



NEWSLETTER

SAUK COMPUTER USER GROUP
USER HELPING USER

MAY 2009

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MINUTES: SCUG CLUB MEETING APRIL 11, 2009

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The meeting of April 11 began with the Question and Answer period.

This unworthy secretary lost track of time because her wall **clock's battery ran** down and stopped and so I missed most of the question and answer session. When I arrived at the meeting there was a hot discussion of a virus that had been afflicting several **of the members' computers**.

After a break for coffee and cookies, the business meeting was started, with the minutes of the last meeting accepted as published in the newsletter. There were approximately 27 members, one new and two returning guests present at the meeting.

Neal announced that the raffling of the thumb drives would be split between two of the meetings.

Treasurer Marion Braun presented her report for the month of March and it was accepted as read.

It was reported that a good number of Forever Stamps have been bought for future mailings. Also a number of items for raffles have been purchased. There was no old business brought up. Ted Kontos suggested the club apply for some of the stimulus money to be used for the computer lab here at the Senior Center.

The topic of a new name for the newsletter was brought up and entries will be accepted by Betty Beatty, who will then present them to the board without the names of the persons who suggested them. The board, in turn, will decide on the top three entries which will then be put to a vote of the membership.

Terry thanked all those who have contributed

items to the computer lab and the meeting was brought to an end by a motion he made and which was seconded by Ken Hughes.

The prize drawing was held with several nice prizes being won by members.

Gary Campbell of Toner Plus in Rock Falls gave the program presentation on how his company operates and reconditions and refills ink and toner cartridges. He showed how to get to his web page order form and where to go to find prices for whichever toner or ink cartridge you need.

Respectfully submitted by Angela V. Rester, club secretary.

Club Information

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BOARD MINUTES
APRIL 14, 2009

DON'T FORGET: As mentioned in the April newsletter, the club is looking for a name for our newsletter. Please send your

suggestions to Betty at: bbeatty@grics.net. She will give them to the board without the person's name. If there are identical entries it goes to the earliest email. The board will pick the 3-5 best and the entire membership will vote on the name at the June meeting. The person who enters the winning name gets 5 free raffle tickets to both the July drawing and my Christmas give away.

Also the board is looking for input on any programs you would like to see demonstrated at our future meetings or is there a program that you would like to demonstrate; contact a board member or send me an email.

Joe Fornero - Asst. newsletter editor & publisher

The April board meeting was held at the home of Angela Rester. Members present were Neal Shipley, Don Haag, Joe Fornero, Dane Neiderman, Terry MacLennan, Tom Cartwright and Angela Rester.

Members talked about getting a grant. Raffle items were also discussed, as was the question of using a larger resolution on the screen icons to make it easier for members who sit way back to distinguish them.

Terry's wife, Glenda, has become very adept at looking for travel deals and she will give the May program on doing this and on making informed decisions.

The June program will deal with U-Tube programming. The July cookout was also discussed. The meeting ended with a motion to adjourn by Angela, seconded by Tom.

Respectfully submitted by Angela V. Rester, club secretary.

Make Your Cell Phone Battery

Last Longer: If your battery won't hold a charge very well or you don't always have access to a charger, there are a few things you can do to stretch your battery's charge time. When you're not using your phone, turn it off, unless you are expecting an important call. If you are in an area without service, turn your phone off so it isn't searching for signals. If you want to leave your phone on, you can change a few settings on the phone to save battery.

Turn your phone's vibrate feature off and use a basic ringtone on low volume. Also, turn your backlight off, as it will take up excessive battery power. Features such as Bluetooth, Internet, cameras, etc., will drain the battery you have left, so try to use these features only when you absolutely need them.

Use Your GPS To Its Full Potential:

The next time you're in a strange place with time on your hands and find yourself looking for something to do, let your GPS (global positioning system) help you discover a few

out-of-the-way places. Most GPS devices include listings of local restaurants and attractions. Instead of just looking up specific locations, browse the menus to uncover your location's hidden treasures. You never know what you may find.

