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SouthEastern Michigan
Computer Organization, Inc.

DATA BUS

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The SouthEastern Michigan Computer Organization, Inc. (SEMCO) is a non-profit, 501(c)(3), group dedicated to providing information, education and a forum to computer users (professional and amateur) and other interested individuals. Membership in SEMCO is open to all individuals 18 years or older. Persons under 18 years may become members through the sponsorship of a parent or guardian. Dues of \$30/year include monthly DATA BUS and free personal ads.

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION

The annual meeting of the members of the SouthEastern Michigan Computer Organization, Inc., will be held Sunday, January 11, 2009 at 1:30 pm at ArvinMeritor, 2135 West Maple Rd., Troy, Michigan. The election of Officers and Members-at-Large of the Board of Directors of the Corporation will take place at the annual meeting.



DEALS COLUMN
from the DealsGuy
Greater Orlando Computer UG
by Bob "The Cheap skate" Click

My wife drives a 2003 GMC Sonoma pickup and while I could write a book about its shortcomings, she loves it. We bought an extended warranty on it, but for only five years or 50,000 miles because we didn't think we would own it more than five years. We noticed oil leaks on the garage floor and took it to the dealer for diagnosis. The five-year warranty recently ended, but the truck only has 60,000 easy miles on it. The service advisor told us it had three leaks and explained that one was an oil pan leak, another is oil leaking from the timing chain cover and the other was the rear transmission seal leaking.

I was surprised about so many leaks, but asked the price of repairs. He said

that the oil pan could not be removed because of the front end cross member being too close so they must pull the engine for those repairs. The total bill for all the leaks would be a bit over \$1,700. I was astounded because I felt that 60,000 miles was premature for so many oil leaks.

I called GMC Customer Service, who has not been much help in the past with another ongoing problem, and explained the situation and disappointment with the reliability of the vehicle. The customer rep said he would take it up with the Zone Manager and get back with me. The dealership advisor said not to expect much these days. A few days later, the zone manager said they would be happy to help me and said they would pay for the gaskets and give me a 10% discount on the repair cost. I was stunned and told them where they could shove that help and that they had insulted my intelligence. After all, the gaskets would probably cost \$20 and most dealerships give senior citizens a 10% discount, so there was no help there and they said OK, sorry, goodbye. I would have been happy with 50% or something like that. No wonder GM is going bankrupt with that kind of product reliability and customer relations attitude.

My son used my GM discount to purchase a GMC Sierra pickup and has had his share of warranty problems with it. First was a problem with the brake rotors, which the dealer would not replace when they became warped at 2,500 miles. They resurfaced them and the problem came back. Later, when the vehicle was just out of warranty, the diesel engine's injector pump went out. Customer Service said they would repair it at no cost, but it took

two weeks to get the parts and they would not pay for the rental vehicle (interestingly, a Toyota pickup) which had always been customary. There were other problems. The first GMC pickup before he purchased his present one had transmission problems that they couldn't seem to repair and he had an attorney force GM to refund his money under the Lemon Law. This will be his last GMC, just like us, or probably even a GM product, for that matter, and that's where my pension comes from.

New Product From Diskeeper

Ms. Teal Thompson, Director of Public Relations, sent me the specifications and pricing (below) for Diskeeper 2009 (just released). Diskeeper has always been a superb product.

New Features List:

Improved Trialware: Trialware will now take an analysis of the volume(s) "before" and "after" initial installation. A comparison report is then generated, demonstrating improved conditions.

Improved InvisiTasking: The new, more assertive InvisiTasking can now operate in competitive environments, in conjunction with other always-on/idle-time tasks that run at lowest priority while still guaranteeing completely invisible, zero-overhead, operations.

IPv6 (Internet Protocol version 6): Diskeeper 2009 now fully supports communication, such as remote management on native IPv6 networks.

Improved Free Space Consolidation: About 90% of the available free space will now be grouped into less than a dozen free space segments. This will increase file write performance.

About InvisiTasking

Instead of the operating system scheduler allocating the entire computer system to each process, one at a time, InvisiTasking

empowers the system to allocate resources (CPU, memory, disk, and network) allowing overlapping usage of separate resources, not just reducing system overhead, but eliminating it altogether.

InvisiTasking is what makes Diskeeper defrag in real time with zero overhead. Systems simply run fast, operate at peak and are reliable, constantly. The drives are always optimally maintained.

Diskeeper 2009 includes the new InvisiTasking 2.0! New functionality in InvisiTasking will allow it to be more assertive, while still guaranteeing completely invisible, zero-overhead, operations. (Check their Web site for further information.)

Diskeeper 2009 with HyperFast™ SSD optimization:

The new Diskeeper 2009 is now available as a bundle with the new HyperFast SSD optimization product.

HyperFast™: Solid State drives (SSDs) promise users a faster and better experience than conventional hard disk drives (HDD). However, Microsoft® Windows® is not optimized for NAND Flash as a principal storage device, such as with SSDs. The result is that, over time, customers of systems with SSDs will experience a very noticeable and dramatic deterioration (up to 80%), to the degree that their computers operate much slower than they would with a hard disk. The new HyperFast feature bundled with Diskeeper 2009 is specifically designed to eliminate performance degradation, and restore performance to like-new conditions.

Special pricing only applies on multiple purchases.

Diskeeper 2009 Home:

ESD \$29.95

2-pack \$44.95

3-pack \$54.95

5-pack \$89.95

Diskeeper 2009 Professional:

ESD \$59.95

2-pack \$89.95

3-pack \$149.95

5-pack \$269.75

Order through their online store at

<<http://www.diskeeper.com/purchase/purchase.aspx>>.

Want A DVD Creator?

Note: I have not actually tried this product.

ZC Software has released ZC DVD Creator Platinum V. 6.2.2, a new version of ZC DVD creator software that converts almost any video source to burn on a DVD directly without having to store it on a hard drive. ZC DVD Creator Platinum lets users customize their menu templates to match the user's style, giving the movie a polished look. The software will edit, author and burn all DVD formats.

