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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 NOMINATIONS

Please take notice that under the Bylaws of the SouthEastern Michigan Computer Organization, Inc., nominations for officers will be taken at the general meeting to be held Sunday, December 13, 2009 at 1:30 p.m., with the election of officers to be held at the January general meeting.

The following offices will be open for nominations:

- 1) President
- 2) Vice President
- 3) Secretary
- 4) Treasurer
- 5) Two Members-at-Large of the Board of Directors



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

Most people have little interest in what you did on your vacation, but I'll give you a brief run-down on part of what my wife and I did while in Michigan in July. The timing of our family events coincided with a nationally famous event that has been celebrated in Port Huron, Michigan for many years. The Port Huron to Mackinac Island sailboat race attracts people from all over to participate and the town usually ends up with approximately 100,000 people there on the evening before the race

starts. It is known as "Boat Night" and while the celebration is not as wild as it used to be, it is still a night of partying by all.

Port Huron is a medium sized city situated where Lake Huron flows into the St. Clair River. That border river (Sarnia, Ontario on one side, Port Huron, Michigan on the other) is about a half mile wide on average and has a very swift current flowing down the Great Lakes Waterway to empty into Lake St. Clair, which then empties into the Detroit River, etc. Black River, a smaller stream, flows through Port Huron to empty into the St. Clair River and is the center of the celebration with many very expensive sailboats tied up during a few days prior to the race, not to mention all the large expensive pleasure boats and yachts also tied up there as part of the celebration. There are three bridges crossing major streets that can be raised to allow larger boats to move up to the various marina stalls, although in some places the smaller boats may be tied up four to a boat slip. There's easily many millions of dollars worth of sailboats, yachts and pleasure boats docked there.

Boat Night is always what attracts me, and not the start of the Port Huron to Mackinac Island sailboat race the next morning. However, if you are ever in the area during the middle of July, I heartily recommend taking it in. There are also other events that coincide with this event, such as the antique car show and cruise night. Just watching the bridges go up to allow boats to pass through is interesting. I took some pictures that will be on my Web site by the time you read this column. Of course, there are other items that I can't miss, such as the specially prepared Coney Island hot

dogs there, that are not found anywhere else, and you don't have to visit the Coney Island to get them because other restaurants also feature their own style of those hot dogs containing sauce with 11 herbs and spices (their words). There is also a meat market that makes outstanding link sausages. We always try to bring some of them home to stash in our freezer. I assume many people remember foods like no other where they were born and raised.

Since time was scarce for us, we did miss the (some say world famous) Yale Bologna Festival in Yale, Michigan, which always hosts the "Outhouse races" (some say outrageous) and the "Cardboard Boat" races. It was our loss, but we could only spread ourselves so thin and still make our family events.

Why Fix Me If I'm Going To Die Soon Anyway!

Lately I get that impression from a couple of my doctors. I consider them excellent doctors in their specialties, but I'm surprised by the attitude I've gotten lately, although they still send me for tests, but I'm not sure how much they look at them. I don't know if I'll have a talk with them or simply find new doctors who care, but I hope I'm not ready to kick the bucket just yet, although there's times when I wonder. Other people my age tell me they have also had that experience. I have already dropped the cardiologist I was seeing because his answers to my questions were always "In your case, there is nothing we can do." I don't think a doctor should take that attitude.

Outlook Express Data Recovery

DataNumen, Inc., a developer of data recovery solutions, has released its new product, Advanced Outlook Express Data Recovery (Version 1.0). It enables

the users to recover Outlook Express e-mails even if the Outlook Express data (.DBX) files no longer exist. AOEDR can perform recovery in all versions of Microsoft Outlook Express e-mails, and will recover data from any drives or disks (hard disks, flash drives, floppy disks, Zip disks, CD-ROMs, etc.); even in case they are corrupted. AOEDR can also recover a batch of disks. The upper disk size limit for AOEDR is 16777216 TB (i.e. 17179869184 GB).

When will AOEDR prove useful?

- * If the Outlook Express .DBX files have been deleted and the Recycle Bin has been accidentally emptied;
- * If the Outlook Express .DBX files have been permanently deleted by mistake.
- * If the drive containing the Outlook Express .DBX files has been formatted by mistake.
- * If the partition containing the Outlook Express .DBX files has been deleted by mistake.
- * If the disk has been re-partitioned by mistake, and the drive containing the .DBX files has been lost;
- * If drive or disk containing the .DBX files cannot be read due to hardware failure;
- * If the drive or disk containing the .DBX files cannot be started/recognized due to corruption in Master Boot Record or other reasons;
- * In any case, when the Outlook Express data stored in the local drives or disks cannot be accessed.

