

# New Style

## Inside

- ❑ E-mail addresses
- ❑ June meeting report
- ❑ Excel book
- ❑ USBs

Newsletter of the LaCrosse PC Users' Group

volume 20 number 7

July 2000

## This month, July 26, 7 PM in the Overholt

Gary Stelzig discusses programming languages. It's not as Basic as it was twenty years ago.

in a desperate effort to fill space your editor presents:

### Rambling along...

### Given that pro- is the opposite of con-, what is the opposite of progress?

Yes, they've been at it again. The same bunch of busy bodies that gave us the Communications Decency Act recently tried to outlaw all forms of Internet gambling.

Hasn't it occurred to these representatives of the people that if I choose to gamble I can click on a site located in Brazil, or Germany, or Moldova? How are they going to protect me from doing that?

The usual way. Although not specified in the story I read, I must assume that Congress intended to compel our Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to block access to such sites. What an undertaking that would be.

An odd coalition of libertarian groups and anti-gambling lobbyists convinced enough Representatives that the bill died in the House.

### Maybe you should look into that security software...

A recent Jim Bohannon radio show (WIZM-AM, 9PM-12AM, weeknights) discussed computer issues. One caller had an unusual tale of woe.

*concludes on page 5*

## President's Message

*Marian Havlik*

At the June LCPC meeting we had an introduction to MS Word. Some fairly advanced features were also demonstrated, such as creating a Table of Contents (demonstrated by Shane Lambert). I showed a basic Word file which had tables I created in Word. Ernesto Brauer showed how to switch to Excel, inside of Word. This is to create tables in which you can calculate formulas and do math. As usual, Chuck Whalen answered a variety of technical questions.

Emily Gersema, La Crosse Tribune intern, and a Tribune photographer were guests.

By the time you get this newsletter, we will have had publicity in the Technology Section of the La Crosse paper (Saturday, July 8). Emily was impressed by the variety of people who attend our meetings. It certainly looked like both of the Tribune people found the meeting very interesting.

We plan to put about three ads per year in the La Crosse Tribune Technology Section. The first one will be in the Saturday before our July 2000 meeting, mostly to correct some errors in the news story. We will also have an ad prior to our September 27 and December 13 meetings.

More ads are planned for 2001, dates to be determined. If you can think of anyplace else where we can put up ads, notices, or preferably, email messages, please let us know.

Just a reminder that Don and Carol would like a respite from the newsletter for a while. Shane Lambert offered to take over for a few months, and we might be able to persuade Robin Alexander to put the newslet-

*Continued on page 2*

*Emily Gersema*



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

*Continued from page 1*

ter together for a few months. Gary Stelzig, Treasurer, takes care of distributing the email newsletter, as well as mailing the hard copies we exchange with at least 16 other groups and local businesses.

I've asked Arlene Weise to put out a monthly email reminder a few days before the meeting. This will take some of the load off of Carol Frank, our secretary. Shane informed us that there is a site that will do this automatically for our group: [www.myschedule.com](http://www.myschedule.com).

## Online classes at UWL

Robin Alexander told the LCPC Board that UWL will put the pre-MBA core classes online in fall 2000. By September 2001, the entire MBA program will be online.

## Future Programs

July: Gary Stelzig (fresh from programming courses at WWTC) will give us an "Introduction to Programming Languages".

August: Back to MS Office, and Robin Alexander will explain "Access", the database portion of Office. If there's time, he'll also answer more Excel questions.

September: Shane Lambert will tell us "How to Use the Internet". Topics to be covered will include Internet pitfalls and stopping spam.

October: "What Do I Need In My Next Computer?" by Bill Brockmeyer.

December: A local business (to be announced) will demonstrate various hand-held products, such as Palm, and other new computer products.

## Linux

Does anyone know when and where the La Crosse Linux group meets? The President of the Twin Cities User Group reported on a Linux meeting he attended in that area. We've been trying (unsuccessfully so far) to get a speaker on the Linux OS.

