

Mountain Bits & Bytes

The Award Winning Monthly Publication of the Mountain Computer User Group

Vol. 11 Issue #5
May 2011

New Weblinks

http://www.spamfighter.com/Product_Info.asp - Free spam filter for Outlook, Outlook Express, Windows Mail, and Thunderbird.

<http://www.piriform.com/defraggler> - Alternative disk defragment program for Windows.

http://download.cnet.com/Paint-NET/3000-2192_4-10338146.html - Alternative paint program for Windows.

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Happy May! Now we are back our normal schedule of meeting on Monday. On May 9th, we will host a presentation on Digital Photography. The presentation will be given by Alex Peers, who has an extensive background in photography and is an instructor of classes for ICL at YHC. Alex will be covering uploading/downloading digital images, editing of images, storage and use of images. Some of the programs to be discussed include Adobe Photoshop, PhotoPos Pro, Paint.Net, Photobie, PhotoScape, and Picasa 3. All but Photoshop are freebies and can be downloaded from the Internet. Please bring questions on how to do things with photographs.



Please welcome our newest director, Tim Cassidy and our newest member, Don Deyton, of Blairsville. Perhaps you know of someone you can invite to one of our meetings or to even join our group. The membership cost per month is a bargain at \$1.67 per month. Please remember to pay your annual dues (\$20) in May.

Don't forget to buy a chance on our May raffle item, the Logitech Wireless Keyboard and Mouse. Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5.

At our June general meeting, Jim Bell (past president) present a session available freeware (software). Don't forget to visit our website (mcug.org) for updates on the Club and new links to other useful sites.

Cloud Computing

By Dick Maybach n2nd @ charter.net

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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".

Although you can hardly pick up a computer publication without being assaulted by references to cloud computing, the term has been abducted by marketing organizations to the extent that it means almost nothing. Today, "cloud" is to computing as "natural" is to food. Although the term means little, the concept is very valuable, and is something that most computer owners use every day. I define cloud computing as using storage or processing resources on the Internet. Most of us already use cloud computing far more than we realize; for example, every e-mail we receive sits on our ISP's disk until we download it to our PCs, and when we use Google Maps, much the processing and all of the storage occurs on Google's hardware. In the extreme, cloud computing could evolve to the point where our computer would consist of only a keyboard, mouse, display, and perhaps a printer, with just enough processing power and software to support a Web browser. Google foresaw this as the future of home computing and began developing their Chrome operating system to support it.



A simple example of cloud computing is a backup service, which continually backs up all your data whenever you are connected to the Internet. You don't have to think about it, and because your backups are stored at a different location, they are safe even in case of a local catastrophe. A similar use is synchronizing data among several computers, where the data might be files, contacts, and your favorite Web sites and (with care) their passwords. Many people also use the cloud to share information with others, for example by using Facebook for personal information, Flickr for photos, or

Google Docs for documents. Cloud storage is both convenient and inexpensive; indeed, many vendors offer up to two gigabytes free.

All the above examples are data storage ones, but there are also cloud processing services, such as Google Docs. Google Docs supports the common office tasks such as word processing, spreadsheets, and presentations, which means you can perform these without purchasing an office suite and having to keep it updated. It also allows on-line collaboration (where, for example, several people edit the same document), although few home users are likely to need this feature. Like cloud storage, cloud processing is inexpensive or even free.

By now, you may be thinking, "What's the Catch?" Somebody has to pay for these services, as providing them requires non-trivial costs for computer hardware, support staff, and communications. In some cases, the free service is a limited sample to entice you to purchase a more versatile one. In others, you are the product being sold. Your habits and preferences are valuable commodities that advertisers will pay to learn about. For many of us this is a fair trade; in return for the convenience of Google's search engine, we tolerate the ads in the sidebar and being directed to sites that want to sell to us.

