

New Style

Newsletter of the LaCrosse PC Users' Group

volume 19 number 5

May 1999

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- ▣ Bill Gates wants to know who you are

This Month:

May 26, 7PM in the Overholt

General discussion about Internet Service Providers. I'm trying to get a representative of Bresnan Cable to tell about their upcoming cable modem service and answer questions.

Survey says:

I had asked everyone with an e-mail address to tell me about their online provider. Thanks to the following members for replying: Marian Havlik, Gary Stelzig, Jack Storlie, Joe Doucet, Bob Hansen, Paul Shie, Ernesto Brauer, and Gerald Bonsack (and myself).

I am the only person using multiple suppliers, I have the AOL account which is limited to 10 hours per month, and a 60 hour per month account with FullFeed. The connect speed with AOL using the Holmen number is usually 40k or slightly less. The FullFeed connection apparently depends on which node I reach, either 33.6k or 37.3k to 41.3k. I maintain the AOL account to use mail and stock tracking. The FullFeed account is used for regular browsing.

Three members use ExecPC. One reported connecting at 56k, but I wonder if he misunderstood the question. Another, who lives in Shelby, can only connect at 33.6k. There were some problems connecting before the local office was upgraded.

Everyone else uses AOL. One advantage is that AOL is a national service and you can access your account from many places around the country. It looks the same wherever you are, so you use the same password and setup. In fact, Marian submitted her article while in Florida. When last I looked there were local numbers only for Roches-

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President's Message

By Marian Havlik

If you weren't at the LCPC April meeting, you missed an informative session: "Everything You Always Wanted To Know About Y2K But Were Afraid To Ask" presented by Chuck Whalen. We had several new faces and a very attentive crowd. Some never moved until 9:30 pm.

Chuck said people are mostly concerned about home computers. If your computer was made after January 1998 you should be OK, but you can call the manufacturer to find out. There will be a lot of nuisance problems. GPS's (hand held units that tell your position after contacting satellites) will have problems in August 1999, and the number 9999 (as in the date 9/9/99) has often been used to indicate the end of a program.). If a machine has to know the day of the week (house thermostats) check it out. Telephones should be OK, but check your Fax.

Chuck told the 3 rules for determining leap year dates. He also said there are no more home electrical generators available for the remainder of the year.

The Y2K problem really results from lazy programmers. Most government computers use Unix, so the FAA is probably OK for air flights, but there could be problems with simple things like street lights.

If your personal computer has a problem, the dates for 1976 are the same as 2000 (just tell your 286 or 386 it's 1976). Non-profit organizations who are the recipients of old computers may have a lot of problems. Computers made after 1-98 are generally Y2K compliant.

But there will be nuisance problems.

Power companies will have a big test in August. Banks are OK; food supply will probably be OK. Financial, oil, and gas com-

panies are probably OK. You'd be smart to check your power, water, and gas bills. However, as of March 1999, only 12% of health care facilities are Y2K compliant.

Chuck advised doing the testing yourself instead of buying software. If your computer has flash bios, it can be updated, but the clock may still have a problem. Quicken 6, Lotus 2.1, Excel 5, Word 6, and later are OK. Microsoft Money is OK. dBase 3 is not Y2K, but dBase 4 is somewhat better. Access 1 and 2 are bad.

Asian countries may have more trouble because of their economic problems; they simply don't have the cash to fix the problems.

Leap years after 2000 may still have problems.

Take these steps to see if your machines are Y2K compliant

Marian Havlik

1. Set date to 12/31/99 at 23:58. After midnight test date and time.
(OS's like Windows 3.1 and DOS 4.0, and above, are OK).
2. Turn your machine off after midnight.
3. After midnight turn your machine back on again to check the date (does bios chip keep the date; it's the real-time clock in your machines).
4. Reset your machine to 12-31-99 again, and turn it off again after midnight to find out if your computer can hold the date.

Visit our homepage at <http://www.wi.centuryinter.net/lcpc>

5. Also check out the dates of February 28 and 29 the same as above. If you have a problem here, this will be a nuisance problems only (just change the date).
6. If you have problems with your old computer, you can change the date, and then never turn your computer off. There are also shareware programs that keep track of time. You can get bios extension cards, but the clock itself may be bad. Since they are soldered to motherboards, you'd be better off buying a new motherboard, but be sure you buy the right motherboard. The bios may work, but does the clock keep the right date?

We tested out my Compaq 1622 laptop, and most of my current software (including 1993 version of Symphony) passed all of Chuck's tests and are Y2K compliant.

Chuck Whalen offered to put our newsletter on the LCPC web site (<http://www.wi.centuryinter.net/lcpc>). The LCPC Board will make a final decision at their June meeting, however Board members at the April meeting agreed that the current newsletter shouldn't be put up until after the meeting. I feel only part of the newsletter should be put up (no graphics). Thanks for your offer, Chuck.

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ter and Mankato in the 507 area code, so there are large sections of country that do not have local access to AOL.