I often look at the Twin Cities newsletter (The Digital Viking) that we get as an exchange newsletter. They always have some interesting articles. One of these days I'd like to attend one of their meetings. In addition to their regular meetings, they have a

## 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>

Robin Alexander—

[robin\\_alexander@uwlax.edu](mailto:robin_alexander@uwlax.edu)

Don Atkinson/Carol Frank—

[deapublish@aol.com](mailto:deapublish@aol.com)

Paul Bequette—[bequ2546@aol.com](mailto:bequ2546@aol.com)

Kevin Blum—[acslacrosse@execpc.com](mailto:acslacrosse@execpc.com)

May Borgedahl—[borgie@fflax.net](mailto:borgie@fflax.net)

Ernesto Brauer—[ebrauer@execpc.com](mailto:ebrauer@execpc.com)  
or [ebrauer@gundluth.org](mailto:ebrauer@gundluth.org)

Bill Brockmiller—

[webmast@web4web.com](mailto:webmast@web4web.com) or  
[web4web@earthlink.net](mailto:web4web@earthlink.net)

Ken Buckley—[kcbucone@aol.com](mailto:kcbucone@aol.com)

Lisa Doherty—[doherty@wi.freei.net](mailto:doherty@wi.freei.net)

Joseph Doucet—[josdoucet@aol.com](mailto:josdoucet@aol.com)

George Frisch—[gfrisch@means.net](mailto:gfrisch@means.net)

---

number of SIGs (Special Interest Groups). The result is that you could go to a computer club meeting in the Twin Cities two to five days per week.

We often circulate the newsletters we get as exchanges, so feel free to take one when they're available.

## Learning from the younger generation

Recently a granddaughter wrote me using abbreviations I'd not seen

before:

g2g = got to go

ttyl = talk to you later

and of course: BTY (by the way)

MFQ (most frequently asked questions),

FAQ (frequently asked questions)

FYI = for your info.

She also told me how to make an upside-down ? mark, but I've not been able to figure that one out.

Any other shortcuts/abbreviations out there we should know about?

Drop me an email.

Please note: I have not changed my name to Marilyn, in spite of the local media.

Alvin and Monica Fritz—

[almfritz@aol.com](mailto:almfritz@aol.com) or  
[almfritz@juno.com](mailto:almfritz@juno.com)

Kathy Gallagher—[kgalla1019@aol.com](mailto:kgalla1019@aol.com)

Darrell Garner—[dvgdablur@aol.com](mailto:dvgdablur@aol.com)

Bob Hansen—[rjhansen@aol.com](mailto:rjhansen@aol.com)

Dr. Earl Heartt—[ww5@earthlink.net](mailto:ww5@earthlink.net)

Marian Havlik—[havlikme@aol.com](mailto:havlikme@aol.com)

Chris Hornbeck—

[chrismh@centurytel.net](mailto:chrismh@centurytel.net)

John Kuschel—

[johnk@reinhartfoodservice.com](mailto:johnk@reinhartfoodservice.com)  
or [bigescape@aol.com](mailto:bigescape@aol.com)

Shane Lambert—[shane@couleeweb.net](mailto:shane@couleeweb.net)

Mike Larson—[mikewl007@aol.com](mailto:mikewl007@aol.com)

Ted & Jean Latham—

[tedjeanlatham@centuryinter.net](mailto:tedjeanlatham@centuryinter.net)

Paul Pfaff—[pop1635@juno.com](mailto:pop1635@juno.com)

Paul Shie—

[paulshie@reinhartfoodservice.com](mailto:paulshie@reinhartfoodservice.com)

Gary Stelzig—[gstelzig0@aol.com](mailto:gstelzig0@aol.com)

Jack Storlie—[jstorlie@aol.com](mailto:jstorlie@aol.com)

Chuck Whalen—[cw@centurytel.net](mailto:cw@centurytel.net)

Jim and Sandy Wheat—[swheat@fflax.net](mailto:swheat@fflax.net)

Arlene Wiese—[awiese@fflax.net](mailto:awiese@fflax.net)

---

## Membership Info and Treasurers Report

*Gary Stelzig - Treasurer*

The club checking balance as of 07/15/2000 is \$403.60. June transactions include a \$60 deposit, bills of \$6.60 for stamps, \$8.55 for photocopies.

