

Nybbles & Bytes



www.neopc.org

August 2011

Voice: 216-759-3713

Elaine Szaniszlo, Editor

August General Meeting

Wednesday August 10, 2011

Westlake Porter Public Library

27333 Center Ridge Road, Westlake, OH

Please join us as we welcome back "Mr. Inkman" by Dave Kluter and learn how to save money purchasing ink for printers. Dave will discuss ink cartridges by printer brand, and also pros and cons of refilling your own cartridges. He will also provide inside advice on the ink refill industry and will make the presentation helpful so we all will leave knowing more than we knew before we came.

Come early at 6:30pm for the social (including refreshments), followed by Club announcements at 7:00pm. The main program begins at 7:15pm.

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UPDATE YOUR MICROSOFT SOFTWARE

By Dick Maybach,

Brookdale Computer Users Group, NJ

If you use MS Windows, it's important that you keep all your Microsoft software up-to-date. Most PCs use MS software, and this makes them the most attractive targets for attack. Don't think that installing an anti-virus program and a firewall provide sufficient safety. Some attackers exploit flaws in your operating system or its applications, and the only defense is to correct the flaws. You must rely on your software vendors to do this, and the most important of these is Microsoft.

The two most common programs to keep MS software updated are *Windows Update* and the newer *Microsoft Update*. I prefer the latter, since it maintains all Microsoft software, not just Windows. **(If your PC has just Windows Update, read carefully when you run it and you will find a link to install the newer utility.)**

With both Microsoft Update and Windows Update it is important to use the correct update strategy. You can find what your PC is using by going to the Control Panel, then to Security (the exact title varies with the particular version of Windows), and finally to Updates (again the exact title varies). You will see several options, among them are (1) install automatically at a fixed time every day, (2) download automatically, but not install, and (3) neither download nor install, but just notify you that updates are available.

The problem with (1) is the fixed time. If you choose something like 2 a.m., it is unlikely that

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UPDATE MICROSOFT SOFTWARE

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your PC will be on, and updates will never be installed. If you choose a time when you usually are using your PC, the update process will slow it down, perhaps for an extended time. Option (2) is less intrusive, but you must remember to install the downloaded updates. I prefer (3), because I can see what the updates are before they happen and can choose a time to do them. If you also take this approach, don't put off the updates, because your PC is vulnerable until they are complete.

Be careful not to turn off your PC during the update process. Windows is supposed to survive this, but a friend had to reinstall Windows from scratch, because she became impatient. This is easy to do; a recent update for XP required two hours to complete. I am even reluctant to do any other computing while a patch is in progress. This is probably being over-cautious, but the consequences of a problem here are ugly. **This hazard is also a good reason to do your updates manually;** that way you know when they take place. If they happen automatically, you may not realize they are in progress. Finally, if you patch manually, you can make a system backup prior to each one, which lets you recover with minimum fuss if disaster strikes.

Microsoft usually releases security patches on the second Tuesday of each month, with the result that this is called "Patch Tuesday." Some "people" immediately analyze the patches so they can develop malware to exploit the flaws they correct on PCs that haven't yet been patched. Their goal is to release this malware within a day, so **"Exploit Wednesday" follows Patch Tuesday.** This makes it important that you apply patches as soon as possible. Sometimes the bad guys find a flaw before Microsoft releases a patch. If they develop a program to exploit it, it's called a "Zero day exploit," and you have to rely on your anti-malware software, your firewall, and luck for defense.

While most operating systems are updated by replacing entire modules, Microsoft appears to attach patches to the existing modules. When the module is executed, your PC jumps to the patch and then back to the module. As a result, as these patches

accumulate, you slowly lose disk space and your computer becomes slower. I still use XP, which now has about ten years of patches, and it's slowed to a stately tectonic speed. I've also had to remove a substantial amount of software to free disk space. (What was a huge disk ten years ago is quite cramped today.) **For this reason, when you review the available downloads from Microsoft, of course install the essential patches, but be reluctant to download any new software unless you are really sure you will use it.**

After hearing about the potential problems associated with updates, you might prefer to avoid them, but this would be a big mistake. So long as you are careful, the risks are minimal.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF E-MAIL

Four decades ago, Ray Tomlinson sent a meaningless series of letters that read "QWERTYUIOP" from one computer to another next to it in the same office. At the time it was a development significant only to Mr. Tomlinson and a handful of computer programmer colleagues working for US-based BBN Technologies.

