

Abort, Retry, Ignore...



Computers Are Easy User Group



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Volume XXIII

Issue 1

Make Your Computer Run Better — With Help From Process Library by Larry Bothe, 12/11/2005

I'm sure you have heard and read, over and over again, that in order to keep your machine running in tip-top form you need to run Disk Cleanup and Disk Defragmenter ("Defrag") on a regular basis. "Regular" is in the eye of the beholder, but I do it weekly, along with my backup. However, even if you run Cleanup and Defrag on a regular basis your computer can become slow over time. It may seem like it takes forever to boot up, and half of forever to shut down. Programs don't load and run as fast as they used to either.

One of the reasons for this slowness is that many of today's application programs have components that start on boot-up whether you actually intend to use them or not. I think it's an ego thing; the people writing and distributing the software all think that their program is the most important program for you have. They want it to start and run tray icons, schedulers, counters and quick-start routines even though you aren't going to use any of those 'features'. Still others hope you will do something with their software that will result in additional financial gain for them; so you get messenger programs, catalogs, basic applications that want to sell you the full version, etc., etc. Over time this stuff builds up on your machine without you even knowing it. Your machine takes longer and longer to boot up as each of these routines takes a while to start, and at shutdown you get the same effect. Each program has to have its settings saved and be shut down. While you are actually using your computer these routines running in the background are sapping system resources, which means eating up your available RAM. Pretty soon everything is slow, and you're not happy.

You may know all this, but you don't know how to manage it and make improvements. If you open Task Manager (cntrl-alt-del) [Editor's note: cntrl-alt-del for Win 2000 and XP. For ME and Win98, go to 'Start', 'Run' and type msconfig for 'System Configuration Utility' and click on the 'StartUp' tab. This tool will not tell you what is running but what is scheduled to run at startup.] you can see what applications are running, and what and how many processes. I just checked, and at the moment I am running just one application, Microsoft Word so I can write this article, but there are in fact 46 processes running in the background. Those processes, including the Windows XP operating system, are using 206 megs of my 384 megs of RAM. The question now becomes; how did all those

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Calendar
of
Events

!!! IMPORTANT !!!

Meeting date
for

January ONLY

will be the

2nd Saturday

January 14

Time 9:45 - noon

*** NOTE ***

Confirmed

future meeting

will be the

4th Saturday

February 25

March 25

April 22

May 27

MEETING PLACE

will be the

Glenside Public

Library

**SEE YOU
THERE!!**

**2005 COD
Computer
Show Dates**

January 29

February 26

processes get started, and do I really need them all running?

The answer to the first part is easy. The processes got started because at the time the program was installed on to your computer an entry was put into the Startup portion of your System Configuration file. That's easy to go look at. Do Start>Run, and type in "msconfig" (without the quotes) in the box. Click on OK and the System Configuration Utility will open. Click on the Startup tab and you will see all the processes that are starting at the time you boot up. My machine has 31 entries. There is a checked box at the left of each entry, and you can turn it off by unchecking the box.

But here's the rub. How do you know which ones you need? That in part depends on which programs you use, and which features of those programs you care about. First, you need SysTray. Leave that one alone. Next, you need anything to do with your security programs, like Norton AntiVirus. Symantec owns Norton, so I left anything with Symantec or Norton in the list checked. Do you run AOL? If so, there are a lot of entries with AOL in them, but you probably don't need/want them all. Beyond those that you recognize there are quite a few others that make no sense. For example, what in the world is 'nwiz', or 'carserv'?

My friend, there is help for you. Direct your browser to <http://www.processlibrary.com/>. This site has a listing of essentially all of the entries you might find in the System Configuration Startup list, literally thousands of potential entries. There is a search box. Simply type in the name of the entry from the Startup Item column and click on Search Now. Process Library will find the item and tell you what program it relates to, what it does, and whether or not you need it. Based on that information you can check or uncheck the box in System Configuration - Startup to govern whether or not the item starts on future boot-ups. The idea of course is to uncheck as many non-essential things as you safely can.

