



# Mountain Bits & Bytes

The Award Winning Monthly Publication of the Mountain Computer User Group

Vol. 11 Issue #6  
June 2011

## New Weblinks On-Line

PhotoPos Pro - Photo editor  
Photobie - Photo editor  
Photoscape - Photo editor  
Mousejiggler - Program to temporarily disable your screen saver and keep your screen lit. Great for movies, backups, and other things that you do not want your system or monitor to go to sleep. It fakes a mouse movement periodically.

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## There's an APP for that!

At our MCUG meeting this month (Monday, 13 June) the feature presentation will be about free and low cost software programs for your computer. Jim Bell, past president of MCUG, will discuss how to find, evaluate and install free software for various uses. Freeware can be used to do most things on a computer but the user has to make choices between convenience, ease of use and support. This presentation will contain the tools to make the correct choices and will also provide tips on what to avoid when using the software.

I have just recently purchased a smart phone. I was surprised (should not have been surprised) to find there is a similar free program (app) for viewing the heavens. This program, called Google Sky Map, automatically gives global view of the heavens from your current location. Now if I could just learn how to use the smart phone to make phone calls!

Please welcome our newest member, Bob LeHoullier, of Hayesville.

You can now buy a chance on our July raffle item, the CyberPower Battery Backup. Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5. Don't forget to submit your computer questions prior to the meeting to [mcugUsers@gmail.com](mailto:mcugUsers@gmail.com). Please give us a few days lead time on your questions. Have a great summer! --Art



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**Officers for 2011**



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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".

# Windows Lab

## Use Windows 7 Backup?

By Barney Babin, Cajun Clickers Computer Club (LA) member and instructor for XP, Vista Workshop and Windows 7

April 2010 issue, Cajun Clickers Computer News

[www.clickers.org](http://www.clickers.org) ; [ccnewsletter@cox.net](mailto:ccnewsletter@cox.net)

As those of you that have taken my classes know, I am paranoid when it comes to the

subject of backup. Windows 7 includes a good backup program that can either take an image of your hard drive or backup selections made by you. I'm assuming here that you understand that you NEVER backup either your image or your individual files and folders to the same hard drive that your Windows operating system is installed upon, which is normally drive of concern during backup. I'm also assuming that all of your programs and data reside in the same partition, normally C Drive.

So, what is an image? An image is an exact copy, think of it as a camera snapshot, of the hard drive, which includes all the programs, the operating system and all your data that you have generated and saved on your hard drive. If your computer ever stops working you can use this system image, which does not allow you to select individual items, to completely restore your system to the state it was in when the image was made, including your programs, operating system, and your created data.

If you're into video tutorials go to the below URLs to view a tutorial on how to create a system image or to view a tutorial on how to backup files and folders of your choice.

<http://tinyurl.com/4w94999>

<http://tinyurl.com/4gjlouq>

If you want a step-by-step procedure for a system image, go to the below URLs for the files step-by-step procedure.

<http://tinyurl.com/ybfgx7o>

<http://tinyurl.com/yg46n9u>

I strongly recommend, that no matter which procedure you choose, try to save more than one backup. This procedure is normally called generational backups. What this means is that you always have the option of retrieving information from more than one

backup. There are times that you do not recognize that your "masterpiece" item, be it document, image, graphic, etc., was modified incorrectly and you do not have the original item saved on your hard drive, only the modified version. That is when a generational backup becomes just as precious as gold. You can browse the backup in the backup and restore window to navigate to the item in question, and retrieve it in its original state, provided that you have retained enough generational backups to be able to do so.

By now you should be asking the question, how often and where? The "how often"

depends totally upon your usage patterns, the importance of your documents, such as

sentimental value, business associated irreplaceable, etc. which may be daily, biweekly, weekly, etc., but don't extend the time too long because if your system "dies" you only have data from your last backup period and anything from that date to the present instant will be lost, thus frequency of backups can become extremely important.

In my case I backup files and folders as they're created, via a mirroring program, to other hard drives at my house and offsite on the web. I also just copy and paste some items onto flash drives for convenience, fast simple transport, etc. I perform a full image of my drive at least once a day, but remember, I do

more things on a computer than you do in my volunteer positions, so your pattern will be totally different than mine.

If you're performing full images, I recommend using external drives, additional internal hard drives, network drives, etc. that will have ample room for multiple backups. If you are backing up certain items only, the Documents folder is usually where everything

is saved and will normally be able to be conveniently saved to flash drives, DVD, offsite on the web, or if your total backup size is small a CD.

Never keep these backup devices in close proximity to your computer that generated the backup. Remove them from your house, if possible, store them in a bank vault, store them at work, or store them offsite on the web.

If you are going to use one of the procedures described above, I also recommend that you create a system repair disk, as described at <http://tinyurl.com/2c4o4qo>. As part of the repair procedure your backups will be recognized on external drives, other hard drives in your computer etc., and will illicit questions on whether you want to restore from these items or not.

Want to know more? Do a Google search on Windows 7 backup tutorials or attend any of my classes where I address the subject of backup in week four of my sessions.