Joe lives in the country and is only able to connect at 26.2k, when in Arizona he connects at 48.8. Marian checks her mail between 4 and 10 times a day, uses the Holmen number but connects at 28.8 (possibly old phone lines or local switches). Gary wrote that he connects at around 49k, usually on the first or second try, although two weeks ago he had didn't connect until the ninth try.

Everyone appears happy with their current providers, many citing AOL's feature package and ease of use.

Gary also writes: "one thing I do not like about AOL... is all the porno email and sites that are available or come unsolicited.

There apparently are some new kid-friendly sites available that I have read about but have not checked out - i.e. MayberryUSA(www.mbusa.net) for \$21.95 and ClearViewNet(www.clearviewnet.net)

MS Docs Secretly Track Author

By Dave Murphy, member@itrain.org
reprinted from *The Digital Viking*,
newsletter of the Twin Cities PC Users
Group, April 1999

Microsoft Corp. acknowledged that Windows 98 and other Microsoft applications, such as *Word* and *Excel*, automatically record the author of electronic documents and the computer on which the documents were created.

Richard M. Smith of Brookline, Mass., noticed last week that documents created using Microsoft's popular *Word* and *Excel* programs in tandem with its Windows 98 operating system inserted into documents a hidden 32-digit number that was unique to his computer. This number, called a Globally Unique Identifier (GUID), is unique to each PC. It is based on the hardware components of the system, including the Ethernet card, if it's present. Since many offices and home businesses use Ethernet cards for local area networking and high-speed Internet access, the GUID can trace a document back to its originator; even if the author strives to maintain anonymity.

Now, here's the real kicker for you privacy types. Your computer's GUID was sent to Microsoft when you ran Win98's registration wizard. So Microsoft knows your PC's ID and they can trace documents you create.

"The impact is, if you have one of these tattooed numbers, you can extract the Ethernet address of the computer that created the document" said Jason Catlett, president of Junkbusters Corp. of Green Brook, N.J., which lobbies on privacy issues.

Robert Bennett, Microsoft's group product manager for Windows, said today that the company will create a software tool to let customers clear the ID number from PCs. But too bad if you've already registered Win98 or created documents.

If you'd like to upgrade to Adobe Acrobat V4.0 for \$89.99 rather than \$99.99 go to:

<http://www.surplusauction.com/upgrades/acrobat.html>

for \$19.95." Personally, I've specified that I don't want ads, so I'm not assaulted with merchandise everytime I log on. One problem with blocking software is depending on forbidden words, so it will block sites (for instance): Sussex County ('sex'), or Stock Analysis ('anal').

Member E-mail addresses

Please check over your e-mail address carefully for accuracy. If it isn't right let us know!

The LCPC Home Page:

<http://www.wi.centuryinter.net/lcpc>

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Items For Sale

Contact Jonathan Bailey at 785-0583 or JBailey2@Usa.Net if interested or if you would like more information.

14" VGA Monitor - \$20

DIN 5 Keyboard & Serial Mouse - \$5

133 Mhz PNY Quick Chip Processor (2 Months Old) - \$60

Lexmark 1100 Color Printer (Never Opened) - \$60

The update to Windows 98 should be available in June, earlier than previously announced. This interim release is because (drumroll, please) Windows 2000 is delayed.

in the ancient past, when Atari game consoles were hot items and video arcades were packed, programmers included secret items that could be revealed by certain actions so they could prove that they were indeed the persons who programmed the game in case the game company tried to cheat them-ed.

Seek and You Shall Find...Supprises!

Lynn True, with additioanl credit to Leon Black and www.eeggs.com, reprinted from *The Digital Viking*, newsletter of the Twin Cities PC Users Group, April 1999

Yes, in many software applications there are unexpected surprises-hidden commands or credits, a message or joke, an image, a sound, or even a funny animation-waiting to be found. Like a traditional Easter Egg Hunt, searching for these software "Easter Eggs" can be rather challenging. But, oh, the thrill of the chase...

Passing the test

A true Egg meets these criteria:

Eggs must be undocumented-you won't find any reference to it or the commands to get to it in any of the help files or other documentation; it isn't a legitimate feature of the product

Eggs must be non-destructive-they are only for fun; things that intentionally do damage to your system are called viruses or Trojan Horses and they are most definitely NOT Eggs.

Eggs must be reproducible-anyone who has the same software and follows the same instructions will get the same result

Eggs are put there by the original programmers-you can change startup files or command line parameters to *reveal* an Egg, but altering the actual program code is strictly forbidden.

Most important, Eggs are put there for entertainment, and only entertainment Creativity does count!

Try one of these

Note: when typing any indicated text do not type the quotes ("") unless it is specifically stated.

