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Cyber Chat

Volume 10 Issue 2

DeFuniak Springs, Florida

March 2009

Regular Meeting

March 19, 2009

10:00 AM

Northwest Florida State College

908 W. Hwy 90

Room 154

DeFuniak Springs, Florida

SIG

8:45-9:45

Room 154

Magic Word Brings Email to the Offline World

A review by Gabe Goldberg,

Computers and Publishing, Inc.

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If you've ever wondered how to bring email to the techno-phobe in your life, the answer isn't Ab-racadabra, it's Presto.

If you're reading this online, you own or have access to a computer. But you likely have friends or relatives -- perhaps elderly, budget-restricted, technophobic -- who don't. So they're not in close touch and can't share online family or community activities.

Presto <<http://www.presto.com>> is a combination color inkjet printer and paid Web-based service which allows people without computers to receive email, including attachments.

Setting it up is simple: after purchasing the device, someone with just a bit of tech savvy creates the account, picks an email ad-

dress (such as gabeg99@presto.com), and lists people allowed to send email to the address. At specified times of day, the printer dials a toll-free telephone number, downloads accumulated email, and prints it.

With only two controls -- Volume and Stop -- it's easy to operate. It plugs directly into a telephone jack and doesn't need a separate phone line or jack or even a splitter, since an existing telephone or accessory (answering machine or Caller ID device) can plug into it, daisy-chain style.

Presto is ideal for letting seniors receive email from children, grandchildren, friends, former colleagues, military buddies, etc. And it's useful when businesses request customer email addresses to conduct or simplify transactions. It handles pictures and many attachment formats nicely, printing them as if it was a FAX machine.

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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.

NOTICE

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 is a monthly publication. It is mailed to each members as a benefit, but can be viewed on the website at www.waltonccc.org.

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in Walton County

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J. B. Hillard 892-3450 / 892-8100

Roberts Ramblings



March is upon us. Time to do a bit of spring cleaning and get ready for summer. Speaking of spring cleaning this would be a really good time for you to wipe off the vents to your computer and your monitor, for that matter any electronic equipment you have. And you might as well clean out the dust bunnies from under the refrigerator and take the time to get the lint out of the dryer vent. I know, I know, dusting is not my favorite thing either. Kicks up my allergies and makes me miserable for the rest of the day, but one of those things that needs to be done. Heat is the enemy to electronic goods so get that lint and dust cleared away before summer gets here. We had a really good meeting in February. I was surprised as to the number that were present. I am hoping that everyone went home and started practicing their Facebook skills so you can bring on the questions at the meeting in March. Next month, time permitting, I want to talk about Twitter. I am sure you are starting to see quite about twittering, tweets, tweeple and the such on the news as it is the current rage of the Web 2.0 world. So get ready as I try to give you some of

Our Community



the ins and outs of how to use twitter at the next meeting. I am finding all of this web 2.0 stuff pretty exciting as I learn to bring the various applications together so that one entry by myself, results in the information going to a wide variety of users all in the way that they desire to receive it. To make this even easier, and to bring together a single location for news, computer information, things of that nature, I am working with Diane Merkel to do a complete overhaul of our website, waltonccc.org. If curiosity is getting the best of you, feel free to track our progress as we work on the new site, you can watch it at waltonccc.southwalton.com. Once we have most of the bugs and new features installed, we will move it over to replace the current site with information. We also need some people that want to work on the new site. Writers abound, so find something of interest that you are passionate about, let us know and we will set you up so that you can blog till your heart's content. Well until next month.....

Robert

THIS 'N THAT



We had a really good meeting in February.

We had twenty-one members in attendance. Three new members joined, they are Mariea Creamer, D.D. Karalec and Wayne Sconiers. We welcome them to the club to enjoy their membership and fellowship. I think I may have misspelled DD's last name, but I could not read my writing a few days after the meeting. Sorry DD.

