

January 2012

Issue XXVIII Volumn 1

Confirmed
meeting
dates for
2012
Room A

February 25
March 24
April 28
May 26

MEETING PLACE

will be the
Glenside Public

Library

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Visitors
Welcome



Saturday January 28, 2012 Presentation "Book Scanners for the Archival Work Place"

Weldon Johnson and his wife Judy have been volunteering time and talents at the Glen Ellyn Historical Society for nearly ten years.

Glen Ellyn was settled as a community in 1834 and has had a variety of newspapers since about 1890. When the latest of these -The Glen Ellyn News- was sold and moved from town in 2000, GEHS inherited its history in both bound and unbound versions.

GEHS determined that it needed to preserve these historic documents in digital format and thus began its search for a scanner of unusual qualities. Weldon will review how they evaluated this complex issue and present the INDUS Book Scanner they now own.

Backup – Image, What's the difference?
By Phil Sorrentino, President, Sarasota PCUG, Florida
December 2011 issue, Sarasota PC Monitor
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This topic can be very confusing because of the similarities and the differences between backups and images. Backups and Images are similar in that they are both copies of something. The difference is in the "what" and the "how". Normally, a backup is thought of as a copy of a file or a folder or a collection of files and folders (that is the "what"). The backup copy is just a copy, an exact duplicate and is not processed in any way (the "how"). The backup files can be

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used by any programs that could use the original files. The reason for having a backup file is to restore a file if it is accidentally destroyed or deleted.

An Image, on the other hand, is a copy of the Operating System and all of its components (referred to as the Operating Environment), as they exist in the memory of your operating computer (that's the "what"). The Image can only be created by an imaging program (the how), and the image created can only be used by that same imaging program. The reason for having an image is to be able to re-install your "Operating Environment" if, or rather when, a virus or hardware problem makes your system unusable.

The topic can also be confusing because people, and even the literature, often use the terms backup and image in confusing ways. Often you will see or hear the term "backup image" which is meant to refer to a copy of an image. Well, an image is already a copy of something, so is this an image or is it a copy of an image? In order to keep things straight, I have tried to use the term "backup" to mean an exact copy of a file that needs to be saved. (I know that sometimes backup copies are "zipped" or compressed to save space, but those files are no longer exact copies of the originals and are not directly usable, so I would not call them backups, I would have to call them "zipped backups" or "compressed backups", to be accurate.) And I use the term "image" to refer to the resultant file (or file collection) that is produced by an imaging program such as Ghost, or Acronis True Image, or Macrium Reflect, or even Windows 7.

To be completely protected against potential problems (viruses and/or hardware problems) you have to address both issues, backup and image. You have to backup all of your important files, those that you really do not want to lose, and you have to have an image of your Operating Environment for re-installation when needed. (Just as a point of interest, Windows 7 includes the ability to do both, via the Backup & Restore Control Panel.)

The files to backup are those that you have created or collected, such as your pictures, music, videos, Word documents, and spreadsheets. Any file that you would really be hard pressed to reproduce, if it was lost, is a good candidate for backup. How often to backup is dependent on the file in question. Files that are changing daily should probably be backed up daily, but files that don't change need only be backed up on some weekly or monthly schedule. For backups, in general, follow "Chicago Politics" advice and backup early and often.

Also, be aware that there are many ways of backing up your files since it is only a Copy operation. However, there are many programs that make the job quick and easy. If you have a folder of pictures and you only add a few pictures to the collection weekly, then there is no need to copy all of the pictures each week, you only need to backup the new pictures. Backup programs such as Microsoft SyncToy, and Synchronmagic, check the collection of files to be backed up against the last backup and only copy the new files or those that have changed since the last backup. These programs make the backup process quick, efficient and so easy that you will

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probably do it often enough. By now you are probably feeling that you have got the idea of backup, but where do you put these backup files? The best place for backup files is on an external hard drive that is normally not connected to the computer. Right before you are ready to backup your file collection, connect the external hard drive and fire-up the backup program and run the backup task. After the backup is finished disconnect the external drive and put it away in a safe place.