With ZC DVD Creator Platinum, it is possible to easily create personal DVDs. ZC DVD Creator Platinum supports all known video source formats, such as AVI, DIVX, XVID, RM, RMVB, MPEG, MPG, VCD, SVCD, WMV, ASF, ASX, SWF, MOV/DAT, FLV (Flash Video), 3GP (3gpp, 3gp, 3gp2), MP4 (mp4, mpeg4), Nullsoft Video (NSV), AVS, Decrypted DVD File (VOB), MKV, DV video, mts, and m2ts. Also, the user has new menu template themes that can easily customize the new Hollywood-style DVD menus. It's possible to trim and split-cut the videos, specify the DVD background Music and Images, edit the DVD Menu short description and playback preview the video file

The video encoder guarantees the best DVD picture quality within one hour. If Nero is installed, the software automatically selects Nero as the default burning engine. ZC DVD Creator Platinum supports wide screens (16:9) as well as the usual TV screens (4:3). It also supports both NTSC and PAL TV systems. The advanced Dolby Digital audio will strengthen the movie with theater quality sound. The software includes automatic matching of a broad range of DVD-R/RW and DVD+R/RW burners. The user can burn a DVD Movie image file placed on a hard disc to a DVD Disk directly without storing them on a hard disc,

ZC DVD Creator Platinum has a friendly and easy-to-use interface that allows the user to create a DVD movie just by one click. The new version of ZC DVD Creator Platinum has an upgraded video clip edit feature.

Pricing and Availability

ZC DVD Creator Platinum is compatible with all versions of Windows. Ordering the software on a CD-ROM is \$15 USD extra for shipping.

Special offers are:

- * ZC DVD Creator Platinum and ZC Video Converter at \$60 USD;

- * ZC DVD Creator Platinum and QR Photo DVD Slideshow at \$60 USD.

- * ZC DVD Ripper and ZC Video Converter at \$65 USD.

By purchasing ZC DVD Creator Platinum the user gets lifetime FREE Technical Support and FREE upgrades. For firsthand appraisal, a free trial version is available. The user has a 30-day money back guarantee.

Product page: <<http://www.videoxdvd.com/product.htm>>

Download link: <<http://www.videoxdvd.com/download.htm>>

Company web-site: <<http://www.videoxdvd.com>>

That's it for this month. I'll have some more new product announcements on my Web site that didn't offer discounts. Meet me here again next month if your editor permits. This column is written to make user group members aware of special offers or freebies I have found or arranged, and my comments should not be interpreted to encourage, or discourage, the purchase of any products, no matter how enthused I might sound. Bob (The Cheap skate) Click <[bobclick at bellsouth dot net](mailto:bobclick@bellsouth.net)>. Visit my Web site at <<http://www.dealsguy.com>>



**Create PDF Documents
for FREE
By Ira Wilsker**

I do a lot of research online on a variety of topics such as homeland security, and cyber security, and like to save digital copies of websites, articles, and news stories. I also like to save secure and stable digital copies of documents I create, such as Word, PowerPoint, Excel, tax forms, and other documents, where they will always appear exactly as the originals, and are difficult to alter. I also exchange documents of various types with many others, some of whom have different software and operating systems than I have, but would like to view the documents exactly as prepared. To resolve these problems, and create a universal standard format that works seamlessly on virtually all operating systems, the software publisher Adobe created the "PDF" or "Portable Document Format," which has become the de facto standard for universal document exchange. While

feature rich, and still widely considered as the premier PDF writing utility, the Adobe Acrobat PDF writing software is relatively expensive (\$300 for the new Standard Edition – Version 9). In recent years, several competitors to Adobe PDF Writer have appeared, and fortunately for us, some of them are available for free!

I have tried several of the free PDF writers, and they all function substantially the same. I have also successfully used the PDF function built into the excellent and free office suite, OpenOffice 3 (openoffice.org), which can create PDF documents from each of the components in its suite of software, but does not create PDFs from other sources. Some of the free PDF writing utilities include advertising and watermarks in the documents created, clearly displaying to all readers that the user is using free software; the appearance of ads and commercial watermarks in a document makes it unacceptable (to me) for all but distinctly personal use. Two of the free PDF writers that I have used, and continue to use, which are also free of advertising and commercial watermarks are CutePDF Writer <<http://www.cutepdf.com>> and PrimoPDF <<http://www.primopdf.com>>.

CutePDF Writer is a small download of only 1.6 megs, but also requires the download and installation of a free GNU Ghostscript converter (5 megs), which is available on the CutePDF download page. Downloading and installation of CutePDF Writer and GNU Ghostscript were fast and easy. CutePDF Writer is not run separately as a utility, but is in reality installed as a printer driver, and shows up under the "Printers and Faxes" heading in the control panel. Using

CutePDF Writer to create PDF files is fast and easy, and can be accessed from the “Print” function in any software that supports printing. To create a PDF file from any source, simply click on “Print” and select CutePDF Writer from the pull-down printer menu, and then print as if the document was simply going to a printer. CutePDF Writer appears as an installed printer, and for all practical purposes is treated as a physical printer. When the print function is activated, CutePDF Writer transparently and quickly converts the document into a “WYSIWYG” (What You See Is What You Get) document in the PDF format. Rather than printing to paper, CutePDF Writer prints to a digital file in the PDF format, which can be saved wherever desired. As a PDF file, it can be opened by any PDF viewer or reader, and it will appear exactly as created, including all fonts, colors, graphics, and formatting. Because PDF files can be universally opened and viewed, PDF is an ideal format to e-mail to others who may not have the same document creation software that you have. I have personally used CutePDF Writer extensively, and routinely install it on all of my computers. CutePDF Writer is totally free, and does not contain any advertising or watermarks. It is explicitly free to all, including personal, commercial, educational, and government use. Computer Shopper magazine rates CutePDF Writer as one of the best 50 downloads available. The publisher of CutePDF Writer obviously hopes that users of the free Writer product will upgrade to the more powerful commercial product, CutePDF Professional, currently available on the website for \$49.95.

There is another excellent and free PDF creator which I occasionally use, and that is PrimoPDF, which self-proclaims that it is the “World’s #1 Free PDF Creator.” Download.com indicates that over 9.5 million copies of PrimoPDF have been downloaded from that site alone. PrimoPDF is a 10.6 mb download, and will run on all versions of Windows from 98 to Vista; no other downloaded files are necessary to install and run PrimoPDF. As do other PDF writers, it installs as a printer driver, and is used as a printer to save PDF files. Like the others, clicking on “Print,” and selecting PrimoPDF as the printer, PrimoPDF will create the file as a PDF, and allow the user to save the PDF wherever desired. PrimoPDF offers more save options than CutePDF, including the ability to vary the degree of compression and size of the PDF file based on the intended final use. If the user wants a file that is only to be viewed onscreen, it will create the smallest possible file; if the file is intended for publishing or other uses, a larger, higher quality file may be saved. Alternatively, PrimoPDF allows the user to determine quality and file size with a single click by selecting the intended final use, such as screen, eBook, print, prepress (commercial printing), and a customized output. Compared to most other PDF writing utilities, PrimoPDF is very feature rich. For those who want even more capability and features, PrimoPDF offers its commercial version, NitroPDF Professional for \$99.

