Kennebec Valley Computer Society NEWSLETTER

NO MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2010

The Board of Directors has decided to forego membership dues for 2010. This follows action taken last year to forego dues. The Board will take this up for discussion at the end of the year to determine a future course of action.

A large part of our being able to do this is that the newsletter went electronic and is on the KVCS web site, thereby saving publishing and mailing expense. The rest of it comes from volunteer work that keeps things going. Our continuing primary expense is the cost of rent for the general membership meetings and the gratuity for the Board meetings.

Brian Boudreau Presents Facebook Part II

KVCS member Brian Boudreau is going to lead a follow-up discussion about working with Facebook at this month's meeting. There is so much to cover that it was decided to have Brian continue the discussion for the March meeting. Do you want to know how to protect your Facebook account, how to stop the Farmville, Aquarium and Mafia wars stuff?? Brian can help you work through this and more. Facebook can be useful but it can also be a distraction with all the 'stuff' in there.

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KENNEBEC VALLEY COMPUTER SOCIETY
CENTRAL MAINE'S #1 COMPUTER USERS GROUP

MARCH 2010

To All Members of the Society

The webmasters ask that you provide them with a User Name and Password that you want to use to access the members area of the KVCS web site. This will give you more access than casual visitors have to areas on the site. Send this information to webmaster@kvcs.org

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Program Topic Suggestions Wanted

What would you like to see presented at the monthly meetings?? The Officers and Board work hard to find programs they think will be of interest to you. We really would like to hear from you as to what you feel would be helpful for you to learn about at the general membership meetings. Send an e-mail to me - cecil.munson@gmail com with ideas or suggestions about what you are interested in and would like to have more information about. We'll see what we can do to make it happen.

PLEASE NOTE

The KVCS Board will meet on Wednesday, March 17 instead of Thursday the 18th

KVCS MEETINGS

General Membership

The program for this month's meeting will be a follow up presentation by KVCS member Brian Boudreau of the ins and outs of Facebook.

Thursday, March 11, 7:00 PM
Buker School on Armory Street, just off Western Avenue near the National Guard Armory in Augusta.

Board of Directors Meeting

NOTE DATE CHANGE

The next meeting will be **Wednesday, March 17**, 6:30 to 8:30 PM at Margaritas, 390 Western Avenue, 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.

All opinions expressed herein are those of the individual authors only, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of KVCS, its Officers, Board of Directors, The Newsletter of the Kennebec Valley Computer Society or its Editor. KVCS does not guarantee the accuracy or the correctness of articles in the Newsletter nor does KVCS intend to endorse, rate, or otherwise officially comment on products available. Readers are cautioned to rely on opinions expressed exclusively at their own risk.

KVCS WEB SITE

The URL for our web site is

www.kvcs.org

Check there for more information about KVCS. Bob Wells is suggesting you make it the opening page for your web browser so you get the latest announcements.

Bob Wells is the webmaster for the KVCS site. Go to *www.kvcs.org* and look around. While there sign up for member access.

The Maine State Capitol building in Augusta with the Governor's Mansion, the Blaine House, directly to the left of the the Statehouse. 2010 photo courtesy of David Gomeau and his helicopter flying friend.

Kennebec Valley Computer Society
Account Balances Report
February 17, 2010

Bank Accounts	
Certificate of Deposit	2,387.94
Checking	412.85
TOTAL Bank Accounts	**2,800.79**
OVERALL TOTAL	**2,800.79**

Our overall total has dropped by $1000. from this same date two years ago. The Board of Directors has foregone dues payments for this year and last year. The Board will continue to monitor expenses this year to determine the need to reinstitute membership dues for 2011.

apcug Member of The Association of Personal Computer User Groups

Apcug Reprint Series

WUBI? What The Heck Is A WUBI?

By Jim McKnight, Director, Los Angeles Computer Society, CA
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The Windows-based Ubuntu Installer (WUBI) is a program that allows you to install and remove Ubuntu-Linux from within Microsoft Windows (98, 2000, XP, Vista, or Windows 7). WUBI automatically creates a dual boot option that lets a Microsoft Windows user try Ubuntu without risking any data loss due to disk formatting or partitioning. Normally, installing Ubuntu or any version of Linux on a system that is also running Windows is intimidating and very risky. Total failure to boot Windows is a common result.

WUBI to the rescue: The WUBI installer is now included on every Ubuntu Live CD and easily installs Ubuntu INSIDE of Windows (all versions), and in the same partition (drive letter) as Windows if you like. The install process is like any other program installed in Windows. Installing this way is sooooo easy. Also, when you want to remove Ubuntu, you just go to Add/Remove Programs and remove it like any other program running under Windows.

Dual-boot: After the installation, a new (dual) boot option screen appears right after power up, allowing you to select whether you want to run either Windows standalone or Ubuntu standalone.

