



The Award Winning Monthly Publication of the Mountain Computer User Group

Vol. 11 Issue #4
April 2011

NOTICE!!!

Young Harris College is having an Appalachian Festival on April 11th, our normal club meeting day. Our meeting room is needed by the school on that day. We have therefore been re-scheduled to meet on Thursday, April 21th. We will have Q&A from 6:00 - 7:00 and the Skype presentation from 7:00 to 8:00

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Our regular monthly meeting of MCUG will be April 19th. There will be a presentation on the product Acronis® Disk Director® 11 Home. The Webinar presentation will be given by Gene Barlow of User Group Relations via Skype. Our Past-President, Jim Bell will handle our end of the program. Acronis® Disk Director® 11 Home is an all-new version of the most feature-rich disk management product available. There are better ways to setup and organize your hard drive than the way we did 30 years ago. The problem is that most end users are not aware of what changes they can make to their hard drives with very easy-to-use utilities. Gene will demonstrate better ways to organize a hard drive and how to protect a hard drive from problems. Several key activities will be explained to be sure an organized computer will continue to function efficiently, including backup and "sandbox" techniques for data protection.. If you're serious about maximizing disk use and data safety, it's never been easier to create hard disk partitions or resize, move or merge partitions without data loss. Acronis® Disk Director® 11 Home includes powerful new features like Windows® 7 support, Dynamic Disk and GPT disk support, spanning a volume across multiple disks and much more.

Thanks to our Webmaster, Randy Gehring for all the above details.

As usual we will have a great raffle prize, lots of door prizes, and lots of good computer information.

Come on out, bring your technical questions for the Question and Answer session.

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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".

SNOW STORMS DIDN'T STOP CHARITY AUCTION

by: George Donegan, MCUG Member

After two postponements due to heavy snow, we finally were able to succeed in having our Annual Christmas Party/Charity Auction. With 50 plus members and guest in attendance the party was kicked off with a great meal of ham and turkey with covered dishes furnished by our members. The auction began at 7 PM with auctioneers George Donegan and Jim Bell handling some lively bidders. Everything from some great books, new printers, excellent software and great restaurant meals went up



for bid. Lively competitive bidding captured everyone's attention when a series of external hard drives went up for bid. Everyone that wanted one, left with a live poinsettia and the feeling of a Christmas in January that might have been a little bit late but a party that left everyone full of good cheer.

While we were not successful in raising as much money as we have in the past for our charities, we were able to raise \$843. The members of the Board of the Mountain Computer User Group voted to increase this amount to \$900. In doing so, it permitted us to donate \$300 to the Safe House, who serve battered women and children in our mountain area. \$300 to the Wilderness Scouts, who cater to underprivileged boys and girls from our area. \$100 to the Union County Food Bank, \$100 to the Towns County Food Bank and \$100 to the Clay County Food Bank. Now you know where your money went. Every dime collected plus, went to our local charities.

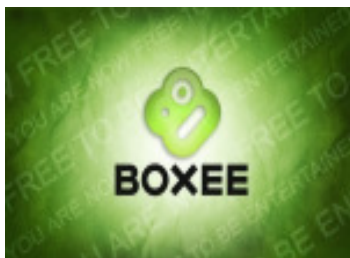
BOXEE BOX AND ROKU - TWO BIG INTERNET STORIES

by: George Donegan, MCUG Member

After watching Jim Bell's recent presentation on setting up a home network and talking to Randy Gehring about hooking my big screen TV up to the Internet. I read with great interest an article in the AJC by Bill Husted on the virtues of Boxee Box and Roku. I decided then and there that I would research these two subjects and learn all that I could. Where do I start, Google of course. Typing in Boxee brought out a world of information including what it is and what it cost. According to Boxee Box a lot of your favorite shows and movies are already available on the internet. Boxee Box is the device that finds them and puts them on your TV. It is easy to use and even better, there's no fee. We get it, you want HD and you want to enjoy it from the comfort of your couch. Were all over it introducing the Boxee Box by D-Link: click, follow, watch, you are now in full command of your TV for the first time. No rules, no contracts.

TV Shows: Your Boxee Box comes with thousands of TV show episodes available from the internet. Find the show you want to watch, click play and Boxee Box handles the rest.

