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# Abort, Retry, Ignore...

FOUNDED 1984
The Official Newsletter of THE
COMPUTERS ARE EASY USER GROUP

September 2007 Suggested Retail Price $1.95 Volume XXIV Issue 9

**Calendar of Events**

**!!! IMPORTANT !!!**

*** * * NOTE * * ***
**Confirmed**
**2007 meeting dates will be on**

**September 22**

**November 3**

**Nov/Dec on Dec 1**
* * * *

**MEETING PLACE will be the Glenside Public Library**
* * * *
**SEE YOU THERE!!**
* * * *

**COD Linuxfest http:// www.codlug.info/**

## The program for the September meeting will be our own member, John Spizzirri he will demonstrate the differences between U3 and Portable Apps on memory sticks

### More RAM? You Bet!
by Larry Bothe, 9/9/07

Have you ever considered buying more Random Access Memory (RAM) for your computer but wondered what the effect would be? Would it become a lot faster, or just a little bit, if at all? Bottom line: Would it be worth the money? I just went through this so let me try to answer those questions in layman's terms (the only ones I'm qualified to use!).

First, I want to provide a little background information so you will understand where I'm coming from. Even though I use a computer all the time my needs are pretty basic. I do e-mail, research information and products on the Internet, word processing (like this article), maintain databases of information (e.g. local pilots' association membership records) and other small tasks. It's also important to note what I don't do; things like play shoot-'em-up games or CAD (computer assisted design) work. Those latter activities require much more powerful computers.

OK, so I do a lot of computing but don't need a very high "horsepower" machine. That means when I buy a new computer I don't go for the latest and greatest, biggest or fastest. Any of those "...est" words mean spending lot of money, which for my modest needs is not necessary. My workhorse desktop machine, which I have had for almost 2 years, is an

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# CD Life Span

by John Spizzirri

Inspired by Byrd Parmelee and Gene Kirby

CD life span was a subject at last month's meeting. I have researched the issue and come up with the following data.

All the web sites repeat that CD life is seriously shortened by high and low temperature extremes, high humidity, dirt and contamination, and handling and scratches, and ultra violet light. Storing your CDs in a car is the best way to ensure they have a short life span. Keeping them away from the sun and in an environment that is comfortable for humans will maximize the life of your CDs and DVDs. Careful handling and the use of sleeves or star cases will also lengthen the useful life of CDs and DVDs.

**http://www.practicalpc.co.uk/computing/storage/cdrlifespan.htm**
This web site says that 75 years is the number that has been used by manufacturers or CDs. The site states that dyes used in the manufacture of CD/DVDs can have an effect on their lifespan. Cheaper dyes equal shorter lifespan. The implication is that cheap, no name bulk CD/DVDs use cheaper materials thus having a shorter lifespan. The site lists Hi-Space CDs at **http://www.hispace.com/** and Imation CDs at **http://www.imation.com/** as sources of high quality CDs. The Hi-Space web site appears to be dead. The Imation site has a lot of information about CDs and CD drives.

**http://computerworld.com/hardwaretopics/storage/story/0,10801,107607,00.html**
This site is an article by ComputerWorld Magazine. The article suggests that magnetic tape with a lifespan of 30 to 100 years is preferable to other optical (CD/DVDs) or magnetic (hard drives) media.

**http://www.ancestry.com/learn/library/article.aspx?article=2131**
Ancestry.com is a genealogy site. This site talks about the use of CDs in genealogy. It explains the items found in the previous sites plus states that fingerprints may damage CDs.

**http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CD-R**
The Wikipedia site is very extensive. It covers all the material of the previous sites plus states, "Real-life (not accelerated aging) tests have revealed that some CD-Rs degrade quickly even if stored optimally." It also states that the use of gold as opposed to dyes greatly extends life but costs considerably more money. Further, it states that permanent markers used to label CDs release chemicals that cause media degradation. It has detailed instruction on cleaning CD/DVDs.

**http://www.rense.com/general52/themythofthe100year.htm**
This site is an editorial by Jeff Rense. The title says it all. The site quotes many sources including **http://www.burnworld.com/cdr/primer/whatis.htm** which has technical information for those so inclined.

**http://www.technologyreview.com/Blogs/wtr_16140,290,p1.html**
This web site states flatly that the lifespan of burned CDs is 2 to 5 years.

