

Abort, Retry, Ignore...



Computers Are Easy User Group



May / June 2009

Suggested Retail Price \$1.95

Volume XXVI

Issue 5 & 6

Calendar
of
Events

!!!IMPORTANT!!!

***** NOTE *****

**Confirmed
2009
meeting
dates**

May 23

**2009 PICNIC
Saturday
June 13**

**** ** * * ***

**MEETING PLACE
will be the
Glenside Public
Library**

**SEE YOU
THERE!!**

**CODLinuxfest
http://
www.codlug.info/**

CAEUG Meeting

:: Saturday May 23, 2009 ::

Our next presentation on May 23rd
OpenOffice.org 3.0

Notice About this ARI Issue

This year the May ARI will be combined with June due to the short time between the May 23rd meeting and the CAEUG Annual Picnic on June 13.

Everyone will be notified when the meeting date is confirmed for the July.

Saturday June 13 CAEUG Picnic at 7 Gables Park, Wheaton

Maps and directions to the Picnic site can be found on pages 3 and 4

How can I Read Office (Word, Excel, etc.) Files Without Buying Expensive Office?

Written by Gabe Goldberg, Computers and Publishing, Inc.
Tipler(at)gabegold.com

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While Microsoft's Office applications suite dominates the Windows landscape, it's expensive and not universally used. And if you only need occasional access to Office-format files, you surely don't want to spend hundreds of dollars to buy software you'll rarely use, and even then only in limited fashion.

Fortunately, several free alternatives let you read these files!

First, if you only receive occasional Office-format files and just need to read or print them
(con't on page 2)

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but not to change/update them, ask senders if they can convert the files to PDF (Portable Document Format). That's an industry-standard format, easily created by many free alternatives to Adobe Acrobat, and easily read by Adobe's

<http://get.adobe.com/reader/> free Acrobat Reader .

Second, if you only need to read and print Office files, Google the program name (e.g., Word, Excel, PowerPoint) with the word "viewer" to install the free Microsoft file viewer for the type of files you have. If the files were created by Office 2003 or earlier versions, you're done. If someone inflicts Office 2007 format files on you (file extension docx for Word, xlsx for Excel, pptx for PowerPoint, etc.) you'll also need Microsoft's free

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?familyid=941b3470-3ae9-4aee-8f43-c6bb74cd1466&displaylang=en> Office Compatibility Pack for Word, Excel, and PowerPoint 2007 File Formats.

Third, if you'll need to change Office files, consider <http://www.openoffice.org/> Open Office, a free and reasonably compatible alternative to Microsoft's Office. It may not handle intricately formatted Word documents or convoluted Excel spreadsheets, but it's usually adequate for the sorts of documents, spreadsheets, and presentations mere mortals create and use.



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How Can I Capture PC Screen Contents?

Written by Gabe Goldberg, Computers and Publishing, Inc.
Tiptet (at) gabegold.com

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It's often desirable or necessary to capture — that is, record into a file — what's on your Windows screen. Windows has two basic tools for this: the Print Screen (or PrtScreen or some other variant) key captures the contents of your entire Windows desktop onto the Windows Clipboard; pressing Alt and PrintScreen captures only the active program window. Sometimes one of these choices is exactly what you need.

Remember that the Clipboard only holds one item — so to collect multiple images, you must save each one before collecting another. A handy way to do this is with the Windows Paint program. Open Paint by clicking Start, All Programs, Accessories, and Paint. After capturing each image, make Paint the active window, press Ctrl-V to paste the image into Paint's work area, then click File/Save and specify the file's name and format (JPEG, or .jpg is compact and usually adequate).

But sadly, these techniques aren't very flexible. If you need just the details in part of a window or you need contents of a scrollable area, tough luck.

Fortunately, many other tools exist. My favorite screen capture tool is <http://www.pixelmetrics.com/> CaptureWiz from PixelMetrics. Modestly priced and described as "quality screen capture software for busy people" it includes options to capture anything, anywhere on your screen.

Two CaptureWiz versions are available: Lite (\$19.95) which handles screen capture options including area, frame, all, scroll, video, and audio; and Pro (\$29.95) which adds flexibility, options, and features, and also captures scrolling areas animation, audio, mouse pointer, and more.

I use CaptureWizPro to create graphics which accompany my Tiptet articles; after each capture it presents a dialogue box for saving the image.