Creating an image is a little more difficult than creating backup files because imaging is not just a simple Copy operation. Because an image is a copy of your operating computer memory, the program must know a lot about the architecture of the memory. This is very specialized knowledge and is the essence of an imaging program. The imaging program must be installed on your computer for use in creating an image. And, it must create a bootable disk to be used when your system is not operating correctly. The image it creates can usually be put on a system drive (other than the C: drive), or an external hard drive, or a number of DVDs. The image created is usually a very large collection of files that may total from 20 to 60 GB. The imaging process can take many hours depending on the size of the image and the amount of compression that is selected. Imaging is a very lengthy process, and it creates such large files, so you probably only want to do it when absolutely necessary. A new image is only necessary when the Operating Environment changes, when you add or delete programs, or when you update your operating system. You may not add or delete programs very often, but the operating system is updated, at least monthly, so you might want to create a new image every 3 or 4 months or whenever a big change is made to the Operating Environment.

So you can see there is a great difference between Backup and Image. But, both are necessary if you hope to completely recover from a future hardware failure or malware infection.

PC Computer Evolution

By Wil Wakely, President, Seniors Computer Group, California

November 2011 issue, Bits and Bytes

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With the sad death in October 2011 of Steve Jobs of Apple fame, it seems appropriate to review the history of the personal computer in which he was so instrumental in its evolution. In 1970 he was only 15 years old when the micro-computer, as it was then called, stirred to life. Prior to that time, mainframes and mini-computers dominated the scene, requiring large installations and huge capital expense. IBM 360's required a special air-conditioned room and cost up to \$5.5 million each. Our smart cell phones now have more computing power than they did.

The invention of the transistor at Bell Labs in 1947 and the Integrated Circuit invented in 1958, concurrently by Texas Instruments and Intel allowed miniaturization and cost savings that revolutionized future computer designs. One of the first affordable micro-computers was the Atari, essentially an arcade game machine that played PONG, a tennis simulation. It had no programming language and used a joy-stick for control and a TV for a display. The Commodore 64, VIC-20 and PET

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Lamp Post 133
by John Spizzirri
January 21, 2012



If you were on the Internet on January 18, 2012, you may have heard about the Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA [1,2,3](#)) and Protect IP Act (PIPA [4,5,6](#)). Representative Lamar Smith ([7](#)) 'wrote' the SOPA bill and Senator Patrick Leahy ([8](#)) 'wrote' the PIPA bill. Controversy has been brewing about these bills since their introduction in October and May respectively. The PIPA bill was a rewrite of the Combating Online Infringement and Counterfeits Act that failed to pass the Senate ([9](#)) in 2010. Congress critters just do not get the message. If a bill fails to pass, it should not be brought up again for a long time (at least longer than one year). Senator Patrick Leahy claims ([10](#)) that PIPA will not affect any web site that has "any legitimate use". It would seem to me that anyone that pays to keep a web site on line thinks that their web site has a legitimate use. It becomes a matter of who will determine a web site's legitimate use. Lateef Mtima ([11](#)), a Howard University ([12](#)) law professor, says the law criminalizes innocent behavior ([13](#)). An example of that could be if you video your children or grandchildren in a room with a television that is on. If you were to post that video on your Facebook page or on your own web site, the material seen on the TV is copyrighted creating a felony under either of these bills. If you watch movies and actually read the credits, you may have noticed that permissions were sought and granted to filmmakers who filmed an operating TV in their movie. These bills also allow the federal government to seize ([14](#)) and close Facebook ([15](#)) or your web hosting company because of your posting. Under these bills, the picture that accompanies this article would allow the government to seize our club website ([16](#)). I got the photograph off a Facebook page. On January 18th, Google ([17](#)), Wikipedia ([18](#)), Reddit ([19](#)) and a host of other websites (at least 1000) either shutdown, partially shutdown, or redirected their users. Google redirected their users to a petition web site ([20](#)) against SOPA / PIPA. Before the day was out Google reported that 4.5 million people signed the petition ([21](#)). Google reported that for the full 24 hours, 7 million people signed the petition ([22](#)). For part of the day, Wikipedia would present the page you asked for in a language other than English. For the remainder of the day, a redirection page ([23](#)) would explain SOPA and tell you how to contact Congress. Seven million people signing a petition in one day is