Our fearless leader, Robert talked about the web site, Facebook. He has set up a Group for us. Just log into Facebook and search for Chautauqua Cyber Club. He explained how you get friends to join your list and so on. I don't know about you but I ended up deleting my account. Perhaps, I should give it another go, as they say. So, if anyone wants to start a Facebook account, I'll be at the Senior Center on Wednesdays from 10:00 AM till Noon. But, call Leigh at 892-8746 to make an appointment. I had to do this because, I would go down there for a couple of weeks and nobody showed up. No use in me sitting there waiting around for nothing. Thus the call.

If you want to try and do a Facebook Account, I shall be more than happy to help you. Perhaps we could both pick up a few things.

Just to give you a heads up, in the near future we will be closing the computer operation that we now have at the College and move it to the Life Enrichment Senior Center. As you know or may not know, JB is planning on retiring from the college and

when he does things at the college may change and the room that the Club has had for years may not be available to us in the future. Since the LESC has the room now, we might as well take advantage of it before the space is no longer available. We will still have our meetings at the college.

Sam and I have designated two rooms at the center for this purpose. One all of the computers that we presently have and maintain will be moved there. The other room will be to work on computers as we are doing now. Except that members of the club and center can bring their computers in to have cleaned and maintained but not repaired.

We have a volunteer that will build whatever is necessary to equip the new space. Since this will fall under community projects this will entail using some Club funds for the building of this room. This should not be substantial and if you know me, I don't like to spend money I like to bring it in.

More on this as we progress further.

Now if you want an adventure here are some web sites that you can visit and download some really nice photos such as the first one:

apod.nasa.gov/apod

Tinyurl.com/37684

drawminos.com

pem.org/origami

hulu.com

oldcomputers.com

quotestumblr.com

Editor

___ TIP LINE ___

Q:

Sometimes when I try to delete a file from my computer, it comes up with a "Cannot Delete File" error. Why does that happen and is there any way I can get around it? Please help!

A:

Worry no more! I can help, I can help! And believe me, I feel your pain. I often get that same error message and let me tell you, it ranks pretty high on my chart as one of the most frustrating things that could possibly happen with my computer. And guessing by the tone of the question, I'm thinking several of you have had this problem too.

Well, you've come to the right place, because I'm going to show you how you can actually get rid of the files your computer deems undeletable. Now, before I go on, I want to make sure everyone's on the same page. The "**Cannot Delete File**" error often shows up when you're trying to delete certain files off of your computer. It could be a document or a picture, a music file or even a saved e-mail. Whatever it is, for some reason, that error occurs more often than we'd all like.

The error can pop up under several different circumstances as well. Sometimes the message may tell you it cannot delete the file because there's not enough free disk space. Other times, it will tell you another person or program is using the file and you have to close any applications that may be accessing it. Well, a lot of times, none of the scenarios make any sense. So, more often than not, you're left sitting there thinking, "What am I supposed to do now?" Well, here are some instructions on how to get past that pesky little error message. If you follow them exactly, the file you want to delete really will be deleted by the time you're finished. Here we go!

1.) First, you need to find the location of the file you're trying to delete, as well as, the file's name. For example, maybe you're trying to delete a file called "**mywork.txt**" and it's located in your My Documents folder. (The location for that would then be **C:\Documents and Settings\Your**

Name\My Documents. You must find the exact and full location of the file for this to work). Write both of those down on a piece of paper and keep it close to you.

2.) Next, go to **Start, Turn Off Computer** and choose **Restart**.

3.) When your computer starts to boot back up, continuously hit the **F8** key on your keyboard until the **Advanced Boot Options Menu** comes up.

4.) From that menu, select the **Safe Mode with Command Prompt** choice and then log in normally to your local administrator account.

5.) In the command prompt box, you're going to use the letters "cd" (it stands for change directory) with the location of the file you wrote down earlier. You'll also need to put quotation marks around the location. So, with my example from up above, you would type in **cd "C:\Documents and Settings\Your Name\My Documents."** You don't put quotes around the cd part, just the location.