The then 30-year-old Amsterdam-born MIT graduate had such little expectation for his creation that he did not even keep the first message. Also, the first virus was created 40 years ago. Source:

<http://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/2011/06/08/the-e-mail-celebrates-its-40th-anniversary-91466-28839463/#ixzz1STX95rww>

Today, over 80% of e-mail is SPAM (not surprising!). See maps on page 6 for sources of SPAM and targets for phishing.

Source of maps:

http://www.symantec.com/content/en/us/enterprise/other_resources/b-state_of_spam_and_phishing_report_03-2011.en-us.pdf

DO YOU LOVE-OR HATE-YOUR COMPUTER?

For all of us who feel only the deepest love and affection for the way computers have enhanced our lives, read on. At a recent computer expo (COMDEX), Bill Gates reportedly compared the computer industry with the auto industry and stated, 'If Ford had kept up with technology like the computer industry has, we would all be driving \$25 cars that got 1,000 miles to the gallon.'

In response to Bill's comments, Ford issued a press release stating:

If Ford had developed technology like Microsoft, we would all be driving cars with the following characteristics (and I just love this part):

1. For no reason whatsoever, your car would crash.....Twice a day.
- 2.. Every time they repainted the lines in the road, you would have to buy a new car.
- 3... Occasionally your car would die on the freeway for no reason. You would have to pull to the side of the road, close all of the windows, shut off the car, restart it, and reopen the windows before you could continue. For some reason you would simply accept this.
4. Occasionally, executing a maneuver such as a left turn would cause your car to shut down and refuse to restart, in which case you would have to reinstall the engine.
5. Macintosh would make a car that was powered by the sun, was reliable, five times as fast and twice as easy to drive - but would run on only five percent of the roads.
6. The oil, water temperature, and alternator warning lights would all be replaced by a single 'This Car Has Performed An Illegal Operation' warning light.

I love the next one!!!

7. The airbag system would ask 'Are you sure?' before deploying.
8. Occasionally, for no reason whatsoever, your car would lock you out and refuse to let you in until you simultaneously lifted the door handle, turned the key and grabbed hold of the radio antenna.
9. Every time a new car was introduced car buyers would have to learn how to drive all over again because none of the controls would operate in the same manner as the old car.
10. You'd have to press the 'Start' button to turn the engine off.

PS - I'd like to add that when all else fails, you could call 'customer service' in some foreign country and be instructed in some foreign language how to fix your car yourself!!!!

Please share this with your friends who love - but sometimes hate - their computer!

Submitted by Louise Martynowski

DO YOU AGREE?

Computers make it easier to do a lot of things, but most of the things they make it easier to do don't need to be done.~Andy Rooney

SOME INTERESTING WEBSITES

How small are we? Check it out.

<http://i.imgur.com/HkWEf.jpg>

Hubble Telescope—The HubbleSite has tons and tons of photos that will keep you rooted to your seat. You can enjoy the site from your PC or download one of its apps to your mobile device.

<http://www.hubblesite.org>

FORUM TIPS by Dick Rose**Re: Subscribing to Email distribution of TOPIC activity.**

The "email notify" feature of our FORUM is not utilized as much as it should be. Here are the steps to set up your account to appreciate this convenience:

1. Login to the FORUM at <http://www.neopc.org/forum/> using your NEOPC Club security codes.
2. Click on "Settings" on the upper menu.
3. On the right side there is a "email notify" button - click on it.
4. At the bottom of the next screen you will see a section titled "Subscribe to email notification of new Posts"
5. In the text block there is a down-arrow at the right end - click on it.
6. Select "Weekly Trivia" and click on the "Submit" button.
7. You will note that now appears above in the "FORUMS that you have subscribed to"
8. If there are any other Forums you wish to subscribe to merely repeat the steps 4 thru 7 above.
9. Any new posts that are entered in the Forums you have subscribed to will then show up in your normal mailbox even though you are not logged into the FORUM.
10. This is ideal for those of you who want to get a "heads up" on "Molly's Weekly Trivia" contest.

