



THE BUSSLINE

(BUSSLINE is the term for the complex multi-functional circuitry on a computer motherboard, a PC's heart.)

Vol. 110 No. 11 Newsletter of the Central Florida Computer Society, Inc. [Non-Profit, 501(c)3] Dec. 2010

TECH/COMPUTER EVENTS STILL NOT TO BE MISSED!

December 19

Sean Kane. **New things from Apple.** Sean is a Mac Administrator and leads the CFCS/FLMUG iSIG. He will be presenting information about the many products from Apple. He will show some of the many features of Mac computers, as well as the iPod, Apple TV, iPhone, & the iPad. Many of our members are multiple computer owners and may be thinking about adding a Mac to their home or business. This will be a good meeting to find out what the advantages will be. You will also see that the Mac is capable of running both Mac and Windows operating systems.

ENJOY the CITY - ORLANDO

The NEW 2011 Coupon Books are in! Good through Dec. 2011 (Your 2010 Books are still good through December 2010!) They still cost just \$20! HUNDREDS Of \$\$\$\$\$ In Savings!!

Get one free Oil Change at Firestone, Value = \$20 ++!! And, 2 \$10 off on your next two changes. And 4 \$5 off \$50's at Albertsons or Publix. So that is \$60 without ANY of the Restaurants, etc. Get one for each car! See any CFCS board member or SIG leader to purchase one.

January 16

Gene Barlow presents **The Best Backup Plan to protect your System from Failure & Organizing Your Hard Drive**

Gene and Linda Barlow represent Acronis Software to the user group community. Acronis True Image Home is their backup and recovery prod-

uct. This product provides the maximum flexibility to ensure that your computer's hard drive is adequately protected and can recover from any unforeseen events, such as hard drive failures, viruses or unstable software downloads. By having & implementing a well thought-out Backup and Recovery Plan, you can put your system together again fairly quickly, instead of days or weeks. This is a most important type of program that every PC User should consider for their computer. Gene will demonstrate Acronis True Image Home, one of the most popular computer backup and recovery programs on the market today.

The last part of his presentation will focus on the best way to Organize Your Hard Drive. Acronis just released a new version of their partitioning product, Disk Director 11 Home with support for the Windows 7 OS. With large terabyte hard drives today, they need to be set up & organized to take advantage of the additional space. This can be done very easily. A special "partitioning utility" is needed

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to make this organization process easy and simple to do. Gene will demonstrate the most recent release of Acronis Disk Director Home at the presentation. The combination of one or both of these excellent hard drive utilities would give you the power to Protect Your Hard Drive from system failure and Organize Your Hard Drive for better safety of your data files.

Gene has been a presenter in the user group community for over 28 years. For many years he managed IBM's user group support organization and has been called the Father of PC User Groups. Now retired, Gene started his own company called User Group Relations (www.ugr.com), providing support to the user group community for the software companies he represents. He is an informative and easy to understand presenter. Don't miss this important presentation.

All events through December are held at 2 pm in the Jackson Hewitt office on Lee Rd. and Turner Rd. See map on pg. 24. Jan. Feb. and Mar. presentations will be at the University Club of Winter Park. For details and maps, consult our website at cfc.org.

Also, earlier on the same day of each talk, the **Windows SIG*** meeting is held. (*Special Interest Group) The WinSIG always meets at 12:30 pm, just before the CFCS General Meeting. If you use or plan to use Windows, these discussions, demonstrations, and Q&A sessions will be of immense value to you. Geared to intermediate level Windows users. Tips, tricks, and information on all versions of Windows are discussed. An e-newsletter is sent periodically with meeting information and links discussed at the meeting. You need not attend both meetings, but many members do. Non members always welcome. Sign up for the free e-newsletter at cfc.org.

January 29 (Note: This event does not take place in Orlando.)

You are invited to attend the **5th** annual Northwest Florida Computer Tech Conference (2011) on Saturday, January 29, 2011, at Northwest Florida State College, Niceville. Florida. The co-sponsors are:

- The PRIME TIME Northwest Florida State College <http://www.nwfsc.edu/ContEd/>

PRIMETIME.cfm

- Northwest Florida Association of Computer User Groups (NWFACUG) <http://NWFACUG.org>

- Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG.) <http://www.APCUG.org>

Our organizations come together once a year to present you with the best computer training in Northwest Florida. We will host the annual APCUG Meeting in conjunction with Computer Tech 2011. We had 394 computer enthusiasts attend Computer Tech 2010 and expect to see more than 500 at Computer Tech 2011. Come join us for this one day special event and during your free time take a walk on the No1 rated beach in the US.

The conference is **free** and open to the military, seniors, snowbirds, students and user group members. You have 25 different technology workshops to choose from. See a tentative list of workshops in our Computer Tech 2011 flyer or visit <http://NWFACUG.org>.

January 31 (Note: This event does not take place in Orlando.)

Computer Conference at Sea in 2011

Join us on next year's Florida Association of Computer User Groups (FACUG) Technical Conference @ Sea. For more information see FACUG.org

2011 FACUG Technology Conference Mexico Cruise January 27th through January 31st - 2011

There is no better bargain vacation than a cruise, add to it a fully fledged Computer and Technology Conference and it becomes an outstanding event. Be part of the FACUG's second Conference@Sea. Be with us for this will be another outstanding **Sail - Abration**.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

The **iSIG** meets every third Monday at 7:00 pm at *Denny's on Lee Rd & I-4*. The iSIG meetings cover the products that use the iPhoneOS, which includes the iPhone, iPad, and iPod. This is a combined effort

of the Central Florida Computer Society <http://www.cfcs.org> and the Florida Macintosh Users Group <http://www.flmug.com>. Other groups are invited to participate. Attendees are consumers, developers, consultants, and publishers. The SIG leader is Sean Kane, Certified Apple Technical Coordinator, long-time Mac and iPhone user, and a technologist and consultant to Walt Disney Feature Animation Florida.

Please note that the iSIG meets at the Denny's on Lee Rd. The Tech-SIG and the Board of Directors meetings continue to meet at Denny's on 436 & Oxford Rd in Casselberry.

The ACCESS, MS OFFICE, and SECURITY SIGs meet conjointly on the second Wednesday of each month from 7 to 9 pm at the New Horizons Learning Center at 1221 Lee Rd. Arvin Meyer, a Microsoft MVP, (and current CFCS president), leads the SIG. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cfcs-access> This is a combination of three separate SIGs which now meet alternately for the duration of Arvin's presidency. They will resume separate meetings when he leaves office and/or publishes his upcoming book.

The GRAPHICS/PHOTO SIG meets on the third Wednesday of each month from 7 to 9pm at the New Horizons Learning Center at 1221 Lee Rd. Robert Black, CFCS newsletter editor, is a former archaeological photographer and teacher. E-mail: graphic-sig@cfcs.org

This SIG concentrates on digital photography and any software or peripherals related to it. Whether you are a beginner or a pro, bring your stuff (gear & photos) to show off or ask questions so we can learn from each other!

The TECH DISCUSSION SIG meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month from 7 to 9 pm at the Casselberry Denny's at 436 and Oxford Rd.

This SIG is a non-structured, open conversational group for CFCS members, that has no specific topic or speaker, but is simply a round table discussion. It is not an advanced group, but a place for people to come and discuss various subjects, such as new products and technologies, hardware, software, web-related, etc. Bring in articles from magazines, newsletters, unusual problems/situations that have arisen, questions, etc. Also, new or ailing devices or notebook pc's are welcome, either for "show and tell" or discussion or demo of situations. E-mail: tech-sig@cfcs.org

Is This the Ghost of Christmas Future?