Renewals paid at our June include Kathleen Gallagher, Mike Larson, and Joseph Doucet - thank you. July renewals that are due include: Paul Bequette and Darrell Garner. Past due include George Frisch and Chuck Whalen.

# A visit from the Press, MS Word explored

Carol M. Frank, secretary

At this meeting we had a visit by Emily Gersema, intern at the LaCrosse Tribune. A photographer came along also. Did you see the Saturday, July 8 technology page article about us? There was a dramatic shot of Chuck pointing to the display screen.

Shane Lambert volunteered to be alternate newsletter editor.

Questions, as usual, was started by Jack Storlie. He wants to transfer mailbox, address book and bookmarks between computers. Shane explained that Netscape 3 creates a profile which contains this information. Look in C:\Program Files\Netscape\users\  
(user's name). In that folder is the profile: bookmarks, mailbox, address book, history etc. Just copy the existing folder into the computer, making sure you use the same user name on that computer.

Alvin Fritz had a harddrive problem, and the computer didn't recognize certain peripherals. He had these problems solved, but now when using his Canon printer a box pops up with "internal error-may not print in color". He would click on it and proceed to print OK.

Chuck suggested going to the Canon website and download the latest driver. First however, he recommends removing the old

driver first to avoid DLL conflicts. Look in Printers: Canon printer: Remove old driver. Double click in Control Panel: Add/Remove programs to see if driver is still there. This checking is necessary because some installation routines are sloppily written. DLL versions needed are often not given and the correct one might not be installed.

For demonstration purposes Chuck showed how to check for DLL, OCX, EXE, etc. versions. He looked at several DLLs, right clicking to see Properties. Some DLLs didn't have versions listed. The reason to close any open programs during installation is that some open programs prevent some DLLs from being installed.

The Fritzes have a problem with Quicken locking up. They have tried uninstalling and reinstalling the program. This doesn't fix the problem. If anyone have any ideas please contact them.

Ernesto Brauer has a Pentium II. The sound was not good with certain games so he decided to uninstall and reinstall the sound file. This crashed the harddrive during the process. It was unrecoverable. So he reformatted the harddrive, added a new sound card and a rewritable CD. *(ah, the importance of having a current backup -ed.)*

Ernesto uses Norton Ghost at work and wondered if he could use the CDRW to create a ghost for backup. Chuck explained that Ghost was designed for business purposes. One computer would be set up exactly as you want it, then "clone" a ghost to set up the other computers exactly the same as the first one. He recommend buying a tape drive backup for \$150-\$200. An eight Gig tape can hold more than a 660 meg CDR and is simple to use. Hewlett Packard's Colorado is highly recommended. It is external and runs on a parallel port. *(assuming you can get it to work. I tried both an internal and external version without success on out Cyrix 200 -ed.)*

Ernesto then asked about using an USB harddrive. According to Chuck that wouldn't work very well. The harddrive would be too slow.

Robin had a question about format and size of backup tapes. The backup tapes are slightly smaller than 8mm video tapes, and can hold 4 Gig uncompressed or 8 Gig compressed. A feature of tape backup programs is "Forward Error Correction", data is copied 1 1/2 times. This helps to recover from errors better.

