Abort, Retry, Ignore...

CAEUG Computers Are Easy User Group

Random acts of literacy
by Sherry Zorzi, APCUG Advisor
Director, Cajun Clickers Computer Club
http://www.cajunclickers.org

You may find one in your doctor's waiting room or at the hairdresser's. You may spot one in a shopping cart in the parking lot at Winn Dixie or on a chair at Starbucks. You may come upon one in the break room at work or even on a bench in the park.

A book. It could be paperback or hardback. It could be well-thumbed or brand-new. It sports a stick-on label with a cartoon of a jaunty running book with stick-figure arms and legs. "I'm not lost; I'm traveling. Take me home," the label reads.

Welcome to the BookCrossing phenomenon. It's operating quietly here in the Baton Rouge area, it's free, it's as anonymous as you want it to be, and it's great fun.

Thanks to a unique website started in April 2001, the invented term "bookcrossing" has become so mainstream that it made it into the Concise Oxford English Dictionary by August 2004. "Bookcrossing, n., the practice of leaving a book in a public place to be picked up and read by others, who then do likewise."

Avid reader Ron Hornbaker, a web designer in Kansas City, was intrigued by websites like Where's George, which tracks U.S. currency by serial number, and wondered what else would be fun to track. Thus was born BookCrossing.com and the rest is rapidly becoming history.

The basics of bookcrossing are, appropriately, the "3 R's." Read, register and release. Read a good book. Register it at http://www.BookCrossing.com . When you register the book, you'll get a unique ID number for the book. You can write an online journal entry for the book, a review, if you like. Stick a label on the book with the ID number and the address of the website. Release the book for someone else to find and read. You can give it directly to a friend, mail it to another bookcrosser who has expressed interest

Sidebar

Calendar of Events

!!! IMPORTANT !!!
Meeting date
Saturday
March 26
Time 9:45 - noon

* * * *

MEETING PLACE
will be the
Glenside Public
Library

* * * *

SEE YOU
THERE!!

* * * *

COD
Computer
Show Dates

2005
April 24
May 22

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CAEUG OFFICERS & CHAIRPERSONS

President	John Spizzirri
V.P. (Programs)	Dick Seward
Secretary (& donuts)	Al Skwara
Treasurer	L. Johnson
Newsletter Editor	Kathy Groce
Membership Chairperson & Circulation Manager	Pete Nicchia
CAEUG COD Coordinator & Publicity	Terry Moye
Software Reviewer	Brian Noon
Webmaster & Technical Consultant	John St. Clair
Coffee Service	Joan Thompson
Picnic Chairpersons	Mike Goldberg
	Roger Kinzie

Reminder: You'll get better, faster service if you use CAEUG in the subject of your e-mail.

ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER:

This printed version of our newsletter was laid out using Adobe's Pagemaker Version 7.0 for Windows and was printed on a HP Laserjet III. Our group's membership database is maintained using MS Access and address labels are printed using MS Access software. Our checking account records are kept in Quicken software.

The opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the CAEUG Officers, members or other contributors. CAEUG, its officers, newsletter editor, authors or contributors are not liable in any way for any damages, lost profits, lost savings, or other incidental or consequential damage arising from the use of the information provided herein. Every reasonable effort has been made to confirm the accuracy of the contents of this newletter, but that accuracy is not guaranteed.

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The CAEUG newsletter is published eleven times annually. Contributions by members are encouraged and will be gratefully acknowledged in the newsletter. We have a policy of exchanging newsletters with other users groups across the nation. Several CAEUG member articles have already been picked up and reprinted.

Membership Costs.....

	First Yr.	Renewal
Individual	$25.00	$20.00
Family	$30.00	$25.00
Corporate	$30.00	$25.00
Associate	$20.00	$15.00

Beginner's SIG

Ask questions and discuss computer experiences with this group.
Such as:
1. New to Computers? (basic topics)
2. How to use the Web or download information
3. How to install hardware/software
4. Discuss how to troubleshoot hardware conflicts, learn boot up emergency tricks
5. What do you want to know??

SIG meets before regular meeting from 9:05 to 9:45

MEMBERS HELPLINE

Any member with a specific expertise can volunteer to be on the Members Helpline.

