

# Random Bits

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ISSUE 3



<http://www.lccsohio.org>

<http://lccsohio.org/meeting.htm>

<http://www.apcug.net/>



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## Fall LCCS Recycling Event!!!

It is time for the fall fun (fund) raiser and recycling effort. We'll be open to the public at the old Heisey Factory October 1 & 2 from 9am to 4pm to gather electronic waste for recycling or reuse. September 30th will be a work day for us and involves moving material collect throughout the summer. We'd appreciate your time if you are inclined to help.

The online flyer is at:

<http://lccsohio.org/recyclingflyer1010.pdf>

Print and post as you like. Your work place, barber shop or any public place will help get the word out.



John (Free John) Kennedy held Wednesday Help Desk sessions at Zerger Hall this summer. He took on the challenge of answering questions and used the Teaching Facility computers to demonstrate the answers. Sessions were open to the LCCS membership and were much appreciated.



Special Notice
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Licking County Computer Society) Banquet 6pm Thursday  
23 September

**NO REGULAR MEETING TUESDAY**

Wow! It is finally here. I'm just like a kid at Christmas. Once a year we get together to see one another, laugh, eat and try and win prizes. I want to take this opportunity to thank all who have worked on it this year and hope all who can attend will have a great time.

The prizes we are offering are:

- 1 A Netbook ( a small version of a Laptop)
- 2 An iPod Touch( a handheld computer capable of having email, surfing the web)
- 3 An External Harddrive(for use in backing up your computer's important stuff)
- 4 Some Flat Screens

What a great lineup of prizes. Members will get one FREE ticket and for additional chances, you can buy tickets at \$2 each or 3 tickets for \$5. Now that's a real deal. Now remember to bring all your spare change for the additional tickets. The more you buy, the better your chances are to WIN.

We also will have a demonstration before eating on Photo Albums.

See you there,

George, Lorie and Mary Francis

Special Notice

We have an updated LCCS calendar available. It was correct as of 21 August.  
It is available online at <http://lccsohio.org/LCCS/yearly/2010.pdf>  
The online version allows you to zoom in for easier viewing.

January 2010

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

February 2010

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

March 2010

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

April 2010

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

May 2010

June 2010

July 2010

August 2010

September 2010

October 2010

November 2010

December 2010

Meetings

5:30- 7:00 pm Executive and general meeting Zerger

1:00 pm Saturday Repair SIG A-Frame

7:00 pm Tuesday Repair SIG A-Frame

7:00 pm Digital Imaging SIG Zerger

6:00 pm Linux SIG Zerger

1:00 pm Linux/Maintenance SIG A-Frame

8:00 am-4:00pm Computer Recycling Event

8:00 pm Banquet Sept 23 Zerger

Licking County Computer Society

2010



## Jerry Awards

Quoting from a notice to Robert Vanleer, our APCUG representative:

"The Windows 7 DVDs were mailed to both of the Jerry Award winners, which means that they should be getting their DVD within the next 7 days or so.

This now completes the Jerry Award process that I was asked to pick up from Ira Wilsker, Jerry Award Chairman.

Cheers,  
Linda Moore  
APCUG Secretary"

## APCUG ELECTIONS

APCUG will have elections in January to fill the President and Treasure positions on the Board of Directors as well as one other Director position. There will be several Board of Advisor positions up for election or reelection. Further information will be available in the 4th Quarterly issue of Reports published by APCUG.

## APCUG BOARD OF DIRECTOR AND BOARD OF ADVISORS ELECTIONS

Now is the time for every User Group leader to think long and hard about representation on both the APCUG boards. If you know someone in your group or another in your area, please take the time to talk with them and see if they would be interested in running for a position on one of the APCUG boards. We are looking for those individuals who are willing to make a positive contribution to the continued success of our great organization. All that is needed is to send your nomination of candidates to one of the following election committee members;

[mvesta@apcug.net](mailto:mvesta@apcug.net)  
[kjacobs@apcug.net](mailto:kjacobs@apcug.net)  
[bvance@apcug.net](mailto:bvance@apcug.net)

Your nomination needs to include the candidate's name, email address, and the name of the APCUG group they consider their home group. Once the nomination is accepted, a request for a bio, and photo for election publication will be sent to the nominee by the election committee.