*Continued on page 4*

Shane Lambert



Ernesto Brauer showing how to record a Macro



# Dona's Computer Capers

## About Books and Travel

By Dona Z. Meilach, reprinted from *Personal Systems*, the journal of the San Diego Computer Society

Spreadsheets have never been my favorite activity and I've gotten really good making Word charts instead of tackling Excel. But that has changed thanks to a new little book from DK Publishing called "Creating Worksheets in Excel." Why? Because it's small, only 72 pages in a 5 X 7 format. What sets it apart from other books are its clarity, compactness, illustrations, and its \$6.95 price.

*Creating Worksheets in Excel* is only one in a new "Essential Computer" series of 12 books of the same size and price, each delving into one aspect of the computer. They're ideal for beginners. Seniors especially will like them because they're not as daunting as large books and manuals nor as demeaning as the "dummy" series. Three of them deal with e-mail and the Internet. Others cover word processing, multimedia, and digital photography.

I'm at home with the series because the same DK publishers has developed the awesome Eye-Witness travel guides. I feel lost if I visit a city without one and must use another guidebook. Check these out at your bookstore and see how the "Essential Computer" Guides can help you, or someone you know learn to use their computer more efficiently and quickly.

## When traveling All e-mail is not equal

Recently I returned from a 3-week trip to Prague and Budapest where, I assumed, I could pick up my e-mail without dragging a laptop computer. Both cities had easily available computers at a wonderfully wild variety of Internet Cafes. Most cafes had 10 or 12 computers set up with different languages but still using all the familiar icons for navigating the Net. The keyboards often had keys in strange places and, because Czech and Hungarian letters have oodles of punctuation marks, there are keys that are totally unfamiliar.

The procedure is to pick up a time ticket at the front desk, sit down at a computer that had a menu for English and proceed to

log into my Hotmail Account. Those of you who have Hotmail know that it's loaded with spam, and that's just what I got. Forty-two messages of utterly no use. Or interest. I selected the necessary "option" and proceeded to log into my MSN Pop 3-email account. No go. If the computer doesn't don't have MSN on its system you're out of luck.

What did I learn fast? Your correspondents must use your Hotmail address and forget about any of the other services, except AOL. I could send messages via Hotmail but even that posed a problem. My address book didn't come through and I couldn't remember the addresses of many people. So if they didn't write to me first, they didn't get a message from me. I tried a program I had read about on the plane called <http://www.sdcs.org>

*www.thatweb.com* which is allegedly downloadable from the Net. It purportedly delivers messages from any net-e-mail address to any computer but I couldn't get it to download.

I spent the first session canceling and deleting Hotmail messages so I wouldn't get them again the next time I logged it. The cost was no big deal. I paid about \$1.50 for the first 15 minutes and 5 to 10 cents per minute after that. The price was commensurate with the neighborhood and surroundings. Center of town Cafes were costliest; those off the beaten tracks and near colleges were cheaper. In addition to the Cyber Cafes, I found available Net connected computers in some of the quick food restaurants and in the tourist Information offices in a couple of small cities. Ask at your hotel and they probably have a list.

The only people who routinely received messages were those on AOL which is as universal as Microsoft Windows. So if you're going overseas, or even in the States where your ISP service doesn't reach, you'll do well to get an AOL account and be sure people use it. However, if you want a real vacation, forget the account, avoid the Internet cafes and enjoy your trip.

*June meeting, Continued from page 3*

As an alternative, Chuck recommends installing a second hard drive internally to backup the C:\ drive to. He gave instructions on daisy chaining Master and Slave harddrives. He calls it the Lazy man's way of copying data when installing a new harddrive. He also gave instructions on using xcopy. See the tape if you are interested.

The presentation was a round table by various members on MS Word. Marian started out showing some samples of letters, invoices and a table. She showed the features of the toolbar, tooltips, function descriptions, tables and styles.

Robin Alexander and Chuck showed how to insert more rows in tables

Shane demonstrated building a table of contents by using heading and subheading styles and then go to Insert:Tables. The field can be updated as changes are made. He also showed how to make a hard page break and how to use the freindly paper clip. The Paper Clip is actually a very smart search engine that is faster and easier to use than the Help menu.

