



Brevard Users Group



June 2011

E-mail Hacked?

An Ounce of Prevention...

By Lee Seidman, Vice President, Business and Professional Microcomputer Users Group, Inc. (BPMUG), CT February 2011 issue, The Help KeyMan (at) yahoo.com www.bpmug.org

Recently, some unsuspecting e-mail users may have experienced dismaying and shocking notifications suggesting that his or her e-mail has been hacked and used to send spam (or worse), even if the e-mail system is web-based rather than downloaded directly to one's computer via a local application like Microsoft Mail, Outlook, Outlook Express, MacMail, Entourage, Thunderbird, etc. (and hence, susceptible to operating system-level vulnerabilities). The primary suspect is the password used to access the account.

People tend to try to keep things simple by using the same password to access a variety of sites, but at the risk of security. People's e-mail account password should never be used for any other account or web site. Generally, e-mail can be compared to a postcard; although the message is destined for a particular recipient, it has the potential to be read by anyone as it traverses the Internet. Additionally, if one joins a web site that requests a password to subscribe, a confirma-

Continued on Page 14

Secretary's Report

By Gevase Bushe

Minutes of General Meeting May 12, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 6.30 PM by President Larry French. There were about 12 members present. There were no guests present.

Larry started by mentioning that there would be no board meeting this month, it had been moved to the fourth Thursday, and he would be away then and he had found out that we did not have to have a meeting every month.

He mentioned for any one who had not been there for the SHINE program last month that he had received some brochures from them to give away. He explained that SHINE (which stands for Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Elders) was a really great free unbiased organization which helps seniors pick out the Medicare part B options which best suit them. He gave out some of the flyers. He mentioned that there were some of these plans you could get for free, and someone said there were even plans which would pay you to take them. But Larry said the man from SHINE said these would not last. He said the time to select your plan would be changing to October 15th until some time in November. (Actually the period ends Dec. 7th in 2011,)

Continued on Page 3

Table of Contents

Secretary's Report	1	<i>You've Got Them. Why Not Use Them?</i>	<i>7</i>
Treasurer's Report	3	Tips & Tricks	8
Meeting Calendar	4	ISP Negotiations	9
Minutes of Officers Meeting	5	SmartPhone = PDA + Phone	11
Enhance Your Documents with Footers	6	Drop it in the Box	12

Secretary's Report ... Continued from Page 1

He also let us know that if you get an email or website with a black background you can highlight it and it turns all the lettering blue, so now you can see it.

He passed out cards with corrected phone numbers and email addresses to board members. He then said that in future we would be having speakers who would tell us about new technology not necessarily computers. Tonight (our own member) Jack Nash would tell us about his Kindle (ebook reader). Larry also said that Barnes and Noble would be coming to a fourth Thursday meeting to talk about their book reader. He said there would be further information forthcoming about tablets and smart phones etc.

Secretary Bushe mentioned that he had recently read an article about a whole new form of computing which IBM and others were working on which will be a million times faster than anything we have now. There will be no more serial processing. Larry agreed that they kept working to make things faster and faster and more secure. He said: "this is quite an age we live in."

Larry then turned it over to Jack Nash to talk about his Amazon Kindle. Jack pointed out that he did not work for Amazon or own any Amazon stock. He said that he had been given this as a Christmas present a year and a half ago by his daughter, and as far as he was concerned it had been fantastic.

He had said there were 4 Kindles available that you could buy, and his (which he proceeded to demonstrate) was the largest DX model. He recommended any one buy this model which comes with both Wifi and 3G access. He said the DX today was \$379.00, and the little one was \$189.00 and also had both Wifi & 4G, but he did not recommend it mainly because of keyboard size. His wife has one. The new one was \$114.00 but had ads and had Wifi only. 3G is faster and available everywhere.

Jack gave us a very interesting demonstration of his Kindle. Some of the features he mentioned were: The low cost of books, average \$9.99, a current best seller might be \$12.99, but he had bought a book yesterday for 79¢. There are even some free books. Convenience, he didn't have to go anywhere to get a book.

Once you bought a book it can be downloaded in

Treasurer's Report

By: Tom English

April 2011

EXPENSES

Postage	\$ 37.11
Printing	\$ 77.62
Total	\$114.73

INCOME

Dues	\$158.00
Interest	\$ 0.25
Total	\$158.25

ASSETS

Checking	\$1,474.60
Savings	\$2,022.48
Total	\$3,497.08

Renewals

AULD, Joseph	1313
DONNELLY, Jim & Josette	1266
HOFMANN, Ernst G	1288
MACNEILL, John	0390
MCFADDEN, Louise	1246
MILLER, Gloria	0965
WILLIAMS, John	0973
ZIMMERMANN, Paul	1287



less than a minute. Audio: a book will be read aloud to you if wanted. Dictionary in case you need the meaning of a word. The book will reopen where you left off. You own the book forever, it can be stored on Amazon's server when you're done, but recalled free anytime in the future.

There followed a short question and answer session regarding member's computer questions. They were ably answered by Chuck Boring.

Tom Butler was present for the last time for a while as he is heading North to look after his 93-year-old mother. He will be missed by everyone.

