

DATA BUS



Official Newsletter
SouthEastern Michigan
Computer Organization, Inc.

**BALLOT AND
MEMBERSHIP
DIRECTORY
ENCLOSED**

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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 8, 2012 at 1:30 pm at Engineering Society of Detroit, 20700 Civic Center Drive, Suite 450, Southfield, Michigan., The election of Officers and Members-at-Large of the Board of Directors of the Corporation will take place at the annual meeting. Also a vote on revised bylaws.



Improve PC Performance with Advanced System Care By Ira Wilsker

I have been using multiple IObit products for several years, and have generally been very satisfied with them. One that I have been using since it was first released in 2005 is the IObit Advanced System Care, a multi-function utility that is designed to improve PC performance. The newly released version 5 of Advanced System Care continues on its well established reputation of being one of the most effective utilities to clean, repair, and optimize Windows, which provides for

significantly improved performance on PCs that may have developed degraded performance over time. The Advanced System Care series has been very popular, with over 130 million copies downloaded over the past six years.

Available in both a free version and an enhanced paid PRO version (\$20, 1 PC, 1 year), Advanced System Care offers a wide assortment of tools that can diagnose and repair many of the ills that affect well used computers. Available for download, the file is about 28 megs in size, and installs quickly with a minimum of user intervention. If an earlier version of Advanced System care is detected on the computer, the new version will offer to uninstall the old version prior to installing the new version. Once opened, the user can select a “skin” or personalized appearance or color scheme.

The free version displays four primary icons, each of which clearly indicates the services available. The first icon is “Quick Care,” which opens a selectable series of functions that may quickly improve system performance, with each of the procedures only taking about a minute to complete. The “Quick Malware Removal” will perform a quick scan of the system to detect and remove malware and other security threats; while not as deep and comprehensive as dedicated malware removal utilities (such as Malwarebytes and SuperAntiSpyware), this utility is capable of detecting the major malware and security threats using a frequently updated digital database of threat signatures. “Registry Fix” has one of the best reputations in the industry for detecting and repairing registry errors, a problem that many believe is a major cause of degraded performance,

software conflicts, and other computing errors. I need to note that there is some controversy among geeks and nerds about the need to clean and repair the registry (a database of all of the software installed on the computer, its features, and hardware and software settings), with many expert users claiming that not just is cleaning the registry unnecessary, but that in some cases the cleaning process itself may create more errors than it fixes. To be safe, by default, Advanced System Care offers to create a system restore point, and maintains a log of changes such that it is possible to go back to an earlier time if the results are not satisfactory. The other “Quick Care” functions will repair or remove any invalid shortcuts, perform a privacy sweep (remove Internet history and any traces of web surfing activity), and delete useless and obsolete junk files that may clutter and fill the hard drive.

The second icon will open a broad selection of “Deep Care” functions, each of which may take several minutes to complete, but are much more comprehensive and thorough than the “Quick Care” functions. “Deep Care” performs a full malware removal, a deep registry fix (detects and repairs more registry problems), registry defrag (improves registry performance), optimizes the operating system settings, optimizes the startup process in order to speed the boot process, repeats all of the functions of the “Quick Care” scans, prevents many types of malware from being installed on the computer, scans the hard drive for errors and fixes them, detects and repairs known Windows vulnerabilities, and defragments the hard drive making it faster to read and write information and other data.

The “Toolbox,” the third icon displayed, consists of about 20 free-standing tools, all of which may be used to help improve different aspects of the PC’s performance. The tools are categorized under five menu headings, Clean, Optimize, Repair, Security, and Control. The “Clean” group offers some redundant services provided by Quick Care, but also includes an excellent uninstaller (used to safely and completely remove installed programs), and a file shredder that can securely delete sensitive files rendering them substantially unrecoverable. Optimize also includes several independent utilities that effectively duplicate some of the earlier functions, and include a few that are indicated as being available on the PRO version. One interesting Optimize function, that may be attractive to gamers, is the Game Booster that optimizes the PC for smoother and more responsive game play. The Repair listing again has some redundant utilities, but also includes an undelete function (recovers deleted files), disk doctor (detects and repairs hard drive problems), Win Fix (analyzes the Windows operating system and detects and repairs system problems), and IE Helper which can be used to control the add-ons and other features in Internet Explorer.

Also in the Toolbox is a Security group called SysExplorer, that can examine the computer’s hardware and software, indicating any potential problem areas that may adversely impact PC performance. Security items can also detect and close security holes and other vulnerabilities, manage the Windows’ processes that are running, backup and update hardware drivers, and the effective IObit Malware Fighter,

which can detect and remove deeply imbedded malware, much like the other independent and specialized malware removal utilities.

The final icon on the Advanced System Care (Free) window is “Turbo Boost” which automates the performance improvement process based on the intended uses of the computer. Turbo Boost can automatically maximize PC performance for computers that are primarily used for work or personal purposes, or the “Game Mode” can be selected to maximize performance while gaming by shutting down or disabling computer processes that are unnecessary for games. The user can instantly switch between these two options, maximizing performance for whatever he chooses to do with his computer.

