

# Abort, Retry, Ignore...



## Computers Are Easy User Group



April 2007

Suggested Retail Price \$1.95

Volume XXIV

Issue 4

### Our April presenter

#### Tom Anzalone will be giving a demo on creating a home theater

Tom Anzalone has been working with computers full time for 12 years. He has certifications from Novell (CNE and CNA), Microsoft (MSCE), and is currently pursuing certifications from Checkpoint and Cisco. He works for an investment firm as a Network Engineer and it is his responsibility to support and maintain all the computer systems that are vital for the company's day to day operations. He has had a love of computers since his early years. His first experience with computers was with the Apple IIe during his grade school years. His first computer was IBM's first consumer laptop. It had dual 3.5 inch floppy drives that were used to boot the operating system (Dos 3.3). It also had a whopping 128K of memory! He initially pursued a career in Public Accounting. He graduated from college with a Bachelors degree in Accounting and worked full time in the field for 5 years. After talking with a friend who had just started in his career in computers by receiving his Novell CNE, he decided to make a change. The rest is history and he has loved working with computers ever since. He is an avid computer gamer and self professed geek. He is also the proud father of 25+ month old twins Dominic and Maria. Julie, his wife, and he reside in Batavia Illinois. He can be reached at [tanzalone@gmail.com](mailto:tanzalone@gmail.com) with any questions.

### Software Review - Zone Alarm Security Suite 7.0

By Larry Bothe, 3/21/2007

Regular readers of my intermittent ramblings will recall that at the beginning of the year I went on a campaign to rid my machine of software that seems to just take over, does whatever it wants, is difficult to control, and causes long boot-up times. First to go was AOL. I ended up with Thunderbird as an e-mail handler, Comcast as the ISP, and AOL's web-based services for Calendar and Portfolio. That eliminated the need to have AOL's software on my machine.

After AOL the next most obtrusive program I had was Norton Internet Security. I used to be a big fan of Norton (Symantec), but recent iterations of their security software have become increasingly difficult to control and seem to take half of forever to load at

(con't on page 2)

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Calendar  
of  
Events

### !!!IMPORTANT!!!

**CAEUG meeting  
will be the  
4th Saturday  
April 28  
Time  
09:45 - noon**

### \*\*\* NOTE \*\*\*

**Confirmed  
2007 meeting  
dates will be the  
April 28  
May 26  
June 23 CAEUG  
PICNIC  
\*\*\*\*\***

### MEETING PLACE

**will be the  
Glenside Public  
Library  
\*\*\*\*\***

**SEE YOU  
THERE!!**

\*\*\*\*\*

boot-up. There are a number of security suite software products on the market. It would have been a costly pain in the butt to try run all of them, so I began asking around among some data processing professionals I know to find out who liked what. I had previous personal experience with McAfee, which I also found difficult to control, so I ruled out that product. Nobody had anything good to say about security products; they just viewed them as a necessary evil. I can relate to that. It is a pretty sad commentary on our society that all these demented people out there either want to attack and harm our machines, or steal from us. When I was a kid we routinely left keys in cars. Not any more.

Finally, John Spizzirri suggested that I ought to look at Zone Alarm Security Suite. They had just come out with version 7.0. Nobody had anything bad to say about it, and there were positive reviews in the trade journals. I went to their website (see For More Information below) and looked at screen shots and read their descriptive material. I liked what I saw, and I was so anxious to get rid of Norton that I bought the Zone Alarm product for \$50 even though I still had 2 months to go on my Norton subscription. Zone Alarm offers a 15-day free trial, but note that 15 days isn't a very long time with respect to getting to know a security program. They "learn" as you use them, and they aren't finished after only 2 weeks. I'm still occasionally tweaking ZA after 2 months.

Zone Alarm provides the usual comprehensive protection of a software firewall, antivirus, spyware scans, and parental control. They claim some other protections, like instant messaging and identity theft. (I personally hate instant messaging, so I have it turned off at the boot-up level; I just don't let the function start on my machine.) For the identity theft protection you have to put identity-sensitive files in your "vault". I haven't done that yet.