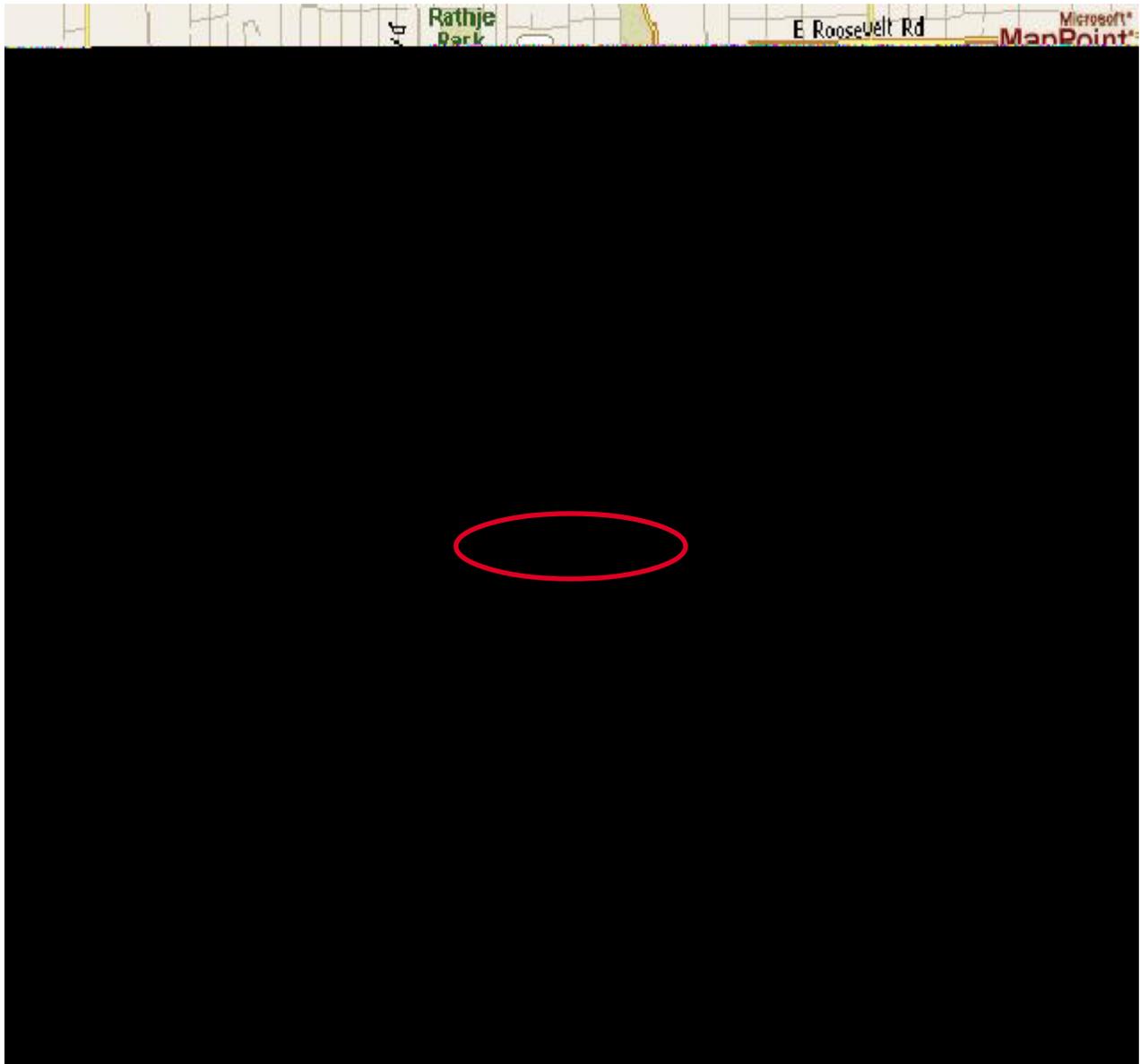


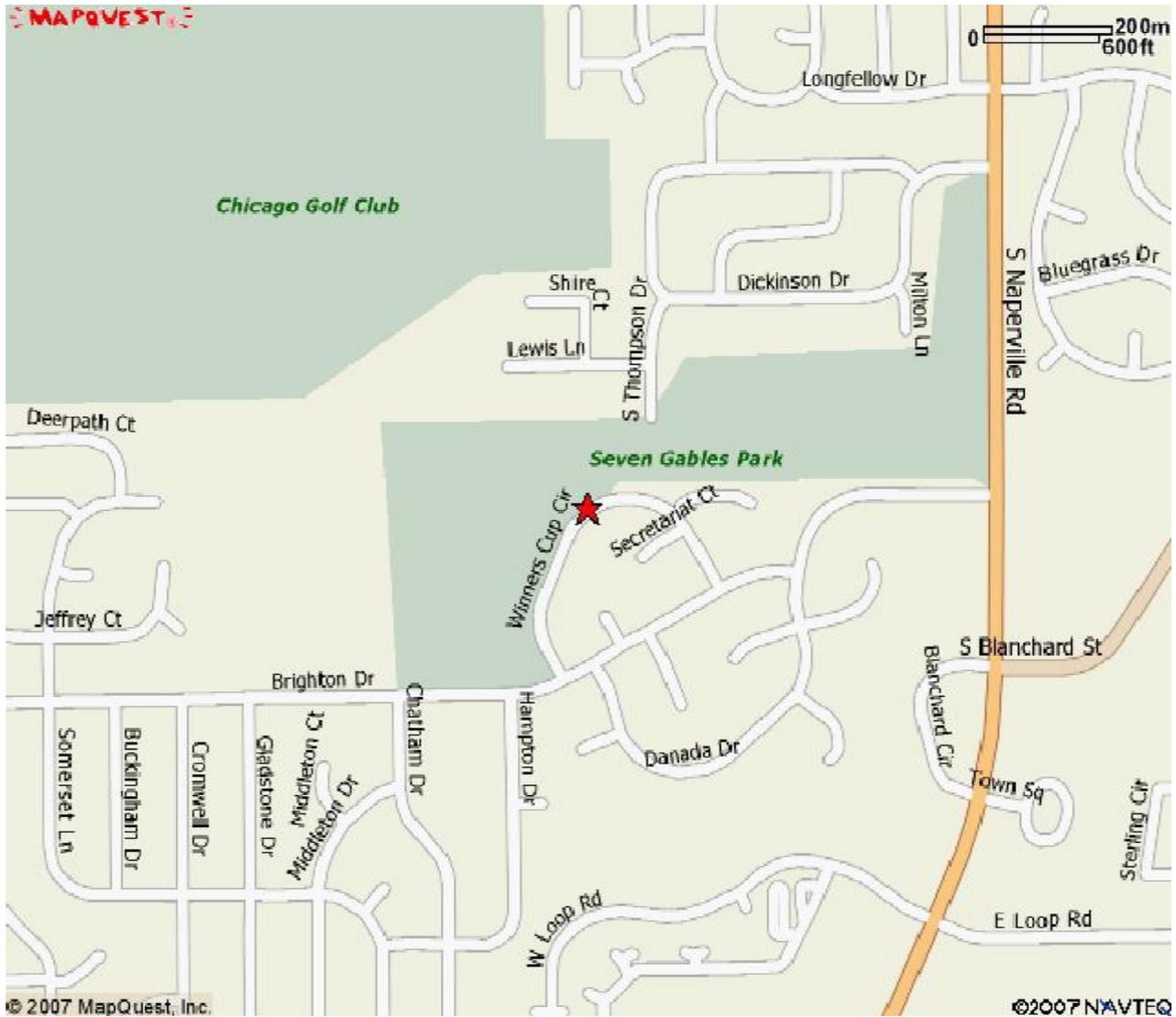
I like its feature which retains captured images so I needn't worry about losing them by forgetting to immediately save them.

Many other screen capture utilities; Googling windows "screen capture" finds an abundant shopping list with free and various cost choices.

<http://www.techsmith.com/screen-capture.asp> Snagit by TechSmith is another well-regarded priced product.

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CAEUG Picnic Directions

Directions to CAEUG Picnic at Seven Gables Park:

From Naperville and Butterfield Roads head NORTH on Naperville Road 0.8 mi.

Turn left (WEST) on Danada Road.

Follow Danada for 0.2 mi. to the stop sign at Brighton Road.

Turn right (WEST) on Brighton Road.

Stay on Brighton Road for 0.2 mi.

Turn right (NORTH) onto Winners Cup.

Follow Winner Cup 0.2 mi. to the entrance to Seven Gables Park . Entrance is on the left.

A short distance into the park is a stop sign, At the stop sign turn right. That road will take you past the football field.

We will be at the EAST end of the football field in an area that looks like a refreshment stand.