In his column last month, Bob Click mentioned that he had received a message from Lou Vitale, President of Macon Users Group in Macon, GA, in which Lou told the members of the Macon User Group that their BOD had decided it was no longer logical to keep the group alive. As Bob wrote: "It must have taken him a while to put that final letter together, but I disagree that they no longer have anything to offer the members. As usual, only a few people were willing to do the work and they probably got tired of working while others simply enjoyed the benefits. Yes, they do have almost nothing new to present that they haven't already done, but nothing can replace a member coming in with his machine in hand that has a problem, or stating his problem during the Q & A, and after a short discussion, his problem is most likely diagnosed. The Internet might have the answers, but who is going to explain it to you, except, perhaps, your grand kids. In the meantime, some malware or keyloggers might stop by, and God help you if that happens. The Internet can only help if you understand what you're reading and know what you're doing, and that's where a users group comes in. The members that weren't active in the group's work will be the real losers."

Bob also mentioned that he had the actual letter posted on his website:

<<http://www.dealsguy.com>>.

So I went there and read the letter. Here is the letter. Read it and weep; or better yet, volunteer to help keep CFCS alive:

Lou'sViews 124

Some of you may have noticed that the club web page is no longer available; that is no accident. The Board of Directors at our last meeting in October voted to disband MUG. It was a very difficult decision and it came after almost a year of discussion and various attempts to correct the underlying issues that brought this about. For you loyal members who have been part of this club for over a decade, I will lay out the facts that brought us to this conclusion.

Computers are now a "commodity" -- that is, they have become a basic appliance, just like a washing machine or a toaster. Most buy their desktops or lap-

tops from 3 or 4 major manufacturers -- either at a big box store, online, or from a local store that only carries one or two brands. There is no "code" or special programs needed to make it work. You turn it on and it works, and if it doesn't, you take it back or call "Lizzz."

As for operating systems, the issue has become moot. You have Windows or you don't. XP still works, Vista is gone (thank God), and Windows 7 is excellent. Linux is out there and so are Macs -- maybe 15% of the market at most. You use whatever comes on your new machine.

For those who have questions about their machines, there are now online options to get those answers that are much more accurate and quicker than a once-a-month "Tech" session. The one area where a general audience needs real help is on computer security. We have done that program more times than I can count. Lizzz did 3 just this year. AVG, a firewall and Malwarebytes, and you are done. The very purpose for a "user group" no longer exists.

Vendors stopped sending representatives to computer clubs years ago, and free trial software for review has dried up. There is nothing to give away anymore. Most of the creative activities in applications are now for your smart phone or your touch pad. Last time I checked, very few of our members had either device.

Every meeting requires that we the Board of Directors come up with a computer-related program and someone to present it. As far as I can tell, we have done them all. We have passed out surveys and asked for suggestions for new topics and presenters, but we have come up dry. For over 2 years it has been a real struggle to fill that hour, and we as a Board are burned out.

As a result of all of this, our membership has fallen way off and, dare I say this, but we are all getting older. When was the last time you saw anyone in the smart phone, social networking generation come to one of our meetings? We had nothing to offer them.

There is a time for everything and everything has its time. For MUG the time is up. The Macon Users Group was formed when code was the only way to run a computer. MUG has been an asset to this com-

munity for all that time, and I am sure we have helped thousands of people with their computers. I don't think we can fulfill that role any longer.

I want to acknowledge the work of Nancy Cottrell for maintaining the club web page for all these years. It has been a real asset to all our members. She has spent many hours keeping it up to date and relevant to our needs with the list of free programs. Rhonda Tomlinson has prepared our club newsletter for many years; each one required hours of work and provided new and pertinent information for all our members. Lee Alexander has been at times our Treasurer, Secretary, and keeper of the club computer, and he has written extensive articles for the newsletter. As an old "IBM" tech, he has always been my go-to guy for technical help.

I would like to thank all who have served on the Board for the last 10 years that I have been president, and all who served before me as officers and Board members. Without their freely given time and creative input, there would have been no club. I know that I speak for the Board of Directors when I say that it has been an honor to be part of MUG, and great fun to meet with our members every month.

Blessings to all, and may your computer work every time you turn it on.

Lou.

As I read the above letter, I kept thinking, this could be us in the future, since so few are doing the work. Others just keep coming to the meetings, but never seem to want to pitch in. I wonder if they would miss our meetings, the camaraderie, the computer help, the something-you-can-use-every-month. Much of what Lou says is true, but our board is still vibrant. We DO NEED MORE active PARTICIPATION, though. The next time we ask for a volunteer, or to help with a fundraiser, or to attract new members, DO IT! Otherwise, you may wake up someday like Scrooge and realize what you missed.

-R. Black, Editor, The BUSSLINE

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THE CENTRAL FLORIDA COMPUTER SOCIETY is a charitable, scientific and educational, nonprofit organization, founded in 1976 and incorporated in 1982 to encourage interest in the operation and development of computers through meetings with free exchange of information and educational endeavors.

Newsletter: The CFCS Newsletter © 2008 is the official newsletter of the Central Florida Computer Society, Inc. It is published every month by CFCS for the purpose of keeping members and others informed of computer-related news and activities of the Society. Circulation: 25,000.

Mailing Address:
 CFCS
 204 Larkwood Dr., Suite 100
 Sanford FL 32771

Membership: CFCS membership includes participation in the Society's activities and subscription to this Newsletter.

Annual Dues Schedule:

Individual	\$ 40
Extra family member	24
Student (Full time).....	24
Corporate membership.....	132*

*Includes free business card ad

Members are responsible for sending a change-of-address notification (including e-mail) to: membership@cfcs.org.

Gifts to CFCS are welcome, and because of the Society's nonprofit tax status, are tax deductible.

Meetings: CFCS meets each month on the 3rd Sunday at 2:00 p.m. at the **Jackson Hewitt Training Center, 2221 Lee Rd. Winter Park, FL**. Guests and the general public are invited to attend. Special Interest Groups (SIGs) within the Society meet regularly. See Special Interest Groups listings on pages 6 & 7.

CFCS Web site: www.cfcs.org

Editorial: Articles for publication in the CFCS Newsletter should be *emailed* to the Editor at: editor@cfcs.org. Please use Microsoft Word format, Times New Roman font, 12 point, if possible. The deadline for submitting articles is the first of each month.

Articles by authors other than directors of CFCS and the Newsletter staff do not necessarily reflect the policies or sanction of the Society. Unless otherwise indicated, articles in the CFCS Newsletter may be reprinted in newsletters of other nonprofit organizations, without permission, provided credit is given.

This issue was created using Microsoft Office 2007 and MS Publisher 2007 Edition. Photoshop CS2 was used to edit, retouch and convert photographs and logos to grayscale for this issue. Adobe Acrobat 6.0 was used to prepare a .pdf formatted version for electronic transfer to the publication house and use on the Web site. 

Board of Directors

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Associate Editor:	
Proofreader: Ted Goodwin	
Distrib: Stephen Constant	Advertising: (Needed)

CFCS Newsletter Advertising

Computer ready rates, for one time insertion, whether in the Printed or Electronic Edition:

Full Page	\$200.00*	Quarter Page	\$75.00*
Half Page	125.00*	Business Card	25.00*

Advertising deadline: the first day of month of issue. Electronic copy is required.
 All ad copy and correspondence should be sent by email to: advertising@cfcs.org
 *Annual Rates, Paid in Advance, for 12 insertions, with a minimum of 2 Printed Editions:

Full Page	\$1200*	Quarter Page	\$450
Half Page	750	Business Card	150

*Does not include Back Page; please inquire if interested

Interested in making a difference?
Then volunteer with CFCS! The programs and benefits that members receive would not exist without members also volunteering. There are vacancies for a Program Chair/Coordinator, Education Chair and Advertising Chair. Please contact Stan Wallner, if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions. president@cfcs.org

CFCS is associated with both International & Florida User Group Associations:



www.apcug.net



The Recycle Bin

by Stan Wallner,
President Emeritus, CFCS



This a continuing monthly column. Check here regularly for updates and new info. This a MOST important issue regarding our environment; and can't be overemphasized! It is changing frequently, so check this column monthly for updates! If you just have one or two items for any of the following places, contact me. If I know well in advance, I may agree to have you bring them to a meeting (especially out-of-towners, and I'll take them from there. I DO need to know in advance so there aren't too many items on any one day. AND, I do plan to do less of this now that there are more options.