Note that after you had subscribed to a number of items there are small square boxes at the far right - if you click on any of these a check mark appears within the box. Then click on the "Unsubscribe" button below the boxes and the item disappears.

**MORE ON CLOUD COMPUTING**

The June issue of Nybbles & Bytes contained an article about Cloud Computing. We received the following from our members.

There is a big buzz out there about "Cloud Computing," the idea of putting your files into storage on the Internet in a "cloud." It is supposed to be cheaper, easier and quicker. On the other hand, you do not have total control over your files. (They are someplace else.) If the net/server goes down, you lose access, Cloud providers promise security but hackers have been know to get into almost anything (look at the recent assault on banks, credit cards and the Pentagon). The only way to be sure your information is safe is to keep it on site with decent virus and spyware protection.

(Submitted by John Dailey)

ALSO (From another member): "Fifty-three percent of 1,200 federal and other IT managers don't trust cloud security and nearly half prefer private clouds, dedicated to one agency and sometimes lodged within that agency's own IT system." *Federal Times*, July 18, 2011, pg. 13.

The Energy Dept. national labs in the past three months had at least three cyber attacks that put unclassified data at risk. The Washington-based Pacific Northwest National Lab defends against 4 million attempts per day, such as spam and phishing attacks, to exploit any weaknesses in its networks. *Federal Times*, July 18, 2011, pg. 16.

ULTRACOMPUTERS IN OUR FUTURE?

By Dick Ramette, President, Computer Club of Green Valley, AZ, Summer 2011 issue, Green Bytes-ccgv.apcug.org
Rwramette (at) mindspring.com

I'm still gob smacked by Time Magazine's Feb. 21 cover article, "2045 - The Year Man Becomes Immortal." Since these ideas have been around a few years I'm surprised to be surprised.

Just imagine - according to this vision, in a few decades ultracomputers and human brains will be at one with each other. Our descendants will be able to live free of disease, in regenerated bodies of any desired condition, until they're ready to "log out." All this will follow explosive advances in GNR (genetics, nanotechnology and robotics). If you missed this, you can read it online at: <http://www.time.com/time/health/article/0,8599,2048138,00.html>

Unfortunately, this online version omits a truly exciting graphical summary of computer evolution since 1900 and projections to 2045, which you can find at: <http://www.time.com/time/interactive/0,31813,2048601,00.html>

The recognized guru for this prognostication is Ray Kurzweil who, at age five had the idea he would become an inventor. He holds 39 patents and 19 honorary doctorates. He received the National Medal of Technology in 1999 from President Clinton, and is called by Bill Gates "the best person I know at predicting the future of artificial intelligence."

Singularitarianism is a matter of understanding, not of faith. However, its "bible" is Kurzweil's 2005 book, "The Singularity is Near:

DEFINITION OF THE MONTH:

IMHO is an acronym, abbreviation or slang word which means "In My Humble Opinion" (sometimes In My Honest Opinion). For 6,952 more internet slang definitions, check

<http://www.internetslang.com/IMHO.asp>

When Humans Transcend Biology (Amazon, paper, \$13.78) the title invoking both curiosity and apprehension. By "Singularity" Kurzweil means the achievement of highly advanced human capabilities through interfaces between the human brain and supercomputers that exceed today's capabilities by factors of billions. We will "reverse engineer" the brain. On p. 127: "Ultimately, we will be able to port our mental processes to a more suitable computational substrate. Then our minds won't have to stay so small."

Bloodstreams will be suffused with swarming nanobots that fix all sorts of ills, receiving wireless instructions to eradicate diseases, including the disease of aging. By "Near," he means within our grown children's lifetimes. "Immortal" includes the possibility that human brains and minds will be uploaded and stored digitally, as well as living indefinitely in perfect health.