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By Terry MacLennan

To tell the truth, I am not overly familiar with Vista and don't particularly like that it is so bloated that you need at least 1GB of RAM for it to operate. However, while doing some software maintenance on one a few days ago, I did discover one feature that I really liked. The lady, whose computer I was working on, didn't know a thing about gadgets but I played around and put a few on her desktop and she was thrilled to death to see a clock, a calendar, stock market report and the news headlines, the latter two being RSS feeds.

I was jealous, of course, that since I run XP, I don't have this nice feature. So, I did a little investigating and *voila*, found a similar program that could run on XP and the best part is that it is **FREE**. It is named strangely enough "Desktop Sidebar" and is available for download at <http://www.desktopsidebar.com/>. I was a bit leery of it, but daringly downloaded and installed it. It was a standard type download and install so won't go into any details here. It doesn't have any viruses or other nasties as far as I have found.

It comes pre-loaded with a variety of gadgets called panels which I have included in the below list.

Newsroom
Calendar
Tasks
Inbox
Notes

Performance
Mail Checker
Clock
Messenger, Miranda IM and ICQ
Media Player
WinAmp
Volume Control
Toolbar
Weather
Search Bar
Stock

Although not quite as visually appealing as the Vista gadgets, the panels work quite similarly. There are additional third-party panels available on the website and are also free. Options as far as positioning of the sidebar, transparency, which panels you want, etc., are more than I can cover here. You can personalize most of the panels by changing the weather city, what type of clock you want, the stocks you wish presented, whether you want it visible at all times or a pull out from the side, etc.

While I was typing this, I pulled out the sidebar to check the calendar and the weather forecast – a truly nice feature to have quickly available when you are doing another project.

I have the performance panel in operation as I write this and just as the website states, it takes a minimum of memory resources

to operate. You can set Sidebar to either come on automatically when Windows starts or manually as you choose.

For the sake of brevity I need to end this article here but want to tell you just a bit about the newsroom panel. There are quite a few RSS feeds here pre-loaded many of which are computer related. Again this panel is fully customizable and I deleted many of these as being a bit of overkill. I did find that a couple such as CNN and FOXNEWS had an outdated URL for the feed link so deleted those as well. A quick Google search found the latest for these so I added them back in and it works fine now. I added a couple of other RSS feeds that I found by using Google to customize for my preferences.

So far, I like the sidebar and have found it very helpful and enjoyable and not in the least annoying. Desktop Sidebar has been available for several years now and some of you may have already known about it, but as always, I was late in finding out about it.

HOW TO FIX COMMON PROBLEMS WITH FIREWALLS

by Nathan Lake

Everyone likes to have control over their lives. And with a firewall, you can have greater control over the data your PC receives and sends via the Internet, which helps prevent malicious software from gaining access to your PC. A firewall can automatically block (or allow) an application from communicating online, so you can manage the programs that **are and aren't free to transmit data.** We'll help you resolve the most common problems with firewalls to ensure that your firewall is keeping the bad stuff out and the good stuff in.

■ Define Your Firewall

It's quite possible that you have multiple firewalls on your home network. Microsoft integrates the Windows Firewall into Windows XP (included with the Service Pack 2 update) and Windows Vista, and many routers offer built-in firewall functionality to provide hardware-based protection. Typically, hardware firewalls are better at handling Internet traffic than software firewalls because **a hardware firewall won't compete with the applications on your PC, and it can't be disabled by malware.** A software firewall may be an individual application or part of an existing Internet security suite, such as Norton Internet Security 2009 (\$69.99; www.symantec.com) or ZoneAlarm Internet Security Suite 2009 (\$49.95; www.zonealarm.com).

Because the firewall checks the Internet traffic that enters your computer, a malfunctioning firewall can cause some real trouble

when it stops working, including accidentally blocking all Internet access to your PC. With a hardware firewall, you should first try resetting the router to its default settings. Most routers include a pinhole-sized Reset button, so you can simply insert a paper clip to reset the firewall settings. If resetting the **router doesn't work, it'd be wise to upgrade the firmware, which is the program that's stored in your router's memory.** Router manufacturers often release updated versions of the firmware that fix issues and add new features to routers; updating the firmware may immediately repair the problem or provide a way to fix it.