Robert Vanleer



## Jerry Award follow up information

After some administrative delays on behalf of APCUG we received a check for \$250 and as a bonus a copy of Windows 7. The \$250 will be applied to the recycling repair funding and the Windows 7 DVD will be used as seen fit by the LCCS Board. Editor

## APCUG 3d Quarter Reports

Available at

<http://reports.apcug.org/2010q3.htm>

Investigate the other links on the page for many useful and informative places to visit.

Vice President Jim Amore provides us with a transcript from a "TOWN HALL" online meeting he attended. He suggests reading the document for ideas and improvements to our organization.

Computer Recycling Event
--------------------------

**New (Used) Recycleable Computers**

June 30th, John Dovjak and I  
received over 100 computers from  
Heath City school system.  
Here is the run down of what we  
got according to the paperwork:

Dell cpu's GX240'S----84  
                  GX260'S----37  
all should have memory and hard  
drives

                  GX270'S---- 5  
                  GX280----- 1  
Gateway       E-4200----- 5  
                  E-1400----- 3

Total -----135

**MONITORS**

Dell 17" ---- 92  
Gateway 15"----8

Total-----100

They also will have a donation of  
\$500.00 later this year with more  
items that to be recycled out of  
their storage area.

**Welcome Corner****LOOK****THE****WELCOME CORNER**

Look! the Welcome Center is almost completed as for now. Two new  
features have been completed this week.

The Flat screen TV Monitor has been installed, "Thanks to Paul  
Seibert. The computer was donated to us through Licking County  
Computer Club. We "thank" Jim Amore for giving of his time and  
talent for this wonderful blessing. We would also like to  
"thank" Ryan Flynn for his help on this project and his donation  
of the VGA cable to connect the monitor to the computer.

The attachment was taken from my wife's church bulletin.  
John Dovjak

Cyber Security Tip ST05-011  
Effectively Erasing Files

Before selling or discarding an old computer, or throwing away a disk or CD, you naturally make sure that you've copied all of the files you need. You've probably also attempted to delete your personal files so that other people aren't able to access them. However, unless you have taken the proper steps to make sure the hard drive, disk, or CD is erased, people may still be able to resurrect those files.

Where do deleted files go?

When you delete a file, depending on your operating system and your settings, it may be transferred to your trash or recycle bin. This "holding area" essentially protects you from yourself--if you accidentally delete a file, you can easily restore it. However, you may have experienced the panic that results from emptying the trash bin prematurely or having a file seem to disappear on its own. The good news is that even though it may be difficult to locate, the file is probably still somewhere on your machine. The bad news is that even though you think you've deleted a file, an attacker or other unauthorized person may be able to retrieve it.

What are the risks?

Think of the information you have saved on your computer. Is there banking or credit card account information? Tax returns? Passwords? Medical or other personal data? Personal photos? Sensitive corporate information? How much would someone be able to find out about you or your company by looking through your computer files?



Depending on what kind of information an attacker can find, he or she may be able to use it maliciously. You may become a victim of identity theft. Another possibility is that the information could be used in a social engineering attack. Attackers may use information they find about you or an organization you're affiliated with to appear to be legitimate and gain access to sensitive data (see Avoiding Social Engineering and Phishing Attacks for more information).

Can you erase files by reformatting?

Reformatting your hard drive or CD may superficially delete the files, but the information is still buried somewhere. Unless those areas of the disk are effectively overwritten with new content, it is still possible that knowledgeable attackers may be able to access the information.

How can you be sure that your information is completely erased?

Some people use extreme measures to make sure their information is destroyed, but these measures can be dangerous and may not be completely successful. Your best option is to investigate software programs and hardware devices that claim to erase your hard drive or CD. Even so, these programs and devices have varying levels of effectiveness. When choosing a software program to perform this task, look for the following characteristics:

- \* data is written multiple times - It is important to make sure that not only is the information erased, but new data is written over it. By adding multiple layers of data, the program makes it difficult for an attacker to "peel away" the new layer. Three to seven passes is fairly standard and should be sufficient.
- \* use of random data - Using random data instead of easily identifiable patterns makes it harder for attackers to determine the pattern and discover the original information underneath.
- \* use of zeros in the final layer - Regardless of how many times the program overwrites the data, look for programs that use all zeros in the last layer. This adds an additional level of security.



While many of these programs assume that you want to erase an entire disk, there are programs that give you the option to erase and overwrite individual files.

An effective way to ruin a CD or DVD is to wrap it in a paper towel and shatter it. However, there are also hardware devices that erase CDs or DVDs by destroying their surface. Some of these devices actually shred the media itself, while others puncture the writable surface with a pattern of holes. If you decide to use one of these devices, compare the various features and prices to determine which option best suits your needs.

