



Scug News

January 2012

Newsletter of the Sandwich Computer Users Group

[WWW.SCUG.ORG](http://www.scug.org)

Last Month

Last month's meeting was our annual SCUG Christmas Party. Thank you to all who attended, it was a fabulous turn out and lots of fun. Thanks also goes to all of those that donated an item for the special raffle.

January Program ~ Show & Tell

We need everyone's help. Our program for January is a "Show and Tell" about the new tech or gadget items you may have purchased or received in the past year. We need members to bring your item to the program and tell us what it is. If you got a gift or gadget that is not tech related, but may be interesting to our members please bring it and talk about it.

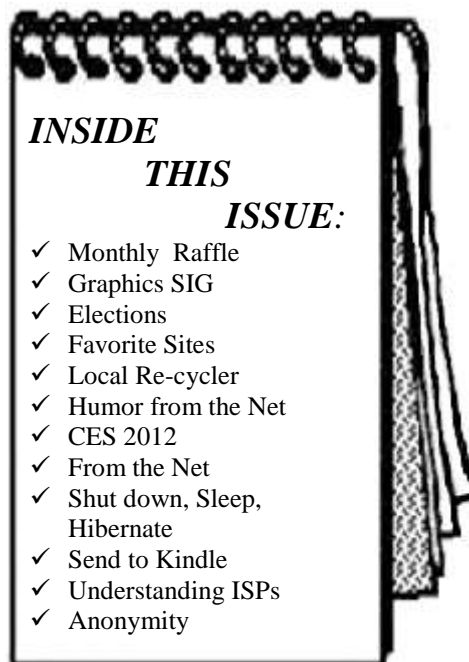
It will be pretty boring if you have to listen to me talking all night about the socks I got for Christmas. So don't be shy and bring something to talk about. You only have to share a little information about your gift.

We meet at the Federated Church in Sandwich 403 N. Main Street on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00pm, our next meeting is January 19th. The meeting is a great place to learn about computers and meet new friends. Visit our web site at www.scug.org for more info. Membership forms are available at:

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

Upcoming Programs

If you would like to do a program, have an idea or suggestion for a program; please share it with a Board Member.



Hours:
Mon-Fri 8:00 a.m.— 6:00 p.m.
Sat 9:00 a.m.— 3:00 p.m.
Sunday Closed

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January Birthdays

1/12 Marlene Hundt
1/15 JoAnn Harkins
1/15 Dottie Olson

1/14 Bob Olson
1/15 Cindy Kaminky
1/27 Myrna Skopek

February Birthdays

2/21 Jim Weekly
2/28 Joan McEachern

2/18 Larry Knobeloch
2/24 Danielle Pearson
2/29 Julie Pearson



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

Monthly Raffle

January Raffle

Welcome to the 2012 Monthly Raffle.

Wow, another year! Where does the time go? Hope to see you all at the January meeting. I am interested in hearing what Santa got you in the electronics line.

Oh, and by the way - raffle time again! Goodies on the table include: correction tape, Maglite, gift bag with note pad and pen, heated coffee travel mug and more, much more.

Buy early and often. Again this year, offering 6 tickets for \$5.00 or \$1.00 each.

See you there! Looking forward to it!

*Debbie Olson
The Raffle Queen*

Graphics SIG

January Graphics SIG

Will be looking forward to another great year of learning & doing. We have already had some requests of projects that I am sure will turn out to be fun. If nothing else, we can always talk about Jerry's "Man Bag".

Laura Caupert

Elections

I wish to thank each and every board member for stepping forward and agreeing to take on another term. Also I would like each and every member to start thinking about the next election and giving our current officers a break.

The 2012 - 2013 Officers are as follows:

President	Jerry Kell
1st Vice President	Bob Olson
2nd Vice President	Tom Smith
Secretary	Theresa Bagg
Treasurer	Myrna Skopek
Board Member at Large	Louise Dieden
Sergeant at Arms	Jake Dykstra
Standby Officer	Bill Hacker

Special thanks to Bill Hacker who has stepped up to help out and to fill in where needed.

Jerry Grommes
Election Chairman

Favorite Sites

Merry Christmas from T-Mobile

This was filmed at Woodfield Mall on December 1, 2011 during normal shopping hours.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vcmfCXwAFs4&feature=player_embedded

Louise D

Local Re-cycler

Certified Re-cycler

Goodwill is a certified re-cycler. They will accept electronics at any of their locations during regular hours. They are not set up to handle a carload, but welcome what an individual may normally have.

Just came back from the Yorkville Goodwill. They have a drive-up donation place that works like a charm. Also they take battery back-ups (UPS).

Robert Dell

Humor from the Net

There I was sitting at the bar staring at my drink when a large, trouble-making biker barges into the stool next to mine, grabs my drink and chugs it down in one draught.