After running Zone Alarm for about 2 months I can tell you that I like it. If I had to do it over again I would still buy the Zone Alarm product. Here are some specific observations.

Control: The thing I like best about ZA is the ease of control. The menus to change the various settings are logical. There is one main control window, and from there you go directly to what you need to adjust. In Norton I always had a difficult time finding where to change a setting, or figuring out what setting to change. Not in ZA. Their whole control system is very straightforward.

Scanning: Like other security products, ZA wants to scan your machine once a week to look for any virus that may have gotten past the virus protection, and to ferret out accumulated spyware. ZA combines the virus and spyware scans. I found that the ZA scan takes longer than a Norton scan, and at first I thought that was a negative. However, the slower ZA scan doesn't use as many machine resources as the Norton one. That means you really can continue to use your machine while a ZA scan is in progress. Norton says you can keep on working during a scan, but it swallows up so many resources that your machine comes to a crawl. The ZA system is better.

You can avoid the whole slow-down thing if you schedule the weekly scan at some time when you are not using your machine. If you leave your machine on all the time then have the scan run in the middle of the night while you are sleeping. I turn mine off when not in use so I had to think of a time when the machine would be on, but I didn't need it for a while. That turned out to be Tuesday evenings because I have meetings out of the house at that time. On the Tuesdays when there are no meetings we usually go out for pizza & beer. Perfect.

Loading time at start-up: Security programs scan boot records every time you start your machine. The programs are actually pretty sophisticated; they all have a long load time. I think ZA is a little faster loading than Norton, but not much.

Annual subscription cost: ZA charges \$35 for a 1-year renewal; \$60 for 2 years. The first year is of course included with the program when you buy it. Software updates, even major ones, are included with the annual subscription fee. Norton charges \$40 a year for the virus definition subscription (no multi-year discount), and always beats you up to buy the latest year's version of the program for another \$10. While I haven't had ZA long enough to tell for sure, it appears that they do not intend to try to force a new version of the program on you each year the way Norton does.

Nits to pick: Security programs seem to be very proud of their work. They want to tell you each and every time they think they might have protected you from something. The little pop-up security notification boxes are annoying. You will for sure want to turn them off, and thankfully that is easy to do. I also turned off the scan of outgoing e-mail messages. It slowed down the message transmission

more than I could stand.

For more information: Specific details and descriptions of all the ZA features, with screen shots and FAQ's, can be found at

[http://www.zonealarm.com/store/content/catalog/products/sku\\_list.jsp?dc=12bms&ctry=US&lang=en](http://www.zonealarm.com/store/content/catalog/products/sku_list.jsp?dc=12bms&ctry=US&lang=en) .

If you are going to change security programs be sure to uninstall the old one before installing the new one. Security programs DO NOT play well together. You can't have two of them on your machine at the same time. The exception to that statement is in stand-alone spyware programs; you can run more than one. I still occasionally manually run the free version of Adaware even though ZA has spyware protection built in.

It is not really necessary to go out and pay for an integrated security suite like ZA. You can cobble together your own version for free, although it won't be as convenient or thorough as a purchased one. The Windows XP operating system has a firewall included. It is lame in that it is one-way; it only protects from outside threats. It doesn't protect from a program already on your machine going out to the Internet in some malicious way. However, the XP firewall is already on your machine, it's free, and it's way better than nothing. All you have to do is go into Control Panel, Security Center, and turn it on. Zone Alarm itself still offers a free two-way stand-alone firewall. You can get it at [http://www.zonealarm.com/store/content/catalog/products/sku\\_list\\_zs.jsp?dc=12bms&ctry=US&lang=en](http://www.zonealarm.com/store/content/catalog/products/sku_list_zs.jsp?dc=12bms&ctry=US&lang=en) , click on Free Download. Free antivirus and spyware protection programs are available from Grisoft. Go to <http://free.grisoft.com/doc/1> and download both products. Adaware from Lavasoft, <http://www.lavasoft.com> , is another option for free spyware protection. But if you don't want to fool around with several different programs, and have to run some of the routines and updates manually, then you will have to pay for an integrated security suite. If you're paying, then I think Zone Alarm Security Suite 7.0 is the best of the bunch.

