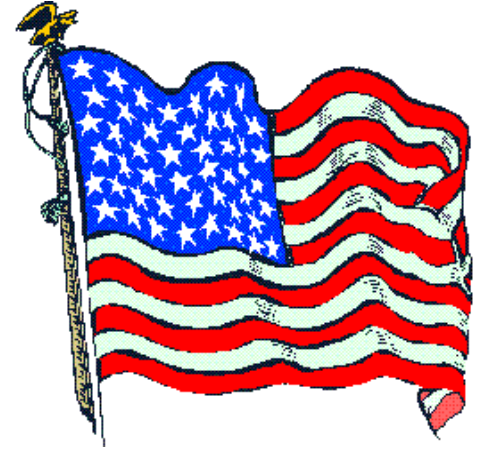


eMonitor

Oklahoma City PC Users Group
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July 2004

A Publication for Windows and Macintosh Computer Users

This is the official 'eMonitor' of the Oklahoma City PC Users Group. 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](#)

General Meeting Program for July 15, 2004 By Troy Segler, VP of Programs

Aladdin Systems

The Oklahoma City PC Users Group will host a general meeting at 7:00 PM on July 15th for all persons interested in reviewing utility software offered by Aladdin Systems. 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.

Aladdin is providing a copy of four of their utility programs for review. We will possibly

spend about 20 to 30 minutes on each of the packages, depending upon the interest shown as the programs are introduced.

The first software package is Internet Cleanup 4.0, designed to protect our privacy. It guards against spyware and enables the user to search and remove any spyware that might make it through the filter. It contains a Personal Information blocker designed to prevent names, phone numbers, addresses, credit card information and bank account numbers from being transmitted on the Internet without the users' permission.

Stuffit Deluxe has been around for quite sometime and version 8.5 is now available. This program can be used to zip files for transmitting over the Internet or for storing your data as a backup of your activities. Backups can be scheduled to occur via the program routines. It will also open or unlock zipped files for use. It is claimed that files compressed by Stuffit Deluxe are reduced by 98 percent of their original size.

Spring Cleaning is a utility that can be used for cleaning up your hard disk by deleting duplicate files and archiving programs. They state that this program can be used to fix registry problems

Their SpamCatcher utility claims to block 99% of unwanted e-mail. It can be integrated with Outlook if you are using that e-mail program. It also works with other popular e-mail programs.

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. Check them out!

The President's Corner

PCI Express Isn't a Train!

by Bill James, President OKCPCUG

Keeping up with the latest computer technology can be likened to a fast-moving freight train - if you wait too long, you find that the train has left the station and you behind. Advances in technology used to be limited to computer chip manufacturers introducing a newer and faster processor every 6 or 8 months, but now other hardware is getting into the act to keep pace with the faster processors. New hardware is hitting the market at a rapid pace with the promise of making your computer faster and more efficient.

Changes to the desktop platform began with the use of Peripheral Component Interconnect (PCI) introduced several years ago. It was the first breakthrough to speed up communication between the processor and the motherboard, replacing the slower Industry Standard Architecture bus. The AT version was the

de facto standard for IBM computers for many years to connect devices to your computer, but today almost all computers use PCI. The newest version of PCI is being launched as PCI Express. It will consist of a whole host of changes of what we know today as the AT bus.

PCI Express is the long-awaited serial interconnect standard. It will be capable of moving 8GB/sec of data bidirectionally (4GB per second in each direction, simultaneously). The single-lane connectors support an effective throughput of 2 gigabits per second in each direction (250 Mbytes/sec - almost twice PCI's maximum theoretical throughput of 133Mbytes/sec), but take up less space than the older PCI connectors did. We'll likely see motherboards with a couple of single lane connectors, a 16-lane graphics interconnect and several legacy PCI slots.
[Continued.](#)

[Bill James](#) is President of the OKC PC Users Group. He is also the OKCPCUG's Webmaster.

