

# Mountain Bits & Bytes

The Award Winning Monthly Publication of the Mountain Computer User Group

Vol. 10 Issue #4

## SWAP SHOP

(Bits and PCs)

See page 4. You will be able to buy, sell, swap, or give away computer related items that you list here. Forms will be available at our February meeting as well as all regularly scheduled meetings. Forms can be turned in to Tom Allen or emailed to [bunkerhilltom@yahoo.com](mailto:bunkerhilltom@yahoo.com). Information will be limited to 15 words plus your name and contact information. Forms received by the fifteenth of the month will be published in the following month's newsletter. Happy Shopping!

**Saint Patrick's Day** has come and gone for another year, but the Leprechauns are probably still playing tricks on you and/or your computer.



Hopefully, our experts can help you remedy your problems. *April 2010* Come on down and let us try during our Question and Answer Session at 6:00 PM.

The Feature Presentation for April will be at 7:00 PM on "Snagit", a Windows based screen capture program given by our esteemed Secretary/Treasurer, George Donegan.

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There will be Door Prizes for you lucky ones. (I don't know if Shamrocks will still work.)

Bring your friends and neighbors. Remember, a visitor won the raffle last month.

As usual the meeting will be in the Wilson Lecture Hall (Room 201) Goolsby Building, Young Harris College, Young Harris, Georgia. This month's meeting date is 12 April 2010.

Rea Williams, MCUG President

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**MCUG Monthly Meeting Schedule**

The regular monthly meeting of the Mountain Computer User Group (MCUG) is held on the second Monday of every month, at 7 p.m., in the Wilson Lecture Hall (Room 201) of the Goolsby Building on the campus of Young Harris College in Young Harris, GA. All regular monthly meetings and SIGs are open to everyone regardless of membership status.

**MCUG Membership**

Annual dues are \$20 and extend membership privileges to two (2) members of a household. Membership privileges include: special discounts on vendor products, access to products for evaluation and review, and association with a great bunch of people.

**Affiliation**

The Mountain Computer User Group is a member of APCUG, a nonprofit international organization dedicated to promoting communications between PC user groups and the computer industry.

**Group Purpose**

The Mountain Computer User Group is a nonprofit, tax-exempt educational organization without corporate or vendor affiliation. Its purpose is the encouragement and advancement of computer information and knowledge through "users helping users".

**Are You Buying On-Line?  
 If You Are Check These Sites  
 First.**

**[promotionalcodes.com](http://promotionalcodes.com)**, This site has thousands of codes/coupons from a multitude popular retailers for discounts on their online merchandise sales.

**[freeshipping.org](http://freeshipping.org)**, Here you may find a code for merchandise you are purchasing that will give you free or discounted shipping.

**[retailmenot.com](http://retailmenot.com)**, There are more than 400,000 coupon codes from over 100,000 retailers found here. There is also a tool available here to alert you if an available code is available at the site where you are shopping.

**[redplum.com](http://redplum.com)**, Here you have not only on-line codes but printable coupons that can be used at local merchants.

**[ebates.com](http://ebates.com)**, Not only can you get coupons, but also rebates are available here at over 1300 stores. Rebates go out every three months if there are at least \$5.00 in your rebate account.

If all of these sites fail to show you a coupon, you can always Google "discount code Dell" or others retailers to find if there are discounts out there that are not shown on these websites.

# WUBI?

## What The Heck Is A WUBI?

By Jim McKnight, Director, Los Angeles Computer Society, CA

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The Windows-based Ubuntu Installer (WUBI) is a program that allows you to install and remove Ubuntu-Linux from within Microsoft Windows (98, 2000, XP, Vista, or Windows 7). WUBI automatically creates a dual boot option that lets a Microsoft Windows user try Ubuntu without risking any data loss due to disk formatting or partitioning. Normally, installing Ubuntu or any version of Linux on a system that is also running Windows is intimidating and very risky. Total failure to boot Windows is a common result.

WUBI to the rescue: The WUBI installer is now included on every Ubuntu Live CD and easily installs Ubuntu INSIDE of windows (all versions), and in the same partition (drive letter) as Windows if you like. The install process is like any other program installed in Windows. Installing this way is soooooo easy. Also, when you want to remove Ubuntu, you just go to Add/Remove Programs and remove it like any other program running under Windows.

Dual-boot: After the installation, a new (dual) boot option screen appears right after power up, allowing you to select whether you want to run either Windows standalone or Ubuntu standalone.

Wow, what a great way to play with Linux/Ubuntu without the hassle of partitioning the hard drive and dealing with those messy

dual-boot managers like GRUB or GAG. Yuck (Yes, those are real acronyms. Not the Yuck. It just means yuck).