Category "A" - For Monitors, Printers, Scanners that still work, and PC's that are repairable)

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership renewal e-mail letters will be mailed from: membership@cfcs.org to members at their e-mail address of record the month before their membership expires. Then, letters will be snail mailed to members for whom no e-mail address is in the membership database and those members whose e-mail was returned to membership@cfcs.org for any of many possible reasons: no account, account inactive, mail box over limit, spam filter intervention, etc. Please help us by adding this address to your contacts list and setting your spam filter to let our message get to your inbox. We do not share your e-mail address with others (We hate that too!), but it is necessary for full participation in the Society, including receiving your newsletter.

Members will be requested to renew their membership by paying dues on time.

If you do not receive a renewal letter, lose it or have questions about your dues and or membership status, please inquire at the sign-in table or send an e-mail to: membership@cfcs.org.

Membership Cards: A new membership card with an expiration date for the next year will be distributed at the meeting following your renewal. The cards will be laminated and include a bar code which represents the member ID number. Members are requested to present their membership card for bar code scanning at the membership table to reduce the check-in time and make recording of attendance data easier. Cards will be mailed to those members who request same by e-mail to: membership@cfcs.org

New Member & Visitor Orientation: Please listen for an announcement, at the beginning of the meeting for a time and location. 

1) Missionary Computer Fellowship; "MCF"
401 S Magnolia Ave, Orlando, FL; (407) 422-9265.

This is a major organization doing refurbishing and rebuilding. It is associated with and located in the First United Methodist Church downtown. They are not completely religiously oriented. They do still send reconditioned PCs to missionaries all over the world, as well as poor villages in Africa, etc., but I do know that if an indigent person approached them, said person might be able to get a free computer.

Missionary Computer Fellowship is a large and interesting place; with about 20 volunteers, many retired Martin Marietta people coming in to refurbish and rebuild PC's. One good feature - they wipe ALL hard drives, and reload Windows on them. They have about 3000 square feet for unloading, and various workbenches, with separate rooms for laptop work, monitor storage, and the holding room for the stuff they just can't use or make work, and that gets sent to a recycler for disposal. See their Fact/Needs Sheet, below.

"MCF" Fact Sheet

What is MCF? MCF is a group of volunteers from many different churches who fix up old computers for missionaries, pastors, schools and other nonprofit organizations. Most are sent to Africa, Latin America and Haiti. Some are used by local groups, mostly for tutoring children.

What does MCF need?

1. Pentium II computers or faster. They don't have to work. We can fix them.
2. Monitors less than 10 years old. They need to work. We don't fix monitors.
3. Hewlett Packard printers and scanners. Only HP please.
4. Any Windows operating systems from Win 98 to XP.
5. Mice and keyboards. We're very short on mice right now.
6. Microsoft Office software.

What doesn't MCF need? Anything not listed above.

How do I contact MCF?

Call Jim Gibboney at 407-422-9265, to arrange a dropoff, but they are only there on Tuesday and Thursday, 9:00 -11:30 and 12:30 to 4:30.

2) Goodwill

I was just told they have recently changed their policy, and WILL now accept **WORKING** Monitors, Printers, Scanners, PC's, DVD or CD or Hard Drives at all of their locations, including the manned Trucks around town.

3) Salvation Army

Not sure; contacting them; stay tuned.

4) Vietnam Vets

Not sure; contacting them; stay tuned.

Category "B" - Scrap - For Monitors, Printers, Scanners that DON'T work, and PC's that are too old, and/or NOT repairable)

5) Southeastern Data, 142 Park Road in Oviedo, FL 32765 407-971-4654 (Off Alafaya Trail, just north of E. McCulloch Road); They've been very helpful in allowing CFCS members to drop off most recyclables with no service charge for quite some time;

greatly appreciated! (There ARE places that do have fees to recycle all items - I am not going to include them in this column) Offers free recycling to CFCS members with the exception of CRT monitors, terminals, and some TVs. CRTs and terminals are \$3.00 each. TVs need to be evaluated, but most are free. It is best to call before you take items there to be sure you don't arrive at a bad time, Also, do let them know you are involved with CFCS. Southeastern Data is also a great place to pick up parts and accessories, and they accept trade ins against purchases. In some cases they will even outright purchase your components. Their hours are 8:00 am til 5:00 pm, Monday thru Friday, with other hours available by appointment.

6) Best Buy Stores; New to us!

All local stores; no need to contact them first. All items listed above; but limited to three per visit. The only exceptions here are CRT Monitors or TV's. First, there is a maximum size of 32", and there will be a fee of \$10.00 each. However, they do immediately return the \$10.00 to you in the form of a Cash Card! Go to www.bestbuy.com/recycling for more

(Continued on page 9)



GET MORE out of taxes!

Now you can with Jackson Hewitt® Tax School.

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Call 888-282-1040 for information.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are an extension of CFCS's endeavor into "Users Helping Users." Each SIG is designed to be a continuing study of the SIG subject area, whether it be a particular software program, hardware, or any related computer subject.

If a meeting place is not specified in this listing, CALL the SIG LEADER for information. CFCS members interested in any of the SIGs listed are most welcome to attend any meeting.

Those interested in starting a new SIG, changing the time or location of a SIG, or in making changes to information on this page, please contact the SIG Chairperson, Ken Larabee by e-mail at: sigs@cfcs.org.

NOTE: Check CFCS Web site at www.cfcs.org for meeting locations and other SIG announcements.

ACCESS SIG *

Meets: 2nd Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
 Place: New Horizons Computer Learning Center
 1221 Lee Road, Orlando
 SIG Leader: Arvin Meyer, MVP
 Phone: 407- 327-3810
 E-mail: access-sig@cfcs.org
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cfcs-access>

A SIG for those interested in developing Access database programming. Includes Access basics such as tables, queries, forms, reports through advanced topics like Macros, Visual Basic and SQL.

DIGITAL PHOTO & VIDEO SIG

Meets: 3rd Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. to 9 p.m.
 Place: New Horizons Computer Learning Center.
 1221 Lee Road, Orlando
 SIG Leader: Robert Black, facilitator
 Phone: 407-421-4213
 E-mail: graphic-sig@cfcs.org

This SIG will concentrate on digital photography and any software or peripherals related to it. Whether you are a beginner or a pro, bring your stuff (gear & photos) to show off or ask questions so we can learn from each other!

MS OFFICE SIG*

Meets: 2nd Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
 Place: New Horizons Computer Learning Centers,
 1221 Lee Road, Orlando
 (Room changes each meeting; please ask employee or consult the signs upon arrival.)
 SIG Leader: Arvin Meyer, MVP
 Phone: 407- 327-3810
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cfcs-msoffice>

TECH DISCUSSION SIG

Meets: 4th Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.
 Place: Denny's on 436 & Oxford Rd, Casselberry,
 1 block East of 17-92 (Go to Back Meeting Room.)

SIG Leader: Stan Wallner
 Phone: (407) 862-2669
 E-mail: tech-sig@cfcs.org

This SIG is a non-structured, open conversational group for CFCS members, that has no specific topic or speaker, but is simply a round table discussion. It is not an advanced group, but a place for people to come and discuss various subjects, such as

new products and technologies, hardware, software, web-related, etc. Bring in articles from magazines, newsletters, unusual problems/situations that have arisen, questions, etc. Also, new or ailing devices or notebook pc's are welcome, either for "show and tell" or discussion or demo of situations.