Wow, what a great way to play with Linux/Ubuntu without the hassle of partitioning the hard drive and dealing with those messy dual-boot managers like GRUB or GAG. Yuck (Yes, those are real acronyms. Not the Yuck. It just means yuck).

To start the process, you need an Ubuntu Live (Install) CD that you or a friend has downloaded and burned. You can also go to the Ubuntu website and have them mail you a free CD (10 weeks).

To install Ubuntu using WUBI, just insert the "Ubuntu Install CD" while Windows is running. Do not boot the CD. The CD should start. If not, go to My Computer, open the CD and click on wubi.exe. When you see the opening window, simply select "Install Inside Windows". After that, you answer a few questions about what drive letter, and how much drive space you want to allow for Ubuntu. That's it!

I have tried this under XP and Windows 7 and it is flawless.

NOTES:

- Hibernation is not supported when installing Ubuntu via WUBI (for either Windows or Ubuntu).
- Follow these links for detailed WUBI operating instructions: http://wiki.ubuntu.com/WubiGuide and here: http://help.ubuntu.com/community/Wubi
- Ubuntu 32 bit can run under Windows 32 bit or Windows 64 bit.

GOODWILL - RECONNECT

Goodwill Industries of Northern New England is now accepting donations of computers and accessories. They will accept old or broken computers including any brand of computer, laptops, cords, keyboards, mice, monitors, scanners, printers, and fax machines and parts. Donating is free and will be accepted at all Goodwill retail stores and donation centers in Maine, New Hampshire and northern Vermont.

You will be responsible for wiping all personal information from hard drives before donating computer equipment.

This effort by Goodwill is to help keep the environment clean and will support their mission.....

and in April, date to be announced, the United Way of Kennebec Valley in collaboration with E-Waste will be holding an electronics recycling drive. The drop off will be in the lower parking lot of the Augusta Civic Center. There will be no charge for dropping off items. However, the United Way will have volunteers on hand to accept donations to support the Heat Helpers program which along with various commnity agencies assists those in need of assistance for home heating.

Just a reminder that April is the month we celebrate Earth Day. Recycling materials that are potentially toxic to the environment, as many computer components are, contributes to the responsible stewardship of the Earth that we all share. Do your part and do it...!

Apcug Reprint Series

Neat Things You Can Do With A Flash Drive

By Vinny La Bash,
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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 above).

By now you're probably tired of reading about how much better Windows 7 is than Vista. Me too, so let's spend some time examining some of the things you can do with a flash drive other than mere data storage. A USB flash drive consists of a flash memory data storage device integrated with a USB (Universal Serial Bus) interface. USB flash drives are easily removable, and much smaller than a floppy disk. They are rewritable, and usually weigh less than an ounce. There is a wide range of storage capacities with the most common being from 2 GB to 32 GB. Higher capacities up to 256 GB tend to be pricey.

One of the most useful things you can do with a flash drive is to run portable applications. Open Office, for example, is a free suite of programs that includes a word processor, spreadsheet, data manager, presentation tool, and drawing package. You can store the suite as a portable application, and run it on any computer that supports Windows. Firefox and Thunderbird are also available as mobile applications. Having office applications, email, and an internet browser all pooled in a portable drive you can carry on a key chain is a powerful combination. If you want more go to ***www.portableapps.com*** for an open source platform that works with iPods and portable hard drives in addition to flash drives. The platform is not only free, but it's a full function site. You are not limited to a trial period or a limited function subset. There is no sign in requirement, and no necessity to provide even an email address. Go for it.

Everyone wants a faster system. ***With either Windows Vista or Windows 7, the built-in ReadyBoost feature can speed up your computer with a USB flash drive.*** ReadyBoost takes the storage space on a USB flash drive and converts it into an additional memory cache that supplements the main memory cache on your primary disk drive. It can do this because flash memory is faster than regular disk drives. It's faster because it has no moving parts, and you can get a noticeable improvement in response time. Implementing ReadyBoost is simplicity itself. Insert the USB flash drive into the USB slot on your computer and follow the configuration prompts.

If you work or live in an environment where other folks have physical access to your computer you can use your flash drive to lock everyone else out of your PC. There is no built-in utility like ReadyBoost for this, but you can download a free tool called Predator from ***www.brothersoft.com*** that provides this function. Predator uses a standard USB flash drive as an access control device. After performing a short installation and configuration process, your flash disk becomes a key that will lock and unlock your PC. When you leave your PC remove the USB flash drive. This causes the screen to go blank while disabling the mouse and keyboard. When you ready to resume, put the flash drive back, and everything returns to normal. Move over, Mr. Bond, Predator is here.

