

**Abort,
Retry,
Ignore....**

Founded 1984 **ARI** is the
Official Newsletter of
Computers Are Easy User Group

May 2013
Volume XXX Issue 5

Confirmed
meeting
dates for
2013
Room A

May 25
4th Saturday

June 22, 2013
4th Saturday
annual picnic

July 20
3rd Saturday

August 24
4th Saturday
Check
www.caeug.net
for confirmed
meeting dates

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

Visitors
Welcome
HOPE TO SEE
YOU THERE!!



Our May 25, 2013 presenter

**Frank Braman will be showing the Amazon Kindle,
The E-Readers and Tablets and Applications**

Overbooked

By Greg Skalka, President
Under the Computer Hood User Group, CA
March 2013 issue, DriveLight

www.uchug.org president (at) uchug.org

Companies are continuing to develop new and more advanced computer technologies, finding ways to innovate on the personal computing platform first released over thirty years ago. Their marketing departments have not been as great at innovation, however, often using derivative and less than imaginative terminology to name and describe these new products and services. These marketing terms are often meaningless fluff, but we users are frequently forced to adopt them into our technical language.

One company that you all know has taken to slapping a lower case "i" on the front of the names of whatever products or services they are offering. It does not seem terribly imaginative to me, but I'm sure they do it to distinguish their products from those of other manufactures (at least legally).

Another overused term for new technology is "smart". There are smart phones, smart homes, the smart card, smart cars, smart trains, smart TV, the smart grid, smart meters and smart growth. My head is smarting from thinking about how many things are now referred to as smart. While it is hard to argue against a

Con't pg 2

Table of Contents	
Overbooked by Greg Skalka	1
The Value of Users Groups by Larry Bothe	4
May 2013 DVD of the Month List	4
If you agree, check the square box by Ralph Smoyer	5
Lamp Post 147 by John Spizzirri	6

product when it has “smart” as part of its name, the term alone is not enough to ensure acceptance. For instance, Smart Computing was once a popular print and web magazine that explained new computer technology to the common user. They couldn’t make money long term in that market, so they turned it into a free online business-oriented publication that looks to be mostly advertising.

The latest overused technology term I’ve noticed is “book”. I’ve created the following list of book-related items and their descriptions for instructional purposes, and to see just how long a list I could make.

Book - The original item; a set of flat cellulose sheets with information printed on one or both sides that are fastened together at one edge, forming a hinge. Originating around the 5th century, they were hand written and hand copied until printing methods were developed centuries later. Guttenberg’s movable type in 1450, later industrial printing methods and Amazon’s online marketing ultimately made books inexpensive and accessible to everyone.

eBook - An electronic version of a printed book (or even one that has never been physically printed). An eBook can be read using e-readers like Amazon’s Kindle and Barnes & Noble’s Nook (which surprisingly don’t have “book” in their names), as well as computers, tablets and smart phones. Amazon.com started out as an online seller of books, and now in conjunction with their reader is a main source of eBooks. The existence of many eBook formats does not appear to have diminished eBook popularity.

Notebook - This term refers to a notebook computer, also commonly known as a laptop. The notebook was the first truly mobile version of the personal computer (let’s not count the Osborne, with a case the size of a sewing machine, as mobile).The notebook’s hinged design (like a book) consisted of a computer mainboard / keyboard as one half, with a screen (from 14” up to 17” diagonal) on the other half (facing the keyboard).

These were initially more expensive than desktop computers due to the higher cost of miniaturization, but their popularity brought their volumes up to the point that economies of scale have made their cost the same or lower than desktops of similar performance (at least for all but the most powerful PCs). Notebook computers first came out in the early 1980s, five to ten years after the first PCs. They typically have all the features and capabilities of desktop PCs, including hard drive mass storage, optical drives, interfaces for wired/wireless networking, pointing devices and some limited expansion capabilities. Notebooks now far outsell the desktop computer.

