



The Award Winning Monthly Publication of the Mountain Computer User Group

Vol. 9, Issue #9  
September 2009

### What's Inside

Social Networking, What is It?	Page 2
Computer One Liners	Page 3
Beneath The Surface	Page 4
Tom's Tip Of The Month	Page 4
If Your Computer Gets Wet, What?	Page 5
Selected Emoticoms	Page 5
Install Those Updates	Page 6
Selected Book Reviews	Page 7
Birthday's, Anniversaries, & Calendar	Page 8

### September Meeting To Feature "Windows 7"

Our meeting on September 14 will feature the new windows operating system, Windows 7. After the somewhat disastrous Vista release in January 2007, Microsoft has moved forward with its next operating system. It is scheduled to be available on October 22. The reviews of the release candidate have been very favorable.

I have been running it on an older Pentium 4 machine and it is very snappy. I am running XP on the same machine (with a dual boot) and Windows 7 is just as fast and has a nicer interface. This may be the time for the XP holdouts to consider an update.

Come to the meeting and judge for yourself.

### Did You Know?

The Mountain Computer User's Group is Twenty years old this year. The club begun in 1989 by Paul Marshall and Joe Ringwalt at the Mountain Regional Library in Young Harris. Do we have any charter members still in the club?

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



#### Officers for 2009

##### President

Jim Bell            jbell1011@verizon.net

##### Vice President

John Yandell      jyandell@brmemc.net

##### Past President

Terry Oden        Terryo@brmemc.net

##### Secretary/Treasurer

George Donegan   gd0negan29@alltel.net

##### Publisher/Editor

Tom Allen         bunkerhilltom@yahoo.net

#### Board of Directors for 2009

Bob Greenhaw    bbgreenhaw@brmemc.net  
 Rea Whilliams   reaw@brmemc.net  
 Don Miller        dbmatchatuge@alltel.net  
 Tom Allen         bunkerhilltom@yahoo.com

#### 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".

## Social Networking – What is it, really?

Written by Phil Sorrentino, President, Sarasota PCUG, Florida

[www.spcug.org](http://www.spcug.org)

president (at) spcug.org

This article has been obtained from APCUG with the author's permission for publication by APCUG member groups; all other uses require the permission of the author (see e-mail address above).

Social Networking is all over the news; Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter are the ones that get the most play. So what are they, really? Well, they're websites that provide another way of keeping in touch with friends, family, and associates. What are some older social networking methods? Maybe, the Telegram, the Telephone, Visiting on Sunday, Writing Letters. These are all ways of keeping in touch with your family and/or circle of friends. Yesterday we had these less technical ways of keeping in touch. Today we have the computer to help us keep in touch via email, instant messaging, Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) telephone, and social networking. Social networking has encouraged new ways to communicate and share information. Social networking websites are being used regularly by millions of people, and it now seems that social networking will become a regular part of everyday computer life.

Social Networking is probably the newest technology and revolves around an internet website that provides social networking services. How about this for a definition of a social network: A site that allow individuals to construct a public or semi-public profile within a bounded system; to create a list of other users with whom they have a connection; and to view their list of connections and those made by others within the system. With that in mind, a social network focuses on building online communities of people who share interests and/or activities. Most social network services are web based and provide a variety of ways for users to interact, such as e-mail and instant messaging.

On many of the large Social Networking sites, participants are not necessarily "networking" or looking to meet new people; instead, they are primarily communicating with people who

are already a part of their extended social network, such as on Facebook and Twitter.

While it could be said that email and regular websites have most of the essential elements of social networks, the social networking sites make it easy to use. Here's a look at some of the more popular sites.

**LinkedIn** ([www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com)) – LinkedIn is mostly for business people and professionals. People use it to maintain contacts and to develop new business opportunities. To use LinkedIn, you create a profile where you describe yourself, listing work and education history, skills, specialties, etc. Just like a resume. Once you have your profile, you start connecting to others. That's the driving force behind LinkedIn. You use your connections to promote yourself and build relationships.

**Twitter** ([www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com)) – Twitter is a micro blogging service. When it started out, people used it to tell others what they were doing at various times during the day. Now it has evolved into a way to tell people about your activities and then provide a link to further details. SPCUG as a group could have its own Twitter account. Once we had it, interested members could “follow” it and receive our group information known as “tweets” delivered to them. A Twitter “tweet” has a limit of 140 characters. This may possibly be a substitute for our use of Constant Contact to contact the membership for changes in educational class schedules.

