windows 7 laptop, I was able to play the files with Media Player. Score another one for Windows 7.

To make the 45 minute video on computer upgrading that was shown at our meeting last month, I started by shooting 51 video segments, totaling 5.7 GB. These included the introductions and descriptions I gave, the scenes of dis-assembly and modification of the computer, and the screen shots of the computer showing the results. A tripod proved essential in filming the scenes where I was talking, as I had to work with a film crew of only one (me). The camcorder's display can be flipped around to allow the subject of the video to see how they look on-screen. The tripod was also used in most of the shots where I was working on the computer, since it usually took two hands to do the work. I would set up the tripod and camcorder to give a good view of the hardware, and then start filming. I was not watching what was being filmed, but just made sure my activities stayed within what I understood was the field of view.

One of the filming mistakes I made was in sometimes not allowing enough "lead in" and "lead out" time at the beginning and end of the scenes. Excess footage can be trimmed, but you can't easily make more footage after filming is done.

I started shooting scenes before determining what program I would be using to edit the video, so I was not sure what editing capabilities I could count on. I was not sure the program I would use could add titles, so I printed titles on paper and held them up in front of the camcorder. I later found titles could be added using software, but not with the flexibility of my paper signs.

Although I had a couple of commercial video editing software packages available to install, I decided to initially try the editing software that came with the camcorder, Pana-

sonic's HD Writer LE 1.0. I installed it on my wife's laptop to make sure I'd have enough horsepower to do the video editing quickly.

I found the software would not recognize the raw video files I had copied from the SD memory card to the computer's hard drive. To use the captured video with this program, I had to connect the camcorder to the PC with the provided USB adapter cable and download the files from the camcorder through the program. The program had all the basic features I had seen in other video editing software. It allowed clips to be combined on a timeline, with a number of choices for transitions between scenes. Scenes could be edited for length, and basic titles could be added.

I chose the least flashy transitions and put the video segments together one by one. Because of the brief lead-ins I had shot, I could not add much in the way of additional titles, but fortunately the signs I had filmed worked well. I was concerned that 45 minutes

might be too long without a break, so I split the video into two 22 minute segments, allowing an intermission in between.

The program could convert the finished video to several different resolutions on DVD or Blu-Ray discs for playing on home players or computers.

'll try using one of my fancier video editing programs with this camcorder one day, but I found the Panasonic-provided software could turn out a good video.

Since making a coherent video out of the filmed segments I made was not too difficult, I'll probably try to make similar edited videos for all the events I film.

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When Traveling
by Elizabeth B. Wright, Member, Computer Club of Oklahoma City
www.ccokc.org   wright599new@sbcglobal.net

As the birds gather to plan their trip South for the winter, so do some of us. But what to take with us? Lighter weight clothing for that hoped for sunny climate, although experience tells us we can't really get far enough South in the continental USA to guarantee that. Maybe the mountains for skiing. But along with our necessities, some of us now take along our link to the world, our laptop computers.

Are you driving or flying? Either way, I have found that the smaller Netbook type computers are easier to carry. Even with accessories, they usually weigh less than laptops. And with the right add-ons, they can be every bit as useful as their larger cousins.

My accessory kit contains a USB connected 750G hard drive, very compact and light, a reduced size USB keyboard (easier to use than the netbook keyboard) and a small mouse. Of course you can tailor your kit to suit yourself.

When flying, in addition to the USB hard drive, I pack several USB flash drives, the higher capacity the better. Because part of traveling is the opportunity to take pictures, with digital cameras it is possible to download them to the external hard drive or to the flash drives in order to have backup copies of them. Many netbooks have rather smallish internal hard drives, so having extra storage capability is great.

Another advantage to the Netbook computers is the small size makes it easier to put them in a hotel room lockbox along with the USB flash drives and/or the USB external drive. The mouse will also fit, but the smaller size keyboard may not. But since the external keyboard is not essential to using your computer, you can better risk leaving it in your suitcase when out of the room. Nothing left in a hotel room is 100% safe, so keep that in mind.

The other great advantage to traveling with your computer is access to the internet. However there are some security risks involved with connecting to free Wi-Fi networks like those available in many restaurants, airports, hotels, etc. Take time to search the internet (from home) for information on how to best insulate your laptop from the bad guys.

Each computer is different and you will have to determine what will work best for you. Most netbooks and laptops now are built with Wi-Fi capability. This can be programmed to only connect when you tell it to. The default is usually to connect whenever it detects an open network. This can be risky.

Some networks are secured and require a password to connect, but others are open to the world. Before leaving home, check with whomever you know to be knowledgeable about securing your netbook/laptop while surfing the internet from free Wi-Fi locations.

