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Cyber Chat

"A computer user group newsletter"

Volume 9 Issue 9

DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435

September 2007

General Meeting "Special"

September 20, 2007

10:00 AM

Room 154

Okaloosa-Walton
College

Chautauqua Center

908 W. Hwy 90

DeFuniak Springs, Fl.

"On Your Side"
WMBB—Channel 13
News Anchor Team

Amy Hoyt

Jerry Brown

Jerry Tabatt

See Page 8

for details on this
special presentation

Router Protection

A router can help protect your computer

By Sandy Berger, CompuKISS

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A few years ago, you had probably not heard the term "router", unless you used one in your wood-working class

in high school. Today, you hear much more about the word "router" when it is used in conjunction with computers and the Internet. In the computer world, a router is an important piece of equipment and one that is making its way into everyday terminology. So I would like to tell you a little about what a router is and what it can do for you.

A router is a hardware device that connects networks of two or more computers and forwards data across a network of computers. Devices like network printers can also be hooked up to a router. Routers that you might see in home and small business use are generally small rectangular or square devices about 6" to 8" in size. This type of router will have ports on the back where you can hook in computers, broadband modems, and other devices. A router has lights that indicate its status and the status of the connected devices. Wireless modems often have small antennas.



Routers can usually sit on a desktop or the floor, but they can

also be hung on a wall.

(See Router—page 4)

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Computer Expo

October 6, 2007

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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 newsletter is prepared using Microsoft Publisher 2003, a homebrew 3.2 MHz PC, Hewlett Packard DeskJet 722C printer.

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Boot n' Reboot

by J. B. Hillard—President



It has been a great summer of not doing anything but relaxing. Don't I wish! In reality it's difficult for me to not do anything.

However, the summer allowed a change in the priority list and it sure felt good.

We are starting off the Fall Season with a huge bang for the September meeting. Not expecting such overwhelming support when a request was sent to WMBB-Ch 13 to give us a hand with a program, I was taken aback with the offer to bring the whole evening News Anchor Team to DeFuniak Springs. The results of the offer is expressed on page 8.

The program is being co-sponsored by Barbara Jones, Director of the OWC Chautauqua Center. Our partnership with OWC has been long standing and we continue to work together to promote the community and the club at every opportunity. This has been a win, win, situation for all of us.

In recent weeks we have experienced a great deal of stormy weather with numerous thunder storms and lightning. I hope many of you remember the Chelco presentation on lightning and have taken appropriate caution.

Now that we are in the swing of a full hurricane season we should be getting prepared and ready should another big blow come our way. The folks from WMBB-TV are coming to us very timely and I'm sure they will be most informative and entertaining with weather and news techniques.

Very soon we will be preparing for club officer nominations and start planning the annual meeting and dinner. Elections will take place at the annual dinner in December. Please make yourself available for officer consideration as well as the other appointed positions that keep the club running. Take particular note of the article "The Story of Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody" on page 4.

We did really well last year when Robert Connor stepped up and accepted the Treasurer position and Editor of the newsletter. Estelle Norman came aboard as the new Secretary and Chip Russ stepped up as Vice-President. There are other "new bloods" out there who have talent as well and we need them to step up where needed.

Please be sure to attend the meeting this month and bring a friend whether they are interested in computers or not. Everyone should be interested in hurricane information.

Happy computing, J. B.

Our Community

Community Service Program

"People Helping People"

Now we are back to the routine of Fall startup at the college. Sam Sloan and Robert Connor have been assisting with computer preparation for the OWC student computer loan program. They have also refurbished a ton of club computers and made them ready for those in need, the New Horizons Program, and for sale to raise funds to buy parts and other items to run the operation.

THIS 'N THAT



The Story of Everybody Somebody Anybody and Nobody

This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

The moral? If an organization is to survive Nobody can sit back and think that Somebody will volunteer. Anybody can do something and Everybody needs to step up to the plate. Don't be afraid that you might not be able to handle something. I suggest that you tackle a task that you know nothing about. This way you not only realize that you **can** do it but you learn and develop more confidence in yourself. If you fail, so what! Who is going to care? Do another and another until you feel good about it.

Remember this: Everyone does the best they can with what they have to work with, be it their head or their heart.



