The Bytes of Las Vegas

May, 2011

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

Our featured presenter for the June 1st General Meeting will be *Walter Goldstein, Ph.D., MBA, P.E.*, president and founder of *Goldstein Consulting Company*, provider of services in several fields including chemical engineering, biotechnology, and pharmaceuticals. He will speak on IVRBC, a patented universal red blood cell product to be developed which will improve medical care worldwide by providing a virtually unlimited supply of universal blood requiring no individual donors and by eliminating the risks associated with blood transfusion.

If you have any questions for the LAS VEGAS PC USERS GROUP please send an email to: info@lvpcug.org.

After the meeting on June 1st you can mark your calendar for the next meeting which will be held on Sept 7th. The presenter will be announced at a time closer to the meeting date.

See you at the meeting on June 1st.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Date: Wednesday, June 1, 2011 Time: 5:00-6:45 PM (NOTE NEW TIME)

Place: West Charleston Library 6301 W Charleston

Please contact http://www.lvpcug.org for latest information.

Announcements

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

Check the web site at http://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 The used ink and toner is good for the environment but at this time the Las Vegas PC Users Group is no longer accepting the items for recycling. The Club would like to recommend that you recycle your items with Cartridge World Stores located at: please note that their store formerly in the Home Depot shopping center at Rainbow and Charleston has moved to 3655 S Rainbow Suite 104 in the Walmart shopping center near Spring Mountain. Their other store is still at 9550 S Eastern Ave, Suite 190.

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

Board of Directors

Wendy Jaroslawski	President	Larry Burgher	Technical Director & Webmaster
Harold Rozinski	Vice President	Linda DiGiovanni	SIG Coordinator
Joyce Shore	Treasurer	Leland Beel	Bytes of Las Vegas Editor
Robert Lynch	Secretary		& Little Bytes Editor
Judy Ruf	Executive Director		

Membership Questions If you have any questions about your membership.

Please send email: membership@lvpcug.org

Web site: http://www.lvpcug.org

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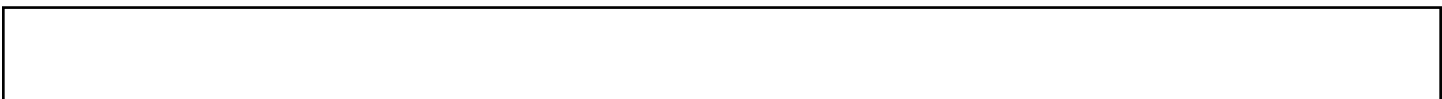
Las Vegas, NV 89119

Newsletter

The Bytes of Las Vegas is published on as needed.

A PDF version is available to members online at the web site.

Information in the newsletter was obtained from sources considered to be reliable. Accuracy and completeness are not guaranteed.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING : WEDNESDAY June 1st 2011 TIME: 5:00 - 6:45 PM

PLACE: WEST CHARLESTON LIBRARY

6301 W CHARLESTON BLVD (East of Torrey Pines)

The Las Vegas PC User Group is looking for speakers, the next meetings are scheduled for June 1, 2011, September 7, 2011 and December 7, 2011 if you know of any body that can speak at the meeting please send

We are looking for a space to conduct an informational demo about LVPCUG. If you know of any place that is available to conduct a 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.

 For those members who use Cartridge World for their printer consumables, please note that their store formerly in the Home Depot shopping center at Rainbow and Charleston has moved to 3655 S Rainbow Suite 104 in the Walmart shopping near Spring Mountain. Thanks to Karl Rehak for discovering this. Their other store is still at 9550 S Eastern Ave, Suite 190.

Attend a meeting and you have a chance to win a door prize from the drawing at the end of the meeting,

World's No. 2 Supercomputer Hit By Email Scam

http://go.infopackets.com/e20110502-05

Sony Network Hack Could Cost Credit Firms $300M

http://go.infopackets.com/e20110502-04

Terrorists turn to gamification to create more devoted followers

http://www.zdnet.com/blog/gamification/terrorists-turn-to-gamification-to-create-more-devoted-followers/353?tag=nl.e539

Bin Laden Liveblog Hacked Before Sting Operation

http://go.infopackets.com/e20110505-04

Your data isn't secure, don't trust companies to keep it safe

http://ct.zdnet.com/clicks?t=799835043-9623042d3acb5eb9638caff0886549c5-bf&brand=ZDNET&s=5

Membership Corner

Member dues help the club pay bills such as liability insurance, Clear Internet service, web site fees, APCUG membership, equipment, meeting room rent, and raffle prizes. It is important that members be always on the lookout for a perspective new member.