"Well, whatcha' gonna do about it?" he says, menacingly, as I burst into tears. "Come on, man," the biker says, "I didn't think you'd CRY. I can't stand to see a grown man crying. What are you, a girl?"

"This is the worst day of my life," I say. "I'm a complete failure. I was late to a meeting and my boss fired me. When I went to the parking lot, I found my car had been stolen and I don't have any insurance. I left my wallet in the cab I took home. Once there, I found my wife with another man and when she screamed, her dog bit me. So I came to this bar to work up the courage to put an end to it all I bought a drink, dropped a capsule into it and was sitting here watching the poison slowly dissolve as I steeled my nerve to do away with myself; then you showed up and drank the whole thing... But enough about me, how's your day going?"

CES 2012

Consumer Electronics Show

2700 exhibitors are showing their stuff at the annual CES (Consumer Electronics Show) from Jan. 10 to 13 at the Las Vegas Convention Center. The CES exhibition allows companies to showcase their new and innovative consumer electronics.

Smart phones, Ultra books, Tablets, Smart TVs, you name it, if it's an electronic gadget it's at CES, even auto makers are showing off "Connected-Vehicles". Polaroid even announced the launch of a Smart Camera.



Polaroid announces the launch of their new SC1630 Smart Camera powered by Android. This high definition 16.0 megapixel camera with built in 3X optical zoom, touch screen display and Wi-Fi, makes uploading to social networks as easy as the touch of a button.

Don't have a new gadget to share with us at the Show & Tell, just search the net for some of the unusual technology that's being introduced at CES and share it with us at the January Meeting. For example "Samsung revealed its latest washer-dryer concept, they can be controlled from your Smart phone". That's right you don't have to run down to the basement to see if that load of laundry is done, just check your phone.

Jerry Grommes

From the Net

Fifth Grade Assignment

Wouldn't this be great if it was taught in every school? A fifth grade teacher in a Christian school asked her class to look At TV commercials and see if they could use them in 20 ways to communicate ideas about God.

Here are some of the results:

God is like - BAYER ASPIRIN

He works miracles.

God is like - A FORD

He's got a better idea.

God is like - COKE

He's the real thing.

God is like - HALLMARK CARDS

He cares enough to send His very best.

God is like - TIDE

He gets the stains out others leave behind.

God is like - GENERAL ELECTRIC

He brings good things to life.

God is like - WAL-MART

He has everything.
 God is like - ALKA-SELTZER
 Try Him, you'll like Him.
 God is like - SCOTCH TAPE
 You can't see Him, but you know He's there.
 God is like - DELTA
 He's ready when you are.
 God is like - ALLSTATE
 You're in good hands with Him.
 God is like - VO-5 Hair Spray
 He holds through all kinds of weather.
 God is like - DIAL SOAP
 Aren't you glad you have Him? Don't you wish
 everybody did?
 God is like - The U.S. POST OFFICE
 Neither rain, nor snow, nor sleet nor ice will keep
 Him from His appointed destination.
 God is like - Chevrolet
 The heartbeat of America.
 God is like - Maxwell House
 Good to the very last drop.
 God is like - B o u n t y
 He is the quicker picker upper. Can handle the
 tough jobs, and He won't fall apart on you
 God is like.
 The Energizer Bunny, He Keeps Going, and
 Going.

Shut down, Sleep, Hibernate

Shut down, Sleep, Hibernate Which one, when and why?

By Phil Sorrentino, President,
 Sarasota PCUG, Florida
 November 2011 issue, Sarasota PC Monitor
www.spcug.org
 president (at) spcug.org

Shut-down is pretty straight forward, it removes power from your computer and ensures that the next time the power is turned on, the computer will go through the normal "boot up" process. Sleep and Hibernate are different and are "Powered Down" modes. The reason for using one of these powered down modes will differ depending on the type of computer, desktop or laptop, and the need to quickly get back to the operating mode after a pause in operation. Power usage, though always important, is mostly a consideration when using a laptop. How much operating time, before the batteries must be recharged, can be a big consideration for a

laptop user. It can determine how useful the computer may be on a long flight, or how many movies the kids can watch on a crosscountry road trip. Even with desktops, the increased cost of electricity can become a key factor for customers who are under pressure to manage their total cost of ownership (purchase price plus operating expenses).

The hardware that makes up today's laptops has gotten quite efficient and the Windows Operating System software's ability to manage that hardware's power usage has constantly been improved. One of the biggest improvements since the early 1990's has been the addition of these power down modes, to help provide longer battery life.

Improvements in battery technology has greatly increased battery capacity as well as battery lifetime. Besides improvements in battery technology, the Operating System control over the hardware can also improve the battery life. A job for the Operating System is to make the system as efficient as possible while still maintaining an acceptable user experience when turning the system on and off. (With the advent of Solid State Devices, in place of disk drives, we will eventually get to a very fast on and off experience. You can actually have it now, but it is very costly. By the way, try a tablet PC and see how fast it turns on and off; no moving parts in a tablet PC.)