To start the process, you need an Ubuntu Live (Install) CD that you or a friend has downloaded and burned. You can also go to the Ubuntu website and have them mail you a free CD (10 weeks).

To install Ubuntu using WUBI, just insert the "Ubuntu Install CD" while Windows is running. Do not boot the CD. The CD should start. If not, go to My Computer, open the CD and click on wubi.exe. When you see the opening window, simply select "Install Inside Windows". After that, you answer a few questions about what drive letter, and how much drive space you want to allow for Ubuntu.



Ubn30004.bmp

That's it!

I have tried this under XP and Windows 7 and it is flawless.

### NOTES:

- Hibernation is not supported when installing Ubuntu via WUBI (for either Windows or Ubuntu).

- Follow these links for detailed WUBI operating instructions:

<http://wiki.ubuntu.com/WubiGuide> and here:

<http://help.ubuntu.com/community/Wubi>

- Ubuntu 32 bit can run under Windows 32 bit or Windows 64 bit.

\* \* \* \* \*

How do you slow down your computer?

Disk Brakes.

Wiat is your computer's favorite cookie?

Chocolate Chip

## Tom's Tip of the Month

### New Auction Website!

There is a new auction website on line now. It is [www.wavee.com](http://www.wavee.com). Apparently, bidding is done by means of "credits". These credits are obtained by joining, inviting others to join, bidding, or by buying credits. The items for bid are mostly electronic, such as digital cameras, flash drives, disk drives, digital clocks, Play Stations, X-Boxes, etc. You can also bid for credit bundles of 10, 25, 50 or 100 credits which you can use to bid. It seems that the more credits you have, the more bids you can make. The bidding has an end time which can be extended by 20 seconds if someone out bids you at the last second, thus giving you a chance to out bid them. This keeps anyone from being locked out at the last second. The items go for small dollar amounts and there seems to be good deals out there. Try it at [www.wavee.com](http://www.wavee.com), you may like it!

## BITS & PCs

For Sale used HP1410 all in one printer, scanner, copier. All cables, extra ink.

Contact Jack Lang at:

[soldier@wildblue.net](mailto:soldier@wildblue.net) or (828) 644-9243

For Sale, Dell DRAM 512 Mb \$20.00

Dell DRAM 256 MB \$10.00

[bunkerhilltom@brmemc.net](mailto:bunkerhilltom@brmemc.net) or (706) 400-9124

Kodak Carrosel Slide Projector w/12 carrosel slide holders & large screen \$75  
35MM Slide Scanner w/software. Convert slides to JPG or other images \$50

Call George at (706) 379-0663

## BeWARES!

By Berry F. Phillips, Member of the Computer Club of Oklahoma City

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The wares have often perplexed computer users with numerous decisions regarding software. The multitude of wares have been even more confusing. Comware is commercial software which generally has more "bells and whistles" but requires the highest financial expenditure without the option to try the software in advance. Trialware is usually characterized on the Internet as a free download for a limited time but requires a purchase to continue using the software. Shareware is also free to download but often has features turned off or has an expiration date unless you purchase the software. Trialware and Shareware do offer an opportunity to use the software before making the decision to purchase. Freeware is free for personal use on the Internet but it may contain adware, viruses, or be poor software. Further, the marketing promotion of the wares can be even more misleading, causing you to download and then delete software that you thought was freeware when you discover it is, in fact, pay ware.

The world of wares can be very frustrating as well as expensive to the computer user. One can spend considerable time, frustration, and even expense downloading and deleting various wares on the Internet. Beware, retailers will not accept returned

comware after it has been opened for a money back guarantee. Relax, my holiday gift to my readers is a solution to the problem that I have used for several years, saving me considerable time and money! However, I have had to endure personal comments from some of my fellow computer users that I am “cheap!” Since my ancestry is Scottish who are known for being thrifty, I do not consider that comment an insult. However, I do prefer the use of the word “conservative” to the rather blunt, “cheap.”

Excluding my operating system, I have nothing but freeware downloaded from the Internet on my system! Aha, you are thinking, but what about adware, viruses, or poor freeware, and the considerable time in downloading and deleting it takes to find the best freeware on the Internet? There are several sites that contain only freeware. However, I recommend Gizmo’s Freeware site because I have used it for several years and found it to be very effective in reviewing freeware and efficient to use in going quickly via links to safe and secure freeware sites for downloading. I am reluctant to recommend other sites that I have not used for purposes of this article.