Beginner Helpline . . . . Billy Douglas

Beginner hardware problems .Dick Fergus

QuickBooks, Turbo Tax, IBM Lotus, MS Excel, Corel's Quattro Pro . . . Terry Moye

Hardware problems, Win 9x, 2K, XP & Linux . . . . John Spizzirri

Great Midwest Computer Show ©
2005 dates
April 24, 2005 at COD
May 22, 2005 at COD
June 26, 2005 at COD
July 31, 2005 at COD
August 28, 2005 at COD
September 25, 2005 at COD
October 30, 2005 at COD
November 20, 2005 at COD
December 18, 2005 at COD

NEW Money Saving Offer for CD of the Month
Pre Order + Prepay = SAVE $$

The club will offer the CD of the Month on a pre order, prepaid basis. The charge will be $50.00 a year for 10 months. This is $20 annual savings over buying them for $7 each month. Lynn Johnson, the treasurer, will keep track of anyone placing a 10-month order.

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in that book, or (my favorite!) just leave it in a public place for someone else to find.

When you find a released book, visit the website and enter the ID number of the book. You can do this anonymously if you wish. You'll have an opportunity to make your own journal entry, in which you can describe where you found it and even review the book yourself. If you log the book, the releaser will know when and where the book was found and you'll both be able to track future finds as well.

More than 300,000 bookcrossers worldwide have registered almost two million books! Bookcrossers live in 150 different countries. There are almost 500 bookcrossers in the Baton Rouge area, so you just might happen upon one of our releases in a neighborhood near you.

At the BookCrossing.com website, you can click a link to "go hunting" for books released in your area within the last 30 days which have not yet been reported found. As of this writing, there are 39 books in Baton Rouge waiting to be found.!

There is also an online community at the website, with discussion forums ranging from general chit-chat to serious talk about books.

Do you really think you'll ever reread your collection of paperback James Lee Burke mysteries? Or all those diet books you've collected? What are you hoarding them for? Why not make someone else's day? If you love your books, set them free!

Sherry Zorzi is a Director of Cajun Clickers Computer Club and host of "The Cajun Clickers Computer Show" heard every Saturday morning at 9 a.m. on WJBO Radio.

Addendum to Lamp Post 60
Computerworld Magazine (http://www.computerworld.com/) ran an article in the March 6th edition called the Future of IT. On the cover, Thornton May of the University of Florida is quoted saying "Microsoft is running out of rich, dumb customers".

Cyber Security in 2005?
by Pim Borman
SW Indiana PC Users Group, Inc.
http://www.swipcug.apcug.org

As more and more computer users gain fast, always-on, broadband access to the Internet via cable or ADSL telephone lines, computer security becomes a critical issue. This was convincingly illustrated in an article in USA TODAY (11-30-2004, thanks to Duane Morrow). The paper teamed up with Avantgarde, a tech marketing and design firm, to see what kind of attacks were attracted by variously equipped computers hooked up to a broadband DSL connection. Relatively unprotected computers, wide open to the Internet, underwent attacks at a sustained rate of 340 per hour, or once every 10 seconds on average. These computers consisted of a Dell Windows XP with Service Pack 1, and an Apple Mac X. Most of the attacks were no more than "door knob rattlers" and did not result in actual penetration. Nevertheless, out of 139 thousand attacks in two weeks nine managed to take over the Windows XP computer and started to tie it into a larger network of hijacked systems. Another computer, equipped with Windows Small Business Server, underwent 25 thousand attacks in two weeks, 61 per hour on average, of which one managed to take over the system. The Apple computer was not compromised, probably because it uses an operating system not targeted by most intruders. Computers protected by an active firewall underwent far fewer attacks, from 2 - 4 per hour, because firewalls hide the presence of a computer on the Internet from casual passers-by. These computers used Windows XP with Service Pack 2, Windows XP with the ZoneAlarm firewall, and a Microtel Linspire (Linux-based) computer with a basic firewall in the operating system.

