The Bytes of Las Vegas

July, 2010

We are trying to get into the 21st century and have joined social networking. Please check out our Facebook page at http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Las-Vegas-PC-Users-Group/124987137535313?ref=ts. If you like this, please indicate so. We will continue to update this page to bring you more information. Please tell your Facebook friends to look at our page. They can find it by doing a search of Las Vegas PC Users Group.   When we have 100 fans, the page will be much easier to find.

As you know, we are not meeting the months of July and August. We will be back in September at the West Charleston Library.   However, during the summer months, your Board of Directors will be working hard to bring you interesting programs in the future. If you have any ideas for programs that you would like to see, please send an email to info@lvpcug.org.

Also, we are in desperate need of a Program Chair. This person would ultimately be responsible for our programs; however, the entire Board will be there to help. Please consider whether you have to time to help out our Club.

 Wendy Jaroslawski
President

702-339-3812

Next General Meeting
Date: Wednesday, September 1st, 2010
Tentative Time: 5:00 – 6:45 p.m. (NOTE NEW TIME)
Tentative Place: West Charleston Library
6301 W Charleston Blvd (East of Torrey Pines)

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 Finnila 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 Jaroslawski.....President
Harold Rozinski..........Vice President
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Robert Lynch...............Secretary
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Larry Burgher.............Technical Director &
                                    Webmaster

Linda DiGiovanni ......SIG Coordinator

Leland Beel................ Bytes of Las Vegas Editor
                                    & Little Bytes Editor
Charles Finnila...........Recycling Chairman

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

Website: http://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, SEPTEMBER 1ST, 2010
Time: 5:00 – 6:45 p.m. Place: West Charleston Library (NOTE NEW TIME)   (PLEASE CONFIRM BEFORE MEETING) 6301 W Charleston Blvd (East of Torrey Pines)

Shows lots of screen shots of malware, most of which looking convincingly legitimate. Beware!

 summer: crimeware, spam, phishing and more

June's cyber threat landscape gallery, features images from the malware, spam, phishing and crimeware campaigns that took place during the month. See also: Image Gallery: April's cyber threat landscape

http://www.zdnet.com/photos/image-gallery-junes-cyber-threat-landscape/441675

Good News for a place to recycle you old Computer Equipment

Goodwill of Southern Nevada and Dell Computers are teaming up with a new program for recycling computer equipment called Reconnect. Residents (large quantities from businesses will not be accepted) can drop off computer items such as monitors, towers, mouse, printers, etc. at any of their 30 Goodwill locations and they will be environmentally recycled and help put South Nevada residents back to work. It is easy, it is free and you will receive a tax deductible receipt just as you do for any donation to Goodwill. Goodwill is not responsible for information that might be left on the computer. You can find your nearest Goodwill location by going to www.goodwill.org and entering your zip code on the home page.
Thanks Judy

25 Free Software Programs Worth the Download

By Jessica Davis on 2010-06-21
Looking to get the most out of your computer, but don't want to spend the money on a bunch of new software without a test run first? We've put together a list of the best free software that you don't need money to buy. From Microsoft Office alternatives to free video conferencing to utilities that get your new computer off to a good start and keep it running smoothly to a classic game. Check out our picks.
http://www.channelinsider.com/c/a/Spotlight/25-Free-Software-Programs-Worth-the-Download-691265/?kc=EWWHNEMNL06222010STR1
Thanks Robert

Never lose a manual again

by Linda Gonse, ORCOPUG

I just found my old Sharp PDA, discovered it was still working, and decided to put it to use again. The downside was the manual was gone. An Internet search showed the original manual available, but prices ranged from $20 to $39! The Sharp device began to look obsolete to me. Then, I discovered retrevo.com. It boasts a library of more than 100,000 downloadable manuals from more than 1,000 brands of consumer electronics for consumer electronics searchable by category and brand at http://www.retrevo.com/samples/index.html. My manual was there and it was free. In seconds, I downloaded it. There are more than 100 categories to search for manuals:

There are more than 100 categories you can search for manuals:

2-way Radio   Air Conditioner   Amp   Binocular   Blender   Boombox
Bread Maker   CD Player   CRT TV   Calculator   Camcorders   Car Amplifier
Car Receiver   Car Video   Cell Phone   Clock Radio   Coffee Maker Controller
Copier   DVD Drive   DVD Players   DVR   Desktop   Digital Camera
Digital Photo Frame   Dishwasher   Dreamcast Game   Dryer   Fax Machine
Film Camera   Food Processor   Freezer   GPS   GPS Accessory
Game Boy   Game Console   Game Cube Game   Gaming Accessory   Graphics &
Publishing   Grill   Guitar Headphone   Headset   Heating Cooling/ Air   Home Theater
Hub   Karaoke System   Keyboard   LCD TV   Labeling System   Laptop
MP3 Accessory MP3 Player Microwave   Mini Audio System
Monitor   Mouse   Multifunction Printer   Music Keyboard   NIC
Network Adapter Nintendo DS Lite   Oven   PBX   PDA
PDA Accessory   PS2 Game Plasma TV   Portable DVD Player   Portable TV
Printer   Projection TV Projector
Radar Detector   Radio   Range   Receiver   Refrigerator
Remote Control Router   Satellite Radio Satellite Receiver   Scanner   Security
Camera   Speaker   Speaker System   Storage   Subwoofer   Switch
TV   Tablet Tape Deck   Telephone   Telescope   Turntable   VCR
Vacuum Voice Recorder   Washer   Watch   Wii Game   Wireless Router
Xbox Game