probably a record, at the very least it is news. I would be willing to bet that no one in our club heard or read about the petition on radio, television, or the newspaper before or after the 'Internet black out'. I checked the print and Internet versions of the Chicago Tribune (24). There was no mention of the historical event (seven million signatures in one day). You may check it yourself by searching the Tribune web site for 'sopa petition' or 'pipa petition'. The only reference is to an article in the L.A. Times (25). There are just seven articles about SOPA and four about PIPA, all on or after the black out. What was the result of the black out / shut down and petition? Senate web sites ground to a halt or were crippled due to heavy traffic by constituents indicating their opposition to PIPA (26). It made little difference what the political affiliation of the constituent was. Democrats (27), Republicans (28), Libertarians (29) and independents (30) all agreed that SOPA / PIPA must be stopped. The Senate's reaction was quick (31). Harry Reid delayed the bill indefinitely. The House (32) reaction was equally quick but much more non-committal (33). Lamar Smith, the SOPA sponsor, stated after postponing the legislation that [the House] needs to revisit the problem of on line piracy. Those Congress people that could disassociate themselves from the bill, did (34). Check to see where your Congress person stands (35, 36). Note that 'leaning no' does not mean that they will vote no. The Electronic Frontier Foundation (37) has stated that this fight is far from over (38, 39). Even observers from overseas know that (40). With all the opposition, it makes you wonder who supports these bills. You may have seen former Senator Chris Dodd on TV or in print touting the bill (41). Dodd is the man who told us that when he left the Senate, he would not lobby Congress (42). Dodd is now the head of the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA 43) and thus a lobbyist. I guess he learned to lie in the Senate or was it on the campaign trail. The MPAA called the Internet black out an 'abuse of power' (44). This can be contrasted with an MPAA tweet (45) which stated, "No matter what point of view, everyone has the right to be heard." I guess that the everyone they are referring to are those, like themselves, who have large amounts of dollars to buy Congress. A vice president of the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA 46) posted a snarky tweet (47) about the Wikipedia (48) and college students. The RIAA has 'graded' Google's performance in weeding out violators of RIAA copyright law (49). They think that \$60 million is not enough to spend on getting rid of violators on Youtube (50). CBS and CNET have enumerated the effects that SOPA will have on us (51, 52). I'll end with the Constitution, Article 1, Section 8 (53), "To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries;". That sentence authorized copyrights and patents. When the law was first written in 1790 (54), the term of a copyright was 28 years that could be renewed for an additional 14 years if the author was alive. Now the copyright is 95 to 120 years depending on what loop holes have been employed. Who does this protect? Mickey Mouse (Disney 55), all movies and recordings made after 1978, and all books. I'll grant that people live longer today than they did in 1790 (about 43 years longer) (56, 57). Who benefits when a copyright extends beyond the lifetime of an author? Sometimes the heirs of the author but in many instances it is the corporation that did the publishing. These would be the same corporations that profited by all the publishing done during

the author's lifetime. That seems to fly in the face of Article 1, Section 8.