Note that these "honey pot" systems were totally passive. Attacks did not depend on users' actions, such as visiting infected Web sites or downloading email attachments that might cause infiltration by worms and viruses. It is also clear that fairly simple protection measures, such as a firewall, thwarted the vast majority of malicious attackers.

The foremost obstacle to achieving a safer Internet is the ignorance and/or indifference of too many computer users, especially those with a broadband connection; but notice that with an attack rate of once every 10 seconds even Internet browsers using a limited telephone connection can be vulnerable!

Here are the important safety measures once more:
* A firewall, stand-alone as in ZoneAlarm, or part of a package as in ZoneAlarm Plus, Windows XP SP2, or Norton Internet Security (combined with anti-virus and more). Optimally also a hardware router, even if you don't need one for a home network, to add additional firewall protection.
* An anti-virus program, if not already included in the firewall software. Norton is good, or you can use a free program such as AVG from http://www.grisoft.com . It is essential to update the virus data files weekly or more often.
* Regular updates of your operating system and Office programs with newly issued patches from the providers (e.g. Microsoft).
* A spyware blocking/removal program such as AdAware (free) or AdAware Plus (extra features), or the excellent, free Spybot Search and Destroy.
* Disconnect from the Internet when not needed, or turn the computer off altogether when not in use for a longer period (use Hibernate with Windows XP for faster start-up).
* Use common sense! Don't trust e-mail attachments unless you expect them. If you have any doubt whatsoever, ask the sender to confirm that it is OK. Even then, be skeptical. Delete obvious chain mail unread.

Knoppix to the Rescue!
Sooner or later something is likely to go wrong with your computer. A nasty virus or spy program may take over and lock you out, or Windows starts acting weird and refuses to be of service any longer. Maybe the Knoppix rescue disk can help you to recover your precious data files, at least, and maybe to remove a virus or restore Windows to good health.

Knoppix is the brainchild of Klaus Knopper, a guy who makes it his business to go around

fixing peoples' computers. In doing so he uses a variety of software tools that he carries around on CDs and floppies for use on the affected systems. He also carries a boot CD to start computers that won't start up because of a nasty virus or other problems. Knopper eventually added his repair tools to this boot CD, running Linux. The CD includes programs to detect peripherals, including networks, USB ports, Internet connections, sound and graphics cards, as well as Open Source programs such as OpenOffice and The Gimp to make it possible to access and copy text and graphics data on the infected computer. In the spirit of Open Source programming, he invited others to join in the effort. The resulting CD goes way beyond being a technician's repair tool; with the addition of numerous utilities, games, emulators, sound and graphics programs, the current CD, called Knoppix, is a full-fledged Linux distribution for non-Linux geeks, comparable to Linspire and Xandros. The difference is that the whole program can run from the CD without using the computer drives.

[Editor note: It would take 27 hours to download with a 56k modem. As a club member you can contact John Spizzirri if you think this would be a tool that you would want.]

Some 1700 MB of programming is contained in compressed form on a single 700 MB CD. The latest version of the program can be downloaded for free or you can order a CD from a variety of vendors for $5.00 and S/H. Booting the program takes only a few minutes; as many of the essential features of the program as possible are copied to RAM. As a result, the programs run surprisingly fast. The Linux-based KDE windows program is a clone of MS Windows and easy to use by non-Linux users.

Next time your computer suddenly goes on the blink, you might be able to continue some work and copy your data to a safe location simply by booting from the Knoppix CD-ROM. I have recently received a review copy of the book "Knoppix Hacks" by Kyle Rankin from its publisher (O'Reilly, ISBN 0-596-00787-6, $29.95, user group member discount available) and I hope soon to discuss more details of this interesting program.

Pim Borman is Web Site Editor and APCUG representative of the SW Indiana PC Users Group, Inc. (SWIPCUG). The above article appeared in the January 2005 issue of the P-See Urgent, SWIPCUG newsletter. Permission is granted to other non-profit computer user groups to use this article in their publications with credit to the author and the SW Indiana PC Users Group.

Monthly Meeting of the CAEUG
February 2005

The February meeting of the Computers Are Easy Users Group was called to order at 1000AM by President John Spizzrri.

There were 31 members in attendance, and one guest present.