However, there are some security and safety caveats involved. Security is complex for a cloud vendor; your data are stored on the same disks, the same memory, and pass through the same processors as everybody else's. The process is much like what happens in a commercial laundry or dry cleaner, where everybody's clothes are tagged and thrown together into a large machine. Afterwards, somebody looks at the tags to get them back to their proper owners. Contrast this to a bank deposit vault, where only your key can open the box where you place your documents. Even

at such competent vendors as Google, there have been instances of data leaking from one customer to another, and many cloud vendors are start-ups who have much less expertise than Google. This means that you should take responsibility for safeguarding your data. For example, if you back up your disk in the cloud, encrypt any files (such as those containing passwords or on-line banking data) that present security risks. I store my passwords using KeePassX, <http://www.keepassx.org/>. Its file is always encrypted on your PC's disk, and you can safely back it up anywhere. I also use Gnu Privacy Guard (gpg), <http://www.gnupg.org/>, to encrypt files and e-mail. (Both of these programs are available for the Windows, Mac, and Linux platforms.) By the way, when you encrypt a file, be sure that only the encrypted version is ever placed in a directory that is backed up in the cloud.

Safety also is not trivial. Vendors do go out of business and, even if they keep operating, they may find that providing cloud services isn't profitable. Not all of them back up their storage, which means that their hardware failures and software bugs can destroy your data. If you use the service for back-up or synchronization, this isn't a problem because the chances of simultaneous failures in the cloud and on your PC is negligible. However, if you store your only copy of your photograph or music collection in the cloud, you are risking disaster. In the case of cloud processing, you should also be concerned about the format in which your data is stored. It does little good to download the file containing your novel if it's stored in a format that only the (now out of business cloud vendor) could read.



Finally, cloud computing is new, so you should expect some glitches.

Tom's Tip of the Month

Normally you end tasks the non-responsive programs manually using windows task manager with (CTRL + ALT +DELETE) keys. Sometimes these non-responsive programs creates problem to run windows and others programs properly. You can configure your computer to manage these non-responsive programs automatically. Windows has a feature that will close all non responding program automatically. If you have little knowledge about editing windows registry then you can configure your computer for this purpose.

Follow the given steps to configure windows registry for auto end task:

First click on Start button then type Regedit in Run option. Here locate the location to:

* Go to Hkey_Current_User\Control Panel\Desktop

* Here in right side panel, double click on AutoEndTasks and here its default value is 0.

* Now change it to 1. Now windows will close your all non-responsive programs automatically.

* Now close the registry editor and restart your computer after any changes to go into effect.

HP Photosmart Premium AiO

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\$55

Call Roger @ (706) 781-8653

Hardware: The parts of a computer system that can be kicked.

One person's error is another person's data.

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

Online Marketing Inside Out

Review: by Gregory West, Member of Sarnia Computer Users' Group (scug.ca) and

Port Huron, MI Computer Group (bwcomp.org)

prospector16 (at) gmail.com

Blog: gregorywest.wordpress.com

by Brandon Eley & Shayne Tilley

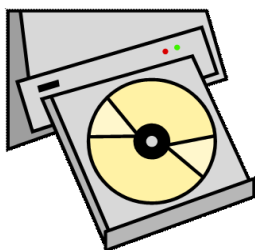
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\$29.95

<http://oreilly.com/catalog/9780980576825>



Online Marketing Inside Out has nine dynamic chapters that guide you through your next "modern marketing campaign". Chapter one explains how marketing is changing pointing out things you need to know before you begin planning your next promotion or campaign. You will learn how to make money from a website by page views, optimize the values within search engines (SEO) and how the main players in social media can help you go deeper inside the communities spreading the word of your company or product.

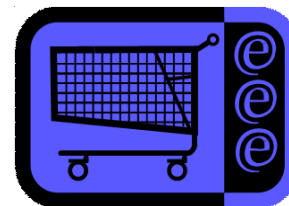
Even though email marketing has been around forever, it seems, this book sparks a new interest showing "many advantages" and the authors "walk you through every step towards a successful email marketing strategy".