Advanced Outlook Express Data Recovery runs under Windows 95/98/Me/NT/2000/XP/2003 Server/Vista/2008 Server. A single-user personal license costs \$249.95 US. A 20% discount is offered by using the coupon code DATA-E2OI-TWEN when

the user purchases products from our website at <<http://www.datanumen.com/aoedr/order.htm>>. Discount will only be good during Nov. and Dec. Both ShareIt.com and RegNow.com will accept this coupon code and apply the 20% discount to the purchaser. Multi-user discounts are available. Further information on the product, as well as its free trial edition, is available at <<http://www.datanumen.com/aoedr/>>.

Direct download link: <<http://www.datanumen.com/aoedr/aoedr.exe>> (1.3 MB)

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

Contact information can also be found at <<http://www.datanumen.com/contact.htm>>

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Need A New 3D Address Book?

Studio V5 Corp. has released 3D AddressBook 2.0, the software that enables users to manage their contacts in an innovative, fun, and easy to use environment combining 2D and 3D views. The software includes plenty of visual and sound effects, such as an explosion on deleting records, record zooming in selection, as well as 4 hours of ambient music. You can choose from 30+ ready to use address templates or easily create a customized address book to fit your needs. You can add or edit fields, sort the data by any field, create filters and reports, or search data quickly and easily. The Notes field will help you

track record history and while using the import option, you can directly import the data from well-known applications such as Windows Address Book, MS Outlook, MS Excel, etc.

Main features include:

- * Innovative and easy-to-use user interface which gives both 2D and 3D data view;
- * Built-in ambient music;
- * Easy address book creation from a scratch or using one of 30+ templates;
- * Customize or add new fields: text, numeric, image, formula, attachments, etc;
- * Easy data find using quick or full search;
- * Sort data by any field;
- * Create, save, and apply customized filters;
- * Create customized reports for printing;
- * Use notes field for record history and to-do items;
- * Easy data import directly from MS Excel, MS Outlook, Windows Address Book, MS Access, Comma-Separated text files and more.

System Requirements: Windows XP/Vista, Pentium 1.4Ghz, 256 MB RAM, 32 MB, OpenGL compatible video card, DirectX 8.1 compatible sound card and 500 MB free space.

The price of software registration is \$29.95, but a 33% discount is available by using the coupon code "2AEJ-55PC-VVR3," valid only during November and December.

Product page: <<http://www.studio-v5.com/3d/db/>>

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Title: Partner Manager

<<http://www.studio-v5.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 Cheapskate) Click <[bobclick at bellsouth dot net](mailto:bobclick@bellsouth.net)>. Visit my Web site at <<http://www.dealsguy.com>>.



**Commercial Software
Available for Free
By Ira Wilsker**

Computer users often seem to be in the market for additional software. Many users even seem to have an addiction to new software, seeming to have an insatiable urge to try something new. There are many online resources that have enormous libraries of free software to download, such as download.com, [MajorGeek](http://MajorGeek.com), and [TUCOWS](http://TUCOWS.com), but other than some pirate and hacker sites, there are only a few sites where commercial software can legitimately be downloaded free.

One of my personal favorites is <<http://dotTech.org>>, which has proven to be an excellent resource when it comes to legitimately getting free copies of commercial software. New titles appear on an almost daily basis under the “freebies” category (dottech.org/category/freebies), and are usually available for a very limited time or a limited number of downloads. The “freebies” page has an editorial comment at the top that was posted

by the founder of dotTech, “Ashraf” says, “I gave up my ‘illegal’ activities long ago – but I still like freebies. Here you will see posts about how to attain commercial software for free – 100% legit!” Currently, there are 52 commercial software titles available as a free download, but this number is dynamic and changes frequently as old offers expire, and new titles are added. As with bargains anywhere else, the rule is that if you see something you like, get it now, because it may not be there later. Ashraf and the editors of dotTech.org review each software title, and I have found the reviews to be reliable and accurate. There is also an open blog on each listing where users who have downloaded and installed the software have left comments as to the functionality of the software, a feature that I have found useful.

DotTech’s selection of software is varied, but seems to favor performance utilities. While many of the software publishers listed on dotTech may not be familiar to Americans, they are mostly European in origin, and generally have a very good to excellent reputation. These lesser known publishers will typically allow their commercial software to be promoted on dotTech in order to become better known, and to sometimes get leads to sell their other software products. Mostly, the titles available are the latest versions, but in a few cases the free downloads were of a previous but recent version. There are two very good commercial products that I use regularly thanks to dotTech, and I do periodically receive e-mailed promotions from the publishers about their other wares. These promotions are more sporadic than regular, and not so frequent as to be irritating. Both have

unsubscribe links on their promotions, but I have found them often interesting, as their products that they promote are often offered at deep discounts. One recent example was the German software publisher, Ashampoo that sent an e-mail that offered almost all of its products for a flat price of only \$10 each. It should be noted that Ashampoo is not some little software publisher, as it is very popular in Europe, and claims to have over 10 million registered users of its software, with 97 million copies installed. This is precisely the type of company that promotes its software on dotTech.org.