The January meeting minutes were approved as printed in the February ARI.

Treasurer's Report:
December 2004 Income: $153.50 Expenses: $293.17
January 2005 Income: 33.00 Expenses: 10.00
Checking Acct. Balance: $3443.30

Old Business:
President Spizzirri advised that the COD Computer show was tomorrow February 27th. John asked for volunteers to work the table. Several members raised their hands to volunteer.

President Spizzrri asked for articles for the ARI. Articles should be forwarded to Kathy Groce at kgroce@iwon.com .

A reminder about the CD of the month. There are two parts; the basic CD is available for $5.00 dollars. This CD is also given to new members when they join the club. The monthly CD costs $7.00 dollars or $50.00 per year on a subscription basis. The programs change each month.

President Spizzirri announced that the picnic permit has been secured. The picnic will be on the third Saturday in June, which is June 18, 2005.

New Business:
President Spizzirri asked for volunteers to serve on the nominating committee. Frank Braman and Dean Holste volunteered to serve.

President Spizzirri then asked for Picnic Committee volunteers. Mike Goldberg and Roger Kinzie volunteered

to serve. Mike then circulated a sign up sheet to determine the number of members attending and what kind of food dish they are bringing to the picnic.

President Spizzirri advised that he will be forwarding a change in the club by-laws. The change would encompass how the executive board is elected. Briefly, a board of directors of approximately 7-8 members would be elected by the membership. The directors will then elect amongst themselves the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. These offices will have staggered end dates in which part of the board of directors will be elected each year. All of the directors will have duties and responsibilities. This change would begin next year if it is passed by the membership.

Member's Forum:
A question was asked relating to hard drive problems and 40 wire ATA cables vs. 80 wire ATA cables. Are CD-ROMs and floppy drives interchangeable from one computer to another? Example: An older computer has a CD-ROM or floppy disk drive. Can these be placed in other, newer computers? They are, but if the drives are the slower 2x, 4x or 12x type drives, they would not be worth keeping as they are very slow compared to today's speeds. The minimum speed recommended would be 30x. A question was asked about USB hard drive enclosures. There are two types, ones with a fan and ones without. Which is better? If your hard drive is 80GB or more it is recommended that the enclosure have an exhaust fan to help dissipate the heat buildup inside.
We then broke for the traditional coffee and donuts.
Program:
President Spizzirri presented a program on web based e-mail, including looking out for phishing and spoofing. A good portion of the discussion centered on e-mail attachments, viruses, and dealing with junk e-mail. The meeting concluded at 12:15pm.
Respectfully Submitted,
Dean Holste

PRENTICE HALL OFFERS
APCUG MEMBER GROUPS
30% DISCOUNT ON
GARAGE SERIES BOOKS

Prentice Hall has developed a landing page for APCUG group members to purchase their GARAGE SERIES books. UG members will find a 30% discount when they click on http://www.phptr.com/apcug

Prentice Hall has been very generous in sending out FREE books several times to the first 100 User Groups that have responded. They have sent out well over 700 books. Please let your members know about their discount offer. The link will disappear on April 15.

Abort, Retry, Ignore..

Sounding the alarm over spyware threats and antispyware cooperation
by Linda Gonse, Editor
Orange County IBM PC Users' Group
http://www.orcopug.org

