



Sandwich
Computer
Users Group

Scug News

March 2009

Newsletter of the Sandwich Computer Users Group

WWW.SCUG.ORG

Last Month

Last month Jerry Kell demonstrated making labels using OpenOffice.org 3.0. For those that missed the program or want to learn more, Jerry is hosting an OpenOffice SIG at his house on March 14th @ 9:00am.

March Program – Scanning Slides and Picasa

The March program will have two parts. Dave Ludwig will start off with a light overview of how he got in to scanning slides for his cousin, why he chose the scanner he did, and what he learned about the scanner and scanning the slides. Jerry Kell will follow with a demonstration of Picasa 3 showing how easily you can email your scanned slides or pictures from within the program when using Gmail, Outlook and Outlook Express.

Picasa is a free download from Google. It is a photo viewing program that accesses your photos from the My Pictures folder in Windows. It allows you to Organize, Edit, Share and Create with your photos.

Picasa works with Windows XP, Vista and Linux operating systems. Jerry recently used Picasa to share his pictures at a family event. He was able to lighten dark pictures on the fly as they viewed the pictures.

If you have a Gmail email account you can upload photos to web album to share with friends and the public. The user interface is easy to use and learn.

We meet at the Federated Church in Sandwich 403 N. Main Street on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00pm unless noted otherwise. The meeting is a great place to learn about computers and meet new friends. Next meeting March 19, 2009. Visit our web site at www.scug.org for more info.

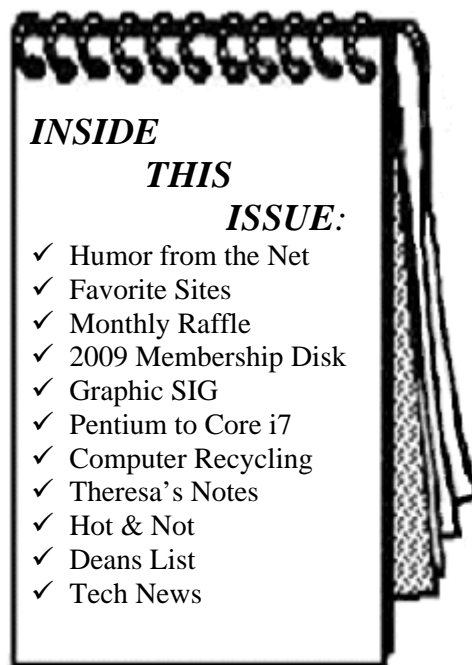
Membership forms are available at:

http://www.scug.org/About_us.htm

Local Business Celebrates 25th Anniversary



The Office Works in Plano is celebrating 25 years in business this year. *Congratulations to a great local business.*



INSIDE

THIS

ISSUE:

- ✓ Humor from the Net
- ✓ Favorite Sites
- ✓ Monthly Raffle
- ✓ 2009 Membership Disk
- ✓ Graphic SIG
- ✓ Pentium to Core i7
- ✓ Computer Recycling
- ✓ Theresa's Notes
- ✓ Hot & Not
- ✓ Deans List
- ✓ Tech News

Hours:

Mon-Fri 8:00 a.m.— 6:00 p.m.

Sat 9:00 a.m.— 3:00 p.m.

Sunday Closed

THE OFFICE WORKS

“Doing Whatever It Takes...”

630-552-4255

Fax 630-552-4551

Toll Free 800-831-6878

5 E. Main Street

PO Box 173

Plano, IL 60545

www.the-office-works.com

March Birthdays

3/2 Bev Ludwig	3/9 Lyn Cole
3/11 Briante Bagg	3/13 Bob Stoltenberg
3/13 Duke Wessman	3/16 Irene Yingling
3/18 Sandra Henne	3/19 Beverly Gillett
3/20 George Bell	3/21 Laura Olson
3/26 Mary Mathis	3/27 Jerry Kell
3/29 Pat Scull	3/30 Laura Caupert

April Birthdays

4/8 Dorothy Fleming	4/6 Rita Barnett
4/19 Will Coffin	4/19 Jerry Gartner
4/23 Allen Erbrederis	

Humor from the Net

An attractive blonde from Cork, Ireland arrived at the casino. She seemed a little intoxicated and bet twenty-thousand Euros on a single roll of the dice.