Windows SIG– All Versions

Meets: 3rd Sunday, 12:30 p.m. to 1:50 p.m.
 (before the CFCS General Meeting)
 Place: Jackson Hewitt training center
 2221 Lee Road, Winter Park

SIG Leader: Hewie Poplock
 E-mail: windows-sig@cfcs.org
 Yahoo!Groups:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cfcs-windows>
<http://winsig.ning.com>

If you use or plan to use Windows, these discussions, demonstrations, and Q&A sessions will be of value to you. Geared to intermediate level Windows users. Tips, tricks, and information on all versions of Windows. An e-newsletter is sent periodically with meeting information. and links discussed at the meeting.

SECURITY SIG*

The Security SIG is for those interested in developing and maintaining a secure computing environment. Other personal security measures are also discussed. Generally, a current topic of security interest is picked from the current month's security breaches, and we discuss how to avoid those pitfalls. Any other security topics are also welcome.

Meets: 2nd Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
 Place: New Horizons Computer Learning Centers,
 1221 Lee Road, Orlando

(Room changes each meeting; please ask employee or consult the signs upon arrival.)

SIG Leader: Arvin Meyer, MVP
 Phone: 407- 327-3810

The iSIG meets on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 PM at *Denny's on Lee Rd & I-4*. The iSIG meetings cover the products that use the iPhoneOS, which includes the iPhone, iPad, and iPod.

*Note that these three SIGs are combined into one for the duration of Arvin's presidency.. See calendar on page 23.

info, or 'CALL-we're available 24/7 at 1-888-BEST BUY (1-888-237-8289)!

We will be adding to this list. There are additional places, and we want as many listed here as possible for our members' convenience! If you have suggestions or comments, send an email to presidentemeritus@cfcs.org.

Space Corner: What's News in Space



**By Ron Klair, NASA/JPL
Solar System Ambassador**

<http://www2.jpl.nasa.gov/ambassador/index.html>

1. INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION -

Expedition 25 Commander Doug Wheelock and Flight Engineers Shannon Walker and Fyodor Yurchikhin began their day aboard the International Space Station by participating in planning conference with flight control teams on Earth and performing some routine morning inspections. See URL:-
http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/station/main/index.html

The ISS Progress 38 cargo carrier launched from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan end of June and docked with the International Space Station in July. The unmanned Progress spaceship was loaded with 1,918 pounds of propellant, 110 pounds of oxygen and air, 220 pounds of water and 2,667 pounds of equipment, spare parts and experiment hardware. Progress 38's departure clears the aft port of Zvezda for the arrival of the next Russian re-supply vehicle, ISS Progress 39, which will launch Sept. 8 at 7:11 a.m. and dock Sept. 10 at 8:40 a.m., delivering 2.5 tons of food, fuel and supplies. Only two more visits by the US Space Shuttle are planned – one in November and one early next year. Next mission to Space Station is STS-133. Discovery will deliver the Express Logistics Carrier 4 (ELC4), a MultiPurpose Logistics Module (MPLM) and critical spare components.

When complete the million-pound space station will include six laboratories with more space for research than any spacecraft ever built. Now orbiting at 240

miles the 236-ton, 146-foot long, 240 feet wide, 90 feet high. The ISS can be viewed from the ground - for opportunities see URL:-

<http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/realdata/sightings>

2. STEREO - Solar Observatory (Launched Oct 2006)

The two STEREO (Solar TERrestrial RELations Observatory) spacecrafts are the third mission in NASA's Solar Terrestrial Probes program. This mission will provide a revolutionary view of the Sun-Earth System and a totally new perspective on solar eruptions by capturing images of coronal mass ejections and background events from two observatories at the same time. One observatory is placed "ahead" of the Earth in its orbit, and using a series of lunar swingbys, the other will travel "behind.". This placement allows the STEREO observatories to obtain 3-D images of the sun. January 24, 2009 marked the point at which the two STEREO spacecraft reach 90 degrees separation, a condition known as quadrature. Scientists were able to examine the structure, nature and origin of solar objects. On May 5 STEREO spotted the first major activity of the new solar cycle. On May 5 STEREO-B observed a coronal mass ejection (CME) that erupted on the sun. Shocks accelerated by the CME produced a large Type II radio burst. For details and 3D Solar Images see URL:-

http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/stereo/main/index.html

3. NEW HORIZONS - Mission to Pluto (Launched Jan 2006)

Now inflight to Pluto and it's moon Charon that will take 9 1/2 years. Now passed Saturn and heading towards Uranus on it's interplanetary cruise. It is continuing on into the Kuiper Belt where it will fly by a number of objects. The primary objectives are to characterize the geology and morphology of Pluto and Charon, including, mapping the surface of each and search for additional satellites. It is designed to help us understand worlds at the edge of our solar system by making the first reconnaissance of Pluto and Charon - a "double planet" and the last planet in our solar system. See URL:-

<http://pluto.jhuapl.edu/>
<http://search.nasa.gov/search/search.jsp?nasaInclude=NEW+HORIZONS+>

For Images of Pluto see URL:-

<http://nssdc.gsfc.nasa.gov/imgcat/html/>

[mission page/](#)

[PL Hubble Space Telescope page1.html](#)

4. MARS RECONNAISSANCE ORBITER

(Launched Aug 2005)

Arrived Mars March 2006 after a seven-month flight. The mission will inspect the red planet in fine detail and assist future landers. The orbiter carries six scientific instruments for examining the surface, atmosphere and the subsurface in unprecedented detail from low orbit. For example, its high-resolution camera will reveal surface features as small as a dishwasher. NASA expects to get several times more data about Mars from this orbiter than from all previous Martian missions combined. The orbiter's primary mission ends about five-and-a-half years after launch, on Dec. 31, 2010. To follow exploration details see URL:-

<http://marsprogram.jpl.nasa.gov/mro/>

Thousands of New Images Show Mars in High Resolution - See:-

<http://mars.jpl.nasa.gov/mro/newsroom/pressreleases/20090902a.html>

5. MARS EXPEDITION ROVERS - "SPIRIT" and "OPPORTUNITY" (Landed Mars Jan 2004)

The energy situation for both Spirit and Opportunity has improved, allowing controllers to increase the rovers' science observations. The two rovers landed three weeks apart in January 2004 on opposite sides of Mars and are closely studying the surface. Each Rover is independent of its stationary lander, capable of communicating directly with Earth and carrying a full set of cameras for scouting locations. At selected rocks it will extend an arm with tools for close-up analysis. Landing sites were selected as places likely to hold clues on the history of water. Rover Status: **Spirit:** Spirit Remains Silent at Troy // **Opportunity:** Opportunity Keeps on Driving to Endeavour Crater. To follow exploration details see URL:-

<http://mars.jpl.nasa.gov/mer/>

For a great video of the Mars Mission see URL:-

<http://realserver1.jpl.nasa.gov:8080/ramgen/Video-New-MER-Animation-030606.rm?mode=compact>

6. MARS ODYSSEY (Launched Apr 2001)

After over 9 years of orbiting Mars, Odyssey has changed our understanding of surface materials and explored the planet from February 2002 to date. It is

now in the extended mission phase and continues mapping the amount and distribution of chemical elements and minerals that make up the surface and especially look for hydrogen in the form of water ice in the shallow subsurface. Odyssey also serves as a communications relay for the Rovers (Spirit and Opportunity) and future missions. It also records the radiation environment in low orbit to determine the radiation-related risk to any future human explorers who may one day go to Mars. Follow mission progress at:-

