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Cyber Chat

"A computer user group newsletter"

Volume 9 Issue 11

DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435

November 2007

General Meeting

November 15, 2007

10:00 AM

Walton Career
Development Center

761 N. 20th Street

DeFuniak Springs



Home of the Red Wolves

Presentation by
Mike Davis,
Principal

And

Leslie Harrison
Computer Instructor

Yahoo! – Internet Powerhouse

By Ira Wilsker

Back in the earliest days of the internet, in January, 1994, two Stanford graduate students created one of the first canonical websites "Jerry's Guide to the World Wide Web" which was among the first searchable guides of websites. In April, 1994, Jerry Yang and David Filo renamed their website Yahoo!. By the end of 1994, while the internet was still in its infancy, Yahoo! had received over one million hits on its website.

Now, according to Wikipedia (source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yahoo>), Yahoo! is the most visited website on the net, with over 412 million unique users, and over 3.4 billion page views

a day (October, 2005 data).

Yahoo!, which started as a menu based directory of internet websites, now is a comprehensive source of online services. According to an interactive directory on the main Yahoo! page at www.yahoo.com, there are just 21 distinct services listed, with over 100 total Yahoo! services listed on the "Everything Yahoo!" page (More Yahoo! Services) at www.yahoo.com/r/xy.

I have been an active Yahoo! user since it was

"Jerry's Guide" in early 1994, and made extensive use of its menu to locate information on the thousands of websites then listed and categorized. Today the number of websites listed on Yahoo!

(See Yahoo—page 4)

WEBSITES:

<http://www.yahoo.com>

<http://my.yahoo.com>

<http://maps.yahoo.com>

<http://mail.yahoo.com>

<http://finance.yahoo.com>

<http://calendar.yahoo.com>

<http://www.yahoo.com/r/xy> -
Everything Yahoo!

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Annual Meeting—December 8, 2007, First Methodist Church

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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

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.

Donate Your Old Computer

**Help Promote Computer Literacy and Education
in Walton County**

**Pentium II , III, and IV class computers, monitors,
and printers in working condition are accepted**

Receipt issued upon request for tax credit

Chautauqua Cyber Club, Inc.— 501(c)3

To make a donation call

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

Boot n' Reboot

by J. B. Hillard—President



The October meeting went off without a hitch, almost! Rachel Tomas from the Bank of American was not able to present the on-line

banking program as planned, but we muddled through with our own delivery. The Internet hookup would not work with the BOA online demo so we improvised. I hope we were able to educate everyone about the security and convenience of online banking.

Moving the monthly meeting from Saturday to Thursday was a good decision. It is allowing us much more flexibility on programming and bringing in fresh presenter talent. This month we are meeting at the Walton Career Development Center (the old Vo-Tech), and will be addressed by Mr. Mike Davis, Principal. This will be followed by an orientation on the WCDC computer training program, and then we will have a tour of the facility.

The WCDC has undergone a significant change in their curriculum as well as improving their standing in the education community. A computer student can come away with a fully qualified education in repair, and with several Microsoft Certifications. They are well equipped to move on in life.

The WCDC is nothing like what most of us knew about the Vocational Technical School. We are in for a real treat as this educational jewel is presented to our members on November 15. Please make a special effort to attend.

Happy computing - J. B.

Our Community

Community Service Program

"People Helping People"

We will be providing basic computer training at the Flowersview Library up near Paxton. The current plan is to hold three or four sessions and introduce computing to an underserved population. Robert Connor and David Hackett will be assisting J. B. Hillard in this community effort.

Yahoo—from page 1

is in the billions, and Yahoo! is generally considered as the second largest search engine, right behind Google.

In addition to its search functions, which many prefer over Google, I personally use several other Yahoo! services on a regular basis. On all of my computers the startup page displayed when my browser loads is My Yahoo! (my.yahoo.com). I have this page personalized to display my stock quotes, market summary, weather for several selected cities, dozens of selected news and feature categories, daily and weekly appointment calendar, lottery results, email summary, TV schedule, lowest airfares to the cities I fly to on a periodic basis, and several other items of choice. The My Yahoo! page also supports as a resource the

(See Yahoo—page 4)

NOTICE
MEETING CHANGE
SEE PAGE 1

THIS 'N THAT



TUNE UP THAT MONITOR

In this month's issue of Smart Computing Magazine I found a nifty little tip to "tune up" you monitor.

If you read the article, it tells you to go to download the program from sipurl.com/lqljw. I went to this site, and for some reason it is not ready nor available.

Therefore, if you go to Microsoft.com and in the search block, type in **clear type tuner** and the site comes up. It will ask to pick the printbox that looks best to you and it will guide you through a couple of pages and when you finish, your monitor should look like a new one. The print text is much clearer and sharper especially if you have a flat screen. It is like having a brand new monitor. Now I usually am very skeptical about some of these fixes, but believe me this works!