To determine if your router is using the most current firmware, open your Web browser and enter your **router's IP (Internet Protocol) address** into the Address Bar. Consult the users manual for your router or **visit the manufacturer's Web site** (locate the Support section) to find the IP address, which should feature a listing similar to **192.168.1.128.** You'll also need to know the login information for your **router because you'll enter a login name and password when you first load the router's administrative console.** Generally, the firmware version will be listed in the corner **of the router's console page.** Next, **visit the manufacturer's Web site** and locate the Support section to see if **there's a more recent firmware version.** If there is a new version, save it to **your computer's hard drive.**

From a router's administrative console, you can configure the settings on your firewall.



The process for updating a router varies by manufacturer, as well as **by model, so you'll want to check the users manual** for the appropriate way to install the update. That being said, many newer models offer a built-in update feature in **the router's console.** For instance, on most D-Link routers, you'd select the Tools menu, select Upgrade, choose Browse, and open the folder where you saved the file. Click Update Firmware Image and after the update is complete, click Continue; the router will reboot.

To determine if a software firewall is blocking your Internet access, simply turn off the firewall. For example, to turn off the Windows Firewall in Vista, click Start, select Control Panel, choose Security, click Turn Windows Firewall On Or Off, and select Off. If Internet access returns, you'll need to make adjustments to the firewall (see next solution) to allow the applications to communicate with the Internet.

Problem: One of the applications on my computer can't send to or receive data from the Internet.

Solution: The current security climate often means that many firewalls are, by default, aggressive about preventing apps from freely transmitting data. In some cases, you'll need to make an exception, also called opening or forwarding a port, in your firewall to allow a program to send and receive Internet requests. But before you can allow the application's connection, you'll need to know the port number or the set of port numbers the program uses so you can open those ports. Programs typically list the port or ports in the app's configuration settings, and you can also visit the manufacturer's Web site to find the application's default ports. A program that requires Internet access, such as an online game or video conference software, has a port assigned to it, and when the application accesses the Internet, the router directs Internet access to the application through that port number. For example, by default, iTunes is configured to use port 3689, while the default port for Internet traffic is 80.



Many newer routers, such as the D-Link DIR-655 (\$129.99; www.dlink.com) seen here, integrate a firewall.

To open a port, enter the configuration settings of your router or software firewall and unblock the port. Typically, you'll find the port settings under a section similar to Port Forwarding or Applications And Gaming—of course, the title differs by manufacturer. On most hardware-based firewalls, you'll need to enter the application name and the range of ports it's allowed to use. Alternatively, many software firewalls now let you block or allow an entire program, rather than selecting a specific port you want to open. We'll walk you through forwarding a port in Norton Internet Security 2007 to help you get a better idea of the process. Open Norton Internet Security and click the Settings heading. Click the Personal Firewall link, select Configure, and from the Program list, select the application you want to allow Internet access. Click the drop-down menu under the Access heading and select Allow. To prevent unauthorized use of the program, many software firewalls let you configure additional rules, such as blocking inbound communication, to provide greater control of the application's freedom to access the Internet.

To set an exception in the Windows Firewall, click the Start button, select Control Panel, and click Security. Select the Allow A Program Through Windows Firewall link and click Continue if the User Account Control message appears. At the Windows Firewall Settings window, select the Exceptions tab and locate the program you want to allow free inbound traffic. Click OK.

Problem: My firewall frequently sends alerts to my Desktop.

Solution: Many software firewalls produce alerts whenever an application or Internet access has been blocked, which helps you trace the cause of the problem. You may often see the alerts if your ISP (Internet service provider)

regularly pings the cable modem to test the speed of the Internet service. The same problem may occur when you visit a Web site with ads because your Web browser may send a request to the ad server that sends back a ping to your PC. Generally, the pings are safe and don't require any extra attention. If a repetitive alert annoys you, you can make an exception for the IP address, which will stop the firewall from blocking that IP address' access. However, check with your ISP to make certain the IP address is safe to allow.