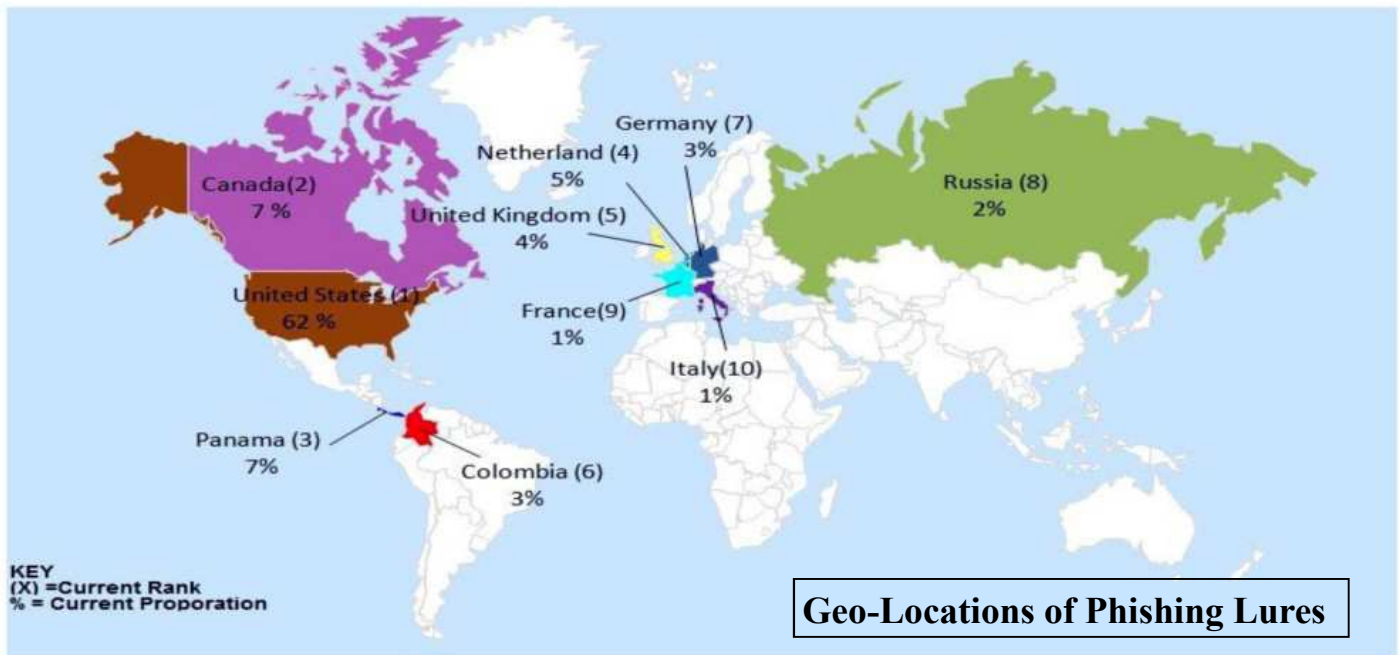
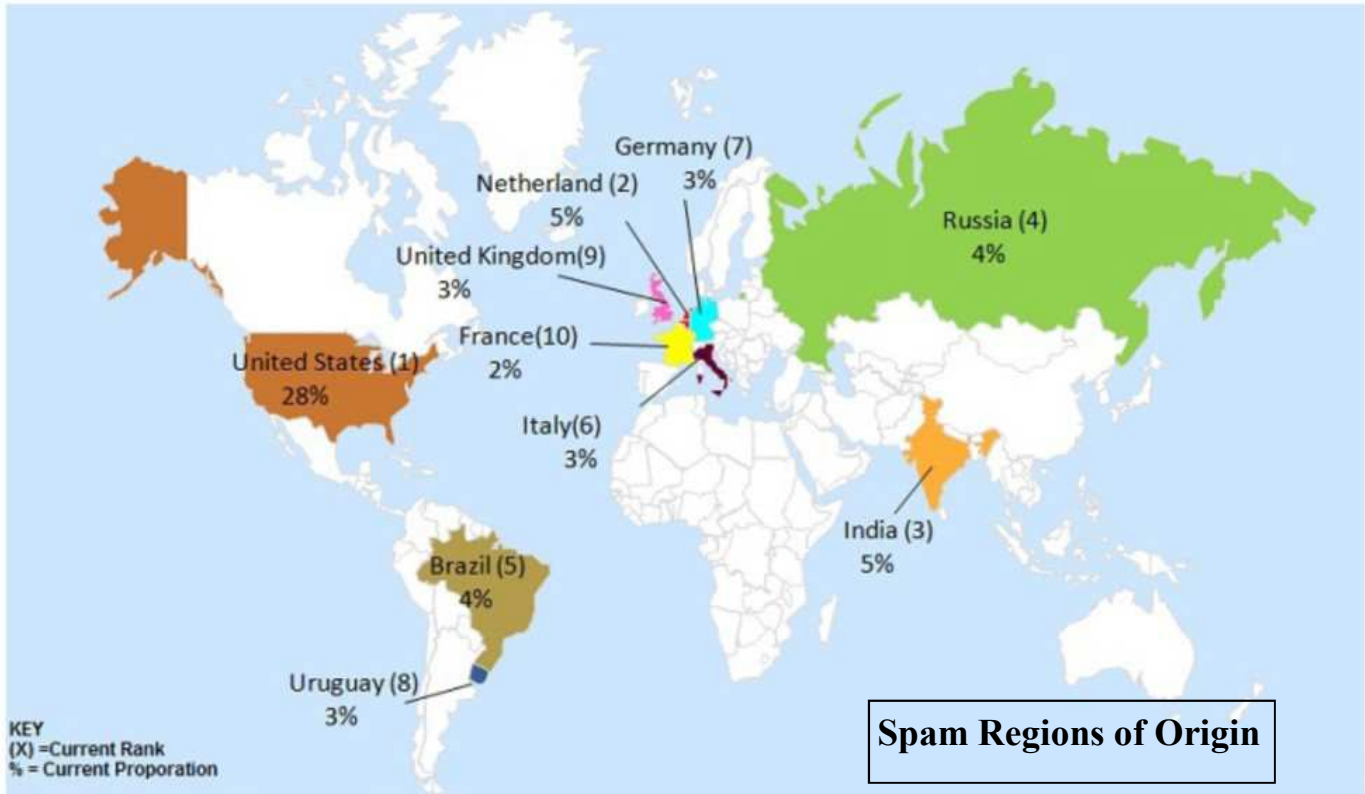
In early chapters Kurzweil summarizes the evidence that all the key factors in technology are racing toward the future at a steadily increasing rate. Human beings have evolved to think linearly, and therefore greatly underestimate the power of exponential changes that will affect us profoundly, naively dismissing them as "Not anytime soon!" IMHO, those who have not read the book should be reticent about expressing opinions.