Creating PDF files is remarkably easy, and requires absolutely no additional skills. It is an excellent way to distribute documents across platforms. Both the simpler CutePDF Writer and

the more sophisticated PrimoPDF will serve their users well

WEBSITES:

<<http://www.cutepdf.com>>.

<<http://www.primopdf.com>>.

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**Migrating Fred's
XP System
By Warner Mach**

SEMCO Member Fred Acerri wanted to migrate from his old XP desktop system to a laptop. On “black Friday” we went to Inkstop where they were selling refurbished Dell Latitude D610 machines for \$399 (1 Gig of memory and 40 Gig hard drive). These machines had XP Professional as the operating system, which was good, since it would be more compatible with the programs that Fred already had.

The refurbished machine had a 90-day guarantee. I asked if we had a problem if we could bring it back to the store. The salesman assured me that was the case. When we opened the box the instructions said to send it to a 3rd party in case of problem (Tell them what they want to hear).

After buying the laptop we went to Office Depot and purchased a copy of “Laplink PCMover” and a terabyte external disk and Norton Ghost for backups. I had earlier (See September Data Bus article titled, “PCMover Quick Review.” For members of SEMCOUG. <<http://tinyurl.com/a3xptt>> => db0809. pdf) used PCMover to migrate my XP

system. I noticed on the PCMover box that there was no mention of “selective migration” of programs and I asked the salesperson if that was possible. He assured me that it was (Tell them what they want to hear). I have since determined that there are at least two flavors of “PCMover”: (1) “PCMover with Selectivity” and (2) “PCMover.” The version with selectivity costs approximately twice as much as the simpler version. The selective version can only be used once. The selective version is not widely available in stores and has to be purchased from Amazon.com or similar retailer.

We installed PCMover on both machines (old and new) and hooked up the USB cable and started it up and went to supper. When we got back it was still running. We let it run. The migration went on for several hours.

The next day we resumed. We knew we were in for some “backend” work since PCMover had warned that it would not take care of drivers or antivirus programs.

There were two immediate problems: (1) Getting the printer to work. (2) Getting antivirus. The printer was an HP D4160. We first downloaded the driver-only executable and ran it (several times). It seemed to crank for an extended period and then go into a loop of some sort (no error message). We downloaded the entire printer suite and ran it—similar result. We uninstalled the printer and went through the whole thing with a similar result. Finally we decided that Fred needed a new printer anyway, so he bought an HP D4280 and we attempted the install from CD: Similar result. Fred downloaded and ran the “HP Printer Diagnostic Utility” which promised to fix everything

<<http://tinyurl.com/60xz3x>>. It did not (Tell them what they want to hear).

After Googling around the Internet for answers we finally concluded that we needed to uninstall anything remotely associated with HP and then do the install. This worked.

In parallel with these efforts we worked on the antivirus issue. Fred has a cable connection with AT&T. It turns out that AT&T, in conjunction with Yahoo, had switched from Norton Antivirus to McAfee; but not to worry, the McAfee install would take care of removing Norton (Tell them what they want to hear). It did not. After Googling around the Internet we determined that the only way to get rid of Norton was to use the “Norton Removal Utility” <<http://tinyurl.com/lab7m>>. Fred downloaded this utility and ran it and was then able to install McAfee.

There were two additional issues that subsequently showed up: (1) The mouse touchpad was not working properly. (2) iTunes was not syncing up properly with the iPhone.

From my previous experience with the Dell I knew that it was important to get the proper mouse utility. My Dell touchpad/buttons also did not work properly when I first got my machine. You see the utility in action when you go to “control panel” => mouse. The utility allows you to set various parameters. More than that, when you download the latest version everything immediately improves: (1) <<http://www.dell.com>>. => (2) (support) drivers and downloads.=> (3) Laptop. => (4) Latitude. => (5) D610. => (6) input device drivers. => (7) Alpa-Driver. Note that this is not associated with the migration, just a fact of life for Dell laptops.

The iPhone sync problem showed up as a somewhat ambiguous error message in iTunes. It was not clear whether the problem was in iTunes or in the iPhone. In order to clarify this I brought my own laptop (with iTunes) and my own iPhone. By switching things back and forth we were able to establish that the problem was definitely with iTunes on Fred’s machine. Unfortunately, when we hooked up Fred’s iPhone with my laptop, all of my “apps” got loaded on his phone.

We attempted to uninstall iTunes and reinstall it from the Apple site <<http://www.apple.com>> but the install went into a loop with no error message. We Googled around and checked everything at the Apple site and determined that we should delete everything remotely associated with Apple. This included: iTunes, Mobile Device Manager, Apple Update, Quicktime (yes, Quicktime). When we did this we were able to install iTunes, and that install alone put everything back and iTunes then worked.

Fortunately, Fred uses Open Office rather than Microsoft Office. If he had been using Microsoft Office we would have had to locate his install CDs in order to get the office suite to work.



Performing Better Searches By Sharon Housley

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Performing and perfecting search engine results can save web surfers lots of time and energy. Understanding the nuances of searching allows researchers to immediately drill down and locate the information they are seeking, without having to wade through a myriad of irrelevant search results in the process. The increasing complexity of search engines has made understanding search engines a necessity for those who spend any amount of time online. The following search tips are standards that will work in most of the major search engines.

How To Find What You Are Looking For?

As the popularity of the Internet grows, more and more results are returned for even the most obscure search phrases. In order to save time, web surfers need to increase their search relevancy. It is advisable to use multiple search terms to produce better search results. Searchers should use specific words and phrases to find what they are looking for, while filtering out irrelevant and unwanted results.

In searching, more usually means less. Using more keywords in a search will help qualify the search and make it more specific to what you are looking for. It is all about striking a balance; more search terms will reduce the number of

search results, but those results will be more accurate. Remember that you can always refine the search further if there are too many results returned in the initial search.

Capitalization Is Irrelevant

The major search engines ignore capitalization. Upper case and lower case search phrases will deliver the same results.

Order Matters

Keep in mind that the order in which the terms are entered into the search box will affect the search results. The most important terms should appear first in the list of search words.

Word Stemming

Major search engines will provide results that use word stemming. Word stemming includes variants of the terms that were searched for. For example, searching on the term fish in a major search engine will generate organic search results that also contain the terms fishing, fishes, and fisher.