- 1) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stop_Online_Piracy_Act
- 2) <http://gizmodo.com/5877000/what-is-sopa>
- 3) http://news.cnet.com/8301-31921_3-57329001-281/how-sopa-would-affect-you-faq/
- 4) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PROTECT_IP_Act
- 5) <http://www.forbes.com/sites/derekbroes/2012/01/20/why-should-you-fear-sopa-and-pipa/>
- 6) https://www.pcworld.com/article/248298/sopa_and_pipa_just_the_facts.html
- 7) <http://lamarsmith.house.gov/>
- 8) <http://leahy.senate.gov/>
- 9) <https://www.senate.gov/>
- 10) <http://advanced-television.com/index.php/2012/01/18/pipa-sponsor-slams-net-black-outs/>
- 11) <http://www.law.howard.edu/432>
- 12) <http://www.howard.edu/>
- 13) <http://www.greeleygazette.com/press/?p=11974>
- 14) <http://megaupload.com/>
- 15) <https://www.facebook.com/>
- 16) <http://www.caeug.net/>
- 17) <https://encrypted.google.com/>
- 18) <https://www.wikipedia.org/>
- 19) <http://www.reddit.com/>
- 20) <https://www.google.com/landing/takeaction/>
- 21) <http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/technology/2012/01/google-anti-sopa-petition.html>
- 22) http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/google-says-7-million-signed-petition-against-anti-piracy-bills/2012/01/19/gIQAJ2MiBQ_story.html?tid=pm_business_pop
- 23) <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special:CongressLookup?new=yes>
- 24) <http://www.chicagotribune.com/>
- 25) <http://articles.latimes.com/2012/jan/18/business/la-fi-internet-strike-20120119/2>
- 26) <http://gizmodo.com/5877219/sopa-outrage-is-breaking-the-senates-websites?tag=sopa>
- 27) <https://pol.moveon.org/nointernetcensorship/?rc=blackoutdayemail&id=34876-14550137-LNpL9Ax>
- 28) <http://blog.heritage.org/2012/01/20/the-right-way-to-fight-piracy-and-the-wrong-way-to-defend-network-freedom/>
- 29) <http://lewrockwell.com/kwiatkowski/kwiatkowski283.html>
- 30) <https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/01/internet-spoke-and-finally-congress-listened>
- 31) <http://www.wired.com/threatlevel/2012/01/pipa-vote-delayed/>
- 32) <http://www.house.gov/>
- 33) <http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/technology/sopa-action->

[delayed/2012/01/20/gIQAFxYhDQ_story.html](#)

34) <https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/01/after-historic-protest-members-congress-abandon-pipa-and-sopa-droves>

35) <http://projects.propublica.org/sopa/sopa>

36) http://projects.propublica.org/sopa/pipa#roll_call

37) <https://www.eff.org/>

38) <https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/01/no-more-back-room-deals-users-must-have-voice-sopa>

39) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:SOPA_initiative/Learn_more

40) <http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/cifamerica/2012/jan/20/struggle-against-sopa-and-pipa-is-not-over?INTCMP=SRCH>

41) http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/01/19/obama-sopa-chris-dodd_n_1217453.html

42)

http://www.salon.com/2012/01/18/chris_dodds_paid_sopa_crusading/singleton/

43) <http://www.mpaa.org/>

44) <http://arstechnica.com/tech-policy/news/2012/01/sopa-livesand-mpaa-calls-protests-an-abuse-of-power.ars?comments=1#comments-bar>

45) <https://twitpic.com/89ahvg>

46) <http://www.riaa.com/>

47) <http://gizmodo.com/5877143/riaa-reminds-us-why-we-hate-them-with-obnoxious-smartass-tweet>

48) <https://www.wikipedia.org/>

49) <http://76.74.24.142/423B769B-66EE-B137-CDED-F44741C19E6B.pdf>

50) <https://www.youtube.com/>

51) http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-503544_162-57360665-503544/sopa-pipa-what-you-need-to-know/

52) http://news.cnet.com/8301-31921_3-57329001-281/how-sopa-would-affect-you-fa

53) <http://www.usconstitution.net/const.html#A1Sec8>

54) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Copyright_law_of_the_United_States

