



The Bytes of Las Vegas

March, 2010

Inside this issue

President's Message 1

Meeting T&D 1

Announcements 2

Meetin Info. 3

Old Guy Face Book 4

Old Guy cont. 5

Handy Hints 5

APCUG NEWS 6

SIG's Calendar 7

Tips & Fun Facts 8

WOW Digital Camera 9

Membership Form 10

We are looking forward to the programs we have scheduled for the next few months. Gene Barlow is coming to talk about a great way to back up your computer. All of us know that we should do this. However, how many of us do not do it at all or on a regular basis? Please attend this meeting to find out the easiest way to get this done.

In May, Dave Whittle is coming. He has a new website that he's going to present which is very helpful. I'm looking forward to hearing what he has to say.

In June, we hope to have a presentation by the broadband companies currently operating in the Valley. This "duel" should help you decide if you have the best company for you or which one to chose if you currently are not using broadband.

What do you know about social networking - using Facebook, Plaxo, Linkedin, Titter, etc.? We will have an upcoming program taking about these services and will actually set up a Facebook page for LVPCUG. Look for this program and find out what everybody is doing.

Our Board is working hard for you to bring you a club that gives you what you want. Therefore, please give us feedback on the type of programs you'd be interested in and what you'd like to see happen at the SIG meetings.

Wendy Jaroslowski
President

Next Meeting April 7, 2010 at 6:15 p.m.
At West Charleston Library located at 6301 W.
Charleston Blvd, Las Vegas NV
Please contact www.lvpcug.org for the latest info.

Announcements

The Special Interest Groups (SIG) will be meeting at their regular times. Be sure to check the calendar on the website. We are looking for a new place for our General meetings and SIGs. If you have any suggestions, please email us at info@lvpcug.org



Check the website at www.lvpcug.org for the calendar dates and times.

Would you like to share a computer talent you have or would be interested in learning about a certain topic. We would appreciate your ideas!

RECYCLING BRINGS REWARDS
The LVPCUG is receiving rebates for recycling ink cartridges and cell phones. The Recycling Committee urges members to set aside those used ink cartridges and cell phones and bring them to the general meeting. You might also spread the word to family members and friends to save them for you too. There is no cost to the club, only your time in gathering the material and the committee members' time to package it. If you have any questions, please see Charles Finnilla at the General Meeting at the West Charleston Library.

Officers and Volunteers Contact by sending an email to info@lvpcug.org

Board of Directors

- Wendy Jaroslowski.....President
- Harold Rozinski.....Vice President
- Joyce Shore.....Treasurer
- Robert Lynch.....Secretary
- Judy Ruf.....Executive Director
- Larry Burgher.....Technical Director & Webmaster

- Don Sabatine..... Product Review & SIG Coordinator
- Howard Mark..... Down the Road Editor
- Leland Beel..... Bytes of Las Vegas Editor & Little Bytes Editor
- Charles Finnilla.....Recycling Chairman

Membership Questions

If you have any questions about your membership Please send email: Membership@www.lvpcug.org

Website: www.lvpcug.org

Membership

Dues are \$30 per year. Dues are collected Annually from your membership date. If you would like to join, a membership form is located at the end of the newsletter. Please complete and forward to our mailing address.

Mailing Address

Las Vegas PC Users Group, Inc.
1350 E. Flamingo Rd. #188
Las Vegas, NV 89119

Newsletter

The Bytes of Las Vegas is published on a monthly basis. A PDF version is available to members online at the website. Information in this newsletter was obtained from sources considered to be reliable. Accuracy and completeness are not guaranteed. **Deadline for article submission:** 15 th of each month to editor@www.lvpcug.org



Next General Meeting

Date: Wednesday, April 7th, 2010

Time: 6:15 – 8:15 p.m.

Place: West Charleston Library

6301 W Charleston Blvd (East of Torrey Pines)

At the April 7th meeting, Gene Barlow of User Group Relations in St George, UT will speak about Backing Up Your Hard Drive using Acronis True Image Home 2010, one of the top backup programs available today. Gene has been providing informative presentations to the user group community for over 25 years and is no stranger to our own group here in Las Vegas. He's always interesting and presents important technical information about your computer in a way that all can understand and enjoy. He'll stress the importance of backing up your computer to make sure that your data and programs are adequately protected so you can recover from unforeseen events such as viruses, unstable software downloads, and hard drive failures in the shortest time possible. And he'll show how easy it can be, with the help of the right software. There will be time for questions and answers as well.

MESSAGE FROM MEMBERSHIP

Please extend a warm welcome to a new member, Jerome Helpin, when you see him at club functions. Jerome was recruited by Vice President, Harold Rozinski. How appropriate that the winner of the LVPCUG mug at the March General Meeting was Richard Prim. Richard is a long term member of the club and we thank him for his continued support.

