

Computer Club of Oklahoma City
(Formerly Oklahoma City PC Users Group)
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December 2004

Happy Holidays to all!

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

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

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

General Meeting Program for December 16, 2004 **By Troy Segler, VP of Programs**

Can Everyone Read Your Epistles?

It is my privilege to announce our program for Thursday, December 16th at the Oklahoma City Computer Club. Our guest this month is a person known by most of you. It is **Billy Mabry**. Billy will be talking to us about a freeware program he uses for creating PDF documents. Each of us has Acrobat Reader on our computer. Let me stop here. If you don't have a copy of Acrobat Reader on your computer, I suggest you go to the Adobe Web site and download a free copy now. Many of the documents placed on Web sites are presented to you in PDF. It is a format that everyone can read, whether they commonly use Microsoft Word or Word Perfect. A conversion program enables us to read information from anyone attempting to communicate with us, and to do so in a format our computer can understand. By the way, converting a Word document to PDF can reduce the size of the file by approximately one-third.

The PDF conversion program Billy will be discussing is a freeware program that can

be found at <http://www.pdf995.com>. You might wish to visit this Website prior to the meeting and read some of their testimonials. Billy and Angela have been using this conversion program and he is very capable of previewing it for us. Another Web site, <http://www.activepdf.com/downloads/desktopproducts/index.cfm> also has several versions of a PDF conversion program. You can obtain a trial download from this Web site, but must buy their software to continue its use. Billy will also discuss the active PDF software by comparing the two groups of software.

[Continued...](#)

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

The President's Corner: RSS Newsreader

by Bill James

Are you a News Junkie that uses the Internet and wants to keep on top of late breaking world events? If so, RSS can have a huge impact on how you stay abreast of the news and information that interests you. Rather than going through your browser's list of bookmarks every morning, you can let an RSS aggregator or newsreader bring what's new straight to you. If this all sounds too technical, don't stop reading at this point because you probably have already had some exposure to this process. [Continued...](#)

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

There are some interesting links on the ccokc.org/greatlinks page. Check them out!

Special Offers from APCUG on behalf of CompUSA for both PC Users and Mac Users - Check these Out!!!

Articles for December 2004

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

[Ram & Reason: In Praise of Slashdot, or, a Techno Geek's Holiday Gifts Guide - By Rob Rice](#)

As someone who has a long and experienced history of wanting stuff, I feel eminently well qualified to write down for you my own holiday gift giving suggestions. Now, I don't know about you, but every holiday gift guide that I come across these days

seems to think that unless I spend \$3200 on a plasma big screen TV, \$2500 for a laptop computer, or, \$8000 for a digital camera then there must not be an ounce of love in me. Well, I say let's get back to the good old days, let the kids build their own printers, computers, Segway style scooters, big screen TVs, flame throwers, cyclotrons, and satellite tracking stations. You think I'm kidding, right? No! I say instead of capitulating and giving them that big expensive TiVo set for Christmas how about throwing the parts in a box and shoving it under the tree? If you want it, build it! Don't give them merchandise - give them parts!

[The Encyclopedia Reloaded - by Billy Mabray](#)

Recently, I needed to verify some facts for an article I was writing, so I looked it up in my encyclopedia. While there, I noticed something - a fact in the encyclopedia that I knew was wrong. I started to correct it, but before I could, someone else fixed it. Has this ever happened to you?

Of course, my encyclopedia is a little different. It's the Wikipedia, a free online encyclopedia that is written, edited, and updated by thousands of volunteers. As I type this, Wikipedia has almost half a million articles in over a hundred languages on a vast array of subjects. Anyone can create or edit a page without getting permission from anyone else. It is amazing how quickly it gets updated - moments after any major event you will be able to find information about it on Wikipedia. It is also surprisingly accurate. Most of the articles found there include citations that tell where the information was found.

[Legal Bytes: It's the Slammer for a Spammer! - by John Brewer](#)

Spam is a nuisance. The cretins that engage in this sort of advertising deserve a fate of solitary confinement without Internet access and with rap music playing constantly at a high volume. A recent Virginia case has sent a message to the spammer community that should not be ignored.

A jury in Leesburg, Virginia, AOL's home county, convicted two North Carolina spammers of sending spam through computers located in Virginia. A third defendant was acquitted.

An article at Spamhaus.org reported the convictions. "Jeremy Jaynes of Raleigh, North Carolina, a prolific spammer who operated using the alias 'Gaven Stubberfield'

and was listed by Spamhaus' ROKSO database as being the 8th most prolific spammer in the world, has been convicted of spamming using deceptive routing information to hide the source.

[Business Solutions: Christmas Letter - Excel and Access - by James D. Duncan, CPA](#)

It is that time again: the annual Christmas family letter. You have the addresses in Excel 2003 and we can add a quick report in Access 2003 to send the family letter to everyone on the list. The worksheet can be simple or complicated; we only need the basic information. The example below shows what I have used. *[picture]* Notice I put field names on the top of each column. This makes it easier when we link the Excel file to Access.