The PRO version of Advanced System Care 5, available as a one-year subscription on a single computer for about \$20 includes all of the features of the free version, plus several functions and enhancements that are not available in the free version. One very useful feature available only with the PRO version is explained by IObit as, “Automatically works in the background. Just install it and forget it. This powerful utility works continuously, automatically and quietly in the background on your PC. You can [schedule it] or just let it work automatically when your PC is idle.” While both versions use cloud computing to instantly and constantly keep the software and malware signatures updated, the PRO version provides real-time protection from malware, as well as continuous performance monitoring and tweaking.

Working well on all versions of Windows from XP to Windows 7, and running efficiently on both 32-bit and

64-bit machines, Advanced System Care 5 is a very worthwhile utility to download and use. If the basic functions are adequate, then select the free version; if enhanced functionality is wanted, then a \$20 investment in the PRO version may be very worthwhile. NOTE: The PRO version is currently on sale for \$12.95 at <http://www.iobit.com/install/asc/5/en.php> for those who have installed the FREE version.

WEBSITES:

< <http://www.iobit.com/advancedsystemcareper.html> > - FREE version.

< <http://www.iobit.com/advancedsystemcarepro.html> > - PRO (Paid) Version.

Ira Wilsker is a 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@sbcglobal.net>.



**Free Basic Computer
Training for Seniors
(and others)
By Ira Wilsker**

As many of you already know, I occasionally volunteer to teach some computer classes at the Best Years Center. I am well aware that seniors probably make up the largest group of new computer users, as many had lived their entire lives without utilizing many of the current technologies. I was pleasantly surprised when I saw an article recently published on the “I Love Free Software” website, “5 Free Websites for Seniors on How to Use Computer and Internet” <<http://ilovefreesoftware.com/02/webware/5-free-websites-how-to-use-computer>.

[html](#)>. As its title describes, it listed and reviewed five websites that offered free training for seniors (and anyone else) who could use some basic training on computing, popular software, and the Internet.

The first website listed that I visited was “The Senior’s Guide to Computers” at <<http://seniorsguidetocomputers.com>>. At first glance, I was very impressed by the wealth and quality of information available. This one website, by itself, is totally capable of providing anyone, novice to geek, with a broad variety of information, ranging from the basics (common computer terms illustrated and explained), e-mail, the Internet, PC safety and security, the necessity of backing up (“Probably the single most important task you’ll perform”), hardware, and software. By starting at the beginning, the basics, and progressing through the short illustrated lessons, the user will be able to understand and master the functions of a computer and its operating system, and how to make maximum utilization of the Internet. Everything is covered including what to look for in a computer, the components and parts of a computer, the differences between the types of Internet service providers (ISPs), methods of backing up critical data, proper security precautions and software, different types of software (including freeware), e-mail use and safety, and just about any other practical computer topic. While clearly directed at seniors, the content and lessons on this website would be appropriate for anyone of any age to learn about personal computing. For this purpose, “The Senior’s Guide to Computers” is one of the best websites that I have ever seen.

Another basic computer training website, with professionally organized free lessons, is Meganga’s “Free Basic Computer Training” available online at <<http://meganga.com/lessons>>. Consisting of 94 lessons, the user is free to choose whatever topics he finds necessary or interesting. At the most basic level are 28 “Free Beginner Lessons” which include an orientation to the computer; exercises on how to use a mouse, a cursor, and the keyboard; guide to the desktop and icons; creating desktop icons and gadgets; how to use the start menu, applications, and Windows; how to create documents, files and folders; Internet web browser basics, homepages, address bar, toolbars, search engines, and hyperlinks; how to complete online forms; and detailed instructions on how to create, send, and read e-mail. A dozen lessons instruct the user on the basics of popular software, including Word, WordPad, Internet Explorer, Google Chrome, Excel, and Hotmail. Meganga’s “Free Basic Computer Training” is also an excellent resource to teach anyone the basics of computing, and how to use the Internet and popular software programs.

For anyone needing some intermediate or advanced training in computer topics, Internet4Classrooms (I4C) at <<http://internet4classrooms.com/on-line.htm>> offers over a dozen free online groups of tutorials on popular software packages and operating systems. Each group of tutorials consists of an orderly series of lessons which are easy to comprehend and master. For users of Microsoft Office (and its clones and competitors such as OpenOffice and LibreOffice), lessons are provided in Excel (spreadsheet), PowerPoint (presentation program), and

Word (word processor). As an example, the “Basic Word Tutorial” consists of nine distinct lessons starting with a basic overview of Word, and ending with the user creating a newsletter. The “Advanced Word Topics” includes such tasks as mail merge, converting Word to PowerPoint, using hyperlinks in Word, writing equations, special fonts, how to use the thesaurus, and how to determine the reading level of a passage. I4C also includes lessons on software applications including Internet Explorer (web browser) and Dreamweaver (sophisticated web design software used to create professional web pages). Detailed tutorials are available that cover both the Windows and Macintosh operating systems, as well as lessons on how to troubleshoot both Windows and Mac operating systems. These I4C lessons are a great tool for learning how to use the products covered, and are suitable for those who have already mastered the basics of computing but want to advance their skills.

