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Cyber Chat

"A computer user group newsletter"

Volume 9 Issue 3

DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435

March 2007

General Meeting

March 15—10:00 AM

Okaloosa-Walton

College

Chautauqua Center

Room 201

(computer lab—bldg 2)

DeFuniak Springs, Fl.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

MARCH

*Lightning
presented by
Chelco*

APRIL

*Producing Cards
in Word presented
by JB Hillard*

MAY

*EXCEL INTRO
Presented by
Robert Connor*

Surprising New Search Engine

By Sandy Berger, Compu-KISS

www.compukiss.com

Google has been my search engine of choice for several years, but recent developments have made me change my alliance to a new search engine.

Perhaps you read about it. A few weeks ago, 20 million of AOL's customers Web search queries appeared on the Web. These included the user's ID, the query they typed into the search engine, and other information.



Newsmakers picked up on the story because of some of the

dramatic Web searches performed. For instance, AOL user 2708 searched for "I hate my ex boyfriend," "how to humiliate someone," "free angry stuff to send to an ex lover," and "makehimpay.net". User 17556639 looked for even more vicious information with searches on "how to kill a wife", "photo of dead people," "decapitated photos," "wife killer," and "steak and cheese." (Guess they got hungry.)

After the sensationalism died down, many people realized that the true story was that search engines are keeping a collection of information that can lead to a personal dossier of an individual. AOL's information included user numbers that were identified by cookies, but users can

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also be identified by Internet addresses, bringing them closer to our true identities.

All of the big search engines keep such information. Recently Google, AOL, Microsoft, and Yahoo were subpoenaed to turn over information of this type to the Justice Department. Of the big four, only Google refused to release the information.

In response to this story, one search engine, Ixquick, immediately issued a press release stating that they are taking steps to provide privacy protection for their users. Ixquick stated that after a search, they will immediately and permanently delete all personal search details.

I was impressed by a company who thought that protecting our privacy was more important than gleaning information from our searches and selling data for marketing purposes. I had never heard of Ixquick, but I immediately surfed over to www.ixquick.com. I was impressed with what I found.

Ixquick, which is owned by a Dutch company, is a metasearch engine. That means that it searches several databases to get its search results. Ixquick uses Yahoo/Alta vista, Gigablast, Ask Jeeves/Teoma, Open Directory and 7 other search engines. It is available in 18 languages.

Ixquick marks the search results with stars, one star for every search engine that chooses that particular Web site as one of the ten best results for your search. This effectively gives you the relevancy of the search results.

(See Search Engine-page 6)

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The principle of equal access/equal opportunity for everyone is practiced.

The primary purpose is to assist our members and others to become more proficient in the use of a computer for their personal enjoyment. We serve through promotion of computer literacy and education by being actively involved in the community.

The Chautauqua Cyber Club, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization under section 501(c)3 for educational purposes, and incorporated under the laws of the State of Florida.

CCC Listserv: email to waltonccc@freelists.org

Free computer help by using the club listserv. Post a problem by email and obtain an answer (most of the time).

The listserv is a service provided to members of the Chautauqua Cyber Club and invited guests. It is used for problems solving, posting club news and special bulletins, and to maintain a user friendly communication network.

To participate just send a request to jbh37@panhandle.rr.com

Publishing information: Articles submitted for publication should be in Microsoft Word or regular ASCII text and unformatted. Photos with article are encouraged.

Presenters/Writers: Members are encouraged to volunteer and present a program on software or hardware. Vendors will provide presentations-in-a-box, and publishers will provide books for review. Whatever is presented becomes the property of the presenter. Make your interest known and share. You will be surprised at what all is available to demonstrate.

Cyber Chat: This newsletter is prepared using Microsoft Publisher 2003, a homebrew 3.2 MHz PC, Hewlette Packard Deskjet 722C printer.