6.) The next command you need to type in is the delete command, which is "**del.**" You'll need to do that with the file name you want to delete. With my example above, you would type in **del my-work.txt**. You don't use quotation marks for this part.

Once you have all that done, the file should be gone. You can go back to your initial location to make sure, but it should be deleted for good. If all goes well, you won't ever have to worry about that darn file again. This is just an easy way to get rid of all the files your computer tells you it cannot delete. You can't beat that feeling of happiness, now can you?!

~ Erin

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Tech News That Affects Everybody

Written by Sandy Berger, CompuKISS

www.compukiss.com

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Some of us scour the technology and business sections of the newspaper and the Web to get the latest news. Some of us head for the lifestyle and community sections, without much of a care about technology. Yet, today's technology news is often news that will affect everyone's life in one way or another.

Let me give you a few examples. The Pope recently announced opening of the Vatican YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/vaticanit) which will feature short video clips of Pope Benedict XVI's activities and links to news and information about the Catholic Church. The Pope is posting two or three videos each day. Most are short clips showing the Pope's speeches, activities, and participation in important events. In a recent speech, the Pope praised the Internet as offering rich opportunities for dialogue, friendship and spreading the Christian message.

There is a lot of irreverent stuff on YouTube, but the Pope's participation shows how mainstream this popular video website has become. YouTube, FaceBook, MySpace, and other social networking websites have be-

come more and more popular. If you haven't yet visited any of these, YouTube is a great place to start. (www.youtube.com)

Another recent news announcement was the Palm Pre, which is a smartphone that will be available in a few months through Sprint. You might think that this is just another phone, and you would be right. But the implications for cell phones are quite dramatic. Palm has developed a totally new version of the operating system for this phone. Google now has their own cell phone operating system as do Microsoft, BlackBerry, and Apple. These are some pretty big name and you will notice that the software that runs these phones is called an operating system. That's because these phone are really mini-computers that can do email, surf the web, and perform many other functions. Cell phones are changing dramatically. They are turning into handheld computers that will change the lives of those who use them.

We also should not overlook Apple's recent announcement that they will be dropping the DRM (digital rights management) for all songs in their iTunes store. The DRM crippled the songs so they had limited use. For instance, they could only be played on a certain number of devices or be copied a certain number of times. So music lovers the world over will be rejoicing to see that by April of this year, all of iTunes 10 million songs will be DRM-free. There is one caveat. Those who have previously purchased music and/or videos on iTunes that included Apple's DRM will now have to pay to get the DRM removed. Apple will be charging 30 cents a song. iTunes has sold six billion songs since going online in 2003. They did not offer any DRM-free music until recently. So most of those six billion songs had DRM.

(See Tech page 8)

Computer Tutor Team Newsletter

Feb. 28, 2009

Don Edrington & Mary Hanson

Font Size vs View Size - Image Size vs File Size

Hal McCawley wrote to ask if there is a way to increase the font size on incoming Outlook Express and Windows Mail messages. Yes. Click on-

Tools>Options>Read>Fonts>Font Size and make your choice.

I've also been asked about increasing the size of text found on Web pages. Internet Explorer 7 and 8 make this easy by having "percentage" choices in the lower right corner of all pages. Bear in mind that choosing a larger percentage only changes the "screen view" and not the size of an actual print-out on paper.

However, if you're reading a North County Times webpage article (at www.NCTimes.com) choosing an "Increase Font" option will increase both the view and the print-out size of the text.

If you want a print-out of a particular article, rather than the whole page, mouse-select the target text, right-click the selection, and click **Print**. In the dialogue box that appears checkmark "**Selection**" before clicking **Print**.