Once you have made your selections be sure to click on Apply and OK. The machine will tell you that you need to restart for your changes to take affect. You can either restart now, or just continue with whatever else you were doing and wait for your next session to enjoy your newfound computing efficiency. Note that the next time you boot up you will get a warning box reminding you that you are starting up in a custom configuration. Put a check in the box that says, "Don't show me this warning again", and then click on OK. Now you won't be bugged about it any more.

By following this procedure earlier today I was able to cut the boot-up time on my wife's machine in half, from 4 minutes down to 2, and the shutdown from 2 minutes to about 30 seconds. I have some additional RAM on order for it that will improve things even further, but I'm never going to get the boot-up time down to the 30 seconds or so that we used to experience. That's because of the unfortunate need to run sophisticated (and time-consuming) security programs. As the bad guys become more devious the programs to protect us become more complicated with more protection modules. These things take a long time to load, but we need them to protect ourselves. We have to accept somewhat more lengthy boot-up times so Norton, McAfee, AVG or Panda can load up and take care of us.

[Editor's note: Help like that described in this article is available at <http://castlecops.com/> and <http://www.liutilities.com/products/wintaskspro/processlibrary/> .]

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 teaches people to fly airplanes. He can be contacted at Lbothe@aol.com.

If You Decide to Buy a New Computer...

by Larry Bothe, 12/29/2005

Stage 1: Thinking about buying a new computer.

It's year-end and my pilot examination business made enough profit that I'm into Social Security giveback. It's like being in a 50% tax bracket. I'm spending money like a drunken sailor because each dollar really only costs me 50¢, provided I can relate the expense to my business. Since the FAA requires me to have a computer, and my current machine dated from January of 2000, I concluded that a new machine would be a valid and justifiable business expense. Hopefully, accelerated depreciation rules will allow me to write the whole thing off in the current tax year.

(cont on page 3)

My computing needs are not all that demanding. I'm not a gamer so I don't need big-time video capability. I do like digital photography and I collect more and more images. The 20-gig hard drive on my old machine was getting a bit full. A larger hard drive would allow me to collect up more "stuff" without worrying about enough room. A lot of training materials in aviation are coming out on DVD now, and my old machine doesn't have a DVD drive. Perhaps the biggest reason to get a new machine was to acquire the ability to burn CD's. I had been backing up to 100-meg zip disks, but as my files grew I found myself using 4 disks every time I backed up. Yes, I rotate the disks so I wasn't buying a lot of new ones, but it still wasn't very elegant. I found myself wishing for the simplicity of copying the My Documents file on to a CD and being done with it. Some other small things I wanted were USB ports in the front, and maybe a bit faster processing.

You're right, I could have accomplished the main goal by simply buying a CD burner for around \$50, but let's just say I was overcome by the desire for a new machine. Since I had purchased a \$700 GPS (satellite navigation) unit in November I didn't want to spend a lot of money on a computer. All I really needed was the computer itself as I had bought a 19" LCD monitor earlier this year, and a new printer last year. Tiger Direct, <http://www.tigerdirect.com/>, usually has pretty good buys on computers, so I decided to shop there. I ended up with a refurbished eMachine (Gateway's economy line) for \$369 + \$24 S&H. Basic specs are 160 gig hard drive, 2-gig processor, 512 megs of RAM, 64-meg video, DVD/CD RW combo drive and a 2nd DVD drive, a bunch of USB ports and Windows XP-Home, SP-2. It's certainly not a barnburner, but it is fine for my needs.

Stage 2: Getting one that really works.

As usual, Tiger shipped immediately and the machine was on my doorstep in two days. Then the real fun began. I unpacked it, set it up, hooked up the appropriate peripherals, and pushed the power button, and.... nothing, nada, zippo. After using my multi-meter to confirm that I indeed had power to the machine I opened it up to see what was going on. There I discovered that during the refurbishing process (if they in fact ever looked in the machine) some rocket scientist had failed to connect 3 small 2-wire cables from the front cover of the machine to the motherboard. These 3 cables are for the switch itself, the power-on light, and the hard drive activity light. I knew that much from prior experience. But I didn't have a clue where they should be connected to the motherboard. I figured that a call to eMachines tech support would get this fixed in a jiffy. To their credit, their tech support is in Salt Lake City in the good old US of A, and their people sound decidedly American. There were actually several calls, and I never had to wait more than 3 minutes to talk to a human being.

