

Licking County Computer Society

# Random Bits

L.C.C.S.  
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## 2006 General Meetings of LCCS

**Microsoft Windows Vista, Beta Version**  
Presented by Jim Amore, LCCS President, May 18, 2006

Written by Phyllis Hartroft

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Vista, the next version of Microsoft Windows operating system, is still in beta versions (currently beta II). It is scheduled to be released in January of 2007. If you are in the market

before then, or if you anticipate upgrading your current computer, it is essential that you pay attention to the hardware specifications for Vista. See: <http://www.microsoft.com/windowsvista/getready/capable.msp>

It should also be noted that versions of Windows previous to XP (95, 98, and Me) will no longer be supported by Microsoft.

Vista is intended as a new operating system or an important upgrade to Windows XP with many improved and new features. Microsoft claims it "... introduces breakthrough computing experiences that

are both visually exciting and intuitively designed, ..." Speech recognition is fully integrated into the operating system; the desktop includes a sidebar and is more intuitive; System Restore allows recovery from a greater range of changes than in Windows XP. And the list goes on.

As a certified beta evaluator for Microsoft, Jim was able to obtain a beta version of Windows Vista. Jim brought his desktop to Zenger to demonstrate some of the features of Vista. He had installed the beta version of Vista on his computer on top of Windows XP Home. He had no problems except there were no drivers for his modem yet. It found all other hardware and worked great. He tried to install a couple of anti-virus programs but they crashed the system. The video card (not the fastest) would not display the 3D. His system had the minimum RAM memory for a Vista Capable PC (see link above) but he was still able to navigate and demonstrate features without a problem.

His system: VPR Matrix 1600 with 1.6 GHz Intel Pentium 4, Western Digital 80 GB hard drive, 512 MB memory, NVIDIA RIVA TNT2 Model 64 Display adapter, U S Robotics 56K Voice Modem.

To learn more, please visit Microsoft's Windows Vista Web site at: <http://www.microsoft.com/Windowsvista/>

**Next General Meeting**

Tuesday, July 18th, 7:00 PM  
Zenger Hall  
745 E. Main St., Newark, Ohio

**PROGRAM**

**Examples of Ways to Use Computer Networks**

Presented by David Clement with assistance of Kevin Clement.

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For future monthly General Meeting program, please go to:

[www.lccsohio.org/meeting.htm](http://www.lccsohio.org/meeting.htm)

**COMPUTER RECYCLING EVENT**

**September 15th and 16th 2006      Mark Your Calendars!**

We would love to have more members involved in the next event .

**2006 General Meetings of LCCS cont. from p. 1**

May 16, 2006

**A Summary of Digital Imaging by Phyllis Hartroft**

Written by Phyllis Hartroft

Phyllis gratefully acknowledges the help of Mary Frances Rauch, who operated the computer; Bob Porter, who demonstrated how to load photos from a camera into the computer; and Dave Rauch, who efficiently set up the projector to display on the screen from both Phyllis' and Bob's computers.

Phyllis had prepared a PowerPoint presentation which covered the salient points of digital imaging with a few examples for illustration. As a **source** of digital images, perhaps the earliest favorite was old prints for restoration, using a **scanner** and a good photo-editing program, such as Adobe's Photoshop Elements or Roxio's PhotoSuite. Both are reasonably priced. There are many others on the market, even some free ones.

The popularity of digital cameras today is overwhelming and, coupled with laptop computers, photos can be displayed and edited, if necessary, right on site, wherever the photographer may be. Believe it or not, there is still a place for film cameras, because of speed, etc. But the gap is narrowing. The many features and wide variation in cost of digital cameras can be confusing to someone just embarking on this field. The slide show listed some of these and what they mean. It also touched on photo-editing and included some examples.

Anyone who would like a copy of the PowerPoint file may contact Phyllis at [hargrei@alink.com](mailto:hargrei@alink.com). It can be viewed with Microsoft PowerPoint viewer, which can be downloaded from [www.microsoft.com/downloads/](http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/) and search for "PowerPoint Viewer."

**Members:** Please note that a new Special Interest Group has been started by Dave Clement on Digital Imaging. Check the meeting schedule for the next meeting at [www.lccsohio.org/meeting.htm](http://www.lccsohio.org/meeting.htm).

**TIP OR TREAT**

Some free newsletters to try to keep up-to-date with computer technology.