(Router—from page 1)

You can think of a router as a kind of traffic cop that stands on the corner and routes the traffic to their final destination. Just as a traffic cop knows which direction a car is coming from and which way it wants to go, a router knows what data comes from each of the computers, what data each computer has requested, and what data to return to each computer. Routers are the workhorses of the Internet. They make sure that your email gets to your intended recipient rather than one of the millions of other computers. Within a smaller network routers make sure that the data or the web page that you request is returned to your computer and not the computer of your co-worker or other family member.

While routers have been used for years in the Internet and by businesses, the proliferation of home networks has brought the router into the home and into the realm of the average computer user. In a home, a router typically is used to share an Internet connection. It connects a home network of two or more computers with the network of your Internet Service Provider (ISP), giving each of your computers Internet connectivity. Your ISP issues you one address on the Internet, called an IP or Internet Protocol address. If you have multiple machines at home, a router lets you share that single IP address.

The router watches the traffic going out and waits for the response to the outgoing traffic. It then routes the incoming traffic to the proper computer within your home network. Since the router is watching all the traffic, it knows what information you have requested and only allows incoming traffic that is expected. So if your computer has requested a Web page, it will allow that Web page to come into your computer.

(See Router—page 6)



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Changing a File or Folder's Icon + Making Your Own Icons

Sonny Stires asked if there is a way to have a picture appear on top of the folder in which it is stored to make the folder easier to identify. Yes, but there are limitations. The picture will not appear if the folder is on your Desktop, but it can be seen inside another folder if you've chosen

View>Thumbnails. This is done by right-clicking the folder and going to **Properties>Customize>Choose Picture>Apply>OK.**

A better method for giving a folder a distinctive appearance is to right-click it and go to **Properties>Customize>Change Icon.** This will bring up a large collection of colorful images. Click on any you like, click OK, and then click OK again.

Normally, a file name's icon is part of the program it's associated with (such as MSWord's blue & white W). However, many of these programs offer alternative icons that can be found by right-clicking the current icon and choosing **Properties>Change Icon.**

Beyond these choices, it's possible to create your own personalized icons with Windows Paint. Here's how: click **Start>All Programs>Accessories>Paint.**

Next, click **Image>Attributes** and create a "canvas" of **32x32** pixels. This will produce a white icon-sized square. However, creating a design on a "canvas" this small can be difficult. Enlarge the view by clicking on

View>Zoom>Large Size. Finally, click **Show Grid** so you can see the tiny squares that you will "paint" with various colors.

Use the drawing tools at the left and the colors at the bottom of your work area to create your design. If you want to, say, put your initials in red on a yellow background, do this: left-click on yellow and then click the "Paint Bucket" in the toolbar. Click anywhere inside the white canvas and it will fill with yellow.

Now click on red, and then click the "Straight Line" tool (shown at a 45-degree angle) to begin painting your initials. Choose the "Pencil" tool to color one pixel at a time.

If you have "straight" initials, such as FTE, the drawing will be easy. Curved letters are more challenging; but this is where you get to experiment and test your creativity.

If you want to UNDO anything, Paint allows you to **Edit>Undo (Ctrl+Z)** your three most recent edits.

Finally, click **File>Save As,** give the drawing a name, and choose BMP under "Files of Type." The drawing will normally be saved in your *My Documents* folder, where you can right-click it, choose **Rename,** and change the BMP extension to ICO (icon).

To replace a yellow folder's generic appearance with your newly-created icon, right-click it, choose **Properties>Change Icon,** navigate to the icon you created, and double-click it. Your homemade icon(s) will normally be saved in your *My Documents* folder.

A better way to convert your drawing with the BMP extension to the ICO extension is to use Irfanview (free from www.Irfanview.com). Simply open the BMP drawing in Irfanview, go to **File>Save As,** and choose ICO in the *Save As Type* field.

(See Icons— page 6)

(Icons —from page 5)

Your homemade icons will likely be saved by default in your **My Documents** folder. However, I recommend creating a special folder for this purpose, and naming it "**_Icons**". I create this folder inside the **System32** folder, which is inside a folder named **Windows**.

I then place my **_Icons** folder inside the **System32** folder because when you do **Properties>Change Icon**, your computer looks into this folder for alternative icons. By putting an underscore (**_**) in front of the name Icons (**_Icons**) this folder will always be the *first* folder in sequence inside the **System32** folder.