Movies: A massive rental library is available too - from Netflix's Watch Instantly library to Vudu's brand new Hollywood blockbusters to critically acclaimed and foreign films on MUBI. There is something for everyone and every budget.



APPS: The most popular video, music and photo services are available in our App library, including MLB, NHL, Pandora, Flickr, Facebook, Vimeo and hundreds more. Each App is designed to be enjoyed from your couch. Boxee Box runs in cost from approximately

\$179 to \$219, according to where you purchase it. There are many videos on Google referring to this product and I would advise anyone interested in buying this product to check them out. Boxee Box comes with a remote that has a full (all though small) keyboard on it's back side.

WHAT IS ROKU: Roku is a little box that allows you to instantly stream tons of entertainment on your TV. Watch movies and TV shows from Netflix, Hulu Plus or Amazon Instant Videos, listen to music on Pandora, catch the latest ball game and more - it's all available whenever you want. Why choose Roku?



There are other ways to stream Netflix, but Roku beats them all on features, simplicity and value. Compare and decide for your self. Amazing value from \$59.99 Roku HD to the powerful XD models at \$79.99 and for \$99.99 the top of the line featuring 1080p HD, there is a Roku for every TV and budget. More to enjoy beyond Netflix. You also get instant streaming access to recent movies, sports, music and news, with more choices added all the time. With Roku you don't actually have to have a computer, just a high speed internet connection. With both Boxee Box and Roku it is highly recommended that you have a high speed Internet connection. I don't believe that a minimum DSL connection work as I am sure Dial-up would not. Both of these units are very interesting and I am sure we have just heard the beginning of products like these, with more to come in the future.

Customer: I can't get on the internet.

Tech Support: ***Are you absolutely sure you used the correct password?***

Customer: Yes, I'm sure. I saw my co-worker do it.

Tech Support: ***Can you tell me what the password was?***

Customer: Five dots.

Tom's Tip of the Month

This is very interesting

Check out your address and friends neighborhoods.

Just type in a street name at the top of the form & your whole neighborhood map will pop up.

Every place you see a red balloon or thumb tack is the home of a convicted felon.

Just place your mouse over an icon & not only will the name come up, but also the crime they were convicted of.

Share with your friends . . . Safety first.

<http://www.felonspy.com/search.html>

HP Photosmart Premium AiO

Wrks prntr w/8 mos. left on ext.

warranty. Incl. 5 new ink cartridges.

\$55

Call Roger @ (706) 781-8653

A woman customer called the Canon help desk because

she had a problem with her printer..

Tech Support: Are you running it under windows?

Customer: No, my desk is next to the door, but that

is a good point. The man sitting next to me is by

a window, and his printer is working fine!

BITS & PCs

1M USB A to Mini-B 2.0 cable

3 feet long \$2.00

Vipre AntiVirus software

Antivirus and Anti Spyware

\$2.00 each (Four copies available)

DVI-D to DVI-D cable

Connect your DVI-D LCD, Plasma TV, or HDTV to your DVI-D computer 10 feet.

\$2.00 each (2 available)

Cassette Adapter Universal for MP3

\$2.00 each (2 available)

Belden USB Parallel Printer Adapter Cable

\$2.00 (3 available)

Ink Jet Cartridges

HP-51645A

\$1.00 each (2 available)

IEEE 1284 Printer Cable 10 feet long

(DB25 male to Centronics36 male)

\$2.00

Above prices are negotiable

Email Rea Williams @ reaw@brmemc.net or Tom Allen @ bunkerhilltom@yahoo.com

Brother B&W Laser Printer HL-2170W, USB or wireless, Needs Toner Cartridge (\$32.73 at Buy.com) Printer sells for from \$109. to \$149. asking \$30

Call George @ (706)379-0663

2 New Epson Black ink cartridges
S020187/S020093

\$5 each

Call Roger Hove @ (706) 781-8653

SEAGATE FREE AGENT EXTERNAL HARD DRIVE

by: George Donegan, MCUG Member

Smart, simple, sleek, store and safe guard all your favorite files-photos, music, videos, documents, you name it-in a stylishly designed desktop storage solution that's as powerful as it is beautiful. Access your content from anywhere, share it with anyone and sync it to almost anything. The Free Agent Desk data mover automatically duplicates and moves content you select to multiple locations. The Free Agent Pro data mover provides anyone who's serious about their digital content with the freedom to stay onnected.