Kim Komando at: <http://www.komando.com/>

Fred Langa at: <http://www.langa.com/>

Technology Corner at: <http://www.610tech.net/Karen>

Kenworthy at: <http://www.karenware.com/>

Terry Stockdale at: <http://www.terrystcomputertips.com/>

MicroCenter at: [http://www.microcenter.com/mailling\\_list/email.html](http://www.microcenter.com/mailling_list/email.html)

**LCCS Secretary's Report**

March, 21, 2006

Submitted by George Hreha, Approved by the Executive Committee

**Attendees:** Jaki Amore, Jim Amore, Vicky Atkins, Gina Buckey, Wyn Davies, John Dovjak, Don Furnish, Phyllis Hartroft, George Hreha, Jon Luzio, Mary Ossa, Dave Rauch, Mary Frances Rauch, Bob Porter, George Willey

President Jim Amore called the meeting to order. He then proceeded to have the Treasurer's Report read by Jaki. It was approved as read.

The Secretary's minutes were approved as read.

Jim proceeded to Outline the procedure for the meetings. Staying on the subject or if he were to say "Subject" it meant for the conversation to go back to the original subject.

If he would say "time" the person speaking would then have 10 seconds to finish.

**Old Business:** Phyllis Hartroft brought to our attention that she had now copies of all the old "Random Bits". She will make copies for anyone who would like them. Bring a cd along to the Windows SIG, or next General Meeting.

Discussion brought up by Phyllis H. over whether information has been transferred from past presidents to new presidents. Jim Amore said No in answer to that.

President Jim Amore read a letter to the board from Gina Buckey, stating some of the directions she would like to have if she was selected as the Temporary Editor of "The Random Bits". She also had a schedule of necessary dates for submitting all information. All approved her being appointed to this position.

Discussion on meeting length.

Term Limits for elected officials.

Motion made to review Constitution and By Laws and bring back to Executive Committee. Bob Porter volunteered to be Chairman along with Don Furnish.

Mary Frances Rauch asked if the LCCS Board wanted to approve an Auction in 2006. The answer was yes by all. Rooms at Zerger are now reserved for Nov 21, 2006.

Mary Frances also made the board aware that some have been asking if we would sell T-Shirt or Golf Shirts with LCCS logo? Exec. Committee said to investigate pricing and she agreed to look into it and bring back info to the committee.

The Chamber of Commerce is refusing the informational flyers from LCCS. They won't even take the Random Bit Newsletter copies for free distribution.

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## SIG REPORTS

### Linux SIG

Written by Jim Amore, Linux SIG leader

#### Ubuntu Linux

Linux is about ready for prime time. I have been playing with the new Ubuntu Linux and find it's very user friendly. I installed it on a donated computer at the A-Frame during the Linux SIG. All hardware drivers were installed and we quickly hooked up to the internet with high speed. We have a printer on a networked Windows 98 computer and it was recognized. We installed the right drivers and began printing.

Ubuntu ships with the new Open Office and works very



well with Microsoft Office. Firefox is the browser and Gaim is the instant messenger which works with Ya-

hoo, ICQ, ect. We plugged in a thumb drive (usb storage device) and were able to read almost all the files and play a power Point Program. The one file we couldn't play was a Windows Media file that played with the Power Point. I found a site called EasyUbuntu which makes it easy to install programs like Java and plug-ins to play Windows Media files and DVD's. The WMF would play on its own but not with-in the PP presentation.

Very easy at copying CD's too. I placed a CD in that I wanted to copy and an icon popped up on the desktop showing the CD's name. All I had to do then was right click on the icon and tell it to copy.

Ubuntu also has a large amount of programs that can be downloaded for free. We will continue to play with Ubuntu and invite all interested to join in on the fun of learning.

#### Installation of Ubuntu Dapper Drake (6.06)

Written by Ken Baker, LCCS Member

With support for Windows 98 slated to end on July 11<sup>th</sup>. Ubuntu is being touted as a replacement for all those aging Win98 boxes out there. See Reviews in the LCCS Web site for this article. <http://lccsohio.org/reviews.htm>

### WEB SIG

Written by Kevin Clement, Web SIG Leader

In April the Web SIG had 6 attendees. We discussed several topics, mainly focused around PayPal and eBay. The SIG investigated several ways to incorporate Paypal with personal and business Web sites, including shopping carts, email and account links, manual insertion of personalized Paypal buttons.