**http://www.informationweek.com/story/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=15800263&pgno=1**
This is an article in Information Week by Fred Langa of Langalist fame ( **http://www.langa.com/** ). Langa goes into all the various degradations of CDs including fungal assault.

**http://www.cdfreaks.com/news/CD-Recordable-discs-unreadable-in-less-than-two-years.html**
This site reports on a test done in Europe using accelerated aging techniques.

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**http://www.osta.org/technology/cdqa3.htm**
This site covers the hardware as opposed to the media.

Gene Kirby sent an e-mail about 300 year CD-R Archival disks from Delkin Devices ( **http://www.delkin.com/products/archivalgold/index.html** ). According to Gene, these are available at JP camera shop in Pickwick Place, in Glen Ellyn (25 for $42.35). The suggested retail price is over $2 per disk. It is my understanding that these gold disks are used for medical and other critical record keeping. A couple of questions come to mind when a company starts talking about 100 year plus lifespan claims. Will the company be in business in 100 years? 200? 300? What will computing look like in 100 years? It has only been 12 years since Windows 95 came out. It ran acceptably on a 486 CPU, 32 MB RAM, 100 MB hard disk, and VGA resolution 640x480. It installed from floppy disks. If Moore's law ( **http://www.intel.com/technology/mooreslaw/index.htm** ) holds, there will be 75 generations of CPUs in the next 100 years. In the last 12 years there have been 8 generations of CPUs with the attendant increases in storage, memory, and speed. I think we should look to the value of the data we want to save to determine the media it should be saved on and how often that media should be replaced. I want to thank Byrd Parmelee and Gene Kirby for inspiring this article.

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## September 2007
## CD of the Month

**AdAware2007** - Latest version of the anti spy ware program
**ALShow** - Plays any video clip
**ARI** - September Newsletter
**BartPE** - Create a bootable emergency disk
**BitMeter** - A bandwidth meter that tracks your downloads and uploads
**Burn4Free** - A free CD / DVD burning program
**DedaulusSystemCleaner** - Program cleans temp files, Internet files, duplicate files, and more
**EditPad** - A text editor and Notepad replacement
**Evolution** - An Outlook replacement
**FastStoneCapture** - A screen capture program with extras
**FireFox 2006** - Latest update to this browser
**GlaryUtilities** - Powerful and easy-to-use system tools and utilities
**Juice** - Podcast receiver, allowing users to capture and listen to podcasts anytime, anywhere
**MeeTimer** - Program tells you how much time you spend at various Web sites
**OldTimeRadio** - Old radio shows
**PeaZip** - A portable file archiver
**Pirates** - A massive multiplayer online role-playing game (not for children)
**SeaMonkey** - Browser, e-mail, and WYSIWYG HTML editor combination program
**SharpKeys** - Assign values to your keyboard keys to suit yourself
**StrokeIt** - Issue commands and execute recorded actions using only the mouse
**TaskSwitchXP** - Program provides a thumbnail preview of the program you're switching to
**TestDisk** - A free data recovery software
**TubeMe** - Save Youtube videos to your HD for later viewing
**WindowsCare** - A comprehensive PC care utility
**WinMX** - A file-sharing program lets you trade any kind of files
**WiseRegistryCleaner** - Safest Registry cleaning tool

# Hard Drives and Partitions

by Gene Barlow
User Group Relations
www.ugr.com
gene(at)ugr.com

Lots has happened in hard drives in the past 8-10 years that I have been giving presentations on partitioning and backing them up. Ten years ago, the largest hard drives were only a few hundred MB. We had not yet seen the 300GB hard drives that are common today. Also, the price of hard drives was much higher then than it is today. So, conserving hard drive space was a bigger issue then.

Today, most of us have more hard drive space that we know what to do with and we see new 250GB drives selling for under $50. Things have really changed.

In light of this new environment of cheap and plentiful hard drive space, I no longer push keeping FAT32 partitions down under 16GB in order not to waste more than 10% of the drive space. Most users are now using NTFS which also has cluster problems, but these are not nearly as big as the FAT and FAT32 cluster problems.