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](mailto:LBothe@comcast.net) .

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### **Comcast Telephone Service By Larry Bothe, 3/27/2007**

When Comcast announced the availability of their phone service earlier this month I decided to do a detailed analysis of my communication costs. I started by creating a spreadsheet that contained my current costs. I have been using three providers; Verizon for "local" phone service, ECG for local toll and long distance, and Comcast for TV cable. (Note that my ECG bills have been really low lately since I discovered that I have literally thousands of rollover minutes available in my cell phone account.) Next I added a column and put in the costs if I switched everything to Comcast. That required two calls to Comcast to identify all the costs as their brochure doesn't tell you everything. Finally, I called Verizon and asked them if they had any new plans to counteract the competition from Comcast. They didn't have anything new but wanted me to buy their unlimited long distance calling plan along with DSL Internet service. I put a third column into the spreadsheet for Verizon's suggested way of doing things.

If you analyze your own communications costs be sure to include everything. There are bunches of taxes and 911 charges. Taxes vary with your phone bill amount, but the 911 charge is fixed. In one of my calls to Comcast I discovered that there is a \$3/mo. rental fee for the telephone modem. You can't buy one; at least not yet. I did a Google search and could not find a source. The company that provides telephone modems to Comcast sells only to communications companies.

When it was all said and done I could save \$184 a year by switching to Comcast, and reap some side benefits which are discussed below. The plan Verizon offered turned out to cost more than I'm paying now, so that certainly wasn't of any interest. Besides, DSL is a lot slower than cable, at least around here. About a week ago a friend who lives too far out of town for cable or DSL downloaded the free AVG antivirus program from Grisoft using dial-up. The file size is about 21 megs and it took him

over an hour. I downloaded the same program out at the airport over DSL and it took 9 minutes. I downloaded it at home that evening over cable and it took 52 seconds. I'll stay with the cable, thank you very much.

We have two wired phone lines in our house. Comcast wants \$33 a month for the first line, and \$10 additional for the second one. For those charges you get unlimited toll / long distance calls, and 12 additional features on the first line. The only feature I had on my Verizon line was call-waiting. Now I get that plus caller-ID, call forwarding, voice mail, and a bunch of others. It's kind of nice to have caller-ID back again; I had gotten rid of it a few years back in a cost-saving move. I plan to start using call forwarding to send calls to my cell phone when I'm traveling out of town. Now that I have unlimited toll / long distance on my wired phone I no longer have to use my cell phone to save money on those kinds of calls. The little cell phone (I have a Motorola Razr) is awkward to hold for a long period of time, and you can't cradle it on your shoulder to free up your hand to do something else. Now I make all my calls from home on my standard size wired phone again. And the wired phone's speakerphone function is far superior to the tinny one in the cell phone.

One drawback is that since you need an electrically powered special modem to use the cable phone system you are out of luck if the electricity goes out for any reason. It turns out that the special modem has a battery in it that will last for about 8 hours on standby, less if you actually use the phone. We have a generator so I can deal with a localized power outage. Beyond that we have our cell phones. If we get a really destructive storm probably no phone system will work. 911 emergency services are important too. Comcast assured me it would work properly over their cable system. Not that I didn't believe them, but I wanted to make sure. Here we can test 911 without having an officer show up at the door if we call the administrative number at the police department first. I did the test and the call went through instantly. Comcast was right.

Another nice thing about this change is that now we receive just one invoice a month for phones, TV and Internet, where before we were getting 5 separate ones. When we were with Verizon we had each line billed separately, one to me and the other to my wife. The same with the ECG long distance service; we each got a bill from them. And of course we got the Comcast bill for TV cable and Internet. After consolidating services now we get just the one (bigger) Comcast bill, and it is automatically deducted from our checking account each month. A benefit we got that I didn't expect was a clearer signal. Ever since we moved here in 1998 we have had a little static on our lines, especially when it rains. Verizon could never cure it. Changing to Comcast has eliminated the static.