I think CCGV members (club writer belongs to) will find *The Singularity is Near* fascinating, even though most of us will miss the predicted excitement. You can find a Wikipedia article on *Singularitarianism*, here: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Singularitarianism>

But, oh, what big questions come to mind. If one's life ends only by accident, murder or suicide, what will that mean for retirement, birth rate and population? In a world that offers perfect virtual reality will anyone bother with movies, restaurants, cruise ships, football games, or recreational sex?"

Will nations accept world government by artificial intelligence, or will there be international

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Have you ever wondered where that SPAM and unsolicited phishing email originates?

IS THERE A TABLET PC IN YOUR FUTURE?

By Sandy Berger, Compu-KISS

www.compukiss.com

Apple's iPad tablets are flying off the shelves and many competitors are introducing similar tablets. Here's a brief synopsis of the tablet situation and what it means to you.

In just nine months in 2010, Apple sold more than 15 million iPads. In the first month of sales, the iPad 2 sold millions more. According to some industry experts, the iPad is the fastest growing new product in history. Perhaps, though, the most important thing about the iPad is that it has ushered in a new era in computing. Steve Jobs calls it the Post PC age.

Although I agree that this is a new era in computing, there is nothing Post PC about it. The iPods, iPhones, and iPads that Mr. Jobs is talking about, all run on computer processor chips. They all perform functions that are similar to those performed by computers.