The prize winners from the General Meeting of March 3, door prizes were Jim Barrett who won an Office Depot gift card. The next winner was Charles Finnila who won a Fry's gift card. The next winner was Richard Primm who won the new coffee mug.

You can win a prize if you come to the meeting and you are one of the lucky persons who's ticket number is drawn for that night's prizes.

Security Note:

Make sure that you have changed all the default passwords on the Router, Cable Box and any other device that connects your PC to the Internet. This will help to keep out the unwanted from taking control of your PC. This will help to keep your PC in good working order.



Why Would an Old Guy Like Me Use FaceBook

It crept up on me like a small liver spot at first, and then it became the size of a new wrinkle below the eyebag. My Granddaughter emailed me one day, “Gramps, I left you a message on Facebook, why didn’t you answer me?” Then I had a bright idea, well I’ll show her, I got her a fancy webcam, signed her up with Skype and sent her a video of me with all the latest important stuff. (So I thought!) She phoned, reversing the charges of course, told me, “Gramps, I don’t have time to open my email write you a letter let alone use a webcam, that’s so creaky, here is the latest video of me and my friends at Disneyland.” “BTW: thanks for the new cellphone.” Yeah, she had put the video on YouTube and using the video from her cellphone to do it!

OK, Ok I started to admit defeat. I joined Facebook. They asked me where do you live, how old are you, what are your email addresses, what are your hobbies, sex and marriage status, are you lonely – all that you would care to volunteer to tell the world about yourself. How about a picture? You want to put up a picture album while you’re at it? I hesitated; who is going to see this besides my Granddaughter? Then I found out the whole world, including the government, Russians and the Arabs too! So, I said I live in Las Vegas and was born in 1988, God if I put in 1933 it would scare my Granddaughter into thinking I had discovered a way of communicating with her from the hereafter! I found a picture taken a few years ago, well almost 15, and put it up there hoping that it wasn’t too creaky. That was it; the other stuff they wanted wasn’t going to come from me!

So there Granddaughter, I signed up, just look for me, hope to hear from you soon! Nothing. I kept checking, days went by, nothing. The phone rang, it was her, “Gramps, I can’t find you on Facebook. Are you sure you spelled your name right?” “Yep”, I said. “Gramps, there are 256 guys on there with the same name as yours; there’s even one guy from Madagascar that even looks like you.” “Tell you what, there’s a place there on Facebook you can send me an invitation to be your friend.” I was shocked, “I am your friend, for crimmny sakes I am your Grandfather!” Well, I found the place to do that in the program. Then I noticed Facebook wanted me to upload all of my email addresses so they could help me out to find out who else was on Facebook that would be eager to be my friend. I finally figured out you could feed the FB, (you know – Facebook!), craving one at a time with just the addresses of people you thought maybe wanted to be your “whole the world” to see “Friend.”

The days went by, I almost forgot about FB. One morning opening my email for the latest jokes from my buddies – there were messages of “Would you be my friend?” Aah Ha! Who are these people? Yeah, I see my Daughter-In-Law but who are the rest? Well, it turned out it was her sisters and brothers that I had only met once back in 1985.

I had put in a couple shoestring relations from the Midwest that I visit every couple years at a family reunion picnic – now I have their whole families as friends too. Then I started to get messages from my old, yeah – OLD, high school girlfriends that found me out from Classmates.com. Some buddies from the Korean War discovered me, on and on.

I finally discovered a delete friend button in FB, sort of hidden that one can put to good use.

Continued on Page 5

Continued from Page 4

After the old folks learning curve became flatlined I started to enjoy FB. My Granddaughter was right; it was quick and easy to send a friend a quick note. You see the thumbnails of your friends, which is a reminder to stay in contact, if they write you, it only takes a few moments on the keyboard to respond. Not having to look up their address or fiddling around with an email program makes it easy. There is even a chat feature for online keyboard chatting. One can also be friends with your online guys at the local newspaper for the latest politics, business or whathaveyou. Sometimes that's faster than reading the newsprint spread out on the table. There are a lot more things FB can do now that I have rid my self of the unknowns and friendly girlfriends its time to explore! You should try it!

Robert Lynch

- AVG Rescue CD - Posted on 2010-03-24 14:55:11-04

You may not be able to boot your PC at all if you catch a really bad computer virus infection. That's when a free toolkit from the well-respected AVG Technologies antivirus and security software team can come to your rescue...

http://askbobrankin.com/avg_rescue_cd.html?awt_l=8XIRx&awt_m=1fkAmIwNFuP6SL

Microsoft Warns: Security Essentials 2010 is Rogue
Microsoft is cautioning users not to download fake versions of Microsoft Security Essentials, which are similarly named to the original, but are in fact rogue. The original Microsoft Security ...