Welcome new members . Members if you use online banking you can send your renewal fast and easy by letting the bank do the work and pay for the postage. Our club information is Las Vegas PC Users Group, 1350 E. Flamingo Rd. #188, Las Vegas, NV 89119.

New Notice to Members:

The Executive Board has decided to reduce the frequency of General Meetings from monthly to quarterly because of the difficulty in getting presenters, and because of low attendance. Meetings are scheduled for March 2nd, 2011, June 1st, 2011, September 7th, 2011, and December 7th, 2011. The frequency of board meetings is also reduced, so they occur in the month just prior to the general meeting.

The number of The Bytes of Las Vegas posted to the web site will decrease in number, more information at a latter date.

Antivirus Suites Compared: Microsoft Free A/V Inadequate

http://go.infopackets.com/e20110506-05

Why malware for Macs is on its way

http://www.zdnet.com/blog/bott/why-malware-for-macs-is-on-its-way/3243?tag=nl.e539

Could this PaperPhone be the future?

http://www.zdnet.com/blog/gadgetreviews/could-this-paperphone-be-the-future/24367?tag=nl.e539

Deals and Bargains forum: Refurbished or recertified electronics safe to buy?

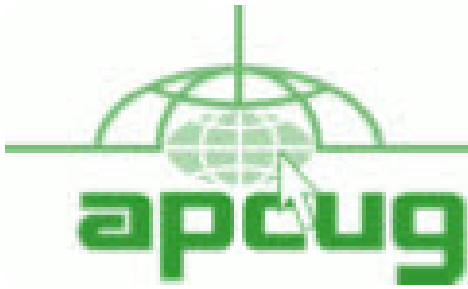http://forums.cnet.com/7723-10157_102-525329.html?tag=nl.e497#

10 things to love about Ubuntu 11.04

http://ct.techrepublic.com/clicks?t=804455702-9623042d3acb5eb9638caff0886549c5-bf&brand=TECHREPUBLIC&s=5

Security expert testifies Sony servers went unpatched

http://www.zdnet.com/blog/gamification/security-expert-testifies-sony-servers-went-unpatched/374?tag=nl.e539testifies

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.

May 17
Two weeks left before the end of Early Bird registration for the Friday, July 15 - Sunday, July 17
Cleveland Regional / 2011 APCUG Annual Meeting. Register now for $50. After May 31, 2011 the price will be $65.
http://cleveland.apcug.org

Registry First Aid
Reviewed by Herb Goldstein, Editor, Sarasota PCUG, Florida
April 2011 issue, The Monitor
www.spcug.org
pcugedit (at) verizon.net
Solving the Registry Cleaning Dilemma

Nothing much happens in Windows without control by that mysterious architecture known as the Registry. It is a humongous database repository of instructions, commands and framework for the software, hardware and just about every other kind of ware that functions in Windows. You can also think of it as the Windows brain, and fooling with it is about as welcome as brain surgery self-taught.

Unfortunately and as unwelcome as it may be, the Registry does require some basic manipulation by users from time to time. Add or remove software or change the locations of its components, make routine changes in Windows, and a whole host of other functions in everyday computer usage result in changes in the Registry. In time it can easily become bogged down with errors that can dramatically hinder the normal or optimal functioning of your computer. It's little wonder why keeping the registry clean and error free is so important, yet so avoided. It's even less wonder why the average computer user either shuns necessary Registry housekeeping altogether or winds up employing tools that do considerably more harm than good.

A clean, error-free Registry is vital in keeping your computer working properly, but finding and fixing Registry errors indeed poses a dilemma. There is no shortage of utilities that promise to make your computer function like new by taking out your Registry garbage. Unfortunately, you are most often better off living with an error-laden Registry than one whose key functions have been impaired by incompetent fixers.