Leaving Verizon was painless. Comcast made all the arrangements. Verizon released our existing phone numbers to Comcast very graciously. It took about two weeks from the time I placed the order with Comcast for the technician to come to the house to do the installation. They came the day they said they would, and the technician was on time, clean, courteous and knowledgeable. I called Verizon after the Comcast service was established, but it was unnecessary. Verizon already had the cutoff, had discontinued the automatic billing deduction from our checking accounts, and was sending us final bills. No problem there.

Depending where you live, there may be other alternatives for your telephone service. One is to simply use only your cell phone. Just get rid of the wired phone service entirely. I have a cousin and a friend who do that and find it very satisfactory and economical. Vonage, the voice-over-the-Internet provider has service nearly everywhere these days. I have two friends out in PA who have it and love it. I looked into it several times here in southern Indiana. However, contrary to the direct mailing pieces they send out, I couldn't keep my old phone number if I switched to their service. You can in other areas, but not here. Since I have an established pilot examination business I could not afford to give up my present phone number, regardless of the potential savings.

We may have another telephone provider in my area fairly soon. Duke Energy, our electric power provider, is teaming up with a company called something like Metropolitan Telephone Service to install and sell phone service over a new fiber-optic cable system. I have already been the indirect beneficiary of that system in that Duke wanted to drive over my lawn to get to the power poles across the back of my property in order to string the new cable. I had a dead tree in my back yard, and I told them they could drive on the lawn if they made the dead tree go away. They did it.

(con't on page 5)

I feel like we're way ahead. Besides the actual dollar savings we now have a clearer signal, the convenience of using full size handsets, unlimited long distance, several useful features we didn't have before, and only one bill. Nothing Comcast did during the installation would preclude me from changing to another provider, or even going back to Verizon, in the future. With a third provider coming on rates and services may change once again. I love competition in public services. If an alternative phone service is offered in your area you may want to give it serious consideration.

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](mailto:LBothe@comcast.net) .

**LampPost 83**  
**by John Spizzirri**  
**April 22, 2007**



TV4US at <http://www.wewantchoice.com/> has been playing TV commercials about HB1500 in the Illinois Legislature ( <http://www.ilga.gov/> ). These commercials tell us that cable TV rates have increased 187% over the last 10 years (for some). Common Cause ( <http://www.commoncause.org/site/pp.asp?c=dkLNK1MQIwG&b=2007815> ) is revealing the truth about this slick advertising message.

Double Click ( <http://www.doubleclick.com/us/> ) is a privately held web advertising company that collects information about you and how you use the Internet. It sells that information to clients that advertise on the Internet. Double Click was in the news seven years back because of the amount and kind of data it collected on Internet users

( [http://www.epic.org/privacy/internet/ftc/DCLK\\_complaint.pdf](http://www.epic.org/privacy/internet/ftc/DCLK_complaint.pdf) ). Google ( <http://www.google.com/> ) has offered to buy Double click for just over 3 billion dollars ( <http://www.google.com/intl/en/press/pressrel/doubleclick.html> ). This makes sense for Google, which is one of the largest Internet advertisers. A consideration for us is that the combination of the two companies will concentrate market trend and personally identifiable consumer habits into the hands of one company. Electronic Privacy Information Center ( <http://www.epic.org/> ) has filed a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC <http://www.ftc.gov/> ) to stop the merger / purchase ( [http://www.epic.org/privacy/ftc/google/epic\\_complaint.pdf](http://www.epic.org/privacy/ftc/google/epic_complaint.pdf) ). Information is power. Microsoft (MS <http://www.microsoft.com/> ) claims that this purchase is anticompetitive and will make Google one of the most powerful companies in the world. Google, obviously, disagrees. I think it is interesting that MS would claim that some other company is anticompetitive. I guess it takes one to know one!