The ease of contacting eMachines tech support was the end of the good news. It turned out that they don't have very good documentation for their motherboards. They could tell me which block of pins the connectors needed to go to, but not specifically where on the block each connector went. Since there are more pins than connectors, and the orientation can be either parallel or across, there are a lot of possibilities. After trying a couple things we actually got the computer to start. Thinking that I could do it out from there I ended the first call. However, even though I could make the computer start I never could get the power-on and hard drive activity lights to work correctly. Also, during the time that the computer was running it started to give me a hard-drive-full warning for the D partition. eMachines sets aside a small part of the 160-gig hard drive for the purpose of storing all of the operating system and application software that came with the machine in case you ever have the need to restore the computer to the exact state it was when it came out of the box. That's what's in the D partition. More on that later.

I know I need to end this part of the story before your eyes glaze over. It suffices to say that a second call and more trial-and-error didn't get me any further. They wanted me to take the computer to an eMachines authorized service center. For them, authorized service centers are the major discount retailers of computers, like Best Buy, Comp-USA, Fry's, etc. But it was the week before Christmas and those places are a zoo over the holidays. Besides, I live in Seymour, Indiana, which is a small town. It is at least an hour drive to Indianapolis or Louisville, KY to get to one of those stores. I decided to call Tiger and beg for mercy. I didn't have to do much begging. After I told them what had happened they immediately volunteered to take the machine back and send me another one. Note that under their terms

of purchase they could have made me take the machine to a service facility and have it declared unrepairable before they had to replace it, but they never even hinted that they might actually make me do that. They seemed genuinely interested in having me as a satisfied and happy customer.

In order to get another machine immediately I had to buy a second one, and then Tiger would give me credit when the first (defective) one got back. I did that and the second one arrived a few days later. OK, out of the box, up on the table, a quick look inside to make sure everything was connected, and on with the power switch. Wa-La! It started right up. And it is very quiet, which I like. It didn't like my old Kensington trackball serial mouse, so I used the PS-2 mouse that came with the machine. I began the process of making it "mine" by loading the application software I use a lot. After loading all the software I have on CD's I went to bed. The next day I tried to install my printer. It wouldn't install. The computer would not recognize any new equipment. I fooled around with it for quite a while and finally got it to work by telling it to hunt for new drivers. But this isn't how it is supposed to work. I'm supposed to toss in the CD and do what it says. Something is wrong here. Next up, I decided to transfer files from my old machine to the new one. For that purpose I had purchased a thumb drive (thanks, Dean) because my old machine doesn't have a CD burner, and the new one doesn't have a zip drive. Well, it wouldn't recognize the zip drive either. XP is supposed to recognize thumb (flash) drives automatically, and my old machine and my wife's machine both do that just fine. Now there is something hosed up with machine #2.

It's after Christmas and I have to call eMachines tech support again. Once more, I'll try to keep a long tech support story short. To my amazement, I only had to wait about 20 seconds. The first tech had me do some useless stuff, suggested that I would have to pay \$20 for some restore disks, and I demanded to speak with a supervisor. I was assured the supervisor would tell me the same thing, but I stood my ground and held for the supervisor. I had to wait, about 10 minutes, but I did get to talk to a knowledgeable gentleman who sounded very harried but also very willing to help me. After listening to my problems and having me try just a few things (he actually gave me credit for knowing something) he concluded that I was going to have to do a full restore. He said that ought to cure all the problems, including the serial mouse issue. Of course a full restore would wipe out all the software installations I had spent several hours on the day before, but I reluctantly agreed. There was no need to buy anything like the first tech suggested. As mentioned above, the full restore is on the hard drive in the D partition, and it turns out it is fully automatic. In addition, eMachines does pack 4 CD's with the computer that also contain the full restore in the event that you have a hard drive crash. The supervisor walked me through starting the restore, which takes more than half an hour.

Stage 3: Setting up the new machine.

The supervisor was right; the restore cured everything. Serial mouse works, printer installs as it is supposed to, and the thumb drive was recognized immediately. The full restore is actually pretty slick. Now what is left to do is set up the computer the way I want it. By now I have gotten a lot smarter so I spent some time thinking about what order I should do the customizing. Based on my recent experiences, here is what I have concluded.