Exact

Using quotations around a search phrase will generate search results that contain only that specific search phrase, exactly as it was entered. For example, searching on the exact phrase "rocking horse" in a major search engine will only generate search results that contain the phrase "rocking horse." The results will not include any results that contain "horse rocking" -- even though both terms appear, they do not appear in the proper order for an exact match.

Do Not Include

Adding a (-) negative/minus sign before a search term will filter the results so that they contain the first term but not the negated word. For example, entering the search phrase horses -rocking into a major search engine will return search

results about horses but not about rocking horses.

Must Include

If you want search results that only include a specific word, just type a (+) plus sign in front of a search term. The results produced will always contain that term. For example, conducting a search horse + carousel will result in all search results that contain carousel, and may include horse as well.

Similar Words

Adding a (~) tilde character in front of a search word will generate search results that not only include the specified search term, but will also include all words considered to be related to the original search term. For example, using the search term ~soda will result in organic search engine results that not only include soda, but also include pepsi, pop, cola, coke, bottle, and soft drink.

Either Or

Adding an OR parameter between two search terms will result in search listings that include either the first or the second word in the search results. For example, searching on the terms soda OR bottle will generate search results that may contain both terms soda bottle or it will produce results that contain either soda or bottle but not both in the same search listings.

Advanced Searches And Segmented Searches

Many search engines allow you to specify the type of content you wish to search in. For example, you can often search just news articles, just blogs, or just images. If you are looking for a specific type of media, segmenting your search can be helpful. Searches can be conducted to locate webpages that contain a specific language, or a specific file type (i.e., pdf, rss, etc). Simply use

the search engine's advanced search option and select the content, language, file type, etc., to filter your search results.

Search Meta Words

Meta keyword searches give search engines special instructions. When the meta search words are used, a specific type of search is conducted. Here are some of the most common meta search terms.

define: When define: is used at the beginning of a search word or phrase, the search engine results will be a definition of the word or phrase.

site: When site: is entered in the search box, followed by a domain, the search engine locates all documents within a specific domain and all of its subdomains. This is an easy way to get a rough idea of the number of pages indexed on a domain.

link: When link: is used and followed by a URL, the search results will include all the web pages that are indexed by the search engine which contain links to the specified URL.

inurl: When inurl: is used, followed by a keyword or phrase, the search results will include links to web pages that contain the specific keyword or phrase in the urls themselves.

intitle: When intitle: is searched in conjunction with a keyword or phrase, the search engine locates search results that contain the specified keyword or phrase in the web page title.

Web surfers can save large amounts of time and energy by optimizing their search techniques with these helpful tips.

Sharon Housley manages marketing for FeedForAll <<http://www.feedforall.com>> software for creating, editing, publishing RSS

feeds and podcasts. In addition Sharon manages marketing for RecordForAll <<http://www.recordforall.com>> audio recording and editing software. E-mail: [Sharon \(at\) notepage.com](mailto:Sharon(at)notepage.com).



**Advanced System Care
Free V3
By Ira Wilsker**

This article has been obtained from APCUG with the author's permission for publication by APCUG member groups; all other uses require the permission of the author (see e-mail address below).

One of the most frequently asked questions on my weekly radio show has to do with improving the performance of a sluggish computer. One of the utilities I most recommended was the free version of IObit's Advanced Windows Care – Personal Edition, version 2. Recently IObit released an upgraded and updated utility renamed Advanced System Care Free V3, which IObit claims has over 10,000 improvements and updates. Being a fan of system improvement utilities, I had to download and install this new version, replacing the older version 2 that I have been happily using for about the past 18 months.

Going to the IObit website at <<http://www.iobit.com>>, and downloading the new software was an easy experience, as I was given the choice of multiple download sites. I selected one of the Texas mirrors of MajorGeeks, a major download service, where the download counter of this new version indicates that over 1.5 million copies of this new version 3 have been downloaded from MajorGeeks alone. The download was about 7.6 megs in size, and downloaded remarkably fast for a download that

size, to the credit of the bandwidth available at the Texas MajorGeeks website. Once downloaded, I clicked on the file to install it, and it recognized my older version 2, which it replaced. I was given the choice of language, and "skin" (background color scheme), and selected the white (really a soft light blue) as the easiest to read.

Once the install was complete, I chose to run the program. I was displayed a clean fresh graphical interface that on the left of the window gave the choices "Maintain Windows," "Diagnose System," "Utilities," and "Home." Whichever icon is selected opens the right half of the window. For my first test of the software, I chose to Maintain Windows. I was offered a check-box selection of "Spyware Removal," "Registry Fix," "Privacy Sweep," and "Junk Files Clean." I selected all of them and clicked on "Scan." In just a few minutes, Advanced System Care Free V3 detected 20 items it labeled as spyware (all were tracking cookies), 66 correctable errors in my registry, 29 privacy issues, and 394 megs of junk files that could be deleted. I prefer to not blindly follow what is found, so I clicked on each of the findings to review what was found. After some minor tweaking, I decided to accept what was found, and clicked on the "Repair" icon. In just seconds, all of the corrections and deletions were carried out.

Selecting the "Diagnose System" icon, I was given the now familiar check boxes for "System Optimization," "Security Defense," "Disk Defragment," and "Security Analyzer." I checked all except Disk Defragment, as I had just recently defragged my hard drive using IObit's free standing and excellent disk

defragmentation utility, and wanted to save the time, despite IObit's claim that the integral defragmentation utility is up to 10 times faster than some other competing products. System Optimization detected about two dozen "system bottlenecks" and corrected the system settings to improve performance. The Security Defense feature can immunize the computer against thousands of malicious websites, illicit tracking cookies, browser hijackers, dialers, and other malicious software. Security Analyzer examines running programs to detect and disable any malware that may be currently running on the computer.

The Utilities selection offers 20 distinct utilities to tune-up the computer and its applications; examine the security settings and backup critical system files and settings and "Admin Tools" which includes an uninstall utility, as well as my personal favorite, a startup manager to identify and control what programs startup when the computer is booted. By cleaning up the startup, the computer will run faster, boot quicker, and have fewer conflicts, because fewer programs will be automatically loaded. Under the Tune Up tab, I found that Firefox (my preferred browser) can be optimized for maximum performance.

The "Home" icon displays program version, database updates, most recent scan, user account (free or paid "Professional" account), and the cumulative results of the scans that had been performed. The center "Care" icon automatically runs the system optimization utilities, as a one-click performance improvement function.