Registry First Aid

With all these caveats in mind, I spent considerable effort, investigation and experimentation years ago to find the Registry cleaning utility that would do an honest, safe and effective job. Through several versions of Windows and most recently with Windows 7, I have been using Registry First Aid (RFA). It is a well-known, popular, easy to use and remarkably competent Registry utility that will find, fix, and prevent Registry errors and malfunctions safely and effectively. It is the only one I trust to do the job! Here's what it will do:

1.   RFA will search the Registry for errors. Your first search will undoubtedly come up with an amazing number of errors. It will present a color coded list of them. *Those in green can be safely eliminated or fixed*. For each error, you will be provided with a reason for its problem and an indication of what is needed to either delete or fix it. If, for example, a software reference is not valid because it is sitting in the wrong place, RFA will discover where it rightfully belongs and offers to put it there. If no fix is possible, it offers to delete it.

Those errors that require caution in fixing are listed in yellow, along with reasons and recommendations. The choice will be yours. Those listed in red are also explained and high caution warned.

In any event, each and every error will be explained, recommendation made, and the choice for action will be up to you. No changes are automatic. You are in complete control!

2.   Registry backup and restore. Before making any changes, you might want to back up your current Registry configuration. RFA stores the backup and you can at any later time restore the Registry to exactly the way it was before you modified it. Great safety feature!

3.   Registry search. If you need to find anything in the Registry, RFA will do a lightning fast keyword search for you. A great feature in finding and eliminating references to software you have gotten rid of.

4.   Registry management. Set up the Registry in your own parameters to function according to your preferences..

5. Defragment and compress the Registry.

While most Registry utilities offer to make your computer work faster and better by cleaning the Registry, they offer no information as to what they or doing or why. It's a blind faith and trust scenario. On the other hand, RFA bends over backwards in every step along the way to keep you safe and informed.

RFA is the recipient of numerous awards as the safest and most effective Registry cleaner available. They are well deserved. It has long ago solved the Registry cleaning dilemma for me. It is compatible with all current versions of Windows including XP, Vista and Windows 7. RFA is published by and available from Rose City Software (rosecitysoftware.com) for $27.95.

Linux Software of the Month: April 2011
By Geof Goodrum, President, Washington Area Computer User Group, VA
April 2011 issue, The Cursor
http://www.wacug.org/
linux(at)wacug.org

The software described below can be downloaded at the links provided or copied onto a USB flash drive at the WAC meeting. However, please check the online package management tool included with your GNU/Linux distribution first, as installation is often just a click away.

Free Pascal – v2.4.2. http://www.freepascal.org/. Modified GNU Library General Public License source code and packages for Debian and RPM-based GNU/Linux distributions by the Free Pascal Development Team. Originally named FPK-Pascal, Free Pascal is a 32 and 64 bit Turbo Pascal and Delphi compatible Pascal programming language compiler for DOS, Linux, Win32, OS/2, FreeBSD, AmigaOS, Mac OS X, Mac OS classic and several other platforms (the number of supported targets grows all the time, although not all of them are on the same level as the main ones). The Free Pascal compiler is available for several architectures, x86, Sparc (v8,v9), ARM, x86_64 (AMD64/Opteron) and Powerpc. An older version (the 1.0 series) also supports m68k.

The compiler is itself written in Pascal and is able to compile its own sources.
Hedgewars – v0.9.15. http://www.hedgewars.org/. Free GNU General Public License source code and executable packages for Debian, Ubuntu, Fedora, ArchLinux, and openSuSE Linux by Andrey Korotaev et al. Hedgewars is a turn-based strategy, artillery, action and comedy game, featuring the antics of pink hedgehogs with attitude as they battle from the depths of hell to the depths of space. As commander, it's your job to assemble your crack team of hedgehog soldiers and bring the war to your enemy.

Features: Hilarious and devastating turn based combat for up to 6 players; Both local and network multiplayer, with optional AI opponents; Battle on an infinite number of randomly generated maps, with over 20 environments; Utilize 47 (and counting) devastating weapons including the piano strike and explosive robotic cake; Play the game your way, with 18 different game modifiers, tweak almost every aspect of the match; Customize your team, with over 120 costumes, 30 graves, 12 forts, 100s of flags and unique voice packs; Huge battles with up to 48 hogs; Play both singleplayer and multiplayer minigames; plugin your own custom maps, costumes, and other artwork.