Connect the machine to the outside world (Internet) first. At first I didn't do that because I was afraid that without security protection (I have a broadband, always-on, cable-modem connection) my machine would get attacked and corrupted before I ever got to use it. But by not connecting to the Internet I denied myself access to all sorts of help, and I was unable to register software and hardware as I installed it. You don't have to worry too much about security at the beginning because Windows XP at the SP-2 level comes with the firewall turned on. The firewall in XP is a little lame, but it will keep the bad guys out until you select which security software you want to use going forward. Just be doubly sure you don't open any e-mail attachments in these beginning hours because you won't have up-to-date antivirus protection. New machines often come with trial versions of several different security programs preloaded. Mine came with both McAfee and Norton. The McAfee one was actually turned on when the machine first booted up. However, I chose Norton because I'm more familiar with it, and it would let me turn it on and update the virus definitions without paying any money right that minute. The McAfee stuff kept giving me dire warnings of gloom and doom, and then offering to take my money to get the protection

(con't on page 5)

I need. Norton isn't free either, but at least they had the grace to let me use the product, including virus definition updates, right away, and then pay the subscription fee in 90 days. Note that security software programs from different publishers do NOT play well together. Once I decided to use Norton Internet Security I went in and deleted the McAfee software.

After the Internet you should install any peripheral equipment, like your printer, which needs a driver and maybe auxiliary software installed with it. If that won't install you will know you have a problem right then. You won't waste a lot of time loading and configuring application software like I did. Next, transfer your data files (probably the contents of My Documents) from the old machine to the new one.

After you successfully transfer your data files you can load all the application software that actually allows you to work with them. I had to load things like the Microsoft programs Office, Digital Image and Streets & Trips; Parson's Address Book and Atomic Clock, and a couple others. Tax season is nearly upon us, so I couldn't forget Turbo Tax. Besides the software I own on CD's I also had to download several programs from various sites on the web. I can't live without utility programs like Text Cleanup, Belarc Advisor and CCleaner. I also have to have my pilot logbook recording software, Logbook Pro. All these and more come off the Internet; I don't have CD's for them. The point is that for a computer that is used for work (I run my pilot examination business as well as do all the administration for the local pilots' association from my home office) you will have a considerable amount of work to do to load and configure all your application software.

I can't believe all the little tweaks and changes I have made to my operating system and application software over the 5 years I have been using my old machine. The goal for most people when they get a new machine is to make it behave like the old one, only better. That means you have to remember all the changes you have made over time and then apply them during your day or two of setup on the new machine. Just remembering what you have done, let alone how to do it, is a daunting task. Tips from Kim Komando, hints from John Spizzirri, stuff I read about in various magazines, things from Fox Tales and Abort-Retry-Ignore; all of it needs to be done if the new machine is to run like the old one. I think that after 3 days I'm at about the 90% level, but I bet I'll be another 6 months before I get it all.

So there ends my story, at least as it stands today. My new machine is running just fine. It is a bit faster than the old one, although the boot-up is slower. I imagine that is caused by the more sophisticated security software installed on this machine. At some point I intend to modify the startup items in msconfig, but I haven't gotten around to that yet. I hope that what I imagine to be the somewhat lower quality components that go into the eMachines line of economy computers will in fact hold up over time. The warranty on a refurbished machine is only 90 days. I saved \$200 to \$300 over what it would have cost to buy a custom-built machine of the same specifications from Dell or Gateway. Time will tell if this was a good decision or not.

This story would be incomplete if I did not address what is now a big question in my mind: What in the world does "Refurbished" mean in today's computer marketplace? I used to think it was pretty straightforward: It meant that a machine was a customer return that went to a factory service shop (it is unlikely they would send it back to China where it was originally built) where it was completely gone over. The hard drive was wiped and reloaded, and then the computer was functionally tested. In the case of the two machines I just dealt with, that could not have been done. I couldn't even turn on the first one. So much for functional testing. The second one ran, but the hard drive had obviously not been wiped and reloaded. There were system error records in it from September. The plug-and-play feature that finds and configures new hardware simply did not work. The full system restore I did cured the problem, but I thought that was their job, not mine. It appears that maybe the refurbishment process included only repacking the computer and making sure all the bits and pieces were in the box. It doesn't look like any hard drive work or testing was done to either one. I conclude that you need to be very wary of "refurbished" computers these days, especially from eMachines.