A Look at one of our Study Groups:

Hardware Study Group

Time:	2nd Tuesday 6:30 pm
Location:	Resource Center
Leader:	David Robbins
Phone #:	681-6685

Hardware Study Group Notes

I am starting a series of SIG meetings that will be addressing differences and considerations of comparing hardware when buying for a upgrade to your computer. These meetings will not tell the "best" video card, they will hopefully enlighten you the subtle difference and help you to decide which product is what you may want.

The first will cover some of the differences in the nVidia FX series video cards. One brand will be used to show why one card can cost \$10 more than another similar card. There are many "options" and even though a series will have a higher number that does not mean it will have more options than a card with a lower series number.

In another SIG we will discuss what to look for when buying an LCD monitor. There are differences in performance and the warranties can vary enough to make you want to buy a CompUSA extended warranty. Did I say that? However, the performance is getting to the point that even I could consider buying one. These meetings will be for general information and not to sell a particular product. However, if a manufacturer would like to..... If there is a part of the home computer that can be put in general terms and you would like to see some information on it let me know.

NEW Study Group for beginners on Wednesdays at 10:00 AM

The Beginners' Study Group continues to grow. We are learning a basic computer skill every week (cut & paste, files & folders, etc), plus answering questions and solving problems in the group.

We are also sharing free cool little computer programs that make life easier (stopping pop-ups, virus protection, magnifying glass, etc). If you would like to join us for these meetings, anyone of any age is welcome. Come share with us.

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.

[Articles for July 2004](#)

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

[Business Solutions: Excel: Use As a Query Tool - by James D. Duncan, CPA July 2004](#)

Excel has a feature that lets you query data on a by-column basis in combination with other columns. The tool is called a filter. First, we have some sample data like the table below.

[Legal Bytes: Who Is Linspire and Why Is Microsoft After Them? - By John Brewer June 2004](#)

Everyone is familiar with Linux (the other operating system), either by reputation or by usage. Many are familiar with the litigation between Microsoft and a company called Lindows, Inc. The Lindows operating system is based on the Linux kernel and is now known as Linspire. The story of how Linspire came to be is an interesting one.

[Ram & Reason: Top Windows 2000 Secret Utilities - by Rob Rice July 2004](#)

If you have ever installed a Windows operating system, but never researched what was on the installation disk, you are missing out. Microsoft is notorious for placing some very useful programs on the disk or burying them deep inside the operating system and then making mention of them only in obscure documents. Thus they earn the title "Secret Utilities". Below is a list of some of the better ones found on the Windows 2000 installation disk. Many of these utilities are duplicated in Windows XP and some will even run under Windows 95, 98, and NT as well. Others can only be executed from the Command Prompt.

[Computer Hysteria: "Eeeeek a Geeeek" - by Berry F. Phillips July 2004](#)

For those of you who have seen the "nerd movies," a geek is not a nerd. However a nerd could be a geek. A nerd is a person who has limited social skills and is often obsessed with science and technology, while a geek is more computer related. A nerd may wear taped glasses, pocket protectors, and plaid shirts. A person who simply uses a computer at work and does not spend his free time online is not a geek.

[This and That: Understanding File Management, The First Five Steps - by Elizabeth B. Wright July 2004](#)

One of the most difficult problems for new users is the file-management system on a computer. Of course the exception is children. They seem to have no problems with computers. But for the rest of us, the file structure on a disk, be it hard, floppy, CD or whatever, is just not that easy to understand. My experience, from tutoring adult users, has shown me the confusion they experience when retrieving previously-generated files. The phrase, "I saved the file, but it has disappeared and is not on my

computer anymore," is familiar to anyone who has tried to help someone gain more expertise in using their machines.

****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.

[Join the Oklahoma City PC Users Group. See the Membership form on the Website- Click here!](#)

What is a Study Group

The OKC PC Users Group 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 PC Users Group?

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](#)