The meeting ended at approximately 8 PM



June BUG Meetings 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 Tinkers SIG call: 952-0199 to verify meeting	6 Daytime SIG One Senior Place 8085 Spyglass Hill Rd Viera, FL	7	8	9 Monthly Meeting Central Baptist Church 2503 Country Club Dr. Melbourne, FL	10	11
12 Tinkers SIG call: 952-0199 to verify meeting	13	14	15	16	17	18 Newsletter SIG Call 728-5979 for information.
19 Tinkers SIG call: 952-0199 to verify meeting	20	21	22	23 Windows & Linux SIG Central Baptist Church 2503 Country Club Dr. Melbourne, FL	24	25
26 Tinkers SIG call: 952-0199 to verify meeting	27	28	29	30		

Minutes of Officers Meeting

April 28, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7.40 PM by President Larry French.

Present were the members of the board of directors as follows:

President Larry French, Vice President Henry (Hank) Lauritsen, Treasurer Tom English, Secretary Gervase Bushe, and First member at large Bob Bloch. Also guest Jim Townsend. Absent was Second member at large Bill Middleton who was attending the Imaging S.I.G. with Ed McEwen which was still in progress.

The minutes of the prior meeting of March 10, 2011 were read. It was moved by Tom English and seconded by Gervase Bushe that these minutes be approved as read. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Treasurer's report: Treasurer Tom English mentioned that he would be away for May, June, and July and wondered if he needed to prepare a treasurer's report for each month, or if he could do a combined report for May June and July when he returned in August? The general consensus was that this would be fine. Larry said that there was no written requirement about this. Tom also said that he had not yet written up his suggested dues payment method for the newsletter, but felt there was no urgency about this before he came back in August. Larry said we could talk about that around September.

President's Report: President Larry French reported again that the check signing person's at the TD bank did not change. He also reported that the financial audit of the club's books had been accomplished, and repeated that reregistering the club with the state was done. He then said there were two things that had come up that he wanted to mention: The first was that he had learned that we did not *have* to have a Board of directors meeting every month, it was not required. He said it was at his discretion whether we needed to have one. He had always thought that we had to have one, but it turned out it was not a requirement. It was at the discretion of the President or of anyone on the board who felt that we needed to call one. The other point that he wanted to make was off the record.

Larry also had prepared a list of all board members emails and phone numbers etc., and he made sure everyone had checked their info. And put a check mark on it if it was up-to-date.

(Newsletter Editor) Jim Townsend had a question: He wanted to know if everyone was getting redirected mail from the website? He wanted to know if (web master) Eric had changed the redirection of mail addresses for officer's as shown on the website and newsletter to their personal email addresses. Larry said he was making a note to look into this. The president then asked if there was any other old business that we needed to discuss. There was no response.

Following that, he passed out some sample proposed flyers for comments making some corrections as he did so. He then asked for approval to go ahead and get a batch of these printed up so that we could give them out.

Bob Bloch pointed out that last month we had approved these flyers under new business.

There was further clarification (for the benefit of Hank and Gervase) how someone reading the news letter and keying in the email address shown for an officer would have the email redirected to the officer's personal address, without giving it out to the general public.

New Business: Secretary Bushe suggested that for a guest speaker he could probably get the VP of IMS Partners who could do a presentation on retirement financial strategies, but pointed out that they do sell equity based annuities, although he said they give a good presentation, and there would be no push to sell at the meeting. No one voiced any objections providing it would be of interest to the membership and as Larry put it "there would be no hard sell at the meeting".

Jim Townsend also suggested that perhaps we could check with someone at Barnes & Noble about information on the new ebooks as there were a lot of questions about them which might be of interest to us. Tom also mentioned that maybe we could start getting into the new technology such as Ebooks and Smart phones, Larry said he could explain Smart phones as he was on his third one now. He said he used it to get on to the internet all the time. He said he would contact Barnes & Noble about the ebooks.

At 8.07 PM a motion to adjourn the meeting was moved by Hank Lauritsen and seconded by Tom English. It was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Gervase M. Bushe.

☺

Enhance Your Documents with Footers

By Nancy DeMarte, Columnist, Office Talk, Sarasota PCUG, Inc., FL

October issue, Sarasota PC Monitor

www.spcug.org

[ndemarte \(at\) Verizon.net](mailto:ndemarte@verizon.net)

We have all seen a document with a footer. It's that text in the bottom margin area of each page in a book or article which contains the page number, title, or other information. But how many of us add footers to the documents we create? Microsoft Word 2003 and 2007 allow easy insertion of footers and offer many options for footer content and formatting. Knowing what these options are and how to add them to a document will give you one more way to enhance your documents.

A surprising variety of items can be included in a footer:

- Date and time— either the date the document was created or the date/time it was last opened
- Page numbers – a number aligned left, right, or center; or variations, such as “page X of Y”
- Document properties – title, author, subject, company or organization, etc.
- Graphics – a line, logo, shape, clip art, or photo; color or grayscale
- File properties— number of words, file size in bytes, etc.
- Hyperlink – link to a web page or a folder on your computer
- Special Variations – different footers on odd and even pages, etc.

