



The Award Winning Monthly Publication of the Mountain Computer User Group

Vol.12- Issue #2

RECORDING MEDIA

Our February 13th General Meeting will include a presentation about optical media, such as CD, DVD, Blue-Ray, etc. Perhaps we should take a moment to review some of the history of recording media. Did you know that Thomas Edison invented the phonograph and received a patent on February 19, 1878?

The word phonograph was the trade name for Edison's device, which played cylinders rather than discs. The machine had two needles: one for recording and one for playback. When you spoke into the mouthpiece, the sound vibrations of your voice would be indented onto the cylinder by the recording needle. This cylinder phonograph was the first machine that could record and reproduce sound created a sensation and brought Edison international fame.

(<http://inventors.about.com/library/inventors/bledison.htm>)

Now let's Fast Forward a hundred years. In the 1970's, we were into space exploration and space probes, big time. Many of these probes are still racing through space, on their journey out of our solar system to places unknown and may reach their destination (or expire) thousands of years from now. On several of these space craft (Pioneer and Voyager) we included a recorded message, like a message in a bottle. But remember, this was before we had invented the Compact Disc (CD). Here's some specifics from Wikipedia.

"Aboard each of the [Voyager space probes](#) was a very special message: a message to other worlds. The Golden Record(s) are a message to any alien species who may find the relic of either of the [Voyager spacecraft](#). Each [vessel](#) carried a [disc](#) (12 inch gold-plated copper discs) of information that came to be known as The Golden Record(s). There is an amazing amount of information on the record, which includes:

Greetings in 60 languages, samples of music from different cultures and eras, and natural and man-made sounds from Earth. They also contain electronic information that an advanced technological civilization could convert into diagrams and photographs. Currently, both Voyager probes are sailing adrift in the black sea of interplanetary space, having left our solar system years ago. (Date - 4 September 1977).

Each record is encased in a protective [aluminum](#) jacket, together with a [cartridge](#) and a [needle](#) to play them. The [cover](#) of the record is perhaps the most impressive. It is the key to using and understanding the information. The cover of the Golden Records tells: (1) How to play the record, (2) How to get images from the record, (3) Where our solar system is, mapped from several known pulsars, and (4) The length of 1 second".

Looking forward to the "Next Generation". See you on the 13th!

Mountain Computer User Group
P.O. Box 474
Young Harris, GA. 30582



Officers for 2012

President

Art Frenz mcugUsers@gmail.com

Vice President

Randy Gehring

Past President

Jim Bell

Secretary/Treasurer

Diane Frenz

Publisher/Editor

Tom Allen

Webmaster

Randy Gehring

Board of Directors for 2012

Richard Botting

George Donegan

Tim Cassidy

Vacant

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".

What U C Inside!

Recording Media	Page 1
John Lake Passes Away	Page 2
Staying Technology Young	Page 3
Tom's Tips	Page 4
Bits & PCs	Page 4
Thanks to our Sponsors	Page 4
What Are You Tweeting ?	Page 5
Are You Being Followed ?	Page 6
Birthday's, Anniversaries & Calendar.	Page 8

JOHN LAKE, FORMER PRESIDENT PASSES AWAY

John Lake, who served as President of MCUG in 2004 passed away unexpectedly the evening of January 18th. John was born and raised in South Florida and was retired from the law enforcement field. In addition to his term as President, John also served on the board of directors several times. John was a member of the McConnell Memorial Baptist Church in Hiawassee. John will be missed by each and every MCUG member who came to know him.

"We cannot solve life's problems except by solving them."

~M. Scott Peck

Amanda, the disapproving town gossip, accused Derek of being an alcoholic because she saw his pickup truck parked outside the town's only bar. Derek stared at her for a moment and walked away. Later that evening, he parked his pickup truck in front of her house and left it there all night.

STAYING TECHNOLOGY YOUNG

By Darry D Eggleston

Article reprinted with permission. Copyright © 2007-2011 Darry D Eggleston, <http://DarryD.com>

The challenges for me are increasing as I strive to remain technologically young. What used to take years to change now occurs in a matter of months. So many new products are appearing in such rapid order that, unless one reads, observes, and communicates with like-minded friends, one ends up talking about the “good old days” of technology way back in 2009.

Someone referred to technology’s growth in “dog years” and I suspect she might be right. Technology now leaps in one year where we would expect it to take seven years in the past.

One need only look at cellphones, cameras, and notebook computers to see that devices are shrinking while their capabilities are exponentially increasing.

Just yesterday, a conversation between two neighbors awoke me to this fact again. Both are my age in the 60-to-1,000-year-old range. One neighbor extolled finding a new restaurant quickly because of his car’s trusty dashboard-mounted global positioning device (GPS).

The other, without hesitating, replied, “Oh, I got rid of my old GPS six months ago,” as he pulled out his cellphone. “Mine’s in here.” Proudly, he showed us his Nokia N8: “Unlocked GSM touchscreen phone featuring GPS with voice navigation and a 12 megapixel camera.”

