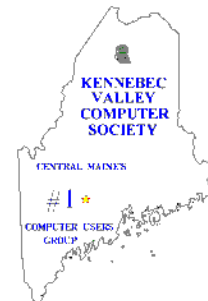


The Newsletter of the Kennebec Valley Computer Society



SEPTEMBER 2011

Tablet Wars

The latest casualty in the tablet wars is the HP Touch Pad. Hewlett Packard announced they are getting out of the tablet business almost as soon as they got into it and also the personal computer line as well. That is huge. They are a major player in the market. What will happen to the line is not known at this point. For those of you who bought the HP tablet, it will be good for a while but there will be no support and in about one year it will be a 'brick' unless someone buys the line to keep it going. The latest speculation is that Samsung may buy the HP WebOs. There may be life in that tablet.

In the meantime, the Lenovo tablet is making it into the market and Sony has announced it is coming forward with competition to the Ipad 2.

From what I can see, many of the Android tablets are having problems of one sort or another. The Ipad remains the tablet to beat and it seems is still in no danger from the Androids.

The best buy on a tablet is the Barnes and Noble color nook. The color nook has a 7 inch screen and costs \$250. It is easy to carry and the screen size is adequate. Buy it and after the warranty ends root it so you have a full blown Android tablet. Of course, there is one KVCS member

who would tell you to forget the warranty and root it right away.

I happened onto this site and found it very interesting. An interesting panel discussion of current tech topics.

http://ginasmith.typepad.com/gina_smiths_byte_unplugge/byte-wireless-radio/

Based in San Francisco, Gina Smith is editor-in-chief of BYTE. Email her with ideas and comments at gina@BYTE.com and follow her @ginasmith888. And follow @BYTE while you're at it.

The Capital Area Camera Club opens the 2011-12 meeting season September 6. CACC meetings are held on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. Meetings are held in the conference rooms of the Viles Arboretum Center, 153 Hospital Street, Augusta. Sure it's all about cameras but with digital cameras, the processing is done with computers. We know all about computers and they know all about cameras. It's a natural fit in the technology world. So drop in and check out what's happening.

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KVCS MEETINGS **General Membership**

The program for this months meeting will be a demonstration of **Page Plus**, the desktop publishing program used to produce the KVCS Newsletter. Tim True will do the presentation honors....in the usual absence of the Editor.....

Thursday, September 8, 7:00 PM

Buker Community Center on
Armory Street, just off
Western Avenue near the
National Guard Armory in
Augusta.

Board of Directors Meeting

The next meeting will be held
Wednesday, September 21, 6:15 PM
at Lisa's Restaurant,
Bangor Street, Augusta

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You may upload copy via E-Mail or bring to the KVCS general membership meeting. **Deadline for submission of copy for the newsletter is the 15th day of the month preceding the month of issue and will be run on a space available basis.** Copy is subject to editing.

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Readers are cautioned to rely on opinions expressed exclusively at their own risk.



KVCS WEB SITE

www.kvcs.org

Click the link for more information about KVCS.

Bob Wells, our webmaster is suggesting you make it the opening page for your web browser so you get the latest announcements.



KVCS

**Since 1984 - Central Maine's
First Computer User Group**



Member of
The Association of
Personal Computer User Groups

**Summertime pictures from a
public garden in Rockville,
Maryland**

SugarSync – Sweet Synchronization Solution

**By Vinny LaBash,
Regular Columnist,
Sarasota PCUG, Florida
August 2011 issue,
Sarasota Monitor
www.spcug.org
Labash@spcug.org**

There was once a time when having a rotary telephone put you in the front lines of innovation. That was long ago and modern communications technology is as far advanced from that day as communicating by smoke signal. If you have any combination of desktop computer, laptop, smart phone, tablet, and whatever, you need some way to coordinate information so that every device you own has the same up-to-date information.

One way to make sure all your files are equally up-to-date is using a popular cloud based utility known as Dropbox. However, there is another lesser known tool that gives you more for less. We're talking about SugarSync which is constantly evolving into a service similar to Dropbox, but with better mobile support, advanced file control, and superior price performance.

When you open your account at www.sugarsync.com, you supply a user name and password and then install the application. As long as you're connected to the Internet, the files you drag into your local Sugarsync folder magically appear on all PCs, laptops, phones, and iPads that also have Sugarsync installed and are attached to the same Sugarsync account. The files also appear online when you sign into the

Sugarsync site and specify the same user name and password.

