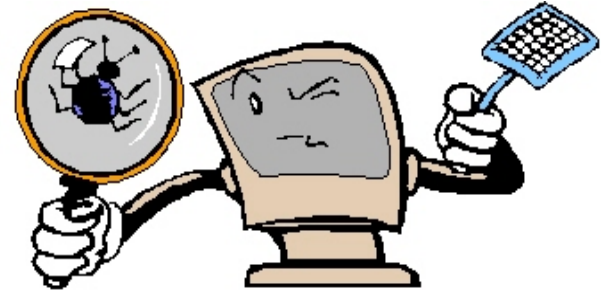


eMonitor

Oklahoma City PC Users Group
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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](#)

Note: We have changed the name of our "SIGs" to "Study Groups". This was done for the purpose of clarity and to more aptly describe our monthly group meetings. We feel this will promote more understanding for our present members and our prospective members alike. The word SIG was a part of Users Groups throughout the nation for many years, but has become hard for people, who have never heard it before, to understand the purpose of a SIG. But change being inevitable, we are changing it to "Study Group"

The editor

General Meeting Program for May 20, 2004 By Troy Segler, VP of Programs

Are You Ready for the Freedom of WiFi in Your Home or Business?

The Oklahoma City Computer Club extends you an invitation to join us on Thursday, May 20

at 7:30 PM for our regular monthly general meeting. All members and guests are welcome. We will convene in Suite 201 of the Centre 3000 Building located just north of the Hilton Hotel at Northwest Expressway and May Avenue. A map is included on our Web site for your convenience.

This month we are pleased to have Eric Phillips with us to discuss his successes in offering secure WiFi systems to both businesses and individuals, thereby providing the freedom to move about while enjoying your favorite pastime or earning a living.

Eric has provided the following outline of his presentation:

- History and Introduction - Interesting facts.
- Technology Basics - All you really need to know.
- Easy Setup for your PC. - Home or Office, wireless is freedom.
- Wireless Security - Know how to keep your work private.

Eric's interest in computers began several years ago and has evolved into a company known as **Executive Network Technologies, Inc (ENT)**. The company was formed in 1996 as a small partnership called Computer Partners, whose primary business was selling end-user computers to home users. A migration ensued from that startup to marketing small office networks. [Read More...](#)

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](#)

[Coming to Terms with Malware](#)

By **Bill James**

Malware - Short for *malicious software*, software designed specifically to damage or disrupt a system, such as a [virus](#) or a [Trojan horse](#).

I had a surprised recently in finding files on my computer that were identified as Malware. This is a new term for me, although looking about the internet and discussing it with friends, I find that the term is widely used. I have a product installed on my machine called Ad-

aware. It is part of my arsenal of products that I have installed to prevent malicious intrusions. These days, ' just having an anti-virus product is not quite good enough. To combat Malware also referred to as spyware you need software to ferret out malicious code that can come through websites and teaser downloads from the Internet. Fortunately, I was not guided to new home page. I do not recall downloading anything that would have created these files.

Teaser downloads can look innocent enough, but some may have a hidden agenda. When you find your home page inexplicably changed to an unfamiliar site or you have a new toolbar that you do not recall installing on your computer, you probably have been hijacked by Malware. Malware can also affect your computer's performance. If a link is activated via Internet Explorer, the browser can auto-execute a file and download an executable Trojan. The Trojan opens ports on the infected machine and then uses your computer as a spam zombie. The Trojan has the ability to listen on the open port for instructions and redirects traffic to other IP addresses.

[Read More....](#)

Bill James is President of the OKC PC Users Group. He is also the OKPCUG's Webmaster. Bill can be reached at james@qns.com

A Look at one of our Study Groups:

Genealogy Study Group

TIME: Second Saturday 9:00 am
LOCATION: Resource Center
CO-LEADERS: [Jim Slade](#), [Roy Waller](#)
PHONE #: 751-2325 (Jim), 789-5725 (Roy)

All about Land Records will be the subject of the Genealogy SIG Meeting on Saturday, May 8th - Learn why land records are so important to genealogists, where to find land records at the Courthouse and on the Internet, see examples of what they can tell us, learn the importance of terms such as: Petition, Warrant, Patents, Military Bounty Lands, Deeds, Grantor, Grantee, Quit Claim, Survey, Metes and Bounds, Meridians, Township, Range, Sections, Aliquot Parts. If you have a deed or other land record you don't understand, bring it and we will try to help you.

Following the Genealogy Group - about 11:00 AM, those who use or are interested in learning "The Master Genealogist" or "Legacy " are welcome to stay for user group meetings of these programs.