[Editor's note: Since this was written, Larry found that the cd burner did not work. They are sending him a new one. Larry has sent this article to the presidents of both Gateway and TigerDirect.]

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@aol.com.

January 2006

Abort, Retry, Ignore..

Lamp Post 69
By John Spizzirri
January 1, 2006



Very carefully read the following letter I received (the subject was "VERY IMPORTANT"):

Dear Friend.

I am Mr James Madu and I crave your indulgence if i have intruded into your privacy, this however is not mandatory nor will I in any manner compel you to honor it if it is against your will and also I am sorry for contacting you through this medium but I feel it is more confidential.

PURPOSE OF LETTER

I represent a lot of high profile clients, both home and overseas. One of such clients is Late Chief Stella Obasanjo, the deceased wife of the Federal Republic Of Nigeria president Chief Olusegn Mathew Aremu Obasanjo, who died recently and have since been burried.

As his financial confidant/aide and friend, i am privy to information regarding her offshore accounts, though i have been contacted by her immediate families to provide details of her financial information, but unknown to them of other seperate account that she did not make any disclosure to a second party

By this mandate , I am hereby soliciting your understanding in this business arrangement that you will act as beneficiary and take charge of her finances , relevant documentation to make you the beneficiary to her other finances including power of attorney, letters of authority will be prepared. You will take charge of all concerning this fund and you will also be entitled to a percentage of this fund for your participation.

CONCLUSION:

We must commence an immediate processing and transfer of the funds to our agreed nominated bank..

Your interest in this business relationship is highly solicited. Presently i am in UK then you can contact me through the understated phone numbers and email addresses then i can furnish you with further details.

Thank You.

Mr James Madu
phone(Direct): +44-776-626-8739
Email: jamad@consultant.com
jamadu001@netscape.net"

This letter is known as a 419 scam. It is called 419 because that is the number of the section in the Criminal Code of Nigeria that makes it illegal in Nigeria. Most of the 419 scammers are from Nigeria, however the practice is spreading to other nations. If you read the letter, you know that this person barely speaks English. This is true of many of the scammers. They do not know English grammar, punctuation, or spelling. There are many sites that spell out the details of this fraud but I think these four will cover any of your questions; <http://home.rica.net/alphae/419coal/> , <http://www.secretservice.gov/alert419.shtml> , <http://www.snopes.com/crime/fraud/nigeria.asp> , and <http://www.419fraud.com/> . The 419 scam is essentially a bunco fraud, to use police parlance. The general idea is that they have a great deal of money for you, IF you put up a "security deposit" to insure the "transaction". Sometimes it is

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an inheritance, like the letter above. Sometimes, they claim to have money that they want to get into the U.S. with your "help". You must ask yourself, why did they pick you? **DO NOT** respond to a letters like these. They may come from a country other than Nigeria. Americans are losing hundreds of millions of dollars through outright fraud or identity theft by responding to these letters. There are some people that want to give these scammers a little of there own medicine because the law enforcement in the United States and Nigeria cannot (or will not) put a stop to this. The practice of engaging the scammers with useless e-mail communication is call 419 baiting. I DO NOT recommend it, but it is fun to read about

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/419_scam_baiting and <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/3887493.stm>). These sites have some of the funniest correspondence: <http://www.ebolamonkeyman.com/> and <http://baita.mugu.co.uk/> . This site has some of the best pictures: <http://www.419eater.com/> . If you are offended with course language, DO NOT go to any of the funny sites - they all use it. Two other sites that take on scammers and spammers are: <http://www.waronspam.com/> and <http://www.thespamletters.com/> .

Supercomputer maker Cray Inc. (<http://www.cray.com/>) said that cofounder and chief scientist Burton Smith will leave the company to take a job at software maker Microsoft Corp. (MS <http://www.microsoft.com/>). Smith left the company on December 7. He also resigned from his post on Cray's board of directors.