<http://go.infopackets.com/e20100304-05>

Spanish Police Arrest Hacker Trio, 13M PCs Infected
Spanish police have arrested three individuals for what is believed to be one of the biggest computer crimes in history. At a news conference delivered this past Wednesday, police revealed that ...

<http://go.infopackets.com/e20100305-06>

Outlook Connector brings Windows Live Hotmail and Outlook together at last

Outlook Connector provides a free solution for managing your Windows Live Hotmail e-mail and contacts from within Outlook. With the new release of the Outlook Connector, you can connect your Windows Live Hotmail account in Microsoft Office Outlook 2007 or Outlook 2003 free of charge.

<http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/outlook/HA102225181033.aspx>

Energizer USB Battery Charger Injects PCs with Malware
Symantec researchers have discovered that the software accompanying Energizer's DUO battery charger may have been injecting PCs with malware since May 2007. Energizer has recently discontinued the ...

<http://go.infopackets.com/e20100309-05>

We are Looking for a space to conduct an information demo about LVPCUG
If you know of any place that is available to conduct an information demo about the club Please contact Judy Ruf or send email to info@lvpcug.org. Needed are a table space some chairs and an electrical outlet to plug in a laptop computer.

Facebook Tops Google As Web's Busiest Site

Facebook has overtaken Google as the most visited website among United States users. It's the first time Google has lost the top spot since September 2007. The revelation comes from Hitwise, a web ...

<http://go.infopackets.com/e20100316-04>

Microsoft Hypes Internet Explorer 9; Won't Run on XP

http://www.infopackets.com/news/business/microsoft/2010/20100317_microsoft_hypes_internet_explorer_9_wont_run_on_xp.htm

Antivirus Update Forces Users To Reinstall Windows

A problematic update for the popular BitDefender antivirus software appears to be causing quite a bit of trouble for users running 64-bit versions of Windows. Rather than save users from infection, the update released this past weekend is actually labeling important Windows files as malware threats.

<http://go.infopackets.com/e20100324-04>

APCUG NEWS on the LVPCUG web site

Check out the latest Quarterly Report from APCUG, 2010 Q1. The full report is listed on our web site.

Newsletters--APCUG REPORTS--2010 Q1.

LIVE MEETING TRAINING

Log in to the APCUG website to get the correct links. www.apcug.net



If you are a member of LVPCUG that means you are a member of APCUG and you have a great opportunity to use the resources that they provide. Such as the calendar that members may log in and view a meeting of a different club or SIG and see what they are doing. Please go to www.apcug.org and create a users account in the APCUG SharePoint Site so that you can enjoy some of the benefits of membership in the LVPCUG and its shared portals.



SIG CALENDAR

SIG Name	Meeting Date	Place	Time of meeting	SIG Leader
HelpingHands	1 st Saturday	Wengert Room	10 AM to 4 PM	Linda DiGiovanni 395-6676
Windows Developers	2 nd Thursday	Sahara West Library	6:30 PM to 8:30 PM	Richard Rosenheim 897-1117
Genealogy SIG still meeting regular time and place	2 nd Saturday	Family History Center	10:00AM to 12:00 PM Noon STILL Looking for a new SIG Leader	
Novice(new users) and Internet)	2 rd Saturday	Wengert Room	1 PM to 3PM	Chuck Frederick 452-9440
Software and Product Review	2 nd Saturday	Wengert Room	3:30 PM to 5:30 PM	Linda DiGiovanni 395-6676
Digital Imaging Techniques	2 nd Sunday	Wengert Room	12 PM to 2 PM	Howard Mark 262-3662
Linux/Open Source Applications	3 rd Sunday	Wengert Room	1 PM to 3 PM	Don Sabatine 451-6805
How-To-Workshop	4 th Saturday	Paseo Verde Library	9:15 AM to 2:30 PM	Dennis Kemper

Places are:

Wengert Room is located in the Back of the NV Energy building just west of Jones on W. Sahara

Family History Center is located at 509 S. 9th Street in Las Vegas.

Paseo Verde Library is located in Henderson at 280 S. Green Valley Parkway.

Sahara West Library is located just west of Fort Apache on Sahara Av West.

All meetings are subject to cancellation by the SIG Leader or the Property Owner. The Calendar Page of the LVPCUG website is keep as current as possible.

If you would like to be a SIG leader for some of the SIG's that are not meeting at this time Please contact Wendy Or Don to get the details of the duties of the Leader.

"Surprise is the greatest gift which life can grant us."
Boris Pasternak, "On Modesty and Boldness" speech, 1936



Smart Computing Tips & Fun Facts

"Reprinted with permission from *Smart Computing*. Visit www.SmartComputing.com/Groups to learn what *Smart Computing* can do for you and your user group!"