The procedure for inserting a footer in Word 2007 is straightforward. Open the document and click the Insert tab – Footer. This reveals a list of 25 preformatted footer templates from which to choose, from a blank footer to ones that complement the Word 2007 themes. It also opens the header and footer Design tab, which has specific commands related to just headers and footers. Click one of the footer templates to make it appear in the footer area. Then add the information you want by typing in the preset areas. For instance, if you insert a blank three tab footer, you might enter the topic at the left tab, the date at the center tab, and your name at the right tab. When finished, double click in the body of the document to deselect the footer. To return to the footer, double click in the footer area.

At times you may wish to create your own footer to add specialized information. Let's say I want to add the document's file name and path so I can locate it easily on my computer. To do this, I need to add a “field,” a set of instructions (code) for adding text or graphics, much like a formula in Excel. Fortunately, Word 2007 has many preset fields available to perform all sorts of functions. First I insert a blank footer, as described above. I ignore the “Type text” area. On the header and footer Design tab, I click Quick Parts – Field. A list appears containing many fields. I scroll down to FileName and click it. I choose the “lower case” format option and check the box next to “Add path to FileName.” When I click OK, the file path appears in the footer, looking like this:

c:\users\nancy\ documents \spcug\ myarticles enhancedocumentswithfooters.doc.

Customized footers can be saved in the Building Blocks gallery in Quick Parts for easy access.

Word 2003 lacks the large number of footer templates of Word 2007, but lets you to add common footers easily and modify them to your needs, including adding fields. To insert a footer, open the View menu and click Header and Footer. This will show the header area outlined in your document. To switch to the footer area, click the “Switch between header and footer” icon in the header and footer toolbar. This mini toolbar contains several icons for common footer content, such as date and page number. It also has an “Insert Auto Text” menu that reveals a list of 10 other useful footer options, such as “author, page#, and date,” which adds all three features at once. Another option is “filename and path.” Click this to put the file name and path in your footer.

To add a field in Word 2003, open the Insert menu and choose Field. You will see a list similar to that in Word 2007. First choose a Category; then click the Field Name you want. In Word 2003, fields can be edited by right clicking inside the footer area and choosing Edit Field. You can modify the field itself or change the font, font size, or other text features, just as you would in the body text. Remember to select the footer text before editing.

Once you learn to add footer text, you will want to experiment with adding graphics, such as a top border line or even a logo, photo or clip art. Footers are a great way to preserve important information about a document while giving it professional flair.



You've Got Them. Why Not Use Them?

By Vinny La Bash, Regular Contributing Columnist,
Sarasota PCUG, Inc., FL
January 2011 issue, Sarasota PC Monitor
www.spcug.org
Vlabash (at) Comcast.net

People configure their desktops in different ways for an all encompassing assortment of reasons. Most use the Windows defaults which are quite reasonable, but operate from a false assumption that “factory specifications” are enough. Windows has lots of useful features not included in the default settings which could have great benefits, but if one doesn't know the features are there, one can never enjoy these prospective benefits.

Let's start by opening the **Control Panel** and clicking on **Programs**. In the **Programs and Features** section click the Turn **Windows Features on or off**. A dialog box appears which will enable you to turn features on or off.

There's probably much more here than you want, so let's examine several features that you are more likely to use rather than the ones which require professional technical knowledge to be useful.

The Indexing Service got a bad reputation in Vista because it was annoyingly slow. There is no doubt that Vista was a resource hog so any service or utility that had additional requirements tended to bog down the system even further. Microsoft resolved the problem in Windows 7 by turning the Indexing Service off by default. That's too bad because the utility can actually be very helpful in locating files and other content through flexible inquiries. Try it, you just may like it.

Internet Information Services (IIS) and Internet Information Services Hostable Web Core: You will not be held accountable if you don't know what these tools do or if you choose to ignore them. **IIS** is mostly regarded as a major component of a server while the **Hostable Web Core** performs fewer functions and needs fewer resources. If you write web based applications or wish to experiment hosting a web site on your desktop, these tools may be essential.

Microsoft Message Queue Server: This utility has been around for years and most application developers have come to ignore it because it's not new. If you send and receive messages on a regular basis with people who are in remote locations on the planet, and have “iffy” connections, you now have a tool to build a message queue, store a message within it, and send it when the connection to the recipient is up and running. You can also create a similar structure for receiving messages. Using this tool effectively requires basic programming skills.

Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP): Everyone who uses a computer on a regular basis should be concerned about unauthorized access to personal information or attempts to trick people into revealing information which should remain private. If you have a home network, wireless or not, SNMP gives you better control over devices on the network. You can configure hardware, troubleshoot more effectively, and in many cases even track down attempts to crack into your network. This tool requires a working knowledge of how a network operates.

Telnet Client: This is a great diagnostic tool if your email client is acting strangely and normal diagnostics can not resolve the problem. Turn it on when you need it, and turn it off when you're not using it as there are security issues with it.

These tools are not for everyone, especially those with little computing experience, but your level of knowledge shouldn't remain at the novice stage. Challenge yourself and you won't be like the guy who thinks he has twenty years of experience when in reality all he has is one year of experience twenty times.