As is to be expected, IObit has a comparison chart that compares the features of Advanced System Care

Free V3 with its software competitors, both free and commercial. The features listed on the chart are "All-in-one secure, repair, clean, and optimize," "Optimize and speed up PC and Internet," "Complete registry care," "Security features," "1-click solution," and "Price." This software is compared to seven major competitors (1 free and six commercial), and comes out feature rich compared to the competition. To be fair, some of the products listed have features and capabilities not included with Advanced System Care Free V3, but comparing system utilities and clean up programs, this program compares very well.

It is inevitable that users will ask why IObit would give away software this powerful; the reason is that IObit clearly wants the satisfied user to upgrade to the Pro version, which has more features and capabilities, and is currently on sale online for \$19.95 (regularly \$29.95) directly from IObit. The Pro version has additional performance improving features, a deep registry scan that roots out many more useless registry entries (the Pro version detected over 3000 useless registry entries on my computer, compared to only 66 in the free version), additional tune-up features to both improve hardware performance and web speed, and free technical support.

The excellence of Advanced System Care Free V3 has been recognized in the media with several awards, including high ratings from ZDnet, Tucows, Softpedia, Download.com, PC World, PC Magazine, and other publications. Download.com claims that Advanced System Care Free V3 is its number one most downloaded system utility, with about 9.5 million downloads, even

though it has only been available for the past several weeks.

For those wanting a powerful, and feature rich utility to improve computer performance, the free version of Advanced System Care Free V3 would be a very good choice. For those who want additional features and capability, the Pro version, currently on sale for \$19.95, would be a very good choice.

WEBSITES:

[<http://www.iobit.com>](http://www.iobit.com)

[<http://www.iobit.com/advancedwindowscareper.html>](http://www.iobit.com/advancedwindowscareper.html)

Ira Wilsker is an APCUG director; Columnist, The Examiner, Beaumont TX; Program Director of Management Development at the Lamar Institute of Technology, Beaumont TX; and a radio and TV show host. Contact him at <iwilsker@apcug.net>.

Review—Roxio Creator 2009 By John Roy

This article has been obtained from APCUG with the author's permission for publication by APCUG member groups; all other uses require the permission of the author (see e-mail address below).

Roxio, a division and brand of Sonic Solutions, continues as the premiere must have CD/DVD burning suite. This product is a collection of key applications bundled into an attractive launching interface. Key applications provided are CD/DVD burning tools, Audio, Photo, and Video tools, and more. The Roxio suite provides support applications necessary to effectively use your computer just like Microsoft Office suite provides key office software.

When I reviewed Easy Media Creator Version 10 earlier this year I was impressed with how clean the interface was for the multitude of applications within the suite. The latest version further simplifies the application selection process with the use of pleasing colors and descriptive icons. It also provides a direct link to online tutorials and other information. The only distraction from the clean interface is the “Learn More” window that connects to the Roxio website to promote the sale of additional products.

The application interface Home Page presents the core tasks for most users. The tasks include burning and labeling discs, ripping audio, copy and converting DVD video and backing up files. Selecting one of the primary applications will quickly open the application and you are ready to start. There was some initial confusion of how to return to the previous page because the new page did not have a cancel button. If you closed the page with the standard “x” selection it would close the whole product. After a short examination I realized that the left set of icons were still available to select and return to home or another application. Although further review disclosed inconsistencies in returning to the home page depending upon which application you opened. So some applications you must close using the “x” and others if you use the “x” you will close everything down and have to reopen the whole product. This area needs better consistency.

When you select an application group using the left icons (Data-copy, Video- Movies, Music-Audio, Photo, and Online) a clean screen opens up with sub grouping to further home in on your desired application. The Data-

Copy screen provides three groupings of Create, Copy, and Backup. Each grouping contains subtasks to further refine your application selection. There are nine defined tasks associated with Data-Copy. The long time favorite Roxio Creator Classic is now disguised as “Burn Data Disc – Advanced” but it still opens the original application and still reflects the original name. It appears that this popular tool is still the same with a different entry skin. The application was always sound so the fact that it is still there in its original attire is not a problem other than the interface name.

The Video-Movies group, Music-Audio group, and Photo group all contain four subgroups (Import, Edit, Create, Enjoy) with eleven to sixteen subtasks each. The names are very generic which in my opinion keeps concepts familiar. Executing a generic name launches a familiar Roxio application.

In addition to the icon selections there are three pull down windows, File, Tools, and Help. The file and help selections are pretty standard. The Tools pull down provides a couple of ease of access clicks like ejecting and closing the drive tray, getting disc information and some alternate ways to jump to a few selected applications. There is an extensive Options choice to configure user defaults.

The latest Roxio Creator 2009 version does provide some new tools like the ability to capture High Definition (HD) video and burn it onto standard DVDs. There is now an Audiobook Creator that makes it easy to convert and enjoy books on iTunes, iPod, iPhone or other portable players. There is an audio beatmatching tool to produce studio like fades and mixes. I found the

new SyncIt desktop gadget tool cool but short on instructions. It converts and sends digital media directly to your portable device. Since I don't own a portable device I couldn't appreciate its value. You can now share photos and slideshows on line including uploading directly to YouTube.

I tested this version of Roxio on my new Vista 64bit system with an AMD Quad-Core processor and 5 GB of memory. I didn't experience any installation problems but it was disconcerting that some applications did not load crisp and fast as expected even though my system is clean and devoid of startup programs.

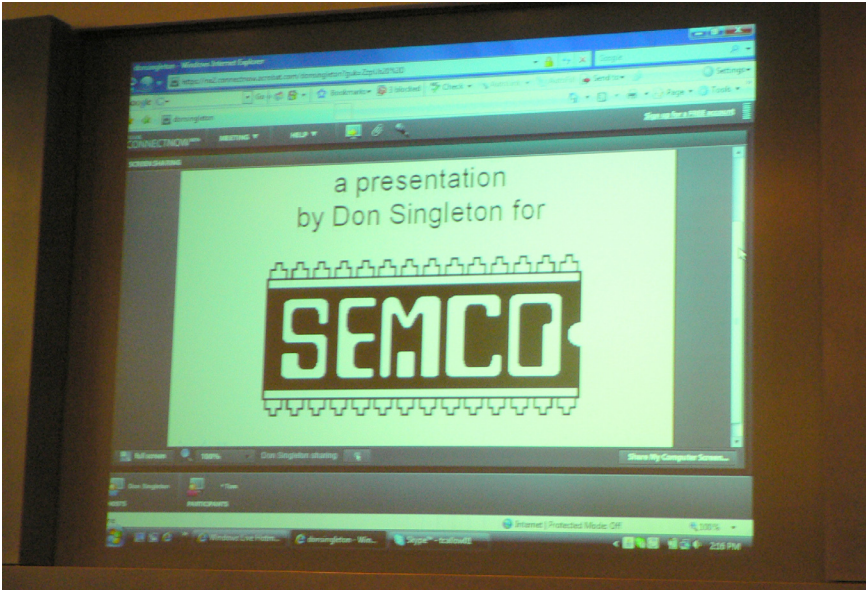
Okay, what is the bottom line on this latest version? If you don't already own a Roxio suite then I highly recommend you give serious consideration to purchasing this since it will serve as a primary computer application suite. If you presently own Easy Media Creator version 9 or 10 and it meets your immediate requirements then you can afford to wait if the new features and enhancements are not important to you.

