Random Bits
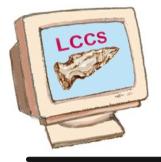
Licking County Computer Society

http://www.lccsohio.org

http://lccsohio.org/meeting.htm

http://www.apcug.net/

!!Club Picnic!!

July 17th at the A-Frame
1pm fun - 4-4:30 meal

Food Pantry donation by the Licking County Computer Society

President Kemp O'Dell is shown presenting a $500.00 check to this very worthy cause. George Hreha brought the plight of the Pantry to our attention and investigation showed we had funds available so the Executive Board voted to make the donation.

SPECIAL NOTICES

Picnic at the a-frame

Summer is here and the weekends are busy. We will have a picnic at the a-frame on Saturday 7/17/10 starting around 1pm and eating 4-4:30. We will provide the meat (chicken breasts, hamburgers, hotdogs, and brats), buns, some drinks and we have some table service left over from the recycling event. Bring a covered dish or snacks, lawn chairs, and any lawn games if you have any….should have corn hole like last time. Members and guests and hopefully we can talk them into becoming members too. Jim Amore

---

June Help Desk

For the summer, "free john" (John Kennedy) is hosting a Help Desk on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the summer months from 9:00-11:30 at the Zerger Hall classroom. The two sessions for June were a big success as a number of people came with questions and hoping for answers. This is not a computer repair session, but a time for people to get help with something they learned in one of the computer classes (and maybe forgot) or wanting to know some further steps to get something done. Over the two mornings John had help from David Rinehart and David DeRolph with many different issues. We covered a number of different questions about e-mail and thanks to having "live computers" people were able to access their e-mail accounts and get the help they needed. We also dealt with questions about spreadsheets and combining multiple files into a single spreadsheet with multiple sheets. We looked at connecting cameras to the computer to access photos, and we even took a micro-card (inserting it into an adapter) from a cell phone and showed a member how to use the card reader to access their pictures. We never know what we might get involved in with software questions, but those that come said in addition to getting their questions solved, they learn from other peoples questions. We have two more Help Desks in July and finish up with 2 in August. If you have an questions, or you'd like to help others; please join us. John Kennedy

SPECIAL NOTICES

Senior's Computer Classes

The Licking County Aging Program (LCAP) in partnership with the Licking County Computer Society (LCCS) will again be offering computer classes to area seniors (55 and above) during the upcoming 2010/2011 school year. The classes will be held in the computer classroom located at Zerger Hall, 745 E. Main St., Newark, OH. Classes will be offered in "Computer Basics" for XP, Vista, and Windows 7, "Internet/E-mail", "Word Processing", and "Spreadsheets".

New this year is a "Computer for the Total Beginner" class to be held in August, prior to the start of the fall session. This class will meet for 3 two-hour sessions covering the real basics of computers; hardware, starting up and shutting down, keys on the keyboard, lots of attention to the mouse, and is for those persons having no or very little experience with computers. Completing this class would make a person feel more at ease taking the full "Computer Basics" class. Fall classes, beginning in September and lasting for 6 weeks, meet throughout the week and at different times during the day. The cost for each of the classes is $20.00, except for the "Totally Beginners" class which is free when signed up along with one of the "Computer Basics" classes. For more information and to sign up for any of these classes, stop by Zerger Hall or call them at 740-345-0821 as soon as possible as classes fill up fast. George Hreha

---

BEGINNERS, BEGINNERS CLASS SETUP FOR SUMMER PRIOR TO FALL CLASSES

We now have two "classes" set up for August.

Wednesdays from 12:00-2:00 on August 11th, 18th, and 25th.

 Thursdays from 6:00-8:00 on August 19th, August 26th, and Sept. 2nd.

A third class ready to go if Zerger Registration gets requests for more than 20 people.
For registration call 740-345-0821 for information from Janet. Spots going fast, call now. George Hreha

LCCS/LCAP Teaching Program

TEACHING UPDATE
George Hreha

Curriculum Changes

Two gentleman have submitted great ideas and are now working to revise the program and make it more basic. This will be a major undertaking for them and it will hopefully serve to instruct any and all Beginner's, whether XP, Vista or Windows 7, in fundamental computer use regardless of the Operating System they are presently using.

Other discussions we are having:

• Issue one is in regard to the amount of time spent in class and the possibility of reducing it down to 6 weeks.
• We are also evaluating the addition of April/May and Nov/Dec sessions as well. These additional months may be scaled back programs.