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Boot n' Reboot

by J. B. Hillard—President



You should be receiving this issue of Cyber Chat about the time Robert Connor and I are in Kissimmee for the FACUG Spring Conference. As always a great time is planned. Read all about it at www.facug.org

After many years of meeting on Saturday and a declining membership it's time to try something else. We might lose a few members who are used to Saturday meeting, but hopefully we will pick up others on a weekday. I has been almost impossible to schedule programs on a Saturday for most business presenters are available only during the week. If a trial run does not work out and we are not able to provide informative programs we can always go back to Saturday.

Programs may not be exclusively related to the home computer. Someone suggested a demonstration on a computer embroidery sewing machine. Another suggested movie editing using a computer. We haven't even scratched the surface on all the possibilities. While email and surfing the Internet is important to many of our members, there are others who wish to move beyond the mundane and look at more exciting opportunities. We will do our best to bring in such programs.

Incidentally, we can obtain many software programs for demonstration before the members. You name it and we may be able to get exactly what you want. A working copy will be provided to the presenter and it's theirs to keep for stepping up and presenting. Of course there are zillions of trial programs that can be demonstrated.

Sam Sloan and I are retiring in a few months from the repair shop. We will still be available on a limited basis to help our members and continue a bit of volunteer work for Okaloosa-Walton College. If you would like to volunteer 4 hours on Monday and Tuesday morning to work on computers it's an opportunity to learn how to care for your own machine. Robert Connor is now working with us and his time is greatly appreciated.

Happy computing,

J. B.

Notice

Meeting Change

The monthly meeting has been moved to the third Thursday of each month.

Next meeting is March 15, 10AM, Room 201, OWC Chautauqua Center.

We will try this for a few months in attempt to offer more interesting programs on a weekday. Programs are subject to change.

If a volunteer will step forward to run a Tech SIG on a Saturday we can arrange access to the computer lab and the shop. Get in touch with me if you are interested.

J. B. Hillard

Computer Clean Up Day

One of the benefits of membership is that on Monday and Tuesday of March 12 and 13 we will have a PC maintenance day at the computer lab in room 210 at the Chautauqua Center. We will take only six appointments each day. They will be for 8:30, 9:30 and 10:30. Please contact your Editor for appointments—kittysfour@earthlink.net.

What we will do:

1. Completely vacuum the inside of the PC and check to make sure that all connections are tight.
2. Remove any Adware and install Belarc
3. Delete cookies. temporary files (if desired)
4. Install Internet Explorer 7 (if desired)
5. Install Service Pak updates for your Operating System.
6. Show you how to Defrag and run Scan disc.

For all of this a \$10 donation is requested, and \$20 for non-members (if appointments are available for non-members). The Board felt that this is a very reasonable amount for the service.



**DON
EDRINGTON**

THE SENIOR TUTOR

WWW.PCDON.COM

My Space-Continued from February

Having long-distance IMs with friends around the country (or around the world) is fun, easy and totally free — but it can be a cyber minefield if you're not careful.

I was about to move on to another subject, when I received an IM from another lady friend. In those days I used to be fairly active on AOL's Story and Poetry boards, and would occasionally be asked by a writer to review something he or she had written before it was posted.

Donna asked if I'd take a look at a poem she'd just written. Now I was getting nervous. Donna's specialty was writing erotic poetry that sometimes pushed the limits of what was allowed on the boards (and the boards were quite tolerant when it came to poetry).

"Well, yeah, sure," I replied, with a good deal of apprehension. She sent me the link to the poem's location and I began to scroll it one line at a time. I only needed to see two lines to know that it was time to end the IM demonstration and move on to other things.

Actually, it was a very beautiful poem, written to a guy whom she'd met on the poetry boards. But that's a whole other bunch of stories — online romances.

IMs Can Be a Cyber Minefield If You're Not Careful

As an example, if you're having an IM chat with a friend on AOL and another person decides to send you an IM, the new message will land right on top of the first one and hide it from view. The IM boxes can be easily rearranged - but if you didn't notice the arrival of the new one, you might type something into its reply box that was really intended for the other person.