John Roy is President of TPCUG (The PC Users Group of CT). Internet: <<http://www.tpcug-ct.org>>. E-mail: <[johnroy1\(at\)comcast.net](mailto:johnroy1(at)comcast.net)>

Things I Wish I Had Known Sooner

Is there some very basic computer-related fact that you wish you had known earlier in the game? (Example: Use of memory card reader). The editor wants to put together a compilation of these basic facts for a future article, for the benefit of all Send to machw48185@yahoo.com.

Meeting Pictures



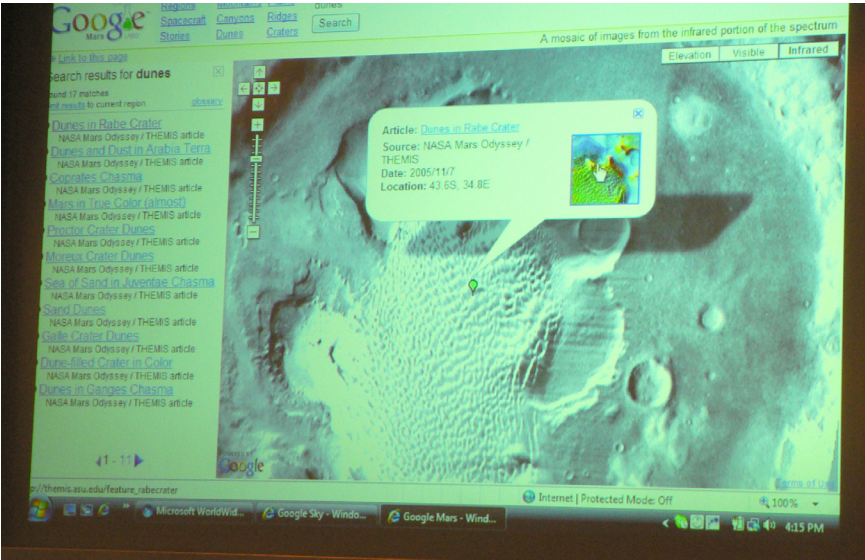
(Above) Don Singleton speaks to us from across the country. (Below) Franz Breidenich, Ray McLaughlin, and Bob Clyne in the auditorium.



Meeting Pictures



(Above): Tom Callow talks about software that acts as a virtual telescope.
(Below): From Tom's presentation - Google Sky shows a portion of Mars.





BOARD MEETING & BUSINESS MEETING

12/14/2008

Carol Sanzi

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

President Mike Bader, Treasurer Bette Gay, Secretary Carol Sanzi, SIG-IBM Chairman Tom Callow, Publications Committee Chairman Warner Mach, and Members-at-Large Bob Clyne and Chuck Moery. Also attending was member Gary DeNise. The meeting was called to order at 12:04 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

Treasurer, Bette Gay, reported that the amount in the treasury equaled \$9,457.51 with \$4,751.79 in the bank account and \$4,705.72 invested in three Certificates of Deposit. The membership stands at 81.

Bette Gay reviewed the list of complimentary DATA BUS recipients and the board assessed what changes should be made to the list. Several adjustments were made and it was decided to add the Linux (MDLUG) and Focus Hope groups to the list.

Bob Clyne moved to reimburse Gary DeNise \$16.00 for refreshments supplies. Tom Callow seconded the motion and it was passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Mike Bader reported that there are now 59 members in the SEMCOUG. Activity continues to increase.

Bob Clyne moved to create the two member-at-large board positions for 2009. Tom Callow seconded the motion and it was carried.

Bob Clyne moved that SEMCO renew its membership in APCUG for \$50. Warner Mach seconded the motion and it was carried.

Bob Clyne moved to publish the annual membership directory in January. Tom Callow seconded the motion and it was carried.

Bob Clyne moved that the Volunteer's Party be held at the home of Beth Fordyce on January 18th. An alternate date will be determined if necessary. Carol Sanzi seconded the motion and it was carried.

Mike Bader feels SEMCO should show their appreciation to Arvin Meritor for their hospitality in allowing us to use their facility. He will research what may be appropriate.

Mike Bader explained that the Café Press creates a wide variety of logo items. At no cost to SEMCO, t-shirts, hats, bags, etc., with the SEMCO logo could be purchased. Wearing the items would put the SEMCO name in public view. This would be nice when doing presentations for other groups. Carol Sanzi moved that Mike Bader develop a web site offering such items. Warner Mach seconded the motion and it was carried.

Warner Mach suggested that members could share bits of information with the group, like things I wish I knew. Tom Callow thought the DATA BUS could run an article requesting such pearls of wisdom. He would consider sharing these ideas during the Question and Answer sessions.

Carol Sanzi moved to adjourn. Mike Bader seconded the motion and it was carried. The meeting adjourned at 12:56 p.m.

GENERAL MEETING

The general meeting was called to order at 1:33 p.m. President Mike Bader requested that volunteers speak to any Board Member if they are willing to offer

[Continued on Page 21](#)

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGS)



SIG-IBM
Tom Callow

January 11: 1:45 p.m. Selling on EBay. Scott Simpson of Main Street Auctions will present "Selling on EBay." He will explain the complete process of selling on EBay. How to put your item on EBay. How the bidding process works. The best way to determine what the minimum bidding price should be. Also how to keep a high rating as a seller.

SIG-IBM INTERMEDIATE

January 11: 3:45 p.m. Desktop Linux: Ray McLaughlin, president of the Linux users group MDLUG, will talk about Linux, including the various "distributions," and will specifically discuss the upcoming Linux "installfest" that SEMCO will host in February.