Even my research for this simple article relied on technology that I wish was available when I was younger:

1. I Googled to learn more about Dave’s cellphone. (Nokia’s website boasts that N8 phones can connect to social networks, web TV programs and Ovi Store apps. It has Carl Zeiss optics, Xenon flash, HD-quality video recording, film editing software, and Dolby Surround Sound.)
2. I used FastStone Capture to take a screenshot of the Nokia description, pasted it into OmniPage which scanned the image and converted it into plain text, which I copied and pasted it into WordPerfect.

You can either ride the waves of innovation rushing to the shores of your existence or you can be swept out into the sea of ignorance. You can stay technologically young or die in place at a pace that’s more fitting for an old folk’s home.

Choices, my friend, it’s all about choices.

BITS & PCs

" Beautiful Oak Entertainment Center,
One glass door, One Wood door, room for
tapes & Cd's, room for turn table and
recorder. Includes 25 inch RCA Color TV
size 60" X 19" X 52" Can furnish picture



Tom's Tip of the Month

These combinations of keystrokes speed up navigating among top level views such as Inbox, Sent Mail, All Mail, Spam, Trash, Drafts, Contacts and Tasks. All letters in the keystroke combinations are shown in lower case but are not case sensitive. An example: "g then i" means press the "g" key then the "i" key, one right after the other.

g then i - Open the Inbox.

g then s - Open Starred.

g then t - Open Sent Mail.

g then d - Open Drafts.

g then a - Open All Mail.

g then c - Open Contacts.

g then k - Open Tasks.

All of us at the Mountain Computer User's Group are very pleased to have such a large turnout of our local businesses to sponsor our annual Christmas Dinner and Charity Auction.

A record amount of money was raised from their donations for our local charities, such as the food banks and S.A.F.E. Please support them with a visit and purchase.

They are listed here below:

Computer Connections, Hayesville, NC,
(Gift Certificate & HP Office 4500 Printer)

Totally Computers, Hiawassee, (Computer
Cleanup Up & Christian Music CD's)

Curves, Hiawassee, (Gift Certificate)

Moschettos - Young Harris, (Gift
Certificate)

Sundance Gallery, Blairsville, (Gift
Certificate)

Bacchus Wine Shoppe, Hiawassee, (Gift
Certificate)

New Looks Hair Stylist, Hiawassee, (Gift
Certificate)

Kim's Korner Nail Salon, Young Harris
(Gift Certificate)

The Oaks, Hiawassee (Gift Certificate)

Monte Alban, Hiawassee, (Gift Certificate)

Portofinos, Hiawassee, (Gift Certificate)

Always Christmas, Hiawassee, (Gift
Certificate)

Brothers Restaurant, Young Harris, (Gift
Certificate)

Enricos Restaurant, Young Harris, (Gift
Certificate)

Antonietta's Restaurant, Blairsville, (Gift
Certificate)

Fatz Restaurant, Blairsville (Gift
Certificate)

Daniel's Steak House, Hiawassee, (Gift
Certificate)

WHAT ARE YOU TWEETING?

By Linda Gonse, Editor / Webmaster, Orange County PCUG, California

December 2011 issue, nibbles & bits www.orcopug.org editor@orcopug.org

New users of Twitter sometimes get confused by the conventions commonly used in tweets. (Comments posted by Twitter users are called "tweets.")

When you copy what someone else has tweeted and repost it for other people to read, it is called a "retweet." Retweets not only pass along tweets you have found noteworthy, but gives credit publicly to the person who tweeted it.



Retweets are designated by tagging the beginning of a tweet with the capital letters "RT."

Confused? I'll explain. The original writer's user name is @carolynedgar. The person who retweeted her was @Geniusbastard. (The @ sign before a username links

a tweet to that account page.) The tweet itself was: For the love of God, people: Google. It really works.

I'll digress here to explain the tweet itself. It's clear that it's written from exasperation. How many times do people ask where they can find something? Well, where do WE look to find something? Google. Right? But, you can tell people and you can tell them, and still they don't think of Google first, or they believe it is easier to just ask someone else who uses Google!

Back to the tweet. When you retweet something that's been retweeted, it is protocol to list it as a RT (retweet) from @(first person's name) @(second person's name). The tweet follows after the names.

Another way to handle a retweet of a tweet is to use RT @(first tweeter's name) The tweet via @(second tweeter's name). Example: RT @carolynedgar For the love of God, people: Google. It really works. Via @Geniusbastard.



Sometimes you can't get a tweet to fit the 140 characters when including the retweet info. It's okay to make judicious cuts or use abbreviations. When you do this, it is no longer a RT. You tag it as an MT (modified tweet). Also, if there is no extra room, you can drop off the name of the last person who retweeted. In the case above, it is @Geniusbastard.

When you tweet something that someone might like to retweet, leave space in your tweet. This allows room for your username to be added if someone wants to retweet what you wrote. It is flattering to be publicly acknowledged, shows respect for your thoughts, and sometimes it attracts followers to the chronological list of your tweets, called your "timeline."

ARE YOU BEING FOLLOWED?