Create a new Access database or you can add this to an existing one. First thing, we will link the Excel sheet to Access through the tables. This is a simple task. In the tables objects, select new, select link, and click on the OK button. Now, find the Excel file that has your addresses in it, select it, and click on the Link button. *[Picture]*

[Computer Hysteria: Compurescue! - by Berry F. Phillips](#)

On a cold winter morn in December, I realized that I was missing the Christmas Spirit. Alas what must I do? I have it; I will turn once again to my trusty computer for a "Compurescue!" Join me as I sing:

Happily Addicted to the Web
(to the tune of "Winter Wonderland")

"Doorbell rings, I'm not list'nin,
From my mouth, drool is glist'nin,
I'm happy--although
My boss let me go--
Happily addicted to the Web.

[This & That: DOS Ain't So Bad - by Elizabeth B. Wright](#)

In the late '80s or early '90s, I used a paint program from Electronic Arts. Being a DOS program, it didn't have all the neat tools we expect in our art programs today. But what it did have was the ability to apply perspective to drawings. My computer was so limited that even with that program I didn't have access to everything it offered. However, the perspective option was possible and very intriguing. I have been looking for it in the programs currently available. The newer versions of Paint Shop Pro have it as do probably some of the other high end packages. And while we generally are working with photos now instead of pictures we make ourselves, the need for the tool remains the same, in fact, possibly even more so than before. As we take pictures, especially when traveling, there often is little time to compose the picture adequately. In fact, sometimes it is impossible to get the proper angle for a good picture. So many times we just have to point and shoot and hope we have something worth remembering.

****Read the New articles under the APCUG heading on the left column of the website. There are new articles each month. When you click on the "[Click here](#)" hyperlink, it will take you to the synopsis page and the links to the articles.

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

Tip 1: Printing an email or website page - from Charlene Francis

Printing an email page and losing part of the text at the end of each sentence can be very frustrating. To overcome this, you can do the following: 1) Select the text you want to print; 2) go to File and select print and this will open the print window; 3) click on the block beside Selection and then click OK.

Tip 2: Get Rid of Script Error Messages - Fran Crane

Internet Explorer (IE), if you choose, announces script errors relentlessly. This may help Web and application developers, but it's just plain annoying for the rest of us. If you're getting these messages, click Tools>>Internet Options. Select the Advanced tab. Under Browsing, select "Disable script debugging." Clear "Display a notification about every script error."

December 2004 Cool Freebie by Doris Collins

Each month we have a feature called "Cool Freebies," wherein a free program is shared and discussed.

This month's freebie is a great anti-virus program called AVG. This program works as well as any anti-virus program on the market, and it has been lauded by several computer magazines as one of the top programs of its type.

Please note: If you plan to change anti-virus programs on your computer, you MUST uninstall your current anti-virus program before installing the new one. To do this, first go to your programs list (Start>All Programs) and find the program you want to uninstall. Check to see if it has its own uninstaller. If so, use that. If not, then go to your control panel (Start>Control Panel), then to "Add/Remove Programs" and uninstall it there. Be sure to reboot your computer before attempting to install a new anti-virus program.

You should have several blank, formatted floppy disks (3 1/2") ready, and follow the instructions for making a set of rescue disks as you install the program. This is not necessary to the installation and this step can be ignored, but the rescue disks would be a tremendous help in the event of a system failure due to a virus. Be sure you run the update manager and update the anti-virus database as instructed at the end of the

installation. [Continued...](#)

November Cool Freebie - [Click here](#)

October Cool Freebie - [Click here](#)

General Meeting Review of November 18,2004

by Bill James

Our November 18th program was different and unique. The presenter was Isaac Waller from Character First. On first impression you wonder what Character has to do with PC computing. But if you think about it just because you access the faceless Net does not mean that you have to lack character. Character First's definition of character is 'the qualities built into an individual's life that determines his or her response, regardless of circumstances. So be a netizen does not mean that you can forgo character in your access to the Internet. I believe that was the point that Isaac made in his presentation.

Character First's mission is to develop character in the workplace, but character building in their minds does not end their. Isaac showed us the many facets of character. In his works like a diamond has many facets and each facet's brilliance contributes to the value of the jewel. As imperfections are identified and cut away or improved the whole diamond becomes more beautiful. To apply this to our PC usage, think in terms of how we are bombarded with SPAM and hackers that feel that the internet is their personal playground. These folks pollute our e-mail and web browsers with no regard of the circumstance or inconvenience. [Continued with additional pictures...](#)

[Click Here to Join the Computer Club of OKC. See the Membership form on the Website](#)

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."

Senior Net Membership

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.

*****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](#)

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