

Nybbles & Bytes



www.neopc.org

Voice: 216-521-2907

September 2010 . . . Volume 26, 12

Elaine Szaniszlo, Editor

A MEMORIAL TRIBUTE

It was with sadness that we learned of the sudden death of David A. Vydra, NEOPC newsletter editor. Dave had been editor of "Nybbles & Bytes" for almost two years. In addition, he had been active in NEOPC for many years.

You may remember Dave partnering with Lee Gerber at the Q&A Programs at the NEOPC general meetings and also at the Day Fundamentals programs. He volunteered with the Computer Training Program for 10 years at the Fairview Park Senior Center. He provided much of the information for the club's FORUM/USER GROUP "Stuff is Happening" on the NEOPC website. He was also an active member of the NEOPC Steering Committee.

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"CHRISTMAS IN JULY" MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

We had another successful membership drive as part of our "Christmas in July" promotion. Take a look at the "Financial Report" shown on the Website for the facts regarding this effort. Thank you for your continued support.

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On August 5, 2010 the NEOPC Steering Committee voted to renew an age-old tradition of reciting the Pledge of Allegiance at the commencement of all our business meetings. To help you recall it, we have printed the words below.

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands: one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

CAN YOU REALLY WATCH FREE TV ON YOUR PC? - by Ira Wilsker

You may have seen ads on the internet or TV indicating you can watch free TV on the internet, and you do not need cable or satellite to watch thousands of channels. Some even say to cancel your cable or satellite, and use the free services. Several others advertise software or hardware devices (for a fee) that allow you to watch hundreds of TV channels online for free. There are even websites that allow you to watch TV in your browser or on your desktop, either for free, or for a subscription fee.

COMPARISON TO CABLE OR SATELLITE

While these are generally real, they should not be confused with the selection of channels available on your local cable system or satellite service as they usually do not offer the major commercial channels, and rarely offer the major local channels. Some services, generally overseas, offer illegally pirated feeds for a fee, and should always be avoided. Other services, such as the well respected hulu (hulu.com) legitimately offer thousands of already broadcast and older TV shows and movies provided by the networks and movie studios that are advertiser supported (for free), or without commercials (by subscription, sometimes for a fee).

TWO FREE SERVICES

One service that I frequently use is TV-Fox, or its sister product, LIVE TV. The selection of channels on LIVE TV is virtually identical to those on TV-Fox. Alternatively, for those who do not want to download a toolbar or plug-in, these same channels can be viewed directly online at watch-live-online.tv. You may need Windows Media Player (or a similar compatible player) to view these stations.

REFERENCE WEBSITES:

<http://toolbar.tv-fox.com>

<http://www.watch-live-online.tv> (Live TV)

<http://www.hulu.com>

FIREFOX PLUG-IN

TV-Fox is a free plug-in for the Firefox browser (toolbar.tv-fox.com), and currently offers "2780 Live TV Channels sorted by country and category. TV-Fox allows you to watch thousands of TV channels freely available on the internet." It is installed as a short toolbar, and includes a pair of directories that display the available channels.

ACCESS 100 COUNTRIES

The first icon (purple) opens a directory containing a listing of about 100 countries; moving the mouse cursor over the country displays the currently available TV stations that stream online. A circle icon with a right arrow (triangle) next to the station indicates it is always online; a small clock means that the station is only available for specific hours. Be aware of the time differences around the world, as what is prime time in the Mideast, for example, may be early morning here.

While I enjoy watching live foreign TV, I do not understand all the languages, so I prefer the English language stations. Under the listing for the United States are approximately 60 stations, all but a few being broadcast in English.

The second icon (green) on the TV-Fox toolbar opens a directory based on genre:

- ◆ 36 news sources from about 20 different countries, many of which are in English.
- ◆ 28 stations with sports from 24 countries.
- ◆ 50 TV stations that stream music.
- ◆ 19 business channels, including Bloomberg-UK, Bloomberg-Asia, and Bloomberg-USA, CNBC and NBR.
- ◆ 12 channels for children, including 2 cartoon channels.
- ◆ 22 movie channels listed, of which 8 are from the US, and include sci-fi, comedy classics and thrillers.