**Rain or shine at 7 Gables Park in Wheaton from 10:00am to 3:00pm
Food, fun, free raffle for members, fun and more fun.**

LampPost 106
by John Spizzirri
May 17, 2009



The digital television conversion (DTV) is now approaching its second deadline. Our government and its minions, the television stations, are hammering that message into our heads daily. How do they help us make the conversion? By offering a web site **(1)**, a call in help phone number (1-888-388-2009), and local workshops (if you live in urban areas). The electronics industry has also offered a website **(2)**. Perhaps, they realized that this transition may adversely affect sales. One hundred year old Mae Laborde **(3)** has a Youtube **(4)** video about the DTV conversion that comedically points out how the government treats older individuals **(5)**.

1) <https://www.dtv2009.gov/>

2) <http://www.digitaltips.org/>

3) http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mae_Laborde

4) <http://www.youtube.com/>

5) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7w34nNux4Xw>

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (**CDC 1**) keeps records on the swine flu **(2)**. The CDC renamed the swine flu to H1N1 flu for due to the United Nations (**UN 3**) requesting a name change. Panic and religious prejudice caused the banning of pork products and the slaughter and destruction of hundreds of thousands of pigs **(4)**. The UN found the outbreak began in Mexico **(5)**. Mexico's economy will take a major hit because of the panic. It is reported that they have lost \$2 billion in tourist spending already **(6)**. This panic has been whipped up by our news media and picked up by media around the world. The CDC was no help either. By their own numbers this flu was much less worse than the regular or seasonal flu, which kills 30,000 to 50,000 in the United States EACH year. So far this 'epidemic' has killed four people in the U.S. It has infected just under 5 thousand people. If you dig into the CDC web site, you can find the statistics for the seasonal flu. For the same time period as the swine flu, the seasonal flu has killed well over 100 people. I did not think this was as serious as the media and the CDC were touting in the early days of the outbreak. I have known and talked to people who lived through the Spanish influenza pandemic of 1918. **(7)** I looked up the statistics on the Internet. What I found was that the word pandemic meant something in 1918. In the fall of 1918, 500,000 to 650,000 people in the U.S. died, nearly 28 percent of the whole population contracted the flu, and the primary victims (deaths) were NOT the young or elderly but people in the prime of life. In Chicago alone, nearly 1,000 people per week died. Twenty five percent of all U.S. soldier deaths in World War I were due to the flu. Seasonal flu primarily affects the young and elderly. Because some of the people I know believe in conspiracies, I started getting a few e-mails alleging that swine flu was created in a secret government laboratory **(8)**. This type of misinformation just plays into the government/media hyped hysteria. When the facts are examined, there is no need to fear.

1) <http://www.cdc.gov/>

2) <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/update.htm>

3) <http://www.un.org/>

4) <http://www.examiner.com/x-7292-Seattle-Womens-Health-Examiner~y2009m4d30-Swine-flu-will-now-be-called-H1N1-influenza>

5) <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/may/01/swine-flu-mexico-la-gloria-un>

6) http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2009/05/14/what-can-we-learn-about-r_n_203602.html

7) <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/general/historicaloverview.html>

8) <http://www.infowars.com/medical-director-swine-flu-was-cultured-in-a-laboratory/>

Our government has created the disasters I have written about in the previous two paragraphs. Some people think that the government created the economic mess we are in as well. Whether that is true or not, I will let you decide. In response to the economic downturn our government has provided a web site to help us, entitled "Getting Through Tough Economic Times" **(1)**. On the site are links to various services like Mental Health Services locator **(2)**, Substance Abuse Treatment locator **(3)**, and the big one, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline **(4)** with the phone number 1-800-273-8255. Who knew that our tax dollars were paying for services that used to be provided by local charities.

1) <http://www.samhsa.gov/economy/>

2) <http://mentalhealth.samhsa.gov/databases/>

3) <http://findtreatment.samhsa.gov/>

4) <http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>

On a brighter(?) note, OnStar **(1)**, the satellite communication system available on many automobiles, announced a service called "Crisis Assist" **(2)**. When you press the button, you can get evacuation routes to get you out of harm's way also known as routes out of town, GPS location for emergency responders, notification of your loved ones, help to find shelter, and registration with the Red Cross Safe and Well website **(3)**.