Internet2 is coming ( <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet2> ). With it and IPv6 (Internet Protocol version 6 <http://www.usip6.com/> ) will go all the privacy that you may have thought you had on the Internet. What DoubleClick and Google together will be able to do, is check up on what you do and who you are. It will become significantly easier and much more specific to you, personally. EPIC (Electronic Privacy Information Center

[http://www.epic.org/privacy/internet/IPv6\\_comments.pdf](http://www.epic.org/privacy/internet/IPv6_comments.pdf) ) has 'commented' on the privacy issues associated with IPv6. The possibilities of the government and business knowing who you are, what sites you use, and who your e-mail contacts are, feels very chilling.

The penguin exhibit is now at the Shedd Aquarium ( <http://www.sheddaquarium.org/> ).

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS <http://www.irs.gov/> ) loses your data when it cannot account for the computers it is supposed to have

( <http://www.wired.com/politics/law/news/2002/01/49615> ). The first time I heard about this story the number of missing laptops was 500. The Wired story includes desk tops and servers bringing the total to over 2,300 computers. The article does not mention what type of data the IRS might have on those computers. Let's see, the IRS has your name and address, your Social Security number, your

income, and a list of your investments. That should be enough for any thief to steal you identity. Of course, the IRS is exempt from a law suit, so if you are a victim, you are out of luck.

Equifax, a credit reporting company ( <http://www.equifax.com/> ), is not exempt from a law suit. Last year Equifax found out that it could not get away with sloppy business practices in relation to customers. A federal jury awarded \$351,000 to a consumer in a FCRA (Fair Credit Reporting Act) law suit. The consumer had her identity stolen. She contacted Equifax many times to correct the account and put a fraud alert on the account. The court found that Equifax maintained two separate accounts with the same Social Security number. There was over \$100,000 in direct damages and just under a quarter of a million dollars in punitive damages. The story is at <http://www.privacytimes.com/id-theft.html>.

I have just a few more thoughts about the value of 'upgrading' to Vista. It still has to reboot multiple times during installation. The screen flickers and displays weird characters, then goes blank for extended periods during installation, but unlike 2K and XP installs, there's no warning about this. It boots almost as fast as XP after installation, but not quite. (Boot up time is a major consideration when the computer must be fixed and you are paying for each reboot in technician time, if you decide to use the 'service'.) It feels no faster or smoother than XP and some system applications are even slower, despite of the hardware-accelerated GUI (graphical user interface). Applications start up slower on Vista than on XP. There might be an improvement after running it for a while (it supposedly remembers your 'habits'), but it is still very slow initially. IE7 and the new explorer in Vista are slow compared to IE6 and old explorer (use FireFox and a Windows Explorer replacement). The Aero (Authentic, Energetic, Reflective and Open) interface and flip 3d are slow (Did you buy something new to have it run worse than what you had before?). It took two and a half minutes from inserting an usb flash drive until Vista would let me access it. The UAC (User Account Control) is one step in a secure direction. Being a former network administrator and a Linux user, I am familiar with what the uac is trying to do. Logging in to the operating system with limited rights to alter the system is a good idea to prevent hacking. Logging in as administrator, like all Windows versions before Vista, is a terrible idea. Some users find that logging in is a bother. Vista forces the issue. This is about the only thing that MS did right in this operating system, however the technical implementation is antiquated thus leaving it open to hacking. Vista has little value when compared to previous versions of Windows (XP and 2K) and much less value than Linux and BSD. My thoughts were inspired by this article; [http://www.theregister.co.uk/2007/04/16/vista\\_forensics\\_2/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2007/04/16/vista_forensics_2/).

Dell Computers ( <http://www.dell.com/> ) has also had a few thoughts about Vista. When Vista was introduced in January, Dell, like all other top shelf computer makers stopped offering Windows XP to individual consumers. Large government and business customers could still order PCs with XP. April has seen Dell come to their senses. What caused this reversal of policy? Consumer demand. The story is at <http://www.physorg.com/news96264580.html>. Dell also offers PCs with Linux as the OS (operating system).