All the preceding capabilities are very convenient, but how would you like to carry around a portable operating system? If you are willing to expend a little time and energy you can configure a USB flash drive to be a bootable Windows 7 drive. You will need a flash drive with a capacity of al least eight gigabytes, and of course a Windows 7 installation disk. Start out by inserting your flash drive into its USB socket and inserting the Windows 7 installation disk in the optical drive. Please make a note of the drive letters. This is essential for successful installation.

Preparing the flash drive is the next step. Click on the Start orb and type: Diskpart

Pressing Enter opens a command window. (After typing a command at the command prompt always press Enter to execute the command.) At the prompt type: List Disk

You will see a list of all your hard drives, partitions, optical drives, card reader drives, and flash drives. Identify the optical drive that contains the Windows 7 installation disk and the flash drive you're working with. For this example we'll assume the flash drive is disk #4, also designated as G and the optical drive is disk #2, also designated as D.

At the command prompt type: Select Disk 4

Run the following commands:

Clean

Create

Primary

Partition Select Partition 1

Active Format FS=FAT32

Assign

Exit

This series of commands erased extraneous material from the flash drive, created an active primary partition, and formatted it with the FAT32 file system. The next step is to copy the Windows 7 installation files to the flash drive.

At the command prompt type: Xcopy D:*.* /S/E/F G

In this example D is the drive housing the Windows 7 installation disk and G is the USB flash drive. The command copies the installation files to the flash drive, and when it finishes you have a bootable Windows 7 flash drive. The last thing you need to do to make this work is go into the BIOS and make the first bootable device the flash drive.

Carrying a flash drive around is obviously far more convenient than carrying a DVD, and has the additional advantage of being faster than a DVD. This procedure also works for Windows Vista, but why bother when Windows 7 is here?

Think SPRING !
It's just around the corner

Apcug Reprint Series

Nybbles and Bits

By John Pearce, Chair, WebBoard, Pikes Peak Computer Application Society, CO
February 2010 Bits of Bytes, Newsletter of the P*PCompAS
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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 above).

Last month, I mentioned an article in TechRepublic regarding removing old drivers from your system. Little did I know that issue was going surface in my notebook computer that I upgraded to Windows 7. The touchpad on my notebook computer has a vertical scroll area at the right side of the pad. I had no problems using the vertical scroll until I upgraded to Windows 7 at which point, it stopped working.

I ignored the problem until just after the January PPCompAS meeting. When I started to investigate and tried to access the settings for the touchpad, there was a pop-up dialogue box telling me that IntelliPoint was blocked from running because of known incompatibilities with Windows 7. It took me a few minutes to remember that I had bought a USB mouse and installed Microsoft IntelliPoint software shortly after purchasing the notebook. I had used the USB mouse until I bought a Logitech wireless mouse a year or so ago.

My first thought was to just remove the offending software. Good idea except there was nothing shown for IntelliPoint in the Programs and Features list and nothing for the USB mouse in the Mice section of Device Manager. Connecting the USB mouse made it appear in Device Manager and caused IntelliPoint to appear in the Programs list. I thought I was close to being done. Surprise, surprise! Trying to perform an uninstall of the software produced the pop-up about IntelliPoint being blocked. I wondered how you could uninstall it if it was blocked from running. This time the pop-up dialogue box provided a link to an update and I performed the update. After the IntelliPoint update completed, the vertical scroll on the touchpad worked correctly. However, I decided to remove IntelliPoint because I no longer use the USB mouse and could not think of a good reason to leave the software installed.

This is the first time I can remember where it was necessary to upgrade software just to remove it. I expect the Windows 7 upgrade did not upgrade the IntelliPoint software because the USB mouse was not connected at the time the upgrade was performed. Maybe next time I will remember that USB devices should be plugged in during an upgrade and to make the related software and drivers visible. Even better would be to remove old drivers as TechRepublic suggests.

Editor's Note: I was involved in a Windows 7 upgrade from Windows Vista. There was a problem in Windows Vista (not anything surprising there) so the best thing to do was salvage all the data and re-install Vista first and then do the Windows 7 upgrade. This was a smooth operation since there were no pesky after market drivers or left over artifacts for Windows 7 to have to deal with.