Suggestions may be emailed or you might even volunteer to meet with them to go over your ideas. We wish them the best and know they will get the desired results we would all like to see for the future.

If you would like to help, please contact:

J Kennedy(lccs.freejohn@gmail.com) or
J David Rinehart (rinehart41@windstream.net)

New this year is a "Computer for the Total Beginner" class to be held in August, prior to the start of the fall session. This class will meet for 3 two-hour sessions covering the real basics of computers; hardware, starting up and shutting down, keys on the keyboard, lots of attention to the mouse, and is for those persons having no or very little experience with computers. Completing this class will make a person feel more at ease taking the full "Computer Basics" class. Fall classes, beginning in September and lasting for 6 weeks, meet throughout the week and at different times during the day. The cost for each of the classes is $20.00, except for the "Totally Beginners" class which is free when signed up along with one of the "Computer Basics" classes. For more information and to sign up for any of these classes, stop by Zerger Hall

Member Article

How Much Does It Cost To Save A Couple Hundred Dollars? ABOUT $50!!!!

A few years ago I decided to purchase a pro line digital camera and like most of us I wanted to get the best deal possible. So like most avid computer users I decided to check the internet for the best deal. I spent many hours over many weeks trying to decide what kind of system I wanted and look for the best deal.

I finally found a site, which offered a real good deal. This site was very highly rated for having satisfied customers. I was additionally pleased with their customer satisfaction money back policy. At the time I did not mind the fact the shipping charges were not refundable. Because after all, when you buy a product, returning it is the furthest thing from your mind.

Here is what the Internet sales site says about their warranties:

ABOUT USA CAMERAS AND DIRECT IMPORT CAMERAS
USA means that we purchased the camera from the company's representative here in the USA. Therefore the manufacturer's warranty is applicable.

Direct Import means that we bought the product from a private distributor who purchased it directly from the overseas manufacturer. The item is not covered by the manufacturer's warranty, because the manufacturer's authorized agent or representative did not import that item into the USA. The benefit is that this cuts out the middle man, so that we can offer the camera at a better price.

This is all well and good but nowhere in this statement does it say anything about the fact that the instructions are printed in Japanese and that the original manufacturing label on the box says Japan Only Not intended for sale outside of Japan.

Not only was I disappointed in the fact that the instruction manual was in Japanese. Some of the standard accessories, which were listed as being part of the original package, were missing. These items included the 16mb smart media card and the 4 AA size batteries.

But I guess the people who sold the item could not read Japanese any better than I could or they would have known the product was incomplete.

(Cont'd)

Member Article

How Much Does It Cost To Save A Couple Hundred Dollars? ABOUT $50!!!! (Cont'd)

Even though we like to believe in the integrity and honesty of others. That is not always possible. So now I may be a little less trusting and a lot wiser and it only cost me $50. I hope you learn something from my misfortune.

Robert Lee Vance

A Few Thoughts Shared
By Mary Francis

We want to mention the thank you letters we received from the Food Pantry Network for the $500 donation we gave them from our general funds. ... They are so thrilled with our spontaneous donations they cannot express themselves enough!!...

I want to mention, under Digital SIG, the GREAT experiences we are having for FREE as D. Clement takes us on digital field trips and shows us one-on-one how to get great shots of simple, everyday things? I cannot believe that everyone who owns a camera in our LCCS does not show up for this FREE hands-on help (training).

Then we go back to Zerger and look at the pictures we just took and talk about how to improve them (or just say, "ahhhhh, that is great!" Does everyone in LCCS understand this is FREE and available to them whether they be a true beginner or an advanced photographer? ....excuse me, I get excited.

The Help Desk that John Kennedy got started is off to a really good pace. They had a big variety of questions (and different levels of experience).

I personally think the LCCS is the best thing since sliced bread, or maybe even the invention of the wheel!

The Pantry article was commented on by several members. Ed.

Tip or Treat

Cell phone data transfer software

FREE in Windows, Mac and Linux!

I have used this software for about 4 years through 3 phone changes. I am able to keep backup copies, on my computer, of all my cell phone data. My contacts, memos ring tones, etc are safely stored on the computer. There is no cost other than a data cable purchase if it didn't come with your kit

Before installation, you should check the list of phones to be sure your phone is supported. The software is maintained by volunteers and some phones are not supported because demand for the service is low.

http://www.bitpim.org/help/ is the page listing phones and features available for that phone.