NOVICE-IBM GROUP Rotating Volunteer Hosts

January 11: 3:45 p.m.:Help Q & A: Discussion directed by the audience. No question is too simple! Note: The Novice-IBM Group is 'by request.' If you have special questions for this group then speak to one of the officers to schedule the session.



SIG-ADVANCED
Franz Breidenich

February 2: 6:45 p.m.: At the Oak Park Library. The library is located at 14200 Oak Park Blvd., Oak Park, MI. Phone: (248) 691-7480. Topic: Wide ranging discussion of computers and computing.

Feb. 2009 DATABUS DEADLINE (7th day after 2nd Sunday in month)
SEMCO Input and Members' Ads—Deadline: Sun., Jan. 18, 11:59 p.m.
Members' personal ads are free. To mail, use Editor [address on Page 2](#); e-mail address: [<machw@att.net>](mailto:machw@att.net). PLEASE send to arrive sooner than deadline.
Business Ads - Deadline: Second Friday monthly. Contact Editor ([address Page 2](#)).

Warner Machmachw@att.net

(to post monthly computer group info)

**CALENDAR-OF-EVENTS
OTHER GROUPS****COMP (Computer Operators of Marysville & Port Huron)**

Feb. 4, 7 p.m., (1st Wednesday); St. Clair County RESA, 499 Range Rd., Marysville, Admin. Building. Jane Wheatly 810-982-1187 or Pam Raisanen <compinfo@hughes.net>. <<http://www.bwcomp.org>>. Topic: "LogMeIn and Blackberry Curve 8310 from AT&T."

DCOM Computer Club

Jan 9, 6:30–8:30 p.m., (2nd Friday) Henry Ford C.C., Patterson Tech Bldg, Ford Rd/Evergreen, Rm T143, Parking Lot C. Info: Doug Piazza 313-582-2602. Topic: TBA.

Focus Hope IT Users Group

Feb. 7, 9:30-11:30 a.m. (1st Saturday), 1400 Oakman, Detroit, MI. 48238. Web <<http://www.fhitug.org>>. Info: <info@fhitug.org>. Topic: TBA."

HUG (Holly User Group)

Jan. 10, 8, 9:00 a.m., (2nd Sat.); Groveland Twp. Fire Hall, 3085 Grange Hall Rd. & Dixie Hwy., Ortonville. Topic: TBA.

MacGroup- Detroit

Jan 18, 3:00 p.m., Birmingham Temple, 28611 West 12 Mile Rd., Farmington Hills. Info: Terry White, <terry@macgroup.org> or 248-569-4933. <<http://www.macgroup.org>>. Topic: "Macworld Expo Report; looking at new products announced at Macworld Expo."

MacTechnics. (MAC User Group)

Jan. 17, 11:00 a.m., (3rd Saturday); (SIGs at 9:30); See web site for meeting location. <<http://www.mactechnics.org>>. JoAnn Olson at 248-478-4300. Topic: "FileMaker Bento Demonstration"

MDLUG (Metro Detroit Linux User Group)

Jan. 10, 12:30–2:30 p.m., (2nd Saturday); MDLUG meetings will be at The Gaudior Academy located at 27100 Avondale Avenue in Inkster. Web: <<http://www.mdlug.org>>. Info: Raymond McLaughlin <president@mdlug.org>. Topic: TBA.

MUG (Michigan User Group)

Jan 13 9, 6:00 p.m., (2nd Tuesday): MUG meetings are at The Farmington Community Library–Main Branch, 32737 W. 12 Mile Rd., Farmington Hills, MI. 48334. <<http://www.mug.org>>. Topic: TBA.

Michigan Apple Computer User Group

Jan 8, 7:30 p.m., (2nd Thur.); Westview Office Park, 26100 American Dr., Suite 100, Southfield MI. 48034. Avi Drissman 248-232-7865. Web: <<http://www.themichiganapple.com>>. Topic: TBA.

Oak Park Computer Club

Every Fri., 10:15 a.m. at Oak Park Recreation Bldg, Oak Park Blvd. west of Coolidge.

Royal Oak Computer Club

Every Wed., 12:30 to 2:30 PM at Mahany/Meininger Senior Community Center, 3500 Marais Ave., Royal Oak, 48073. Near Crooks & 13 Mile. Guest speakers & regular monthly speakers. <<http://www.geocities.com/royaloakcomputerclub>>.

SHCC (Sterling Heights Computer Club)

Jan 6, 7:30 p.m. (1st Tues); Macomb Community College South Campus, Bldg. K, 14500 E. 12 Mile Rd. Don VanSyckel <Don@VanSyckel.net>, 586-731-9232; Web: <<http://www.SterlingHeightsComputerClub.org>>. Topic: "Graphics, more than just downloads from your camera."

Continued from Page 18

their services. The Linux install fest is scheduled for February. A discussion of computer requirements and Linux uses took place. A more thorough explanation will take place next month during the SIG-IBM Intermediate meeting. Café Press will soon offer SEMCO logo items. Today's SIG-IBM meeting is on remote presentations. The SIG-IBM Intermediate demonstrates virtual telescope. Mike Bader requested nominations for 2009 Board Members.

President: Jerry Comptois nominated Mike Bader. Chester Blechinger seconded the nomination.

Vice-President: Tom Callow nominated Richard Jackson. Franz Breidenich seconded the nomination.

Treasurer: Bob Clyne nominated Bette Gay. Franz Breidenich seconded the nomination.

Secretary: Franz Breidenich nominated Carol Sanzi. Bob Clyne seconded the nomination.

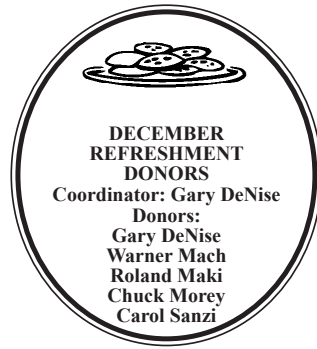
Members-at-Large

Franz Breidenich nominated Bob Clyne. Tom Callow seconded the nomination.

Bob Clyne nominated Chuck Moery. Gary DeNise seconded the nomination.

There were no other nominations.

Tom Callow moved that the nominations be closed. Chester Blechinger seconded the motion and it was carried. The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.



COMPUTER RESOURCE PEOPLE

This is a list of members willing to be resources for other members to call when they have hardware or software questions.

Are you willing to help members learn?