Another benefit of the site is that it also will store your manuals for you. Is that great or what?
At retrevo.com again later I learned that over 4 million people visit the site every month to get help with decisions about the gadgets they buy. Retrevo is NOT a retailer and does not sell consumer electronics, but it uses artificial intelligence to analyze and visually summarize more than 50 million real-time data points from across the web; and gives shoppers comprehensive, unbiased, up-to-date product information about what products to buy as well as when and where to buy them.

Windows XP gets yet another reprieve from Microsoft
http://www.zdnet.com/blog/microsoft/windows-xp-gets-yet-another-reprieve-from-microsoft/6819?tag=nl.e539

Experts Fear Windows Shortcut Flaw to be Widespread A serious security flaw affecting Windows shortcuts could pose a significant risk to critical global infrastructure, says a new report from security research firm Sophos. Power grids and ... http://go.infopackets.com/e20100723-08

SEE PROPOSED FIX ON PAGE 6

Google admits that employees change index rankings
http://www.zdnet.com/blog/foremski/google-admits-that-employees-change-index-
rankings/1420?tag=nl.e550

Millions of routers vulnerable to hack attack - Is yours?
http://www.zdnet.com/blog/hardware/millions-of-routers-vulnerable-to-hack-attack-is-
yours/8895?tag=nl.e550

Microsoft turns over all Win7 and server source code to Russia's new KGB
http://www.zdnet.com/blog/government/microsoft-turns-over-all-win7-and-server-source-code-to-
russias-
new-kgb/9191?tag=nl.e550

Add Bluetooth to the iPhone 4 list of woe (Updated 2x)
http://www.zdnet.com/blog/apple/add-bluetooth-to-the-iphone-4-list-of-woe-updated-
2x/7588?tag=nl.e539

Credit Card Hackers Target Hotels Most Often: Report (20100714)
It's often argued that restaurants are the most likely place for people
to suffer credit card fraud. But a new report claims hotels are
actually the most at-risk locations. The restaurant theory is ...
http://go.infopackets.com/e20100715-05

Windows 7 SP1 Released, but not for Home Users (20100714)
Microsoft on Monday announced that Windows 7 Service Pack 1 (SP1) has
been made available to business users. The update package also affects
Windows Server 2008 R2, which is structurally similar to ...
http://go.infopackets.com/e20100715-06

Hackers Target WinXP; Experts Urge Win7 Now: Report

Windows XP continues to represent the single biggest target for
hackers, according to security experts who also suggest these threats
could initiate a considerable push for home and business users to ...

http://go.infopackets.com/e20100728-03

iPhone 'Jailbreaking' and Unofficial Apps Now Legal

A change to copyright laws mean cellphone owners can now legally
"jailbreak" their phones. Jailbreaking, as it is often referred to, is
the practice which involves modifying a device (such as an ...

http://go.infopackets.com/e20100728-04

Many Thanks to Larry

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 <u>Please</u> 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.

11: Losing windows to the pager
The pager is one of the handiest features of the Linux desktops. But new users don't quite understand what
the pager does, and they'll often "lose" their windows from the desktop. Where did it go? It was there a
moment ago! I guess it crashed. No. More than likely, they moved it to another desktop. Another desktop?
You see where this is going? Help the new user understand what the pager is and how useful it can be.

12: Ignoring security because it's Linux
A big part of me still wants to boast and say, "In the 12 years I have used Linux, I have never once had a virus
or worm or been hacked." Although that is true, it doesn't mean I should ignore security. I have witnessed
the effects of a rootkit on a Linux machine. They aren't pretty and data will be lost. Tell your users that they
can't ignore security just because they're using Linux. Security is crucial, regardless of the OS.

For more downloads and a free TechRepublic membership, please visit
http://techrepublic.com.com/2001-6240-0.html

Free Toolset Fixes Windows Shortcut Flaw (PROPOSED FIX FOR ITEM ON P 4)

Two third-party software companies have come together to release
temporary fix for a highly contagious and critical zero-day flaw which
affects all versions of the Windows operating system (OS). The ...

http://go.infopackets.com/e20100729-03

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	1st Saturday	Wengert Room	10 AM to 4 PM	Linda DiGiovanni 395-6676
Windows Developers	2nd Thursday For July And August	Sahara West Library	6:30 PM to 8:30 PM	Richard Rosenheim 897-1117
Novice(new users) and Internet)	2rd Saturday	Wengert Room	1 PM to 3PM	Chuck Frederick 452-9440
Software and Product Review	2nd Saturday	Wengert Room	3:30 PM to 5:30 PM	Linda DiGiovanni 395-6676
Digital Imaging Techniques	2nd Sunday	Wengert Room	12 PM to 2 PM	Howard Mark 262-3662
Linux/Open Source	3rd Sunday	Wengert Room	1 PM to 3 PM Need a Sig Leader for a period of time	
How-To-Workshop	4th Saturday	Paseo Verde Library	9:30 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 to get the details of the duties of the Leader.