Some of the commercial software that has recently been offered free on dotTech include Ashampoo Office 2008, Ashampoo Internet Accelerator 2, USB Safely Remove 4.1, Comfort Keys Lite, Ashampoo Burning Studio 2010, O&O CleverCache 6 Professional, WinX DVD Ripper Platinum, CyberLink PowerDirector 7 Ultra, Paragon Drive Backup 9.0 Professional, EVEREST Ultimate Edition 4.6, EASEUS Partition Master Pro, and dozens of other titles. The full list can be found online at <<http://dottech.org/category/freebies>>. I subscribe to dotTech's RSS feed (dottech.org/feed) and e-mail alerts (dottech.org/e-mail-reminders) so I can keep up with the latest software giveaways. I routinely download and install the new offerings to satiate my desire to try new software; generally, I have been very satisfied with the offerings and have found them to be generally excellent. For those that I no longer want, they have been easy to uninstall with their integral uninstall function or from Add/Remove Programs. In addition to commercial software, dotTech also has some good

software tips and hints, as well as reviews of other software products.

Speaking of giveaways, what may arguably be the most popular software giveaway website is "Give Away of the Day" at <<http://www.giveawayoftheday.com>>. The software on that website must be downloaded and installed by midnight Pacific time (2am Central time), or the install feature will fail, but if it is installed by the deadline, a fully registered copy of the software is yours to keep. Every 24 hours, at midnight Pacific Time, a new software title becomes available. Software available on Give Away of the Day has been of all types, including utilities, video and audio editors, security software, and other genres, and is often from major software publishers. It needs to be noted that the software downloaded and registered through Give Away of the Day is not eligible for support, and does not qualify for free upgrades. It should also be noted that during the registration process, which must be done while online, some other utilities may appear on the registration popup that may be installed, and by my choice, I never select them for installation.

Give Away of the Day often has dozens of comments and reviews of that day's software by the time dawn breaks in the U.S., these comments being posted by users mostly in Asia and Europe, where the software has been available for download for several hours. If the software looks interesting, I click on the icon to go to the download page, and review the comments prior to downloading. The reviews are summarized with a "thumbs up" or "thumbs down" rating; if the majority of reviewers likes the software, I will seriously consider downloading it; if

the “thumbs down” are in the majority, then I will usually not download it. I also read the reviews and comments to corroborate that the software will install and function on my operating system. I also find references in the review to competing, often free, competitors to be generally helpful, and a source of other software to try. It is interesting that often the first, and usually the most comprehensive review posted is from Ashraf, the same person that runs dotTech. These reviews list the good and bad features of the program offered, as well as a link to a full review on dotTech.

Give Away of the Day has a sister site, Game Give Away of the Day, which has commercial computer games available for download. Unlike the parent site, new games are not typically available every day, but it is still a worthwhile website for gamers to visit on a frequent basis just to see if something new has been posted.

Both Give Away of the Day and Game Give Away of the Day offer RSS feeds and e-mail alerts to notify those interested of any new offerings. I subscribe to both in order to be informed of those offerings.

These websites have had some great commercial software available at a great price (free), which I use on a regular basis. They are most worthy of a regular visit in order to take advantage of the offerings.

WEBSITES:

[<http://dottech.org>](http://dottech.org)

[<http://dottech.org/category/freebies>](http://dottech.org/category/freebies)

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

[<http://game.giveawayoftheday.com>](http://game.giveawayoftheday.com)

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Broadsides By Ron Broadhurst

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Dear friends,

These ideas are compiled from years of accumulations from various magazines, books, on-line sites and my own personal experience. I claim neither originality nor ownership to any of its contents. My only intent is to share the various “tips,” “tricks,” & “hints” in hopes of helping & maybe enhancing your computing experiences. They are all intended for anyone who uses a PC. It is for beginners as well as advanced users. Enjoy and use as you will.



Ron Broadhurst

TURN OFF INDEXING TO SPEED UP XP

Windows XP keeps a record of all files on the hard disk so when you do a search on the hard drive it is faster. There is a downside to this and because the computer has to index all files, it will slow down normal file commands like open, close, etc. If you do not do a whole

lot of searches on your hard drive then you may want to turn this feature off:

- Open My Computer.
- Right-click your hard drive icon and select Properties.
- At the bottom of the window you'll see "Allow indexing service to index this disk for faster searches," uncheck this and click ok.
- A new window will pop up and select Apply to all folders and subfolders.

It will take a minute or two for the changes to take affect but then you should enjoy slightly faster performance.

CORRECTING SYSTEM HANG AT STARTUP

If your system hangs about 2 or 3 minutes at startup, where you can't access the Start button or the Taskbar, it may be due to one specific service (Background Intelligent Transfer) running in the background. Microsoft put out a patch for this but it didn't work for me. Here's what you do:

- Click on Start/Run, type 'msconfig,' and then click 'OK.'
- Go to the 'Services' tab; find the 'Background Intelligent Transfer' service. Disable it, apply the changes & reboot.