Netbook - A smaller and less capable version of the notebook, the netbook was popularized in 2007 by manufacturer Asus, but the format was soon copied by others. Netbooks were meant to be even more portable, with smaller screens (5” to 12” diagonal) and lower weight (optical drives were omitted). With a less powerful processor than notebooks, they were much less expensive, and were intended primarily for use on the Internet (through wired and wireless connections). They competed well against notebooks for a while on their cost and size, but recent improvements in notebooks (reductions in cost and weight and increases in performance), as well as the introduction of the tablet computer, have diminished netbook sales greatly. It is likely this category will disappear from the marketplace soon.

PowerBook - A line of Apple Macintosh laptop computers sold between 1991 and 2006, featuring PowerPC processors running an Apple Mac OS. They were targeted at the professional market and

were replaced by the MacBook computer line.

iBook - A brand of Apple laptop computers sold between 1999 and 2006, featuring PowerPC processors running an Apple Mac OS. They were targeted at the consumer and educational markets, with lower performance and cost compared to the PowerBooks, and were replaced by the MacBook computers.

MacBook - A brand of Macintosh laptop computers made by Apple from 2006 to the present (includes MacBook Pro and MacBook Air models currently offered), running the Mac OS. These laptops had screens ranging from 11" to 17", Intel processors and either a polycarbonate / fiberglass or aluminum case. The MacBook Pro features 13" to 17" screens, optical drives and mechanical hard drives (with an SSD, or solid state drive, as an option). The MacBook Air is an ultraportable laptop released in 2008 that is extremely light and thin, with a machined aluminum case, Intel processor, 11.6" or 13.3" diagonal display and SSD for main storage.

Ultrabook - A high-end type of notebook computer defined by Intel in 2011 to compete with the MacBook Air. Like the MacBook Air, the Ultrabook is lightweight and thin (0.8"), with SSD storage, Intel processor (no surprise), long battery life and typically no optical drive or Ethernet ports. It is intended to use the Microsoft Windows operating system, with some models sporting a touchscreen display to work better with Windows 8.

Various manufacturers, including Asus, Acer, Dell, Lenovo, HP, Samsung and Fujitsu have already released Ultrabook models, with diagonal screen sizes ranging from 11.6" to 15.6". Their higher cost (typically \$1000) as compared to conventional notebook computers has limited their acceptance in the marketplace so far.

Zenbook - An Asus family of Ultrabook computers, ranging from a model with an 11.6" diagonal screen and limited connectivity to a 15" screen model with an optical drive. First released in 2011, their design was said to follow "zen philosophy".

Chromebook - A notebook computer running the Google Chrome OS (which is Linux-based). Intended to be used while connected to the Internet, it features a lower performance processor, SSD storage, no optical drive and typically smaller size (somewhat similar in functional philosophy to the netbook). It is designed to run applications from the web, rather than from internal storage. Acer and Samsung introduced Chromebooks in 2011, with HP and Lenovo introducing models in 2013. Screen sizes range from 12" to 14" diagonal. Additional features include quick boot up, long battery life and low cost (\$200 to \$450). They are sold primarily over the Internet. Google itself is producing a Chromebook Pixel model with premium features and price (\$1300 to \$1450).

Facebook - a social networking service started in 2004 on the Internet, with currently over 1 billion active users.

Bookmaker - An organization or a person that takes bets on events at specified odds. I wouldn't bet that these are going to be the only book-related terms for us to deal with in the future, but that's all I have for now.

Book'em, Danno!

The Value of Users Groups

by Larry Bothe, 4/13/2013

When you read John Spizzirri's Lamp Post column this month you will see that a member called him with a question about how to fix a computer that stops on boot-up, apparently wanting a password when no password was ever set. That member was me. But there's more to this story, and the rest of it serves to illustrate just how valuable it is to belong to a users group.

I actually had 3 things wrong with my 3-year old Windows-7 machine. It seems to me that every computer I have ever owned has developed little quirks over time that are a pain in the patootski. There doesn't seem to be any ready solution so you end up doing little work-arounds to deal with them. Sound familiar? I had been pretty sick after returning from a trip to Australia at the end of March, and I was spending a lot of time in front of my computer. The three problems, even though I could deal with them when they came up, really started to bug me, so I called John seeking assistance.