Seagate is one of the top manufacturer's of hard drives, both internal and external. I have owned a 350 GB Seagate External Hard Drive for several years without as much as a single problem. Having purchased a new computer with a 750 GB

hard drive Santa Clause brought me a 1.5 TB Seagate Free Agent External Hard Drive. With these two Seagate Hard Drives I think I am ready for the future.

The 1.5 TB external hard drive is said to be able to hold:

536 two hour DVD quality movies or

2250 hours of VHS quality video or

1320 days of around-the-clock MP3 audio or

559,500 vivid digital photos or

4464 action packed games.

Now I don't care how you look at it, that is a lot of stuff.

This 1.5 TB External Hard Drive came with a 5 year limited warranty, on both parts and labor. My 350GB External Hard Drive is approaching 5 years of age and I have not had a one problem with it. I use it basically to hold pictures, music and videos. I will now use the 1.5 TB unit for back-ups, This unit connects to USB 2.0 and it comes with the cable for it as well as the power cord, so there is nothing extra to purchase. At present the 1.5 TB Free Agent External Hard Drive is available from Tiger Direct for \$69.99.



Image Resizer

By Lynn Page, Editor, Crystal River Users Group, Florida

www.crug.com newsletter (at) crug.com

If you upgraded from Windows XP to Vista or Windows 7 you may miss the XP Powertoy Image Resizer. It was great when you needed to quickly create different size images of a photo. Maybe you need a small image to email or a special size for desktop wallpaper. There are many reasons to create of a particular size image. Images can be resized in a photo editor. My choice is Corel Paint Shop Pro Photo. I use it to edit and size my digital photos. But then if I want a special size edited photo it is quicker to use Image Resizer. Download from imageresizer.codeplex.com.

Image Resizer is a clone of the Image Resizer Powertoy for Windows XP. To use Image Resizer locate the photo or photos in Windows Explorer. Select the photos to resize and then right click on the selection.

In the resize Pictures dialog box select from the predefined sizes. To specify a custom size click the Advanced button. The advanced area also contains two other selections. Toggle them on or off. I recommend leaving the Resize the original pictures unchecked. You don't want to inadvertently resize a large image to 854 x 480.

How The Internet Began

How the Internet started ~ A revelation with an Incredibly Big Message (IBM):

Well, you might have thought that you knew how the Internet started, but here's the TRUE story

In ancient Israel, it came to pass that a trader by the name of Abraham Com did take unto himself a young wife by the name of Dot.

And Dot Com was a comely woman, broad of shoulder and long of leg. Indeed, she was often called Amazon Dot Com.

And she said unto Abraham, her husband: "Why dost thou travel so far from town to town with thy goods when thou canst trade without ever leaving thy tent?"

And Abraham did look at her - as though she were several saddle bags short of a camel load, but simply said: "How, dear?"

And Dot replied: "I will place drums in all the towns and drums in between to send messages saying what you have for sale, and they will reply telling you who hath the best price.

And the sale can be made on the drums and delivery made by Uriah's Pony Stable (UPS)."

Abraham thought long and decided he would let Dot have her way with the drums. And the drums rang out and were an immediate success. Abraham sold all the goods he had at the top price, without ever having to move from his tent.

To prevent neighboring countries from overhearing what the drums were saying, Dot devised a system that only she and the drummers knew. It was called Must Send Drum Over Sound (MSDOS),

and she also developed a language to transmit ideas and pictures - Hebrew To The People (HTTP).

But this success did arouse envy. A man named Maccabia did secret himself inside Abraham's drum and began to siphon off some of Abraham's business. But he was soon discovered, arrested and prosecuted - for insider trading.

And the young men did take to Dot Com's trading as doth the greedy horsefly take to camel dung. They were called Nomadic Ecclesiastical Rich Dominican Sybarites, or NERDS.

And lo, the land was so feverish with joy at the new riches and the deafening sound of drums that no one noticed that the real riches were going to that enterprising drum dealer, Brother William of Gates, who bought off every drum maker in the land. And indeed did insist on drums to be made that would work only with Brother Gates' drumheads and drumsticks.

And Dot did say: "Oh, Abraham, what we have started is being taken over by others."