Gizmo’s Freeware is easy to use and makes it very simple to locate the best freeware on the Internet because it is extensively reviewed before it is recommended. Until July 2008 Gizmo was the editor of “Support Alert”, a highly recommended technical newsletter that was distributed to over 150,000 subscribers. The site evolved from his highly popular list of the “46 Best-ever Freeware Utilities.” The site grew well beyond 46 and reached the point that it could not be maintained by one person. Today, the site has grown into a kind of Wikipedia for Freeware utilizing contributions of dozens of volunteer editors who edit and moderate suggestions from thousands of site visitors. As a result, the range of free software covered by the site is ever increasing and the quality of the

reviews are ever improving. Gizmo’s Freeware has, in a real sense, become the “Wikipedia for Freeware.” I strongly suggest you check your freeware on your system against the recommendations of the best and consider downloading the best.

The primary purpose of Gizmo’s Freeware is to make it easy to select the best freeware product for your particular needs. The best freeware programs are as good or better than their commercial counterparts but finding the most appropriate programs can be challenging. There are dozens of freeware download sites but few of these actually help you select the best program for your needs. The site has no downloads just honest advice and useful guidance. Links are provided where you can safely and securely download the product you want. Furthermore, you will know that what you have selected is the best available. Gizmo’s Freeware is easy to use and will save you time, money, and lots of frustration!

**BE SURE TO BOOKMARK GIZMO’S  
FREWARE BECAUSE YOU WILL USE IT**

**FREQUENTLY TO SOLVE PROBLEMS —  
SAVING YOU MONEY, TIME, AND LOTS OF  
STRESS:**

<http://www.techsupportalert.com/>

\* \* \* \* \*

**What are the favorite books read by com-  
puters?**

**A Tale of Two CDs.**

**Gates of Wrath**

**Gone With The Windows**

**War and PC**

**Moby Disk**

## From The DealsGuy For April 2010 by Bob (The Cheapskate) Click of Greater Orlando Computer Users Group

I finally received the necessary data to prepare and file my 2009 federal income tax. I had download TaxAct when it was only \$12.95 in preparation. I entered the data and when the program computed my taxes, I printed the pages to study them. It showed I was only paying a small income tax and would get back most of the withholding taxes as a refund. My return was relatively simple with five W2s, three 1099s for interest received, and two 1099s for dividends received, neither of which amounted to much this year.

I also had a capital loss for the almost worthless GM stock I sold and I also had insulation installed in our attic which was deductible. The fact that I would be getting back almost all of the money that I paid in made me suspicious. I've always had excellent results using TaxAct in previous years, but getting most of my money back didn't look right. I decided to do it all over again with another free tax product, to compare results.

I decided to try the popular free Turbo Tax to double check. It's done right online. I studied my way through it and found some interesting features; and a few confusing items. When I was almost finished, I discovered that the free Turbo Tax would not handle a capital stock loss transaction unless you paid \$14.95 for its other features, (I may have missed something in it). However, it did ask for information about loss carry forwards from my '08 tax return (naming the line numbers) and I could probably use that part by substituting some figures to accomplish what I wanted to know. I tried it and ended up with a result that was somewhat different than I expected, but I thought "it was possible it could be right and maybe TaxAct was wrong." I liked Turbo Tax, although the W2 importing feature didn't work for me in either of the free products I tried.

After considering my valuable time, I decided to try a free tax preparation program from the IRS Web site. There were many free ones listed there, but only four worked for Florida Residents. I choose one called "Complete Tax" and had to do that one on line. I entered the data and it was continuously computing and showing my refund as I entered the data, with a few wild refund numbers. This

one allowed my capital loss transaction and asked for loss carry forwards, but when I was done; my refund was more than I had paid in. I rechecked it and found several insignificant omissions, but had to do trial and error to see if they fixed anything. Some were places I hadn't put a check mark for the page being finished, and two were minor data errors.

After an hour of checking and rechecking numbers and check marks, it finally showed a refund that was within \$20 of what TaxAct had come up with. Again, I rechecked most of the figures in both programs. I was unable to figure out how to get Turbo Tax to print the pages, or even look at them on the screen, which made comparisons tough. However, Complete Tax did let me print the return and I could easily study the printed pages from Tax Act and Complete Tax to compare numbers. I was finally convinced I could submit the Tax Act return after I input the \$250 Stimulus checks I had originally missed. Complete Tax had easily shown me I should enter our stimulus checks, which I missed in the other two. I had to call Tax Act tech support to find where to make that entry, but they answered immediately and walked me through it quickly. They have great tech support.

It's been submitted and the refund should be here in ten days, unless the IRS finds fault with my work. Tax Act did its job again and I'm happy, although Complete Tax was good. I'm already considering what to do with the funds. Spending it seems like a good idea to help the economy. Maybe I'll call the cruise line!

### \*Conference Update

FACUG (Florida Association of Computer User Groups) is having great success with the 2010 spring conference. Holding it on a cruise ship is certainly different, and I applaud Sam Wexler and the other officers for taking on such an enormous task. There are about 250 conference registrants and, considering the spouses, there will be over 350 attendees. APCUG is not a cosponsor this year because of differing opinions. FACUG has always used the same time frame for this conference with continued success year after year. Why fix something that isn't broken. I'm happy that there will be several attendees from APCUG and a few are doing breakout sessions which I'm looking forward to. There's going to be so many breakout sessions that attendees will have problems making choices. More next month.

