©2011 by CAEUG

Abort, Retry, Ignore...

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

June 2011 | Suggested Retail Price $1.95 | Volume XXVIII | Issue 6

Calendar of Events

!!! IMPORTANT !!!

*** * * NOTE * * ***

Confirmed 2011 meeting dates

**** ** ** ****

Annual Picnic June 18, 2011 (3rd Saturday)

July 23, 2011 4th Saturday Room A

August 27, 2011 4th Saturday Room A

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

Visitors Welcome

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!
**** ****

Our June 18
Our Annual CAEUG Picnic
Seven Gables Park
Start 11:00am
Don't forget about the White Elephant table

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.

For map go to **http://www.caeug.net** and look at the **June 2010 ARI.... pages 3 and 4**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CAEUG ANNUAL PICNIC 1
CAEUG PICNIC INFORMATION 1
LAMPPOST 127 BY JOHN SPIZZIRRI 2
CLOUD COMPUTING BY DICK MAYBACH 7
HELPLINE. 9

LampPost 127
by John Spizzirri
June 12, 2011

Last month I wrote about Harold Camping predicting the rapture and the end of the world. What did it mean to him? $100 million **(1)**! He was wrong about the rapture or is it that so few qualified for the rapture (including Camping) that it went unnoticed. Now we have to wait for the second part of the prediction. October 21 will be the end of the world according to Camping **(2)**. Ranker web site has a list of twelve failed end of the world prophesies **(3)**.

1) http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20110518/NEWS02/110519801
2) http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20110524/ap_on_re_us/us_apocalypse_saturday
3) http://www.ranker.com/list/the-12-greatest-end-of-the-world-prophecy-fails/ivana-wynn

Julian Assange **(1)**, the creator of WikiLeaks **(2)**, gave a video interview in the U.K. to Russia Today **(3)** in early May. He said, "Facebook **(4)** is the most appalling spy machine that has ever been invented". His criticism was not limited to Facebook but to all social networking **(5, 6)**. I picked up the interview on The Next Web blog **(7)**. A copy of the video will be on the July CD of the Month. Whatever you may think of Assange, he makes some rather valid points.

1) http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julian_Assange
2) http://www.wikileaks.ch/
3) http://rt.com/news/wikileaks-revelations-assange-interview/
4) http://www.facebook.com/
5) http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_network
6) http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_network_service
7) http://thenextweb.com/facebook/2011/05/02/wikileaks-founder-facebook-is-the -most-appalling-spy-machine-that-has-ever-been-invented/

The Lake Michigan Car ferry (LMC **(1)**) that operates the 58 year old, coal fired S. S. Badger car ferry was given an ultimatum by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA **(2)**). In 2008 the EPA was ordered to regulate 'vessel discharges' under the Clean Water Act **(3)**. LMC is required to get and comply with a Vessel General Permit (VGP **(4)**) by December 2012. The problem facing LMC is that 58 year old coal fired steam ships were designed to discharge coal ash to the sea (lake). The VGP no longer will permit that. The EPA said nothing about air quality in the VGP. The VGP requires self incrimination by ship owners when a discharge happens either inadvertently or on purpose. It also requires annual inspections (make work for relatives of connected politicians and bureaucrats). Incidentally, all military craft are exempt from the VGP and it reporting and inspection requirements. If you have never been on a car ferry, this year or next may be your last chance to try it on the S. S. Badger. LMC is looking into converting the ship to natural gas, but a conversion may be too costly. If LMC fails, it would mean the direct loss of 250 jobs on the ship and shore. The economic impact to Ludington, Michigan **(5)** and Manitowoc, Wisconsin **(6)** is in the tens of millions of dollars. An organization has been formed called Save Our Ship (SOS **(7)**) to help the preservation of the historic ship from the machinations of the government. Fortunately for LMC and SOS, the end of the world will be on October 21st this year (according to Harold Camping) or December 20, 2012 when the Mayan calendar 'predicts' the end of the world **(8)**, so no compliance will be necessary. Schedule your trip soon to avoid the end of the world rush.