Most of what I keep on my netbook is not particularly valuable to anyone but me, but there are some passwords which I would prefer to keep private. One bit of advice is to avoid transacting banking business or other financial business online from public Wi-Fi sites. The same source for this information, which was quoting the FBI, also said not to go onto the internet.

But mostly that is what we want to do when using our computers away from home. It does leave us in a bit of a pickle. Thousands of people at any given time are using these networks. Just go into any national bookstore chain that boasts a coffee shop and most of the tables will be filled with people working diligently on their computers.

As for passwords, the old advice to change them often is as valid today as in the past. Especially those used for accessing your email and other personal websites. A paper list of the email addresses you plan to contact while away from home or office is preferable to keeping the same list on your computer. I keep mine in the safest place I can manage, either the

hotel room lockbox or as close to my body as possible. Keeping it in a purse or billfold is risky, but if all else fails it beats leaving it lying around the hotel room. The main reason for making sure it is safeguarded is to keep it from prying eyes (including anyone who might just photograph your list and leave it where they found it). This step is a courtesy to your friends, relatives and business contacts that are on your list.

Happy Traveling….

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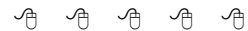
The Windows Recycle Bin

by Neil Stahfest, Vice President, Tacoma Area PC User Group, Washington
NCStahfest @msn.com   www.tapcug.org

In the days before Microsoft Windows, when we deleted a file the file was gone and the empty space on the disk was increased. Accidental file deletions could be a problem if you didn't have copies. Enter Peter Norton who created a powerful unerase program followed by a number of other similar programs. Norton Utilities was a must have software package for businesses and serious PC users.

With the release of Microsoft Windows, Microsoft introduced the "Recycle Bin". Now when you deleted a file it didn't really disappear off your disk. Windows simply changed the file location address from where ever the file was located (i.e. Pictures) to the Recycle Bin. If you discover that you really need a file you just deleted, all you have to do is double-click on the Recycle Bin, select the file or files you want to restore, click on it to select and then click on the Restore button. This causes Windows to change the file

address location back to what it was before you deleted the file.

Of course, you have a limited amount of space on your hard drive. By default 5% of your total hard drive space (i.e. 15 GB on a 300 GB drive) is allocated for the Recycle Bin. If you have more than one partition on your hard drive, each partition will have its own Recycle Bin. You can change the size of your Recycle Bin to make it bugger or smaller by right-clicking on the Recycle Bin and selecting "Properties". In the Recycle Bin Properties window, select the bin location for the partition you want to change and then enter the amount of space you want to reserve for the Recycle Bin.

Before we move on from the Recycle Bin Properties window, there is option that lets you delete files without sending them to the Recycle Bin. This will not delete your Recycle Bin and the amount of disk space it uses. It just allows you to erase files from your disk in one step (with no Recycle Bin

safety net). If you are annoyed by Windows asking you if you really want to move a file to the Recycle Bin, you can click to turn off the file delete confirmation dialog.

If you keep deleting files eventually you will fill up your Recycle Bin. At that point Windows will start to delete the oldest files in the Recycle Bin from your hard drive. Files deleted from the Recycle Bin are truly gone, creating empty space on your hard drive. Actually you may still be able to restore them with third party file un-erase programs but that's beyond the scope of this article.

So how do you create empty space on your hard drive by deleting files you no longer need? Well, start by deleting them (sending the files to the Recycle Bin). Then right click on the Recycle Bin and left click on "Empty Recycle Bin." The files are now gone and you have more space on your hard drive.

This brings up the question, should I periodically empty my Recycle Bin? That's really an individual choice but my experience has been when I accidentally delete a file I discover the mistake within minutes or at minutes or at most a few days of the deletion. I usually delete everything that has been in my Recycle Bin for more than a week.

You may wonder how you know how long a file has been in the Recycle Bin. When you open the Recycle Bin you may or may not see the date the file was deleted. If you do not, click on the small triangle in the upper right corner of the Recycle Bin window.

In the pop-up window that appears, select "Details" and now you should see the "Date Deleted" column.

The Recycle Bin is a pretty useful tool. You can use it as it comes, out of the box so to speak, or you can alter it to change its size to suite the way you work.

For more information click on the Windows Start button, select "Help and Support and type "Recycle Bin" in the search box.

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Coffee Shop Computer Etiquette
by Mark Tiongco   www.geeks.com

This Tech Tip is a list of experiences that I have found to be a hindrance but can otherwise be remedied for all you mobile tech commuters. Have you ever found yourself trying to get work done at a Starbucks/Panera Bread (or name your favorite go-to spot) but can't because some inconsiderate customer is making it difficult/impossible to get work done? Let's dive right in to what this article is all about, coffee shop etiquette!