Having your own sales people working for you online is easy when you create an "affiliate marketing program" that is covered in Chapter

seven. The advantages of having an "army of salesmen all over the world" promoting for you is explained in easy to understand terms in this chapter. This is followed in sequence with Chapter eight wherein you learn about the world of "online advertising" as you will be able to "plan, implement, test, and optimize" what you setup with your online advertising.

I really like the way this book is set out. The Table of Contents leaves nothing to imagination. The Preface and Chapters have extensive headings that guide you through the various topics so that you can easily look something up and jump right in on that subject. For example, in Chapter two's listing you will find headings such as: Press Releases. Then followed with sub-headings: Press Releases in the 21st Century, When to Write a Press Release, Stand Out From the Crowd and so on.

Every chapter tags your interest and keeps you coming back as a reference point for helping you develop your own online marketing campaign. This book is for those who "have a web site and...want to promote it", or anyone else who wants and/or needs to learn this amazing subject of online marketing.



Even if you are already doing online marketing and feel fairly successful, this book will take you to the next level of expertise and guide you in directions you may have possibly passed by.

Take a look at this video... <http://gregorywest.wordpress.com/2011/03/29/982/>

SEAGATE GOFLEX TV HD MEDIA PLAYER

:A Review by George Donegan, MCUG Member

It seems as though every day somebody comes out with something new to make our lives more exciting. Well Seagate the worlds leader in hard drives has joined the fray with their latest version of GoFlex TV HD Media Player. I received mine this week and it consisted of the GoFlex TV unit plus a 500 GB Ultra-Portable drive. This external hard drive, even though it's 500 GB, is small enough to slip inside the GoFlex TV Media Player and become part of it. My Sanyo flat screen TV came equipped with connections for such things as this Seagate product. Unpacking the GoFlex TV Media Player I found both Video and Audio cables and a power pack for connecting the unit to 120AC power. While the necessary cables came with the unit I elected to purchase a 6 foot HDMI cable that would replace all the cables and afford me better reception. The setup for the Seagate GoFlex TV was a snap. Just a matter of plugging in the Ethernet cable, the HDMI to the unit and to my Sanyo TV and the power pack into the GoFlex TV unit and into the wall outlet for power. There, done and it was so simple.

Using the Seagate GoFlex Media Player is almost as simple. Turn on your TV, click on HDMI on your TV remote, on the Media Player remote turn on your media player and click on home.



Up pops the home screen which is divided into three sections.

Links to the main screens, movies, pictures, music, internet and Browse.

Shortcuts to popular Internet services.

Shortcuts to the devices that are connected to your media player either directly or over your network.

The home screen shows you the fabulous assortment of things you can do with the GoFlex TV Media Player. On the top row from left to right there is a movie icon. Here you can access movies you may have stored in a unit in the player or attached to it by USB cable. Remember these are movies separate from Netflix or Paramount. Moving on you have an icon for pictures and music which are stored in the same manner and are easily shared with family and friends. Next there is an icon for the Internet when clicked on brings up a whole series of new icons. A total of eleven from Netflix to financials. The last icon on the top row is Browse and this is where you access your network, anything you have stored on your home computer system. Getting back to the sub-icons accessed from the Internet icon. Here you will find Net Flix, UTube, Pandora, Mediafly, Flicka, Picasa, VTuner, Video Feeds, Text Feeds, Weather and Financials. You can see what a plethora of entertainment that you have at your finger tips. Financials lets you keep up with some of your favorite stocks as well as the Dow. Net Flix is a fantastic movie subscription service and you also have the option to open an account with Paramount movies. Pandora and VTuner great music, Flicka and Picasa great pictures, Utube and Video Feeds, well you know the rest and there is no end to the enjoyment that awaits you. The bottom row is sort of a repeat. The first one on the left is the 500 GB Ultra-Portable Drive inserted in the GoFlex Media Player, next comes the network icon and last is the Media Servers icon. There you have an endless array of entertainment choices that are bound to keep you busy trying to figure out what to do next. With the 500GB Ultra-Portable Drive inserted in your media player you have an almost unlimited supply of images, songs and videos. .