After Dark y4.0

1. Open After Dark 4.0
2. Choose Fish World
3. After screen saver opens, hit CAPS LOCK

StarTrek Omnipedia

1. Make sure Omnipedia is running with voice activation on
2. Each of these commands will have a different effect
3. Speak "Tea, Earl Gray, Hot"
4. Speak "V-O-Y" (spell it out)
5. Say "Computer" (in your best 'Scotty' accent)

AOL for Windows 95

1. Logon to America Online
2. Go to Keyword
3. Type "Pot 'O' Gold" also try:
4. Type "ooboob"
5. Type "igoy"
6. Type "yggahs"

DBase

1. Go to the About menu
2. Enter "alt fox"

HP Scanjet 51 OOC

1. Pull out the power cord
2. As you push the green scan button on the front of the scanner, re-insert the power plug

Juno

1. Launch Juno v.2.0.11 (only)
2. Click on the Write tab
3. Enter "president@juno.com" (no quotes) in the To: field
4. Click on Help About
5. Double-click (fast) on the Juno logo in the about window

MS Internet Explorer 4.0

1. Click Help
2. Click About
3. Hold Control and drag the "E" over the world
4. Continue to drag, and ram the E into the text that reads "Microsoft Internet Explorer 4.0"
5. Click "Unlock"
6. Hold down Control again, and drag the E over the world, and let go

Netscape Navigator

Press CTRL+ALT+F

Palm Pilot

1. Go to the preferences screen
2. Draw a counter-clockwise circle in the lower right hand corner

Sim City 2000

1. Get into any city
2. Type "joke"

WebTV

1. Before turning the power on, hold down the "recent options" key and the left arrow key
2. After the lights flash, turn the power on

Windows NT 4.0

1. Right click on the desktop and select Properties I Screen Saver
2. Select 3DText (OpenGL)
4. Click on the Settings button
5. Change the text that the screen saver will display "Volcano"
6. Click OK to save the changes. Click the Test button or watch the screen saver when it kicks in the next time

And there's more...

For even more fun try:

<http://Ipcwin.com/easteregg.htm>

www.thepalmtree.com/easter.htm

www.hitech.com.au/easter

www.gamepower.com/chewidx.html

www.columbia.edu/~beecher/ho/

www.Xpresso.com/

QuestionAuthorit/leggs.html

www.imginfo.com/devonly/

tipsandtricks.htm

<http://handel.pacific.net.sg/~panglee/easter.html>

www.Newton.Easter.html

www.cg.tuwien.ac.at/~Scheich/

www.bugnet.com/analysis/excel_easteregg.html

Membership Info and Treasurers Report

Gary Stelzig - Treasurer

April renewals were paid by Kathy Gallagher and D. Joseph Doucet - thank you.

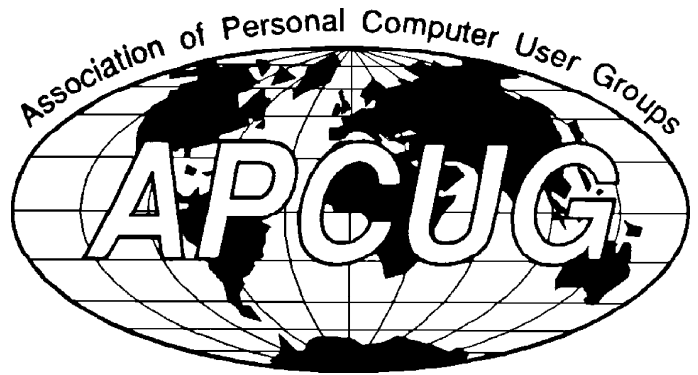
Renewals for May include: Ernesto Brauer, and Bill Simdars.

Past due renewals: Chuck Whalen and George Frisch.

Last month Alvin and Monica Fritz joined our club. They have a CTX computer, Canon printer and a Umax scanner. They have taken some Introduction Computer classes at WWTC. They are ready to learn more from our club. Guests last month include: Marjorie Schroeder, Phyllis Fuller, and Mike Larson.

Our checking balance as of 4/13/99 is \$333.24. May deposits of \$60 for memberships are not in bank balance. April expenses not in bank balance include \$13.20 for stamps and \$40 for our lock box at the post office.

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General meetings are held the last Wednesday of each month in the Lutheran Hospital, either in the Overholt Auditorium or conference room 1 in the basement, check page 1 for location. The combined November-December meeting is held the second Wednesday in December. Meetings begin around 7:00 PM. Everyone is welcome, attend a meeting or two with no obligation to join.

Dues are \$20 for one year following payment. Membership entitles you to attend meetings, tap into the corporate wisdom, receive special user group discounts from publishers and others, receive (and contribute to) this newsletter. You may also obtain software provided by publishers for review of the product. Unsigned articles are by the editor.

Other user groups are welcome to reprint with proper credit.

The newsletter is printed the Wednesday before the meeting, submit articles by the 13th of the month. Upload to *deapublish@aol.com* or phone me at 784-0150 if you want to deliver the article. Submit in ASCII, AmiPro, or WP5.

Commercial advertising rates available upon request. Member's personal ads are free.

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