She said, "I hope you don't mind, but I feel much luckier when I'm completely nude..."

With that, she stripped from the neck down, rolled the dice and with an Irish brogue yelled, 'Come on, baby, Mama needs new clothes!'

As the dice came to a stop, she jumped up and down and squealed... "YES! YES! I WON, I WON!"

She hugged each of the dealers and then picked up her winnings and her clothes and quickly departed.

The dealers stared at each other dumbfounded. Finally, one of them asked, "What did she roll?"

The other answered,
"I don't know - I thought you were watching."

MORAL OF THE STORY -

Not all Irish are drunks,
not all blondes are dumb,
but all men...are men.

At Saint Mary's Catholic Church they have a weekly husband's marriage seminar. At the session last week, the Priest asked Luigi, who was approaching his 50th wedding anniversary, to take a few minutes & share some insight into how he had managed to stay married to the same woman all these years.

Luigi replied to the assembled husbands, "Wella, I've a-ried to treat-a her nicea, spenda da money on her, but besta of alla is that I tooka her to Italy for the 25th anniversary!"

The Priest responded, "Luigi, you are an amazing inspiration to all the husbands here! Please tell us what you are planning for your wife for your 50th anniversary."

Luigi proudly replied, "I'm agonna go get her!"

One human hair can support 3 kg (6 lb)
 Human thighbones are stronger than concrete
 The average person's skin weighs twice as much as the brain
 A woman's heart beats faster than a man's
 Women blink twice as often as men
 There are about one trillion bacteria on each of your feet
 Your body uses 300 muscles to balance itself when you are standing still
 It takes your food seven seconds to get from your mouth to your stomach
 If saliva cannot dissolve something, you cannot taste it

Favorite Sites

E-mail links at the touch of a button
<http://www.komando.com/downloads/category.aspx?id=6241>

There are tons of useful and fun sites on the Web. I recommend many of my favorites everyday. You can share your favorites with friends and family too.
<http://www.komando.com/downloads/category.aspx?id=6241>

Heres an easy way to share a website without the hassle of copy and paste. It will forward a link to whoever you want to see the article, etc. It's a free download.
www.emailthis.clickability.com

A great site for free online games, such as scrabble, puzzles.
www.pogo.com

Louise Dieden

This is some great graphics. Click on the link below and a playing card will appear on your screen...wait a few moments for it to load, then down below the card you will see a line that has a little red slider bar in it. Move the slider gradually to the right and stop and watch the show take place, then move it a little more to the right and stop and the show will continue. Keep doing this until you are at the end. This is another example of the marvels of computer technology.

<http://www.adobecards.com>

Once loaded move slider all the way to the right...

Jake Dykstra

Monthly Raffle

Monthly Raffle

Thank you to everyone who bought raffle tickets in February. Keep up the good work – I would hate to be fired.

March is our salute to cleaning! We will have some wonderful items on the raffle table. Everyone needs toilet bowl cleaner, air freshener, etc. Come early – spend often.

*Debbie Olson,
Raffle Queen*

2009 Membership Disk

The 2009 Membership Disk is available. This disk contains all past issues of SCUG News from October 1999 through December 2008, the SCUG Constitution, SCUG Logo, SCUG Photos (Including the 2008 Christmas photos), all Recipes to date, Links to Antivirus sites, and some Freeware/Shareware Software. Cost of the disk is \$2.00 (members) \$3.00 (non-members) and Free to new members who join in 2009.

All software is either Freeware or Shareware so be sure to read and follow the licensing agreements when installing the software.

This year's software includes:

Audacity

Audacity is a free audio editor. You can record sounds, play sounds, import and export WAV, AIFF, Ogg Vorbis, and MP3 files, and more. Use it to edit your sounds using Cut, Copy and Paste (with unlimited Undo), mix tracks together, or apply effects to your recordings. It also has a built-in amplitude envelope editor, a customizable spectrogram mode and a frequency analysis window for audio analysis applications. Built-in effects include Echo, Change Tempo, and Noise Removal, and it also supports VST and LADSPA plug-in effects.

Belarc Advisor

The Belarc Advisor builds a detailed profile of your installed software and hardware and displays the results in your Web browser. All of your PC profile information is kept private on your PC and is not sent to any web server.