BCTS Small Business & Home Support Specialists
BREVARD COMPUTER & TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

Jeff Harrison
President

8265 N, Wickham Rd Suite B (321) 254-4120
Melbourne, FL 32940
<http://brevardcomputer.com>

Tips & Tricks – Slip an Ace Up Your Sleeve

By Bob Goodman, Newsletter Team, Cajun Clickers
Computer Club, LA

January 2011 issue, Cajun Clickers Computer News
www.clickers.org
[bob \(at\) houseplanz.com](mailto:bob(at)houseplanz.com)

emailSTRIPPER

emailSTRIPPER is a free program for cleaning the “>”, unwanted carriage returns, and other formatting characters out of your emails. It will restore “forwarded” or “replied” emails back to their original state so they’re easier to read. It’s simple to use, and best of all it’s FREE!

<http://www.papercut.com/emailStripper.htm>

3 PC Problems You Can Fix

Ever notice how your PC has multiple personalities? In the course of a week, your computer may act friendly, moody, and sometimes downright mean. However, don’t take a hammer to your PC just yet. The following is a list of common symptoms and treatments to help even the most troublesome PCs. You don’t even have to be a psychologist (at least not yet) to deal with your PC’s neuroses. Windows 7 and Windows Vista usually manage this automatically, but overall you’ll find that these tips work for all versions of Windows, from Windows 95 to Windows 7:

Salvage a Wet Mobile Phone

If you drop your mobile phone in water or get it wet in a heavy rain; don’t panic; it’s possible to save it. Consider these easy, simple steps:

1. Act rapidly: First, quickly remove all covers and as many detachable parts as possible, such as the back cover, battery, SIM card, memory card etc. Next, take a piece of cloth or tissue paper and absorb as much excess water as possible. Make sure to dry it completely, before water soaks into difficult to reach places. If your phone was under water for just a short time, this quick drying procedure alone might save it.

2. Use a hair-dryer: Then, use a hair-dryer to thoroughly dry the phone and components; but don’t hold it too close to the phone, as that may harm the

electrical mechanisms. Pay extra attention to the battery area. The battery housing usually consists of tiny holes to let air (and consequently, water) into the phone. If steps #1 & #2 fail, then continue to step #3.

3. Drying for long duration: Place the disassembled phone and parts in a dry, warm place and allow the water to evaporate gradually. Also see:

<http://www.wikihow.com/Save-a-Wet-Cell-Phone>
<http://tinyurl.com/y8m8en6>

How to Secure a Wireless Network

We secure a wireless network to stop people without permission from using it. It’s harder to secure a wireless network than a classic wired network. This is due to the fact that a wireless network can be accessed from anywhere inside the range of its antenna.

If you don’t secure a wireless network from hackers, you might lose the service, or your network could be used to attack other networks. To secure a wireless network from hackers, just follow these simple tips:

1. Strategic antenna placement: Position the access point’s antenna in a place which restricts the range of its signal to go further than the required area. Do not place the antenna next to a window, but in a central location of the building.

2. Use WEP: WEP stands for Wireless Encryption Protocol. It’s a customary technique for encrypting traffic on a wireless network to block access by hackers.

3. Change the SSID, disable broadcast of SSID: SSID stands for Service Set Identifier. It is the recognition thread utilized by the wireless access point to allow authorized users to open connections. For every wireless access point arranged, select an exclusive and unique SSID. Also, disallow the broadcast of the SSID. Services will be provided as usual, but the SSID will not appear in the listing of offered networks.

4. Disable DHCP: By doing this, the hackers will have to decode the TCP/IP parameters, subnet mask, and IP address in order to hack your wireless network.

Continued on Page 9

Tips & Tricks ... Continued from Page 8

5. Disable or modify SNMP settings: Change the private as well as public community settings of SNMP. You can also just disable it. Otherwise the hackers will be able to utilize SNMP to get significant info regarding your wireless network.

6. Utilize access lists: For additional security of your wireless network, if your access point supports this feature, employ an access list. An access list lets you determine precisely which computers are permitted to access your network. Access points which use access lists can employ Trivial File Transfer Protocol (TFTP) in order to download updated lists periodically and steer clear of hackers. See page: <http://tinyurl.com/28tz3lg>



ISP Negotiations — Speeds/Features/Software Myths vs. Realities

*By Gabe Goldberg
Slickdeals (at) gabegold.com*

Trapped! It's easy to feel that way when the relationship with your ISP (Internet service provider) turns sour. Too often, people slavishly accept whatever service they get, meekly pay bills, and don't comparison shop or even measure connection speeds. So they don't know whether they're getting what they're paying for, let alone whether they can talk their way into something better.

Utility bills are so nasty and convoluted that it's easy to ignore them — especially when they're auto-paid by credit card or bank draft. But that lets companies bury changes to rates and terms of service, hardly ever in consumers' favor, deep in the small print. So check bills and tiny-type messages every month and especially carefully after moving or changing services, since orders/options/fees are too-frequently botched!

If service or bundle bills creep upward as they often do, call a few times a year to ask about specials — sometimes they're not advertised. You may have to extend a contract to win a bargain, but if you'd have stayed anyway, it's a winning tradeoff.

Watch the market for changes in services, prices, and bundles. When you see new features such as FiOS enhancements offered, call and demand them. Emphasize that as a long-time customer you should get the same deal as new subscribers! When considering FiOS, remember that it depends on your electricity for operation. Battery backup will carry it for a few hours but that may not be adequate for telephone, alarm system, or health communication. FiOS is strongly marketed to include phone but it isn't needed; you can retain reliable copper phone service while using Internet and cable via FiOS.