Sam the Man

For those of you who have not heard Sam Sloan went to the hospital for back surgery on October 2. Sam is now at home recovering and we wish him well. You might want to drop him a get-well email.

Yahoo—from page 3 is generally considered as the second largest search engine, right behind Google.

In addition to its search functions, which many prefer over Google, I personally use several other Yahoo! services on a regular basis. On all of my computers the startup page displayed when my browser loads is My Yahoo! (my.yahoo.com). I have this page personalized to display my stock quotes, market summary, weather for several selected cities, dozens of selected news and feature categories, daily and weekly appointment calendar, lottery results, email summary, TV schedule, lowest airfares to the cities I fly to on a periodic basis, and several other items of choice. The My Yahoo! page also supports as a resource the now common "RSS" news feeds, which allows the current display of information from countless other sources. I have tried several other popular startup pages, but have always returned to My Yahoo! which is my personal favorite.

Yahoo! Mail is another very popular service offered by Yahoo! Millions of people have Yahoo! email accounts. I personally have two Yahoo! email accounts, and my wife and daughters also have Yahoo! Email accounts which they use to supplement the email accounts provided by their employers or schools. Yahoo web based email can be accessed from anywhere there is internet access, and is compatible with all browsers. Yahoo! offers a full featured free email service at mail.yahoo.com. The basic free account currently offers 2 gigabytes of mail storage, and one of the best spam filters in the industry. Yahoo! Mail also filters all email and attachment for viruses and other malware. (See Yahoo—page 8)



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MSWord Convert All Caps to Upper & Lower Case

Donna Walters called to say she received an MSWord document which had been typed in all capital letters, and asked if there was an easy way to convert it to traditional upper and lower case sentence structure. Yes; by selecting the target text and pressing F3 while holding down SHIFT, all the caps will change to lower case. Press F3 again, while still holding down SHIFT, and the first letter of each sentence will be capitalized. Another SHIFT-F3 will return everything to all caps. However, other capitalization - such as names, places, and titles - will still need to be edited separately.

By the way, basic email courtesy tells us to NEVER SEND MESSAGES IN ALL CAPITAL LETTERS. All caps are fine for headlines or other key phrases, but are just plain harder to read when used throughout a lengthy letter. Furthermore, ALL CAPITAL LETTERS give recipients the feeling they are being shouted at. Any ALL CAP emails we receive here always go to the bottom of the list.

Graphics Not Printing with Text

Another frequent MSWord question: "Why don't pictures in my document print right along with the text?"

The fix: go to Tools>Options>Print>Include with Document, and checkmark "Drawing Objects."

Making a Document Fit on One Page

Still another MSWord printing problem I frequently hear is: "I typed a one-page docu-

ment, but a blank second sheet goes through the printer with each print-out."

This sometimes happens when text has had a number of edits which extended it to a second page, and then got pruned back to one page. Unseen on the screen may be a collection of blank spaces at the end of the document that carry over to a second page. Pressing CTRL+END will send your cursor to the actual end of the document, whereupon any unneeded blank spaces can be deleted.

A simple fix for a desired one-page document that overlaps onto a second page is to change your margin settings. Go to File>Page Setup>Margins and change the 1.25" side margins to, say, 1.1". Alternatively, you could choose a smaller and/or narrower font to squeeze everything into the default margins.

The most frequent MSWord complaint I hear is: "I typed the numeral 1, pressed TAB, and typed in some text. Then when I pressed ENTER, a 2 appeared and my cursor tabbed over to line up under the previous text without my asking it to. Now I can't get back to my normal paragraph settings."

Automatic Bullets & Numbering

This is just one of MSWord's many "AutoCorrect" functions. When it sees a single character typed, followed by TAB being pressed, it assumes you want create a list of indented paragraphs beginning with left-aligned sequential numbering (or lettering, such as A, B, C).

This feature can be disabled by going to Tools>AutoCorrect>AutoFormat As You Type and deselecting Automatic Bulleted Lists and Automatic Numbered Lists. Then click AutoFormat and deselect Automatic Bulleted Lists.

(See PC Don—page 8)

TIP LINE

Q:

For awhile now, my computer has been restarting itself. It does it without warning and for no apparent reason. When it happens, all of my work is lost and I'm getting really frustrated with it. Do you have any suggestions as to why this might be happening? I'm using Windows XP. Please help!

A:

I feel your pain! I've never personally had this happen to me, but I've had some friends who had to deal with it. I know it was the most frustrating and annoying thing they ever went through and at the time, I wish I would have had some answers for them. That was a couple years ago and I've definitely learned a lot since then, so don't fret, because I do have some good suggestions for you all today!