(con't on page 3)

1) http://www.ssbadger.com/home.aspx
2) http://www.epa.gov/
3) http://www.epa.gov/lawsregs/laws/cwa.html
4) http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/vessels/vgpermit.cfm
5) http://www.ludington.mi.us/
6) http://www.manitowoc.org/
7) http://www.sosbadger.com/
8) http://www.adishakti.org/mayan_end_times_prophecy_12-21-2012.htm

Eric Schmidt **(1)**, chairman of Google **(2)** recently talked to French President Nicolas Sarkozy **(3)** in a panel discussion of the G8 **(4)**. The statement sounded much like a threat to me. Sarkozy talked about limiting or controlling the Internet and social media **(5)**. According to Don Tapscott **(6)** writing in the Huffington Post **(7)**, Sarkozy's comments were related to the toppling of governments in the Middle East **(8)** and Africa **(9, 10, 11)**. Schmidt's response was, "You want to tread lightly on regulating brand new, innovative industries... Clearly you need some level of regulation for the evil stuff. But I would be careful about over regulating the Internet." I do not know if the other G8 leaders agree with Sarkozy or not. He has some credibility problems in that he showed up to some G8 functions drunk **(12)**.

1) https://secure.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/wiki/Eric_Schmidt
2) https://encrypted.google.com/
3) http://www.support-sarkozy-france.com/nicolas_sarkozy/
4) https://secure.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/wiki/G8
5) https://secure.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/wiki/Social_media
6) http://dontapscott.com/
7) http://www.huffingtonpost.com/don-tapscott/we-need-more-internet-not_b_868162.html
8) http://topics.nytimes.com/top/news/international/countriesandterritories/syria/index.html
9) http://topics.nytimes.com/top/news/international/countriesandterritories/tunisia/index.html
10) http://blogs.reuters.com/great-debate/2011/01/28/if-egypt-falls-syria-must-follow/
11) http://www.strike-the-root.com/internet-and-muhammad-bouazizi
12) http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1uxb0JHqzlA

Wired Magazine **(1)** had a recent article reprinted from Gawker **(2)**. The article talks about an off-shore, international web site called Silk Road that works much like e-Bay **(3)**. The difference between e-Bay and Silk Road is that the latter specializes in drug sales, primarily the illicit kind. Sellers get rated by customers just like e-Bay. A difference is that to get to the Silk Road web site a buyer or a seller must use an Internet anonymizer like TOR **(4)** (will be on the July CD of the Month). The only currency that may be used is Bitcoins **(5, 6)**. Bitcoins are a pseudo-anonymous method of payment. The Gawker writer, Adrian Chen **(7)**, expects the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA **(8)**) to set up an account as a seller to entrap users. I doubt that will happen due to the anonymity of the transactions. The DEA cannot intimidate a user into identifying another seller because they do not know the other sellers. Senators Charles Schumer and Joe Manchin have hit on the true method to stop this. They have asked the U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder (AG **(9)**) to crack down on the Bitcoin peer to peer exchanges. The Senator's problem is that these transactions do not fall under the purview of the AG. Bernard von NotHaus **(10)** was charged with and convicted of domestic terrorism because he minted 'Liberty Dollars' made of silver. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI **(11)**) and the Secret Service (SS **(12)**) under the control of U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS **(13)**) are charged with stopping 'money laundering', counterfeiting, and terrorism. The diabolical plan of von NotHaus was to introduce a competing currency to U.S. currency. His problem was the U. S. government does not allow competition with any other

(con't on page 4)

currency especially one that has intrinsic value. Bitcoin will almost certainly be stopped by DHS, SS, and the FBI. Of course, the tax dollars spent on Bitcoins and Liberty Dollars will far exceed the value to the taxpayers in eliminating this competition with U.S. currency. (von NotHaus had about $7.5 million in metal (silver) that was confiscated but will spend the rest of his life in prison plus the cost of the investigation and prosecution at taxpayer expense).