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Authors: Mindi McDowell, Matt Lytle

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Produced 2005 by US-CERT, a government organization.

This document can also be found at

<<http://www.us-cert.gov/cas/tips/ST05-011.html>>

Digital Imaging SIG  
July 13, 2010

The July meeting of the digital Imaging SIG opened with members dodging the raindrops outside to try their hands at photos of various levels of depth of field (see notes). SIG leader David Clement and SIG member Ron Sherwood served as "models" for the hands-on session. Task one was figuring out how to set each camera to its largest aperture for minimum depth of field. Members own a variety of brands and models of cameras each with a slightly different approach to setting the aperture. Just to review, depth of field is controlled by the focal length, focusing distance, and aperture of the lens: the longer the focal length, closer the focusing distance, and larger the aperture the less depth.

Once the cameras were set, David and Ron stood at different distances from the photographers. Members focused on the closer subject and tried various camera settings to vary the depth of field. When everyone had a number of shots, the group returned to the Zerger Hall classroom to review the images. Looking at the photos and EXIF (see notes) data recorded by the cameras, members could see how varying the

aperture and/or focal length changed the depth of field. The "homework" assignment for next meeting is to practice shooting for variations in depth of field and bring the images for review in August.

Notes: Depth of field (DOF) is the part of a scene that appears acceptably sharp in an image. Although a lens can precisely focus at only one distance, the decrease in sharpness is gradual on each side of the focused distance, so that within the DOF, the unsharpness is imperceptible under normal viewing conditions.

Exchangeable image file format (EXIF) is a specification for the image file format used by digital cameras. For the photographer, this means technical information such as shutter speed, ISO setting, aperture, and focal length is stored automatically by the camera and saved to the image file. This information can be read by various software applications. Those interested in more details should go to [www.exif.org](http://www.exif.org).

The Digital Imaging SIG meets at 7:00 pm on the second Tuesday of the month at Zerger Hall, 745 East Main Street in Newark.

Ron Sherwood

Digital Imaging SIG  
August 10, 2010

The August Digital Imaging SIG opened with a review of the "homework" assignments from the July meeting. At the July meeting, members took their cameras outside to learn how to vary depth of field (see the July SIG report for more information). The homework assignment was to practice depth of field. Images showed the effect of varying aperture and focal length to change depth of field.

After the photo review, SIG leader David Clement used imaging editing software to make improvements to photos. First, he removed an obtrusive background from an informal portrait. Sometimes shots are "grabbed" quickly without a chance to control the scene resulting in unwanted and distracting objects that draw attention from the subject. David demonstrated how to remove such a background and replace it with a solid color.

David continued by showing members how to remove skin blemishes and other imperfections with editing software. The technique can also be used to eliminate small scratches and dust spots often

found on old photos that are scanned.

He wrapped up the editing part of evening by removing unwanted shadows from a photo shot with a single flash. Using the selection and cloning tools, he restored the darkened areas to the way they would have looked without the shadows.

The remaining few minutes of the meeting were used to field questions from members.

The Digital Imaging SIG meets on the second Tuesday of the month from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at Zerger Hall, 745 East Main Street in Newark.

Ron Sherwood

**August Linux SIG**

We added Ubuntu linux 10.04 to John Dovjak's laptop. The partition space was adjusted to retain his existing Microsoft on the hard drive. This method allows a choice of Microsoft or Ubuntu at boot time.

The mouse, keyboard, monitor etc. were all correctly detected so we took the default setting. No paid drivers were required and we deferred the software updates until John could complete them at home.

Software sources were introduced. We found in excess of 30,000 free programs available from the approved Source libraries. The software is roughly organized in the following categories:

- Accessories
- Education
- Fonts
- Games
- Graphics
- Internet
- Office
- Science & Engineering
- Sound & Video
- Themes & Tweaks
- Universal Access
- Developer Tools
- System

We had a question about linux security and the need for antivirus. There have been only a couple of virus or malware deployed for linux. These things are discovered and dealt with very quickly...usually hours or days. Several companies produce antivirus for linux. Avast is one of the big names mentioned. The bottom line recommendation: Use antivirus if you like; use a firewall if you run a server.

Related to security is the issue of file permissions. We briefly touched on the subject and will pursue it at a later date.

The beginning discussion of file system took us through the top levels and introduced the /home directory.

Ken Bixler/John (Free John)  
Kennedy



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