The first problem was the aforementioned stall-on-boot-up. John immediately figured out that it wanted a password (nobody knows why) and walked me through the screens to disable that requirement. After doing it for me John figured that others may have a similar problem so he put the solution in his Lamp Post column. The second problem was that I was having trouble accessing the files on my 500-gig external Rebit backup drive. The file names were in some incomprehensible code. John once again immediately hit on the solution. I was trying to access the files using Windows Explorer when I needed to be using the Rebit software to access them. Rebit encodes the file names to save space, and the software decodes the names when the files need to be accessed. Problem solved. The third one was a script error I get whenever I try to open an aviation newsletter that I like to read. That one is more complicated and nothing immediately came to John's mind. He suggested that I forward him a copy of the newsletter, and any other information I had about the circumstances, and he would look into it when he has a chance.

The point of all this is that John solved two out of three of my ongoing problems in less than 10 minutes, and he's considering the third problem. In the absence of a users group I would have had to talk to a commercial computer repair service. They rarely help you on the phone; their standard response is "bring the machine in; we'll take a look at it." And that look costs about \$100 just to say hello. Even if they fix it for you, you don't learn anything. You ask "what was wrong; how did you fix it?", and the answer (from the store clerk) is "I don't know; the tech guy made it work." The message is clear; just pay up, and don't ask any silly questions.

I don't know how computer users get by without belonging to a users group. Actually, I do know: Not very well, and expensively.

Larry Bothe is an associate member of CAEUG and an honorary member of FVPCA. He was President of CAEUG for a time back in the 90's when he lived in the Chicago area. Larry presently resides in southern Indiana where he is retired from the plastics industry and currently teaches people to fly airplanes. He also performs pilot examinations for the FAA. He can be contacted at LBothe@comcast.net.

May 2013 DVD of the Month

AmazonCloudDrive - Cloud storage program

ARI - May newsletter

Autoruns - Updated list of what runs at startup

Calibre - Updated e-book reader
cCleaner - Updated file cleaner
CDOMlists - Lists of past CDOMs
ConverterLite - Updated media converter
FoxitReader - Updated PDF reader
HPusbFormatter - USB flash drive formatting program
InfraRecorder - A free CD/DVD burning solution
inSSIDerWi-Fi - A Wi-Fi network discovery tool
JonDoFox - A profile 4 Firefox browser optimized 4 anonymous web surfing
KeePass - A free open source password manager
Malwarebytes - Updated anti-malware program
MemberContributions - Things e-mailed to me from members
MSsafetyScanner - A free security tool that provides scanning and helps remove viruses
NetSurveyor - A WiFi network discovery tool
OldTimeRadio - Old time radio broadcasts
Opera - Updated browser
PING - A live Linux ISO to backup and restore whole partitions
Q-Dir - An easy to use file manager
Seamonkey - Updated browser
Securable - Displays the most significant security-related processor features
Speccy - Updated PC audit
SuperAntiSpyware - Updated anti spyware program
VirtualBox - Updated virtual machine
VirtualCloneDrive - Updated ISO mounting program
VirtualPC2007 - Create and run one or more virtual machines (returning)
VLC - Updated media player
WebCopy - Copies entire websites to your HD
Wi-filnspector - A Wi-Fi network discovery tool

If you agree, check the square box!

By Ralph Smoyer, Vice President, Lehigh Valley Computer Group, PA
February 2013 issue, The LVCG Journal

<http://sites.google.com/site/lvcgsite/> wemiller (at) ptd.net

If you agree to the following list of items please place a check mark in the small square box.

How often have you seen this line before? Well I have seen this line many, many times before, and I have also personally entered that check mark in that box at least one time too often.

You see I downloaded a MacAfee computer virus protection program via the Internet approximately three years ago and dutifully check marked the square box. I thought the MacAfee program worked quite well! However, I have belonged to the Lehigh Valley Computer Group for many and I often use a lot of the knowledge that I get at our meetings. Well about three years ago one of our instructors mentioned that Microsoft offers a free virus protection plan, and I jumped on it. Wow, I could save \$50.00+ bucks a year.