The cluster problem was that each file needed to be stored on an even number of clusters. So, the wasted space was equal to half the size of a cluster times the number of files stored. The worst case, was when you had lots of little files stored in large partitions with large cluster sizes. So, a 256kb Shortcut in Windows would take up 32MB of space when stored on the hard drive. Hence the large wasted space. But a few very large files stored in one large partition would not waste much space as lots of little files stored in that same partition. Backup image files are about the biggest files you will find in Windows. Some of these are 30-40GB each. So, you may only have a few dozen image files stored on your external hard drive before you fill it up. So, even a large cluster space with very few large image files will waste very little hard drive space. Hence, even if we were still worried about wasted space on hard drives, backup image files would be an exception and having large partitions would be much easier to manage than many partitions that may waste more space because you could not fit large files in a partially full partition. Hence the recommendation to just use folders to store image files on one very large partition. Most users do not have a partitioning utility to adjust the size of the partitions as the drive gets full of large image files. Folders work better in this case and do not require a partitioning utility.

Another change in my recommendations over what they were 10 years ago is that I now no longer recommend a separate Application partition from the Operating System partition and the Data partition. Today, I recommend that you store your application programs in the same partition as your operating system. I do this for several reasons. First, applications want to install in the operating system partition by default. You have to direct them to a separate application partition if you want to keep them separate. This makes installing applications slightly more complicated than letting them install where they want to install naturally.

Hard drive space and wasted space is no longer a big issue, so a larger c: drive is not a problem. In running multiple operating systems, you could share the same applications between two operating systems if you did it correctly. That required a separate APPS partition and then you would install the same application twice into that partition. Once from one operating system and the other time from the other operating system. You had to do this to keep the registry entries on both operating systems correct. Keeping two operating systems in synch with one application partition was a challenge for even the more advanced user, so today, I recommend keeping the

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## LampPost 88
## September 16, 2007
## by John Spizzirri

Computer Business Review On Line reported that SCO, formerly the Santa Cruz Operation also formerly Caldera, (SCO **http://www.sco.com/** ) lost more decisions in its case against Novell ( **http://www.novell.com/** ). SCO cannot have a jury trial, Novell has the right to end SCO's claims against IBM ( **http://www.ibm.com/** ), and SCO cannot have an immediate appeal (they will be able to appeal in two to three months). The trial later this month will determine if Novell is entitled to monies collected by SCO. Novell will not get much if they win. SCO is near bankruptcy.

Steve Fossett ( **http://www.stevefossett.com/** ), as of this writing, is still missing ten days after taking off. Fossett took off from the Flying M Ranch ( **http://www.barronhiltoncup.org/flying-m.html** ), owned by Barron Hilton, hotel owner, son of Conrad Hilton, and grandfather of Paris Hilton. The Lyon County ( **http://www.lyon-county.org/** ) Sheriff's Department spokesperson was positive that the plane will be found soon. Others in the search are not nearly that positive. The plane was a Bellanca Citabria Super Decathlon ( **http://www.aviabellancainc.com/** ) which is a two-place, tandem seating, high wing, tail dragging landing gear, aerobatic, single engine aircraft. Google Earth ( **http://earth.google.com/** ) has released new satellite photos for search purposes at the urging of Richard Branson ( **http://www.virgin.com/AboutVirgin/RichardBranson/WhosRichardBranson.aspx** ), Fossett's friend. Most news outlets reported that rescue efforts were hampered because Fossett did not file a flight plan with the FAA ( **http://www.faa.gov/** ). I was always under the assumption that a flight plan required a destination airport that was different from the departure airport. I was wrong. I checked with flight service ( **https://pilotweb.nas.faa.gov/distribution/atcscc.html** ) at 800-992-7433. Flight service is where pilots file flight plans and get pertinent flight information. Lockheed Martin Corporation ( **http://www.lockheedmartin.com/** ) operates flight service for the FAA. The 'flight briefer' I talked to told me that it is not uncommon that the departure and destination airports are the same. The flight plan should indicate a route or check points where the pilot intends to go. The reason the failure to file a flight plan hampered rescue efforts is that Fossett did not indicate what time he would be overdue at the Flying M Ranch. That delayed the beginning of search and rescue operations by the Civil Air Patrol ( **http://www.nvwg.cap.gov/** ). Flight plans are only required when flying under instrument flight rules (IFR). They are optional under visual flight rules (VFR **http://www.wikihow.com/File-an-FAA-Flight-Plan** ). Fossett was flying VFR.