The Windows 7 power management goals are simple:

1) make turning a computer off/on as reliable, simple, and fast as turning a TV off/on, and 2) maximize the battery usage if on battery, and reduce the energy consumption if on A/C power.

The first goal involves changing the model for what "off" and "on" really mean. By now, most everyone knows that turning a TV off doesn't really turn it off. It is still available to receive the remote control signal, so that it can come back on quickly. To the degree possible, "off" is really "sleep," in Windows. When a PC goes into the sleep mode, the system state is saved in RAM; part of that 2 or 3 Gigabytes typically available in modern PCs. This arrangement creates the best balance between speed of resuming operation, and lowest power usage.

Currently, Windows 7 defines three power-down modes:

Sleep – a power-saving state that allows a computer to quickly resume full-power operation (typically within several seconds) when you want to start working again.

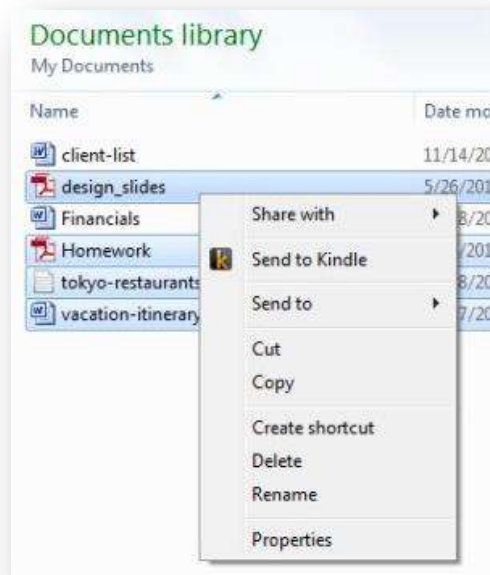
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Send to Kindle for PC

by Kindle Editors on 01/12/2012

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www.amazon.com/kindlepersonaldocuments.

Putting your computer into the sleep state is like pausing a DVD player—the computer immediately stops what it’s doing and is ready to start again when you want to resume working.

Hibernate – a power-saving state designed primarily for laptops. While sleep puts your work and settings in memory and draws a small amount of power, Hibernation puts your open documents and programs on your hard disk, and then turns off your computer. Of all the power-saving states in Windows, hibernation uses the least amount of power. On a laptop, use hibernation when you know that you won’t use your laptop for an extended period and won’t have an opportunity to charge the battery during that time.

Hybrid Sleep – is designed primarily for desktop computers, is a combination of sleep and hibernate—it puts any open documents and programs (the system state) into memory and onto your hard disk (so nothing can be lost if power goes out), and then puts your computer into a low-power state so that you can quickly resume your work. That way, if a power failure occurs, Windows can restore your work from your hard disk. Normally, when the user returns and “wakes” the machine, the system state is just restored from RAM, and the responsiveness to the user is fast. However, if for some reason power is lost (for example, if the PC is unplugged to move it - like you might move your TV), the system can still resume from the system state previously saved to disk with all context and data intact. (When Hybrid Sleep is turned on, putting your computer into sleep automatically puts your computer into Hybrid Sleep. Hybrid Sleep is typically turned on by default on desktop computers.) While Hybrid Sleep can be used on a laptop computer, it isn’t as applicable. A desktop is vulnerable to power loss, while a laptop can, of course, run on its internal battery.

So, although there is a lot going on to produce and provide the power down modes, there really isn’t much to think about. For desktops, let it go into, or select, sleep (which should be hybrid sleep) and for laptops take advantage of hibernate (your battery will thank you).

Understanding ISPs

Editors Note: This tip is from the US-CERT web site.

Understanding ISPs

National Cyber Alert System

Cyber Security Tip ST04-024

Authors: Mindi McDowell

ISPs offer services like email and internet access. In addition to availability, you may want to consider other factors so that you find an ISP that supports all of your needs.

What is an ISP?

An ISP, or internet service provider, is a company that provides its customers access to the internet and other web services. In addition to maintaining a direct line to the internet, the company usually maintains web servers. By supplying necessary software, a password-protected user account, and a way to connect to the internet (e.g., modem), ISPs offer their customers the capability to browse the web and exchange email with other people. Some ISPs also offer additional services. With the development of smart phones, many cell phone providers are also ISPs.

ISPs can vary in size—some are operated by one individual, while others are large corporations. They may also vary in scope—some only support users in a particular city, while others have regional or national capabilities.

What services do ISPs provide?

