

eMonitor

Computer Club of Oklahoma City
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This is the official 'eMonitor' of the Computer Club of Oklahoma City. To receive this newsletter each month, please go to: <http://www.okcpcug.org> and subscribe.

Place your e-mail address and First and Last name in the boxes. You will receive a confirmation e-mail in return that you must reply to. You may not recognize the address from the company sending the confirmation, so do not delete it as spam. Click on the URL in the confirmation e-mail to finish the subscription.

By clicking on the links in the newsletter, you will be taken to the website to view the article, read it online or print it, as you like. There is a box on the website where you may place your comments. [Click Here](#)

Items of additional interest: [Calendar](#) [Study Group meetings](#) [Senior Net Classes](#)

*****Yes, the name of our club has been changed. The new name more accurately reflects the foundation and the aims of this computer organization. We are not just a "PC" club; we have members interested in the MAC and other operating systems. Our membership is open to all aspects of computing. Come join us.**

Also, we have changed our domain name and when you type in the url to our website, type in <http://www.ccokc.org>

It's always hard to get used to changes. But you will find that eventually you will be typing in and looking at the new club name and new url just like you did the old.

**General Meeting Program for August 19, 2004
By Troy Segler, VP of Programs**

"Protecting Yourself in Cyberspace"

The Oklahoma City PC Users Group will host a general meeting on Thursday at 7:00 PM on August 19th for all persons interested in *Protecting Yourself in Cyberspace*. We will meet in Suite 201 of the Center 3000 Building located at 3000 NW United Founders Blvd. For those not familiar with our location, look for us just north of the Hilton Hotel at the corner of North May and Northwest Expressway. Enter at the east end of the building.

Terrorist attacks on computer centers, electronic fraud on international funds transfer networks, viruses and worms in our software, corporate espionage on business networks, and crackers breaking into systems on the Internet...Computer criminals are becoming ever more technically sophisticated, and it is an increasing challenge to keep up with their methods.

Our presentation this month on the detection and prevention of cybercrime will be given by **Mark R. McCoy, Ed.D. - Deputy Inspector, Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI)**. Deputy Inspector McCoy has worked in the Investigative Division of the OSBI for almost nineteen years and is the supervisor of the OSBI Computer Crime Unit. McCoy has a Masters degree in Forensic Science and a Doctorate in Occupational and Adult Education. He is a member of the International Association of Computer Investigative Specialist (IACIS) and is a Certified Forensic Computer Examiner (CFCE). Dr. McCoy is also an adjunct faculty member in the Criminal Justice Department at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond, Oklahoma.

We will have coffee and refreshments available in a relaxed environment. Also, soft drinks will be available at a cost of 50 cents.

If you have not attended a General Session recently, attend one soon and bring a guest!

There are some interesting links on the [okcpcug.org/greatlinks page](http://okcpcug.org/greatlinks_page). Check them out!

The President's Corner

Spyware and Its Consequences

by Bill James, President OKCPCUG

August 2004

Did you know that anyone with access to your PC (either in person, or over the Internet) can install spyware programs on your system without your knowledge? The reasons behind this intrusion: showing advertisements can generate business and learning usage information can help with marketing. It is an easy way to make money, but unfortunately it is at the expense of jeopardizing your system's stability and usability. Spyware programs record your every

move and gather personal information about you, such as which Web sites you visit, which ads you click on, the duration of your visits, your name, age, gender, credit card numbers, passwords, email addresses and your online buying habits.

Spyware programs are easy to install and usually install behind the scenes. However, once installed they are virtually impossible to detect without anti-spyware software. Spyware threats are becoming more commonplace, and have even outpaced viruses as the number one on-going danger facing online PC users today. In the past, spyware was easily found and removed, but that has all changed. Makers of anti-spyware are now challenged to ferret out sophisticated methods designed to foil their products. What makes it difficult to remove spyware today is that the authors now exploit some of the harshest methods seen in this field just to keep spyware on systems even after multiple removal attempts. Some even take advantage of sections of the Microsoft Windows Operating System designed to keep systems stable, such as the VX2 variants that are not removable without specific software. After all, it does the advertisers' sponsors no good if the programs are easily removed.