CHANGE THE START MENU STYLE TO CLASSIC

Does the new Windows XP Start menu take up too much space on your desktop? You can easily change the look back to the Windows Classic Start menu by following these steps:

- Right-click the Start button, and then click Properties.
- Click Classic Start menu.
- Click the Customize button to select items to display on the Start menu.

By default, selecting the Classic Start menu also adds the My Documents, My Computer, My Network Places,

and Internet Explorer icons to your desktop.

DISPLAY YOUR QUICK LAUNCH TOOLBAR

- Right-click an empty area on the taskbar, click Toolbars, and then click Quick Launch.
- Easy as that your Quick Launch bar appears.
- To add items to your Quick Launch toolbar, click the icon for the program you want to add, and drag it to the Quick Launch portion of the taskbar.

KEEP YOUR FAVORITE PROGRAMS NEAR THE TOP OF THE START MENU

Do you have a favorite program that you frequently use? Elevate its priority on the Start menu by putting it at the top of the list. This ensures that the program will remain on the Start menu and cannot be bumped by other programs, even if you use the others more frequently.

Right-click the link to your favorite program on the Start menu and select Pin to Start Menu. Your program will be moved permanently to the top part of the list, just below your browser and e-mail programs.

CHANGE OUT YOUR POINTER SCHEME

Tired of seeing your pointer as an arrow or an hourglass all the time? Windows XP offers a number of alternative pointer schemes, such as Dinosaur, Ocean and Sports:

- Open the Control Panel, double-click Mouse, and select the Pointers tab. (If you start in Category view, select Appearance and Themes, then click Mouse Pointers under "See Also").
- Next to Schemes, click the down arrow and select a scheme to preview its pointers.

Click OK to apply the scheme to your desktop.

CREATE A PERSONAL SCREEN SAVER

For a great way to put your digital photos to work, try creating a slide show presentation for use as a screen saver.

- Right-click an empty spot on your desktop, and then click Properties.
- Click the Screen Saver tab.
- In the Screen saver list, click My Pictures Slideshow.
- Click Settings to make any adjustments, such as how often the pictures should change, what size they should be, and whether you'll use transition effects between pictures, and then click OK.

Now your screen saver is a random display of the pictures taken from your My Pictures folder.

Ron Broadhurst is a member of the Space Coast PC Users Group, Inc. FL. From "The Space Coast PC Journal" of June 2009. Web: <<http://www.spcug.com>>. E-mail: <[shiron \(at\) cfl.rr.com](mailto:shiron(at)cfl.rr.com)>.

	<p>Watch TV Shows and Movies Over the Net for Free By Ira Wilsker</p>
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About two years ago, I wrote in this column about a small new service with the strange moniker "Hulu" that was just being introduced. At that time, Hulu <<http://www.hulu.com>> had hundreds of old TV episodes and movies available for free online viewing. Over that same period Hulu has become one of the major players in free online TV and movies, with tens of thousands of full-length TV episodes, trailers, and clips, as well as thousands of full-length movies. Hulu has become such a powerhouse that many of the major

networks release their full-length current shows for posting on Hulu as soon as they have been shown on the air. As I type this in the evening, news shows from today from such diverse sources as ABC, NBC and Fox are available online for viewing. Newly released full-length shows available range from the most recent Jay Leno show, to General Hospital, this weekend's Saturday Night Live, to several of the just completed college football games.

Hulu TV and movies are viewed through most popular Internet browsers, and require a broadband connection. Hulu claims that its content can be viewed with Internet Explorer 6.0 or above, Firefox 1.5 or above, or Safari 2.0 or above. Although it is not listed as a supported browser, Hulu TV shows and movies loaded and played fine on Google's new Chrome 3 browser. Hulu content plays in Flash format, and requires that Adobe Flash Player 9.0.115 or above be installed; for users who do not have a late version of the Flash player, it can be downloaded free from Adobe at www.adobe.com. Much of the website is dependent on Java, so it is necessary that the browser have JavaScript and cookies enabled. Hulu will work on computers with a variety of operating systems including Microsoft Windows XP SP2, Windows Vista, Macintosh OS X and Linux. While not yet listed as supported, Hulu plays well on the new Windows 7.

For those who are interested in watching the most recent TV shows that are released to the web, several websites continuously track the latest postings. One such website is CastTV, <<http://www.casttv.com/shows>>. As I type this, CastTV is showing a hyperlinked directory of the most recently released

TV shows, including NCIS Los Angeles, Law & Order SVU, Mercy, The Office, The Mentalist, Medium, America's Most Wanted, COPS, and many others. Adjacent to each individual listing is an icon representing the location of the selected show, which may be the websites of Hulu, ABC, NBC, CBS, or other website. While almost all of these current episodes can be viewed free, there are some websites that have a paid membership required to view the episodes on that particular website. It is not just the most recent episodes that can be viewed through CastTV, but many entire series are available for free viewing. One of my favorite shows is "CSI: New York," and 116 episodes are available, mostly free, on pages that are linked to CastTV. CastTV does not just include a directory of TV shows, it also has a directory of hundreds of free movies that can be viewed online, some as current as 2009 releases.