And Abraham looked out over the Bay of Ezekiel, or eBay as it came to be known. He said: "We need a name that reflects what we are."

And Dot replied: "Young Ambitious Hebrew Owner Operators." "YAHOO," said Abraham. And because it was Dot's idea, they named it YAHOO Dot Com.

Abraham's cousin, Joshua, being the young Gregarious Energetic Educated Kid (GEEK) that he was, soon started using Dot's drums to locate things around the countryside. It soon became known as God's Own Official Guide to Locating Everything (GOOGLE).

6 And that is how it all began.

eBooks

By Wil Wakely, President, Seniors Computer Group, CA

February 2011 issue, Bits and Bytes, The Official Electronic Newsletter of the SCG
www.SCGsd.org

wilw(at)adnc.com

It took a long time for e-books to arrive on the scene, but now they are here in a swarm, offering many styles, file formats and displays. In a few years, when standards are established, this confusing variety will disappear. Currently, the major players are Kindle by Amazon, Nook by Barnes & Noble, Sony eReader, and a lot of fledglings trying to get their foot in the door.



The concept of the e-book is great: a portable electronic book containing hundreds of titles; low cost books in digital format so no paper printing is required; variable type font selection for ease of reading; immediate downloads for impulse purchases; access to

the Web for blogs, magazines and newspapers; audio text-to-speech for when your eyes are tired. And I know of other advantages besides these. Recently, there has been a price war and Amazon and others have slashed prices

drastically. I predict that Walmart will have an e-book for \$39.95 in the not too distant future. The e-book concept has been around for years; I recall promoting the idea 25 years ago, but at that time the technology was not yet available to make it practical. What was missing was an inexpensive low cost display; cheap large memory; a fast computer chip; and a small, lightweight, powerful battery. None of these existed at that time, but now they are here and the concept has been actualized.



Several types of displays are now available: Kindle uses a black/white display called e-ink. It is low power for long battery life and reflective so sunlight doesn't fade it; in fact, it is viewed best in bright light. The downside is that a book light is required to read in bed without disturbing your bed partner.

The Nook is a color display using liquid crystals, which is poor in bright light and a battery power hog. However, it is color and can be viewed in the dark, the darker the better.



Qualcomm has developed a color display called Mirasol that uses interference colors like butterfly wings or oil-on-water; it also uses very little power for long battery life. Like the Kindle, it is reflective for viewing in bright light. Although holding great promise, it is not yet on the market, but is due later this year in some e-book. Every day hundreds more books become available in digital format. Google claims to be converting almost every book in print to digital format, and they have the resources to do it. Amazon and Barnes & Nobel offer huge book selections on their Web sites. Surprisingly, Amazon sold more digital books last year than printed ones.

A major problem is the plethora of file formats that are too numerous to describe here.

For more info go to: <http://bit.ly/fznE77> In time, these will boil down to just a few standard file formats. In the meantime, there are free conversion programs which will allow you to read almost any file format on your e-book, regardless of the model.

If you are an avid reader, I would recommend that you consider an e-book. It will save you money in the long run on the cost of books (NY Times Best Sellers, \$9.99 and many free ones), Plus, all the neat features make it a joy to use.

Did you know that April is National Garden Month?

Mountain Computer User Group April 2011 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 April Fools Day	2
3	4 Tell a Lie Day	5	6 Board Mtg YH Library 10:00 am	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 PALM SUNDAY	18 Patriot's Day	19	20	21 MCUG Meeting 6:00 Q&A 7:00 Program	22 GOOD FRIDAY	23 Deadline for May News- letter Ar- ticles
24 EASTER	25	26 National Pretzel Day <small>When is National Beer Day?</small>	27	28	29	30

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

- Clide Senecal 04/01
- Virginia Sherer 04/10
- Grace Hart 04/17
- William Scott 04/17
- Brenda Cassady 04/19
- Johnnie Horney 04/19
- Tom Shope 04/19
- Elaine Vickers 04/26
- John Cassady 04/26



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- John and Connie Lake 04/03/1956 55 yrs
- John and Kay Yandell 04/24/1965 32 yrs
- Johnnie and ? Horney 04/17/09 02 yrs
- Ron and ? Manus 04/28/?? ?? yrs