Lou Dobbs (CNN ) reported on the North American Union at the beginning of the year ( <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ernLnhIR8ul> ). The John Birch Society ( <http://www.jbs.org/> ) has been talking about the union for a number of years ( <http://www.jbs.org/node/933> ). This North American union is supposed to lead to "open borders". I got to thinking about this because of the recent news that Americans cannot go to Canada or Mexico without a passport ( [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cbpmc/cbpmc\\_2223.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cbpmc/cbpmc_2223.html) ). If the union is supposed to lead to "open borders", why does the United States restrict the 'freedom of travel' of its own citizens? Hmmm. What is the North American union definition of "open borders"?

The board of elections has all the information on who is on the ballot for election and the referenda (some call them theftarnda) on the ballot. In the club's local area is the Cook ( <http://www.voterinfonet.com/sub/candidates.asp> ), DuPage ( <http://cms.dupageelections.com/pages.asp?pageid=223> ) and Kane ( <http://www.kanecountyelections.org/> ) counties. Interestingly, as I write this, the election is over and the Cook County Board of Elections still does not have the text of the referenda that were supposed to be on the ballot (the results are listed). Were the elected officials trying to hide something?

With all the hype about who is running for President of the United States, you may think that they will be on the ballot. Not so. The amount of money needed to run for president is so great that the race has started over a year in advance of the primary elections. Here is the list of the presidential candidates as of April 2007:

Some of these may have already dropped out by the time you read this.

**Democrats**

Joseph R. Biden	<a href="http://www.joebiden.com/">http://www.joebiden.com/</a>
Hillary Rodham Clinton	<a href="http://www.hillaryclinton.com/?splash=1">http://www.hillaryclinton.com/?splash=1</a>
Christopher J. Dodd	<a href="http://www.chrisdodd.com/">http://www.chrisdodd.com/</a>
John Reid Edwards	<a href="http://johnedwards.com/splash/">http://johnedwards.com/splash/</a>
Maurice "Mike" Robert Gravel	<a href="http://2008gravel.blogspot.com/">http://2008gravel.blogspot.com/</a>
Dennis J. Kucinich	<a href="http://kucinich.us/">http://kucinich.us/</a>
Barack H. Obama	<a href="http://www.barackobama.com/">http://www.barackobama.com/</a>
Bill Richardson	<a href="http://richardsonforpresident.com/">http://richardsonforpresident.com/</a>

**Potential**

Wesley K. Clark	<a href="http://securingamerica.com/">http://securingamerica.com/</a>
Albert Gore	<a href="http://www.algore-08.com/">http://www.algore-08.com/</a>

**Withdrawn**

Evan Bayh	<a href="http://www.americansforbayh.com/">http://www.americansforbayh.com/</a>
John Forbes Kerry	<a href="http://www.johnkerry.com/">http://www.johnkerry.com/</a>
Tom Vilsack	<a href="http://www.tomvilsack08.com/">http://www.tomvilsack08.com/</a>

**Republican**

Samuel D. Brownback	<a href="http://www.brownback.com/s/">http://www.brownback.com/s/</a>
John H. Cox	<a href="http://www.cox2008.com/cox/">http://www.cox2008.com/cox/</a>
James S. Gilmore	<a href="http://jimgilmore08.com/">http://jimgilmore08.com/</a>
Rudolph W. Giuliani	<a href="http://www.joinrudy2008.com/">http://www.joinrudy2008.com/</a>
Michael D. Huckabee	<a href="http://www.explorehuckabee.com/">http://www.explorehuckabee.com/</a>
Duncan L. Hunter	<a href="http://www.gohunter08.com/">http://www.gohunter08.com/</a>
John S. McCain	<a href="http://www.johnmccain.com/">http://www.johnmccain.com/</a>
Ronald E. Paul	<a href="http://www.ronpaul2008.com/">http://www.ronpaul2008.com/</a>
Willard Mitt Romney	<a href="http://www.mittromney.com/">http://www.mittromney.com/</a>
Tom Tancredo	<a href="http://www.teamtancredo.com/">http://www.teamtancredo.com/</a>
Tommy G. Thompson	<a href="http://www.tommy2008.com/Home.aspx">http://www.tommy2008.com/Home.aspx</a>