1) <http://www.onstar.com/>

2) http://www.onstar.com/us_english/jsp/plans/sca.jsp?vin=1G6KD57Y27U123682&cmp=EM_CA_TOR_USE&accountNo=009-3525-424&sid=805768019

3) <https://disastersafe.redcross.org/>

Microsoft **(MS 1)** announced that October 31st will be the last day the Encarta on line product will be available **(2)**. The student and premium CDs will no longer be sold after June this year. The Japanese get an extra two months of on line access. Encarta on MSN Explorer will no longer be available on the same time table. MS states that people access information differently today than in the past. For that reason they are getting out of the encyclopedia business. There is no explanation as to what if anything will replace Encarta. If MS is telling the truth about the encyclopedia business, what will other companies like Britannica **(3)**, Worldbook online **(4)**, and Encyclopedia.com **(5)** do? Could it be that the Encarta division was not making enough money?

(con't on page 7)

If this is purely a business decision, the opening of retail stores to hire some of the displaced workers at minimum wage will add to the MS bottom line **(6,7,8,9)**.

- 1) <http://www.microsoft.com>
- 2) http://encarta.msn.com/guide_page_FAQ/FAQ.html
- 3) <http://www.britannica.com/>
- 4) <http://www.worldbookonline.com/>
- 5) <http://www.encyclopedia.com/>
- 6) http://store.microsoft.com/home.aspx?WT.mc_id=pointitsem_microsoft_store&WT.srch=1
- 7) <http://www.microsoft.com/presspass/press/2009/feb09/02-12CVPRetailStoresPR.msp>
- 8) http://www.pcworld.com/article/159521/10_ways_microsofts_retail_stores_will_differ_from_apple_stores.html - comedic comparison to Apple Stores
- 9) <http://gizmodo.com/5152787/confirmed-microsoft-opening-retail-stores>

MS has quietly put off the release of Windows 7. It was supposed to happen this summer. Now the release date is some time early in 2010. You can test drive the release candidate (RC) by downloading it at **(1)**. You will need a fast connection because the file size is 2.4 GB for 32 bit systems and 3.1 GB for 64 bit systems. The files are in the .iso extension. You will need hardware that can write DVDs and software that can write iso files to DVD. If you do not want to download a copy, bring a 4 GB flash drive to the meeting and I will copy the file to it for you.

- 1) <http://www.microsoft.com/Windows/Windows-7/download.aspx>

MaximumPC Magazine **(1)** periodically puts out special issues (pun intended). In the issue titled 417 PC Answers, one article with two parts was of particular interest to me. Their writer, Will Smith **(2)**, wrote the article. The first part was called, "Shattered Dreams & Broken Promises". It is about Vista. The article details the shortcomings of Vista - instability, incompatibility, performance, failings of User Account Control, activation troubles, and the confusion about the number of versions. It also benchmarks the day to day performance of Vista vs XP. In all instances save 2, XP SP3 outperformed Vista. In one instance they performed identically. In the other, Vista outperformed XP SP3 by almost one percent. To be fair, the XP performance was only 1.5 percent or less better than Vista in all other instances. Mr. Smith was able to interview company insiders that talked freely. The second part of the article was called, "Microsoft Concedes Vista Launch Problems". The people interviewed for that part of the article were company insiders that would only repeat the company's public relations preprogrammed responses to critical questions. The comparison between the first and second parts of the article are stunning. You should check your library for this issue just for that article. Unfortunately, the article is not online. The issue also has a hands on article about the release of Windows 7. If MS straightens out its act, it may have a winner. But, who knows when it will be released.