Several of the seniors that I teach are interested primarily in using the Internet, mostly to be able to surf the web, and send and receive e-mails. The “Internet 101” website at <<http://internet101.org>> provides instructions on these tasks, as well as the other online activities that more advanced users would like to do. Internet 101 consists of several dozen Internet topics ranging from the most basic descriptions of the Internet and its history, to advanced uses of the Internet. Covered are basic instructions on how to use the Internet; selecting an Internet provider; using e-mail; online shopping; blogs; online safety and security; web searches (including how to find street addresses and Internet road maps); selecting a browser; online

chat; using Skype, VoIP and other online phone services; how to view streaming movies (such as Netflix and YouTube); social networking; building websites and registering domain names; and several other interesting Internet related topics. Internet 101 is an excellent way for anyone to learn about the basic and advanced features of the Internet.

Some of the seniors that I work with have told me that they do not want anything fancy, and want the most simple software available to surf the web, do e-mail, and other related basic online tasks. An Italian company, “Eldy Seniors’ Computer Software” <<http://www.eldy.eu>> is offering a free software utility that creates a desktop with just a few large buttons, each of which automates basic Internet tasks. According the Eldy website, “Eldy is a software that turns any standard PC into an easy-to-use computer for people that have never used a computer before. (Eldy) Provides an easy six buttons interface e-mail, Internet, chat, videoconferencing, documents, pictures, Skype and more.” The group that created and distributes the Eldy software describes its purpose as, “Eldy Association is a group reaching out to the elderly and disabled community offering a combination of technological tools and human support with the purpose of reducing their isolation, and loneliness. Eldy encourages people to stay active and social.” The Eldy software is available for Windows, Mac, and Linux operating systems, and is available in 22 languages. It is a large download (the Windows version of Eldy is a 40.6MB download), but it includes a browser, e-mail client, online TV viewer, and other utilities. The heart of Eldy is “The Square” which is a desktop

with six large buttons, one each for sending and receiving e-mail, surfing the web, participating in online chats, viewing “Eldy TV,” managing the user’s personal profile, and a tools button with additional utilities. For the user who wants a functional but minimalist web experience, this “Square” can provide it. When the e-mail button is clicked, a simple e-mail menu opens where the user can simply create e-mails, and add attachments or embed images. Eldy can create and maintain e-mail address books, and handle other e-mail functions, all with a single click. To open and read an e-mail also takes a single click, with Eldy automatically handling any attachments or embedded images. The large “Surf the Web” button opens a simple browser, where favorites and bookmarks are displayed as large buttons that display a miniature of the webpage. The chat button allows the user to join a chat room, start a chat, or otherwise communicate with anyone using a compatible chat client. The Eldy TV button opens a language specific assortment of streaming TV and video, including CNN, BBC, Hulu, YouTube, TED, VIMEO, and other streaming media; simply clicking on the appropriate button starts the streaming video and TV. The Tools button includes a notepad utility, a documents viewer (displays images, video, and several document formats), and allows the user to make free telephone calls over the Internet using a basic form of the popular Skype service. For the senior who is averse to modern technology, but still wants to have the benefits of the Internet, Eldy would be a good choice.

By utilizing as appropriate any of these five services, from the simplicity of Eldy to the sophistication of Meganga

and Internet4Classrooms, seniors, and anyone else interested in learning about computers and the Internet may freely do so.

WEBSITES:

<<http://www.ilovefree software.com/02/webware/5-free-websites-how-to-use-computer.html>>.

<<http://www.internet4classrooms.com/on-line.htm>>.

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

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**Free Online Translation
Services from Yahoo!,
Google, and Microsoft
By Ira Wilsker**

Recently I was researching some technical information on a Brazilian manufactured product. There was a dearth of information available on English language websites, but there were dozens of Brazilian websites that contained my search term. I do not read Portuguese, so I had to translate the content of the Brazilian web pages into English in order to determine if they contained the content that I needed. I was aware of the Google translate utility <<http://translate.google.com>>, and remember the “old” Babelfish translation service (now owned by Yahoo! at <<http://babelfish.yahoo.com>>). While I had never used it, it seemed to me that Microsoft would also be in the competitive fray, and offers a similar service at <[8](http://www.</p>
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microsofttranslator.com>. All of these web services offer free translation between any combination of dozens of languages, and can even display foreign language websites in English or any other of the listed languages.

In the old days of web services, Babelfish was the premier translation service, and could translate text between dozens of languages. As I had done in the past, I copied the text on the web page. This is done by placing the cursor over top-left corner of the desired text, click and hold the left mouse button, and drag over the desired text until it is painted. Move the cursor over the painted text and then right click on “copy”; move the cursor to the “Translate a block of text” box, and then right click the mouse and select “paste.” The selected text will now appear in the box. Open the menu under the box that lists the available language combinations, select the desired combination, and then click on “Translate.” The translated text will appear in the selected language at the top of the page. As a test, I copied the first paragraph of this column, pasted it in the “Translate a block of text” box, and selected English to Italian; in an instant, the text appeared in Italian at the top of the window. Bablefish can only translate up to 150 words at a time, so long documents may take several copy-paste sessions to display the complete translation. I used Notepad (START - RUN - NOTEPAD), and sequentially copied and pasted each box of translated text into Notepad until the entire document was translated.

Something that did not exist years ago when I first used Babelfish was the ability to translate and display entire websites in the selected languages. As an example, I entered the Examiner web

address in the “Translate a web page” box, and selected English to Spanish. Upon clicking on the “Translate” button, the Examiner webpage instantly appeared in Spanish. Babelfish can translate between any combination of about a dozen languages, including English, French, Spanish, French, Russian, Chinese (2 versions), Greek, Japanese, German, and Portuguese. As with all of the free online translation services, there may be some translation errors, but the translation is reasonably capable of being read in the target language.