This Tech Tip will help outline a general etiquette list so mobile tech commuters can share a common courtesy in this world filled with laptops, e-book readers and coffee shops.

1) Keep a power strip handy
Leave a power strip in the car or backpack as a contingency plan in case you walk into a coffee shop and see one power outlet with both plugs occupied. Offer to plug your power strip in; usually everyone is okay with it as many times there are 3-4 laptop users nearby who would like to charge their rigs. If you want to go compact, you can also find a 2-3 plug power strip and just keep it in your backpack/ notebook bag/man-purse.

2) Offer your power outlet to someone who needs it
And the majority of us hardly ever allow our notebooks/tablets to completely discharge, never mind that virtually all notebooks built today average at least 3-4 hours of battery life. (plenty of time to get important work done!) The interesting thing is that computer makers have listened to repeated consumer demand of more bat-

tery life (many average 7-10 hrs. run time) but unfortunately this still happens. So if you find yourself fully charged and not planning on camping out, offer it to that fellow laptop user who might be running on battery fumes.

3) Offer part of your medium (or large) table to someone else
Yes I know this is America and it's all about space but if you were the unlucky soul to walk into a completely full coffee house, wouldn't you feel good knowing someone is willing to share his/her table? We gotta help each other out!

4) Invest in a notebook cooler or lap desk
If you arrive at a busy coffee shop and find the only option is a love seat or couch, you'll feel better knowing you won't burn your naughty bits and thus protect future generations.

5) Understand Your Notebook's Power Capabilities and Settings
Assuming the coffee shop you walk into is full of selfish and unforgiving souls (yes, I have encountered them myself!), knowing your notebook's power capabilities enables you to adapt accordingly to still get work done... For example, I know my notebook has an approximate battery life of 5 hours but when I have had to work on battery mode due to lack of available outlets, I instinctively know to dim the LCD screen and throttle down the CPU to extend battery life since I know sometimes I might be there for at least 5 hours.

6) Pick up a tablet PC

If you find that your purposes for lugging around a traditional-sized notebook are for leisurely email checking, casual web browsing and music, a tablet PC might be appropriate for you. With the explosion of tablets such as the Samsung Galaxy Tab, Motorola Xoom and even the super-duper popular Apple iPad, these slim devices can do many simple everyday computing tasks but can fit in a carrying sleeve or small messenger bag. In addition to the weight reduction, a tablet PC's perks include not requiring you to wait during start up (instant on OS!), not having to find a table and pull out/ lug around a power adapter, and can last virtually the entire day on a single charge. However as a disclaimer, I am not suggesting you ditch your notebook computer in favor of a tablet PC but simply that they complement each other depending on the task that needs to be done.

7) Don't be a Squatter!

I'm sure everyone has been hearing about Starbucks' recent issues with Squatters; these are Starbucks customers who buy a cup of coffee and then occupy a table/power outlet with their laptop and basically camp out for countless hours. While I do agree this is technically legal since SBUX offers free Wi-Fi for customers, they have the right to limit use such as covering up power outlets and eventually offer your seat to other paying customers. Out of courtesy and basic respect to your fellow commuters, you should budget your time, get your work done, and then relinquish your seat for the person who needs a table to get work done (just as you probably did before him/her). However, if you insist on camping out for the entire day at Starbucks, the least you can do is buy more than a cup of coffee every 2-3 hours as a sign of good faith that you're not a moocher.

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A Tablet Love Affair

by Roger Carlyle, Member, Cajun Clickers Computer Club, LA
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Last year, like many folks, I thought Tablets were just a passing fad – used mostly by people who liked to play games, get recipes, or do online shopping. I was from the old school and staunchly declared that nothing could replace the desktop or laptop computer.

Any other form of computers were mere toys. Then it happened ever so subtly. I was slowly exposed to the Tablets. First seeing news media use them on national news shows and then an occasional Apple geek using them at local coffee shops. Curiosity got the best of me and I found myself reading more and more about Tablets. First on the internet and then seeing advertisements in local newspapers and on websites such as CNET, ZDNET, Newegg, etc. As I user of an iPod I soon realized the power and versatility of the Tablet . . . . and I fell in love and I wanted one.

After reading numerous tablet reviews and talking to several different tablet brand owners, I settled on getting an iPad 2 (lousy timing on my part - - the New iPad was released three weeks after I purchased my iPad 2). Mostly because at the time Apple was the clear leader in Tablet technology and the number of Apps available for the iPad.