Requires Qt >= 4.5, FreePascal >= 2.2.4, SDL >= 1.2.5, SDL_net >= 1.2.5, SDL_mixer >= 1.2, SDL_image >= 1.2, SDL_ttf >= 2.0, CMake >= 2.6.0, lua = 5.1.

Linphone – v3.4.3. http://www.linphone.org/. Free GNU General Public License source code and executable packages for Debian and Ubuntu Linux by Simon Morlat. Linphone is an audio and video Internet phone with GTK+ and console interfaces. It uses the Session Initiation Protocol (SIP), and is compatible with most SIP clients and gateways.

Linux Software of the Month
Continued from page 7

It can use various audio and video codecs such as Speex, GSM, G711, ilbc, amr, Theora, H263-1998, MPEG4, H264, and snow. This version improves Mac OS X integration with desktop menus, better sound system handling, and binary bundle generation for ease of installation. It also improves memory usage and fixes a few SIP bugs.

WordPress – v3.1. http://wordpress.org/. Free GNU General Public License scripts by the WordPress Development Team. WordPress is a software script that, together with PHP v4.3 or greater, MySQL v4.1.2 or greater, and a web server (e.g. Apache; Nginx), provides a point and click menu-driven framework for a standards-compliant, professional looking web site that is easy to maintain with no knowledge of web programming required. WordPress is the most widely used framework for self-hosted blogging web sites, and is highly customizable with thousands of widgets, themes and plug-ins, both free and commercial. New features include the admin bar, which provides easy access to common administrative tasks from the front-end for logged in users; internal linking, which lets you easily search for and link to existing content within your site from within the WYSIWYG editor; a standard set of post formats, enabling the creation of tumblelog-type sites; archive pages for custom post types; advanced taxonomy; and custom field queries.

Kernel Source - v2.6.38. http://www.kernel.org/. Free GNU Public License source code for all platforms by the Linux community.

$25 mini-PC may spawn a new generation of computer geeks

Description: http://cdn.smartbrief.com/images/briefs2/common/storyicons2/icon_video.gifA group of British computer designers has developed a mini-PC the size of a USB stick that they hope will one day serve as a low-cost tool for teaching students in impoverished areas about the power of programming. The device, dubbed the Raspberry Pi, features a 700MHz ARM11 processor and 128 megabytes of RAM; when hooked up to a monitor, keyboard and mouse, it has all the functionality of an entry-level PC. Developers plan to run the Raspberry Pi using an open-source Linux-based operating system and sell it for $25. MobileMag.com (5/8), International Business Times (5/5), BBC/dot.Rory blog (5/5)

Media companies get friendlier with Netflix

Media companies including Time Warner and CBS have become more amenable to partnering with Netflix, citing deals that illustrate the online video rental and streaming service's willingness to pay high prices to acquire streaming rights to popular cable shows, including "Nip/Tuck" and "Mad Men." The companies are starting to view such syndication deals, which make money on older content without eating into traditional ad and subscription revenue, as a potential source of billions in revenue. The Wall Street Journal (tiered subscription model) (5/9)

Thanks WJ, CF, And LB for all your info.

 Don't Panic!
By Berry F. Phillips, Member of the Computer Club of Oklahoma City
April 2011 issue, eMonitor
www.ccokc.org
bfpdata(at)1access.net

I can almost imagine if Sherlock Holmes, my favorite fictional detective, had a computer in Victorian England, and he detected evil on his system what he would think. He would suspect a diabolical hacking by Dr. Moriarty. He would not panic but say calmly to Dr. Watson, "the game is afoot." Troubleshooting your computer is just like playing detective. There are certain steps that you can take before calling a computer tech and facing another horror story, the repair bill!