1) http://www.wired.com/
2) http://gawker.com/5805928/the-underground-website-where-you-can-buy-any -drug-imaginable
3) http://www.ebay.com/
4) https://www.torproject.org/
5) https://mtgox.com/
6) http://www.bitcoin.org/
7) https://www.facebook.com/AdrianChenFanPage
8) http://www.justice.gov/dea/
9) http://www.justice.gov/ag/
10) http://www.citizen-times.com/article/20110319/NEWS01/110319006/Liberty-Dollar -creator-convicted-federal-court
11) http://www.fbi.gov/
12) http://www.secretservice.gov/
13) http://www.dhs.gov/index.shtm

NewScientist Magazine **(1)** reported new laws that make it a crime to embed **(2)** a Youtube **(3)** video on a website, share a Netflix **(4)** or Hulu **(5)** password, or link to an overseas web site that contains copywritten material. The article that has a more complete explanation than this is here **(6)**. BTW linking to number **6** is a violation of the last law because NewScientist is a United Kingdom company.

1) http://www.newscientist.com/
2) http://www.labnol.org/internet/how-to-embed-in-html-webpages/6365/
3) http://www.youtube.com/
4) https://www.netflix.com/
5) http://www.hulu.com/
6) http://www.newscientist.com/blogs/onepercent/2011/06/new-media-sharing-laws -could-m.html

If you live near a cracker **(1)**, you may soon become collateral damage **(2)**. You may wonder how this could happen in the land of the free **(3)**. According to NaturalNews **(4)**, the U. S. Department of Defense (DoD **(5)**) considers any form of 'cyber attack' to any government computer system or military contractor's system to be an 'act of war' committed by terrorists. Colonel Dave Lapan, a Pentagon **(6)** spokesman said, "All appropriate options would be on the table." When that language was used in the past, it generally meant heavy ordinance expenditure with associated collateral damage. The White House **(7)** confirmed that virtually anything goes **(8)**.

1) https://secure.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/wiki/Hacker_%28computer_security%29
2) https://secure.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/wiki/Collateral_damage
3) http://gizmodo.com/5695657/land-of-the-free
4) http://www.naturalnews.com/032614_cyber_warfare_act_of_war.html#ixzz1OP4ouM7v
5) http://www.defense.gov/
6) http://pentagon.afis.osd.mil/
7) http://www.whitehouse.gov/

(con't on page 5)

8) http://www.newsmax.com/Newsfront/ARO-BNALL-BNCOPY-BNSTAFF/2011/05/31/id/398318

A prospective client of mine described a problem I had not yet heard of. She subscribed to Xfinity **(1)**. The service person put the client software on her 5 year old laptop. She told me that her PC slowed to a crawl and periodically froze. I told her to call Comcast to remove the software. I looked up the process on the Internet and found only one site describing how to do it **(2)**. There were many sites with descriptions similar to my prospect **(3)**.

1) http://xfinity.comcast.net/
2) http://customer.comcast.com/Pages/FAQViewer.aspx?Guid=175b394b-b4f7-491a-bcd9-4becc18e6a5c&fss=tv&AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1
3) http://comcast.pissedconsumer.com/comcast-xfinity-so-so-at-best-and-terrible-customer-service-20110527239913.html

Smart Money **(1)** ran an article that anyone who has Wi-Fi **(2)** is at risk. The Wi-Fi Alliance **(3)** is quoted in the article saying that 30 percent of Americans use their neighbor's Wi-Fi (without permission). If your neighbor is using your Wi-Fi, you should be worried. If they are involved with illegal activities such as child porn or Silk Road, you are the one whose door will be broken down by the SWAT **(4)**. You will be held at gunpoint until your lawyer convinces 'the bulls' that your Wi-Fi connection was used by someone else. That is the reason you should <u>always</u> implement WEP **(5)** or WPA2 **(6)** on your wireless router. Each router manual will have instructions on how to activate the security measure. When you do activate the security measures, use a user name that does not identify you and a password that is not easily guessed.