**Facebook** ([www.backbook.com](http://www.backbook.com)). Facebook is sort of a cross between LinkedIn and Twitter. Facebook used to be mainly for students, but has become more mainstream. Like LinkedIn, you build a profile of yourself, where you talk about what your interests and hobbies are. Like Twitter, you can do micro blogging about things you want people to know. In Facebook, you have friends as opposed to connections or followers.



Users of Social Networks, in general, can upload a picture of themselves, create their “profile” and can often be “friends” with other users. In most social networks, both users must confirm that they are friends before they are linked. For example, if Alice lists Bob

as a friend, then Bob would have to approve Alice's friend request before they are listed as friends. Some social networking sites have a “favorites” feature that does not need approval from the other user. Social networks usually have privacy controls that allow the user to choose who can view their profile or contact them, etc.



Privacy of Social Networks is a big concern. On large social networks, there have been growing concerns about users giving out too much personal information and the threat of sexual

predators. Users of these networks need to be aware of data theft and viruses. However, large networks often work with law enforcement to try to prevent such incidents.

Access to one's information is also of great concern. Many social networks such as Facebook, provide the user the choice of who can view their profile. This prevents unauthorized user(s) from accessing their information. To edit information on a social network account, the site usually requires you to login or provide an access code. This prevents unauthorized users from editing an account such as posting pictures or changing personal information.

Social Networking is a promising new technology for staying in touch. Give it a try, there must be some group of people you would like to keep in touch with.

## ONE LINERS

Multi-tasking - screwing up several things at once.

A computer's attention span is as long as its power cord.

All computers wait at the same speed.

Any program that runs right is obsolete.

# BENEATH THE SURFACE:

## DeepPeeping the Web

Written by Jerry Goldstein, Vice President & Newsletter Editor, The PCUG of Connecticut

[www.tpcug-ct.org](http://www.tpcug-ct.org)

[jerryg \(at\) attygoldstein.com](mailto:jerryg@attygoldstein.com)

This article has been obtained from APCUG with the author's permission for publication by APCUG member groups; all other uses require the permission of the author (see e-mail address above).

Last summer Google announced it had passed the one trillionth mark in its list of known and searchable Web pages.

If you think Google does the best job of searching the World Wide Web you will be in for a big surprise. By 'big' I mean a search engine that goes way beyond standard search engines like Google, which only look at the surface of the Web compared to the vast, deep, and so far uncharted depths of the Web. I say "you will be in for a big surprise" because a deeper search engine is only in its initial research stages.

Standard search engines only skim the surface of the Web. Kind of like you're looking over the surface of the ocean, instead of looking into its vast undersea life. The plan is to create a search engine that will open 90% of the Web to searches.

A study at the University of Utah is trying to find a way. The study searches typed text rather than the hyperlinks that the present search engines use. A beta version of DeepPeep is available at: <http://www.deeppeep.org/>.

We have a long way to go but eventually almost the entirety of the Web will be searchable. Web pages exist already that tell you the best taxi fare, flight schedules, and shopping catalogs. DeepPeep wants to give you access to this

information. A whole new way of searching has to be worked out first.


Scientists have said that 90% of what we know was discovered in the last 50 years. DeepPeep is working out a way to get that knowledge to you.

What we see!



What we miss!

I It's out there!



DeepPeep is finding the way to get it to you

### Tom's Tip of the Month

**Add fun Smiley's, Glitters and Animations to email, blogs and social networks.**

**Get cool Emoticons, Winks, Nudges, Sound FX and Display Pictures for your messages.**

**Free emoticons, animations, games, and search for your browser.**

**Try [www.emoticonsnow.com](http://www.emoticonsnow.com)**

## If Your Computer Gets Wet...What?

Written by Bob Schwartz, a member of HAL-PC, Texas

www.hal-pc.org

bobx (at) hal-pc.org

This article has been obtained from APCUG with the author's permission for publication by APCUG member groups; all other uses require the permission of the author (see e-mail address above).



What to do if something wet spills on your electronic device or it falls into wet whatever?

The following is not guaranteed but represents years of experience.

Quick, unplug it! Unless there is a likely shock hazard. Look up the instructions (best to do this when you buy it). Find out if there is any prohibition against using ALCOHOL. Alcohol can dissolve some materials.