When I first learned about spyware makers iSearch and iDownload threatening anti-spyware advocates and anti-spyware makers in February to cease and desist listing them as candidates for removal or face legal action, I was incensed.
http://www.windowssecrets.com/050224/
Several sites have received the letters and now face steep legal fees in fighting this brazen and outrageous threat to consumer rights to share information and protect ourselves from being victimized by spyware.
http://www.edbott.com/weblog/archives/000491.html
What these spyware makers are saying is that their products are not spyware, although available studies and articles all show that the products are indeed spyware.
http://www.dslreports.com/shownews/60608
But, wait. It gets stranger. Another spyware company, WhenU, actually struck a deal with Aluria to be delisted as spyware. Aluria develops anti-spyware technology used by AOL and several other ISP's affecting millions of users. Aluria actually agreed to remove WhenU from the definitions it uses for Spyware Eliminator. WhenU products are now declared "Spyware SAFE" and are left intact on the systems of users, although WhenU's products did not change! What's more, Ad-aware and Pest Patrol have also stopped listing WhenU's spyware.
http://www.dslreports.com/shownews/58023 ,
http://tinyurl.com/6b96j
Why is this happening? And, what effect will it have on users?
Apparently, spyware vendors, in anticipation of looming anti-spyware laws, are attempting a public image makeover that includes buying legitimacy from anti-spyware developers.
http://tinyurl.com/4rj9o The spyware makers are being driven by money. And, antispyware makers who cooperate with them do so for the money, as well.
If we cannot learn who makes spyware from advocacy sites, and we cannot rely on antispyware makers to list them for removal, we computer users are the ultimate targets/victims for the sleazy programs that install and run on our computers without our knowledge and approval, that affect the performance of our computers and programs, and invade our homes and our privacy, without fear of litigation or removal.
Isn't this where computer users and user groups must band together and pressure antispyware companies to keep these perpetrators in their databases? Shouldn't we lend our support to antispyware vendors and tell them not to cave into these demands or we won't buy or use their products? Isn't this a good time to write to your legislator? NOW! Before you lose the right to protest and deny these companies access to your computer and private information.

Names and addresses of your elected state and federal officials are at
http://www.congress.org/congressorg/home/ . Find contacts at antispyware companies by clicking on links at https://netfiles.uiuc.edu/ehowes/www/soft6.htm .

The Lamp Post   Number 60
by John Spizzirri
March 10, 2005

You may have heard that, by law, you are eligible for a free credit report once per year. Its true. Illinois residents became eligible on March 1st. The official Web site is http://www.annualcreditreport.com . Do not click on any Web link that is sent to you in an e-mail. The Federal Trade Commission
 (FTC http://www.ftc.gov) does not send unsolicited e-mail. If you search for credit report or free credit report, most of the sites retrieved are credit report services that you must pay for. The most popular of these is Free Credit Report (http://www.freecreditreport.com/) or Consumer Info (http://www.consumerinfo.com/). These companies will give you one free credit report but want an annual or monthly fee to continue with their service. If you want to see your credit report more than once per year (and you should), you may wish to deal with these services.

Unsolicited e-mail was part of last month's impromptu presentation. Everyone in the club should know what we discussed. When an unsolicited e-mail comes to your in box claiming it is from the government, your bank, or Microsoft, it is spam. Erase it. Do NOT click on ANY links contained in the e-mail. The government (state or federal), your bank, or Microsoft do NOT send any unsolicited e-mail to anyone. These unsolicited e-mails are trying to find out if your e-mail address is valid so that they can send additional e-mail to you. They may also be phishing. That is trying to get you to reveal personal information so they can steal your identity. Phishing has become a big business. Organized gangs in Russia and Brazil make a living stealing from Americans. An article in EWeek magazine describes the problem (http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,1759,1772686,00.asp). Do NOT help them. Erase unsolicited e-mail. If the deal they offer sounds too good to be true, it is. Don't take the bait.

ChoicePoint Inc. (http://www.choicepoint.com/) is one of many legal collectors of personal information. Last October their data base was cracked. Did some crafty cracker going in through an unsecured Internet connection do it? No. Some criminals posed as a legitimate business and bought the information from ChoicePoint. Note that this same thing happened in 2002. The company sent notices to 35,000 California residents that their personal information (including Social Security Numbers and credit reports) were compromised. California is the only state that requires that notification to prevent fraud. The news media picked up that story and the company was compelled, for public relations purposes, to send an additional 145,000 notices to people in the other 49 states. The FTC is investigating the company for "consumer information security". The company reported that it would no longer sell "information that contained Social Security numbers, driver's license numbers and other sensitive consumer data" with some "exceptions". Perhaps they should have thought of this the first time it happened in 2002. Thus far 750 people have been defrauded. A Nigerian has been convicted in connection with this case and sentenced to sixteen months in prison. The story is at http://www.securitypipeline.com/showArticle.jhtml?articleId=60407434 .