"We must select the illusion which appeals to our temperament and embrace it with passion
if we want to be happy."
Cyril Connolly (1903-1974), English writer, "The Unquiet Grave." (1945)

10+ mistakes Linux newbies make

May 6, 2010
By Jack Wallen New desktop users can make plenty of mistakes (as can anyone). But knowing which mistakes to avoid, from the start, helps prevent a LOT of frustration. I've handled the topic of Linux mistakes new admins make, but never those of desktop users. Here are some of the most common Linux desktop mistakes I see new users make.
1: Assuming they are using Windows Although this might seem way too obvious, it's not. The average user has no idea there are even different operating systems to be had. In fact, most average users couldn't discern Windows XP from Vista from 7 (unless they are certain Windows 7 was "their idea"). Because of this, new users might believe that everything works (or doesn't work, as the case may be) as it does in Windows. Make your end users aware that they are using a different operating system -- and that it works differently.
 2: Trying to make exe files work Unless you have done your homework and installed WINE, double-clicking those .exe files simply won't do anything. And when that happens, your end users are going to be upset. I have seen many an end user download an app made for Windows assuming that it will work for Linux. Make it clear to users that Linux, like Windows, will only run applications made for that operating system. This, of course, is tossed out the window when WINE is involved. But new users won't be using WINE anyway.
3: Choosing the wrong distribution One of the biggest problems for users is choosing the wrong distribution. Imagine being a new user and selecting Gentoo or Slackware or Fedora! Yes those are all good distributions, but any of them would send a new user running away in fear. If you are in the initial stages of helping a new user out, do yourselves both a favor and choose the distribution carefully. Consider the user's ability, needs, and hardware before you make that selection. Don't just jump on board Ubuntu because everyone says you should. A lot of distributions out there are made specifically for new users. Give them all a close examination before making the choice.
4: Not finding software Because so many new Linux users are migrating from Windows, they think software can be had from the same channels. Most of the time, this is not the case. The new user needs to become familiar with their package management tools right away - especially tools like Synaptic, Packagekit, and Ubuntu Software Center. Each of those tools is a mecca of software where users can most likely find all the applications they need.
5: Sending OpenOffice documents to Microsoft Office users in the default format I see this so often. New Linux users are proud of the strides they have made but dumbfounded (and sometimes turned back to Windows) because the people they share files with can't read their formats. Remember, Microsoft products are not good at getting along with other operating systems and other applications. Make sure your new users are saving in file formats that are readable by the Microsoft equivalents.

For more downloads and a free TechRepublic membership, please visit
http://techrepublic.com.com/2001-6240-0.html

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http://techrepublic.com.com/2001-6240-0.html

6: Avoiding the command line
I can't, for the life of me, figure out why people completely avoid the command line as if it is the
most
complex tool there is. I know people who can work absolute magic with Photoshop but can't seem
to type a simple rm command at the command line. New users shouldn't shy away from the
command line. Knowing the command line isn't essential anymore, but it will make them more
capable users.

7: Giving up too quickly
Here's another issue I see all too often. After a few hours (or a couple of days) working with Linux,
new users will give up for one reason or another. I understand giving up when they realize
something simply doesn't work (such as when they MUST use a proprietary application or file
format). But seeing Linux not work under average demands is rare these days. If you see new
Linux users getting frustrated, try to give them a little extra guidance. Sometimes getting over that
initial hump is the biggest challenge they will face.

8: Thinking the Windows directory hierarchy translates to Linux
There is no C:\ in Linux. Nor do you use the "\" character. Nor should you use spaces in filenames.
These are common mistakes new users make. Trying to map out Windows to Linux, directory for
directory, is impossible. You can get as far as C:\ = / and maybe Default User = ~/, but beyond that
you're out of luck.
Make sure new users understand that everything starts at / and their most important directory is
their home directory (aka ~/ aka /home/USERNAME/).

9: Skipping updates
I've been burned with Windows updates many times. Very rarely has a Linux update fubar'd a
system of
mine. In fact, I can't remember the last time it has. So I am always up to date on my systems.
Those updates bring new security patches and features to software and should be applied. Having
an installation with a security hole is not what your users need, especially on a machine that
houses important information.

10: Logging in as root
I really shouldn't have to say this. But just in case, be sure to tell your users DON'T LOG IN AS
ROOT! But... just in case they must... DON'T LOG IN AS ROOT! Instead, have them open up a
terminal window and either "su" to root or use "sudo". And just in case you didn't hear me the
first time, DON'T LOG IN AS ROOT!

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** _____