**Potential**

Michael R. Bloomberg	<a href="http://www.draftmichael.com/">http://www.draftmichael.com/</a>
Newton Leroy Gingrich	<a href="http://www.draftnewt.org/">http://www.draftnewt.org/</a>
Charles T. Hagel	<a href="http://www.drafhagel08.com/">http://www.drafhagel08.com/</a>
George E. Pataki	<a href="http://www.georgepataki.com/">http://www.georgepataki.com/</a>
Fred D. Thompson	<a href="http://www.fred08.com/">http://www.fred08.com/</a>

I gathered much of this information at <http://www.vote-smart.org/> & <http://www.politics1.com/> .

I went to the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory ( <http://www.fnal.gov/> ) for the Tornado and Severe Weather Seminar hosted by WGN ( <http://wgntv.trb.com/> ) and moderated by Tom Skilling ( <http://www.asktom.org/> ). Dr. Mary Ann Cooper, ( <http://www.uic.edu/labs/lightninginjury/> ) one of two experts in lightning injury in the world, spoke about lightning safety. She and one of her recovered lightning strike patients have worked together with NOAA ( National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration <http://www.noaa.gov/> ) to produce and distribute educational material for children and adults about the danger of lightning strike injuries. These games and documents are on the CD of the month. <http://www.dupageco.org/oem/> , <http://www.kcoem.org/> , <http://www.willcountyema.org/> , <http://www.co.lake.il.us/sheriff/divisions/emergenc.asp> , <http://www.co.mchenry.il.us/Common/Countydpt/ESDA/esdaARadio.asp> , and <http://www.cookcountysheriff.org/ema/> are the local counties emergency management bureaus with information on protecting yourself from severe weather (and terrorist attacks).

For those of you who have moved to Vonage as your primary telephone provider, there is trouble in the wind. Since the most recent ruling by the patent court against Vonage, they have admitted that they have no work around for the infringement of Verizon patents. Vonage was ordered to pay Verizon \$58 million. The Vonage CEO has stepped down. At the very least I would expect that there would be a rate increase. Vonage has already stopped their aggressive advertising campaign. I found the story at

<http://www.networkworld.com/news/2007/041607-vonage-admits-it-has-no.html> and <http://redherring.com/Article.aspx?a=21979&hed=Vonage+in+Crisis> .

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

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### **April 2007 CD of the Month**

AdobeFlashPlayer - Program to view flash animation  
Allwaysync - File and folder synchronization program  
ARI - April newsletter  
BartPE - Creates a bootable emergency disc customized for your PC  
Burn4Free - CD/DVD burner  
CCleaner - Deletes needless files from your PC  
CDOMLists - List of all files on CDs of the Month  
CopyCat - Copies damaged CDs and DVDs  
CrimsonEditor - Programmer editor and Notepad replacement  
CWShredder - CWShredder finds and destroys traces of CoolWebSearch hijacker  
CyberDefenderFREE - Security suite - spyware/antivirus/spam  
DeCrapifier - Deletes crippled software preloaded on new XP PCs  
DVD - DVD decrypter and copier  
ErrorDoctor - Registry repair software  
EusingRegClean - Registry Clean up tool  
FindCreditInfo - Searches your hard drive for personal information and erases it  
FireFox2003 - FireFox upgrade  
Gimp2213 - Gimp Upgrade  
HardDrive - Recovers data from flash memory devices and Hard drive tune up  
LightningSafety - Games and documents about lightning  
LimeWire - File sharing software  
MailPass - Recovers passwords from mail software  
Miranda - Instant messaging for multiple connections  
nCleaner - Computer / registry cleaner  
OldTimeRadio - old radio programs  
Opera - Upgrade to Opera browser v 9.2  
ParasiteScanner - Website that checks for parasites  
PasswordRevealer - It does what it says  
ProcessExplorer - MS tool to view what is going on in your machine  
ShutdownAfter - Shuts down your PC after a particular event  
SmartBro - Smart Browser  
SpeedDefrag - Windows XP HD defragger  
SpywareGuard - Guards against spyware  
TrendMicroSysClean - System Cleaner from Trend Micro  
TweakXP - System tools from MS  
UbCD - Upgraded Ultimate Boot CD  
WinsockFixXP - Winsock repair tool for XP  
XPToys - System tools from MS for XP  
ZoneAlarm70337 - Zone Alarm upgrade