55) <http://disney.go.com/mickeymouse/>

56) <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~fianna/oc/usa/usa.html#life>

57) <http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/2012/tables/12s0104.pdf>

Is your computer being rented to crooks? Brian Krebs (1), a former major newspaper reporter, runs a computer security blog. He has uncovered an enterprise where for \$150 deposit and \$1 per hour you (or anyone) can rent a hi-jacked computer to do the renter's bidding. He ran backward checks on some IP addresses to see if he could identify the owners of some compromised computers. He found more than one hospital. I wonder if the management of the hospitals ever heard of Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA 2). Krebs recommends keeping your anti-virus and anti-spyware up to date to avoid having your computer rented out to crooks.

1) <https://krebsonsecurity.com/2011/04/is-your-computer-listed-for-rent/>

2)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Health_Insurance_Portability_and_Accountability_Act

Department of Homeland Security (DHS 1) routinely reads an eclectic assortment of web sites (2). (How do I get a job like that?) Facebook (3), Twitter (4), YouTube (5), MySpace (6), The Huffington Post (7), Jihad Watch (8), Technorati (9), and TruckingInfo.com (10) are being monitored. One of the blogs that are monitored is Krebs on Security - I cited it in the previous paragraph. Allegedly, no personal information is gathered. If you believe that, I have a bridge for sale. The DHS publication 'Social Media Monitoring and Situational Awareness Initiative' (11) is written as a pretext for monitoring your personal information in a effort to provide 'emergency managers' with information to provide services in an emergency which is euphemistically called 'situational awareness'. Your information will be compared across public sources and from government sources. It sounds to me like personal information is being collected. Do you have the right to decline to provide information is one of the questions that is asked within the document. The answer is anything you post on the Internet is fair game because you 'volunteered' the information. When Julian Assange said that Facebook is 'the most appalling spying machine ever invented', he was telling the truth to RT (12). If you watch that video to revelation is at the 17 minute mark.

1) <http://www.dhs.gov/index.shtm>

2) <http://bits.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/01/12/what-does-homeland-security-read/>

3) <https://www.facebook.com/>

4) <https://twitter.com/>

5) <https://www.youtube.com/>

6) <http://www.myspace.com/>

7) <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/>

8) <http://www.jihadwatch.org/>

9) <http://technorati.com/>

10) <http://www.truckinginfo.com/>

11)

http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/privacy/privacy_pia_ops_publiclyavailablesocial_media_update.pdf

12) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0yhFRWaQbNg>

Between you, me and the LampPost. That's all for now.

were the largest selling small computers in 1976. It did have a programming language and a multitude of applications. Other computer models appeared briefly on the scene: the Osborne, a "luggable" portable computer; RadioShack TRS-80, (Trash80); Heath H-89, a kit; Sinclair ZX80, a miniature inexpensive powerhouse from England; KayPro, by Andy Kay, owner of a local Solana Beach company; IMSAI, a computer that actually looked like one with 22 front panel switches and 40 blinking red lights.

Steve Jobs and his friend, Steve Wozniak, were computer club buddies and got together in 1976 to design the Apple I. During a visit to PARC ((Palo Alto Research Center, a Xerox company) Jobs saw their development of the GUI (Graphical User

January 2012 CD of the Month

AllFreeVideoJoiner - Merge video of same/different formats to a bigger video file
AndysFreeFLVjoiner - Merge flv video format to a bigger flv video file
ARI - January newsletter and November/December 2011
Avidemux - A free video editor designed for simple cutting, filtering and encoding tasks
BitTorrent - Download torrent files
CamStudio - A Desktop Screen Recorder
cCleaner - Updated HDD cleaning tool
CdBurnXP - Updated CD / DVD burner
CDOMlists - Lists of past CDOMs
Clementine - A odern music player and library organizer
Duplicati - A free backup client that stores encrypted, incremental, compressed backups to the cloud
Filezilla - Updated free FTP client / server program
IE8 - Updated web browser
LibreOffice - Updated office suite
Malwarebytes - Updated anti - spyware program
MediaMonkey - Updated media player
MemberContributions - Things e-mailed to me from members
NotePadPP - Updated text editor
OldTimeRadio - Old time radio broadcast
Opera - Updated web browser
Picasa - Updated picture organizer & simple editor