I was once having a chat with a friend about the AOL story boards, when she asked if I'd heard a rumor about one of the other writers (whom I'll call "Jane"). I closed my eyes for a second and then typed in the following reply:

"Yes, I'd heard the rumor — but I really don't think Jane is that kind of a woman." I was about to click **"Send"** when I discovered to my horror I'd typed the message into the reply box of an IM that had just arrived from Jane.

I quickly deleted it and typed, "Hi, Jane — how ya doin'?"

Then I had to tell the other person what had almost happened. You can imagine her relief at hearing I'd caught myself before clicking Send.

Browsing with Different Browsers

By Don Edrington

A number of folks have been asking which browser I recommend. Let's start by explaining just what a browser is and what it does.

The original Internet was created to have phone-line connectivity among various institutions such as universities and governmental offices around the country. These lines carried plain text messages only, and the software needed to send and receive the messages was relatively simple.

In the early 1990s, some far-sighted entrepreneurs added something called the World Wide Web to the Internet, whereby files containing graphics, audio and video could also be transmitted. However, a new kind of interface was needed to send, receive and read these files, as well as being able to browse the Web and look at different sites.

Early browsers, such as Mosaic and Netscape, were available for sale as computer users became interested in exploring the new Web. When Microsoft began including Internet Explorer free with Windows, other browsers became free as well.

At about the same time, AOL added a browser to its interface, meaning that its members had Web access without needing to use their built-in Internet Explorer browser.

In fact, AOL users were often unaware that other browsers existed, or even that a browser was part of their AOL package.

With the advent of cable access, the Web began to grow exponentially, causing users to become more interested in how various browsers compared to one another. Some entrepreneurs went so far as to develop an open-source browser called Mozilla, upon which other browsers were built, such as Firefox and a revamped Netscape.

(See Browsing-page7)

TIP LINE

Here is a tip for addressing envelopes from your Editor.

Open Word and click on "Tools" and drop down to "envelopes and labels"

A box opens up with two tabs one says envelopes the other says labels.

There are two spaces one marked delivery address and the other return address.



Now there are two ways of filling in the delivery and/or return address.

One way is that you may just go ahead and type in the address or you may use the address book. Note that the address book is above each blank

area. To use the address book, you must double click the address book icon and this takes you to the address book itself. Now select "new" and fill in the first and last name as indicated by the boxes. Now, and this is important, go to the "business" tab and fill in the information as per the boxes. In the first box marked "Company" either put a company name or a personal name such as John Jones.

I have found that if you populate the information that is required in the business tab in the "home" tab the name and address of the person that you want to print will **not** show up in the deliver address space, just the name will populate. I don't know why, maybe it is just my program that does this but I just recently discovered this when I was trying to make a label to send to a family member. If anyone finds anything different please let me know.

The return address is pretty simple, just go ahead and type in your personal information and it pretty much defaults to that every time you open this box.

If you populate the address book with various names and addresses you will have the opportunity, in the future of using the little arrow next to the address book and a small box will open with that last addresses you used and if you down arrow you will bring

up the name that you want.

Now go ahead and place the envelope in the printer. **NOTE:** Make sure to select the proper size envelope. Go to Options and select the envelope size from the menu otherwise the address will not print correctly. When you have selected the proper size, the picture of the envelope will appear and also the correct way to insert it in the printer. Play attention to that otherwise you may print it upside down.

In the label tab you will only have one address in which to populate. It works the same way, just double click the address book and click on the name you want to populate.

Below this address note the Print box. If you wish to make a full page of the same label click on the "full page of the same label" or if only a "single label", click it.

When you print labels, go the option tab and indicate the type label you have in the printer and the printer will line up to correctly print that label. Also note that you can also tell the printer what label in row and column to use if you have already used some labels.