SugarSync sets up your system to start backing up your data as soon as you initiate the program. Don't worry, it won't do anything without your permission, and there is no need to be concerned about your information getting out of control. The interface is clunky compared to the more intuitive IE browser window which is one of few downsides to SugarSync. The developers are probably still concerned about legacy issues, a fear that will probably disappear over time, but may cost them customers before it's eliminated.

Support for mobile devices is nothing less than outstanding. It supports more mobile devices than any other product. If you're using Windows 7 or Symbian, SugarSync is there for you. These platforms may be relatively unimportant in the grand scheme of things today, but if you happen to use one of them SugarSync should be of interest.

SugarSync has a unique design feature for your Pictures folder. Of course synchronizing and viewing pictures from mobile devices is supported, but the process is treated as much more than a casual concession to photo buffs. It does more than backup your pictures. It creates online galleries to share with colleagues and friends. You don't have to back up your photographs to one location and upload them. If you take a picture with your mobile device it's automatically sent to SugarSync and downloaded to your computer. The gallery layout is superb for a web-based product, and the photo viewers are excellent.

Music lovers will appreciate their MP3 files following them like puppy dogs. The computer does not have to be turned on because music files are being streamed from SugarSync. Audiophiles can listen to music no matter where they are.

SugarSync continuously backs up your files in real time, not just once or twice a day. So if you edit a document in the morning, and accidentally delete it in the afternoon you can restore it quickly with no hassles. The program stores the five latest versions of any backed up file so it's not a quandary if you need an earlier version. The downside to this is that five versions of multiple files can take up a lot of storage. The upside is that only the most recent version of a file is counted toward your storage quota.

If you are having trouble thinking of some uses for SugarSync here are some suggestions:

- Inadvertently overwriting a file is no longer a potential disaster a SugarSync keeps a copy of the older file making restoration easy and painless.
- Many people treasure their old photographs. Keeping pictures safely backed up in digital format means storing them as long as necessary with no deterioration in quality.
- Roboform users can synchronize passwords safely and securely.
- You can retrieve files no matter where you are or what device you happen to be using.

-continued on page 7-

**Review:
RoboForm**

**Program stores websites,
login information**

**By Jim Thornton, Member,
Channel Islands PCUG, CA**

August 2011 issue,

The Outer Edge

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Jasthorn@gmail.com

RoboForm is one of my favorite software programs as it helps me very quickly log into secured websites. My listings of these websites include airlines, email, financial, medical, stores, travel, etc., and I currently have more than 50 of these secured websites listed.

The program is very easy to use. For example, first open Internet Explorer, and then click on one of its little toolbars titled RoboForm and a list of several choices appear titled Logins, Identities, and Soft Notes. While I mentioned Internet Explorer, RoboForm also works equally as well with Firefox, Safari, Chrome, and many more browsers. Next, I click on Logins and then click again on the listed secured website that I want to enter. Next, RoboForm automatically redirects Internet Explorer to the website that I selected and when the login website appears, RoboForm automatically fills in my name and password, and I'm immediately logged into the secured website with unrestricted abilities.

Once you have the program installed, when you go to a new secured website and fill in your user name and password and click on Enter, RoboForm will automatically add the information. Including the

website address, to your list of Logins.

If you need a new password, RoboForm will generate a highly secure password. On the Login list in RoboForm, the secured websites are listed alphabetically and you can easily rename any listing.

Other RoboForm features include SafeNotes, which securely stores other information of your choice. For example, some banks will frequently ask you for your wife's favorite color, your first dog's name, etc., to ensure that you are the secured party attempting to access your bank account, etc. You can securely store this information in SafeNotes.

RoboForm's options under Logins include Edit, New, and Print List. Under Identities are Edit, New, and Fill Empty Fields Only. SafeNotes includes Edit, New, Print to New, and Print Last. Numerous other choices include Fill Forms, Save Forms, Fields — Reset, Sat, and Clear, Profiles — Default, New, Date, Name, Refresh Fields, Explorer, Tools — Edit Identify, Edit Password, Edit SafeNotes, Search Fields, Taskbar Icon, Generate Password, and Sign RoboForm data, and Options — Help.

I've used RoboForm for numerous years in Windows XP, Windows Me, Windows 2000, Windows Vista, and now Windows 7. RoboForm's website is www.roboform.com, and there are three versions of RoboForm available: Desktop, Everywhere, and 2Go.

Desktop provides high security and restricts the access to RoboForm from only one computer.

Everywhere allows you to access RoboForm from numerous computers.

2Go works using a portable USB drive, so that you can take your RoboForm information and use it on many computers while traveling on business or on vacation.