Focus on what matters. For most people, after a certain point, increased Internet speed may not matter as much as other enhancements such as more premium TV channels, online backup storage, or a DVR. Aim requests to optimize YOUR total package, not simply get connection speed bragging rights.

Especially when establishing Internet service, but even after-the-fact, consider separating connectivity from email hosting to allow ISP (s)hopping without having to change email address. Fully sliced, Internet services may involve multiple fees: connectivity, email/Web hosting, and domain registration. But the total won't necessarily exceed that of a services bundle, and splitting enhances flexibility and negotiating clout, letting you tell your ISP that your email address doesn't tie you to them.

Even using your ISP's email service doesn't mean you're trapped by monthly bills. Though AOL has offered free email service for years, even allowing accessing it with standard email software and some free Web email services, many people still feel obligated to pay for it. That's like feeling stranded on a stalled escalator when you can just walk off.

Internet connection speeds are quoted in squishy terms, such as, "Up to xxx megabits/second up and down". Nobody complains when actual speeds exceed the promised "up to" rating (as mine routinely do!), but not enough people gripe when speeds are far below claimed service quality.

Continued on Page 10

ISP Negotiations ... Continued from Page 9

So test connection speed occasionally using websites like speedtest.net and dsreports.com, keep records (or let test sites do that), and politely ping your ISP if it falls short of what it advertises.

Check and cite reviews, BBB ratings, or blog posts indicating that the ISP isn't fulfilling promises. Compare notes with neighbors and other customers elsewhere; if there's a pattern of dissatisfaction, don't be snowed by customer support claiming that you're alone complaining. Investigate whether your city/county has an agency handling Internet complaints and mention that you'll consult it for advice and action.

You're a stronger negotiator if you know and cite available competitive ISPs. If you're a cable customer with FiOS available, tell your ISP that you're being courted by the other vendor and wonder why you should remain. And WiMAX offerings <<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wimax>> are proliferating, often adding a third service choice competing with the traditional cozy ISP duopoly (cable and telco).

Keep detailed notes on interactions with your ISP, noting date/time and contact person. Always request ticket/incident numbers for follow-up and proof of patterns. Log problems, outages, and slowdowns for later reference even if you don't report them all.

If you're not getting satisfaction from first-level support, escalate firmly but politely, emphasizing that you simply want to resolve issues, but not taking problems personally or blaming anyone. On a more positive note, request personal contact info from helpful people. When available, it's pleasant being able to contact them directly rather than having to go through usual screening or taking pot luck with random staffers.

If a conversation feels rigidly scripted, try asking questions "off the record" or "person-to-person" or "as one IT professional to another" to try to get off-script and have an actual human conversation. It won't always work but when it does, results can improve.

Besides billing, speed, and reliability issues, technology itself is a fruitful haggling area. Cellular companies

are introducing MiFi <<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MiFi>>, a nifty gadget which uses cellular broadband to create a small/local/personal wireless hotspot. These are often offered under special promotions but you don't need these to play let's-make-a-deal with a hungry ISP. A similar technology allows tethering a computer to a cell phone, using it as a modem. Some companies disable this or charge extra for it, but it's worth asking (demanding?) for it as a service plan addition.

If you've had a connection for a while, you may not have the current generation of modem (and router, if it's all one unit). Companies sometimes provide this gear at no cost, so it can't hurt to ask for a free technology refresh — especially if speed or reliability aren't what they should be. Separate from replacing hardware, occasionally ensure that you're running current software versions in telecom equipment by noting model numbers and visiting manufacturer Web sites for upgrades.

Finally, for emergencies, unless you check — perhaps with a special high-gain antenna — you never know what public hotspots or open networks are within range.

This article appeared originally on the slickdeals.net Web site, <http://slickdeals.net/>. (c) Gabriel Goldberg 2010. Permission is granted for reprinting and distribution by non-profit organizations with text reproduced unchanged and this paragraph included. Please email slickdeals@gabegold.com when you use it.



If at first you don't succeed, you must be using Windows.

PC Repair, software or hardware.



Chuck Boring
304 Waterfront Ave.
Merritt Island FL 32952
Phone: 321-454-9455
Email: cboring@cfl.rr.com

SmartPhone = PDA + Phone

By Phil Sorrentino, President, Sarasota Personal Computer Users Group, Inc., FL
January 2011 issue, Sarasota PC Monitor
www.spcug.org
president (at) spcug.org

Smartphones can be seen all around. Notice the phone being used on your favorite TV show; next time, odds are that it'll be a smartphone. A year or two ago it was a flip phone (do you remember Jack Bauer on 24 using his?), but no more. Now the phone of choice seems to be the smartphone. Apple, and more recently, Google, have really changed the mobile phone landscape. The iPhone, with its iOS Operating System available only on the iPhone, released in 2009, really started the whole movement. Google, with its Android Operating System (provided for free to hardware phone manufacturers), has come on very strong in the past few months so that iPhones and Android phones now have about the same market share - about 35% each, which only leaves 30% to be shared by Blackberry, Nokia, and Microsoft.