## Tom's Tip of the Month

### Watch Out While Social Networking!

Insurers are now using social networking sites to find evidence of fraud/false claims. They are using these sites to curtail the over \$30 billion per year fraudulent claims. One woman, for example, posted a photo of her having fun at a beach while being on medical leave for depression. Her benefits were lost. Insurers are looking at disability claimants who are writing about running. Insurers claim that information from these sites are not enough proof to deny claims but some consumers say that it is happening. To protect yourself, always keep in mind that anything posted on line can and will be seen by anyone who may want to do you harm or in this instance, keep you honest.

HP Photosmart Premium AiO

Wrks prntr w/8 mos. left on ext.  
warranty. Incl. 5 new ink cartridges.

\$55

Call Roger @ (706) 781-8653

I haven't lost my mind; it's backed up on tape somewhere.

It works! Now if only I could remember what I did...

Of course I know how to copy disks. Where's the xerox machine?

There were computers in Biblical times. Eve had an Apple.

Does fuzzy logic tickle?

## **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 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 \$24.95

Call George @ (706)379-0663

2 New Epson Black ink cartridges  
S020187/S020093

\$5 each

Call Roger Hove @ (706) 781-8653

## The Seventh Son of Windows

### Desktop Gadgets

By Lee Reynolds, Contributing Editor, Boca Raton Computer Society, FL

April 2011 issue, Boca Bits [www.bracs.org](http://www.bracs.org)

[leetutor@exploringwindows.com](mailto:leetutor@exploringwindows.com)

#### Introduction

Windows Vista introduced a new feature called the Sidebar, which was a narrow section of your Desktop where you could have small applications running called *Gadgets*. These *Gadgets* could be moved out of the Sidebar and anchored somewhere else on your Desktop, if you wished, but still the Sidebar application had to be running.

In Windows 7, there is no longer any Sidebar, but Desktop Gadgets are still present, and you set them up in a new Control Panel applet of the same name. (In Windows Vista, the Sidebar was on by default, whereas in Windows 7 there is no Sidebar and any *Gadgets* you want must be configured in Control Panel.)

#### Windows 7 Gadgets

The *Gadgets* present in Windows 7 are the same as those provided by Vista, with an additional one that is connected to Windows Media Center. These *Gadgets* are mini-applications designed to use web technology so as to provide real-time access to information of one type or another available through the internet. The built-in *Gadgets* are these:

- a Calendar application which shows the month, day, year, and day of week. If you click it, you will see the entire month
- a Clock which can be configured to show one of 8 different clock faces and any time zone
- a CPU meter which shows two analog style dials measuring current memory usage and CPU utilization

- a Currency converter
- a Headline Feed of RSS feeds that you are subscribed to via Internet Explorer
- a Media Center gadget that shows a revolving set of links to various parts of Windows Media Center
- a Weather gadget which can be configured for any location in the world
- a Stocks gadget for tracking stocks
- a Picture Puzzle where you slide tiles around against a timer
- a Slide Show gadget for showing the photos you configure for it

#### Other Gadgets

There are many other *Gadgets* that can be downloaded from the internet and installed, if you so desire...

#### Windows 7 Gadget Options

If you click on the Show Desktop area of the Taskbar in Windows 7 (a narrow rectangular area on the extreme right end), then you will see the Desktop with its *Gadgets* (if any.) In Windows Vista, when you clicked on the Show Desktop icon of the Quick Launch Bar, the *Gadgets* were not visible.

*Gadgets* can be shown on your Desktop in Windows 7 even if you are not on line with an internet connection, but they will in this case feature a time stamp which shows how out of date the associated data is. Some of the *Gadgets*, e.g., the Calendar, can be

toggled between various sizes. Some of them have Touch capabilities for those users who have a touch screen attached to their PC.

## Keyboards and Stuff

By Merle Nicholson, Secretary, Tampa PC Users Group, Inc., FL

April 2011 issue, Bits of Blue

[www.tpcug.org](http://www.tpcug.org); [merle@merlenicholson.com](mailto:merle@merlenicholson.com)

I've modified and programmed keyboards, trying my best to optimize my time at the computer. Not that I don't enjoy my computer and the things I can accomplish, but,

First, I'm a lousy typist, despite having practiced continuously since 1976, and, second, I hate messing with things that are obviously flawed. Keyboards are all flawed, that's a given. Here's how I'm coping.

I pretty much settled, a couple of years ago, on a Logitech Gaming Keyboard model G11. It's been succeeded by a model G510 (\$106 at NewEgg), which is only slightly

improved from the G11. I'm always on the lookout for new keyboards, but so far I haven't found anything else to excite me. The G11 is distinguished by 18 programmable keys, key backlighting and multimedia controls. The G510 is the same except the backlighting is probably better and it has a small multipurpose LCD screen. It's the



backlighting and programmable keys that make it worth it to me. The picture below is the left side, showing the key arrangement and my labels.

You can use these 18 keys in 18 times three ways (54) because there are three buttons at the top of the array – M1, M2 and M3 – that will switch the whole bank of 18 to three sets. So far I haven't found a use for switching the banks. Eighteen seems to be enough, so it stays on M1. Programming is pretty versatile. It accepts macros, shortcuts, functions, text and a scripting language, so I'd guess that you'd be hard pressed to find anything you couldn't program.