RoboForm runs in numerous versions of Internet Explorer, including versions 6, 7, 8, and 9 but only on 32-bit versions and not the 64-bit versions. There is a free version of RoboForm that is limited to only 10 logins. For more than 10 logins, the Everywhere version is available for \$20 per year, and the Desktop version is \$30. The current version, which is version 6.10.2.0, was introduced earlier this year.

When you install RoboForm for the first time, you will be asked to create a master password, which protects all of your secured data in your Logins, Identities, and SafeNotes. This prevents anyone else who has access to your computer from seeing or copying this information. If you prefer, you can eliminate this protection and allow anyone to access all of your important information.

-Article provided by Articles2Go-

Editor's Note:

I included this review since RoboForm was mentioned in the Sugar sync article just preceding this one.

**ENJOY SUMMER WHILE IT
LASTS..... WE ALL KNOW
WHAT'S JUST AROUND THE
CORNER**

Windows 7

Just got Windows 7? Notice something missing? Well if you want to see a list of what happened to those programs you liked in XP or Vista here is a simple way to find out. Open Help and Support then type "What happened" in the search box. Windows will give you lots of results for the query, such as: What happened to the NetBEUIprotocol?, What happened to ActiveSync?, What happened to Sticky Notes?, What happened to Windows Calendar?, What happened to the Run as command?, What happened to the Quick Launch toolbar?" and many more.

Say you picked the "What happened to the Run command?" This is what you get: "The Run command no longer appears on the Start menu in this version of Windows. The search box that appears on the Start menu provides much of the same functionality as the Run command. However, the Run command is still available if you prefer to use it. You can even add it to the Start menu for easier access.

To add the Run command to the Start menu Click to open Taskbar and Start Menu Properties. Click the Start Menu tab, and then click Customize. In the list of Start menu options, select the Run command check box,

and then click OK. The Run command will be displayed on the right side of the Start menu.

Tip: You can also access the Run command by pressing the Windows logo key +R. Check it out."

Google Images

A while ago Google switched over to a different display method for their images. If you want to turn it off and go back to the original, here's what you do: Scroll to the very bottom of your Google image search and click on Switch to basic version. If you want to go back to the regular way, simply scroll back to the bottom and click Switch to standard version.

System Tools

Just for a little review, there are a bunch of very useful programs in the System Tools folder. To get to them you access the System Tools by going to All Programs | Tools. When you open the folder in XP you can find the following programs:

- ▶ CHARACTER MAP, which allows you to copy and paste letters and symbols from other fonts into your document without switching fonts.
- ▶ DISK CLEANUP, which frees up space on your hard drive by eliminating unused and temporary files.
- ▶ DISK DEFRACTIONER (Defrag), which speeds up your computer by reassigning or eliminating stray bits of data.
- ▶ FILES AND SETTINGS TRANSFER WIZARD, for transferring files and data from one drive to another.
- ▶ INTERNET EXPLORER (NO ADD-ONS), which allows you to

access the internet without any Explorer addons interfering with it.

▶ SCHEDULED TASKS, which allows you to schedule a specific time to run updater, defrag, and other system programs.

▶ SYSTEM INFORMATION, which tells you the basic ram, processor, etc., of your system.

▶ SYSTEM RESTORE, which will restore your Windows system to an earlier time.

In Vista and Win 7 you can find all of the above and more. Check it out.

Templates

A template is a prepared form or pattern within various programs such as document and spreadsheet programs. They allow a user to develop a form that allows for easy entry and automatically formats and calculates data.

If you are a user of the Microsoft Office suite you are probably aware of them as Microsoft makes mention of templates and even has a folder of them within their suite.

But are you aware that there are literally hundreds located on the internet? But that is not all. There are even templates designed for the free suite put out by Open Office. Just Google open office templates and find body mass calculators, ovulation schedules time cards, shift scheduling and so much more.