Some software firewalls may also generate alerts whenever you visit a Web site that generates third-party cookies, which are cookies (small files used to track where you go and the preferences of a Web site) delivered from a source outside the Web site you're currently visiting. Because third-party cookies often intrude on your privacy, it's a good idea to let your firewall automatically block the cookie. That said, you can turn off the alerts if they bother you. For example, to do so in the ZoneAlarm Internet Security Suite 2009, open the ZoneAlarm Control Center, select Privacy from the Main tab, and in the Cookie Control box, click the Custom button. Uncheck the Show Privacy Advisor box and click Apply to allow ZoneAlarm to block the cookies without generating alerts.

Problem: I can't print when my firewall is active.

Solution: Your firewall is blocking your PC's access to resources on your home network. If you use the built-in Windows Firewall, it's typically necessary to allow File And Printer Sharing to print to network printers. In Vista, click the Start button, select Control Panel, and choose Security. Click the Allow A Program Through Windows Firewall link, choose the Exceptions tab, and click the checkbox for File And Printer Sharing from the Program Or Port list. In WinXP, click the Start button, choose Control Panel, and double-click Security Center. Click Windows Firewall, the Exceptions tab, and the checkbox for File And Printer Sharing. Allowing file and printer sharing will also let you access the folders and files shared by other computers on your home network.

Problem: I get an error message that my PC is running more than one firewall.

Solution: Although most experts recommend using both a hardware and software-based firewall, you shouldn't simultaneously run two software firewalls. They may conflict with each other and make it difficult to manage application rules. If you must choose between a third-party firewall and the Windows Firewall, we suggest that you use the third-party product. The Windows Firewall integrated with WinXP SP2 can only block data from coming into your PC, not outbound traffic. And the Windows Firewall in Vista can block data being sent out of your PC, but to do so, you must configure outbound protection. Alternatively, most third-party firewalls automatically block

suspicious applications from transmitting data from your computer.

Problem: I'm connected to the Internet but I can't load my Web mail account.

Solution: Depending on the security level of your software firewall, the security application may be blocking Web mail's ability to send data to your PC. Many software firewalls include features, such as antiphishing and antipublicity, that may see your Web mail as a threat. Most software firewalls let you create a list of Web sites that are safe, such as ZoneAlarm's Trusted Zone, so you can maintain security policies without losing access to your favorite sites.

Problem: My software firewall no longer functions.

Solution: It's possible the firewall may no longer function, but in many cases, spyware and viruses will purposely turn off your firewall so the malicious program can use the Internet to freely communicate data with a system hacker. First, uninstall and reinstall your Internet security suite to rule out application error. If the firewall still doesn't work, run your antivirus and antispyware software to remove the infection. After you remove the infection, it's wise to uninstall and reinstall your software firewall, in case the malware damaged it.

Problem: I turned off Windows Firewall, but now Windows produces warnings that Windows Firewall is disabled.

Solution: Windows can be pushy about ensuring that your PC is protected, but at least Microsoft lets you turn off the messages. In Vista,

click the Start button, select Control Panel, choose Security, and open Security Center. Select Firewall and click the Show Me My Available Options link. Select the I Have A Firewall Program That I'll Monitor Myself option to stop the alerts.



Problem: I want to raise the security level of the firewall on my router.

Solution: Most routers let you choose from a Low, Medium, High, or Block All security level. The Block All feature is handy if you want to limit users to a few key apps—for which you'll need to make exceptions in the Block All security policy. For example, if you wanted to restrict Web surfing for your child but allow access to the PC's email client, you could configure the email client as an exception to control the child's Internet access while you're away.

To change the security level of your router, open your Web browser and enter the router's IP address. From the administrative console, locate the firewall settings and find an area where you can configure the security level. When you select a security level, the console will typically list the type of connections the level will and won't allow. Generally, a High setting severely lim-

its both inbound and outbound data (Web browser access and email are allowed), while a Medium setting blocks all inbound and some outbound traffic. The Low setting usually allows all outbound traffic but most inbound is restricted.