Sony BMG (<http://www.sonybmg.com/>) gets smacked down. Sony BMG just submitted a solution to a class action suit in New York. In previous newsletters, I have mentioned the controversy. Sony BMG produces music CDs. They put a copy protection scheme on some CDs that caused major troubles for people who played those CDs in their PCs. The full text of the settlement is at <http://www.sunbelt-software.com/ihs/alex/sonysettleme23423423434nt.pdf> . Under the agreement, Sony BMG will compensate buyers of the troublesome CDs. They will provide software to uninstall the protection software from customer's PCs. They will recall all protected CDs and not manufacture anymore for two years. Sony BMG, XCP (<http://www.xcp-aurora.com/>), and MediaMax (<http://www.sunncomm.com/Brochure/>) will not collect information about customers without their 'affirmative consent'. One provision is "... the EULA's will be written in plain English and will accurately describe the nature and function of the content protection software." How is this possible? Don't lawyers write the EULA's (End User License Agreement)? I hope other companies learn from Sony BMG's experience. "People don't like to be meddled with." - River Tam

MS no longer part of MSNBC but retains joint ownership of <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/> with NBC (<http://www.nbc.com/>). MS found out that there was no money to be made in TV - at least money like they make on software and the Internet.

If Sony BMG wasn't in enough trouble, the New York State Attorney General (<http://www.oag.state.ny.us/>), Elliot Spitz, is investigating them, Warner Music (<http://www.wmg.com/>), Universal Music Group (<http://new.umusic.com/flash.aspx>), and EMI (<http://www.emigroup.com/Default.htm>) for price collusion. The executives of these companies have complained that new music should cost more per song than older cuts. The price of on line music is currently 88 (at Walmart <http://www.walmart.com/>) to 99 (most other on line sales companies) cents per song. Apple Computer (<http://www.apple.com/>) has the bulk of the sales. Steve Jobs, the CEO (Cheif Executive Officer), has characterized the executives at the music companies as "greedy". Apple's contracts with all the companies being investigated will expire in 2006.

Feeling lucky? Well are you, customer? MS is holding a contest at <https://www.microsoft.com/emea/msdn/betaexperience/launchcontest/default.aspx> . If you can guess the date that Vista (Windows XP replacement) will be released, you can win a trip to Redmond for the launch party or an X-Box. Wow.

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I came across an interesting article at IT Director. The article (<http://www.it-director.com/article.php?id=13015>) mentions that Google (<http://www.google.com/>) will be creating an on line word processor and that MS may be doing the same. Then Robin Bloor, the author, reported Writely (<http://www.writely.com/>). Writely is a functioning web based word processor with many features that is currently free. It allows you to create or upload a document on their web site. It has many of the features of regular word processors. You can then share that document with anyone via an e-mail address. You may also collaborate on a document (more than one person altering a document at the same time). This service allows you to alter documents from anywhere you can access a computer with an Internet connection. Check it out.

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

Monthly Meeting of the CAEUG November/December 2005

:::: The November/December meeting of the Computers Are Easy Users Group was called to order by President Michael Goldberg at 9:45am on December 3, 2005.

:::: There were 32 members in attendance. No Guests.

:::: Raffle Item: Word Perfect for DOS 6.0

:::: Meeting Minutes: The October minutes were accepted as printed in the ARI.

:::: Treasurer's Report:

Balance: - , Income: \$287.61, Expenses: \$153.72, New Balance: \$3672.00 as of November 30th.

:::: Officer Reports: President Goldberg asked if any board members had any comments or reports: V.P. Frank Braman announced the next auction item for today's meeting. It is an HP ScanJet 4200C USB Scanner. Carl Schow was the high bidder at \$17.00 dollars! Thanks Carl for supporting the club!

:::: The meeting was suspended for the Program presentation at 10:00am.

:::: Program - Tom Anzalone presented "Linux-The Other O/S" featuring Linspire 5. Linspire is a consumer version of Linux that also features CNR (Click and Run) in which users can download various software and programs. Tom was able to procure and distribute a free Linspire 5 CD for those members present. T-shirts were also given to those lucky members whose name was drawn.

:::: The business meeting resumed at 11:15am.

:::: Old Business - None

:::: New Business - Weldon Johnson introduced a preview to his presentation on Genealogy for the January meeting.