Google’s free translation service <<http://translate.google.com>> is now among the most widely used free online translation services, and can translate between any permutations of 63 languages. The languages available for translation on the Google service include all of the European and major Asian languages, as well as Yiddish, Arabic, Hebrew, Estonian, Finnish, Urdu, Swahili, Tamil, and Vietnamese, and dozens of other languages. As with the other translate services, text and web pages can be translated between any selected languages. Repeating the test I did on Bablefish, I copied the first paragraph of this column into Google’s “Translate” box, and selected the option to automatically detect the original language; this time I selected that the target language would be Arabic. In an instant, my English text appeared in Arabic. I also instantly translated the Examiner website to Vietnamese, by simply typing <<http://www.theexaminer.com>> in the left box, and selecting Vietnamese for the target language. The entire website appeared in Vietnamese after clicking on the web link in the right box.

Google translate can translate much more than just text and web pages (simply type or paste the web address in the translate box, and then select a target language), but can also import many forms of documents and translate them directly by clicking on the “Translate a document” link at the bottom of the window. This opens a standard directory of the user’s hard drive, and compatible document formats can be selected, and then displayed in the selected language. According to the Google Translate help system, “Translate documents from your computer: Google Translate also provides an easy way to translate whole documents, without the need for copying and pasting large blocks of text. Simply click the translate a document link and submit your file as a PDF, TXT, DOC, PPT, XLS or RTE. Please note that some of your original formatting may not be preserved.” As a test of the document translation service I selected a previous Examiner column, and selected a random target language, Ukrainian. The Microsoft Word doc file immediately opened in Ukrainian in the web browser. Google also offers a free utility that can be copied and pasted into a website’s code that will display a small tool on the web page that can automatically display the website in any of the listed languages. This free Google tool is available at <http://translate.google.com/translate_tools?hl=en>.

Not to be outdone in this highly competitive field, Microsoft introduced its Bing Translator at <<http://microsofttranslator.com>>. Similar to the offerings from Yahoo! and Google, Bing can translate between any of 37 different languages, and can accept input either in text or by Internet web address, with output similar to its competitors. What

is interesting about the Bing service is that it offers some interesting options to the user. On the bottom of the Bing Translate web page is an icon “For Webmasters.” Bing says, “ Use the Microsoft Translator webpage widget to deliver your site in the visitor’s language. The visitor never leaves your site, and the widget seamlessly translates each page as they navigate.” With this service, any webpage can be made available in real-time in any of the 37 languages currently supported by Bing. In order to display web pages in any of the available languages, Bing offers a free “widget” or small utility to place on the original webpage; this utility is available at microsofttranslator.com/widget and allows the user to select the desired language that he wants for the webpage. With this small widget placed on a webpage, the page immediately becomes available in over three dozen different languages. Bing makes the widget code available by logging into Bing using any of the many Microsoft logon or registration methods, and then clicking on the “<>” icon on the small “Translate This Page” box.

Using these translation services I was able to quickly locate and read the technical data that I was looking for, even though it was in Portuguese, and I could not read the original Portuguese. These translating services may be beneficial for many users.

WEBSITES:

<<http://babelfish.yahoo.com>>.

<<http://translate.google.com>>.

<http://translate.google.com/translate_tools?hl=en>.

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

<<http://www.microsofttranslator.com/widget>>.

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**Find Hidden Desktop Themes
in Windows
By Pamela Tabak**

I am sure that you know that there are many downloadable Desktop Themes available from the Internet but did you know that there are more desktop themes hidden in your Windows 7 operating system?

When you setup your Windows 7 operating system and stated that you were a resident of the USA or Canada, the operating system hid the other international desktop themes but I have found an easy way to locate them so that you have more choices at your fingertips.

1. In the bottom left corner of your screen your Windows 7 Orb will bring up Windows Explorer if you right click on it.

2. Choose Open Windows Explorer.

3. Type “globalization” in the search box located in the upper right corner. A long list of files and folders will appear.

4. Find the Globalization Folder and double click on it.

5. Double clicking on the Globalization folder reveals three more folders. The MCT folder is the one that contains the other international desktop themes.

6. If you find that the MCT folder is not listed you will need to unhide it as follows.

a) Right click on the Orb in the left corner of your screen.

b) Select Open Windows Explorer.

c) Click on Organize.

d) Select Folder and Search Options.

e) Click on the View tab and uncheck Hide protected operating system files (Recommended.)

f) You will receive a warning at this point. Just click Yes but I advise you to go back to this procedure after you have finished selecting your international themes and check the box again to protect your files and folders.

7. Now that you have the MCT folder in view click on it. I have the following folders to choose from: Australia, Canada, Great Britain, USA and Africa.

8. To see the selection of desktop themes in these folders double click on the ones that interest you.

9. To add one or more of these desktop themes to your computer double click on the folder or folders of your choice. I have chosen to click on the MCT-AU (Australia) for this demonstration.

10. When the MCT-AU folder opens you will see “Theme.”

11. Now double click on the Theme folder.

12. The Australia theme icon is now visible. Click once on this icon and the Australia desktop theme will appear on your selection of themes.