The most common technique used to detect and remove spyware is file signatures. Many spyware have rotating filenames, or rotating registry information. A file signature is used because it identifies the file, regardless of the filename. While file signatures remain a great method of finding spyware, that's not enough anymore. New versions of spyware, called variants, appear everyday. A variant is something that does the same thing as something seen before, but files are changed such that their file signature is different. This difference is enough to cause current file signatures to not work from variant to variant, and therefore the signatures must be updated with the new variant information. Long gone are the days of surfing the Internet without worry of infection. Spyware authors utilize holes in Web browsers, allowing the spyware to enter and install itself often without any sign of activity until it is too late and you are fully infected. Some spyware even downloads and installs other spyware, compounding the problem. [Continued...](#)

[Bill James](#) is President of the Computer Club of OKC. He is also the CCOKC's Webmaster.

Articles for July 2004

(The following are only excerpts from the articles. Click on the hyperlink to read the entire article)

[Business Solutions: Excel-Dates and Concatenation - By James D. Duncan, CPA August 2004](#)

In accounting we are always using the dates to describe some entry. You can put a date in a single place in the sheet and use all of its components in various ways. For example, a date has month, day and year. Each of the items is usable in called functions.

Enter a date in A1 and let us see how these functions work.

[Legal Bytes: E-mail and the Stored Communications Act - By John Brewer August 2004](#)

The question of e-mail privacy is a continuing concern for many users of the Internet. Recently, the New York Times reported that the Circuit Court of Appeals in Boston ruled that "federal wiretap laws do not apply to e-mail messages if they are stored, even for a millisecond, on the computers of the Internet providers that process them - meaning that it can be legal for the government or others to read such messages without a court order."

[Ram & Reason: The Desktop PC of the \(Near\) Future - by Rob Rice August 2004](#)

As I stand with both of my feet planted solidly in middle age, I am finally getting used to the fact that I will never have a futuristic house or a personal flying saucer. The comic books of my childhood lied to me. The dogmatic predictions that in the 21st century I would have a team of robots that would do all of my manual labor have not come true. But perhaps the bitterest pill that I have had to swallow is the fact that I have no personal rocket belt. This I refuse to let go of and will hunt down the vermin that crushed my dream through an obvious conspiracy!

[Computer Hysteria: "DOA!" - by Berry F. Phillips August 2004](#)

I had carefully wrapped it in a blanket and rushed out in a state of panic into a dark, gray, foggy afternoon that reminded me of one of those gothic horror movies. I arrived at my destination and went straight to the emergency room. I explained to the tech that I was afraid it was "DOA" (dead on arrival)!

[This and That: Son of File Manager, The Return of Explorer or Where Did Everything Go 2 - by Elizabeth B. Wright August 2004](#)

The first steps:

1. Determine your computer setup, basically your Operating System.
2. If Windows 98 or higher, RIGHT click on "Start", LEFT click on "Explore".
3. Look on the left side of the screen and locate the line that contains (C). This may involve placing the cursor on the scroll bar adjacent to the right side of the column, holding down the LEFT mouse button and pulling the scroll bar to the top of the screen. This action will move the File Menu to the top of the screen which is where you will find the (C).
4. REMEMBER to put the mouse pointer on whatever you plan to left or right click on. Otherwise, you may cause your program to behave in some unexpected way.

[A Web of Politics - by Billy Mabray August 2004](#)

As I'm writing this, the Democratic National Convention has just begun in Boston. A month from now, the Republicans will host their convention in New York City. This presidential

election will likely go down in history as one of the most hotly contested races ever. Also, and possibly as important, it will be known as the election in which the Internet mattered.