The Register is reporting that Tokelau, a small island nation that is currently a colony of New Zealand, just got the top level domain of .tk. Tokelau has one claim to fame, it has the lowest gross domestic product (GDP) in the world. Someone in the government has an idea that just might make .tk as valuable as .tv (Tuvalu). Tokelau is giving away domains provided that they retain technical ownership and can place a Yahoo! advertisement in a bar at the top of each page. They also have new competition for tinyURL ( **http://tinyurl.com/** ). TinyURL is a site that lets anyone make a long URL short. The rival site is **http://www.dot.tk/** . The story is at **http://www.theregister.co.uk/2007/09/13/tokelau_domain_launch/** .

Bastille Linux ( **http://bastille-linux.sourceforge.net/** ) some how managed to lose its domain of **http://www.bastille-linux.org/** . It is unknown how this happened. It is a bit disconcerting in that Bastille is a product that is purported to make Linux more secure.

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If you have friends in the United Kingdom (UK), you may want to notify them about the customer service offered by PC World, Computer Superstore ( **http://www.pcworld.co.uk/** ). PC World, Computer Superstore is not related to PC World Magazine ( **http://www.pcworld.com/** ). A person named Tikka bought a laptop computer from PC World. After installing Linux the hinge that between the screen and the keyboard broke. PC World determined that loading Linux voided the warranty and refused to fix the hinge. Tikka's story is at
**http://www.theregister.co.uk/2007/09/13/pc_world_linux/** and **http://www.dreamstate.eu/** .

The Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA **http://www.riaa.org/** ) is being criticized by the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF **http://www.eff.org/** ) for the lawsuits brought against music file sharers AKA pirates. In a press release at
**http://www.eff.org/news/archives/2007_08.php#005414** the EFF references a number of reports it has produced showing that the law suits do not compensate artists but only alienate music fans and make trial lawyers rich. A question that occurs to me is, does the RIAA really want the outcome that is becoming apparent, even to a person not involved with the controversy? The answer must be yes. The RIAA could stop this tactic at any time it chooses. Now that we know the answer a new question arises, who pays the artists? It has become plain that the RIAA pays artists as little as possible, if you have followed this saga in the Lamp Post over the last 4 years. The RIAA represents recording companies. The RIAA members 'discover' musical talent and invest money to promote and produce the recordings of those artists. The problem the RIAA faces is new media and new technology. Artists can cheaply produce there own media and promote themselves locally and on the Internet. The RIAA has had a monopoly until now. Instead of taking advantage of this situation, the RIAA fights its own fans while telling the represented artists how bad the fans are. The RIAA is walking a tight rope. New artists are using the new technology to side step the RIAA machinery and make a living without kissing up to the 'money men'. New rock and roll groups like My Chemical Romance (MCR **http://www.mychemicalromance.com/** ) have made their mark. They now get radio air time, but much more importantly they get YouTube
( **http://www.youtube.com/** ) time. The MCR video 'went viral'. Went viral means that people all over the world passed the URL for the MCR YouTube video to each other via e-mail. Millions of people watched the video. MCR has two of the four most watched videos on YouTube. MCR has 65 million views per the I Caught web story
( **http://abcnews.go.com/icaught/story?id=3572620&page=1** ). The story is at
**http://www.technewsworld.com/story/Wrf7rJS6AZTBqu/Back-to-School-for-Students-Back-to-War-for-RIAA.xhtml** .

Another reason NOT to buy Microsoft (MS **http://www.microsoft.com/** ) Windows Vista was confirmed late last August. A 19 hour problem with MS servers caused customers who had purchased Windows XP and Vista to be denied service because the Windows Genuine Advantage (WGA) validation system reported that they were using pirated software. In the case of Vista, the Aero graphical interface was disabled on their machines. What else is MS capable of doing to your machine at their whim? The story about this invasion of privacy is at ComputerWorld Magazine
( **http://www.computerworld.com/**
**action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9032798&intsrc=hm_ts_head** ).

In a related story, in my opinion, The Register reported on stealth MS updates
( **http://www.theregister.co.uk/2007/09/14/microsoft_dispels_stealth_update_rumors/** ). What this means is that files on your machine can be changed, replaced or removed without you being the wiser and without your permission. This brings to mind a statement I heard at the COD show in 1995. The statement was, "Windows is the most prevalent virus". ZDNET blog Hardware 2.0 was cited as the source of the article at
**http://blogs.zdnet.com/hardware/?p=779#more-779** . Windows Secrets also has an article about it

 (con't on page 8) 

at **http://windowssecrets.com/comp/070913/** . MS does not deny the story. They rationalize the stealth update here;
**http://blogs.technet.com/mu/archive/2007/09/13/how-windows-update-keeps-itself-up-to-date.aspx** . The explanation is that Windows Update itself had to be updated so that it ran correctly. The question that is not answered satisfactorily is, why did you update my machine without my permission?