To select the pictures that will appear in your slide show, double click on the desktop slideshow icon which is the first icon on the bottom row of the

image above, and uncheck any picture that you do not want to appear. You can also change the position and frequency of the pictures that you have chosen. Then click Save changes.

Please contact me if you need more help with the above procedures.

My answer will usually arrive within 24 hours, if not at once.

More Information at <<http://www.computertutorinc.net>>.

To get hands on help now with a computer problem visit: <<http://tinyurl.com/help-now>>.

Get Pamela's New Book: Computer Tips for SENIORS – First Edition. Visit: <<http://www.computertutorinc.net/order>>

From the Desk of: Pamela Tabak—Dedicated to the computer education of seniors. E-mail: <Pamela@computertutorinc.net>. Website: <<http://www.computertutorinc.net>>

**USB 3.0—The
Super-Speed Bus
By Andrew Petrovic**

I thought that it would be a good idea to introduce to you a new and upcoming development - the USB (Universal Serial Bus) version 3.0, as this technology will become mainstream in a fairly short time.

USB version 1.0 was created in 1996, but was more widely available in 1998 as version 1.1, superseded by version 2.0 in 2000. Over the next few years this will be replaced by version 3.0, already released and now being used by some consumers.

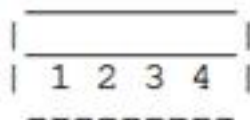
A quick overview of USB

The reason that USB was created all those years ago was in order to provide an interface for computers and

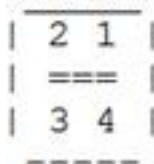
peripheral devices that was easy to set up and use, as well as being low-priced. Actually, the USB data protocols used are very complex, but fortunately the USB controller chips take care of these details, so users don't have to be concerned. USB is designed to be 'Plug and Play' without the user having to set up parameters such as interrupt requests, addressing, etc. as well as not having to reboot the computer after adding a peripheral.

In USB versions up to 2.0 there are only four wires that are connected: power; ground; data - and data +.

This is the 'A'-type connector usually found on a computer interface or hub:



This is the 'B'-type connector often found on the USB peripheral:



There are various other 'mini' and 'micro' connector types as well.

When we talk about USB components, we call a peripheral that plugs in to a computer port a 'device' and the port and controller associated with the port on the computer is called the 'host.'

Each device has a 'descriptor.' When a device is connected to a computer, the descriptor tells the host what kind of peripheral it is. From the product IDs it provides, the computer then knows what type of driver to load for that device. A driver is a small piece of software that

interfaces between a hardware device and the operating system.

Other information passed to the computer includes the device's power requirements; protocol settings; etc. When a USB device is unplugged, the host instructs the operating system to unload the driver for that device.

As far as the user is concerned, the most important element of the upgrades to the USB technology is the increasing speed of data transfer. The following table shows the differences in data transfer speed between the versions. The theoretical speed quoted by manufacturers would, in reality, not be possible to achieve and is based upon operations that include extra packet transfer overheads, as well as a few other things. The real life actual maximum speed is likely to be between 30% and 60% of the quoted theoretical speed.

Version 1.1 had two speeds, 'Low' and 'Full.' Version 2.0 just bettered the 1.1 version 'Full' speed.

[See Figure 1 - End of article]

Note the difference between Mbps (Megabits per second) and MBps (Megabytes per second). There are 8 bits in one byte, so when comparing speeds take note of which terminology you are using.

Limitations of USB 2.0

So if USB 3.0 is appearing on the market, it must be because previous versions are not able to do the job. Well, this is partly true. Version 2.0 will be able to be used for quite a lot of devices for a while, but as peripherals get faster and require faster interfaces, so USB 3.0 will become more desirable to end users. The sort of devices that are likely to require the faster data transfer

speeds are external USB disk drives and components that deal with video.

It's not just speed that is a limit. Each USB 2.0 host port can provide up to 1/2 Amp (500 mA) of current to power a device that does not have its own additional power supply. Often this is simply not enough. Some external disk drives may require up to 900 mA of startup current and that is why they are often supplied with a 'Y' cable that plugs into two USB ports in order to feed enough power (for those portable drives that don't use an external power supply).

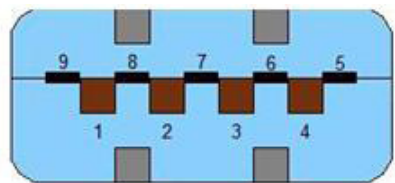
USB 2.0 data only moves unidirectionally. In other words, data can be sent to a device or from a device but not both at the same time. This cuts down the overall speed attainable.

Introducing USB 3.0

Whereas the upgrade from USB 1.1 to USB 2.0 used the same connectors with the same four wires, the upgrade from USB 2.0 to 3.0 is very much different.

Take the USB 2.0 configuration and add another entire set of connectors to it and call it 'Super speed.' This is how USB 3.0 has been created. The original USB 2.0 wires are still in place and the USB 3.0 adds five more wires (two pairs of data wires and a signal ground cable).

This is how the 'A'-type looks (Female - Receptacle), with pins 1 to 4 being identical to the original USB 2.0 specification:



Cables and connectors are backwards compatible as well, so you can plug in a USB 2.0 device to a USB 3.0 port — you just won't get any extra speed advantages because only the USB 2.0 connectors will be used, though the power pins are the same so more available current should be available for USB 2.0 devices.

How is USB 3.0 better?