:::: **President Goldberg announced that the January 2006 meeting will be held on Saturday 14th which is the second Saturday of the month. Apparently the library is having a function on our normal meeting date.**

:::: Member's Forum: VP Frank Braman spoke about the Epson Picture Printer (Model 340) he recently purchased. Tom Anzalone advised that he has seen a similar model (the 320) on sale in the computers stores. He also advised that rebates are available. Bill Douglas asked about pen drives/thumb drives as to how they work and their use. Several members present spoke of the pros and cons of these tiny drives and their experiences.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dean Holste, Secretary

Great Midwest Computer Show ©
College of Dupage
Main Arena of Physical Education Building
Corner of Park Blvd & College Road, Glen
Ellyn, IL
9:30 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.
FREE PARKING
Admission - \$7.00
Kids 12 and under FREE

<http://www.greatmidwestcomputershow.com>
E-mail address:
info@greatmidwestcomputershow.com
2006 dates
COD January 29,
COD February 26

~~ **HAPPY NEW YEAR to All !!!** ~~

CD of the Month Program List for January 2006

3gpToRawAvi -	Convert files from camera phone format to AVI
AgentRansack -	Displays the text found inside each file in a folder
AmpWinOff -	Utility designed to shut down Windows computers automatically
ARI -	January Newsletter
Autoruns -	Shows the currently configured auto-start applications
Brutus -	One-click option to shut down Windows
ClipboardHelpSpell -	Manage clipboard text content & spellcheck
DoubleKiller -	Finds identical files across multiple partitions and folders
DVDKnife -	Tool for extracting video clips from your DVD
DVDShrink -	Enables you to copy a DVD
EvilPlayer -	A fast, powerful and flexible media player for Windows
ExactAudioCopy -	An audio grabber for CD-ROM drives
ExplorerXP -	A file manager that uses tabs
Exsate -	Capture and convert DV video from your camcorder via FireWire
FileSieve -	Sorts files in a folder alphabetically
FirmTools -	Converts graphics from one format to the next
Gedail -	Software for genealogy
GenealogyFinder -	Contains more than 750 quality Genealogy links
GizmoProject -	VoIP application uses Internet connection to make calls to other computers
GmailNotifier -	Checks your Gmail for new messages without intervention
HottNotes -	A sticky notes reminder program for the Windows desktop
JetStart -	Manage your Windows Start Menu more efficiently
Kids-InetSafety -	Internet safety tips for adults to protect children
LastChance -	Utility to configure some programs to run before shutdown
LSMyLib -	Create indexes of your disks (CD, DVD, hard disks)
Maxthon -	Internet Explorer add-in uses a tabbed interface
MercuryAudioPlayer -	A simple audio player
OldTimeRadio -	MP3s of radio broadcasts
PCInspector -	Data recovery program recovers lost files and finds partitions
QuickShutdown -	Windows utility that allows shutdown with a mouse click
RespondingHeads -	Launch programs, commands, and actions via voice commands
ShutDownAfter1 -	Shutdown XP after task completion or at a specific time
Shutter -	Shutdown Windows after task completion or at a specific time
SightSpeed -	Video messaging and conferencing
SMARTGENEALOGY -	Genealogy database can import Gedcom and Excel files
SureDelete -	Permanently deletes files from your drive
Trace -	Utility gives security risk rating on hidden information in documents
TweakUI -	PowerToys for Windows adjustments
USBAutorun -	Enables autorun functionality to your USB drive
WinGuard -	Utility to password protect your programs
WMP -	Windows Media Players

CAEUG
P. O. Box 2727
Glen Ellyn, IL 60138

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Meeting place and date information:

The next REGULAR meeting will be held at the **Glenside Public Library in Glendale Heights** starting 9:45am on **2nd Saturday January 14, 2006**

The Glenside Public Library is located at 25 E Fullerton Avenue, Glendale Heights, Illinois. The Library is located on 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.

CONFIRMED Future Meeting dates for 2006 at Glenside Public Library:
2nd Saturday January 14, 4th Saturday February 25, March 25, April 22, May 27

January 14th presenter will be our own Weldon Johnson.

Weldon will give a presentation about genealogy

CAEUG website has a new home.
Remember to change your bookmark to the new address at
<http://www.caeug.net>