Cleaner

eCleaner v2.01 is a freeware utility that you can use to 'clean up' your e-mail messages by:

- Removing those annoying '>' symbols that accumulate when an e-mail is forwarded several times
- Word wrapping fragmented sentences
- Removing HTML code
- Removing headers

Foxit PDF Reader

Foxit Reader is a free PDF document viewer, with incredible small size, breezing-fast launch speed and rich feature set. Foxit Reader supports Windows 2000/XP/2003/Vista. Its core function is compatible with PDF Standard 1.7.

KeePass

KeePass is a free open source password manager, which helps you to manage your passwords in a secure way. You can put all your passwords in one database, which is locked with one master key or a key file. So you only have to remember one single master password or select the key file to unlock the whole database. The databases are encrypted using the best and most secure encryption algorithms currently known (AES and Twofish).

Open Office 3.0

OpenOffice is a multi-platform office productivity suite. It includes the key desktop applications, such as a word processor, spreadsheet, presentation manager, and drawing program, with a user interface and feature set similar to other office suites. Sophisticated and flexible, OpenOffice.org also works transparently with a variety of file formats, including those of Microsoft Office, and the vendor-neutral OpenDocument standard from OASIS.

Portable Apps

PortableApps.com Suite™ is a complete collection of portable apps including a web browser, email client, office suite, calendar/scheduler, instant messaging client, antivirus, audio player, sudoku game, password manager, PDF reader, minesweeper clone, backup utility and integrated menu, all preconfigured to work portably. Just drop it on your portable device and you're ready to go.

PDF4Free

PDF4Free is complete freeware PDF creator. Users may create PDF files as many as they want. However, the features of the software are limited to PDF creation with font embedding, title, subject, author, keyword information embedding.

The software is free ONLY for personal and noncommercial use. Anyone who wishes to use the software for business and commerce should purchase PDF4U family products.

Somonauk Valley Net, Inc.

- INTERNET ACCESS & WWW Access
- Local Phone Call
- E-mail, Chat, Home Pages, Websites, NEWS
- \$19.95 per month Unlimited Access



(815) 498-9107 — (630) 552-0012

www.prairienet.com

Graphics SIG

February Graphics SIG

Six were present at February's Graphic SIG. We had our usual Question and Answer period which included a discussion why at this point you cannot forward a picture if you are with Comcast. Also discussed method of transferring Favorites from one computer to another and demonstrated how, in cleaning your emails before forwarding you can also get ride of those annoying vertical lines on the left hand margin. That in itself was worth the meeting!

Then, we finally got around to Graphics. Jerry demonstrated Windows Live Gallery and all the editing features within that program. We also "toured" Vista's Picture Gallery, learning about the different ways that you can "tag" pictures.

Amongst other topics included a discussion on "My Space"

Laura Caupert

Pentium to Core i7

Intel Processor timeline, from the Pentium to Core i7. Do you remember your first Pentium Processor? Could that really have been 15 years ago?

1993 Pentium
1995 Pentium Pro
1997 Pentium II
1999 Pentium III
2000 Pentium 4
2002 Pentium 4 with Hyper-Threading
2005 Pentium Dual-Core
2006 Core 2 Duo
2007 Core 2 Quad
2008 Core i7

Officially launched on November 17, 2008 Intel Corporation has introduced its most advanced desktop processor ever, the Intel® Core™ i7 processor. The Core i7 processor is the first member of a new family of Nehalem processor designs and is the most sophisticated ever built, with new technologies that boost performance on demand and maximize data throughput. The Core i7 processor speeds video editing, immersive games and other popular Internet and computer activities by up to 40 percent without increasing power consumption.

Prices for the processors range from about \$280 for the 920 Nehalem 2.66GHz to over \$1,000 for the 3.2GHz Extreme Edition.

Computer Recycling

The Nineteenth Century Club in Oak Park is collecting computers, parts, etc. for PC Rebuilders and Recyclers, through April 30. The re-builds go to schools, and others. Drop off at 178 Forest, Oak Park, from 9 – 12 weekdays.

Bob Dell

Theresa's Notes

Theresa's Notes:

There were 33 members at the February 19, 2009 meeting. There were four guests, Rosaleigh Hallstrom, Janet Hallstrom, Gail Mikyska, and Quen Carpenter. Quen Carpenter joined.