No, this is not the Post PC era. Rather, it is the era of ubiquitous computing. If you look up the word "ubiquitous," you will find that it means omnipresent, pervasive, permeating, universal, and ever-present. This is what mobile devices like the iPhone and especially the iPad bring to us.

I expect that tablet PCs like the iPad will continue to grow in popularity. Although as of this moment, no other manufacturer has yet been able to equal the design, implementation, and price point that Apple has set, the march of the tablets has only just begun. There is plenty of competition in the making. Apple boasted 9.5 billion in revenue from the iPad in the last nine months of 2010, so everyone else is hurrying to get their version of the tablet PC to market.

Motorola recently released the Xoom, an Android tablet that is a competitive but pricey

alternative to the iPad. Research in Motion, the creators of the BlackBerry, released their tablet called the Playbook in April. This will, of course, be based on their own BlackBerry operating system. Asus, Dell and LG Electronics will be introducing new tablets based on the Android operating system in the next few months. Samsung has announced that they will revamp their Android Galaxy Tab tablet and introduce two updated versions soon. HP is scheduled to roll out its first tablet based on the webOS operating system sometime in June. So within the next few months, we will have at least eight tablets from major manufacturers running four different operating systems.

If you are wondering why you should care about this, here's the scoop. Tablets are an entirely new category of computers. In most cases, they will not replace personal computers, but will augment them. There will still be computers running infrastructure, businesses, and hospitals, but both professionals and home users will find tablets extremely useful for their day-to-day living.

Since tablets have touch screens, you don't need a keyboard, mouse, or stylus. This makes them extremely portable. Also most tablets have very long battery lives, so you aren't tethered to the wall by a cable. Because tablets use apps rather than traditional software programs, they are much easier to use and more stress-free than computers.

App stores like Apple's iTunes store and Android's Marketplace have hundreds of thousands

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APCUG CONFERENCE

by Elaine Szaniszlo

On July 15-17, four NEOPC club members attended the APCUG (Association of Personal Computer Users Groups) regional conference which was held at the Crowne Plaza in Independence, Ohio. Attendees from our group were (alphabetically) Bill Frank, Jim McIntyre, Dick Rose and Elaine Szaniszlo. The weekend started with a Meet & Greet Pizza Party on Friday night where we got to meet people from as far south as Florida, Texas and Arizona, and as far west as California. Several people from other Ohio User Groups such as Akron, Canton and Cincinnati also attended.

Some areas of discussion were: Digital Photography, Drupal (an open source software program for web design), Legacy, (a genealogy program,) which also covered a demonstration of some great historical mapping software, Add-ins for Microsoft Power Point (**see special offer on page 9**), the Apple iPad, and Cloud Computing. Other subjects covered were Skype, Mr. Excel (who has been a speaker at NEOPC in the past), and OneNote (and many other programs I never heard of before!). It was impossible to attend all the sessions as they ran concurrently in three tracks.

The final event after the annual meeting was the drawing for two iPad2s. Unfortunately, no one in our group was lucky enough to win one. User group members entered contests prior to the meeting for best website, best newsletter and photographs in four categories, People, Landscape, Still Life and Animals.

A surprise winner was your humble editor who won first prize in the People category with a photograph of her granddaughter. For those of you who haven't seen this photo (and I don't know how I missed you!) here it is!



IS THERE A TABLET IN YOUR FUTURE? *(Continued from page 7)*

of apps available, so a tablet PC can be quickly and easily personalized to perform only the functions that the user needs or wants. This gives users a more intimate relationship with their devices.

In fact, this relationship is not only revolutionary, it is often somewhat magical. I recently watched my three-year-old granddaughter play with a Disney fairy app on an iPad. She gently moved the iPad to and fro to make Tinkerbell and her friends fly over the breathtaking scenery sprinkling fairy dust over the land. She was thoroughly enchanted. I also watched a 70-year-old man who was equally mesmerized by the interactive audio and video of a magazine site that he was viewing on his iPad. These devices are engaging for everyone. People from three to 103 can use and enjoy them.