I chose to use my newly gained knowledge from the LVCG, and my present virus, malware and



Lamp Post 147

May 2013

by John Spizzirri

A member asked me why his Windows 7 PC paused on the login screen when he did not have a password and how to fix it. He had to press enter for the computer to boot up. The process to avoid that pause is as follows;

Click Start (the start orb)

Type cmd

Right click on the cmd.exe icon

Select Run as administrator

When the DOS box opens, Type control userpasswords2 and press enter

The User Accounts box opens in the Users tab

Select the User that you want

Uncheck the 'Users must enter a user name and password to use this computer' check box

Then enter the account password in the two fields where it's asked.

Click on Apply

Click OK

Close the DOS box

Alternatively, Click Start

Type netplwiz

The User Accounts box opens in the Users tab

Select the User that you want

Uncheck the 'Users must enter a user name and password to use this computer' check box

Then enter the account password in the two fields where it's asked.

Click on Apply

Click OK

I found the second method **(1)** by searching for automatic log on just to make sure that I correctly listed the steps.

1) <http://sn.im/272u1od>

Microsoft (MS **(1)**) has finally realized that customer needs must be met, not focus groups, not CEO edicts, at least when it comes to the Windows 8 update aka Windows blue aka Windows 8.1. Mary Jo Foley **(2)** reports on how MS intends on updating Windows 8. Mary Jo Foley is ZDNet's **(3)** MS free lance expert. For years she has been an independent reporter on all things MS. She was critical of MS products when they did not measure up. She reported that Windows 2000 shipped with 63,000 known bugs. She based her story on a leaked memo from Mark Lucovsky **(5)**. He left MS for Google **(5)** and then moved to VMware **(6)**. Her reward for her honesty was excommunication. MS cut her off **(4)**. They refused to talk to her. The management team went out of their way to see to it that she was persona non grata. She had a difficult time for about four or five years having no insider information to report. She wrote a blog, did free lance work for the major publications, and web news sites. The result of the boycott by MS was dishonesty in reporting on MS by reporters that saw what happened to her. Nationally known pundits became MS cheer leaders, so as to stay in the good graces of MS management. That is why millions of people were conned into buying Vista and now Windows 8. MS has changed its tactics this time by forcing the manufacturers to use Windows 8 via licensing agreements. MS thus forces the computer buying public to purchase Win 8. A contact I have at MicroCenter **(7)** that told me that Win 8 was selling on 80% of the machines they sell because the

Con't pg 7

manufacturers cannot sell Windows 7 machines per their agreements. The business community is blaming the nosedive in PC sales on MS (9) and Win 8. Getting back to Foley's report on Win 8's update aka Windows Blue. Prior Windows versions had service packs (SP (8)). Windows XP SP1 and SP2 were larger (in megabytes) than the XP operating system. They were obviously complete rewrites of the operating system. With Windows 8, MS is not bothering to go with the SP charade. They call it Windows Blue and now changed the name to Windows 8.1. It is to be released sometime before the end of the year. Some say June 28th (9). It will be free to existing Win 8 and Windows RT users (10). You may recall that Win RT was the crippled version (11) of Win 8 released at the end of October 2012 for ARM (12) processors in mobile devices (namely the Surface RT). It is not clear whether there will be a separate Win 8.1 for the RT version. RT users were told that they could not 'upgrade' to Windows 8 because it would not work on ARM processors. What can you expect in the new version? Heavy News (14) reported that an early build of 8.1 was 'leaked' (15). The 'leaked' version incorporated 'Snap views'. Snap views allows users to have up to four apps appear on the same page. Vista and Win 7 allowed up to two applications on the same page. this will be a new feature for tablet or phone users. Desktops already had the two applications on the same page feature. Users will have finer control of color options. There is also finer control of the Metro desktop in the form of much larger and much smaller 'tiles' and arrangement of 'tiles'. The Win 8.1 upgrade may be timed to coincide with the market release of Intel's Haswell chip that purports to handle graphics significantly better than previous Intel chips (16). SkyDrive, MS cloud storage, may be integrated into the OS. Things that may be brought back are the Start button, Start menu, Desktop, and the Win 7 calculator. New applications may include an audio recorder, a timer / alarm application, a movie editor, and Internet Explorer 11. I would think that the business geniuses at MS would have thought through the process a business or government would have to go through to upgrade to the completely different user interface before springing it on them. The market share of the various versions of Windows should show just about anyone (let alone business geniuses) that very few big spenders change for changes sake (17). Windows 7 recently edged out Windows XP for the most installed instances. 7 now has only a 6% lead over XP. Vista has a total of 5% of all installed instances. Microsoft deserves credit for producing a great OS which was XP. Greed and incompetence produced Vista. 7 is a descent upgrade to XP. 8 is much faster but the massive change in the user interface is a business killer. The costs associated with training and support people eliminate any advantage that may have come from the speed and stability of the OS. Even Apple (18) is not foolish enough to radically change the user interface just to sell something new. When Apple does produce a new version of the OS, the costs are kept to a minimum (they make their money on hardware). The OS X upgrade is less than \$50. It has the same look and feel as the previous OS. The internal functions were tweaked, speeding it up and eliminated security problems. Virtually no money was spent 'enhancing' the user interface. No consumer backlash or corporate reluctance to update was felt. Apple stock price: 433.26 Microsoft stock price: 34.87 Wonder how that happened.