1) http://www.smartmoney.com/spend/real-estate/10-things-your-neighbors-wont-tell-you-1307481521780/
2) http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/W/Wi_Fi.html
3) http://www.wi-fi.org/discover_and_learn.php
4) https://secure.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/wiki/SWAT
5) https://secure.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/wiki/Wired_Equivalent_Privacy
6) https://secure.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/wiki/Wi-Fi_Protected_Access

In the last Lamp Post 126 I mentioned an article that was published at Cult of MAC **(1)**. The article was about the fake malware trojan (called MacDefender) that was duping some MAC owners. I did not know at the time that Apple Computer **(2)** telephone support personnel were told NOT to help MAC owners with this problem because the trojan was a third party software. Once that bit of news hit the Internet Apple changed its tune **(3)** and decided to help its users clean their machines and posted a knowledge base article **(4)**. A George Orwell's 'Animal Farm' quote came to mind, "The creatures outside looked from pig to man, and from man to pig, and from pig to man again; but already it was impossible to say which was which." Users look to Apple then Microsoft (MS **(5)**) and cannot tell the difference. At least Apple came to it's senses, after public pressure, deciding to help its own customers! The National Security Agency (NSA **(6)**) has put out an advisory on how to harden the MAC against malware **(7)**. You would think Apple would have done that before the government got involved.

1) http://www.cultofmac.com/
2) http://www.apple.com/
3) http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/05/26/mac_malware_game_changer/
4) http://support.apple.com/kb/HT4650
5) https://www.microsoft.com/

(con't on page 6)

6) http://www.nsa.gov/
7) http://www.nsa.gov/ia/_files/factsheets/macosx_10_6_hardeningtips.pdf

ZD Net's **(1)** Steven J. Vaughan-Nichols wrote an article about 5 reasons not to upgrade to Internet Explorer (IE) 9 **(2)**. I agree with all of his reasons. They are;
IE 9 works only with Windows 7 and Vista - XP users are out of luck
IE 9 (32 bit) is fast but not as fast as Chrome
IE 9 (64 bit) is not fast
IE 9 is not as secure as Chrome or Firefox - this should be the first and foremost reason not to use IE 9
IE 9 does not display all web pages correctly - thanks to MS not adhering to the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C **(3)**) international standard for browsers

1) http://www.zdnet.com/
2) http://www.zdnet.com/blog/networking/five-reasons-not-to-8220upgrade-8221-to-windows-8217-internet-explorer-9/817
3) http://www.w3.org/

TechEYE **(1)** printed an article that tends to indicate that MS must rely on Linus (CentOS distribution **(2)**) for their cloud **(3)** business. This article was inspired by a blog **(4)** posting by Sandy Gupta, a MS employee, and General Manager of the Open Solutions Group. I guess they could not bring themselves to name it Open Source. MS's problem is that to operate in the cloud requires contact with hosting companies that run the back end of the Internet. Most of these companies use various Linux distributions on their servers because they are not as susceptible to attack as MS products and they are rock solid (they do not crash very often). One of MS's main competitors in this part of the business is VMWare **(5)**. VMWare has fully embraced Linux and Open Source Software (OSS) which forces MS's hand. The article is here **(6)**.

1) http://www.techeye.net/
2) http://www.centos.org/
3) https://secure.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/wiki/Cloud_computing
4) https://secure.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/wiki/Blog
5) http://www.vmware.com/
6) http://www.techeye.net/software/microsofts-cloud-business-depends-on-linux

Some people cannot survive at MS. Mary Jo Foley **(1)** who writes 'All About Microsoft' interviewed Hamilton Verissimo, the founder of the open-source Castle Project **(2)**, who has been working at MS since 2008. He does not seem to be able to cope with the typical corporate structure that infects most large companies. (I know. I have worked at five Fortune 500 **(3)** companies). Verissimo thinks that the structure does not help the customer. I agree. The article is here **(4)**.