Here's a scenario of what could be happening to you. You're working on your computer (maybe checking your e-mail, browsing through a couple Web sites and you have your music player going at full blast) and everything seems to be going fine. Then all of the sudden, your computer just shuts down. What happened? Why did it do that? Well, if your computer is continually restarting itself for no good reason, there are several things that could be causing that to happen. In this type of situation, you have to do some troubleshooting to figure it out, but you should be able to do that rather quickly. Here are some things you can check on and look out for.

For starters, if your computer is running at too high of a temperature, it will turn itself off. If your CPU is running above the 60 degree (Celsius) mark, you may be close to burning it out and a lot of systems are set

up to turn off automatically when an unsafe level is reached. So, what could be causing your system to overheat? Well, a big part of it is the programs you're running. For example, a lot of the music programs these days (like iTunes and Windows Media Player) use a lot of processing power when they're working with your music files. So, if you're using one of those programs a lot, it could cause your CPU to heat up. That can happen if you're using too many programs all at the same time as well. It all just depends on what you use.

If this happens to you, the best thing you can do is get inside your computer and clean it out. If too much dust is collecting around the fans in your CPU, it can restrict the airflow and your computer won't be able to cool down properly. To clean out your CPU, open it up and either use compressed air or a toothbrush to eliminate some of the debris. Once you clean some of the dust particles out, the temperature should drop a great deal and your computer should be back to normal.

Now, if overheating wasn't your problem, the next thing you'll want to check on is your memory. If your computer hits a bad spot of RAM memory when it's trying to access it, it could just go crazy and restart itself. The best way to test this out is to remove a stick of your memory, one by one, until you find the culprit. Remove one and then let your system run for awhile. If your computer seems to be working better, you'll know the cause and you can then replace that piece of memory for better results.

If you still haven't figured out what's wrong with your computer, there is a setting you can change to see if it helps at all.

(See Tip Line Page-8)

The Fix For Frustrations

By J. B. Hillard, Chautauqua Cyber Club, Inc.
www.waltonccc.org

Common problems continue to frustrate computer users no matter their level of expertise. Sometime it's pure lack of knowledge for the beginner or just being forgetful for the more advanced. Here are a few suggestions to fix common frustrations we all encounter from time to time.

Forwarded eMail: How many jokes and other frequent and unwanted eMails do we receive from well intentioned friends. Many are forwarded several times before they reach us. They arrive with numerous >> symbols in front of each line. Be kind to your friends and remove these symbols before the message is forwarded.

To strip the garbage I use an older application called eCleaner that can be downloaded at <http://ecleaner.tripod.com>. A more modern method Text Monkey, www.textmonkey.com. Both are free.

Shorter URL's: URL's seem to get longer and longer. For sending one to a friend use www.shorturl.com or www.snipurl.com which will shorten the URL no matter how long it is. Then send the shorter URL to a friend you want to share the exciting site with.

Online Speed Test: There are dozens, if not hundreds, of online speed test. I use www.speedtest.com because that's the one recommended by my Road Runner ISP.

Other good ones can be found at www.pcpitstop.com/internet, and www.analogx.com/contents/download/network/nsl.htm.

The latter is a download while "speedtest" is

run from the website. NetStat gives much more information that can be recorded.

Keep in mind speed test are relative, but one can be helpful to prove your connection speed is not what it should be.

Download software: Downloads go to a default directory. If you want to find a specific download then you must find the default download directory. This is just fine for most folks, but I prefer creating a specific folder on the c: drive so it's easy to find for sharing by email or copying to a CD.



Find an application you want and start the download process. When the first screen pops up with Run, Save, Cancel, select and click Save.

When the "save as" screen pops up, in the "save in" click the arrow to change where the save will be, select Local Disk (C:).

Another screen pops up with all the folders/files you have on the C: drive.

To the right of the Save In block there are some icons, select the Create New Folder, a new screen opens and a block will be highlighted with "New Folder". Type in a name that easily identifies the application, then click Open.

You will then see the file name of the folder just created. Down at the bottom in the "File Name" will appear the download. Click Save and let the download happen.

It will be saved to the C: drive in the newly created folder. To install the application just click the folder and execute the install.

When you want to copy or send the download it's easy to find on the C: drive.

END

Tip Line—from page 6

There's actually a setting within Windows XP that tells your computer to restart itself when a system error occurs. So, if you turn that option off, you should be good to go. To do that, go to **Start, Control Panel** and click on the **Performance and Maintenance** link.

Next, click on the **System** link and then hit the **Advanced** tab. Now, under the **Startup and Recovery** section, click on the **Settings** button. Once there, uncheck the box that says "**Automatically Restart**," which is located under the **System Failure** section. Now, this setting will stop your computer from restarting, so you may not want to leave it off, but you can at least use it until you figure out what the true problem may be.

You should also try to think back to anything you've recently done on your computer.