- 1) <http://www.microsoft.com/>
- 2) <http://sn.im/272u1qo>
- 3) <http://www.zdnet.com/>
- 4) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Criticism_of_Microsoft
- 5) <https://www.google.com/>
- 6) <https://www.vmware.com/>
- 7) <http://www.microcenter.com/>
- 8) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Service_pack
- 9) <http://sn.im/272u1sg>
- 10) <http://sn.im/272u1ue>

- 11) <http://sn.im/272u1wc>
- 12) <http://sn.im/272u1xq>
- 13) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ARM_architecture
- 14) <http://www.heavy.com/>
- 15) <http://sn.im/272u202>
- 16) <http://sn.im/272u21i>
- 17) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microsoft_Windows
- 18) <http://sn.im/272u23b>

The leaked version of Windows 8.1 has a number of Youtube videos showing the differences between it and Windows 8 (1, 2, 3, 4, 5). I have included some of them on the DVD of the Month.

- 1) <http://sn.im/272u24z>
- 2) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4PuLoQL7IX0>
- 3) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KAxXX0m-P_0
- 4) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=16p0Qsrowx0>
- 5) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VOZxuPjc29M>

Eastern European scammers are now using 800 numbers to con users out of their money (1). Just like the extortionware that tells you that thousands of viruses have attacked your system this scam uses similar screens. Instead of having you click on something it asks you to call an 800 number. The person on the other end asks for remote control of your machine then asks you to purchase their 'service'. Here is an actual call that lasts 26 minutes. The user tells the scammer that he is on to the con, but the scammer is persistent. Do Not FALL for this SCAM.

- 1) <http://sn.im/272u26h>
- 2) <http://sn.im/272u27x>

Cloud storage services are starting to show up everywhere. One of my clients asked me to research the various services to find one that would fill his needs. Here are the free cloud storage services that I found, plus some information about each. There is no particular order to the list. Many of these require a client software be downloaded and installed on your PC. Keep in mind that some services restrict what you can upload. If some services determine that you are sharing copywritten material without permission, your account will be terminated and erased even if you paid for it. In most cases there are no refunds.

iCloud

<https://www.icloud.com/>

Requires you have an iPhone, iPad, iPod touch, or on a Mac. I do not have any of those items so I do not know if there is a charge or the amount of storage you get.

BitCasa - 10 GB free

<https://www.bitcasa.com/>

"Infinite" storage at \$100 per year includes chat / email support and revision history

Works with Windows 8, 7, Vista, and XP as well as Mac, Android, iOS, Windows Store

Google Drive - 5GB free

<http://www.google.com/drive/about.html>

Incorporates Google Docs with collaboration. There have been short periods with up time problems.