Which software programs are you familiar enough with?

It is not necessary to be an expert, but just have some familiarity with the program and be willing to help someone starting to learn it. Please give this some thought and volunteer at the next group meeting.

Almost Anything: Vander-Schrier

AutoCAD: Comptois

Genealogy: Cook

IBM PC Hardware Issues: Clyne, Yuhasz

Operating Systems: Callow, Clyne, Yuhasz

MAC Hardware and OS Issues: Yuhasz

Security: Bader

MS Office for Windows: Callow

MS Word: Clyne

Networking: Callow

Novell Netware: Yuhasz

Quicken: Clyne

Geocaching: Cook

Bader, Mike—586-573-7330, 9am–8pm..... mbdader@flash.net

Callow, Tom—248-642-5770, 9am–5pm tcallow@monaghanpc.com

Clyne, Bob—810-387-3101, 9am–10pm clyne@mich.com

Comptois, Jerry—248-651-2504, anytime

Cook, Stephen—313-272-7594, eves..... scook48227@ameritech.net

Vander-Schrier, Jack—586-739-7720, 12–8pm jvanders@myself.com

Yuhasz, Steve..... Help@yuhasz.org



**SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN
COMPUTER ORGANIZATION, INC.**

SEMCO CALENDAR

**ArvinMeritor Building
2135 West Maple Road
Troy, Michigan**

January 11–SUNDAY (Meet 2nd Sunday)

**SEMCO Board Meeting at 12:00 noon. For Officers and SIG Chairpersons.
Other members are invited to attend.**

SEMCO General Meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

SIG-IBM 1:45 p.m. **Program: Selling on EBay:** Scott Simpson of Main Street Auctions will present “Selling on EBay.” He will explain the complete process of selling on EBay. How to put your item on EBay. How the bidding process works. The best way to determine what the minimum bidding price should be. Also how to keep a high rating as a seller.

SOCIAL PERIOD 3:15 p.m. Refreshments! (Reminder: We must continue to maintain a neat environment.)

NOVICE-IBM GROUP 3:45 p.m. **Program:** Help From An Expert With Discussion Directed By The Audience.

SIG-IBM Intermediate 3:45 p.m. **Program: Desktop Linux:** Ray McLaughlin, president of the Linux users group MDLUG, will talk about Linux, including the various "distributions," and will specifically discuss the upcoming Linux "installfest" that SEMCO will host in February.

SIG-ADVANCED, Feb 2, 2009–MONDAY, 6:45 p.m., Oak Park Public Library, 14200 Oak Park Blvd., Oak Park, MI. Phone: (248) 691-7480. Directions: Oak Park Blvd. is 9 1/2 mile Road; library is west of Coolidge. Info: Franz Breidenich 248-398-359. TOPIC: Wide-Ranging Discussion Of Computers & Computing.

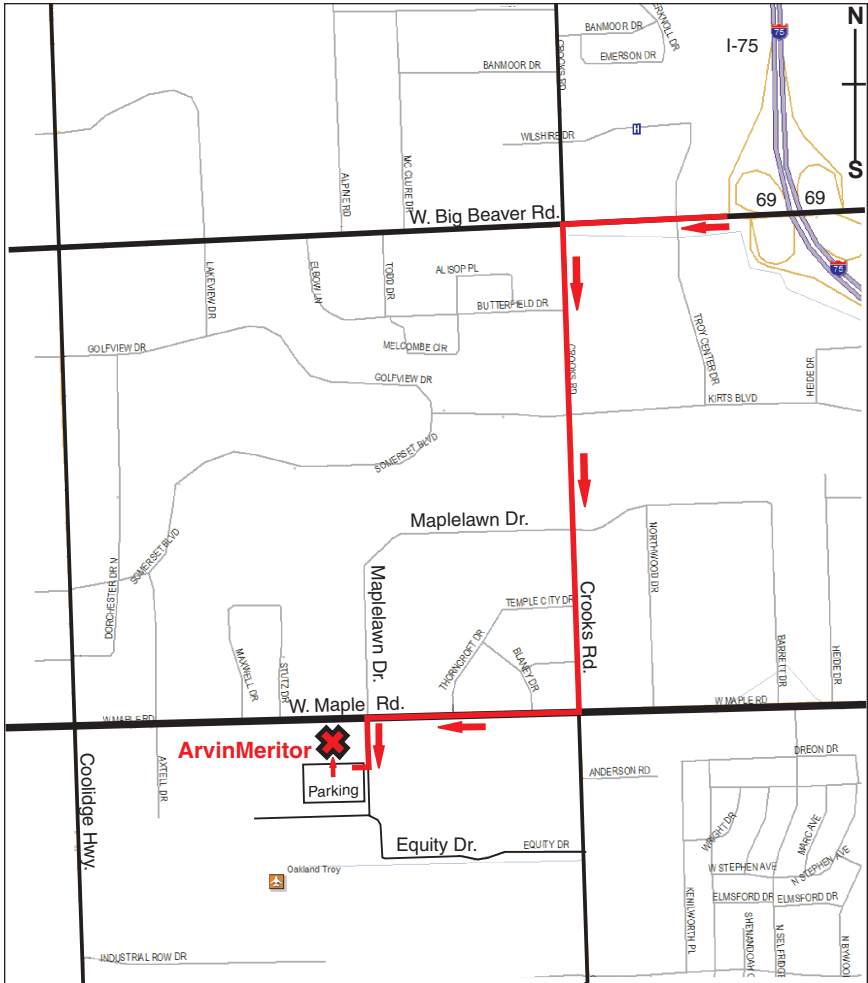
February 8–SEMCO Sunday

<http://www.semco.org>

PUBLIC INVITED

(Please copy this and the next page to post on your bulletin board)

**SEMCO Meetings at [ArvinMeritor](#)
2135 West Maple Road, Troy, MI 48064**



DIRECTIONS

From I-75, take Exit 69 to westbound Big Beaver Rd. (16 Mile). Turn left (South) on Crooks Rd. Turn right (West) on Maple Rd. (15 Mile). Turn left (South) on Mapelawn Dr. Turn right into the parking lot at the rear of the ArvinMeritor building. The building is shaped like an X. Enter the building thru the South entrance at the center of the rear of the building. Follow the SEMCO signs.

SEMCO thanks the [ArvinMeritor](#) Corporation for their hospitality in providing their facility for our meetings.



**SouthEastern Michigan
Computer Organization, Inc.
P.O. Box 707
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303-0707**

SEMCO (future meetings)

January 11

February 8

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