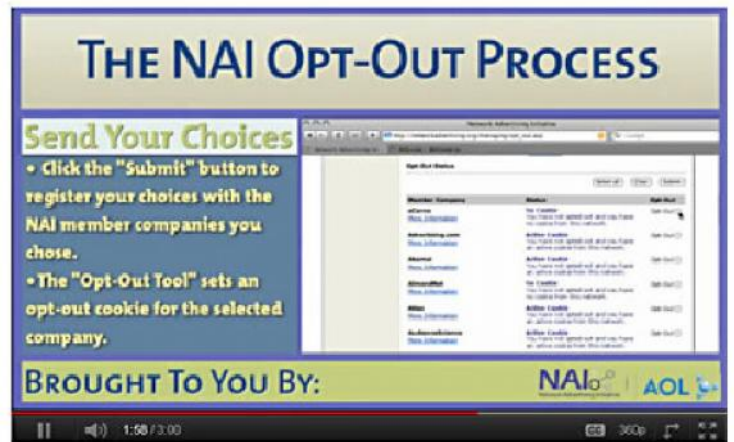
By Linda Gonse, Editor/Webmaster, Orange County PCUG, California

December issue, nibbles & bits www.orcopug.org editor (at) orcopug.org

You may not even suspect you are being followed. But, as many as 60 ad networks may be tracking you on the web right now! What's more, they may be selling personally identifiable details about you.

If this disturbs you, you can put a stop to it. You can quickly opt out from advertising networks — each has multiple clients! — with just a few mouse clicks.

The National Advertising Initiative (NAI) is a cooperative of dozens of online ad networks that track you. An NAI statement says it developed an Opt-out Tool "in conjunction with our members for the express purpose of allowing consumers to 'opt out' of the behavioral advertising delivered by our member companies." To this end, NAI offers a YouTube video on their home page showing you how the Opt-out Tool works. (You can also see the enlarged video before you go to their site at <http://bit.ly/ruQ+9S>)



Basically, the Opt-out Tool, which will not be installed on your computer, examines cookies (small text files) on your computer and identifies those member companies that have placed an advertising cookie on it.

When a member company's cookie is identified by the Opt-out Tool, you simply check the box next to the company name. If you are strongly motivated (or highly frustrated), check the "Select All" box! Then, click the "Submit" button, and you're done. The cookies will be removed for the selected companies and your opt-out status will be automatically verified.

Criteo More Information	Opt-Out Cookie You have opted out of this network.	Opt-Out <input type="checkbox"/>
Cross Pixel Media More Information	No Cookie You have not opted out and you have no cookie from this network.	Opt-Out <input type="checkbox"/>
DataLogix More Information	Active Cookie You have not opted out and you have an active cookie from this network.	Opt-Out <input type="checkbox"/>
DataXu More Information	Opt-Out Cookie You have opted out of this network.	Opt-Out <input type="checkbox"/>
Datonic's More Information	Active Cookie You have not opted out and you have an active cookie from this network.	Opt-Out <input type="checkbox"/>
Dedicated Networks (AppNexus) More Information	Active Cookie You have not opted out and you have an active cookie from this network.	Opt-Out <input type="checkbox"/>
Dedicated Networks (DoubleClick) More Information	Opt-Out Cookie You have opted out of this network.	Opt-Out <input type="checkbox"/>

A few of the networks that may have placed one or more cookies on your computer.

Go to the NAI website at <http://bit.ly/sNMIj0> to get the opt-out process started.

There are two caveats. 1. Opting out of a network does not mean you will no longer see online advertising. But, the network from which you opted out will no longer be tracking you personally and displaying ads that are "tailored to your web preferences and usage patterns." Isn't that the idea? 2. Networks voluntarily allow opting out. It isn't a legal mandate. Also, technical glitches may occur. Cookies from any of these networks may reappear. So, use the Opt-out Tool regularly.

Quantcast Measurement and Advertising does not participate in the National Advertising initiative, but also offers you the ability to opt-out of their ads based on your interests.

Quantcast claims it doesn't store your IP address or any other personally identifiable information. "But, if you prefer not to receive interest-based content and advertisements enabled by Quantcast and not to have Quantcast measure your pattern of website visits or other online media consumption, you can opt-out by using our opt-out tool" at <http://bit.ly/vNAXOB>

.Opting out is the only way you can avoid being tagged, tracked and tempted by advertisers who know your purchasing history. By opting out you can end hunting season by advertisers who are determined to bag your money.

* * * * *



Murphy's Laws of Computing

When computing, whatever happens, behave as though you meant it to happen.

When you get to the point where you really understand your computer, it's probably obsolete.

The first place to look for information is in the section of the manual where you least expect to find it.

When the going gets tough, upgrade.

For every action, there is an equal and opposite malfunction.

To err is human . . . to blame your computer for your mistakes is even more human, it is downright natural.

He who laughs last probably made a back-up.

If at first you do not succeed, blame your computer.

A complex system that does not work is invariably found to have evolved from a simpler system that worked just fine.

The number one cause of computer problems is computer solutions.

A computer program will always do what you tell it to do, but rarely what you want to do.