Treats for March are Kathy McDermott and Myrna Skopek. Kitchen help is Joan McEachern and set up is Tom Smith.

Theresa Bagg

Hot & Not

What is Hot and What is Not for 2009

By Sharon Housley

Top 10 Winners for 2009

The following items are our predictions of what will be hot in 2009!

1. Personal Responsibility

In 2009 people will began to realize that governments are not capable of doing everything. At some point individuals need to take personal responsibility for their situations, and have a plan should disaster strike.

2. Financial Diversification

Lessons learned from the global economic crisis will shape how investors view their portfolio in the future. Not really a prediction, more a dose of common sense; intelligent investors and those at an age of retirement, will need to take a more cautious conservative approach to their investments.

3. Mobile Malware

Malware tripled in 2008, and it is not a big leap to imagine that portable intelligent devices will become infected at an alarming rate in the near future.

4. Weight Loss

Fitness and healthy living is fashionable, it is not a stretch to think that the rewards of a healthy lifestyle will impact waistlines in 2009.

5. Going Green

Green is not going out anytime soon. Being green is in, and more businesses will go green in an effort to improve their bottom line in 2009. Green businesses not only often save money but they also appeal to environmentalists and environmentally conscious consumers.

6. Social

The online conversation has never been louder. In 2009 social media will become the new bar scene.

7. Cloud Computing

The "cloud" is growing. Virtual computing and scalability all make the "cloud" an interesting prospect one that will continue to gain attention in 2009.

8. Virtual Collaboration

Groove, Google Docs and other collaborative tools all indicate that web applications and collaboration are the future. More and more soccer Moms and everyday users will adopt the collaborative platforms in 2009.

9. Video

Video is steadfast in its staying power. The growth and popularity of YouTube and video in online media is not going away anytime soon, expect to see more professional videos in 2009.

10. RSS

Google's common query list showed the query "What is RSS" at number 5. This clearly shows that the trends related to RSS adoption and syndication are reaching beyond the techie circles in the coming year.

Honorable Mentions:

1. Big Brother
2. Do Follow
3. Alternative Energy
4. Mobile Web
5. Software as a Service
6. Subscription Sites

Top 10 Losers for 2009

1. Global Economy

The global economy is rapidly sinking, and its not likely to change anytime soon. Hunker down for a rough ride in 2009.

2. Republicans and Conservatives

The Republican Party took a beating in 2008 and it does not appear that is going to change any time soon.

3. Hollywood

Stars and Hollywood that have used their star power to influence political issues may find their comeuppance, with consumers wanting stars to entertain, not push their political views in 2009.

4. China

China's tainted shipments have given consumers cause for concern. China's imports may find that the difficulties in the US economy and lack of quality standards result in a downturn in purchases of Chinese imports in 2009.

5. Somali Pirates

The developed world is tired of the Somali Pirates threatening the civilized world. There is likely going to be

a push back against the piracy in the open seas in the coming year.

6. Financial Services Industry

It is going to take significant time to for investors to have faith in the financial services industry, with the Madoff scandal and the plummeting markets in the financial industry will likely pay dearly for their mismanagement in 2009.

7. Corrupted Politicians

The world is tired of chronic corruption that is ever present in political circles, seats that are bought and paid for and political entitlement are a thing of the past. Perhaps this is only a wish and not a true loser, but I would really like to think that corruption in politics will no longer be acceptable to the civilized world.

8. Security or Securities

Something has to give, with the economy is in shambles, money is not growing on trees. Something is going to take a hit in 2009. The money for security is directly tied to financial securities, and sadly the economy will likely result in cost cutting that impacts world security in 2009.

9. Outsourcing

Political unrest, and terrorism have dampened the enthusiasm companies once felt for outsourcing. The world's unrest have shaken the US and companies are rethinking their desire to outsource to India, Russia and China in 2009.

10. Gasoline

The unquenchable desire for gasoline is finally starting to dry up. I expect in 2009 with innovative alternative energy taking a forefront in many businesses, gasoline will have a rough year in 2009.