KENNEBEC VALLEY COMPUTER SOCIETY

Presents

Social Networking with FaceBook Part 2

Presented by

Brian Boudreau

Thursday March 11 th 2010 - 7 PM

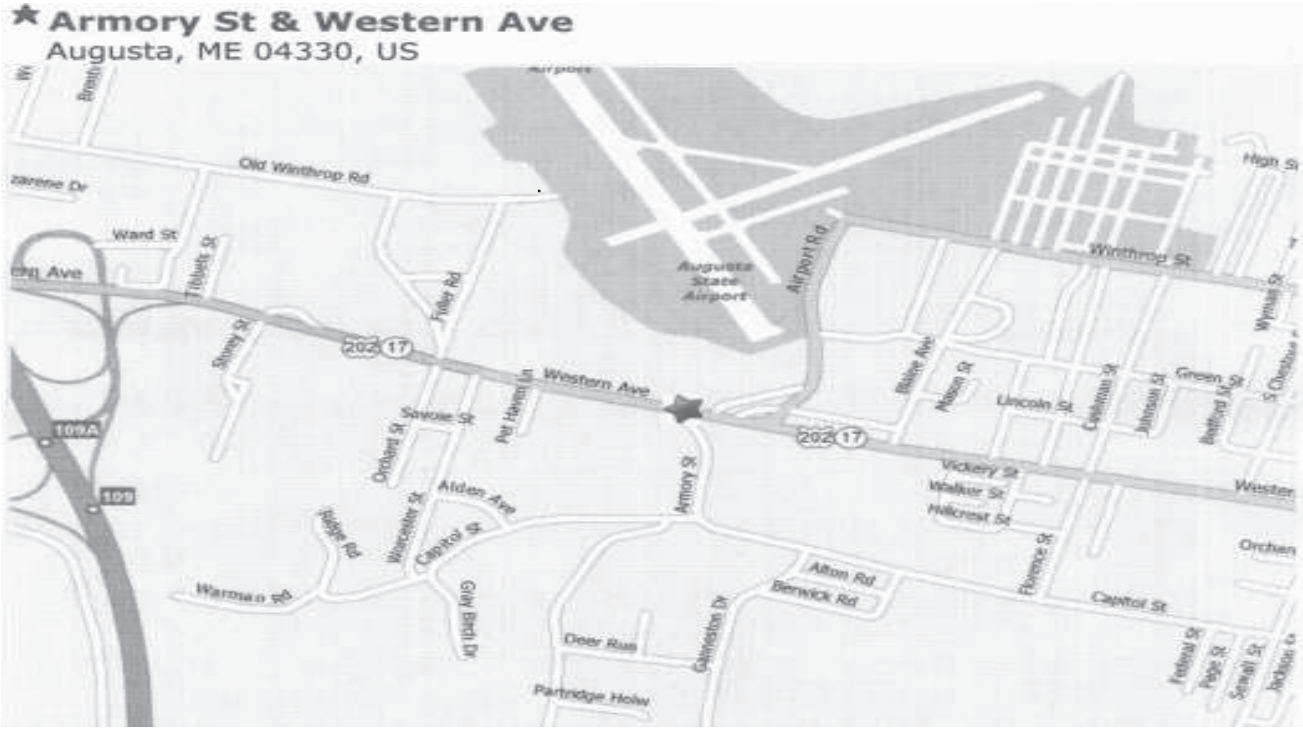
Social Time 6:30 to 7 PM

Lou Buker Community Center
Armory Street
Augusta, Maine

The Public is Cordially Invited

Bring a friend, meet a friend

KVCS MEETING LOCATION



MELUG-Central Linux User Group Meeting

Saturday, March 20 at 10:30 AM, Room 110 at the Frye Building, Kennebec Valley Community College, Fairfield.
The topic will be MythTv presented by Rick Gatewood

GEEKS ON WHEELS

Like to go to the big City and see the sights? Consider the computer "tour." You know.... kind of like taking a trip to someplace you haven't been before. You get to discover new things and have fun. Talk to Tim True or e-mail him *driver@kvcs.org* if you are interested. Lunch is not provided - you pay - but it is always an adventure. The tour stops at Microcenter in Cambridge, Calumet Cameras in Cambridge, and Hunt's Cameras in Melrose, MA or Portland from time to time and upon request.... (It doesn't take much to convince them to stop there) and other techie havens (what's left of them!). We keep hunting for them. You will also discover the pleasures of early morning coffee and pastries, including whoopie pies, even before the wheels begin to roll.

The smaller Coast Guard ice cutter on the Kennebec River working to open a channel below the ice jam and a picture of the ice blocks shoved onto the banks of the river

Photos courtesy of Tim True

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AUGUSTA, ME 04338-2791

KENNEBEC VALLEY COMPUTER SOCIETY

Post Office Box 2791, Augusta, Maine 04338-2791

____ 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 2010 membership year)
( ) New Member (Dues waived for 2010 membership year)
( ) Family (Dues waived for 2010 membership year)
( ) Student (Full time status - Dues waived for 2010 membership year)

FOR KVCS USE
DP_____
CH_____
CA_____

Name:_____ E-mail address:_____

Address:_____ City/State_____ Zip:_____

Home Phone:_____ Work Phone:_____ Date of Birth:_____/_____/_____

Your Interest in Joining KVCS?_____

Referred by: _____

10/03 Signature:_____