Verizon has twice lost my ring tones and contacts when I've upgraded. Last week was the same situation but when I got home I just used the backup file on my desktop computer and transferred the data. The 137 phone numbers, addresses and notes on the business contacts would have taken hours to recreate.

Look into BitPim if you are interested. http://www.bitpim.org/

Blenderart Mag Issue #27 now available

May 17th, 2010 /// Releases

Welcome to Issue #27, "Shadow Showdown."

Table of Contents:

* Fun with Shadows
* I finally get it! —
    Ambient Occlusion
* Mesh Lights
* Studio Pack Shot

* Robbie the Robot
* Using Textured Light to
    Spice Up a Scene
* Lighting the Vault
* Lighting Troubleshooting
    Tips

And Lot More…

http://blenderart.org/2010/05/17/blenderart-mag-issue-27-now-available/

Windows Tip or Treat

Error Golblin Explains Windows Error Codes - Online!

Look up error codes to find out the actual fault on your machine.

http://tinyhacker.com/hacks/error-goblin-explains-windows-error-codes/

There are portable and offline versions available for download.

Windows rescue CD's

These are free downloads and most are from our favorite antivirus companies. Be prepared to read and understand the instructions. They are not terribly complicated but you should read them all the way through before begining.

http://www.windowsreference.com/free-utilities/list-of-free-rescue-disks-for-malware-infected-windows-pcs/

The Complete Windows 7 Shortcuts eBook by Nitin Agarwal

Recommended by Bob Vance

http://www.thewindowsclub.com/the-complete-windows-7-shortcuts-ebook-

---

Scan Your Thumb Drive for Viruses from the AutoPlay Dialog

It's always a good idea to scan someone's flash drive for viruses when you use it on your PC. Today we look at how to use Microsoft Security Essentials to scan thumb drives via the AutoPlay dialog.

HowToGeek (quoted above) presents us with a detailed article and screenshots. Transferring virus computer to computer is common with thumb drives so this article is

http://www.howtogeek.com/howto/18021/scan-your-thumb-drive-for-viruses-

---

How to Assign a Static IP Address in XP, Vista, or Windows 7

The HowToGeek.com website offers another good instruction.

http://www.howtogeek.com/howto/19249/how-to-assign-a-static-ip-address-in-xp-vista-or-windows-7/

When organizing your home network it's easier to assign each computer it's own IP address than using DHCP. We will take a look at doing it in XP, Vista, and Windows 7.

8

Linux Tip or Treat

Look up permission codes - Online calculator!

Look up octal permission codes so you can control access to a file or directory.
http://permissions-calculator.org/
Here are some common uses of the octal numbers:
- chmod 755 myfile : rwxr-xr-xr, all rights to the owner, other people only read and execute;
- chmod 644 myfile : rw-r--r--, owner car read and write, other people only read;
- chmod 777 myfile : can be considered bad practice in some cases, full permissions to everybody.
See http://www.linuxforums.org/articles/file-permissions_94.html for a full explanation.

How Linux works: the ultimate guide
Posted at 9:16pm on Friday May 21st 2010

Ever wanted to learn how the internals of your Linux desktop work? Yes, we've already published detailed "how it works" articles about things like sound, the kernel, LVM, PAM and filesystems, but in this article we're going to take a wider view and explain how everything in a modern Linux distro works, start to finish.

We've opted for a top-down view, tackling each stratum of Linux technology from the desktop to the kernel as it appears to the average user. This way, you can descend from your desktop comfort zone into the underworld of Linux archaeology, where we'll find plenty of relics from the bygone era of multi-user systems, dumb terminals, remote connections and geeks gone by. We're also going to be showing you some commands you can use to poke around on your own system, because where's the point of learning stuff you can't use?

This is one of the things that makes Linux so interesting: you can see exactly what has happened, why and when. This enables us to dissect the operating system in a way we couldn't attempt with some alternatives, while at the same time, you learn something about why things work the way they do on the surface. Sound awesome? Sure it does - read on!
http://www.tuxradar.com/content/how-linux-works-ultimate-guide

9

Digital Photo SIG

June Digital Imaging SIG

For the June meeting the group met early at the gazebo on the Licking County Courthouse square. Members used their own cameras and took many pictures in and round the downtown area. We discussed some reasons for choosing certain settings on the camera to get the "right" picture. We had planned on going back to Zerger Hall to look at some of the pictures we took on the big screen, however David had been informed that the room had been prepared for carpet cleaning and the computers and chairs were stacked on top of the tables. So after a short meeting around one of the tables on the square (it was starting to sprinkle), the SIG was adjourned early. Most of the people in attendance really like getting a chance for some "hands-on" experimenting. John Kennedy