You do not have to reinvent the wheel every time you sit at your computer. One little caveat though, these are usually presented by users and sometimes do not cover all you would like to find

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KENNEBEC VALLEY COMPUTER SOCIETY

Presents

Page Plus

Desktop Publisher and more

From newsletters to calendars, cards and more

Presented by

Tim True

Thursday September 8 th 2011 - 7 PM

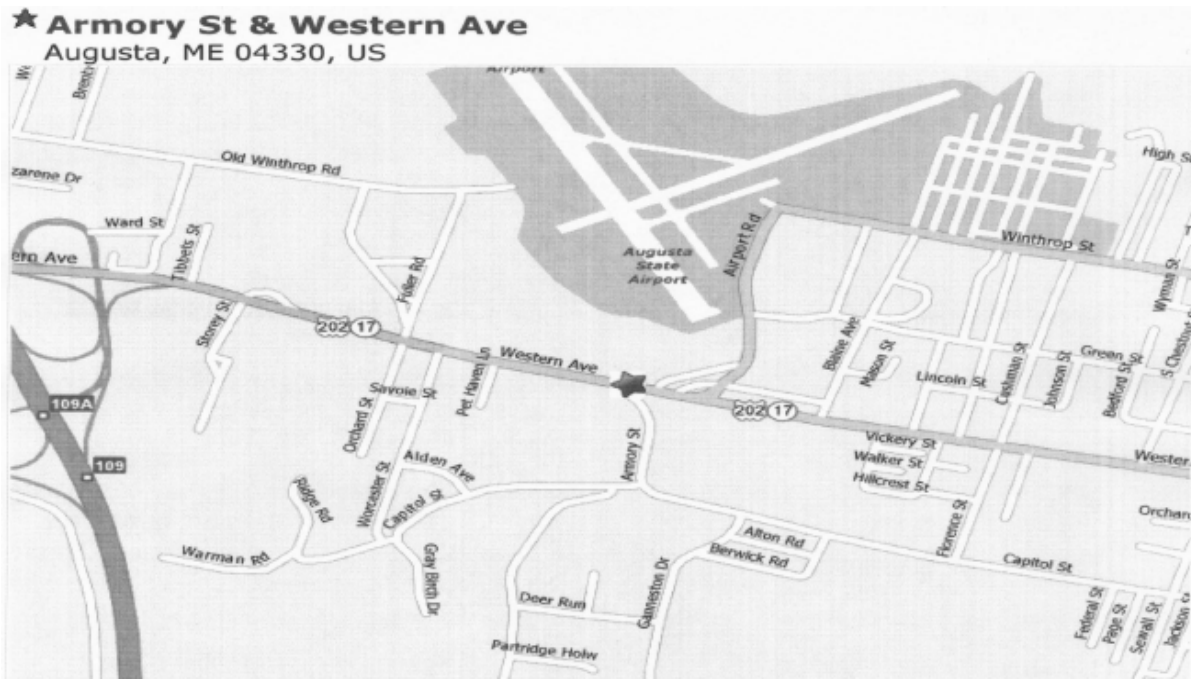
Social Time 6:30 to 7 PM

**Lou Buker Community Center
Armory Street
Augusta, Maine**

The Public is Cordially Invited

Bring a friend, meet a friend

KVCS MEETING LOCATION



MELUG-Central Maine Linux Users Group Meeting

The Next MELUG- Central Meeting -See below Right - For more information www.melug-central.org

-Sugarsync - continued

- Share folders with family members. Any great vacation pictures, new additions to the family, celebrations, and other memorable events are instantly available.
- Listen to music anywhere.
- Synchronize documents such invoices across multiple devices. Accountants will love it.
- SugarSync can act as an insurance policy against losing important information. Backups are no longer a hassle or a nuisance.

-Article Provided by Articles2Go-

-Tip Corner- continued-

in a template. But do not lose heart, once downloaded you can continue to tweak the form until it does what you want the way you want it.

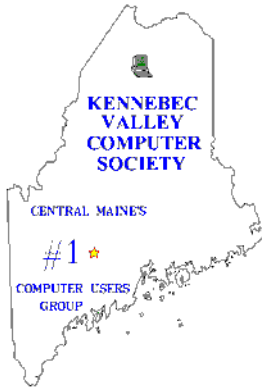
-Article Provided by Articles2Go-

September 10 at 10:30 AM Kennebec Valley Community College, Room 110, Frye Building. There will be a discussion about new hardware, old hardware, software and distro problems.



There are some folks who try to make computing more difficult than it really is.....

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KENNEBEC VALLEY COMPUTER SOCIETY

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Change of address

I would like to see more. Please send me a complimentary issue of the Newsletter.

I would like to join KVCS / renew my membership.

Annual Renewal (Dues waived for 2011 membership year)

FOR KVCS USE

New Member (Dues waived for 2011 membership year)

DP _____

Family (Dues waived for 2011 membership year)

CH _____

Student (Full time status - Dues waived for 2011 membership year)

CA _____

Name: _____ E-Mail address: _____

Address: _____ City/State _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Date of Birth: ____ / ____ / ____

Your Interest in Joining KVCS? _____

Referred by: _____

11/09 Signature: _____