<http://mars.jpl.nasa.gov/odyssey/>

7. CASSINI - Mission to SATURN (Launched Oct 1997)

Cassini/Huygens began orbiting since July 2004 and will orbit Saturn and its moons for 6 years. On 15 January 2005 the European Space Agency (ESA) had a successful touchdown of its Huygens probe on Saturn's moon Titan. There is definitive evidence of the presence of lakes filled with liquid methane on Saturn's moon Titan. For pictures of Jupiter and information on where Cassini is today. The mission has been extended thru September 2010. See URLs:-

<http://saturn.jpl.nasa.gov/home/index.cfm>

<http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/missions/cassini/>

8. Phoenix - Mars Mission Lander (Launched Aug 2007)

After 10 month flight - landed Mars 25 May 2008. This Lander is looking beneath a frigid arctic landscape for conditions favorable to life. Instead of roving hills or craters the Lander will claw down into the icy soil of the northern plains. The robot will investigate whether frozen water near the Martian surface might periodically melt enough to sustain a livable environment for microbes. May 25, 2010

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NASA's Phoenix Mars Lander has ended operations after repeated attempts to contact the spacecraft were unsuccessful. A new image transmitted by NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter shows signs of severe ice damage to the lander's solar panels. For current followup activity see URL:-

<http://phoenix.lpl.arizona.edu/>

9. DAWN - Asteroid Orbiter (Launched 27 Sep 2007)

Dawn's mission is to address the role of size and water in determining the evolution of planets. Ceres and Vesta are the most massive of the protoplanets (baby planets) whose growth was interrupted by the formation of Jupiter. Ceres is very primitive and wet while Vesta is evolved and dry. Dawn passed its third anniversary of being in space on September 27. It spent most of the month continuing to thrust with its ion propulsion system. It will take about a month to spiral down from survey orbit to HAMO at an altitude of 410 miles.

For current activity see URL:-

<http://dawn.jpl.nasa.gov/mission/index.asp>

10. FERMI / GLAST - Exploring the Extreme Universe (Launched 11 Jun 2008)

GLAST has been renamed the Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope in honor of Prof. Enrico Fermi. The Gamma Ray Large Area Space Telescope is a powerful space observatory that will open a wide window on the universe. Gamma rays are the highest-energy form of light, and the gamma ray sky is spectacularly different from the one we perceive with our own eyes. GLAST data will enable scientists to answer persistent questions across a broad range of topics, including super massive black-hole systems, pulsars, the origin of cosmic rays, and searches for signals of new physics.

For current activity see URL:-

http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/GLAST/main/index.html

11. SPACE SHUTTLE - Current Launch is STS-133 by USA (Team of Lockheed Martin & Boeing) Launch of Discovery (STS-133) is targeted for no earlier than Feb. 3 at 1:34 a.m. EST. Shuttle managers determined more tests and analysis are needed before proceeding with the launch.. This mission will deliver a third connecting module, the Tranquility node, to the station in addition to the seven-windowed Cupola module, which will be used as a control room for robotics. The mission will feature

three spacewalks. Launch of STS-134 is presently scheduled for 26 Feb. and will deliver an EXPRESS Logistics Carrier-3 (ELC-3) and an Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer (AMS) to the ISS.

STS-133 and STS-134 may well be the last two launches of the Shuttle program. For updates see URL:-

http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/shuttle/main/index.html

<http://science.ksc.nasa.gov/>

<http://www.nasa.gov/shuttle>

Space Calendar for 15 December to 15 January 2011

(For more info insert key words below into your GOOGLE type search engine.)

Dec 15 - Soyuz TMA-20 Soyuz FG Launch (International Space Station 25S)

Dec 15 - Asteroid 2007 MC24 Near-Mars Flyby (0.045 AU)

Dec 16 - Cassini, Distant Flyby of Titan

Dec 17 - Cassini, Orbital Trim Maneuver #271 (OTM-271)

Dec 17 - Asteroid 2010 TP54 Near-Earth Flyby (0.062 AU)

Jan 01 - Cassini, Orbital Trim Maneuver #273 (OTM-273)

Jan 03 - Earth At Perihelion (0.983 AU From Sun)

Jan 03 - Quadrantids Meteor Shower Peak

Jan 04 - Partial Solar Eclipse, Visible in Europe, Africa, Asia

Jan 08 - Cassini, Orbital Trim Maneuver #274 (OTM-274)

Jan 08 - Venus At Its Greatest Western Elongation (47 Degrees)

Jan 09 - Mercury At Its Greatest Western Elongation (23 Degrees)

Jan 09 - Asteroid 2002 RB182 Near-Earth Flyby (0.070 AU)

Jan 10 - Cassini, Distant Flyby of Pandora, Methone

Jan 11 - Cassini, Rhea Flyby

Jan 11 - NROL-49 Delta 4H Launch

Jan 11 - Asteroid 2009 BS5 Near-Earth Flyby (0.009 AU)

Jan 11 - Asteroid 2000 AZ93 Near-Earth Flyby (0.048 AU)

Jan 11 - Asteroid 2005 EE Near-Earth Flyby (0.100 AU)

AU)

Jan 14 - Cassini, Orbital Trim Maneuver #275

(OTM-275)

Jan 14 - Cassini, Distant Flyby of Titan

Jan 15 - ORS-Sat 1 Minotaur 1 Launch

=====
(Ref: Ron Baalke, Jet Propulsion Lab)

- One Astronomical Unit (1.0 AU) = distance from Earth to Sun (93,000,000 miles)

- Only asteroids passing near Earth under 1/10 th of this distance are noted.

Coupon Book News

By Stan Wallner

1) The *Enjoy the City Books* thru CFCS, \$20, with \$20 in free Firestone Oil Change coupon, \$20 in 4 Albertsons/Publix \$5 off \$50 coupons, and lots of restaurants, many with 2 or 4 or 6 visits, etc, is still available as our main Fund Raiser. Contact me or any BOD member or SIG leader if you want one; the CFCS Main Meeting on 12/19/10 will be your last chance - we are ending sales of the 2011 book at that time. (AND, unless someone steps up to take over these Book Sales, - As discussed, I am retiring - this may be the end of CFCS offering these books - hint, hint!) [Please see the **Ghost of Christmas Future** article, find the clue, win the prize. Ed.]

2) As a 'service' to those who prefer the *Entertainment Books*, NOT the ones that CFCS currently sells (but used to for many years), here is a Special Deal that was in the Sentinel, that I know many of you do not get any more. The Sentinel on Sunday, which many of you do not get any more, had a ONE WEEK ONLY Offer - \$19.99 with free shipping. They are normally \$35 list price now, no longer sold by Costco, and I have no idea where you could get them at a better price than this.

Note - this is not involved with CFCS at all, but just something I decided to share with some who seem to think they are still worth while,...

So, even tho I do not think they are anywhere as good as they used to be, at \$19.99 with free shipping, it is hard to lose. (I bought one of the 2010 books for \$9 w/ free shipping in September, expiring 11/1/2010, and found far many less restaurants, some buy one, get one 1/2 off, nowhere near as good as

they used to be (which is why we stopped selling them), but still of a fair amount of value.

Those had several BOGO's including TGIF; and 5 \$5 off \$20 coupons for Save-A-Lot Stores, which did NOT exclude beer (!) - I was able to use 3 even tho I didn't get it until September... They did tell me those are NOT in the 2011 book, which I have not seen...

Anyway , if you are at all interested in this, (Which to repeat, does not benefit CFCS or ME at all), you will need to either call 866-440-7957 or go to www.entertainment.com/savebig - and please note:

"Offer Extended—Expires 12/19/10"

You are welcome!

For CFCS Members Only:

CFCS Members Get Discounts at ALL Smart-Guys Computer Stores and at both of the local CompUSA Stores!

One of the 'perks' you get as a member of CFCS are these discounts!!