CastTV does not just provide a directory of TV shows and movies, it also provides an entertaining list of the most popular viral videos and movie trailers, mostly from YouTube. Number 2 on the list as I type this is the hysterically funny YouTube video of "Baby Dancing to Beyonce," which has had well over a million views. This listing, which is frequently updated, is an excellent way to keep track of what others are watching online.

Another section on CastTV is the "Specials" section which has videos of British "Talent" star Susan Boyle, as well as American Idol, Dancing With The Stars, the 2009 Oscars, the 2009 Superbowl commercials, and the 2009 NCAA Basketball "March Madness."

A newcomer to the field that intends to be a direct competitor to Cast TV is

"Clicker" <<http://www.clicker.com>>. Clicker is currently in pre-release beta, and requires pre-registration to access the site as a beta tester. Clicker staff reviews each of its postings to verify it for quality before posting it. According to the official Clicker blog, "Clicker aims to provide the most comprehensive, unbiased and user-friendly way to navigate what's available (and just as importantly, what's not) to watch online, where and when you can find it, and finally, what's worth watching amongst your infinite choices. We have made it our mission to make it dead simple for you to find the RIGHT SHOW, RIGHT NOW." Another posting in the blog says, "From day one, Clicker has mapped more than 300,000 episodes, from over 5,200 shows, from over 1,200 networks – in addition to 1,200 movies (soon to be 14,000 movies with the addition of Netflix), and 50,000 music videos from 20,000 artists. All of this programming is organized by episode, show, network, media type, title, and artist, as well as over 1,000 categories and sub-categories." Once it becomes publicly available, Clicker may be a power to reckon with.

AOL, which has morphed into a content provider from an ISP, has its own movie and TV service, which anyone can freely access. This service is "SlashControl," available at <<http://www.slashcontrol.com>>. This AOL service claims to have 81,352 free videos online, including the very recent (tonight's) segments from the CBS show "60 Minutes." SlashControl has an impressive list of free TV shows from many networks, including A&E, ABC, Bravo, CBS, CNBC, Comedy Central, CW, Fox, Fox Business, FX, History Channel, MSNBC, National

geographic, NBC, Syfy (SciFi), USA, and WWE. For those looking to watch a full-length movie, SlashControl has about 400 free movies available, including some recent releases, as well as older classics.

Another comprehensive site with a wide section of TV and movies is Fancast, at <<http://www.fancast.com>>. Fancast is owned by cable provider Comcast, which says on its site, “Fancast is THE top entertainment site dedicated to celebrating television. Fancast gives fans instant access to an extensive video collection of television shows, movies, trailers and clips, so they can tune-in, catch-up and critique their favorite television programming. Fancast also offers comprehensive editorial and blog coverage with in-depth recaps and analysis on what’s hot and happening everyday in the world of television and entertainment.” Fancast has hundreds of TV shows available as full episodes, including such classics as Adam-12, to new episodes of 90210. Some of the TV shows are drawn from Hulu, with the Hulu logo appearing in the corner of the display. Full-length TV shows are available from dozens of networks, including BET, ABC, CBS, Fox, Military History, Nick, and many others, providing for a wide assortment of shows for our viewing pleasure. Fancast also has about 500 movies available for viewing, listed by genre, or alphabetically, and can satisfy most viewers. While all of the content is available to anyone free, some of the advanced features of the Fancast service, such as personal profiles, are only available to Comcast subscribers with a Comcast e-mail address. Due to content licensing requirements, Fancast

movies and TV are only available in the US.

Some bloggers have written that there is enough fresh TV and recent content available online that they have “cut the cable” and watch TV and movies exclusively on the net free. While I still prefer to watch live news shows and new episodes of shows on TV, there is an enormous collection of TV shows and movies available online. I will admit that when there is nothing interesting to me on TV that I have watched shows and movies on Hulu, and have used Hulu while in a hotel room, and the selection of TV channels is inadequate such that I cannot watch my favorite shows. I have caught up with many of my favorites the same night as they are broadcast, and this applies to both entertainment and news shows. I also watch some shows, especially business and news, which I do not get on my local cable. These free TV and movie resources are an excellent way to be entertained while on the net, and are worthy of a try. Just like live TV, it is easy to change channels and view other shows. Unlike live TV, there is a much wider selection of shows to watch that are always available, and not set to a rigid schedule. This is a convenience and benefit to the viewer that is typically not available on live TV. Now that broadband Internet is approaching universal availability, I can foresee many more people watching TV and movies free over the net.

WEBSITES:

<<http://www.hulu.com>>.
<<http://www.casttv.com/shows>>.
<<http://www.clicker.com>>.
<<http://www.slashcontrol.com>>.
<<http://www.fancast.com>>.

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>.

Googlepedia By George Harding

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).

This book is the greatest! If you are interested in anything Google, this is the place to go to find out about it.