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Phone 6pm-9pm 630/858-6933

Interface that we now call Windows) and the mouse that controlled the cursor. He immediately realized that it was a great idea. No keyboard required! He borrowed (?!) the idea and implemented it in the Apple II. Later, Microsoft borrowed (copied?) the Apple GUI for their Windows and, not surprisingly, legal actions became rampant among the three.

In 1979 a killer application called VisiCalc came on the scene. It was a rudimentary spreadsheet that was first incorporated in the Apple II. Now a personal computer could actually do some work as opposed to just playing games. VisiCalc went on to inspire Lotus 1-2-3 and Excel which are much more powerful spreadsheet programs. WordStar, a word processing (WP) program, also appeared in 1979.

Several WP programs already existed, but WordStar quickly dominated the field. Typewriters became instantly obsolete.

Also about that time, an IBM manager in the Boca Raton, FL, facility developed the prototype IBMPC. It was a tough sell to upper management because of the fear of it cannibalizing the mainframe business, but he persevered and the IBM-PC was born. However, it had no operating system (OS).

Rather than create a new one, they sought out Gary Kildall, the owner of Digital Research Inc. (DRI) in Pacific Grove, CA. He had developed CP/M which at that time was a widely used operating system for small computers. When IBM personnel flew to the West Coast for their appointment with Kildall, they were told he was off flying his airplane. He was obviously not impressed with IBM. Justifiably miffed, IBM approached Bill Gates at Microsoft for an OS.

Gates and his partner, Paul Allen, had been together since 1975 writing the BASIC programming language. Bill quickly agreed to provide an OS to IBM. He called a local friend, also a programmer, who had developed QDOS (Quick & Dirty Operating System) based upon DRI's CP/M OS. After they agreed to minimal financial terms, Gates modified it slightly for IBM and named it MS-DOS (Microsoft Disk Operating System). IBM further cleaned out 300 bugs and called it PC-DOS, with Gates retaining all the rights. Brilliant negotiation! At the time, computers were sold without the OS, which had to be purchased separately. So in 1981 IBM launched the IBM-PC followed by 11 upgrade models. The XT model had the first internal hard drive.

Apple and Microsoft continue to fight for market share with supporters who are strongly opinionated lined up on each side. Apple has kept both the hardware and software proprietary, whereas PC is "Open Source," so third party suppliers can participate, increasing competition which ultimately reduces cost and increases availability of components. Also, because of Open Source, many more software applications are available for the IBM-PC than the Apple.

A second battle over the CPU (Central Processing Unit), the brains of the computer, pits Intel against AMD and Motorola. Again, competition favors the customer with perhaps Intel having a slim lead in performance, but not price.

Video displays have evolved from TVs to CRTs (cathode ray tubes), offered in either white, green or orange characters, to high resolution LCDs (Liquid Crystal Displays aka Flat Screens). OLED displays (Organic Light Emitting Diodes) are on the horizon with the promise of lower cost and better features.

Internal memory in early computers cost \$125 for 8KB. Now, 4GB, which is 500,000 times larger, only costs a fraction of that. Storage memory has evolved from punched paper tape to magnetic tape to floppy disks in sizes of 8", 5" and 3.5". Now hard disk drives, flash drives, CD/DVD/BlueRay burners, and Internet Cloud sites offer huge storage capability at minimal cost.

So what is next? Probably a major breakthrough will occur that we can neither predict nor even envision. There will be many exciting PC developments ahead, so stay tuned.