If you received a notice from ChoicePoint through snail mail, you should take action to prevent identity theft. ChoicePoint did not and will not send you anything in e-mail. Identity theft affected almost 10 million people last year at an estimated cost to those people of 5 billion dollars. I think these figures are not correct. Either the number of people affected is too high or the dollar lose is too low. Two sites that can help you prevent identity theft or help you take the correct actions after your identity is stolen are http://www.identitytheft.org/ and http://www.identityrestore.com/ . Both sites sell books that can help you if your identity is stolen. Identitytheft.org is owned by Mari J. Frank

(http://www.marifrank.com/), an attorney whose identity was stolen. She has written a number of books about her experience and what to do about identity theft. In a nutshell, her advice is check your credit report at least twice per year, examine your credit card statements for transactions you did not make, do not pay for transactions you did not make, do not cancel any credit cards, call all three credit reporting agencies if you spot identity theft, and read her books. Identityrestore.com has additional reading with reprints of government documents.

A database belonging to Seisint, a Lexis Nexis subsidiary (http://www.lexisnexis.com/), was cracked. 32,000 names with Social Security Numbers and drivers license information were accessed. The story is at http://apnews1.iwon.com/article/20050309/D88NKAP02.html and http://www.epic.org/alert/EPIC_Alert_12.05.html .

A Security Pipeline article points up another violation of your privacy in the name of the war on terror at http://www.securitypipeline.com/showArticle.jhtml?articleId=60407440 . The Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 provides for a consolidation of intelligence agencies and the information they collect. That intelligence includes money wire transfers. Maybe you have never wired money, but if you do your name will be associated with terrorists. Depending on circumstances (innocent or otherwise), you may be investigated.

You may think I am becoming an alarmist. That may well be, but I know that regardless of employment, social status, or security checks people are people. There will always be that bad apple that will yeild to temptation and sell your data or steal your identity. The EWeek article about phishing gangs (above) talks about dishonest bank employees. The more databases your data appears in, the more opportunities there are for abuse. The question you must ask yourself is will someone steal my information or more likely WHEN will someone steal my information. Another real, yet less likely, outcome may be your being imprisoned as a terrorist or terrorist supporter. The U. S. Constitution provides for release from jail called Habeas Corpus at http://www.usconstitution.net/const.html#A1Sec9 . Jose Padilla has been denied that right because we are at "war". If it can happen to him, it can happen to you. By the way, Habeas Corpus is the only right that is specified in the body of the Constitution. Habeas Corpus means a person cannot be jailed without charge.

After years of virtually no activity, Netscape has released a new beta of their browser known as version 8. It is on the CD of the month. It is 11MB to download. You can find it at http://browser.netscape.com/nsb/ . The reviews of the beta version are coming in. They like the feature set, but note that there are still alot of bugs that need fixing. See the Security Pipeline article at http://www.securitypipeline.com/60405296 . One item that is missing on v8 is the e-mail client. I liked that feature when I was using Netscape, but now that I use other e-mail clients I doubt it will make a difference. Once the release version is out, I will try it. Until then I will continue to use Firefox. Netscape is owned by AOL (http://www.aol.com). When AOL accepted Internet Expolorer (IE) as its default browser, I thought that Netscape would be dropped as a product. This upgrade may be due to the security problems in IE and that IE will be upgraded sometime this year to version 7 to "solve" the security problems.

With spring just around the corner I thought I would include some gardening sites as I did a few years ago. For perennial plants that grow well in Illinois try http://www.perennialweb.com/ or http://www.perennialplant.org/gg/illinois.htm . Summer flower choices and tips can be found at http://www.backyardgardener.com/pren/ . Beginning gardeners should try http://www.lewisgardens.com/ .

The Register reported that the British government is investigating its taxing policy on PCs. The story

at http://go.theregister.com/news/2005/03/03/pc_tax/ explains the current tax structure where televisions are taxed. The Department of Culture will examine the possibility of taxing PCs because broadband connections will deliver television content within a decade thus making televisions obsolete. Radios and televisions are taxed in England like cars are taxed here.