This led to discussion of coordinating with eBay, including how to add Web pages/HTML to eBay listings. In the process we reviewed Web sites that attendees either help maintain or use regularly as examples of how to incorporate eBay, Paypal, shopping cart, and picture gallery features in varying degrees. Finally we looked into how eBay classifies and works with non-profit organizations, with reference to LCCS and eBay's charity solution provider, MissionFish. Boxes & Bows, a shipping store in Granville, was brought up as a possible way to expedite and coordinate eBay selling and shipping.

In May there were 5 attendees at the Web SIG. We started with an overview of how to look up who a Web site is registered with, using WHOIS and Domain Registrars. A Steve's tips ([worldstart.com](http://worldstart.com)) on using Outlook Express to quickly create or edit Web pages was shared along with image URLs and displaying.

The Internet Archive's Wayback Machine was demonstrated to show how "lost" Web sites or information might still be recovered in case of a crash or Web site intemperance's. A Licking County Internet gateway Web site that's now gone was the main site used, and explored for several years back. It's also an example of a useful Web site now lacking for the area.

We then looked into sites such as PandaMail, for checking email from anywhere, Classmates (as not adequate for all reunion needs), [Ancestry.com](http://Ancestry.com) for genealogy tracking (though the fees may be prohibitive depending on your needs but they do have many listings in detail), and [Copper.net](http://Copper.net) for inexpensive web hosting. Several other places to host a Web site or to search for reviews of site hosts were briefly brought up at the end of the session.

Newcomers, gurus, and any in between are all welcome as are topic suggestions and Web sites! We each bring our own experiences and methods and in the Web SIG we then benefit and learn from each other, while having an enjoyable time. I think some sort of basic blog or similar site might be useful to jot down links, tips, and sites as we go.

### NOVICE SIG

No Report

More SIG Reports - - - continued on p 4

## SIG REPORTS - *continued from p 3*

### Digital Imaging SIG

Written by David Clement Digital Imaging SIG Leader

**June 13, 2006.** This was the first meeting of the newly formed SIG. We had nine people attending. One of the many things we did during the two hour period was to learn how to download and install Picasa2 free software. Then the group tried out several of Picasa2's features and tools that come with the software, such as sharpening an existing photograph, masking off areas of interest. And then some of the features it did not have.

The knowledge base of the people at the SIG ranged from the novice to the advanced. A very interesting learning environment; one thing I like about a group like this is that we all learn something new or a different way of doing something. Even though I have been doing this for well over 50 years I still learn from the many people in the SIG. The more people that attend, the more we all learn something new.

### Word/Works SIG

Written by Mary Francis Rauch Word/Works SIG Leader

**April, 2006** - Eight people who previously took our Beyond Basics class wanted to go back over the lesson plan section that covers, MAKING LABELS from a Microsoft WORKS database.

We are NOT talking about MS Word tables database. We are NOT talking about MS EXCEL or ACCESS database. We are not talking about Word Perfect .....We are NOT talking about merging from Outlook Express Address Book...I emphasized those words just to make it extremely clear that we only reviewed the MS Works lesson plan instructions.

**May, 2006** - SKYPE demo by Dave and Kevin Clement- Instead of reviewing what they demonstrated, we encourage you to attend the JULY, 2006, General Membership meeting of LCCS (7 PM), and see the demo for yourself.

**June, 2006** - TEMPLATES: The first hour of Word/Works SIG we discussed/demonstrated how to make; how to Save As; how to retrieve, update or correct and re-save; how to make a shortcut to Templates folder.

We spent time and emphasized **Searching** our computer using the "Path". We learned that if the "Path" could not be viewed, it was probably because of "Hidden Files and Folders". We spent more time learning how to show "Hidden Files and Folders" and reversing the process to put back a checkmark, restoring them to "hidden".

### Windows SIG

Phyllis Hartroft and Jon Luzio, Co-leaders

Written by Phyllis Hartroft

**April 22, 2006.** One of the topics we discussed was an LCCS brochure (tri-fold) that Mary Ossa and I are creating in Microsoft publisher. We had a little trouble with the layout, as we were not familiar with Publisher, but Jeff Eno, an expert, helped us out. Actually, there are plenty of templates which can be used after deleting specific text, headings, etc.

Ken Baker had sent an email wondering about updates for those of us still using Windows 98; how can we go about determining what updates have been applied and how can we download and burn them to CD or DVD for later use in reinstalling Win98. If this is done perhaps a copy of all updates could be burned and made available to members who wish to stay with Windows 98. Recently, he wrote, "I am about to update my collection of downloaded Win98 updates (there have been a few new ones in the last week or two). It should be complete then since the cutoff date is coming soon. Once that's done I'll burn it to CD."