There are generally two items to have handy. One is *distilled* water to first wash off and dilute any spill, especially anything that might be conductive. The second is alcohol, 90+% isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol. Ethyl alcohol or ethanol – 90% - will work too. Alcohol has an affinity for water. Rinsing the item first with the distilled water and then with alcohol will dilute, pick up water, carry it away, and evaporate quickly. The higher percent alcohol 90% vs 50% have a greater affinity for water.

Time is important. You do not want water to soak into an otherwise insulating medium, especially water that contains something conductive like salt. It will leave a conductive residue that will short out portions of the device. That is why you want to *rinse first* with distilled water to carry away any conductive residue and then the alcohol to remove the water film. *Most tap water has dissolved minerals* that remain after the water evaporates, hence the distilled water to rinse these away.

After, and I repeat AFTER, the above cleaning, you can use *very modest heat to help dry out* the item. You can use a hair

dryer at some distance. Make sure you don't heat the item any hotter than is comfortable to hold. Some plastic materials deform at relatively low temperatures.

Remember the order: (1) rinse with distilled water (2) rinse with alcohol (3) *warm gently* with hair dryer or warming oven.

For items immersed in flood waters, the above approach can be tried but the outlook is not promising. Generally the conductive flood waters have had time to soak into the various insulating materials and are almost impossible to remove. Still, it may be worth a try, especially if you have the time and possible success is worth the effort. Distilled water and alcohol are not very expensive. Most circuit boards are coated with varnish to resist moisture. In this case, wash repeatedly with distilled water. Use a soft brush to remove any remaining film such as mud. Then, the alcohol followed by the dryer. Using the dryer prematurely can "set" the offending material to the point that it may be almost unremovable. So save it for the very last step after you are sure things are clean. Your efforts may save part if not all of the equipment.

Bob Schwartz is a HAL-PC member, retired EE, 14 patents, technical writer, active in civic affairs: President, Brays Bayou Association; Vice President, Marilyn Estates Civic Association; Correspondence Secretary with the Willow Waterhole Greenspace Conservancy.

### Selected Emoticons

^5	High Five
(::):::)	Band Aid
:-X	Lips are sealed
:-()	Can't stop Talking
:-@	Screaming
<:-[	Dunce
}:-[	Frustrated
;-)	Winking

## Install Those Updates

By Marjie Tucker, Newsletter Editor, Mountain Computer User Group, Georgia

[www.mcug.org](http://www.mcug.org)

[mcug \(at\) dnet.net](mailto:mcug@dnnet.net)

This article has been obtained from APCUG with the author's permission for publication by APCUG member groups; all other uses require the permission of the author (see e-mail address above).

Are you taking every precaution to safeguard the data on your computer? If you answer "yes" because you have turned on the Windows Firewall and use anti-virus and anti-spyware software, that's great. However, you may be forgetting something very important - installing software updates.

Software usually contains bugs that are not found until the general public uses it. Because of this, all companies including Microsoft and Apple periodically make updates available to fix the bugs that have appeared. Many viruses and worms are written specifically to take advantage of holes that appear in operating systems and other programs. If you don't install the latest updates to your computer, those holes will remain and your data will be vulnerable to the malware.

Both Windows XP and Windows Vista have the ability to automatically download the most important updates as they are posted. To ensure that this is happening on your computer use the Control Panel to go to the Windows Security Center and make certain that the Automatic Updates are turned on. If Automatic Updating shows a green On color, then the updates will be downloaded. If the function for Automatic Updates is disabled, use the setting available to turn it on.

When the updates have been downloaded to your computer you are notified of their presence. This usually occurs with a small golden icon in the lower right-hand corner of your taskbar that

reads "Updates are ready for your computer." If you click on the icon and give permission, the update will install immediately, usually in the background so you can continue working. After it is installed you may be asked to give permission for your computer to reboot.

However, if you tell the computer not to install this update, the message that it is available may stay on your computer permanently, as it waits for you to click that it can now be installed. If you see the gold icon on your taskbar, check to see if you have updates waiting right now so you can protect your computer.

### ***There May Be Additional Updates***

Sometimes there are optional updates available that won't be downloaded automatically. For that reason it's a good idea to check the Microsoft Update website periodically. The easiest way to check is to use the link you can find on your Start Menu.

That link will take you directly to the Microsoft Update site where you can choose between the Express or Custom method of installing available updates. Custom is preferable so you can determine if there are any updates you don't want to install.