Excel tables can be created in Word and be used to do simple math.

Ernesto showed how to create forms with drop-down fields. The fields can be adjusted to use commonly used words or phrases. The drop-down box is invisible when printed.

Ernesto also showed how to create Macros. Macros are good for inserting general statements. To record a Macro, go to Macro Record: on: record commands. He demonstrated creating a simple macro. Marian has many macros, so Chuck suggested having a tool bar just for the macros.

Shane asked how to keep web addresses from being automatically underlined. Chuck showed how to edit Hyperlinks: Turn Off Automatic Formatting.

Then Chuck showed how to do vertical editing like in a column. Press and Hold Alt and drag the mouse down the column to select it and then Delete it.

This round table has been very informative and goes to show than not everyone can know every aspect of this program, but it probably fits everyone's needs in one way or another. If desired, there will be a future presentation on more of MS Word.

# Just what is USB and what can it do for you?

By Richard James, *Big Blue & Cousins Newsletter*, reprinted from *The Communicator*, Journal of the Western New York Computer Society

Ok, you ask, what's "USB" and why do I need it? Well, USB (Universal Serial Bus) is supposed to be a new (developed in 1996) and *better way of* connecting a variety of peripherals to your computer. It is supposed to be completely "Plug-n-Play" to the extent that you don't have to open the case, can connect and disconnect devices while the system is running, and have immediate access to them without rebooting the machine. Just think of all those "Christmas Goodies" that you could just unwrap, plug in and go with! So, what is the reality? Well yes, many devices do just plug in and work, but others are a bit more awkward. However, why don't we explore what it is and what it can do?

USB requires an operating system that recognizes it, running on a machine that either has an USB port built in, or that has an USB card installed. Suitable Operating Systems are Windows95 (OSR 2.1 only), Win98, Windows2000 (USB is not supported on WinNT 4). If your machine does not have

an installed USB port, you can buy an interface card that provides it. You can also get a USB hub to connect legacy Serial and Parallel devices to a USB port.

The key features of USB include:

- Simplified installation of devices (no need to open the box and mess with IRQ's and I/O addresses)
- Multiple devices (up to 127) on a chain
- Support for low and medium speed devices (see below)
- Hot Swap of devices without powering down the system

In an USB installation devices are "Daisy Chained" together through multiple hubs. To connect more devices when you don't have a spare port, you have to add another "Hub", a connection box that provides additional ports.

OK, so what devices can I add?

USB supports both low speed (1.5 mbs) and high speed (12 mbs) devices that include

- Keyboards, Mice and Joysticks
- Monitors and Modems, CD and DVD drives
- Printers
- Network Adapters (10 meg ethernet)
- Audio Devices
- Digital Cameras

So, what are the advantages of USB over traditional interface cards?

You don't have to open the computer box to install a new device. You don't have to figure out IRQs and I/O addresses and resolve conflicts. You aren't limited to the number of devices you can add.

Some devices use power supplied by the USB port rather than having an external power source (limited to low power devices)

What does the future hold?... well, computers are a fast moving technology. The current USB specification is Version 2.2 (see [www.usb.org](http://www.usb.org)). Firewire (aka IEEE 1394 or i.link: see [www.1394ta.org](http://www.1394ta.org)) is another advanced connection standard, designed for higher transfer rates (up to 400 mbs) and can better support high resolution digital still and video cameras, hard drives and other "high load" devices. Although USB was developed in 1996, it took a while for manufacturers to provide support and develop devices, prices are now falling as they become mainstream devices.

## Techie Stuff:

USB ports on the host take one IRQ for the port, irrespective of the number of devices. This should not be a problem as you can disable unused onboard ports for things like the PS/2 mouse (IRQ12). Printers (5/7) and Comm ports (3/4) that you are not using.