Almost all ISPs offer email and web browsing capabilities. They also offer varying degrees of user support, usually in the form of an email address or customer support hotline. Most ISPs also offer web hosting capabilities, allowing users to create and maintain personal web pages; and some may even offer the service of developing the pages for you. Some ISPs bundle internet service with other services, such as television and telephone service. Many ISPs offer a wireless modem as part of their service so that customers can use devices equipped with Wi-Fi.

As part of normal operation, most ISPs perform backups of email and web files. If the ability to recover email and web files is important to you, check with your ISP to see if they back up the data; it might not be

advertised as a service. Additionally, most ISPs implement firewalls to block some portion of incoming traffic, although you should consider this a supplement to your own security precautions, not a replacement (see Understanding Firewalls for more information).

How do you choose an ISP?

Traditional, broadband ISPs typically offer internet access through cable, DSL, or fiberoptic options. The availability of these options may depend where you live. In addition to the type of access, there are other factors that you may want to consider:

- **security** - Do you feel that the ISP is concerned about security? Does it use encryption and SSL (see Protecting Your Privacy for more information) to protect any information you submit (e.g., user name, password)? If the ISP provides a wireless modem, what wireless security standards does it support, and are those standards compatible with your existing devices?
- **privacy** - Does the ISP have a published privacy policy? Are you comfortable with who has access to your information and how it is being handled and used?
- **services** - Does your ISP offer the services you want? Do they meet your requirements? Is there adequate support for the services? If the ISP provides a wireless modem, are its wireless standards compatible with your existing devices?
- **cost** - Are the ISP's costs affordable? Are they reasonable for the number of services you receive, as well as the level of those services? Are you sacrificing quality and security to get the lowest price?
- **reliability** - Are the services your ISP provides reliable, or are they frequently unavailable due to maintenance, security problems, a high volume of users, or other reasons? If the ISP knows that services will be unavailable for a particular reason, does it adequately communicate that information?
- **user support** - Are there published methods for contacting customer support? Do you receive prompt and friendly service? Do their hours of availability accommodate your needs? Do the consultants have the appropriate level of knowledge?

- **speed** - How fast is your ISP's connection? Is it sufficient for accessing your email or navigating the internet?
- **recommendations** - Have you heard or seen positive reviews about the ISP? Were they from trusted sources? Does the ISP serve your geographic area? If you've uncovered negative points, are they factors you are concerned about?

Anonymity

The Anonymity of the Internet

Attempting to legislate the Internet will not work, as the Internet is global and covers areas where no single government's rule applies. The jurisdiction issues make the Internet a haven for fraudulent and illegal activity.

Child exploitation and the rise of Internet related crimes is increasing. Child exploitation has no boundaries; pedophiles exist in every socioeconomic, ethnic and religious community. Consider these statistics, 20% of children online are approached sexually online. 89% of those advances take place over instant messaging. Online predators prowl, rebellious teenagers are opportune targets, and shared personal details often make them become victims.

This further fuels the discussion of who is who. Are they really who they say they are, or claim to be? The Internet is far more complex and anonymity might in fact provide the protection that surfers are seeking.

The anonymity of the Internet is a cause for concern. Pedophiles hide behind the protection of anonymity, creating ideal profiles being exactly the friend that impressionable youngsters want them to be. The fact is that a child doesn't always know with whom they are interacting with. All of this makes education critically important.

Children, adolescents, and teens must realize and understand the risks associated with Internet activities and modify their personal habits in order to stay safe online. Sharing private information is just not acceptable. Parents must realize that the Internet is part of world in which our children are living, and as much as we would like to shelter them, it has become an integral part of their worlds. Much like the warnings that youngsters today grow up with about not talking to strangers, parents must redefine who strangers are, so

that their children will accurately understand the online dangers. The critical element to staying safe online is to be educated and understand the very real risks associated with online surfing.

While remaining anonymous is part of the problem, on the Internet, it might actually be a protection. If Pedophiles can hide behind screen names and pseudonyms, why can't children? If an adolescent is participating in online communities, whether its for educational purposes or social entertainment, creating an anonymous identity will help shield their personal information. Personal information related to location should still not be shared but the additional layer, might help shelter the child from unwanted attention.

While anonymity is a protection for the children, it also allows them the freedom to be children. Today's employers often search the Internet for information about potential employees. Additionally colleges and private schools will often search a students history on the Internet prior to offering them admission. As children grow, their views and opinions often change. The Internet's timeless and endless archive of those opinions may no longer be an accurate reflection of who a child has become. Children who post anonymously can afford the luxury of being a child, without the evolution of their opinions being available in a searchable archive.

Anonymity on the Internet might be a tool to help keep children safe, while venturing into the global Internet.

For additional tips to keep children safe online see:
 Security Port - <http://www.security-port.com>
 Wired Kids - <http://www.wiredkids.org>

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 NotePage <http://www.notepage.net> a wireless text messaging software company.

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