Click on the Custom button and then wait while the Microsoft site compares your computer's software against the Microsoft database. Eventually you will see a list of updates that are missing from your computer. Any High-Priority (important for security) updates will already be selected to be downloaded. However, you need to look at the Optional Updates to choose the ones you want to include. Click on Software, Optional and choose all that are shown. You should need all of these. If any Hardware, Optional updates are shown, you should be a little choosier. If your hardware is working properly, you may want to skip these driver updates. But if you are suffering any hardware problems, these updates may solve your problems.

After you have chosen the updates you want to download, click on Install Updates at the top of the screen and the download will begin. This may take

quite a bit of time, depending on the number and size of the updates being downloaded. This would actually be a good time to take a coffee break or make that important telephone call.

You can view a list of the updates you have installed on your computer at the Add or Remove Programs location on your Control Panel. At the top of the screen you will see a small box labeled "Show Updates." Click in that box and all your Microsoft updates will be displayed.

This screen is very useful if you encounter difficulty after installing an update or service pack. You can always find the update and uninstall it through this screen.

You can also easily see if your computer contains the latest Windows Service Packs by looking at the Properties of My Computer. Right-click over the My Computer icon and choose Properties. The most recently installed Service Pack will be listed on this screen.

### ***Don't Forget Your Anti-MalWare Programs***

Of course, it's also critical to constantly update your anti-malware programs. Viruses, worms, and spyware are constantly being developed and these protection programs work hard to provide fixes. When possible, also set these programs for automatic updates and regularly perform a manual update just to make certain that you don't miss any patches or new program features.

### ***And, Remember Your Other Software***

We've spent most of our time talking about Microsoft software. Your other programs, such as Adobe Reader and Java also receive regular updates. Look at the settings for those to be sure they are updating automatically. This is especially important if you have any difficulty while working with a program. The solution may be as simple as installing the latest patch.

### ***Apple Software Updates***

Apple also frequently releases updates that you can download and install. To check your Mac for patches, use the Apple menu and choose Software Updates.

You can also set your Mac to get Automatic Updates by choosing System Preferences from the Apple menu. Choose View and Software Update. One of the choices is Automatic and you can also choose a time for the computer to check the Apple website.

### ***Stay Secure***

Remember to set your operating system and programs for Automatic Updates, install those updates, and periodically check the websites manually to ensure that you have all the latest patches. This is an easy and inexpensive way to help protect your data.


## **Selected Book Reviews**

Built it, Fix it, Own it – A Beginner's Guide to Building and Upgrading a PC, reviewed by Joe Mizer, a member of NOCCC (North Orange County Computer Club, CA) Approx. 754 words. This book, published by QUE, is a good guide to understanding a PC from the inside out. Building a PC is easier than selecting stereo and video entertainment equipment for your home; you decide on the features you want and the performance level desired. In both situations, the components inside a PC such as the mother board, memory, disk drives, optical drives, sound cards, and video cards all have standard interfaces and, when connected, become a PC inside the case you selected.

Google Docs 4Everyone, reviewed by John Krill, a member of NOCCC (Approx. 450 words). Let's be honest, I really didn't think I needed a manual to learn Google Docs. I was wrong. The first chapter alone gave me information on Google accounts that I've already taken advantage of.....

How to Be a Geek Goddess, reviewed by Sandy Berger, CompuKISS (Approx. 442 words). This book doesn't advocate that a Geek goddess is someone above everyone else. She says that being a Geek Goddess is "a simple matter of embracing the incredible innovation that's going on in our times and harness it for our own purposes." And, Christina understands the differences between how men and women look at, and deal with, technology.

# Mountain Computer User Group September 2009 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7  Labor Day	8 Adam Carter Juanita Schneider	9	10	11	12
13 Rea Williams	14 Joyce Horcher	15	16	17 Kay Yandell	18 Michael Lazarz	19
20	21	22 Vivian Heath	23	24	25 John Scherer	26
27	28	29 Connie Lake	30 Diane Frenz			



## SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES



Bert & Lorraine Boutwell	09/26/49	60 yrs
Roger & Laura Hove	09/14/52	57 yrs
Bob & Dot Vaughan	09/31/60	49 yrs
Tim & Adrienne Cassidy	09/20/64	45 yrs
Tom & Jo Anne Allen	09/22/85	24 yrs
Arthur & Doris Mott	09/19/86	23 yrs
Bill & Cathy Pearce	09/09/09	3 yrs
Gloria & John Gaskins	09/21/??	? yrs
William Scott Jr.	09/14/??	? yrs