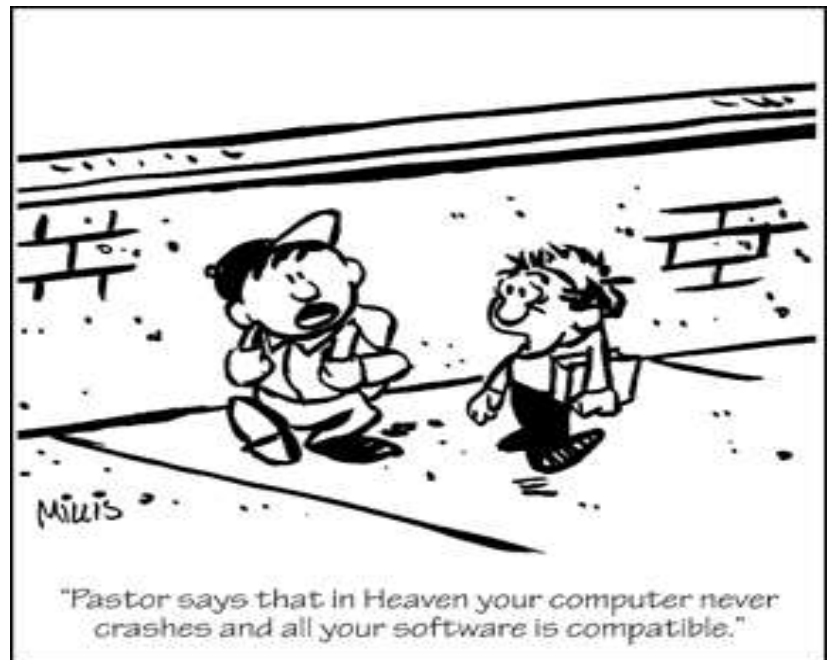
by Nathan Lake

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■ Support Groups

If you've tried our solutions and the firewall still isn't functioning, take time to look through the Support section of your firewall manufacturer's Web site. There's a lot of info available for hardware- and software-based firewall issues, including how-to articles that can help resolve specific problems.



Digital TV Transition: If you are one of the nearly 6% of Americans, according to a January survey from The Nielsen Company, that is unprepared for the switch to digital TV, you'll want to mark June 12 on your calendar. The new transition deadline means that if you use an antenna to receive TV and your television doesn't feature a built-in digital tuner, you only have a little time before you absolutely must connect a DAC (digital-to-analog converter) to watch over-the-air TV.

A DAC (or DTV converter box) converts a digital signal to an analog output that can be used by an analog TV. If your TV has a digital tuner or you subscribe to cable or satellite, you don't need a DTV converter box; your existing cable and satellite equipment already transforms the signal. Only those that receive TV via antenna on a TV with an analog tuner are affected by the transition. To apply for a coupon and get more info, visit www.dtv2009.gov.

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SO, YOU THINK ENGLISH IS EASY???
READ TO THE END . . . A NEW TWIST

Submitted by Neal Shipley from a forum

1) The bandage was wound around the wound.

2) The farm was used to produce produce.

3) The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.

4) We must polish the Polish furniture.

5) He could lead if he would get the lead out.

6) The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.

7) Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present ...

8) A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.

9) When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.

10) I did not object to the object.

11) The insurance was invalid for the invalid.

12) There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row ..

13) They were too close to the door to close it.

14) The buck does funny things when the does are present.

15) A seamstress and a sewer fell down into a sewer line.

16) To help with planting, the pig farmer taught his sow to sow.

17) The wind was too strong to wind the sail.

18) Upon seeing the tear in the painting, I shed a tear.

19) I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.

20) How can I intimate this to my

most intimate friend?

Let's face it - English is a crazy language. There is no egg in egg-plant, nor ham in hamburger; neither apple nor pine in pineapple.

English muffins weren't invented in England or French fries in France. Sweetmeats are candies while sweetbreads, which aren't sweet, are meat. We take English for granted. But if we explore its paradoxes, we find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.