******Don't forget to read the New articles under the APCUG heading** on the left column of the website. When you click on the "[Click here](#)" hyperlink, it will take you to the synopsis page and the links to the articles.

Don't forget the new Study Group for beginners on Wednesdays at 10:00 AM

The group meets from 10:00 am to 12:00; we have a lot of fun, and there are refreshments and coffee. If you are not attending and feel you need some basic instruction, please come be with us. There is a \$2 attendance fee per week.

[Click here for more information....](#)

Basic Computer Class

If you are interested in taking the hands-on Basic Computer Class, which meets once a week for about six weeks, call Isaac Franklin, 751-3411, for registration and information. This class is free; the study book is \$5.

Tips of the Month

(We are starting a new feature consisting of a tip for those new to computing and a tip for those more advanced. I need your help in obtaining these tips. If you have a favorite tip to share, please e-mail it to me - fcrane1@cox.net.)

Tip 1: Cool Freebie: from Doris Collins

This month's program is the "Virtual Magnifying Glass." I know there is a magnifying glass in the accessibility features of Windows, but it is awkward and cumbersome. The Virtual Magnifying Glass is small, easy to use, and sits waiting patiently in your system tray until needed.

The site for the download is: http://easynews.dl.sourceforge.net/sourceforge/magnifier/Mg200_install.exe.

[For the steps for installation please click here](#) (scroll to the lower half of the page)

Tip 2: Do you know what version of DirectX you are running on your computer? from Fran Crane

Using the DirectX Diagnostic tool: Click Start, Run and type "dxdiag" (without the quotes) in the dialog box. Click OK. The DirectX Diagnostic Tool will start, and display a properties page. The DirectX version number will be displayed at the bottom of the properties page.

A Look at one of our Study Groups:

Windows Odds and Ends

TIME: 2nd Thursday 10:00 am
LOCATION: Resource Center
LEADER: [Fran Crane](#)
PHONE #: 733-2355

This Study Group covers many subjects in working with the Windows operating system. For the person new to computing, some of our subjects may be a little foreign to you, however, the more you hear, the more familiar it will be the next time. For those of you who are more advanced, I try to present to you current problems that exist in Windows, how and where to find the problems and solutions. This is a presentation and discussion group and we all learn from each other. Come join us on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 10:00AM.... May all of your computer problems be little ones.

See you there.....Fran

I ask for your e-mail addresses on the sign in sheet so I can e-mail you what we will be covering at each meeting.

[Join the Computer Club of OKC. See the Membership form on the Website- Click here!](#)

What is a Study Group

The Computer Club of OKC offers many different [Study Groups](#). They are groups of 10-50 people who meet monthly to learn about a particular subject. The format is part presentation and part facilitated discussion. These meetings are supported by our membership. There is no charge, but a \$2 donation is requested to defray the rental cost of the room.

Come to a Study Group in our Resource Center at 3000 United Founders Blvd. ! We are located at the east end of the Center 3000 Building in Suite 201, so use Entrance One on the east side of the building.

[See Map on Website](#)

What is the Computer Club of OKC?

See ["About Us"](#)

We are a nonprofit, all-volunteer organization of around 1200 members, with the goal of teaching each other more about using and enjoying their personal computers for business and pleasure. The sole purpose of the organization is reflected in its motto, "Computer Users Helping Computer Users."

Information on Senior Net

Sr. Combo Members- Computer Classes

Register Now for Windows XP Course. This 8 week course will cost \$30.00. If you are interested, contact Charlene Francis, 359-5675.

Click here for Class Schedule and Registration Form

Free Computer Class with Sr Combo Membership

New Senior Combo Members (50 +) can now register for the Computer Fundamentals class at no charge.

Contact Charlene Francis 359-5675, if you have any questions regarding membership and/or registration for the class.

eMonitor editor: [Fran Crane](#)