For even more control over a print-out, consider copying a Web page article or email message into a word processing program, where you can easily change font sizes, colors, and styles along with any other editing you may want to insert. If your word processor is slow to launch, consider using Notepad for your print-out. Notepad is quick and easy, but limits you to one font and size, which can be chosen by clicking **Format>Font**.

Making a Digital Image Smaller — Dimensions or File Size?

Other size issues concern images, where I'm often asked how to make a photo's size smaller. Well, this depends on whether one wants the physical dimensions of a picture smaller, such as, 4x6 inches instead of 9x12 inches, or wants the "byte" size smaller so that the picture takes up less disk space.

Well, I recommend Irfanview (free from www.Irfanview.com) to handle both these chores. When installing the application be sure to click "**Yes**" when asked if you want it to be your default program for opening and editing images. This will ensure that when an image's filename is double-clicked it will be displayed in Irfanview and be ready for physical resizing (which can include cropping) and for "byte" resizing.

If the picture is too large to fit comfortably in the Irfanview window, clicking the toolbar minus sign (-) will reduce it to a manageable size. To crop the picture, use your left mouse button to draw a box around the area you want to preserve. Then click the toolbar scissors, followed by clicking the "Paste" icon. The cropped image will then appear for further editing and/or being saved.

To change a picture's physical dimensions click **Image>Resize/Resample** and type in the preferred width/height numbers or choose a percentage of the existing size.

To change the byte-size of a JPG, click on **File>Save As** and give the picture a new name, whereupon the new file size will be approximately **80%** of the original. However, this percentage of file compression can be adjusted to suit your particular needs.

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(Email from page 1)

So it allows sharing any online or computer content as PDF files such as maps and directions, travel itineraries, Web pages, spreadsheets with financial or family contact information.

Simple steps authorize new people to send email, and when ink runs low, the printer is smart enough to either alert the person who set up the account or automatically order new cartridges.

After failing for a dozen years to excite my in-laws about email – they steadfastly resisted being online -- my retired Navy father-in-law fell in love with a Presto I loaned him, discovering that it let him hear from his old Navy buddies around the world. And receiving color pictures of the grandchildren sealed the deal.

The printer costs \$150 or less (always comparison shop online!) and the service costs \$12.50/month with yearly subscription. The only thing missing is the printer downloading paper and ink through the phone line -- but that would need real magic!

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(Tech from page 6)

If every purchaser pays Apple 30 cents for taking away the DRM, Apple would make \$180,000,000. A boon to Apple, a pain-in-the-rear for honest music lovers who previously used the iTunes store.

Microsoft was also in the news recently with their announcement that the beta testing version Windows 7, their next operating system could be downloaded and tried for free. Their website was inundated by curious Windows users. So many came, that they had to add more servers and download services. They originally said that they would limit the downloads to 2.5 million, but recently removed that restriction and will continue to offer the beta trial until February. Don't think that you will be getting something for nothing, though. The beta of Windows 7 will stop being functional on August 1, 2009. At that time you will either have to reinstall your previous operating system or pay for Windows 7.

Last but not least in the technology news is the announcement that Western Digital has created a 2 terabyte hard disk drive. Believe it or not, this may have one of the biggest effects on individual users. As we can store more and more digital data at reasonable prices, more and more data will be digitized. We are already living in a digital world, but that world gets more reliant on technology every day.

Do you know the punishment for bigamy?
Two mothers-in-law!



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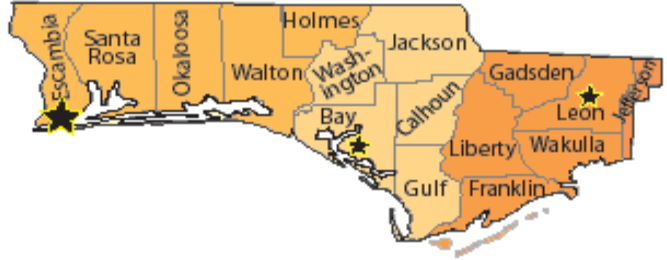
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