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CHANGE THE FONT TO SAVE MONEY -

By DINESH RAMDE, AP Writer

Here's a way to save some money this year: Change the font in the documents you print. Because different fonts require different amounts of ink to print, you could be buying new printer cartridges less often if you printed in Century Gothic rather than Arial. Schools and businesses could save thousands of dollars with font changes.

College Saves Money

Data on the subject from printer.com, a Dutch company that evaluates printer attributes, persuaded the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay to use Century Gothic for all printed documents. The school also plans to change its e-mail system so it uses Century Gothic. The school of 6,500 students spends about \$100,000 per year on ink and toner cartridges. The university expects to save \$5,000 to \$10,000 per year with the font switch.

Most Ink-Friendly Fonts

When printer.com tested popular fonts for their ink-friendly ways, Century Gothic and Times New Roman topped the list. Calibri, Verdana, Arial and Sans Serif were next, followed by Trebuchet, Tahoma and Franklin Gothic Medium. Century Gothic uses about 30 percent less ink than Arial.

The amount of ink a font drains is mainly driven by the thickness of its lines. A font with "narrow" or "light" in its name is usually better than its "bold" or "black" counterpart, a Hewlett-Packard researcher reported. Also, serif fonts — those with short horizontal lines at the top and bottom of characters — tend to use thinner lines and thus less ink than a "sans serif" counterpart.

But Will You Save Paper?

But while using less ink at home can help you buy roughly one fewer printer cartridge

each year, it's not necessarily better for the environment. That's because some fonts that use less ink, including Century Gothic, are also wider. A document that's one page in Arial could extend to a second page if printed in Century Gothic.

"Maybe the individual characters use less ink, but if you're using more paper, that's not so green, is it?" said Allan Haley, director of "words and letters" at Monotype Imaging Inc. in Woburn, Mass., which developed Century Gothic.

Also, Century Gothic was designed for limited blocks of text such as titles and headlines, not for full documents, said Haley. Despite printer.com's research and UW-Green Bay's experience, Haley said he still recommends Times New Roman or Arial for their readability.

Printing Tips

The standard advice for trimming printing expenses still applies:

- ◆ Print in "draft mode," if you can.
- ◆ Use both sides of a page
- ◆ Do a print preview to make sure you're not printing pages with useless text such as a copyright line.

And the greenest way to save on ink is not to print at all. That's the philosophy Microsoft Corp. said it uses in deciding which fonts to include in its Outlook and Word applications. "The more pleasing a font looks on the screen, the less tempted someone will be to print," said Simon Daniels, a program manager for Microsoft's typography group. That's why the company changed its defaults in Office 2007 from Arial and Times New Roman to Calibri and Cambria. "We're trying to move the threshold of when people hit the print button."

Article contributed by Elaine Szaniszlo

AFFILIATES PROGRAM EXPANDING

- by Dick Rose

I want to draw your attention to the Financial Report on the website - specifically to the url:

<http://www.neopc.org/Financial.asp>

Note the category "Affiliates" and the "Year to Date" column. The revenue we receive from the program is significant, thanks to all of you who use the "Buy Online" segment of the website. When you find your way to a purchase point via the links we provide any purchase you make is coded to provide a small commission to NEOPC. The amount shown in the "Report" represents many small amounts accumulated to date - keep it up folks.

If you check out the url:

http://www.neopc.org/Affiliates_Since.asp you will notice that your webmaster has been busy arranging new agreements with a number of Google merchants. Keep your eye on this webpage often to see any new arrangements with merchants of your choice. Then follow the links to those sites and make your purchase.

CHECK OUT THESE WEBSITES

See where you used to live

Type in a former address (or even a current address) and see what comes up.

<http://www.vpike.com/>

Dog tricks

Type in a command and watch the dog perform. This is amazing. How does that work?

http://www.idodogtricks.com/index_flash.html

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A MEMORIAL TRIBUTE

He was very knowledgeable and kept up-to-date on the latest viruses, maintenance software and computer repair, and willingly shared his expertise with club members. He was a Microsoft Certified Tech (Expert level) and also the webmaster for a Naval site.

Dave was the loving father of Michael (Sandy), Paul, Sean, and Danette; dearest grandfather of Michael, Jr., Matthew, Nicholas and Samuel; brother of Maryann Ross, James (Marilyn), and Victor (Barbara); U.S. Navy Veteran. Services were held at Ripepi Funeral Home in Parma on August 3 and burial was at the Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery.