This is a Que book, the 3rd edition, by Michael Miller, who is a prolific author for Que. He's written some 80 non-fiction how-to books, mostly about computer-related subjects.

The book has over 700 pages, including a comprehensive index, a very complete Table of Contents, 46 chapters and 3 appendices.

I suspect that a 4th edition is not far off, because Google is constantly developing new tools that you will want to know about.

The best known Google tool is the Web Search engine. In the olden days, say five years ago, there were several search engines, all of which produced a list of results that contained many duplicates and may not even have produced something useful to you. Google took a new approach to produce search results that do not have duplicates, are up-to-date and are sequenced by probable usefulness

to you. They do this by the following process:

Periodically, usually every few weeks, their GoogleBot crawler searches the web for each page, tracks every link in the page and saves a copy of each page it encounters on its servers.

Google creates an index to each of the saved pages, storing every important word on each page.

Once a search of the pages is complete, the results are ranked by methods known only by Google.

The rankings are displayed on the search results page in order by what is likely to be the most important to you, to the least likely. There are many techniques to making a successful search, and these are described fully in the book. Using quotes or operators can significantly improve the accuracy of your search.

What's most interesting, though, is all the other services provided by Google. I suspect you, like me, are not aware of many of these:

GOOG-411. Search for businesses by voice from your cell phone. Dial 1-800-GOOG-411 to try it out.

Google Desktop. Create a home page environment that has just what you want on it. Google Docs. Word processing, spreadsheet and presentation documents on the web, sharable with others.

Google Earth, Sky and Mars. Tools to explore these areas.

Google Gmail. An e-mail portal.

Google Groups. Create and join specific discussion groups.

Google Maps. View maps and driving directions.

Google Notebook. Store web information you come across.

Google Reader. Display articles and headlines from blogs and RSS feeds.

Google Scholar. Read and search scholarly journals and articles.

Google Transit. Plan your trip using public transportation.

Google News and Web Alerts. Be advised of new material that meets your criteria.

And more...

Each chapter tells you about a Google service and how to use it. Each description is described simply to begin with, but continues with more details about how to make use of special features. You can easily be an expert user of any of their tools through this book.

All of these services came out of the Google Labs, which is essentially an R & D facility. It is constantly on the search for new, useful tools for users. One recently announced service is Google Voice that gives you free phone calls within the US, but also forwards calls to your cell phone and land line and transcribes voice messages into e-mail.

I found this book fascinating, because it opened my eyes to all the things that are available from Google. It will take me some time to learn about the ones in which I'm interested.

About: Googlepedia

Author: Michael Miller

Publisher: Que Publications

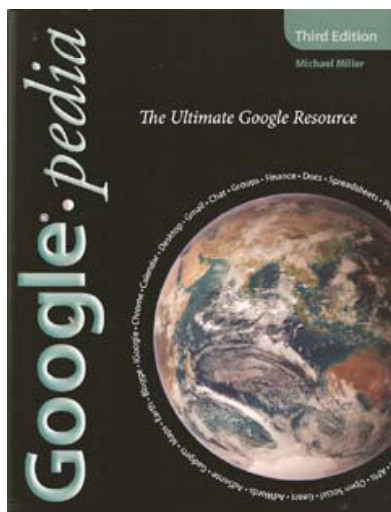
www.informit.com/que

ISBN-10: 0789738201

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Price: \$30, \$24 with free membership

George Harding is President of the Tucson Computer Society, AZ. Wet: <<http://www.aztcs.org>>. E-mail: <[georgehardingsbd\(at\)earthlink.net](mailto:georgehardingsbd(at)earthlink.net)>.



Foxit Reader: A Short Review By Sharon Walbran

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).

A Worthy Alternative to Adobe Reader

When one of my clients was concerned about hacker threats to Adobe Reader last winter I went in search of alternative software. I found the free version of Foxit Reader at <<http://www.foxitsoftware.com/pdf/reader>>.

It's well worth a look! Here are just some of the advantages:

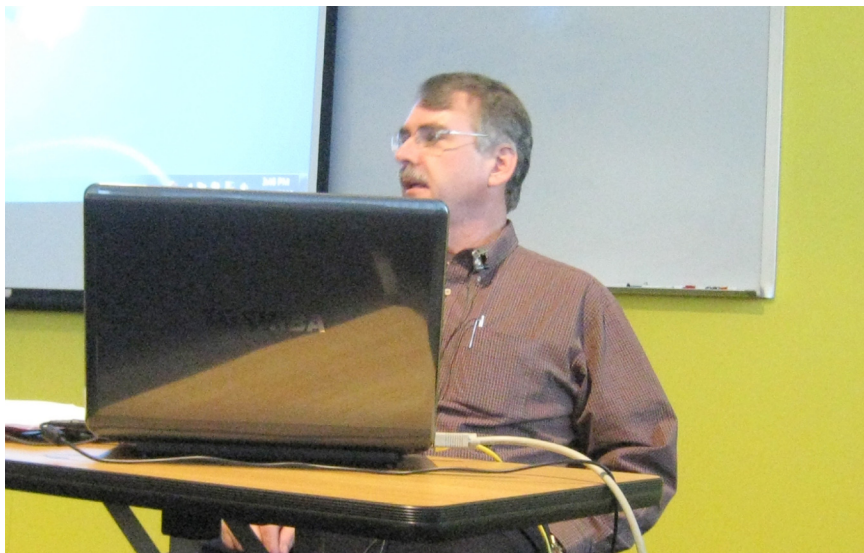
Small Size. The file is about one-sixth the size of the latest free version of Adobe Reader and takes seconds to download and install. The small footprint is great for older computers or