Sony ( **http://www.sony.com/** ) produces a USB (Universal Serial Bus) flash (thumb) drive that has a fingerprint reading security system. F-Secure, the security company, found a root kit in the Sony devices ( **http://www.f-secure.com/weblog/archives/archive-082007.html** ). The root kit is not nearly as bad as the root kit that was secreted on Sony's music CDs in 2005. F-Secure now has a communication porthole with Sony so that Sony can correct any discrepancy sooner rather than later. Sony farms out the work to China, but it is their responsibility to turn out a secure product. As far as I'm concerned, Sony did this on purpose and got caught at it. I, for one, will resist purchasing anything with the Sony brand on it for quite some time. I first read the story at
**http://www.computerworld.com/**
**action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9033058&intsrc=hm_list** .

There are two more large scale customers for Linux support from MS and Novell. BMW ( **http://www.bmw.com/** ) and Siemens ( **http://w1.siemens.com/en/us/entry.html** ) have both signed up for the Suse Linux support from MS. They join Wal-Mart, Deutsche Bank, Credit Suisse, and AIG Technologies as customers. MS still insists that the General Public License (GPL **http://www.gnu.org/copyleft/gpl.html** ) does not apply to them while Novell stated it would supply GPL code to the customers. MS acts suspiciously like a predator about to pounce on prey. The Novell / MS deal to support customers who want to implement both Windows and Suse Linux servers may end up costing the Free Software Foundation (FSF **http://www.fsf.org/** ) millions of (donated) dollars to fight MS. We will have to wait and see how this turns out.

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

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Continued from Page 5

application with each operating system, even if it means having that operating system installed twice on your computer.

So, today, I recommend three partitions should be used. One for the operating system and application programs. One for all of the data files. And one on an external hard drive for backing up the other two partitions. This is the best way to go today with our large inexpensive hard drives on our PCs.

I hope this helps you understand why I have changed my recommendations.
Used with permission.

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**Next presenter on September 22**
**Our own member, John Spizzirri**
**He will be demonstrating the differences between**
**U3 and Portable Apps on memory sticks**

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## CAEUG Officers

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

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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.

## Beginner's SIG

Ask questions and discuss computer experiences
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**

**Great Midwest Computer Show ©**

**OPERATION HAS BEEN SUSPENDED
NO FURTHER INFORMATION
IS AVAILABLE**

Family owned business is your source for the most complete line of high-quality, low-cost toner, inkjet cartridges and other imaging supplies (paper) for printers, copiers and fax machines.

**Jax's Ink Cartridge
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## 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

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

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.

**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 $70.00 a year for 9 months. This is $20 annual savings over buying them for $9 each month. Lynn Johnson, the treasurer, will keep track of anyone placing a 9-month order.

MAIL Request - There will be a $2.00 mailing charge per CD

**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 |

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL

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## * * ** * ** Notice Date information ** * ** * *

The next **REGULAR** meeting will be held at the **Glenside Public Library in Glendale Heights** starting 9:45am on **4th Saturday** **September 22**

The Glenside Public Library is located at 25 E Fullerton Avenue, Glendale Heights, Illinois. The Library is located on Fullerton between Bloomingdale Road (stop light intersection) and Schmale Road (stop light intersection) on the south side of Fullerton. Fullerton is parallel to North Avenue (Route 64) and Army Trail Road. North Ave. is south and Army Trail is north of Fullerton. Please park away from the building. Thank you. The meeting(s) are not library sponsored and all inquiries should be directed to Mike Goldberg at MikeGold60137@yahoo.com. 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, Mike Goldberg at MikeGold60137@yahoo.com, at least five (5) days prior to the program, so that reasonable accommodation can be made for them.

**CONFIRMED Future** Meeting dates for 2007 at Glenside Public Library:

**September 22 (meeting will be in half room A)**

**November 3 (meeting will be in half room A),**

**Nov/Dec meeting will be on December 1 (meeting will be in half room A)**

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**Saturday September 22**

**See page one for more information**

**Hope to see you there.**

**CAEUG website has a new home.**
**Remember to change your bookmark to the new address to http://www.caeug.net**