If you are unfamiliar with using *Windows Explorer* to navigate to the **System32** folder, click on **Start>Search>All Files & Folders** and type **system32** into the *Name or Partial Name* field. Click *Search* to locate the folder. When it appears, right-click it and choose **Send To Desktop (Create Shortcut)**. Then use the Desktop Shortcut to access **System32**, whereupon you use **File>New>Folder** to create your special Icon folder.

It's also possible to convert an existing image, such as a favorite photo, to an icon. Open the JPG in Irfanview and crop a small portion of it (such as someone's face) by drawing a square around it with your left mouse-button held down. Next, click the toolbar **Scissors** to **Cut** the selection, followed by clicking the toolbar **Clipboard** to replace the original photo with the small cropped portion.

Next, click **Image>Resize** and set the Height and Width to **32** pixels each. If this distorts the image, choose **32** for the largest dimension (H or W) and leave the other as is. Finally, go to **File>Save As**, give the icon a name, choosing **ICO** (Icon) as the file type.

In addition to the Windows stock icons and the ones you create, there are hundreds of icons to be found online. (Several of the cartoons you see here — Mickey Mouse, Fred Flinstone, etc) I found online by typing **FREE ICONS** into [Google](#). I also clicked on **Images** so that thumbnail views of many of the icons could be easily seen.

Here are a few samples, along with a simple example of making a multi-color "ABC" icon — the small image is the actual 32x32 icon, while the large image is how it looked while I was creating it in *Windows Paint*

Reprinted with permission of Don Edrington

(Router—from page 4)

Other traffic that has not been requested is tossed aside and not allowed to come in.

This ignoring of unexpected incoming traffic has an interesting side effect. It actually protects your computer from many malicious attacks from the outside. So the router, since it protects all the computers on your network, is considered a hardware firewall.

In fact, a router plus the firewall that is built-into Windows will, in my opinion, give the average user all the protection that they need. That is, provided that they follow safe computing procedures, like not opening unexpected email attachments and running a good anti-virus program.

For heavy duty computer users who want to make sure that their computers are completely protected, third party software firewalls, like those offered by Symantec, McAfee, and Zone Alarm, do offer the added

(See Router—page 8)



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Jerry Tabatt—Chief Forecaster

Amy Hoyt and Jerry Brown—News Anchor Team

September 20, 2007 10:00 AM Room 154 Chautauqua Center OWC



So far as we know this is a first for DeFuniak Springs. The News Anchor Team of Amy Hoyt, Jerry Brown, and Jerry Tabatt from WMBB-TV will be “On Your Side” September 20th at our general club meeting.

The entire meeting will be filled with expert information on weather forecasting, hurricane issues, and news broadcasting. How do computers assist? Come find out!

The meeting is open to the public and Walton County Citizen Services and Emergency Management are expected to participate as well.

(Router—from page 6)

safeguard of watching the traffic flowing in and out of each software program on your computer. However, these firewalls can slow down your computer. They often ask the computer user to permit or deny permission for programs that request Internet access. If you are just an average Joe, it can often be very difficult to determine if you should grant or deny that permission since the names of the files are often nebulous. I can't tell you how many times I have been called to repair someone's Internet connectivity only to find out that they had inadvertently told the firewall to deny Internet access to a program that can't function without it.

So having a router not only lets you share an Internet connection, it also protects your computer without slowing it down. As a matter of fact, even if you only have one computer, you can still use a router between your broadband Internet connection and your computer to help protect your perimeter. With the price of small routers falling to under \$50, a router can be a wise investment for today's computer user, even if they have to pay someone to come in and set it up for them.

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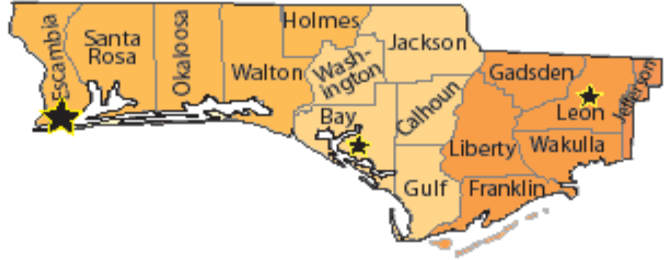
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