[Continued on Page 21](#)

SEMCO Meeting Pictures



(Above): Christian Putt of MicroWorld Technologies discusses eScan Products: AntiVirus and Internet Security Suite. (Below): Tom Callow talks about Windows utilities.



Beckham Academy Pictures



**(Above): Mike Bader assists in the Beckham Academy (Detroit) Project.
(Below): Franz Breidenich and Bob Clyne at the Academy.**



Beckham Academy Pictures



(Above): Retired teacher Carol Sanzi at Beckham Academy. (Below): Richard Jackson analyzes a problem at Beckham Academy.





BOARD MEETING
10/11/2009
Carol Sanzi

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

President Mike Bader, Vice President Richard Jackson, Treasurer Bette Gay, Secretary Carol Sanzi, SIG-IBM Chairman Tom Callow, SIG-Advanced Chairman Franz Breidenich, Publications Committee Chairman Warner Mach, and Members-at-Large Bob Clyne and Chuck Moery. Also attending was past President Gary DeNise. The meeting was called to order at 12:10 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

Treasurer, Bette Gay, reported that the amount in the treasury totaled \$9,695.86 with \$4,960.38 in the checking account and \$4,735.48 invested in three Certificates of Deposit. The membership stands at 75. It is time for Federico Acerri, Wendell Anderson, Jack & Claire Baum, Irene & Bill Kramer, and Stephen Cook to renew their memberships.

NEW BUSINESS

Bob Clyne moved to grant Beth Fordyce an honorary SEMCO membership through the end of the calendar year. Richard Jackson seconded the motion and it was carried. Beth Fordyce will continue to proof read the DATA BUS and has again offered to host the Volunteers' Party in January.

Five of SEMCO's board members, Mike Bader, Bob Clyne, Franz Breidenich, Richard Jackson, and Carol Sanzi donated two days of their expertise giving tech support to Beckham Academy teacher, Bonnie Karman. She now has twenty Windows 98 and Windows 2000 machines

running science programs for second and third graders. She is hoping to have an additional 16 computers operational. Another day to volunteer will be scheduled.

Bob Clyne requested the status of the State of Michigan Information Update, which is due in October. Bette Gay confirmed that the report was completed in August.

Bob Clyne moved to authorize the two Member-at-Large board positions for the 2010 calendar year. Tom Callow seconded the motion and it was carried.

Mike Bader reported that Focus Hope is having a Windows 7 Launch Event on Saturday, November 7, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. The public is invited. Focus Hope would appreciate support from SEMCO for this event. Tom Callow moved to allocate up to \$75 for soda, water, and a door prize, spent at Mike Bader's discretion. Richard Jackson seconded the motion and it was carried.

Richard Jackson continues to contact prospective speakers for the SEMCO meetings. He is confirming dates with both Computer Direct and the Micro Center.

Warner Mach requested an update on getting the DATA BUS editions on the web. Chuck Moery and Bob Clyne reported that the job is a "work in progress."

Bob Clyne moved to adjourn. Richard Jackson seconded the motion and it was carried. The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.



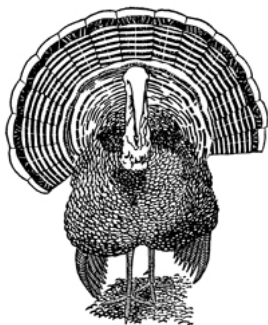
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGS)



SIG-IBM
Tom Callow

SIG-IBM INTERMEDIATE

Nov. 8: 1:45 p.m. What is Hot for the Holidays? Richard Tapaninen , from the Micro Center, will talk about new items for Christmas giving: New Intel chips (i7 and i5). New Ultra Mobile Laptops. New HD TVs, etc.



Nov. 8: 3:45 p.m. Home Wireless Networking: The Future of Home Wireless Networking: Now that the 802.11n wireless standard has been finalized, what is likely to be next for home wireless networking? Tom Callow will discuss some of the IEEE wireless networking standard projects that may shape the future of home wireless networking.



SIG-ADVANCED
Franz Breidenich



SIG-LINUX
Ray McLaughlin

Nov. 23 (4th Mon.): 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.

Nov. 24 (4th Tues): 6:45 p.m.: At the Oak Park Library. The library is located at 14200 Oak Park Blvd., Oak Park, MI. Topic: General Discussion.