1) http://www.zdnet.com/blog/microsoft
2) http://www.castleproject.org/
3) http://money.cnn.com/magazines/fortune/fortune500/2011/index.html
4) http://www.zdnet.com/blog/microsoft/can-an-open-source-backer-thrive-inside-microsoft-this-one-says-no/9545

Larry Ellison **(1)** is the CEO of Oracle Corporation (2). He does not like OSS. People in the OSS community were not happy when Oracle bought Sun Microsystems some time ago.

(con't on page 7)

Sun owned and operated the OSS project OpenOffice.org (OOo **(3)**). When that sale went through, many developers in the OOo project decided to prevent their work from being privatized by Ellison by starting a new project called LibreOffice **(4)**. Some developers stayed with OOo. Code is being written on a continuous basis so OOo and LibreOffice are quite different products under the hood. Ellison and company decided to dump OOo. Did he offer it to LibreOffice? No. He donated (dumped) it to Apache **(5)** Software Foundation. OOo will change its licensing structure **(6)** which might be Ellison's intention all along. The Document Foundation **(7)** has made an appeal to Apache and OOo to rejoin to become one project again **(8)**. At this juncture it does not seem likely. Ellison wins with almost not litigation costs.

1) https://secure.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/wiki/Larry_Ellison
2) http://www.oracle.com/index.html
3) http://www.openoffice.org/
4) http://www.libreoffice.org/download/
5) http://www.apache.org/
6) http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/06/01/oracle_openoffice_apache/
7) http://www.documentfoundation.org/
8) http://lxnews.org/2011/05/30/document-foundation-appeals-to-open-office/

MS has bought **(1)** Skype **(2)**. Skype is multi-platform (Windows, MAC, and Linux). After this purchase, no one knows how long the third leg (Linux) of the multi-platform will last. BTW the latest version of Skype is plagued by crashes and memory leaks **(3)**. In the last month Skype servers have been having problems (4,%). Could it be due to the new client version?

1) http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703730804576314854222820260.html
2) http://www.skype.com/intl/en-us/home
3) http://juuchini.com/2011/05/skype-client-application-suffers-worldwide-crash/
4) http://news.cnet.com/8301-13506_3-20066430-17.html
5) http://blogs.skype.com/en/2010/12/cio_update.html

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

Cloud Computing
By Dick Maybach
n2nd (at) charter.net

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

A simple example of cloud computing is a backup service, which continually backs up all your data

(con't on page 8)

whenever you are connected to the Internet. You don't have to think about it, and because your backups are stored at a different location, they are safe even in case of a local catastrophe. A similar use is synchronizing data among several computers, where the data might be files, contacts, and your favorite Web sites and (with care) their passwords. Many people also use the cloud to share information with others, for example by using Facebook for personal information, Flicker for photos, or Google Docs for documents. Cloud storage is both convenient and inexpensive; indeed, many vendors offer up to two gigabytes free.

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

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

However, there are some security and safety caveats involved. Security is complex for a cloud vendor; your data are stored on the same disks, the same memory, and pass through the same processors as everybody else's. The process is much like what happens in a commercial laundry or dry cleaner, where everybody's clothes are tagged and thrown together into a large machine. Afterwards, somebody looks at the tags to get them back to their proper owners. Contrast this to a bank deposit vault, where only your key can open the box where you place your documents. Even at such competent vendors as Google, there have been instances of data leaking from one customer to another, and many cloud vendors are start-ups who have much less expertise than Google. This means that you should take responsibility for safeguarding your data. For example, if you back up your disk in the cloud,

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 9:30am

CONFIRMED Future Meeting dates for **2011** at Glenside Public Library

:: The following Saturdays mark your calendars ::

The 3rd Saturday Annual Picnic - June 18, 2011
July 23, 2011 :: 4th Saturday :: Room A
August 27, 2011 :: 4th Saturday :: Room A

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!