Novell (http://www.novell.com/) the owner of Suse Linux will be releasing the consumer version 9.3 next month. The new version is based on the 2.6 kernel It comes with OpenOffice 2.0, Firefox browser, F-spot photo organizer, Gimp 2.2, cd/dvd burners, spam blocker, KDE 3.4, Gnome 2.1 and a virus scanner. Easier network setup, better wifi and PDA/phone sync software will make this a good alternative to Windows. Before deciding on getting it, you should check the Suse site at http://www.novell.com/linux/suse/index.html to examine the HCL (Hardware Compatability List) to see if your hardware will work with this version. The primary sticking points in the hardware are modems and graphics cards. The preview of features is at http://www.novell.com/products/linuxprofessional/preview/ .

Ed Burke is trying to put Chicago in the wifi ISP business. The state legislature is trying to ban city funded wifi. It will be "free" to residents and low cost to tourists (I'll believe that when I see it). Of course, it will put various ISP's out of business in the city. Philadelphia tried this last year but the ISP's and telephone companies got the Pennsylvania legislature to forbid it. Houston, Texas tried to do the same thing but the Texas legislature stopped it. The Register ran the Chicago story at http://go.theregister.com/news/2005/03/10/chicago_wifi_illinois/ while the Houston story is at http://www.chron.com/cs/CDA/ssistory.mpl/editorial/3071382 . If Chicago or any other city wants wifi for its citizens, the government should get out of the way of entrepreneurs who will provide the service at a reasonable price. The entrepreneurs will not create a gaggle of government patronage jobs. The entrepreneurs will pay (collect) taxes. If the city is stopped by the legislature, do not look for city-wide wifi any time soon. The Democratic machine seems intent on getting its own way whether it is casino gambling or the convention center.

Governor Doyle of Wisconsin wants to flaunt the U. S. Congress. He is proposing a digital tax on video, music, and software downloads from the Internet. Congress passed a law prohibiting taxes on the Internet that is still in effect. Could it be that he can't read or is he just plain stupid? The story is reported at Computer Business Review Online at http://www.cbronline.com/article_news.asp?guid=EFFE4261-2CF5-42F8-9BF0-2A4FC68D9DEF .

Michael Goldberg sent this one to me. It explains last month's Lamp Post article about security of Microsoft's (MS http://www.microsoft.com/) Windows products a little bit clearer. MS requires an upgrade to XP SP2 in order to use their "free" anti-virus and anti-spyware products. If you use an older Windows version, you must use a third party anti-virus and anti-spyware software. Some of you pay for this third party software. Will those companies want to support that software as more and more of their customers shift to XP? See the story at http://www.pbs.org/cringely/pulpit/pulpit20050224.html .

As I reported last month, Firefox has a spoofing flaw (bug). It affects Mozilla 1.7.5 and Firefox 1.0. The bug was fixed about ten days after it was discovered. You can download the corrected programs at http://www.mozilla.org/ or pick up the CD of the month.

OpenOffice (http://www.openoffice.org/) has introduced the version 2 beta of their office suite software. It will be on the CD of the month. The standard release will be out in a month or two. It, too, will be on the CD of the month.

Between you, me and The Lamp Post that's all for this month.

CAEUG
P. O. Box 2727
Glen Ellyn, IL 60138

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Meeting place and date information:

The next REGULAR meeting will be held at the
Glenside Public Library in Glendale Heights
starting 9:45am on
Saturday March 26

The library is located. Please park at the West side of the lot, away from the building. Thank you. The meeting(s) are not library sponsored and all inquiries should be directed to John Spizzirri. Individuals with disabilities who plan to attend this program and who require certain accommodations in order to observe and/or participate in the program are requested to contact CAEUG president,John Spizzirri, at least five (5) days prior to the program, so that reasonable accommodation can be made for them.

CONFIRMED Meeting dates for 2005 at Glenside Public Library:
April 23, May 28, June 18 CAEUG Picnic (THIRD Saturday of June)

NEW CD OF THE MONTH FORMAT: Is now available in two (2) flavors. The Basic CD will be packed with the standard items, while the CD of the Month will have NEW and updated items. Both are available at the meeting.

Presenter to be announced

Hope to see you there.