And why is it that writers write but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce and hammers don't ham? If the plural of tooth is teeth, why isn't the plural of booth, beeth? One goose, 2 geese. So one moose, 2 meese? One index, 2 indices? Doesn't it seem crazy that you can make amends but not one amend? If you have a bunch of odds and ends and get rid of all but one of them, what do you call it? And if you ask for a **pair of pliers you'll receive just one tool, a pliers.**

If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught? If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat? Sometimes I think all the English speakers should be committed to an asylum

for the verbally insane. In what language do people recite at a play and play at a recital? Ship by truck and send cargo by ship? Have noses that run and feet that smell?

How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites? You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language in which your house can burn up as it burns down, in which you fill in a form by filling it out and in which, an alarm goes off by going on.

English was invented by people, not computers, and it reflects the creativity of the human race, which, of course, is not a race at all. That is why, when the stars are out, they are visible, but when the lights are out, they are invisible.

PS. - Why doesn't 'Buick' rhyme with 'quick' ?

You lovers of the English language might enjoy this . There is a two-letter word that perhaps has more meanings than any other two-letter word, and that is 'UP.']

It's easy to understand UP, meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake UP ? At a meeting, why does a topic come UP ?

(continued on page 9)

YOU KNOW IT IS TIME TO REASSESS YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR COMPUTER WHEN....

1. You wake up at 4 O'clock in the morning to go to the bathroom and stop to check your email on the way back to bed.
2. You turn off your computer and get an awful empty feeling, as if you just pulled the plug on a loved one.
3. You decide to stay in college for an additional year or two, just for the free Internet access.
4. You laugh at people with 28.8 modems.
5. You start using smileys :-) in your snail mail.
6. You find yourself typing "com" after every period when using a word processor.com
7. You can't correspond with your mother because she doesn't have a computer.
8. When your email box shows "no new messages" and you feel really depressed.
9. You don't know the gender of your three closest friends because they have nondescript screen names and you never bothered to ask.
10. You move into a new house and you decide to Netscape before you landscape.
11. Your family always knows where you are.
12. In real life conversations, you don't laugh, you just say "LOL, LOL"
13. After reading this message, you immediately forward it to a friend!

... ENGLISH IS EASY???

(CONT.)

Why do we speak UP and why are the officers UP for election and why is it UP to the secretary to write UP a report ?

We call UP our friends. And we use it to brighten UP a room, polish UP the silver; we warm UP the left-overs and clean UP the kitchen. We lock UP the house and some guys fix UP the old car. At other times the little word has real special meaning. People stir UP trouble, line UP for tickets, work UP an appetite, and think UP excuses. To be dressed is one thing, but to be dressed UP is special.

And this UP is confusing: A drain must be opened UP because it is stopped UP. We open UP a store in the morning but we close it UP at night.

We seem to be pretty mixed UP

about UP! To be knowledgeable about the proper uses of UP, look the word UP in the dictionary. In a desk-sized dictionary, it takes UP almost 1/4th of the page and can add UP to about thirty definitions. If you are UP to it, you might try building UP a list of the many ways UP is used. It will take UP a lot of your time, but if you don't give UP, you may wind UP with a hundred or more. When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding UP. When the sun comes out we say it is clearing UP...
When it rains, it wets the earth and often messes things UP.
When it doesn't rain for awhile, things dry UP.
One could go on and on, but I'll wrap it UP, for now my time is UP, so.....it is time to shut UP!

Sauk Computer User Group
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Sterling, IL 61081

There will be a Question & Answer Session
starting at 1PM.

Bring any questions you have about your
computer or problems you may be having.

It will be conducted by:
Neal Shipley & Art Bendick



Notice

The next meeting of the Sauk
Computer User Group will be

May 9, 2009

Workshop: 1:00 P.M.

Business: 2:00 P.M.

Program: 3:00 P.M.

Place: **Whiteside Senior Center**
1207 West 9th Street
Sterling, Illinois 61081

MAY'S MEETING THEME: FINDING DISCOUNT RATES

FOR TRAVEL AND VACATION

BY GLENDA MACLENNAN