The bottom three keys in the picture are pretty obvious: They're a replacement for Ctl+X, C and V. I use these three constantly, since I'm a real believer in cut, copy and paste because I make a lot of mistakes and need to avoid typing as much as possible. The next set up is new for me, marked 1 2 3. They (and cut, copy, paste) don't need labels; I marked them for this article. 1 2 3 run a little program I wrote in VB.NET that will pop the mouse cursor to the center of my monitors 1, 2 and 3 and blip some eye-catching circles. The only disadvantage in using three monitors is finding the mouse and how to get it where you want it. Problem solved: The buttons "Computer", "F:", "G:", "C:" and "D:" all just open Windows Explorer to those drive letters. "UP" moves Windows Explorer up one level in the directory tree, "close" closes the current window (it's really Alt+F4, and a bit hazardous to use). "KP", "outlook", "IE" and "WAtacker" all launch programs and are used perhaps once a day. I'll ditch any of these if I find any other use for the keys. "Date" runs another program I wrote to push the time and date into the clipboard ready for pasting. I use this, well,...sometimes.

There are several other ways to alter keyboards. I've disabled the "Caps Lock" key. It has no effect when pressed. It takes a complicated little registry change to do that, but just think about it; the only time I EVER use the Caps Lock is to switch it off after accidentally switching it on. What a waste of keyboard space. Likewise "Scroll Lock." I'll bet not one in ten thousand keyboard users know what Scroll Lock is, and it's on every keyboard waiting for an accidental bump. How about the "Ins" key? Although I probably would not disable it as I did Caps Lock, I'd like to at least disable it from an accidental bump almost all the time.

Now that I'm started on this – let's look at Num Lock. Ok, I'll concede that some people use it. But I do own three keyboards (two on notebooks) that have no numeric keypad. But Num Lock switches an array of character keys to numbers if you don't have a keypad. More than once I've gone crazy knowing that I know the logon password on a computer that wouldn't take. Guess what. The num lock was on, the password used characters U,I,O,J,K,L or M, and being a password wouldn't show up on the screen. Man, I hate that.

## ASTRONOMY ANYONE?

What I really want is a 100% fully programmable keyboard program built into Windows. How hard could it be?

There are programmable keyboards. One or two really are 100% programmable. Even some that you just place the key switches wherever you want



on a slate. But I don't want it bad enough to pay them \$1500!

Pictured above: Logitech G510, NewEgg Item#: N82E16823126100 \$106.

Also nice in my living room (think NetFlix): Logitech diNovo Mini Black 63 Normal Keys Bluetooth Wireless Mini keyboard Item#: N82E16823126039 \$120.

pictured below. ?



I have used many of these type programs and have enjoyed the journey. One that I still tell my friends about is Stellarium, available free from [stellarium.org](http://stellarium.org). I learned about this is one from a Constellations class at ICL (here at Young Harris College). Stellarium is planetarium software, which shows a realistic view of the sky in "real time" on your computer. You can configure the program so you can see the sky (stars, planets, MilkyWay, etc.) from any place on the earth for any date/time (past, present or future). You can see what the heavens looked like the day you were born or you can advance forward to see what planets are visible the day of the upcoming summer solstice (21 June). You can see the names of the constellations and an artist's rendition of the actual configuration. (Did you know that people in the southern hemisphere can not see the North Star?), Art

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## Useful Websites

Deer Defences - Find products to keep deer out of your garden, deer resistant plants and other deer-proofing strategies. [www.gardening.Cornell.edu/factsheets/deerdef](http://www.gardening.Cornell.edu/factsheets/deerdef)

Clinical trials - Search over 100,000 medical research trials to find one that may benefit you or a loved one. [www.Clinicaltrials.gov](http://www.Clinicaltrials.gov)

Happier moving - Four week countdown includes packing information, a moving day checklist and other ways to keep things under control. [www.MoversEdge.com](http://www.MoversEdge.com)

Recall Notices - Find out about recalls of appliances, medications, toys, etc. [www.Recalls.justia.com](http://www.Recalls.justia.com)

# Mountain Computer User Group June 2011 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 <b>MCUG Board Meeting</b>	9	10	11
12	13 <b>MCUG MTG Q&amp;A 6:00 Program 7:00</b>	14	15	16	17 <b>Last Day To Submit Articles</b>	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

## JUNE ANNIVERSARIES



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

George Donegan	06/06
Richard Schneider	06/18
Larry Jones	06/24
Bill Pearce	06/30

Richard & Juanita Schneider	06/10/1952	59yrs
Robert & _____ Thompson	06/05/1955	56yrs
Virginia & _____ Scherer	06/14/1958	53yrs
Bob & Betty Grenhaw	06/12/1971	40yrs
Carol & _____ Miller	06/08/1973	38yrs
Judi & Thomas Boulware	06/10/1977	34yrs
Sosan & _____ Scott	06/17/1990	21yrs
Elaine & Gene Vickers	06/26/2009	02yrs