**\*Ever Wonder???**

Perhaps some have wondered just what files, DLLs or other things are being used by a particular program. The folks in the local Technology SIG were talking about “Process Explorer” which tells you that information. The CFCS (Central Florida Computer Society) technology SIG is interesting because anything and everything might get discussed and you always come away with new knowledge. I can’t attend because I don’t drive at night, but I am on their Googlegroups so I can keep up. Process Explorer is free at <<http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/sysinternals/bb896653.aspx>>. CFCS is not the only group with that kind of SIG. I read many newsletters and noticed a few other user groups have a SIG like that.

**\*This One Does A Lot For Your Videos and Photos (I edited this announcement to shorten it.)**

STOIK Imaging announced the release of the Premium edition of Imagic, a video and image processing solution with enriched functionality. The standard edition is distributed free of charge and provides the advanced features of the Premium edition for 30 days. Features include creation of stereo images, panoramas, slideshows and collages, sophisticated photo editing tools and more. Both editions support direct uploading of photos to Google Picasa and Flickr. A combination of various functions allows working with one versatile solution instead of purchasing and installing several programs.

The built-in photo editor features a Retouch Brush, Skin Makeup, Lens Correction, Color Variations, and many automatic correction functions. It is easy to align and crop photos as well as apply various artistic effects, frames, and clipart images. Besides photo processing, the photo editor also features creation of different kinds of puzzles.

In addition to support for .MPO files (available in the previous edition), Imagic Premium now features creation of stereo images (anaglyphs, .JPS and .PNS files); extending a photographers’ opportunities. Another useful feature is Dark Room editor for processing of .RAW and flat photos. The original image remains unchanged, as all adjustments are saved as a set of parameters. The .RAW files can be converted to a variety of formats, while .JPEG files can be optimized in quality and reduced in size.

The convenient browsers of Imagic Premium allow the user to find any file quickly and easily due to fast indexing algorithm scans and their ability to search by EXIF

attributes. There are three browser types; a common Folder Browser, a Calendar Browser for organizing files chronologically and the Tags Browser for organizing by categories. However, the browsers are not intended just for organizing photos and video files, but they can automatically detect all matching photos and seamlessly create panoramas in a single click. Other sophisticated browser features are Batch processing, Geotagging, Slideshow creation and more.

The built-in video editor offers other features; frames can be cut, trimmed and rotated, adjust brightness and contrast, apply effects and transitions, use various titles and captions, and add audio files or record narration. The results can be exported to a variety of popular formats. The program supports multiple ways of sharing images; e-mailing, creating slideshows, uploading images to Google Picasa, Flickr and other web photo albums, as well as direct printing with advanced options.

STOIK Imagic Premium is compatible with Windows XP/ Vista/ 7 and costs \$49.00 USD for a single-user license. User group members get a 25% discount on all STOIK products by using the coupon code “DEALSGUY” in the appropriate space when ordering; good through May 2010.

Direct download link: <<http://store.eSellerate.net/sti/dg>> (Check the calculated closely when ordering)

Company website: <<http://www.stoik.com/>>

That’s it for this month. I’ll have some more new product announcements on my Web site that didn’t offer discounts. Meet me here again next month if your editor permits. This column is written to make user group members aware of special offers or freebies I have found or arranged, and my comments should not be interpreted to encourage, or discourage, the purchase of any products, no matter how enthused I might sound. Bob (The Cheapskate) Click <bobclick at bellsouth dot net>. Visit my Web site at <<http://www.dealsguy.com>>

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Where does your computer keep all its money?

In the Data Bank.

Why did your Grandmother drop out of school?

She couldn't hack the program.

# Mountain Computer User Group April 2010 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Clide Senecal	2	3
		6	7 Board Mtg Y H Library 10:00 am	8	9	10 Virginia Scherer
11	12 March Mtg Q&A 6:00 Snag-It 7:00	13	14	15	16	17 William Scott J Tal Webb
18	19 Johnnie Horney Tom Shope Brenda Cassady	20	21	22 Deadline for Newsletter articles	23	24
25	26 John Cassady Elaine Vickers	27	28	29	30	



**HAPPY EASTER!**

**April 4th**



**APRIL  
ANNIVERSARIES**

- John and Connie Lake     4/\_\_\_/1956    54 yrs
- Nancy and Hiram Kelly    4/24/1965   45 yrs
- Johnnie and \_\_\_ Horney    4/14/1965    1 yrs
- Ron and \_\_\_\_\_ Manus   4/28/19??   ?? yr