Tablets are so empowering that I predict that they will become indispensable to everyday living. Who wants to walk into another room to get over to the computer when they need a recipe or want to look up a word. It is much easier to just grab a tablet PC off the coffee table. You can use it to watch television when you are on the go, to check the weather in the morning, or to read a book or listen to music as you endure the wait in the doctor's office.

Teachers are using tablets with great success because they are enthralling to children. Doctors are using them as a point-of-care device that can not only document the patient's progress, but can also help doctors explain procedures to patients. Artists are using them to create new masterpieces.

More and more applications are being found for tablets every day. With the new tablets that will be appearing in the next few months, this will be a very interesting category of devices to watch. Keep your eyes open, there may be a tablet PC in your future.

CHANGING SETTINGS IN YOUR BROWSER

By Gini Pedersen, Instructor, FREE Internet and Computer Classes, San Diego
gpederse (at) sdccd.edu

Every software application comes with preset options that work most of the time for most folks. However, occasionally you will want to change these default settings. Following are approximate steps for changing settings in most versions of Internet Explorer and Firefox:

Internet Explorer

1. Click TOOLS (or VIEW) - INTERNET OPTIONS
2. Make desired changes
3. Click Apply (if available) and click OK when done

Firefox

1. Click TOOLS - OPTIONS
2. Make desired changes
3. Click OK when done

Adjusting Starting Page in your Browser

Every browser is preset to open a specific starting webpage when you open the browser. If you'd prefer to have your browser open to a specific starting webpage, you can make this change within the settings of your browser. The following steps should work exactly (or similarly) for many versions of Internet Explorer and Firefox:

Internet Explorer

1. Click TOOLS (or VIEW) - INTERNET OPTIONS
2. Click General tab
3. Highlight Web address listed in Home Page Address box
4. Type in new Web address, including the http:// portion
5. Click Apply (if available); click OK when done

Firefox

1. Click TOOLS - OPTIONS
2. Make desired changes

3. Click General
4. Click OK when done

Changing the Size of your Browser's Display Font

If you're having trouble reading the text displayed on webpages, you might find it helpful to change the default font display. When you do, the new setting may remain active each time you open your browser. To do this, go to <http://www.iteachyou.com> and do the following:

Internet Explorer

1. Click VIEW-TEXT SIZE
2. Make your choice

Firefox

1. Click VIEW-TEXT SIZE
2. Make your choice

Note that changing text size may not work on some Webpages.



CONFERENCE SPECIAL

One of the speakers at the APCUG conference (see article on page 8), Steve Rindsberg, is a Microsoft MVP who writes Add-Ins for Power Point.. He has offered to user group members a 33% discount on purchase of any PPTools add-ins. See website www.PPTools.com for details on the add-ins available. Discount coupon code for this offer is: USERGROUPSPECIAL. Some add-ins are free, so do check this site if you use Power Point. **This offer is good from July15 through September 30, 2011.**

COMING EVENTS—AUGUST 2011

08/05	<p>FORUM FUN . . . To all NEOPC members: <i>Molly's TRIVIA CONTEST</i> Question: "-----?" Go to our web page Trivia to see the rules for entering this contest.</p>
08/09	<p>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.</p>
08/10	<p>Northeast Ohio PC (NEOPC) General Meeting held at Westlake Porter Public Library located at 27333 Center Ridge Rd. in Westlake. The agenda is 6:30pm - 7:00pm Social (Beverage & pastries); 7:00pm - 7:15pm Club Announcements; 7:15pm -8:30pm Main program "Mr. Inkman" by David Kluter.</p>
08/12	<p>FORUM FUN . . . To all NEOPC members: <i>Molly's TRIVIA CONTEST</i> Question: "-----?" Go to our web page Trivia to see the rules for entering this contest.</p>
08/19	<p>FORUM FUN . . . To all NEOPC members: <i>Molly's TRIVIA CONTEST</i> Question: "-----?" Go to our web page Trivia to see the rules for entering this contest.</p>
08/26	<p>FORUM FUN . . . To all NEOPC members: <i>Molly's TRIVIA CONTEST</i> Question: "-----?" Go to our web page Trivia to see the rules for entering this contest.</p>

ULTRACOMPUTERS IN OUR FUTURE? *(Continued from page 5)*

cyberwars? Will the new benefits be shared only by the rich and elite? Will it be possible to download, say, Yo-Yo Ma's cello genius into, say, Sarah P's brain? What will the word "education" come to mean if knowledge can be downloaded?