The Smartphone equality, as stated in the title, suggests that the smartphone is equal, in functionality anyway, to a Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) and a standard mobile phone. PDAs have been a popular way of allowing one to have many of the computer files, pictures, videos and music, available on the go - remember the Palm Pilot. A phone was another necessity for someone who was always on the go. So for someone who had to be mobile and needed access their computer files, a phone and a PDA became a good combination. I carried a PDA for many years and more recently, a PDA and a flip phone. Now I can carry only one device, a smartphone. And, as a welcome side effect, now I only have to make sure one device is charged nightly.

The smartphone is made possible by a number of technologies. Among them are: Capacitive touch-screens; 3G (soon to be 4G) wireless telephone networks; Wi-Fi; GPS; Micro-miniature processors, memory and components; Digital Cameras; and Phone oriented Operating Systems. Some of these technologies are used in phones - like touch screens, networks, small components, Digital cameras, and operating systems.

And some are used in PDAs - like touch screens, Wi-Fi, small components, and operating systems. As you can see there is a good bit of overlap, so putting it all together was just a natural. But it took the genius of Apple to put it all together and make it work and make it practical and make it cool. And now with the help of Google it has become more practical and popular.

All of the technology for replacing the mobile phone and the PDA is included in the smartphone, and then some. (I didn't have a good camera in my mobile phone, before.) But, it does take some planning and forethought to make the smartphone do everything. Some of the things to be concerned with are: Contacts, (which are phone numbers, addresses, e-mail addresses, and related notes); Calendar events; E-mail; Memos, (which are lists of important things); Documents; Spreadsheets; Pictures, Videos, Music; and Browsers. Before you can consider using any of these things there has to be an "App" (Application) installed on your smartphone. (I am using a Motorola Droid2 as an example, but most of what I am referring to will be very similar on another Android smartphone, and even similar for an Apple iPhone.) There are Apps for all of these tasks. In fact there are over 100,000 Apps for Android phones and over 240,000 Apps for iPhones.

So, the first thing to do is to identify an App to handle each task you want accomplished. Your smartphone probably came with a basic collection of Apps. Basic things like Contacts, Pictures, Videos, Music, and Camera will probably be covered by these Apps that were installed at the factory. If not, you can go to the "Market" for Android Apps, or the Apple Store for iPhone Apps, and find one that fits your needs. Many of the Apps at these stores (websites) are free or have a nominal cost, most under \$10. Things like Word or PDF Documents, or Excel spreadsheets may have to be handled by an App from one of these stores. Once you get to the App store, you will find a myriad of App titles. You can typically search for "All Apps", or limit your search to only free ones. You can even search for Games that will run on your smartphone. When you find an App that you want, you will pay for it (via a credit card account that was previously set up) if it is not free, and then it will be downloaded right onto your smartphone. The download is completely controlled

Continued on Page 12

Smart Phone ... Continued from Page 11

from the Market and there is no further action on your part needed. After the App is downloaded and installed, you will receive a message that it is complete. It couldn't be any easier.

Once an App has been downloaded, it can be placed on the home screen. Actually, one of the home screens. The Droid2 has 7 home screens. Multiple home screens make it easy for you to organize your Apps. Apps that you think work together can be collected on a particular home screen. You could have a home screen for entertainment, one for work, one for family, another for sports. Any organization of Apps that makes sense to you would be appropriate.

Once you've organized your home screens and downloaded the Apps needed, I'm sure you'll see that the smartphone is a very useful device for someone on the go. Future articles will concentrate on some of the new ways of interacting with the touch sensitive screen and some of the smartphone's more interesting features, but I think you will now agree that: Smartphone = PDA + (not so smart) phone.



Little Johnny was sitting on a park bench munching on one candy bar after another.

After the 6th one a man on the bench across from him said, "Son, you know eating all that candy isn't good for you. It will give you acne, rot your teeth, make you fat."

*Little Johnny replied,
"My grandfather lived to be 107 years old. He had all his teeth and was fit as a fiddle."*

The man asked, "Did your grandfather eat 6 candy bars at a time?"

Little Johnny answered, "No, but he did mind his own business!"

***I was once a millionaire ...
But my mom gave away all my baseball cards***

Drop it in the Box:

Dropbox, what it is, how it works

*By Jo Grazide, Leader, Word Processing Workshop,
Brookdale Computer Users Group, New Jersey
February 2011 Issue, Bug Bytes
<http://bcug.com>
gio520 (at) gmail.com*

What is Dropbox?

Suppose you were able to save work without using a flash drive, a disk (CD or DVD-R or RW), or an external drive, or even email, and move files between your laptop and desktop? For many years, I, like so many of us, had developed methods and procedures to upload, download, and save documents, music and pictures to a storage device, only to have to rely on memory to locate it afterwards. Another irritating problem for me, especially when I was working, was to identify the "latest" version, so that an older file would not overwrite my work during a "Save As."

Enter Dropbox, a useful application that eliminates lots of work and uncertainty.

Dropbox is a free download that offers protection and convenience and is easy to use. There is basically no learning involved. You should, however, be familiar with Drag & Drop and Move vs. Copy. Why not give Dropbox a try and see whether this is for you.

I first heard of Dropbox during a meeting of my camera club. Some members seemed happy with it; there were no negative comments, leading me to investigate. Having a way to store photography files without worrying about loss or corruption seemed an ideal solution to the problem of travel pictures. I got to test this, when I maxed out the Dropbox folder at around 2 GB during a vacation in Boston. There are two ways to increase your storage capacity – you can purchase the program on a monthly or yearly basis, or you can have friends join the service and be rewarded a few more MB's up to a whopping 8 GB.