Repair SIG

Cheap Fix

I was given a computer to repair that wouldn't boot up. The owners had been told that the hard drive was bad so, they replaced it. Still not booting, it stopped at the BIOS screen, displaying a message saying it couldn't recognize the processor. I tried everything with no luck. We were considering a new motherboard and processor until I had a similar problem with a laptop which shut down so quickly that I couldn't check it out. Determining it was overheating, I re-set the processor and heat sink and it started working. So I tried the same thing on the desktop unit CPU. After reloading Windows XP and anti-virus, everything seems to be working fine. Heat is a big issue with most computers and we need to keep the insides clean from dust to make sure you have good air movement. Also, be sure fans are working properly. Jim Amore

Linux SIG

April Linux SIG

We brought a donated computer to the meeting and installed Ubuntu. Members who were unfamiliar and unsure of how to install or run a live CD were able to see what is involved. The initial installation went smoothly and took only about 20 minutes.

―――――――――――――――――

May Linux SIG

For the May Linux SIG, we took a good look at the newest version of Ubuntu = 10.04. This version will be the one that we'll be using on the classroom computers for the next year. We had a chance to see the new color scheme and the big change of putting the command buttons for windows on the left side. We also took a look at which programs were installed by default. After looking at Ubuntu, we also did a quick preview of Kubuntu and Remix (the version for netbooks). John made mention of the August OhioLinuxFest (OLF) and showed those in attendance the website and explained a bit about the conference.

June Linux SIG

We had 8 members show up for the June 22nd meeting. John Kennedy presented several programs and specifically FoxitReader. We covered several ways to install it for use and ended with more questions than answers. It does work when installed and he likes the program.

Another program, a tar ball, was installed to show one method for handling tar.gz or .tgz files. There was a program dependency but it didn't cause a problem because we had prepared by reading the README.INSTALL file before beginning the installation.

The "find" command was touched on and a couple of uses demonstrated. More coverage on this later. As "newbies" or "gnubies" we are feeling our way along, discovering useful commands. We might lean toward digital photo files: renaming in batch mode; converting raw to jpg, pdf or other, looking at/editing exif data from the command line.

Licking County Computer Society, Inc.
PO Box 612
Newark, OH 43058-0612
LCCS OFFICERS 2010

President:
Kemp O'Dell, 740-348-0049,
President@lccsohio.org

Vice-president:
Jim Amore, 740-404-3963,
VicePresident@lccsohio.org
Secretary:
JC Deck, deck-101@embarqmail.com
Treasurer:
John Kennedy,
Treasurer@lccsohio.org
Agent:
David Bibler, 740-345-3492,
dbibs@hotmail.com
Trustees:
George Hreha, 740-924-1925,
ghreha@columbus.rr.com
Vicky Atkins, 349-8048,
vmatkins@alink.com
Bob Vance, 779-3218,
vanleer@horizonview.net
Newsletter Editor:
Ken Bixler, Newsletter@lccsohio.org
Publication Distribution:
Vicky Atkins, 349-8048,
vmatkins@alink.com
Membership:
Vicky Atkins, 349-8048,
vmatkins@alink.com
Meeting Programs:
Jim Amore, 740-404-3963,
VicePresident@lccsohio.org

MS Word/Works SIG:
Mary Frances Rauch, 740-522-4710,
rauchhouse@alink.com
Novice SIG:
George Willey, gwilley@alink.com
Repair/Maintenance SIG:
Wyn Davies,740-366-6314,
aeolus@windstream.net
Web SIG:
Kevin Clement,
clementk777@gmail.com
Digital Imaging SIG:
David Clement,
digitalimagesig@gmail.com
Linux SIG:
Jim Amore, 740-404-3963,
VicePresident@lccsohio.org
Computer Recycling Program:
Jim Amore, Events Coordinator, 740-404-3963,
VicePresident@lccsohio.org
Computer Refurbishing Program:
Position open
Teaching program:
George Hreha, Chairman, 740-924-1925
Webmaster:
Jon Luzio, 740-587-4632,
Webmaster@lccsohio.org

Note: Phone numbers are in area code 740 except where noted.

12