Apart from being fully compatible with previous USB versions, the faster data transfer is quite a dramatic improvement for USB 3.0 compatible devices because of a faster clock control speed; the use of asynchronous signaling for simultaneous sending and receiving; and an interrupt mechanism that does not use the time-consuming polling that USB 2.0 used.

One area where USB 3.0 may fall down is with the length of the cable that can be used. It could be limited to 3 meters if high throughput devices are used, as compared to the 5 meter cables possible with USB 2.0.

The limitation could be overcome using USB hubs or extenders and perhaps fiber-optic cabling might be possible in the future.

Is it worth upgrading?

USB 2.0 will likely be around for the next few years anyway, but in time newer computer motherboards will provide USB 3.0 ports as standard.

If you want to try out the technology now, there are add-on adapters available that plug in to a spare PCI-Express slot on your PC and provide two or more USB ports. There are also a few USB 3.0 external disk drives available, as well as hard drive enclosures with USB 3.0 interfaces where you can put in your own internal drive.

If you only have slow devices on your USB connections, it's no great advantage to upgrade. For example, keyboards and mice only require the slowest USB version and will not work any better on faster USB ports.

If you must have the faster transfer speeds for storage or video devices, then you should consider some form of upgrade. There are alternate interface types, such as eSATA and FireWire, but they are a less common interface type than USB and they also require a separate power line, as well as not always being 'hot-swappable.'

Other things that will benefit from the USB 3.0 interfaces are card readers and connections from digital cameras, when transferring pictures to the PC, though not when you plug in the current 'slower' devices. USB 3.0 thumb drives will be faster on a USB 3.0 interface but the current USB 2.0 thumb drives will be no faster on a USB 3.0 port. Interestingly enough, USB 3.0 thumb drives will be faster on existing USB 2.0 ports because the whole USB 3.0 flash drives had to be redesigned with faster chip access in order to take advantage of the USB 3.0 port speed.

Later versions of Windows and Linux should natively support USB 3.0 at some point. Windows XP will not, but USB interface and peripheral manufacturers should be able to supply suitable drivers for XP systems.

Andrew Petrovic is a member of the Ottawa PC Users' Group, Inc., Canada
Article first appeared in the February 2011 issue of PC News. Web: <<http://opcug.ca/public/index.htm>>. E-mail: <[opcug-webmaster \(at\) opcug.ca](mailto:opcug-webmaster (at) opcug.ca)>.

USB Version	Designation	Theoretical maximum speed
1.0	"Low speed"	1.5 Mbps = 190 Kbps
1.1	"Full speed"	12 Mbps = 1.5 MBps
2.0	"High speed"	480 Mbps = 60 MBps
3.0	"Super speed"	4.8 Gbps = 600 MBps

Figure 1 - USB Speeds



**February SEMCO
Planning Session
By Warner Mach**

SEMCO needs your help!

On Saturday, February 4, at 12 noon, we will have a "planning session." The purpose of the session is to brainstorm ideas for the future of the club and to focus on current problem areas. Certainly part of the discussion will include the issue of publicity and attracting new members. We will also talk about distribution of duties, and other areas of concern.

We would like to get input from as many members as possible. If you have ideas for improvement and are concerned about the future of the group, then please consider coming to the meeting for a couple of hours.

The meeting will be held at Shield's Pizza, 25101 Telegraph Road (Near 10 Mile), Southfield, MI.,



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- * Gain access to members willing to provide help in response to a phone call or e-mail
- * Receive monthly newsletter with informative articles.

Pictures: Recent SEMCO Meetings: <<http://www.tinyurl.com/y8cm99e>>

Video: Recent SEMCO Meeting: <<http://www.tinyurl.com/363vnbd>>

Podcasts: Podcasts of SEMCO meetings can be found at: <<http://www.semco.org/podcasts.htm>>.

SEMCO Meeting Pictures



(Above) At SIG-Computing, Tom Callow discusses the best free software for Windows and where to find it. (Below) At SIG-Techniques, Warner Mach talks about “Just BASIC” and the “Ping6” program.

Ping6 program:
nomainwin
gocount = 0
[startup]
if gocount > 4 then
 goto [ender]
 end
else
 timer 6000, [goping]
 wait
 end if
 [goping]
 run “ping www.google.com”
 gocount = gocount + 1
 goto [startup]
[ender]
end



SEMCO Meeting Pictures

Example of Solving a Diophantine Equation

Solve $3X + 7Y = 29$ For one integer solution

$$3X + 7Y = 29$$

$$-7Y + 29 = 3X$$

$$-7Y + 29 = 0 \pmod{3}$$

$$-7Y = -29 \pmod{3}$$

$$2Y = 1 \pmod{3}$$

$$2Y - 1 = 0 \pmod{3}$$

$$2Y - 1 = 3Z$$

$$3Z + 1 = 2Y$$

$$3Z + 1 = 0 \pmod{2}$$

$$3Z = -1 \pmod{2}$$

$$1Z = 1 \pmod{2}$$

Substituting back the other way:

$$Z = 1$$

$$3(1) + 1 = 2Y$$

$$Y = 2$$

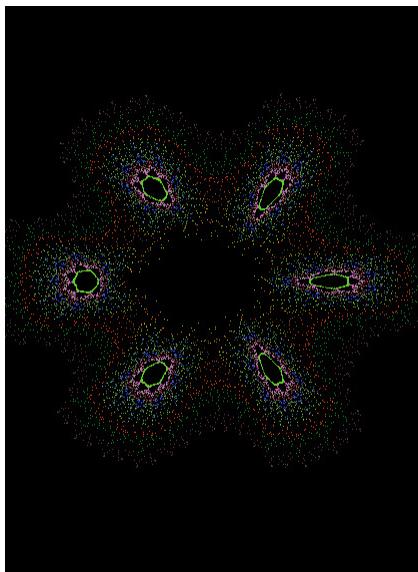
$$-7(2) + 29 = 3X$$

$$X = 5$$

Therefore, $X=5$, $Y=2$ is one solution



(Above) At SIG-Techniques, Dr. Bill Landrum talks about Diophantine Equations and “Just BASIC.” (Below) At SIG-Techniques, Richard Jackson demonstrates a fractal-producing “Just BASIC” program.





BOARD MEETING / GENERAL MEETING

12/11/2011

Carol Sanzi

Board Members Present

President Mike Bader, Vice President Richard Jackson, Treasurer Bette Gay, Secretary Carol Sanzi, SIG-Computing Chairman Tom Callow, SIG-Advice Chairman Franz Breidenich, Publications Committee Chairman Warner Mach, SIG-Linux Co-Chairman Michael Rudas and Members-at-Large Bob Clyne and Brian Brodsky. Also attending was provisional SIG-Computing designated representative Sikanden Rashid. The board meeting was called to order at 12:09 p.m.

Old Business

Bette Gay reported that the current treasury amount equaled a total of \$9,526.71 with \$4,775.11 in the checking account and \$4,751.60 invested in three Certificates of Deposit. The membership currently is 77.

New Business

Bob Clyne moved that the membership directory should be included in the January DATA BUS. Brian Brodsky seconded the motion and it was carried.

Mike Bader and Richard Jackson are coordinating the possibility of sponsoring a robotic team. A speaker may attend a SEMCO meeting to explain the project and its intricacies.

Bette Gay reported that the Friends of the Troy Seniors would like help setting up programs on their computers. Mike Bader offered to contact Ron Butterbaugh, their contact person, at 248-561-7368, to learn how SEMCO could assist in their efforts.

Bob Clyne moved to adjourn at 12:22.

Mike Bader seconded the motion and it was carried.

General Meeting Notes: Carol Sanzi

Mike Bader appointed Tom Callow acting chairman of the meeting.

Tom Callow opened nominations for SEMCO Officers and Board Members-at-Large starting with the office of President.

Richard Jackson nominated Mike Bader for President. Bob Clyne seconded the nomination and Mike Bader accepted. There were no other nominations for President.

Franz Breidenich nominated Richard Jackson for Vice President. Al Gruber seconded the nomination and Richard Jackson accepted. There were no other nominations for Vice President.

Richard Jackson nominated Carol Sanzi for Secretary. Bob Clyne seconded the nomination and Carol Sanzi accepted. There were no other nominations for Secretary.

Bob Clyne nominated Bette Gay for Treasurer. Richard Jackson seconded the nomination and Bette Gay accepted. There were no other nominations for Treasurer.

Bob Clyne nominated Brian Brodsky for Member-at-Large. Richard Jackson seconded the nomination and Brian Brodsky accepted.

Brian Brodsky nominated Bob Clyne for Member-at-Large. Al Gruber seconded the nomination and Bob Clyne accepted. There were no other nominations for Member-at Large.

Bob Clyne moved to close the nominations. Franz Breidenich and Richard Jackson seconded the motion and it was carried.

The General Meeting was adjourned.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGS)



SIG-COMPUTING Tom Callow

Jan. 8: 1:45 p.m. Microsoft OneNote: Help for the Terminally Disorganized: SIG-Computing Chairman Tom Callow will demonstrate Microsoft OneNote 2010, the Microsoft Office digital notebook application that provides a single place to gather all of your notes and information and even find them again.



SIG-TECHNIQUES Warner Mach

Jan. 8. 13: 3:45 p.m. : NEAT & USEFUL: Warner Mach and Richard Jackson will demonstrate neat and/or useful applications and/or useful notions they have come across such as Programs: “Swiss File Knife,” “CloseTheDoor,” Wolfram CDF Player. Techniques: Making a training manual, dealing with pixel resolution issues (screen, print, e-mail).



SIG-PROGRAMING **A Provisional SIG** Richard Jackson

Jan. 14: At the home of Richard Jackson. Contact Mr. Jackson for full details: (248)-546-3694. **Topic: TBD.**



SIG-ADVICE Franz Breidenich

Jan. 3/Feb. 7 (Tues): 5:30 p.m.: At the Madison Heights Library located at 240 West 13 Mile Rd. one block West of John R. The parking lot entrance is off Brush St. The lot and entrance to the library is located in the back of the library. Topic: General discussion.



SIG-LINUX Michael Rudas Mike Bader



Jan. 24 (Tues): 6:45 p.m.: At Motor City Free Geek, 1511 Jarvis St. Suite #10, Ferndale, MI 48220. The building is on the Northwest corner of Wanda and Jarvis - The first traffic light south of 9 Mile, on Wanda. **Topic: TBD.**

Feb. 2012 DATABUS DEADLINE (7th day after 2nd Sunday in month)
SEMCO Input and Members' Ads—Deadline: Sun., Jan. 15, 11:59 p.m. Members' personal ads are free. To mail, use Editor address on Page 2; e-mail address: warnermach@gmail.com. PLEASE send to arrive sooner than deadline.
Business Ads - Deadline: Second Friday monthly. Contact Editor (address Page 2).