Smart Guys (formerly Cheap Guys) has been supporting us with advertising AND a discount for years! They offer a 5% or more on most items to CFCS Members (Membership card required for discount!) This applies at ALL of their stores.

CompUSA had recently resumed giving CFCS members a discount, though it was variable, and not on all items! This now been discontinued, unfortunately They have told us that their new "**Internet Pricing in the Store**" has resulted in considerable price lowering, and this leaves no room for them to continue any further discount for CFCS Members.

Want a Smart Phone?

By Mike Ungerman



Recently, I responded to a CFCS member on the Tech Sig's Google Group when he asked what kind of smart phone should he consider buying? Since I responded with a fairly comprehensive reply, I figured that would be a good basis for an article for our newsletter, so here's my thoughts.



The iPhone people will of course recommend one. The Android people will do likewise. I have both, but favor the later for many reasons. The newest smart phones on the market are based on Microsoft's Windows Phone 7.

Before jumping into a smart phone, I would suggest doing your online research. Clark Howard, the consumer warrior has some good recommendations on his web site, <http://www.clarkhoward.com/categories/clark-howard/technology/phones-mobile-devices>, or you can use this short link to save typing:

<http://bit.ly/clkhwd11>

Leo Laporte, the tech guy, and one whose podcasts I listen to regularly, says to first pick a carrier based on the coverage in your area and the plan and pricing you are willing to pay. He favors Android phones, and prefers the Motorola Droid X.

You may also want to consider the kind of keyboard for entering data: virtual or hardware based slide out/up/open keyboard. This process is best conducted by visiting a store that has many devices so you can actually try out the keyboards and see what you like. It was my initial dislike of virtual keyboards that steered me in the direction of an Android phone with a hardware slide-out keyboard. However, after using an iPhone's virtual keyboard, the Android virtual keyboard and the Android hardware based keyboard I'm still not fully satisfied with any of them! There is an alternative if you decide on an Android device that comes with "Swype" a method of drawing in your words without taking your finger off of the letters. You draw in the words and the software uses word recognition to guess the best result (usually pretty good.) That takes some

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getting used to, but I do kind of like it.

So, back to contemplating service providers; figure out what you are willing to pay a month for voice and data. Are you willing to lock in a plan for a couple of years in order to get a phone at a cheap price (on sale for free or very low price in many cases,) or do you want pay as you go for voice and/or data, which many companies are now offering with various phones and/or devices? And, do you want a combined plan that includes both voice and data from the same carrier? It is possible to split them up, getting a voice plan from one carrier and a portable cellular modem to provide the data (both with and without plans.)

Apple: If you decide that you want an iPhone, then you have two choices to make. You will either be locked into AT&T for both cellular voice and data with a new or reconditioned iPhone (some at bargain prices online/Radio Shack this week,) or you'll get an unlocked phone, paying a higher price on the Internet, but then putting in a T-Mobile sim and in effect divorcing you from AT&T. At that point, you can consider if you want both voice and data from T-Mobile, or only voice (with or without a plan,) and get your data from a secondary source.

Android: Every major carrier, including AT&T now has Android phones. Google has just announced their newest Nexus S phone that either comes locked into a T-Mobile plan or unlocked (at a higher price) and capable of being run on many systems with low price plans or pay as you go voice and data. If you get a plan, then Motorola's Droid family, Samsung, HTC, LG and others are available on all carriers. And if you decide on a pay as you go program, then many of those companies also now have Android phones available.

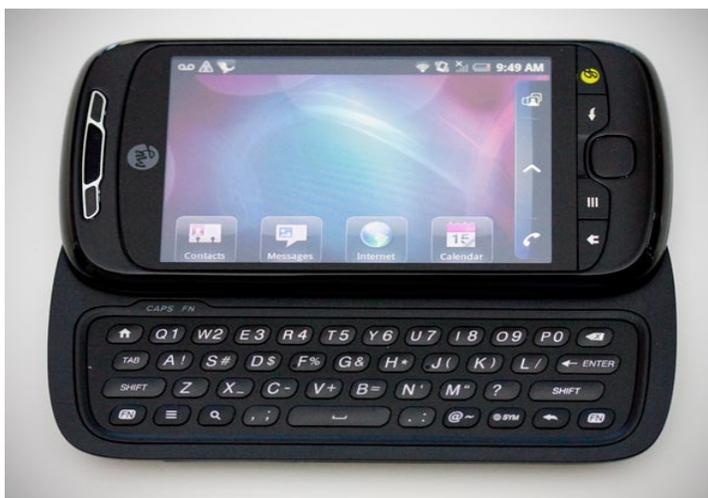
There is no easy answer. Whether you go Apple, Android or Windows Phone 7, there are lots of apps, many free, that you can add to do just about anything on the various versions from their respective stores. Microsoft's Windows Phone 7 has only recently come on the marketplace, so many apps have yet to be written and marketed, but what are now available do provide pretty good productivity.



iPhone 3G



Windows Phone 7



T-Mobile MyTouch 3G

I started my smart phone hunt from the hardware end and spent a lot more than I bargained for. Thus my two phones. I have an Apple iPhone 3G and a T-Mobile (HTC) 3G Slide (hardware keyboard.) Both phones have been unlocked so I can use a T-Mobile pay as you go card for voice services. When Virgin Mobile released their version of the MiFy cellular modem with a pay as you go plan, that became my data source of preference. The

combination of voice and data has averaged me about \$20 a month if you don't consider the cost of the hardware. You can tell I'm a low user of cellular services. Had I waited a year until now, I'd probably have kept my philosophy and gotten one of the new pay as you go Android phones only recently available in the last couple of months. As it is, I shift my T-Mobile sim card between phones as my preference changes periodically. Either phone works just fine over wifi whether or not a cellular sim card is installed.

On the other hand, If I was starting over, I'd figure out what I wanted to spend on a monthly basis, choose a carrier based on that, and then choose the appropriate phone based on features and the best deal at the time. Many carriers are offering free or almost free Android phones. Black Friday has come and gone, but many deals will be offered if you keep your eyes peeled.

CFCS has a SIG for those choosing to go with Apple. The iSIG meets on the 3rd Monday evening of every

month at Denny's Winter Park (I-4 & Lee Road) at 7:00 p.m. Whether you've made your choice or need some help in deciding, attending a meeting is a good way to see what's available. The TechSig also will discuss Android phones from time to time, so attending one of their meetings is another way to see what members are using and get advice. They meet on the 4th Tuesday of every month at Denny's Casselberry (434 near 17/92) also at 7:00 p.m.

Hewie's Views and Reviews



By Hewie Poplock

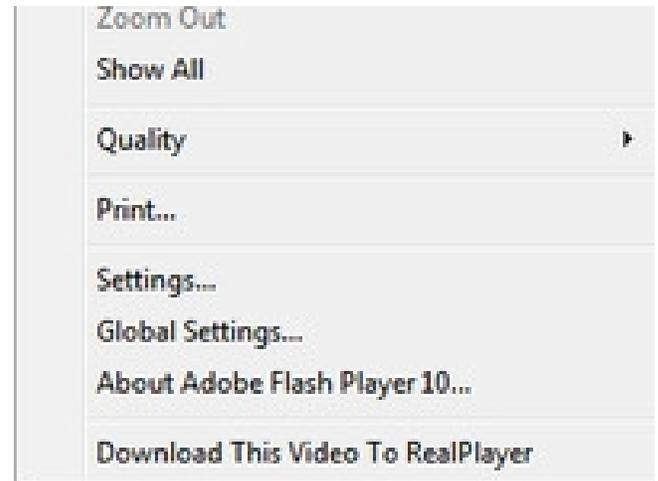
++++ Download Videos for Later Use
++++ New additions to Hewie's Favorites

Welcome to this issue of Hewie's Views & Reviews. Be sure to visit Hewie's Favorites at <http://www.hewie.net/>

++++ Download Videos for Later Use

I frequently want to save videos that I see on line. I look at a lot of tutorials and may need to reference them again. Websites and blogs come & go. I want to be able to view these videos even if they are no longer available on line. If I want to use the video or a clip of it, in a presentation, I do not want to rely on having a good enough Internet connection to project the video. I have found several ways to save the videos.