Take a look at what our 2008 predictions and how we fared! Readers can assess my ability to predict based on last year's collection of technology predictions at:

2008 Predictions –

<http://www.small-business-software.net/whats-hot-whats-not-2008.htm>

2007 Predictions –

<http://www.small-business-software.net/whats-hot-whats-not.htm>

About the Author:

Sharon Housley manages marketing for FeedForAll <http://www.feedforall.com> software for creating, editing, publishing RSS feeds and podcasts. In addition Sharon manages marketing for RecordForAll <http://www.recordforall.com> audio recording and editing software.

This article may be used freely in opt-in publications and websites, provided that the resource box is included and the links are active. A courtesy copy of the issue or a link to any online posting would be greatly appreciated send an email to sharon@notepage.net.

Additional articles available for publication available at:

<http://www.small-business-software.net/free-website-content.htm>



Indian Valley Computer Services

704 E. Church St. • Suite B • Sandwich, Illinois 60548

Brad S. Shelton
Network Administrator

Phone: 815-786-6814
or 888-508-5550
Voice Mail: 888-931-4384 E-Mail: bradnetad@indianvalley.com

Dean's List

Microsoft and Lenovo make Dean's List with Ultimate Academic PCs

In tough economic times, college and university students, faculty, and staff are offered premium Microsoft software pre-loaded on high-performance Lenovo ThinkPad laptops at an affordable price.

REDMOND, Wash., and RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, N.C. — March 3, 2009 — Today, Microsoft Corp. and Lenovo announced the availability of the Ultimate Academic Personal Computer promotion with high-powered, highly functional, affordable laptop PCs designed specifically for college and university students, faculty, and staff. As part of the program, initially offered as a pilot by Microsoft, Lenovo will offer four different ThinkPad laptops pre-loaded with Windows Vista Ultimate and Microsoft Office Ultimate 2007.

The Ultimate Academic PC promotion offers four exclusive configurations:

- **ThinkPad T400.** The 14-inch widescreen laptop gives users powerful processing functionality, a host of wireless connectivity options and multimedia features essential for college students. Lenovo also builds in a roll cage to give the laptop extra durability to meet the rigors of academic life.
- **ThinkPad R500.** This laptop packs in the same functionality as the ThinkPad T400 but gives users extra screen real estate with a 15-inch display.
- **ThinkPad X200 Tablet.** The Tablet offers note-takers the best of both worlds with a Tablet PC and a laptop all in one. The 12-inch screen swivels both directions for easy maneuvering in class, and has low reflectivity and wide viewing angles; the Tablet also features a full-size keyboard, and more than 10 hours of battery life for all-day computing. (1)
- **ThinkPad X301.** Lenovo's thinnest and lightest full-function PC, the ThinkPad X301 comes with several leading technologies such as solid state drive storage for

greater reliability, an LED display for a crisp viewing experience and two roll cages to make the laptop extremely light yet sturdy.

Currently available in the U.S., the Ultimate Academic PCs give students access to Microsoft software including Windows Vista Ultimate, which offers students extensive options for music, images, online entertainment, extended battery life, and the most advanced, layered security protection of any Windows release yet.

By coupling this with Microsoft Office Ultimate 2007, students have access to a comprehensive set of tools that can help them create high-quality documents with Microsoft Office Word 2007, Microsoft Office Excel 2007, Microsoft Office PowerPoint 2007 and Microsoft Office Publisher 2007; gather and consolidate lecture notes or research with Microsoft Office OneNote 2007; stay organized with Microsoft Office Outlook 2007; and easily collaborate with colleagues and professors across geographical boundaries using Microsoft Office Groove 2007.

"The Ultimate Academic PC is ideal for students because it gives them everything they need to be successful as soon as they take it out of the box," said Paul Lanning, president of the Foundation for California Community Colleges, a nonprofit organization that operates CollegeBuys, a purchasing program that saves California Community Colleges, students and faculty money on offerings such as the Ultimate Academic PC. "It is great that Microsoft and Lenovo are providing this PC which answers a previously unmet need on behalf of college students. This demonstrates the level to which both companies are committed to the education market."

The Ultimate Academic PC was initiated by James Ptaszynski, Ph.D., senior director of Worldwide Higher Education Strategy of the Worldwide Public Sector team at Microsoft while shopping for a computer for his college-bound son. He wanted to select a PC that — out of the box — provided access to the best Microsoft software pre-loaded on durable and stylish hardware at a relatively low price.