Continued on Page 13

Dropbox ... Continued from Page 12

Get the App

To acquire Dropbox, you need to go to the website at <http://dropbox.com>. The download is quick and easy. Just run it, and follow the instructions. There are six initial steps:

1. Take the tour
2. Install Dropbox
3. Put files in your Dropbox folder
4. Install Dropbox on other computers
5. Share a folder with friends or colleagues
6. Invite friends to join

It is necessary to install the program on all computers that you will be using. The setup is done on the website, and the instructions are easy.

In my case, this is my laptop and my desktop. As I move around with the laptop, to meetings or anywhere I use it, I'm able to save files as they are created, directly into the Dropbox folder, which sits in the system tray area. By clicking on its icon, Dropbox will provide easy and helpful commands.

In addition, I know that once I reach home, altered files will be available and updated on my desktop machine. They can be dragged into their proper locations on the storage drives. This has been extremely useful. Instead of dealing with two documents, a newer version and an older version, there is only one synchronized version.

Another nice aspect is that I don't have to worry about misplacing storage disks or flash drives, which does happen. I also would think that it lessens stress, as there is nothing to lose!

On the Website

There is plenty of information on the Dropbox website. There are videos and explanations of the synching process. Basically, anything that is put into the local folder is also recorded on the Internet. You can also access your files and upload them directly onto the Dropbox server.

It can be compared to using GoogleDocs or Windows Live Mesh. Collaboration, by the way, is possible.

I haven't delved into this, because I simply need a way to move data between computers. If you want to learn more, you need to visit the Dropbox website and study this feature.

The Dropbox website has five tabs:

* "Get Started" walks you through several chores before you can earn some extra space. This is simple and easy to understand.

* "Files" is the online list of your current Dropbox inhabitants, their sizes and the dates they were modified. You can sort each column by clicking on its heading. There are buttons here that let you do even more. A basic knowledge of file management is all you need to comprehend this part of the application.

* "Events" is a listing of various edits, deletions, and other information about your files.

* "Sharing" allows you to create a new folder to share, or share an existing folder. By following the prompts, you can identify who you want to share the folder with. In my case, I began typing my husband's email address, and it was prefilled for me. This would make it easier for multiple shares in a business or committee setting. Perhaps our next Board meeting minutes will appear in a Dropbox folder! I also found that once the shared folder appeared in my local Dropbox folder, I could rename it and manage it locally. A refresh caused the change to appear on the website immediately. I like this type of efficiency. There is no lag time, and information can be relayed quickly between computers.

* Finally, "Help" is all the rest. It seems that the Dropbox website is complete; you can spend much time learning about it. I would suggest that you jump in and try out the program; you can learn by doing as well.

There are a couple of things I would warn you about as a new user. If you simply drag and drop the file back and forth, it copies the file. You may want to right-drag and choose move to ensure you have the latest version of your work or photograph. Also, having a comfort level with storage online to some extent, and not adding things like your Social Security number or

Continued on Page 14

Dropbox ... Continued from Page 13

banking information, goes without saying. Aside from that, there are no problems I can see with using this reliably.

One Last Thing

I do have one favor to ask you if you do join Dropbox; please use the link! It will enable both of us to get some extra space, a great reward and well deserved! The link to join on my behalf is

<http://db.tt/sHvgWQp>.

I promise I will not waste that space!!!!!!

System Requirements

Hardware: At least 512MB of RAM; free space on your computer equal to your Dropbox storage quota.

Software:

- Windows: Windows 2003, Windows XP, Windows Vista, and Windows 7 (32 and 64-bit).
- Mac OS X: Tiger (10.4) or later.
- Linux: Ubuntu 7.10+ and Fedora Core 9+.
- Also iPhone iOS 3.1, Android 1.5 and Blackberry 4.5.

Pricing: Up to 2 gigabytes of free storage space; DropBox 50, up to 50GB storage for \$9.99/month or \$99/year; Dropbox 100, up to 100GB storage for 19.95/month or \$199/year.

For more information:

<https://www.dropbox.com/plansproducts/desktop>



E-mail Hacked? ... Continued from Page 1

tion e-mail is often generated clearly presenting the username (often an e-mail address) and the proper password. The postcard analogy applies to that non-encrypted e-mail – it is open for anyone to read. A typical malicious-minded hacker (the “Black Hat”) who either intercepts that e-mail or accesses that web site’s consumer database would first attempt to use that password associated with that e-mail address to access the e-mail account. For example, if someone is whomever@aol.com registers to join community web site or message board site-whatever.com, generally he or she is asked to use his or her e-mail address as the user name. Site-whatever.com will ask the person to generate a password and often will send a confirmation e-mail identifying the username and password in clear text (meaning it is not obscured). The first thing a third-party (in other words, someone who is not the sub-

scriber or a representative of the web site) may try to do is use the password contained in that e-mail to access homever@aol.com itself.