There are several programs that help download videos from some video storage sites such as YouTube. I have never used any of them. Real Player, <http://www.real.com/> is a video/audio player and there is a free version. One of the features of the program is a button to "Download this video" or right mouse click to "Download to Real Player." Many times it reports that the site does not allow downloading.



If this happens, I use Replay Media Catcher from Applian Technologies, <http://applian.com/download-videos/> which is a \$40 program. In almost every case, I am able to capture a video with it. It captures the entire video, even if the desired clip is only a portion of it.

So if I have to edit the video to keep just what I want, I use AVS Video Editor from AVS4you <http://www.avs4you.com/AVS-Video-Editor.aspx> which is free. I bought a set of tools with updates for \$60.

Most of the time, the downloaded video is the desired file and I simply move it to a folder that I set up for the particular topic. I usually burn similar videos to a CD or DVD to save for later.

++++ New additions to Hewie's Favorites

Consumer Help Center

<http://reboot.fcc.gov/consumers/>

Developed by the FCC Consumer Task Force, will help you get the best value from your telephone, TV, and internet service, file a complaint, or learn about consumer protection regulations

Address Checker

<http://mitebiz.com/fedexadchecker.htm>

If you have shipped via UPS or Fedex, you are aware that packages sent to commercial addresses are significantly cheaper. Unfortunately, if you are selling on eBay or Amazon Marketplace, it is often difficult to determine whether the address is residential or commercial. This website gives you this information.

West Seminole Sun

<http://www.westseminolesun.com/>

Seminole County Florida newspaper on line. News, events, information about Longwood, Casselberry, Oviedo, Winter Springs, and Sanford, Altamonte Springs, & Lake Mary

MousePrint

<http://www.mouseprint.org/>

Focuses on an ad's asterisked fine print footnote rather than the headline. It also examines the often overlooked small print on product labels and contracts. A new ad, product, or contract is featured every Monday to help educate the public about the catches or "gotchas" in disclaimers

Bleeping Computer

<http://www.bleepingcomputer.com/>

Community devoted to providing free original content, consisting of computer help and tutorials, in such a way that the beginning computer user can understand. Good Q&A and anti-virus removal tutorials.

Photo Snack

<http://www.photosnack.com/>

Web application that lets you create photo slide-shows and online photo galleries for free with multiple ways of sharing and publishing

Please share these newsletters with your friends and visit <http://www.hewie.net>

BYOC*

(*Build Your Own Computer)

**Soon to be a recurring
CFCS event near you!**

The Build Your Own Computer event was held successfully on Dec. 4, so much so that the BoD has decided to hold it again next year. Plan ahead to participate next time, so you too can get the thrill of watching your monitor screen light up with a successful loading of Windows as you realize that you have

done it all YOURSELF!

A video (slideshow) is located on Youtube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VVM7C2jwV4>

Thanks to Hewie for taking the photos.



Mark calls the class to order.



Arvin coaches Bess as she begins to "roll her own"..



Bess and Warren make good progress.



Dave is thrilled as Windows boots for the first time on his new machine.



Glen explains a key part to the eager learners.

(A Planning Guide for the next CFCS BYOC)

What Kind of PC Do I Want?

by Randy N. Ridge, a member of the Cajun Clickers Computer Club, Louisiana, and active Tech Team member
 October 2010 issue, Cajun Clickers Computer News

www.cccc.org
[ccnewsletter \(at\) cox.net](mailto:ccnewsletter@cox.net)

What you want your PC to do will dictate what kind of PC you buy or build.



Building a PC has not changed much over the last 15 years; what has changed is the increased power of the components and just exactly which component you need to perform what function. I lump PC's in the following categories:

1. Internet and Email PC
2. Business PC
3. Media PC
4. Gaming PC

Let's take these one at a time:



Internet and Email PC. These PC's require the fewest resources. Usually, you can use a system that has a built in video card and minimal RAM -- 512 megabyte of Ram for XP users and 2 gigabytes for Vista and Windows 7 users. Minimum Hard Drive for an old system would probably be 80-120 gigabytes. For a new system a 1-terabyte drive is the most cost effective. The CPU speed should run anywhere from 1.7 gigahertz to 2.4

gigahertz single core system for an older XP machine to a 2.0+ dual core for a Windows Vista or Windows 7 machine. The operating system should be the Home or Home Premium version of the software. The price range should run from \$125-\$650

depending upon whether you buy new or used.

Business PC. A business PC doesn't have to be overly powerful; but it will need to run Microsoft Office and preferably multiple applications simultaneously. This will mean a minimum of 1 gigabyte RAM on an XP Machine, and a 2.4+ single core processor with no special graphics adapter. On a Vista or Windows 7 machine, I would go with a 2.4+ dual core system with 3 Gigabytes of RAM. You could get by with onboard graphics; but if you need to drive large or multiple monitors you may want to consider a high-end Graphics card. The hard drives would start at 250 gigabytes and up. You typically would use the Pro versions of the operating systems in order to log into a server-based network. Price range is \$500-\$1200.

Media/Gaming PC. I will cover the last two together since they are similar in some ways. I start out with a minimum 4+ gigabytes of RAM, 3.0+-gigahertz dual core processor, video graphics card and sound card. With the Media machine I would add a Blu-Ray player/DVD writer for watching Blu-Ray discs. Where the Gaming PC differs is pushing the power. A dual core processor will work but quad core is better. The more video card you can buy the better for games. The media PC needs an HMDI output on the video to connect directly to your TV. You can also buy a TV card that connects directly to the cable. A TV card for around \$400.00 is available which will take a card from your cable company that will function as a DVR. I checked with Eatel, and you can get the add-in card from them which will record up to 4 channels at a time including HD content for \$3.50 per month. A premium sound card is needed for both systems with surround sound. The hard drive would be minimum 1-terabyte but I would consider multiple drives for media files and setup a RAID system. I prefer the Ultimate versions of the operating systems for these machines. The price range \$1200-\$2500. This is just a general outline. For some hardcore research, search YouTube, or check out these Web-sites:

www.tomshardware.com
www.anandtech.com
www.maximumpc.com
www.pcworld.com

Scribus

By Cal Esneault, member and leader of many Open Source Workshops & SIGs, Cajun Clickers Computer Club, Louisiana
www.clickers.org / <http://cccclinuxsig.pbwiki.com>
 cjesne (at) bellsouth.net

Desktop publishing (DTP) software for personal computers provides accurate control of graphical layout for publishing documents, especially for such items as newsletters, brochures, package designs, promotional exhibits, etc. Probably the best known program for consumer use is Microsoft Publisher, a DTP program provided with certain versions of MS Office. Along with other proprietary software such as PagePlus and Print Shop Deluxe, this type of software allows easy product ion of simple projects such as for greeting cards, party invitations, and small newsletters.