Warner Machwarnermach@gmail.com

(to post monthly computer group info)

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

Jan. 4, 7 p.m., (1st Wednesday) Jane Wheatly 810-982-1187 or Pam Raisanen
E-mail info: <compinfo@greatlakes.net>. Web: <<http://www.bwcomp.org>>.
Topic: "iTunes."

Focus: Hope IT User Group

1400 Oakman, Detroit, MI. 48238. Web info <<http://www.fhitug.org>>. See web site for details. Pre-registration required.

HUG (Holly User Group)

Jan. 14, 9 a.m.-noon (2nd Saturday) Groveland Twp. Fire Hall, 3085 Grange Hall Rd. & Dixie Hwy., Holly, MI. 48442. Ron McCauley 810-629-9683. Topic: TBA.

MacGroup-Detroit

Date: See web site, 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: "Creating Websites with Adobe Muse." SIGs: 2:00 PM.

MacTechnics. (MAC User Group)

Jan. 21, (3rd Saturday); See web site for meeting time and location. <<http://www.mactechnics.org>>. JoAnn Olson at 248-478-4300. Topic: TBA.

MDLUG (Metro Detroit Linux User Group)

Jan. 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>>. Topic: TBA.

Motor City Free Geek

Every Saturday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. 1511 Jarvis St. Suite #10, Ferndale, MI 48220. <<http://www.motorcityfreegeek.net>>. E-mail: <MotorCityFreeGeek@gmail.com>. Recycling & Open Source.

MUG (Michigan User Group)

Jan. 10, 6:00 p.m., (2nd Tuesday): Farmington Community Library-Main Branch, 32737 W. 12 Mile Rd., Farmington Hills, MI. 48334. <<http://www.mug.org>>. Topic: TBA.

Oak Park Computer Club

Every Fri., 10:15 a.m. at Oak Park Library, 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)

Jan. 3, 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: "Tablets, eReaders, and Smartphones"

SIG Meeting Notes

SIG-Computing Meeting Notes:

Carol Sanzi

Richard Jackson nominated Tom Callow for SIG-Computing Chairman. Bob Clyne seconded the nomination and Tom Callow accepted. There were no other nominations for SIG-Computing Chairman.

SIG-Techniques Meeting Notes:

Warner Mach

Sikander Rashid nominated Warner Mach for SIG-Techniques Chairman. Richard Jackson seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations



Note: For the Key Word to get the 30% discount see any SEMCO officer or member of the board.



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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@comcast.net
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
42°29'7" N by 83°14'29" W**

Jan. 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-COMPUTING, 1:45 p.m., Microsoft OneNote: Help for the Terminally Disorganized: SIG-Computing Chairman Tom Callow will demonstrate Microsoft OneNote 2010, the Microsoft Office digital notebook application that provides a single place to gather all of your notes and information and even find them again.

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

SIG-TECHNIQUES, 3:45 p.m. NEAT & USEFUL: Warner Mach and Richard Jackson will demonstrate neat and/or useful applications and/or useful notions they have come across such as Programs: "Swiss File Knife," "CloseTheDoor," Wolfram CDF Player. Techniques: Making a training manual, dealing with pixel resolution issues (screen, print, e-mail).

SIG-Programming, Jan. 14: At the home of Richard Jackson. Contact Mr. Jackson for full details: (248)-546-3694.

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SIG-LINUX, Jan. 24 (Tues): 6:45 p.m.: At Motor City Free Geek, 1511 Jarvis St. Suite #10, Ferndale, MI 48220. **Topic: TBD.**

Feb. 12—SEMCO Sunday

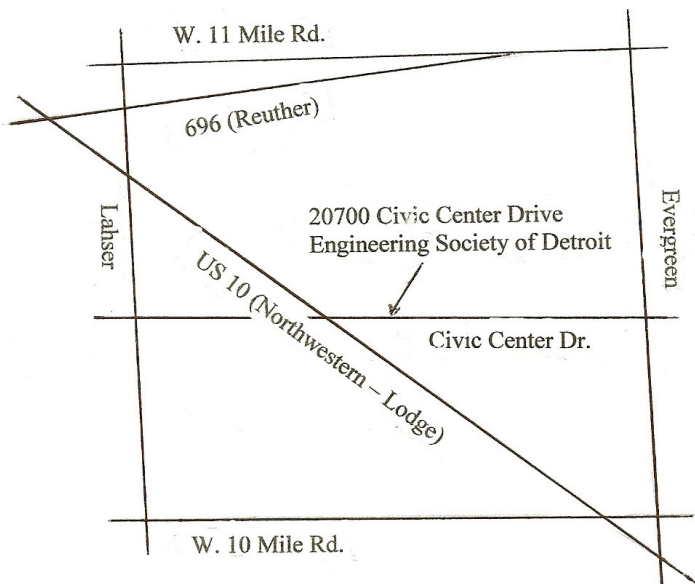
<http://www.semco.org>

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.

42°29'7" N by 83°14'29" W



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)
January 8
February 12**

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