A number of problems have been reported with USB devices and the Microsoft WWW site is a good source of information on these. The robustness of USB implementation seems to vary significantly between motherboard manufacturers (for example, one is reported to have the wrong value resistor between two lines causing problems with some devices on two of its boards).

## Rambling along concludes

The caller was a business man who fulfills orders over the Internet. He receives a great deal of e-mail from addresses he's never seen before. Some of these are advertisements for web sites which he'd check out.

Some took him to kiddie porn sites. They'd pop up and he'd close the browser window. Apparently he also received some illegal pictures as attachments, he deleted these upon opening them.

He thought this was just part of being online. Then he was visited by agents of the Federal Justice Department. They examined his computer, seized it, and charged him with child pornography.

Most of you know that when you "delete" something, it isn't really gone. All you are doing is removing a reference to it in the file directory. For it to be truly gone you have to overwrite it, right?

Wrong.

The smallest unit of space on a hard drive is a cluster. The size of each cluster depends on your drive's capacity and whether you use the FAT 16 or 32 file system. On a large drive

each cluster may be 16K bytes in size. That's a lot of space.

Think of each cluster of your hard drive as several sheets of paper. When you delete a file all appropriate clusters are marked as available, but they still have all the original information on them. When you overwrite a cluster new information covers over the original up to the end of the file. There's the rub. Past the end of file marker for the new data, the original data is still there. That means almost an entire cluster could still have the original data: your financial records, account numbers, passwords, etc. All that is needed to recover that data is a simple track editor.

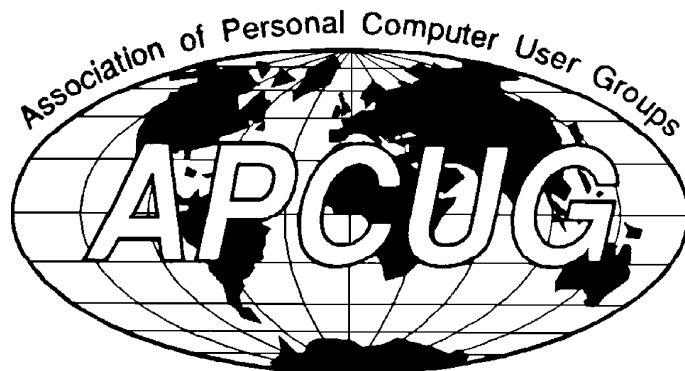
How can you protect yourself? Some security programs will write zeros following the end of file marker to the end of the cluster, destroying all old data.

Do you need it? That's up to you.

Back to our story... the Federal agents recovered some pictures from the caller's recycle bin and temporary Internet folders. The guest experts could only suggest that he hire a good lawyer.

## LCPC Board

**Marian Havlik**—President, Board ..... 782-7958  
havlikme@aol.com  
**Chuck Whalen**—Vice-president, Board... 788-6900  
cw@centurytel.net  
**Gary Stelzig**—Treasurer, Board ..... 788-7075  
gstelzig0@aol.com  
**Don Atkinson** ..... 784-0150  
Newsletter editor and publisher [deapublish@aol.com](mailto:deapublish@aol.com)  
**Carol Frank** ..... 784-0150  
Secretary, Board, newsletter [deapublish@aol.com](mailto:deapublish@aol.com)  
**Kathy Gallagher**—Program Chair ..... 781-8839  
[kgalla1019@aol.com](mailto:kgalla1019@aol.com)  
**Darrell Garner**—Program Co-chair [dvgdablur@aol.com](mailto:dvgdablur@aol.com)



[WWW.APCUG.ORG](http://WWW.APCUG.ORG)

LCPC is a member of APCUG

---

New Style is published eleven times a year, monthly Jan-Oct and a combined Nov-Dec issue

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](mailto: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.

LCPC

P.O. Box 2991

LaCrosse, WI 54602-2991