Once a hacker with bad intentions gets into the e-mail, he or she may start slowly to not get noticed, however, it does not require much effort for the “Black Hat” to change the password AND security questions (for password resets) to effectively lock the account owner out of his or her own e-mail. If nefarious activity is suspected to take place with one’s e-mail account:

- Inform those in your contact list of the circumstances, preferably by voice or an alternate e-mail account and make sure they understand not to engage the questionable content (usually seeking money in one form or another – especially via embedded hyperlinks); get as much help to act as quickly as possible as time is of the essence and everyone in that contact list is potentially at risk since they trust the e-mail is coming from you when in actuality it does not
 - Change the password to access the e-mail account (and make it complex and very difficult to guess)
 - Change the security questions to change the password
 - Notify the e-mail provider
 - If this is a commonly used password for online financial transactions (banking, purchasing, etc.), change the password for those e-commerce sites
 - Keep all correspondence between the “Black Hat” and any contacts as evidence
 - If money is involved, contact local and federal authorities at the Internet Crime Complaint Center (<http://www.ic3.gov/default.aspx>), especially if the “Black Hat” actually defrauded someone out of money.

In general, it is a good idea to have an e-mail account for personal correspondence and a separate one for web-based subscriptions (or use a temporary/disposable e-mail address offered by the majority of providers). The key is to use distinct passwords; the online world can be a dangerous place in which to operate, but one’s own behavior usually determines the level of jeopardy one will risk in such an environment. A little forethought can prevent a whole lot of hind-sight consternation.



Brevard Users Group Membership Application

First Name _____ Last Name _____
Address _____ City _____
Home Phone _____ State _____ Zip + 4 _____
Family Membership \$25.00 E-mail Address _____

Special Interest Groups

Afternoon Meeting

An afternoon meeting is held on the first Monday of the month at 2pm, in One Senior Place, 8085 Spyglass Hill Rd, Viera.

WINDOWS SIG

Meets 7:00 PM

On the second and fourth Thursdays at the Central Baptist Church
2503 Country Club Rd Melbourne

BEGINNERS SIG (Newbies)

Meets at 6:30 pm. The 4th Thursdays, at the Central Baptist Church

IMAGING SIG

Meets at 7:00 PM the fourth Thursday, at the Central Baptist Church

NEWSLETTER SIG

Meets the Second Saturday after the BUG monthly meeting.
Place is Jim Townsend's home.
Call 728-5979 for directions.

LINUX SIG

Meets on the Fourth and Fifth Thursday at the Central Baptist Church

TINKERS SIG

Meets on most Sundays at Bob Schmidt's house.
Call 952-0199 to verify meeting and directions.
E-mail: rschmidt@cfl.rr.com

BUG Club Information

BUG E-MAIL LIST

To be included in the BUG E-Mail roster, send an E-Mail to Larry French at:
president@bugclub.org.

We will need your full name, E-Mail address and your BUG membership number. You will then receive notices and updates on BUG activities, special events, changes to schedules, etc.

BUG Officers

Meet on the Fourth Thursday of the month
After the Monthly Meeting at the Central Baptist Church

Sponsorship Rates

	4 Months	8 Months	12 Months
Full Page	\$160.00	\$ 305.00	\$ 440.00
Half Page	\$ 85.00	\$ 162.00	\$ 232.00
Qtr Page	\$ 45.00	\$ 86.00	\$ 123.00
Bus Card	\$ 25.00	\$ 48.00	\$ 68.00

Moving ?

Don't miss out on any issues of the BUG Newsletter
Send your new address to:
Brevard Users Group Att: Treasurer
PO Box 2456
Melbourne, FL 32902-2456
And e-mail to the Newsletter and Treasurer at:
newsletter@bugclub.org
treasurer@bugclub.org

**Brevard Users Group
Incorporated
P. O. Box 2456
Melbourne, FL 32902-2456**

Monthly Meetings:

Are held at the second Thursday of the month at Central Baptist Church 2503 Country Club Rd Melbourne at 6:30 PM.

Membership:

Is by application and payment of \$25.00 annual dues. Membership is for 12 months from receipt of dues and includes a year's subscription to the newsletter.

Your membership expires on the date indicated in the upper left of your address label (YYYYMM). Please allow six weeks for processing the renewal.

BUG Officers

President:

Larry French 837-0962
president@bugclub.org

Vice President

Hank Lauritsen
vicepresident@bugclub.org

Treasurer:

Tom English
treasurer@bugclub.org

Secretary:

Gervase Bushe
secretary@bugclub.org

1st Member at Large:

Bob Bloch 733-4431

2nd Member at Large

Bill Middleton

Committee Chairperson

Beginners Help:

Tom Butler 242-9869
geotbutler@juno.com

FACUG Representative:

Open

Program Director:

Hank Lauritsen

Webmaster:

Eric Arnold
webmaster@bugclub.org

BUG Web Page:

<http://bugclub.org>

Special Interest Groups

Beginners' SIG:

Larry French 837-0962
beginners@bugclub.org

Hardware (Tinkers) SIG:

Bob Schmidt 952-0199
hardware@bugclub.org

Newsletter Publishing SIG:

Jim Townsend 728-5979
newsletter@bugclub.org

Win 9x/XP SIG:

George Rymer 724-6715
Chuck Boring 454-9455
Bob Staples 255-2623

Imaging SIG:

Ed McEwen imaging@bugclub.org

Linux SIG

Chris Crisafulli
linux-sig@bugclub.org