- **Networking Know-How:** If possible, for optimal performance, set your Wi-Fi router to 802.11n. Wi-Fi, whose technical label is 802.11, uses four possible standards: a, b, g, and n. The latest standard is 802.11n, which provides the best combination of transmission speed, range, security, and flexibility.
- **Get To Know The Win7 User Interface:** Windows Vista users will be more familiar than Windows XP users with Windows 7's UI (user interface), but even they get to learn a few new features. Aside from the improved Taskbar, there are subtle new features, including Jump Lists and Peek. Jump Lists offer a quick way to access frequently used files associated with a specific application in the Taskbar. Right-click an application's icon in the Taskbar and a pop-up menu will display the Jump List for that application. Peek lets you quickly view the contents of an open window without switching applications or windows within an application; to do this, simply roll your pointer over an application's icon in the Taskbar. You can also let your pointer hover in the bottom-right corner of the screen to use the Peek feature's "show Desktop" capability.
- **Buying A GPS? Consider Maps:** Maps should be the first feature to consider when you are purchasing a GPS unit. Almost all GPS units come with a preinstalled base map (a basic map that cannot be removed), but fewer have additional maps preloaded, such as a topographic map. The more preloaded maps your GPS has, the fewer you will have to purchase, download, and install in the future. Some 3D maps are also available, offering a bird's-eye view and graphical depiction of your surrounding terrain.

Some Little Known Keyboard Shortcuts in Word

Ctrl plus shift plus d = double underline

Ctrl plus shift plus a = ALL CAPS

Ctrl plus the plus key = superscript

Ctrl plus the equals symbol = subscript

Ctrl plus shift plus l = bullets

**the superscript and the subscript do not show up in the right position
as this is not done in word.**

Thanks to The Digital Viking for the above info.



WOW - hold off buying a new digital camera

This is one of the best potential upgrades to the silicon based sensors I have seen.

If this process can be scaled up and works with this kind of efficiency for the capture of incident light these guys are going to be very rich.

Howard

A Californian company says it has developed a revolutionary new way of capturing digital images. It could mean cellphone cameras take shots four times more detailed than current models, putting professional quality capabilities in everyone's pocket.

At the moment, digital cameras work by capturing light on a sensor chip, a layer of silicon effectively broken up into millions of points. The information from each of these points is converted into digital format, with each point's information being one pixel in the captured image -- hence the term 'megapixel' which is used to describe how many pixels a camera can store per image.

Nanocrystals to Replace Silicon Layer

InVisage says this system is close to its peak and it's unlikely the results can be improved by more than another 10% or so. This is particularly significant for camera phones, as the space for sensor chips is inherently limited, meaning it will be difficult to improve the quality of images in future phones to match today's professional cameras.

Instead, InVisage is developing a system which replaces the silicon layer with quantum dots. Also known as nanocrystals, these are a type of semiconductor which are as small as 1/100 of a centimeter. Because of their size, the quantum dots can be controlled in much more detail by manufacturers.

Though the company is keeping many details under wraps, it has demonstrated that its system involves taking a liquid containing the dots and placing it in a layer on top of a silicon base. (Source: nytimes.com)

Quantum Dots Detail Much Higher

The key benefit of using quantum dots in place of the current sensor system is that while silicon layers can capture about 25-to-50 per cent of the available information about the light that lands on them, quantum dots increase this level of detail to around 95 per cent.

That means the pictures can be much more detailed on the same sized sensor: InVisage gives the example of the Apple iPhone which currently has a 3 megapixel camera and notes the same sized model could one day sport a 12 megapixel camera. The quantum dots method also works much better in poor lighting conditions.

The company claims its technology won't be significantly more expensive than existing sensors. It plans to have samples ready for manufacturers this year and believes phones using the system could be on sale in mid-2011. (Source: wired.com)

Howard Mark



Las Vegas PC Users Group, Inc.

Membership Application

New Members or Renewal with Information Changes

To join the Las Vegas PC User Group, please complete the information below. The form can be mailed with a check or brought to the General Meeting. Dues are \$30 per year per family. More information about the Club can be obtained from: www.lvpcug.org

Date _____ New _____ Renewal _____

(Please Print)

Name(1): _____ Name(2): _____

Email (1) _____ Email (2) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Fax: _____

It is LVPCUG policy to keep your information confidential.

Supplemental Information (optional, but helpful):

How did you hear about the LVPCUG? _____

Areas of Interest: _____

Send check for \$30 to:

Las Vegas PC Users Group, Inc.
Membership Director
1350 E. Flamingo Rd #188
Las Vegas, NV 89119-5270

Club Use only: Memb, No. _____ Rec'd _____

Amount _____ Method _____