Maybe you installed a new piece of software or hardware. If so, try removing that and see if the problem persists. Or, you could try downloading the latest drivers from the manufacturer. Sometimes that's all it takes. The restart problem could also be caused by a virus or some spyware, so make sure you run your scans to see if anything comes up. You should also go to **Start, Control Panel, Add/Remove Programs** and remove any programs from the list that you don't need. Getting rid of unnecessary items is always a good thing to do.

Well, there you have it. Hopefully one of the above suggestions works for you, but if the problem continues, try contacting the manufacturer of your computer or try to get some answers from a professional computer repair store. Either way, I hope your restarting blues are now gone forever!

~ Erin

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PC Don—from page 5

If you later decide you want to create some numbered indented paragraphs, type your first numbered paragraph, select it, go to **Format>Bullets & Numbering**, and make your style choices. Each subsequent ENTER will begin a sequentially itemized paragraph to match the first one. To break the cycle, go to **Format>Bullets & Numbering**, and choose NONE.

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Yahoo—from page 4

The free Yahoo! Email also supports almost all email programs, for those that prefer a mail reader, rather than traditional web mail. I periodically download my Yahoo! web mail into either Eudora or Outlook Express, depending on which Yahoo! email account I am using at the moment. For those who still prefer using web mail, as millions do, Yahoo! offers two viewing options; the traditional web mail interface, or the new "beta" email interface that appears on the screen much as Outlook or other email reader would appear. It should be noted that Yahoo! also offers an upgraded (fee) email service for businesses and those with their own domain names. It has been rumored in the media that Yahoo! may start to offer email accounts with up to unlimited storage.

For those interested in investing, and who like to follow the latest financial news, Yahoo! offers a comprehensive and free financial news resource at finance.yahoo.com. Topics accessible by tabs include investing, news and opinion, personal finance, and "my portfolios". Each tab opens a directory of relevant topics which provides comprehensive financial information. The personal finance tab connects to information on banking and budgeting, career and work, college and education, family and home, insurance, loans, real estate, retirement, taxes, and how-to guides. Active investors may find the "My Portfolios" tab helpful

(See Yahoo—page 10)



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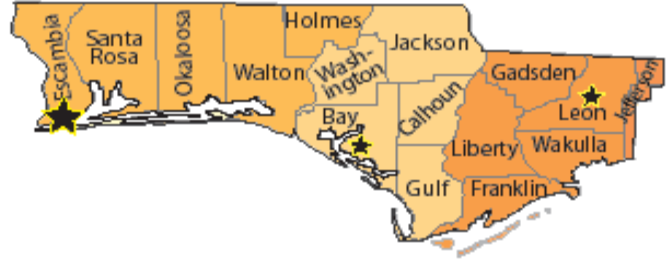
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Membership renewal:

**It's time to renew if the
date on your mail label
is Nov 07 or before**

in that it allows the user to enter and save any number of stocks, bonds, and mutual funds, as well as indices, and display the current (subject to exchange required delays) values. Charts, news, messages, profiles, statistics, and other useful information are provided on each portfolio item listed. For those who want nearly real-time portfolio valuations, the user can also enter number of shares, costs, and other information, which will then display a detailed table of gains and losses, as well as summary information.

I was recently visiting two of my kids out of state, and needed some information on shopping and restaurants. I went to maps.yahoo.com and entered their address, and generated a street map of selectable scale. On the screen I could select the type of business I was looking for, and the name and location would be displayed on the map. Clicking on the icon created on the map would provide additional information on the selection. We were able to read reviews of restaurants, and with a single mouse click we could generate detailed driving directions from the house to the restaurant or other desired business. I have found this service invaluable when staying in hotels and I want to know what is nearby. When driving directions between points are generated, the user can decide what to print and display, such as directions only, directions and detailed maps, or maps only. This service is useful to both the traveler who needs driving directions and information on waypoints, and the local user trying to find points of interest. According to a recent news article, in April, 2007, there were 29.4 million users of Yahoo! Maps, making it one of the top mapping services on the net. Yahoo also recently announced that it is adding detailed driving directions to Maps for 34 European countries, enhancing its broad appeal.

It should be no surprise to readers of this column that I am a very busy person. By choice, I use Yahoo! Calendar at calendar.yahoo.com. I can enter appointments, events, and other activities with starting and ending times. I can also have repetitive events, such as board meetings, automatically entered on the calendar by specifying "third Thursday" or some similar notation. Yahoo! Calendar can also import and export information between it and Outlook, as well as most PDAs such as Palms and Pocket PCs. Items listed on the calendar can be kept private, or can be selectively displayed as public, such as if an organization desires a public calendar of events. Yahoo! Calendar also offers the free option of emailing reminders, or sending the reminder to a cell phone or other mobile device. *Obtained from APCUG with the author's permission for publication by APCUG member groups.*