The Genealogy SIG is dedicated to helping family history researchers use computers to assist

in the Search, Research, Organization, Management and Publication of information about their family history. [Read More...](#)

NEW Study Group for beginners on Wed. May 5th:

A new Study Group has been formed for those new to computing. We have been teaching several very successful classes for beginners. We want to invite them to continue their learning experience with this new Study Group. We are calling it The Beginners Study Group. Doris Collins will be the group leader and she will have her first session on Wednesday, May 5, 2004 at 10:00AM. All are invited to come to this study group. If you are new to the club, you are welcome to come several times and then we hope you will enjoy the follow-up information and join the club. Membership is \$25 for Seniors and \$30 for those younger than 55.

Build your own computer? (A do it yourself project)

Would you like to build your own computer. Some people have this burning "itch" to get inside a computer and see how it works. If you have the ability to use a few tools and would like to become more acquainted with your computer, this is the way to really understand the inner workings. David Robbins and Fran Crane have started the first class and if there is an interest and response, there could be more classes. Basically, there are two configurations we have started with. One, in the neighborhood of \$600-\$700 dollars and the other configuration is in the neighborhood of \$1000-\$1100. The first class is the time to make the decision of what configuration you want to use and if you want other parts added. I suggest anyone interested, research what you want in your computer via the web. You will build this computer yourself. You must be a member of the club to participate, if you are not a member, go to <http://www.okcpcug.org> and click on "Application". For more information, contact David Robbins, dave2k@gbroline.com or Fran Crane, fcrane1@cox.net

***We are part way through the first class and everyone is finding it interesting and fun, also not as hard as they thought it might be. The Sat of May 3rd, the class members will be finalizing the connections and putting their operating systems on their new computer. They will be very proud of their accomplishments as they carry their new computer home.*

Articles for May 2004

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

[Business Solutions: Data Validation-Access 2000 - By James D. Duncan, CPA May 2004](#)

The single largest problem I see is data that is not consistent. Be this social security numbers, telephone numbers or a variety of items that should be standard from one record to the next. I am continually amazed at the commercial software that does not enforce formatting of the input fields. I am currently working with 2 pharmacy systems that have free form social security number fields. And the customer is always surprised when I have come to add a report and have to tell them we need to spend a week on cleaning data before the new report will be usable.

[How Does One Track The Origin of Spam? - By John Brewer May 2004](#)

Spammers are ingenuous people. They hide the origin of the spam and are masters of obfuscation. Recently, litigation has been filed under federal law. It is interesting to investigate how the spammers were identified. A recent article in the New York Times turns on the light regarding this method of tracking.

“The government's first criminal case under a new law outlawing some types of spam e-mails was based on low-tech investigative methods: Authorities followed the money. Investigators said Thursday they tracked defendants by purchasing a weight-loss product for \$59.95 and waited to see who collected the money.”

[Video CD Maker: The Cheap, Easy, and Competent Video Editing Suite - by Rob Rice May 2004](#)

A few weeks ago I bought a digital 8 camcorder with the intention of transferring my movies onto video tape and mailing the tapes to friends and family. After spending what seemed like an eternity of filming and transferring the video over to video tape, I finally got my first cinematic epic in the mail and out of my life. Well, it didn't take long for people to start calling and telling me that my tapes did not work. Finally, after much thought and realizing that they were not a bunch of cry babies I realized that the tapes must have been damaged in the mail. At that point I decided that there must be a better way. The answer was to put the video on CD which would then be playable on a computer or DVD player.

[Creative Commons: Artists Giving Back - by Billy Mabray May 2004](#)

Have you ever made a personal Web page or a greeting card and needed a certain picture that wasn't in your clip art? You do a search on the Internet and find just the right image. As you right-click and choose *Save As*, you hear a nagging voice in the back of your head:

You don't have permission to use this.

But just for this little project, they won't mind.

You don't have permission.

I'm not selling it or anything.

No permission.

Fine! I'll keep looking.

[Computer Hysteria: Old Dogs" - by Berry F. Phillips May 2004](#)

Veterinarians generally agree that "old dogs can be taught new tricks." Old dogs may not learn as quickly as they did when they were young, but with time and patience, most old dogs can be taught to do anything that a younger dog can do.

[This and That: Following Through - by Elizabeth B. Wright May 2004](#)

The computer problems that have plagued me for months, some mentioned in previous columns, are partially ended, at least for the time being. With great trepidation, I plunged into the Registry file in Windows 98SE. Once a problem is solved, it is difficult to remember the steps which led up to the resolution. But somehow, I finally decided my computer was searching at startup for a file related to specific hardware, and not finding it was causing the dreaded black screen with an IO error message. Everyone talks about the "Blue Screen of Death", but the "Black Screen of Computer Eternal Fiery Punishment" is even worse.

****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.

[Join the Oklahoma City PC Users Group!](#)

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. [Read More...](#)

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

eMonitor editor: Fran Crane - fcrane1@cox.net