MS SkyDrive - 7GB Free

[**http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/skydrive/download**](http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/skydrive/download)

For a comparison chart of four services try [**http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/skydrive/compare**](http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/skydrive/compare)

DropBox - 2GB Free

[**https://www.dropbox.com/install**](https://www.dropbox.com/install)

100 GB for \$9.99 per month

Dropbox has had security and up time problems in the past.

Box - 5GB free

[**https://www.box.com/personal/**](https://www.box.com/personal/)

MemoPal 3GB free

[**http://www.memopal.com/en/**](http://www.memopal.com/en/)

Get more free space when you invite your friends.

ADrive 50GB Free

[**http://www.adrive.com/plans**](http://www.adrive.com/plans)

That is not a misprint - it is 50 GB free. \$6.95/month up to a terabyte.

SugarSync - Free 30 day trial

[**https://www.sugarsync.com/plans/**](https://www.sugarsync.com/plans/)

Pricing starts at \$7.49/month for 60GB

Team Drive - 2GB Free

[**http://www.teamdrive.com/pricing.html**](http://www.teamdrive.com/pricing.html)

European based with prices only in Euros.

Ubuntu One - 5GB Free

[**https://one.ubuntu.com/**](https://one.ubuntu.com/)

20 GB with streaming music feature \$3.99/month

Although this is a Linux based service it works with Windows 8, 7, Vista, and XP as well as Mac, Android, iOS

Open Drive - 5GB Free

[**https://www.opendrive.com/pricing**](https://www.opendrive.com/pricing)

Free plan has file size and through put restrictions. Unlimited plan is \$9.95/month.

SyncPlicity - 2GB Free

[**http://www.syncplicity.com/products**](http://www.syncplicity.com/products)

50 GB is \$15/month

SpiderOak - 2GB Free

[**https://spideroak.com/**](https://spideroak.com/)

100 GB for \$10/month

iDrive - 5GB Free

<https://www.idrive.com/index.html>

150 GB for \$49.50/year

This story is where I started on my research (1). Many of the services have 'sync' or revision history. If these things are important to you, you will have to determine the services' definition of those terms to see if they match your understanding of them. Wikipedia provides a good explanation of what cloud storage is (2). Some of the down side of cloud services are listed here (3). Some of the down side items that I could not find covered sufficiently - are who owns the rights to original work copied to a server overseas, how can data be recovered if the service goes out of business, and can the service be required to only use physical server space in a particular jurisdiction?

1) <http://sn.im/272u2a0>

2) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cloud_storage

3) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cloud_computing_security

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

spyware protection is Microsoft Security Essentials (free from Microsoft) and yes I did check mark the square box to have it actuated. It works great.

The bottom line of this article is that sometime in mid-2012 I checked my monthly credit card statement a little more thoroughly than usual, and I found that the \$50.00 bucks that I thought I was saving a year was still being deducted from my credit card by McAfee.

I then e-mailed, talked to them by phone, sent a letter, re-sent the letter via Certified mail! All to no avail.

My final realization was that I had to file a civil case with my local magistrate. I filed the paperwork, paid the court fees up front, and waited for my court date. On my court date the defendant, (McAfee, headquartered in California) did not show. The judgment was in my favor and I received the McAfee 2012 credit card cost of \$50.00 + bucks, and all of my court fees.

When talking by phone with a McAfee representative I mentioned that I didn't order their virus protection product this year and she replied, yes you did when you checked the square box. I then noted to her this could go on forever, and she agreed yes it could. I guess I now saved \$50.00 bucks a year, and possibly forever, even for my heirs.

Meeting Location and Special Accommodations

The Glenside Public Library address is at 25 E Fullerton Avenue, Glendale Heights, Illinois. 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(at)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 , at least five (5) days prior to the program, so that reasonable accommodation can be made.

Members Helpline

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

Beginner Helpline

- Billy Douglas

Beginner hardware problems

- Dick Ferguson

Hardware problems, XP, Win 7 & Linux

- John Spizzirri

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