Another reason for choosing the iPad was for its 10" screen size. I wanted the larger screen for viewing videos and typing with the onscreen keyboard is much easier than on the smaller Tablet screens. Right out of the box it was love at first sight. I turned it on and found the initial setup to be very easy to use. Even a very novice computer user would find the setup and initial operation easy to follow.

I soon found myself settling into my plush reclining easy chair where I began exploring all the Apps available at the App Store. A large variety of Apps are free or .99¢ at the App Store. I was soon exploring the Internet, using email, taking pictures and making movies all with my new found tablet. I literally could not find anything that I could not do on my new Tablet that I did on my desktop computer. As a matter of fact there were things I could do on the Tablet that I could not do with my desktop. The only thing I go back to my desktop PC for is where heavy keyboard usage is required, such as
Producing the Cajun Clickers newsletter or doing intensive input into an Excel spreadsheet, etc.

Has owning a Tablet changed my life? Yes! I rarely get out of my plush recliner to go to my desktop PC. I do online shopping, check bank accounts, send videos to my distant friends and relatives, view live radar weather reports, read newspapers such as the
Advocate, find recipes for my wife, read iBooks, and much, much more with my new iPad Tablet. And I can take it with me anywhere I go.

Based on personal experience and from the reviews I've read recently, my choice for a Tablet would be either the New iPad or the Samsung Galaxy Tab 10.1. Both are top performers and get five star reviews.

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WYSIWYG WEB WATCH (www)

By Paul Baecker

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

Collection of articles and photography of New York City architects and architecture, both contemporary and historical. Of special interest: "World Trade Center Timeline". Or select the "Site Map" button.
http://nyc-architecture.com

Free and open-source e-book library management application developed by users of e-books for users of e-books.
http://calibre-ebook.com

Be cautious when requesting free credit score reports, when so many sources just want access to your personal info. This site offers collection of articles/links on credit, identity theft, web safety, bankruptcy, more. Select 'Additional Resources'.
http://www.creditscore.net

Many Windows 7 Command Prompt commands are similar to classic MS-DOS commands. Here is a list of those Windows 7 CP commands. The list notes those which do not work in 64-bit Windows 7.
http://pcsupport.about.com/od/commandlinereference/tp/windows-7-commands-p1.htm

Free utility displays the list of all device drivers currently loaded on your system in one view. Add this to your PC toolbox.
http://www.nirsoft.net/utils/driverview.html

View historical maps from international locations. Site overlays old maps onto satellite maps for comparison. Discover redirected rivers and shorelines, growing metropolitan areas, more. View "Collection Tour" video and "View Collection" tab.
http://www.davidrumsey.com

Thousands of crafts, patterns, recipes and tips to help with everyday living. Cleaning and household tips, crafts, gardening, free printables and paper crafts, more.
http://tipnut.com

Type the numbers 1-100 as fast as you can. Use digits, not letters, in this timed test.
http://www.jetpunk.com/quizzes/fast-typing-to-hundred-quiz.php

Map shows real-time (updated every 30 seconds) positions of 13,000 satellites around the Earth. (Download requested plug-in for viewing.)
http://www.gearthblog.com/satellites.html

Fifty lessons to learn common Japanese expressions. Download lessons and text accompaniment.
http://www3.nhk.or.jp/lesson/english/download/

Create containers to categorize any kind of file and document as well as folders and bookmarks for quick finding and sorting. Watch intro video. Download 'Home Edition' for free version.
http://tabbles.net

Free tool to check documents for plagiarism.
http://www.scanmyessay.com

Pages of global charts comparing taxes, capitals, disease, energy, forestation, traffic, bribery, and so much more.
http://chartsbin.com

Site tracks live plane locations around the globe. View individual plane name, identification, position, callsign, status, course, and lots more.
http://planefinder.net

Public reference site for spyware and malware research, details about spyware, adware and their behaviors, all compiled in an extensive updated database. Start with "Access the Guide".
http://www.spywareguide.com

Mint is an Ubuntu-based Linux distribution whose goal is to provide a more complete out-of-the-box experience for simpler installation and use.
http://linuxmint.com

Crossword puzzle game that tells you which letters to use. Game gets progressively more difficult.
http://www.gamedesign.jp/flash/crossword/crossword.html

Site provides helpful accurate information on most commonly used drugs and medications in easily understood manner.
http://www.drugsdb.com

Free screen-reader talking software for people with little or no sight. Available in a dozen languages.
http://www.screenreader.net

Take a BMW M3 out for a spin on the Nürburgring Grand Prix circuit. Use mouse, keyboard or steering wheel hardware for control.
http://www.bmw.com/com/en/newvehicles/mseries/m3coupe/2007/experience/game/content.html