The cutoff date for security and other updates for Windows 98, 98 SE and Me is July 11, 2006. Does that mean it will be risky to use the Internet after then unless you update to Windows XP? With Ken's solution, at least you would be able to reinstall Windows 98, if you had to, with all updates now available. We hope to discuss this topic further at our meeting on June 24.

**May 20, 2006.** In May, Jon described his experience installing a second hard drive using Windows XP. He found that it was not intuitive but once he found the "secret," it went just fine. Jon wrote up a separate article, which appears separately in this issue of Random Bits.

We also tried trouble-shooting an error message that appeared when I downloaded and installed Roxio Easy Media Creator 8. The error message didn't seem to disturb anything but always appeared after rebooting the computer. I uninstalled the upgrade but it was still there. I couldn't blame it on my error-prone computer because others found the same thing as reported on the Roxio forum. The error message reads "Ordinal 968 could not be located in dynamic link library LIBEAY32.DLL". Just click OK and it goes away. At the meeting we followed some of the suggestions on the forum but to no avail. It costs \$35 to phone Roxio's tech support and it's easier to just close the message each time. Eventually, I reinstalled Roxio 8 after trying version 7 first. Everything else seems to work OK.

**LCCS SECRETARY'S REPORT***--- continued from p 2*

Jim Amore reported on the upcoming March 31-April 1, 2006, Recycling Event. He stated all is going well and that he has received contributions, which will go toward the fuel costs for delivery of recyclables to next recycle destination.

Motion made to adjourn at 6:35 pm. Motion carried.

**LCCS Teaching Program**

By Mary Ossa Teaching Program Chairperson

Whether you are a computer enthusiast or a computer beginner, come join us in our teaching/learning activities!

As stated in our Constitution, the Licking County Com-



puter Society (LCCS) promotes interest in and understanding of computers. Currently, LCCS holds eight monthly meetings, most of them informal, where members can share information and experience. In addition, since 1995, we have offered beginning Computer Classes to the senior citizens of Licking County, Ohio. This teaching program is held at Zerger Senior Center in collaboration with the Licking County Aging Program (LCAP). Volunteers from LCCS' membership teach the basics of computer operation including Windows XP, how to defrag, error-check, format diskettes and burn compact discs. We also have classes in Beyond the Basics and the Internet and E-Mail.

In most of our classes, we have a member who volunteers to teach or lead the class and at least two aides who help. Many of the teachers and aides come from our computer classes that they once attended as students themselves. We are always looking for help with the classes. We also have a committee made up of members who keep our 11 flat screen computers running XP up and working. So as you can see, this is a joint effort. If you have some time that you could give to LCCS as a teacher or aide, please consider helping.

*--- continued on pg 6***LCCS MEMBERS SPEAK****Computer Recycling Programs - How others do it.**

Written by John Dovjak, LCCS member.

In May, while visiting my daughter in Charlotte, North Carolina, I saw a newspaper article about Goodwill Industries and their computer-recycling program. A computer outlet store was next to their main store. I visited their facility and was given a tour of the operation. This was one of about 6 Goodwill facilities in the country with this type of program.

All donated computers and equipment are brought to Goodwill's Computer store. There technicians permanently erase the computer hard drive, evaluate the computer's components, refurbish and reuse working items and break down non-working equipment so that components can be recycled. The computer store then sells refurbished computers, parts, equipment and accessories to the public. No operating software is installed. Prices for computers varied depending on the equipment installed and computer speed. Monitors were tested and placed on the shelves for sale at various prices.

Computers and peripherals delivered to their facility are received at no cost but if Goodwill has to pick up units they will charge for pickup for each individual item.

After testing computer items, the defective and ancient items are stripped and parts sorted by Goodwill employees. Boxes similar to the ones we use during our recycling events were plentiful. I asked how much recycled computer junk do they ship and they told me that 3 truckloads of recycled material were shipped per week.

**MAR PROGRAM**

Written by Jim Amore, LCCS President

The Licking County Computer Society has been granted MAR (Microsoft Authorized Refurbisher) status. We'll have applications online for MAR participants. The program allows a licensed copy of Windows 98 or Windows 2000 on a refurbished computer. We will be asking for a donation for these computers.