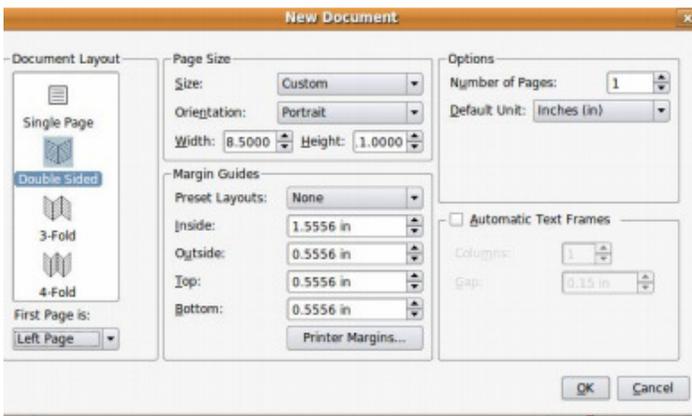
For professional type work, Quark Inc. QuarkXPress and Adobe InDesign software are often used. Scribus (from Scribus.net) is the Open Source alternative which brings award-winning page layout to all PC platforms (Linux, Mac OS, Windows). It has advanced features such as separate layer editing, CMYK color, ICC color management, and versatile PDF creation.

Below is the start-up dialog box showing that you can design the layout for a single page or for multiple spaces on documents intended for folding. A large number of page sizes are provided, along with a choice for customizing to a special size (for example, small sizes for business card design). The next illustration shows the blank editing page. Full-featured menus and toolbars are provided for this easy to use graphical interface.

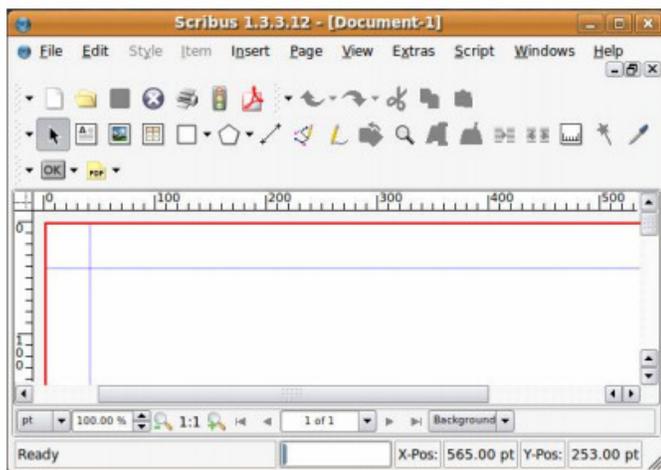
One typically creates only limited amounts of graphical data in these types of programs. Instead, you import text and objects from other programs and use Scribus to accurately place them on the page and review before publication in a WYSIWYG ("what you see is what you get") view.

Following is a Scribus session in which I inserted text and rotated it , added a 5-sided polygon, and imported a graphical SVG object from Open Source repositories.

Scribus is a powerful Open Source program similar to Inkscape (vector graphics), The GIMP



(photographic editing), and Audacity (sound editing) in that prior user knowledge of the subject area is essential. Also, efficiency of workflow is improved if you become familiar with the interchange requirements of the other primary graphic or text input programs.



If you have need to produce first-class printed documents, such as fancy brochure covers or complex newsletters, Scribus is powerful and available at no cost.



When eBay went Public

From the book, *The World Is Flat*, by Thomas Friedman.

Tom Friedman relates in his fascinating 2005 book how Meg Whitman, then CEO of eBay, told him this wonderful story: “We took eBay Public in 1998, in the middle of the dot.com boom. And in September and October our stock would go up 80 points, and down 50 in a single day. I thought, ‘this is insane.’ Anyway, one day I am minding my own business, sitting in my own cubicle, and my secretary runs over to me and says, ‘Meg, it’s Arthur Levitt [chairman] of the SEC on the phone.’ “The Securities and Exchange Commission oversees the stock market and is always concerned about issues of volatility in a stock and whether there is manipulation behind it. In those days, for a CEO to hear that ‘Arthur Levitt is on the line’ was not a good way to start the day.

“So I called my general counsel,” said Whitman, “who came over from his cubicle, and he was white like a sheet. We called Levitt back together and we put him on the speakerphone, and I said, ‘Hi, it’s Meg Whitman of eBay.’ And he said, Hi, it’s Arthur Levitt of the SEC. I don’t know you and have never met you, but I know that you just went public and I want to know: How did it go? Were we [the SEC] customer-friendly?” And so we breathed a sigh of relief, and we talked about that a little bit. And then Levitt said, ‘Well, actually, another reason that I am calling is that I just got my tenth positive feedback on eBay and have earned my yellow star. And I am so proud.’ And then he said, ‘I am actually a collector of Depression-era glass, post 1929, and so I have bought and sold on eBay and you get feedback as a buyer and seller. And I thought you would just like to know.’”

To learn more about the global economy, including the rise of India’s tech support and IT industries; the reduction of China’s poverty population from 350 million people in 1990 to 16 million in 2005, check out the above mentioned book.

To learn more about how you can hobnob with Stan Levitt as an eBay buyer or seller, check with Gary Bigel, who teaches an extremely useful eBay class at Seniors Now (seniorsnow.com).

R. Black, editor, the BUSSLINE

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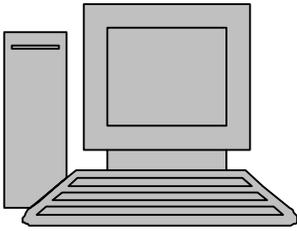
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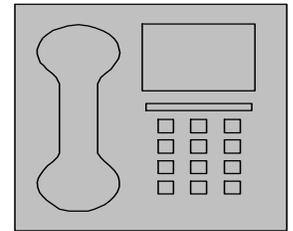
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Additional volunteers are needed in some existing categories and for new categories. If you are interested, please contact the **HelpLine** coordinator at e-mail: helpline@cfcs.org

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HelpLine Listings

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December 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7pm CFCS BoD, Denny's Casselberry	2 Newsletter copy deadline	3	4
5	6	7	8 Access, Office, Security SIGs: New Horizons	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 7pm Photo/Video SIG New Horizons, Lee Rd.	16	17	18
19 12:30 pm Windows SIG 2pm General Meeting	20 iPhone SIG, Lee Rd. Denny's, 7 pm	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 7pm Tech SIG Denny's, Casselberry	29	30	31	

~ January 2011 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Newsletter copy deadline
2	3	4	5 7pm CFCS BoD, Denny's Casselberry	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 Access, Office, Security SIGs: New Horizons	13	14	15
16 12:30 pm Windows SIG 2 pm General Meeting	17 iPhone SIG, Lee Rd. Denny's, 7 pm	18	19 7pm Photo/Video SIG New Horizons, Lee Rd.	20	21	22
23	24	25 7pm Tech SIG Denny's, Casselberry	26	27	28	29
30	31	Notes: Don't forget that the General Meeting on Jan. 16 is at The University Club of Winter Park. Their address is on page 13.				

DIRECTIONS TO MONTHLY MEETING

Our meeting building is at the intersection of Lee Road and Turner Rd. The meeting is in the building behind the one on the corner of Lee and Turner. Turn North on Turner, left into the parking lot, and drive behind the office building in the rear of the parking lot. You will see a sign: **Jackson Hewitt delivery entrance**. Plenty of parking is nearby, and the meeting room is just inside, making it accessible for those with special mobility equipment.

SPECIFIC DIRECTIONS

based on your starting point.

From I-4, exit at lee Rd., drive East 1/2 mile to Turner Rd. and turn left onto Turner and left again into the first parking lot. Drive to the rear of the rearmost building and look for the Jackson Hewitt delivery entrance.

From Apopka/436 area, go south on 441 to

Lee Rd., Go about 2 miles, past I-4, then turn left onto Turner and left again into the first parking lot. Drive to the rear of the rearmost building and look for the Jackson Hewitt delivery entrance.

From the SouthWest, take John Young to Lee Rd. as above, turn left on Turner and left again into the first parking lot. Drive to the rear of the rearmost building and look for the Jackson Hewitt delivery entrance.

From Hwy 17-92, drive to Lee Rd, turn West, then go 8/10ths of a mile to Turner Rd. and turn right. Drive to the rear of the rearmost building and look for the Jackson Hewitt delivery entrance.

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