HOW TO..... CHANGE FONTS:

(See related article on page 3)

1. At top of screen (in Word or Excel), the font being used should show in a box at top left. If you click on the down arrow in the box, you will see the choices of fonts.
2. Try out one of the fonts by selecting it and then typing a few words. If you like it, then change the font on your document as follows:
3. To change a font in the present document, highlight the entire document (Control-A or "Select All" under "Edit [in Windows XP] or "Select All " [in box on extreme right at top in Office 2007.]
4. Select the chosen font from the box to see the result. If you like it, then unclick the highlighted area and the entire document font will change.
5. Change the font size in the same way.

WHAT'S HAPPENING—COMING EVENTS

09/08	Northeast Ohio PC Club (NEOPC) General Meeting held at Westlake Porter Public Library-27333 Center Ridge Rd., Westlake, OH. Agenda: 6:30pm-Social (Pastries & Beverages); 7:00pm Club Announcements; 7:15pm- Main Program "Web Browsers" by Dennis Lewis. Dennis's talk includes Microsoft Explorer, Firefox, Chrome and others.
09/14	Northeast Ohio PC Club ***MORNING Fundamentals Special Interest Group*** (SIG). Fairview Park Senior Center 9:30 - 11:30am. Fundamentals of computer use - OPEN FORUM - Any and all topics discussed - Bring a question, bring a topic - Guests always welcome - Always coffee. Always free and open to the public. Second Tuesday of the month.
09/15	Ladies Only Special Interest Group meeting. Welcome back! Hope you had a great summer, even though the heat and humidity tried to wilt us. Our next meeting will be at Westlake Porter Public Library from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm. The Library is located at 27333 Center Ridge Road, Westlake, Ohio. All ladies are invited, whether or not members of Northeast Ohio PC Club (NEOPC). Come with your questions and/or comments about software you have.
09/22	NEOPC / CAGG Computer Class Orientation meeting, September 22nd, 10:00 am, Fairview Park Senior Center. Anyone of senior age can enjoy these FREE classes conducted by volunteers of NEOPC and CAGG. You or your family members who qualify must attend one of these Orientation Meetings to establish your interest and to be included in class invitations. Merely show up to get started.
09/28	Northeast Ohio PC Club ***EVENING Fundamentals Special Interest Group*** (SIG). NO MEETINGS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

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WATCH FREE TV ON YOUR PC?

- ◆ 24 religious TV channels
- ◆ 27 educational channels available, many from major universities around the world
- ◆ 22 shopping channels, including 6 American shopping channels
- ◆ 14 weather channels, including 9 American
- ◆ Live webcams available on TV-Fox include such diverse places as Times Square (NYC), the Hogs Breath Saloon in Florida, other US locations, and France, Germany, Nepal, Israel, Japan, the Netherlands, Poland, Russia Switzerland.

Article contributed by Dick Rose

NEOPC GENERAL MEETING PROGRAM SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>2010 Programs</u>
September 8	“Web Browsers” by Dennis Lewis. Dennis’s talk includes Explorer, Firefox, Chrome and others.
October 13	“Westlake Porter Public Library / Overdrive System” by Dan Stasiewski / Overdrive. Dan will discuss the Free E-book, Audiobook, Music and Video downloads at Westlake Porter Public Library.
	<u>Proposed Programs</u>
November 10	"How to Use Quicken" by Ian Abbott. Ian's talk includes using Quicken for banking, investments records and Federal Income Taxes and more...
December 8	“Digital Photography" by Todd Johnson. Todd's talk includes "Tips and Tricks" on taking better pictures.



2009-2010 Board of Directors (Elected Officers)

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1st Vice President: Jim McIntyre	440-356-3210	jpmcintyre@prodigy.net
2nd Vice President: Dick Rose	440-331-4072	dtrose@cox.net
3rd Vice President: Jim Monica	216-521-8810	jlmonica@aol.com
Treasurer: Ed Singler	440-933-2526	esing@oh.rr.com
Secretary: Carol Romano	440-835-3501	cromano5556@wowway.com
Member at Large: Mario Romano	440-835-3501	mromano0648@wowway.com