- 1) <http://www.maximumpc.com/>
- 2) http://www.maximumpc.com/tags/will_smith

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

May 2009 CD of the Month

AdAware - Anti spyware software update
ARI - This month's newsletter
Audacity - Audio file editor update
AutoHotKey - Automate almost anything by sending keystrokes and mouse clicks
Avast - A free antivirus software update
AVG85 - A free antivirus software update
CCleaner - A system optimization, privacy and cleaning tool update
CDOMLists - Comprehensive list of programs on the CDOM
Comodo - A firewall and antivirus software
DirectoryWatcher - Watches for changes made to files in your directories
DiskCheckup - Monitor the SMART attributes of a particular hard disk drive
Doppler - Podcast receiver, allowing users to capture and listen to podcasts anytime, anywhere
EverythingSearchEngine - quick and easy name and location searches for files
Floola - A replacement for Apple's iTunes software w/Motorola cell phone data control
Foxit3 - A free PDF document viewer update
GlovePIE - Play any game or control any software using any input device
Hamachi - Enables secure remote access to your business/home network via VPN
HDMonitor - Hard Disk Monitor using Self-Monitoring Analysis and Reporting Technology (S.M.A.R.T)
JetAudio - A multimedia player from COWON America
KeyFinder - A freeware open source utility that retrieves your Product Key (cd key) used to install Windows
OldTimeRadio - Old radio programs
PandaAntivirus - A free antivirus software
PCToolsFirewall - A firewall software
RevoluTV - Tune into TV channels around the world via the Internet
SpywareBlaster - Anti spyware software update
VirtualPC - Creates a virtual space to run software - similar to VMWare with MS strings
WizMouse - Scroll a window while keeping it inactive
WordPress - Blog publishing software
WorldWind - Lets you zoom from satellite altitude into any place on Earth - NASA's answer to Google Earth
Zimbra - Manage various email accounts in one desktop tool - offline

CAEUG Basic CD

<p>AbiWord - Word-like word processor AcrobatReader - PDF reader AdAwareSE - Spyware remover Apple Safari - Internet browser ARI - Newsletters Audacity - Sound file editor Avast - Anti Virus software AVG - Anti Virus software Belarc Win - Hardware and software inventory Ccleaner - System optimization software CDburnXP - CD / DVD burning software Chrome - Internet browser Decrapifier - Update to new PC cleaning program DeFraggler - Hard disk defragmentation program EasyOffice - Office suite that features an innovative easy-to-use user interface E-Mail Clients: Eudora IncrediMail JBMail Pegasus e-mail PureVoice e-mail Thunderbird e-mail Easy Duplicate Finder - Finds duplicate files via content match EVEREST - Hardware identifier Fcleaner - System optimization / control software FireWall: PC Tools Firewall Plus - Free ZoneAlarm - Free FireFox - Internet browser</p>	<p>Foxit - PDF reader HDClone - Use to make an exact copy (or clone) of a hard disk HiJackThis - Troubleshooting software ImgBurn - iso CD / DVD burning software iTunes - Apple iTunes program LinuxBook - Free book on using Linux Metapad - Notepad replacement Mozilla - Internet browser nCleaner - System optimization / control software Netscape - Internet browser NotePad++ - Notepad replacement OpenOffice - Office suite Opera - Internet browser Panda Cloud - Anti Virus software PC Wizard - Hardware and software inventory PopUp Stopper PortableApps - Suite of applications for flash drive QuickTime Player - Media player RealOne Player - Media player Seamonkey - Internet browser SmartDefrag - Defragment your hard drive SnagIt - Screen capture tool Songbird - Open-source customizable music player SpyBot Search and Destroy - Spyware remover Symphony - IBM office product TweakUIPowerToySetup - MS tweaks for XP Viewers - Word, Power Point, Excel Vista4Experts - Customize many Vista features VistaTweaker - Tweaks for Vista VLC - Media Player WinAmp - Media player Windows Media Player v8, 9, & 10</p>
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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.

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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.

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,2K, XP & Linux
. John Spizzirri

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??

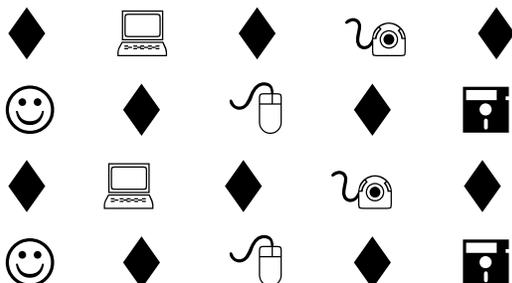
SIG meets before regular meeting from **9:05 to 9:45**

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

*** ! ** ! ** Notice Date information ** ! ** ! ***

The next **REGULAR** meeting will be held at the **Glenside Public Library**
25 East Fullerton in Glendale Heights, Illinois
starting 9:45am on
meeting the 4th Saturday May 23, 2009

CONFIRMED Future Meeting dates for 2009 at Glenside Public Library:
Room (A+B) for the following Saturdays :: May 23
We have a confirmed date for the 2009 PICNIC at 7 Gables Park
Saturday June 13, 2009

See page 1 for IMPORTANT notices ::: See pages 3 & 4 for Picnic Maps & Directions

Meeting Location and Special Accommodations

The Glenside Public Library address is at 25 E Fullerton Avenue, Glendale Heights, Illinois. The Library location is 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.

Hope to see you there!