If nearly everything is perfectly run by Ultra-AI, where will biological humans find ambition and personal inspiration? Might biological humans be forced into robot roles, subservient to vastly greater machine

intelligences?

Quote of the Month:

"Let an ultraintelligent machine be defined as a machine that can far surpass all the intellectual activities of any [person] however clever. Since the design of machines is one of these intellectual activities, an ultraintelligent machine could design even better machines; there would then unquestionably be an 'intelligence explosion,' and the intelligence of [humans] would be left far behind. Thus, the first ultraintelligent machine is the last invention that [humans] need ever make."
 Irving John Good, 1965

General Meeting Program Schedule

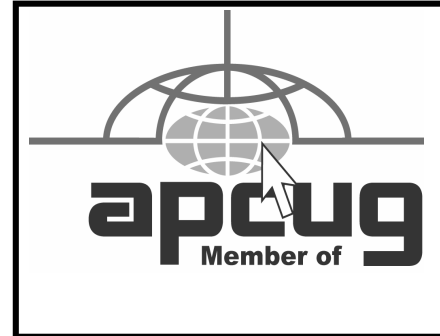
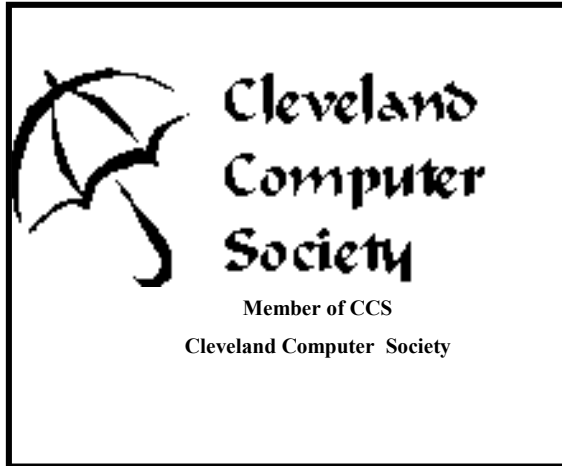
<u>Date</u>	<u>2011 Programs</u>
August 10	"Mr. Inkman" by David Kluter.
September 14	"Q & A" with Lee Gerber and Dennis Lewis.
October 12	"Ebooks and Audiobooks Update" by Overdrive Inc. / Dan Stasiewski.
	<u>Proposed Programs</u>
November 9	"Cell and Smart Phones" by AT&T/ Gerald Cates.
December 14	"Applied Laser Technologies" by ALT/ John Kallahan?
	<u>Proposed 2012 Programs</u>
January 11	"Income Tax Updates for 2011" by Ian Abbott.
February 8	"Skype Update" by Bruce Bockman.

2010-2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS (ELECTED OFFICERS)

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WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Nybbles & Bytes welcomes members' comments and suggestions on any aspect of our publication. Our goal is to be responsive to the needs and interests of the membership. We also invite your articles for submission (subject to review and editing). Members may contact editor or contributors at: NEOPC.org/FORUM/(Sign in with member name/password)/Newsletter Builders.



NEOPC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(Expiration 12 months from date of enrollment)

Name _____

Spouse _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Voice phone: _____

E-Mail) _____

Sponsor (optional) _____

Membership Dues (one year)

\$25.00—includes all members of immediate family.

\$12.50—full time student under 25 years of age

Mail this application with your check to:

NEOPC

P.O. Box 16802

Cleveland, OH 44116

For more information, please call 216-759-3713

or go online to info@neopc

Please tell us a little about yourself:

Operating System You Have:

Windows 7 Windows Vista

Windows XP Other

Other (please specify) _____

Your Skill Level:	Beginner	Inter-mediate	Advanced	Group Leader
Word Processing				
Spreadsheets				
Power-point				
Digital Imaging				
Digital Publishing				
Web Design				
Genealogy				
Other				