Panic control is to develop an objective detached mind of Sherlock Holmes as you begin your investigation of the evil in your computer. Sometimes breathing deeply helps. Sometimes getting up and doing something else and coming back to the problem helps. I find that often sleeping and coming back to the problem helps. Avoid getting too emotional and taking a hammer or some other weapon to attack your system remembering they computers expensive, and you do have lots of data on your system. Here are some basic instructions:

1. Restart your computer. Often software problems will correct themselves when you do that.

2. Check to make sure everything is working. If not check the connection to what is not working.

3. Check the electric power by plugging a lamp into the same power outlet that is connected to your computer to make sure the outlet is working.

4. Make sure the computer and monitor are plugged in.

5. Disconnect peripheral devices and restart the computer.

6. Listen for unusual sounds. Is the cooling fan running? Is the hard drive making noises?

7. Look inside the computer for wires that aren't plugged in all the way or other faulty connections

8. Start the computer from an external start-up disk, such as the system software CD that hopefully came with your computer.

Having said all that, I must confess that I have tried to save a buck being quite frugal and very Scottish only to make my problem even worse and of course more expensive for a tech (pro) to repair. If you do decide to call technical support, write down the exact problem and what you were doing when it occurred. Also note any error messages. Try to replicate the problem if you can. Be as specific as possible when talking to the support person. Computers can crash or hang when their hard disk become too full.

Free up space by deleting unnecessary files and emptying the Trash or Recycle Bin.

 Don't Panic!
By Berry F. Phillips, Member of the Computer Club of Oklahoma City
Continued from Page 9

Don't shock yourself or your RAM. When working inside the computer, turn the power off but leave the electrical cord plugged into the surge suppressor. Ground yourself by touching the casing of the power supply before touching any of the computer circuits. You can also wear a grounding strap which is very inexpensive. Every computer user should have a small computer tool kit.

I do not recommend the medical option of taking of panic pills for computer ills. I do recommend joining the Computer Club of Oklahoma City where we share with each other our positive as well a negative computer experiences. Knowledge is the real cure for panic in computing.

The motto of our computer club for years is: "The only stupid question is the one not asked!"

I wonder if I can get Sherlock Holmes as a guest speaker for the computer club. Do you think I may have become a bit eccentric as a fan of the world's greatest detective? Where did I leave my smoking jacket and calabash pipe? I will have to ask Dr. Watson or Mrs. Hudson!

If you get this or something like it " <u>do not do it</u> " just cancel it.

Dear Chase Account Holder

We are currently undergoing our monthly Secure Server

Upgrade and as such you are required to update

your Chase Online account to prevent your account from

being suspended.

Please take 2 to 3 minutes to update your account by

clicking on the link below

To start the Re-activate process click on

www.chase.com/ssl/account/Upgrade SM.

Thank you Chase Bank

Thanks C.F.

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SIG's MONTHLY CALENDAR

SIG NAME	MEETING DATE	PLACE	TIME OF MEETING	SIG LEADER
Helping Hands	1st Saturday	#1	10 AM TO 4 PM 395-6676	Linda DiGiovanna
Windows Developers	On hold till a meeting room can be found			
Novice(new users) And Internet	2nd Saturday	#1	1 PM TO 3 PM 452-9440	Chuck Frederick
Software and Product Review	2nd Saturday	#1	3:30 PM TO 5:30 PM 395-6676	Linda DiGiovanna
Digital Imaging	Canceled for the rest of this year			
LINUX/Open Source	Canceled for the rest of this year			
How-To-Workshop	4th Saturday	#2	10 AM TO 5 PM	Dennis Kemper

Starting March 26, 2011 (Note this is a new meeting place)

Places are:

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

#2 Enterprise Library is located in Las Vegas at 25 E. Shelbourne Av. South of Windmill

LN and East of Las Vegas Blvd.

All meetings Are Subject to Cancellation by the SIG Leader or the Property Owner. The Calendar Page of the LVPCUG web site 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. You may leave a email at info@lvpcug.org.

Las Vegas PC Users Group, Inc.

Membership Application

New Members or Renewal with Information Changes

To join the Las Vegas PC Users Group, pleas complete the information form 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 at : **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 your hear about LVPCUG?_____

_____

Area of Interest: _____

Send Check for $30 to: **Las Vegas PC Users Group**

                                    Membership Director

                                    1350 E. Flamingo Rd #188

                                    Las Vegas, NV 89119-5270

Club Use only: Membership No._____   Rec'd_____

Amount _____   Method _____