**SIG Reports - - - continued from p 3****REPAIR SIG**

Written by Wyn Davies Repair SIG Leader

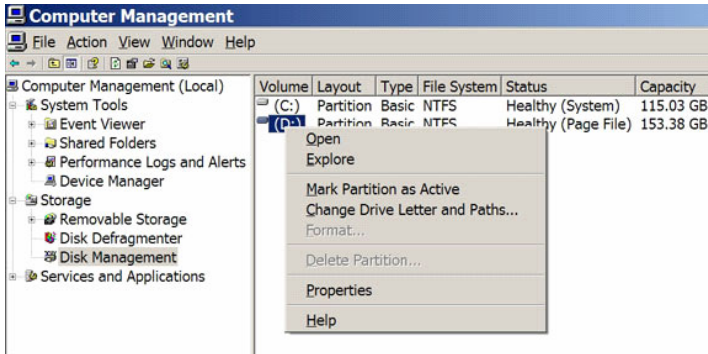
On June 5, 2006 we had 12 members & visitors present with 7 system. Lots of spyware problems and 2 systems needed clean up. A LCCS member needed a hard drive removed and installed in a second system and the first system was donated to LCCS. Another system needed software loaded for sound recordings & instructions on how it worked.

## LCCS MEMBERS SPEAK continued

### Installing a Hard Drive under Windows XP

By Jon Luzio, LCCS member.

I recently installed a second 160 GB hard drive in my Windows XP computer because my primary 120 GB hard drive was nearing its capacity. I have done this several times in the past under previous Windows operating systems and after physically installing the drive, it was a simple matter of using a utility floppy that comes with the



drive to format and partition the drive. The computer's BIOS and then Windows would recognize the drive and you would be off & running.

The new drive I purchased was bare bones and came with no instructions or utility disk but how hard could it be to install? I set the new drive's jumpers to slave, physically installed the new drive in the computer and then attached the power & IDE cables. I then booted up the computer and immediately went into the BIOS setup. With satisfaction, I saw that the computer recognized the new drive. I then booted Windows XP and went to Device Manager & observed that it also recognized the new drive. So far so good, but when I opened Windows Explorer it only showed my first drive. I expected this since the new drive had not been formatted, but how do you do that in Windows XP? I queried and dug around in Windows Help on installing a second drive and was once again let down by the lack of any pertinent information in Windows Help. It was time to start Googling!!!

I found that others were having the same problem and that installing a second drive in Windows XP is not as intuitive as it should be. The hardest part is finding XP's Disk Management utility.

From the Desktop or Start Menu, right click on My Computer and select Manage. This will open the Computer Management window. Click on Storage and then select Disk Management. You then must "Initialize" the hard drive. Windows may or may not launch a "Partition Wizard". Mine did not. I had to right click on the new drive

(it was detailed as "Not Initialized" and showed a black bar to the right of its properties). When you right click on the drive, this will prepare the new drive for Windows. Once you choose initialize, another window will come up asking you to confirm which drive to initialize (be careful to choose the correct drive)! Once a drive is initialized for use with XP, partition options, assigning drive letters and formatting partition's then becomes available. When that is done, reboot the computer and enjoy all the new real estate on your new drive.

Why disk management is so well hidden in XP, I have no clue? Let's hope that Vista does a better and more intuitive job of letting us control and configure our computers.

### LCCS TEACHING PROGRAM

*--- continued from p 5*

The classroom accommodates ten students each at a computer provided by LCCS. Classes are two hours long, once a week for seven weeks. We hold three sessions a year, the first in September, and then one right after the New Year and the last in the spring. The students are given our own manual to follow, which is broken up into seven weeks, with skills increasing each week. We do charge a fee of \$10.00 to enroll in the classes to help cover the cost of printing the manual and for other materials we use in class. This is a very worthwhile service of LCCS and LCAP. The many seniors that have taken the classes will tell you how much they enjoy learning and using their computers. At this time we plan on having five beginning classes, two Internet classes and one "Beyond the Basics" class. We are offering an evening beginning and Internet class for those who are not free during the daytime.

All the classes are booked well in advance and always full. There is such a need for classes that are affordable and geared to seniors. All the teachers and aides involved will tell you they learn something new every time they teach a class. Learning is a lifelong goal for us all, so please think about joining us at Zerger Hall and helping out.

To help teach, please contact Mary Ossa, [mossa@infinet.com](mailto:mossa@infinet.com), or Mary Frances Rauch, [rauch-house@alink.com](mailto:rauch-house@alink.com). To enroll as a student, watch for a notice in *Zerger Times* or phone Zerger Hall, 740-345-0821.





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