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### CAEUG OFFICERS

<b>President</b>	Mike Goldberg
<b>V.P. (Programs)</b>	Tom Anzalone
<b>Secretary</b>	Dean Holste
<b>Treasurer</b>	L. Johnson
Newsletter Editor	Kathy Groce
Membership Chairperson	Pete Nicchia
& Circulation Manager	
Webmaster	John St. Clair



Reminder:  
You'll get better, faster service if you use CAEUG in the subject of your e-mail.

#### ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER:

This printed version of our newsletter was laid out using **Adobe's Pagemaker Version 7.0** for Windows.

The opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the CAEUG Officers, members or other contributors. CAEUG, its officers, newsletter editor, authors or contributors are not liable in any way for any damages, lost profits, lost savings, or other incidental or consequential damage arising from the use of the information provided herein. Every reasonable effort has been made to confirm the accuracy of the contents of this newsletter, but that accuracy is not guaranteed.

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The CAEUG newsletter is published eleven times annually. Contributions by members are encouraged and will be gratefully acknowledged in the newsletter. We have a policy of exchanging newsletters with other users groups across the nation. Several CAEUG member articles have already been picked up and reprinted.

#### MEMBERS HELPLINE

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

Beginner Helpline . . . . . Billy Douglas

Beginner hardware problems . . . Dick Fergus

QuickBooks, Turbo Tax, IBM Lotus, MS Excel, Corel's Quattro Pro . . . . . Terry Moye

Hardware problems, Win 9x, 2K, XP & Linux . . . . . John Spizzirri

#### **Beginner's SIG**

Ask questions and discuss computer experiences  
Such as:

1. New to Computers? (basic topics)
2. How to use the Web or download information
3. How to install hardware/software
4. Discuss how to troubleshoot hardware conflicts, learn boot up emergency tricks
5. What do you want to know??

SIG meets before regular meeting from **9:05 to 9:45**

**Great Midwest Computer Show ©**

**OPERATION HAS BEEN SUSPENDED  
NO FURTHER INFORMATION  
IS AVAILABLE**

Family owned business is your source for the most complete line of high-quality, low-cost toner, inkjet cartridges and other imaging supplies (paper) for printers, copiers and fax machines.

**Jax's Ink Cartridge**  
**330 Randall Road**  
**South Elgin, IL**  
**847-742-0921**  
**email: jaxsink@sbcglobal.net**

CD OF THE MONTH FORMAT: Is now available in **two (2)** flavors. The **Basic CD** will be packed with the standard items, while the **CD of the Month** will have NEW and updated items.

#### NEW Money Saving Offer for CD of the Month **Pre Order + Prepay = SAVE \$\$**

The club will offer the CD of the Month on a pre order, prepaid basis. The charge will be \$70.00 a year for 9 months. This is \$20 annual savings over buying them for \$9 each month. Lynn Johnson, the treasurer, will keep track of anyone placing a 9-month order.

MAIL Request - There will be a \$2.00 mailing charge per CD

#### **Membership Costs.....**

	<b>First Yr.</b>	<b>Renewal</b>
• Individual	\$25.00	\$20.00
• Family	\$30.00	\$25.00
• Corporate	\$30.00	\$25.00
• Associate	\$20.00	\$15.00

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

## FIRST CLASS MAIL

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### Meeting place and date information:

The next **REGULAR** meeting will be held at the **Glenside Public Library in Glendale Heights** starting 9:45am on **4th Saturday April 28**

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](mailto: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](mailto: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 2007 at Glenside Public Library:  
April 28, May 26, June 23 CAUEG PICNIC**

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**April 28th**  
**Our April presenter**  
**Tom Anzalone will be giving a demo on creating a home theater**

**Hope to see you there.**

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