"By combining Windows Vista Ultimate and Microsoft Office Ultimate software with Lenovo's durable ThinkPad laptops, we created a PC that would help students achieve academic success in an increasingly competitive environment and continue to help them as they enter the business world," Ptaszynski said. "In addition, the Ultimate Academic PC will help students enjoy their down time with features like a built-in camera, advanced graphics for gaming enthusiasts, and access to additional free online services available from Microsoft such as Windows Live Messenger to help students keep up with their busy social lives."

"Advanced PCs are no longer a luxury, but a necessity in higher education," said Tom Looney, vice president and general manager for Lenovo North America. "Not only are

PCs integrated into the fabric of academic life, but they are an essential part of life after college. Considering the technology, hardware 'horsepower' and upgradability, the Microsoft and Lenovo-developed Ultimate Academic PCs are the best choice for the unique needs of students and young professionals, our future leaders and innovators."

Students, faculty and staff with valid e-mail addresses at accredited colleges and universities qualify for the Ultimate Academic PC. Pricing for models begins at \$999 (U.S.) (2). The success of the program will be monitored to determine future offerings. Additional information about the Ultimate Academic PC and eligibility information is available at <http://www.lenovo.com/uapc>.

Tech News

Tech News Tidbits

Written by Terry Robert,
Program Chair, ICON (Interactive Computer Owner's Network), MO
www.icon.org
terry (at) iconusersgroup.org

This article has been obtained from APCUG with the author's permission for publication by APCUG member groups; all other uses require the permission of the author (see e-mail address above).

My intention in writing this article each month is to help us understand technology's emerging trends that affect our everyday lives. While researching material for this month's submission, I felt compelled to share these alarming trends with the rest of you.

Sophos, a leading U.K.-based IT security and control firm, just published their "Security Threat Report 2009", which examined the "threat landscape" over the last 12 months, and predicted the emerging cybercrime trends for 2009. Two major points in the report are very alarming:

- American computers are making a disturbingly large contribution to the problems of viruses and spam affecting all of us today."
- American websites host more malware and relay more spam than any other country

Graham Cluley, senior technology consultant for Sophos, said "Too many American computers have been compromised and are under the control of hackers, and nationally, the U.S. is carrying the most malicious Web pages. When an American Internet company, accused of collaborating with spammers and hackers, was disconnected from the net in November, the amount of spam was immediately reduced by 75%.

Sophos's research reveals that in 2008, organized criminal gangs tripled their attacks against innocent websites, injecting malicious code to infect visiting home users and businesses. They also documented an average of five new scareware websites (hackers posing as legitimate anti-virus vendors) each day, with the intention of scaring users into believing that their computers have been compromised.

By the end of 2008, Sophos was also tracking five times more malicious attacks arriving through e-mail attachments than at the start of the year, proving that hacking has become mainstream among organized crime.

As the Internet has matured into the foremost information resource on the planet, cyber criminals have refined their methods. Hackers are using automated systems to break into vulnerable websites and/or generate new variants of their malware throughout the world!

According to Sophos's findings, China was responsible for hosting more than 50 percent of all web-based malware in 2007, but this position was taken over by the U.S. in 2008. Their breakdown of the top malware hosting countries follows:

1. U.S. 37.0 percent
2. China (including Hong Kong) 27.7 percent
3. Russia 9.1 percent
4. the rest of the connected world 26.2%

Symantec also found the U.S. to host the most malware of all nations, but with lower percentages, and did not include Russia in their results.

We haven't devoted a lot of time to security issues recently, but if you've participated in some of the discussions we have had, you know there are numerous effective strategies for protecting yourself from attacks.

Avoid being connected to the Internet unless protected by:

- Dependable antivirus software (with current updates)
 - Products include Avast, AVG, Norton, and McAfee
- Malware detection and removal software
 - Products include Spybot Search and Destroy, Adaware, Spyware Blaster, and Advanced WindowsCare
- Software firewall
 - Products include Windows Firewall (protects only against incoming threats in XP), Zone Alarm, and Kerio
- A healthy dose of common sense
 - If you receive a popup telling you that your computer has been compromised, advising you to: "Click here to correct the problem"...DON'T TAKE THE BAIT!

If you have no strategy, do yourself (and the rest of us) a favor, learn to protect yourself. Maybe you should attend more ICON functions?!