If you wanted to make a Christmas Card list, just go in the address book and create a group and put all of the names in there and you cut addressing cards during the Holiday by more than half. Just a note of caution though. The envelopes must fit the machine and most cards don't.



The members of your Board will be trying very hard to attempt to peak more of your interests in the future. As you can see by the front page, we have already started by letting you, the members, know what is coming up for future programs by trying to publish them at least three months in advance.

This year we will be seeking to increase membership in the club and this is where you come in. Since it will be known in advance what the program for the month will be, bring in a friend or two and tout the benefits of membership.

Robert Connor

(Search Engine From-page 1)

Also, the Ixquick interface is clean and easy to use. It allows you to quickly choose if you want your search to find only one of the words of your search phrase, all of the words, or the exact phrase. There is also a place where you can easily enter words that you may want to eliminate from your search. You don't need to fool around with pluses, minuses, or quotation marks as you do with some popular search engines.

I was extremely impressed with the Ixquick's International Phone Directory.

Just type in a name and city or state and you can actually find people. Ixquick's Reverse Directory can tell you who's calling when you enter a telephone number. With Bigfoot and most other people directories now charging for people searches, this is an extremely useful free search tool.

Ixquick also has a comparison shopping service and an image search feature. Like Google and others, Ixquick offers a search toolbar.

After using Ixquick for a few weeks, I can honestly say that I have been very happy with the results. Using it in conjunction with Google gives you a wonderfully wide selection of search results. If, however, you want to really keep your searches private, then you will want to use Ixquick exclusively. After the recent AOL debacle, I feel that Ixquick is providing a great service not only as a search engine, but also as a leader on privacy issues.

There is no restriction against any non-profit group using this article as long as it is kept in context with proper credit given the author. The Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization of which this group is a member, brings this article to you.

(Browsing From-page 4)

So which one is best? Well, because Internet Explorer is the most used, it's the one continually under attack from malicious hackers - which is why Microsoft keeps sending us patches and service packs. Firefox has fewer security issues, so many find it preferable.

Space here doesn't allow for a side-by-side comparison of all the various browser differences, but I can tell you what I like. I use Firefox for most things, but switch to Internet Explorer for watching videos on

CNN News, because Firefox needs a special plug-in for CNN videos. I really like the way Firefox lets me store all my various e-mail account passwords so I don't have to keep typing them in. However, this feature is of questionable value if others have access to your PC.

Both Internet Explorer and Firefox came out with new versions recently: Internet Explorer 7 and Firefox 2. I tried both and prefer Internet Explorer 6 and Firefox 1.5. Only you can decide which works best for your needs. I'm waiting till the newer versions are further debugged.

Finally, I have to point out that both versions of Firefox are somewhat unstable, in that they hang up and stop working after several uses during a given computer session. In fact, it's not uncommon to have to use CTRL+ALT+DEL to break out of a hang-up and reboot your computer. If this were an issue with just one computer I would say it's a one-PC problem. However, we have found this to be an issue on five different computers we have used recently.

More PC Tips can be found at www.pcdon.com, where archives of all these newsletters from 2003, 2004, and 2005 can be found, along with Downloadable Music, Free Software, and all kinds of other interesting things.

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...can a pizza get to your house faster than an ambulance.

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...do drugstores make the sick walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions while the healthy people buy cigarettes at the front.

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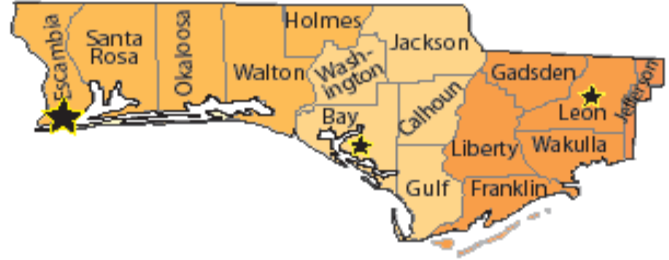
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