Dec. 2009 DATABUS DEADLINE (7th day after 2nd Sunday in month)
SEMC0 Input and Members' Ads—Deadline: Sun., Nov. 15, 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)**

Dec. 2, 7 p.m., (1st Wednesday); Jane Wheatly 810-982-1187 or Pam Raisanen E-mail info: <compinfo@hughes.net>. Web: <<http://www.bwcomp.org>>. Topic: Christmas party. See web site for time & location.

Focus Hope IT Users Group

Dec. 5, 9:30-11:30 a.m. (1st Saturday-usually), 1400 Oakman, Detroit, MI. 48238. Web info <<http://www.fhitug.org/meetings/meetings.htm>>. Topic: TBA."

HUG (Holly User Group)

Nov. 14, 9:00 a.m., (2nd Sat.); Groveland Twp. Fire Hall, 3085 Grange Hall Rd. & Dixie Hwy., Ortonville. Topic: TBA.

MacGroup- Detroit

Nov. 15, 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: "iTunes 9 and iPods/iPhones." SIGS: 2:00 p.m.

MacTechnics, (MAC User Group)

Nov 21, 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: "Adobe Products with Terry White."

MDLUG (Metro Detroit Linux User Group)

Nov. 14, 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)

Nov. 10, 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

Oct. 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://tinyurl.com/royaloakcc>>.

SHCC (Sterling Heights Computer Club)

Dec. 1, 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: "What's Hot for the Holidays" by Richard Tapaninen from Micro Center.

Continued from Page 14

those short on hard drive space. There is also a U3 version for flash drives.

Speed. It starts up fast and runs fast. No delays while splash screens load. Printing is also speedy.

"No surprises." Foxit Reader will remind you of Adobe Reader—same interface, menus and toolbars so the transition is painless.

Open multiple files in tabbed format. If you like the ability to open several web pages on tabs in Mozilla Firefox you'll like the tabbed format of Foxit Reader as well. View several PDF files at a time and switch between them easily by clicking the tabs.

Mark up and leave comments on PDF documents. You can insert text boxes with comments right in line with text in the PDF document or draw arrows and graphics or highlight text. This is very helpful, especially when

you are collaborating on a document with others.

Take it for a test run. You will not be disappointed.

Sharon Walbran is Editor of TPCP Digital Viking, Twin Cities PC User Group, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota. Web: <<http://www.tpcp.com>>. E-mail: <[SOWalbran\(at\)yahoo.com](mailto:SOWalbran(at)yahoo.com)>.



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

Relational Database Programming: Lis

Bader, Mike—586-573-7330, 9am–8pm.....	mdbader@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
Lis, Bernie—248-669-0101, 10am-8pm.....	BerLLis@comcast.net
Vander-Schrier, Jack—586-739-7720, 12–8pm.....	jvanders@myself.com
Yuhasz, Steve.....	Help@yuhasz.org



**SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN
COMPUTER ORGANIZATION, INC.**

SEMCO CALENDAR

**Engineering Society of Detroit
20700 Civic Center Dr., Suite 450, 4th Floor
Southfield, MI. 48076**

Nov. 8—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: What is Hot for the Holidays? Richard Tapaninen, from the Micro Center, will talk about new items for Christmas giving: New Intel chips (i7 and i5). New Ultra Mobile Laptops. New HD TVs, etc.

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

SIG-IBM Intermediate 3:45 p.m. Program: Home Wireless Networking: The Future of Home Wireless Networking: Now that the 802.11n wireless standard has been finalized, what is likely to be next for home wireless networking? Tom Callow will discuss some of the IEEE wireless networking standard projects that may shape the future of home wireless networking.

SIG-ADVANCED, Nov 23, 2009 (4th 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.

SIG-LINUX, Nov 24, 2009 (4th Tuesday), 6:45 p.m., Oak Park Public Library, 14200 Oak Park Blvd., Oak Park, MI. Topic: General discussion.

Dec. 13—SEMCO Sunday

<http://www.semco.org>

PUBLIC INVITED

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

SEMCO Meetings at Engineering Society of Detroit
20700 Civic Center Drive, Suite 450, 4th Floor
Southfield MI 48076



From I-696 exit at Evergreen. Take Evergreen south to Civic Center Drive. Civic Center Drive is about halfway between I-696/Eleven Mile Rd. and 10 Mile Rd. Turn west, right if you are coming from the north, onto Civic Center Drive. Follow Civic Center Drive, watching the number signs on the right. When you get to the 20700 sign turn right, north, and follow the drive until you arrive at the southwest corner of the brown building with the Engineering Society of Detroit sign near the top. Turn right, east, and go past the front of the building. When you reach the end of the building, turn left, north and go to the back of the building and turn left, west, again. The parking lot will be on your right. The entrance is in the center of the building. Park in back of building. Enter the rear door. The ESD office is on the fourth floor.



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

SEMCO (future meetings)

November 8

December 13

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