Sharing your favorite images or videos with family members is an event cherished by us all, with the Seagate GoFlex TV HD Media Player it's like having Christmas several times a year.

System Requirements Win XP, Vista or Win 7 or OS X 10.4.11 or 10.5.6 or later Available USB Port.

TV Composite Video or Component Video or HDMI Stereo, S/PDIF Optical Digital Audio or HDMI audio. VIDEO : NTSC480/480P, PAL 576i/576p, 720p RESOLUTION: 1080i, 1080p



Seagate's Suggested retail price is \$129.99 and the 500GB Ultr-Portable drive is \$99.99, however I found the Seagate HD TV Media Player at Amazon.Com for \$95.97 and the hard drive for \$88.24 at Buy.com.

You do not have to purchase the 500GB hard drive, it just extends the pleasure of the Media Player.

In the Pros & Cons I did find a couple of little glitches but they were minor in comparison to the pros. I highly recommend this product for anyone wanting to extend their entertainment choices. It is really fun and exciting and I am waiting on Seagate's future additions to this product.

* * * * *

Ken Olsen (1926 -) --, President, Digital Equipment, 1977 The most likely way for the world to be destroyed, most experts agree, is by accident. That's where we come in; we're computer professionals. We cause accidents.

Matt Larson. -- "If you can't beat your computer at chess, do what I did — try kick-boxing."

ANNOUNCEMENT !

The Institute for Continuing Learning (ICL) is an adult-education center affiliated with century-old Young Harris College. ICL aims at a broad range of adult interests. A sampling of courses include subjects like aerobics, antiques, computers, contract bridge, gardening, genealogy, investing, music, natural history, woodworking, painting, sculpture, languages, and writing. The Institute's curriculum committee continually reviews members' interests and expands the curriculum accordingly. ICL offers a new series of subjects every quarter, commencing in January, April, June and September. You can receive issues of ICL's course announcements and newsletters at no charge. For more information, call 706-379-5194 and leave a message or visit the ICL web site at www.iclyhc.org or email icl@yhc.edu.

* * * * *

Useful Websites

Food safety: What to do when flood watches/ warnings are issued, cleaning up after a storm, more. From the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/floods.

Family Health history: Easy-to-use online family tree to share with relatives and health-care providers. From the US Office of the Surgeon General. <http://FamilyHistory.hhs.gov>

Know your Rights: How to protest a traffic ticket, prepare a financial power of attorney, avoid foreclosure, determine liability in an accident, resolve disputes with neighbors and more. www.Nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia.

Deer Defences: Products to keep deer away from your garden, deer resistant plants and other deer proofing strategies. www.Gardening.Cornell.edu/factsheets/deerdef.

Mountain Computer User Group May 2011 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4 MCUG Board Meeting	5 Oyster Day	6	7
8 Mother's Day	9 MCUG MTG Q&A 6:00 Program 7:00	10	11	12	13 Friday The 13th	14
15 Police Officer's Memorial Day	16	17	18	19	20 Last Day To Submit Articles	21 Armed Forces Day
22	23 National Escargot Day	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 Memorial Day	31 National Macaroon Day				



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- Hatch & Tot Hatchell 05/04/1945 66yrs
- Michael & Casey Lazarz 05/02/1949 62yrs
- George & Nancy Donegan 05/29/1964 47yrs
- June & Jack Gottlieb 05/01/1976 35yrs
- Nicole & Ian Grant 05/13/1977 34yrs
- Rosalind & James Gaskill 05/02/1998

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

Nancy Donegan 05/09
Bob Greenhaw 05/16

