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Cyber Chat

"A computer user group newsletter"

Volume 8 Issue 9

DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435

September 2006

General Meeting

Sept. 16

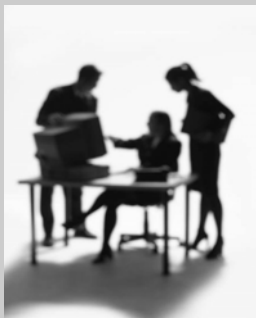
Okaloosa-Walton
College

Chautauqua Center

Room 201

(computer lab—bldg 2)

DeFuniak Springs, FL



Special

Interest Groups

Genealogy

October 3—10:00 AM

Room 211

OWC Chautauqua Center

Gay Russ—SIG Leader

Basic DVD Recording

DVDs are like CDs, but with greater capacity; you can record sound, video, or data. The latest CDs allow 700MB of data, or 80 minutes of sound or video (mpeg1 format) whereas the DVDs allow 4.7 GB or 120 minutes of sound or video (mpeg2 format). Then you have Double Layer DVDs which allow 9.6 GB or approximately 3.7 hours of video. As we probe into the basics you will find approximately 10% of the room on your disk is used by Titles, Menus, and Directories.

First, what do we need to accomplish the recording of data, and sound:

A computer with a minimum of 1 Ghz, 512 MB of RAM, 40 GB hard drive, CDR optical drive, video with 32 MB RAM for 1024 x 768 screen mode, and recording software such as "NERO" by Ahead Software.

Second, we need all the above plus the items below for Video:

A DVDR optical drive, an input device such as ADS' InstantDVD (USB input) or equivalent for recording from VHS tape, and a VCR. A firewire input card can be used if you are recording from a digital camcorder (DV).

To record data and sound on DVDs is

very similar to CDs, but video is different only because we use a different format. A CD may be used with this format and would hold approximately 30 minutes of mpeg2 (MP2) video. This CD would be called a "VCD" (Video CD) and would be played on a DVD Player.

There are several different video formats such as WMV, MPE, MPG, MP1, MP2, MP4, etc. MP1 (352x480) is fine for B&W video, but size and quality is too low for color. MP2 (720x480) is the most common format used at this time for doing video DVDs. MP2 can be recorded in low (3382Kbits per sec), medium (5073Kbits per sec), and high (9716Kbits per sec) quality.

Before you start recording video, you may want to shut down all the programs running in the background to gain the maximum amount of System Resources

(See Basic DVD—page 5)

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COMPUTER EXPO

SEE INSERT

PUPPY LINUX SIG

SEE PAGE 5

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Months	1	3	6	12
Business Card 3.5 x 2	\$10.00	\$15.00	\$27.00	\$42.00
Quarter Page	\$18.00	\$26.00	\$45.00	\$87.00
Half Page	\$30.00	\$43.00	\$7600	\$87.00
Full Page	\$52.00	\$75.00	\$135.00	\$236.00

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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.

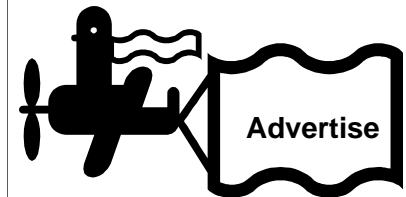
The Chautauqua Cyber Club, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization under section 501(c)3 for educational purposes, and incorporated under the laws of the State of Florida.

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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, Canon ip4000 printer and Canoscan 8400f.

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Boot n' Reboot

by J. B. Hillard—President



This month we will get back into the swing of things and start enjoying each others company again. It's been nice to have most of the summer off, but it's time to get a fresh start with new computer ideas and explore new technology that is

available for the home computer user.

Of course the top news is the upcoming Computer Expo on October 7. The big guys will be there to talk about and demonstrate their products for our enjoyment.

Subscribers to Smart Computing Magazine will be exposed to the full services that are available to them on the web. Microsoft will be demonstrating Windows Vista, the new operating system we have been reading about for many months. Some lucky winner will receive a copy of Vista when it is released. Corel will showcase the Corel Community of software. They have a wide variety of world class products for home and office use. Imaging is a specialty of Corel.

Another excellent opportunity is coming our way in the form learning about Linux from Tommie Gipson. Tommie is an advocate of many years for Linux and will instruct a three session course on Puppy Linux. See page 4 for the details

A coalition of computer user group leaders in Walton and Okaloosa county have formed the Northwest Florida Association of Computer User Groups. We will be explaining what the organization vision is for the future of serving home computer users.

Also, just a reminder that we need a new editor to take over Cyber Chat in January. This is an important service to our membership and the computing community.

That is for now. Happy Computing, J. B.

Recycle old ink cartridges:
Turn in your used ink cartridges and help the club earn money as we help protect the environment

Our Community

Community Service Program "People Helping People"

Sometime in late 2007 volunteers from the Chautauqua Cyber Club may be offered the opportunity to assist with a computer learning experience that is currently unavailable. A computer training lab will be included in the Life Enrichment Senior Center that is proposed to be built on College Avenue.



Currently the only place in town for walk-ins to use a computer is the public library. They have limited availability and there is no privacy for classes. A computer lab at the LESC will be open on a daily basis and inexpensive classes will be possible.

We will know by the end of September if the long needed facility will survive the county and city budget process. The county has included \$300,000 in their proposed budget and the City of DeFuniak Springs has included \$25,000. If approved this will be a good start for seniors in central Walton county.

A committee of the Board of County Commissioners has recommended a new building that will become the focal point of a senior center complex. It will be eventually connected (in 2008) to the current building that houses county employees. When the employees are moved into the new courthouse the facility can then be used for classrooms to support computer training, art, quilting, ceramics, and other activities that the cliental have expressed they wish to have.

CCC members can help bring about positive consideration by contacting the City Council and Board of County Commissioner and urge them to adopt the proposal.

Affiliated with



Announcement

**"Puppy Linux" SIG with
Tommie Gipson - instructor.**

Oct. 3, 10, 17 – 6PM

**Room 210–Chautauqua Center
computers for each participant
will be provided for installing
"puppy linux"**

Limit 6

Contact J. B. Hillard or Sam Sloan to register

Puppy Linux

by **Tommie Gipson**
Chautauqua Cyber Club, Inc.



Puppy Linux is one of literally thousands of Linux distributions available. Each Linux distribution (a distribution is a flavor or version of Linux) contains the Linux kernel. Some distributions are designed to be stable, some with the latest and greatest software, and some are targeted to a specific user group such as people that play games. Puppy Linux has been designed to be simple and fast.

It does this by loading the entire operating system (os) from a cd into ram. There are dozens of bootable Linux cd's, but with all of them the cd must be left in the computer's cd drive because the os must access programs from the cd. With Puppy Linux once the cd is loaded it can be removed freeing the cd drive for other things such as playing music or burning new cd's. Loading the entire os into ram gives Puppy Linux its incredible speed. Puppy can be run on older computers and often match the speed and performance of the newest computers on the market today.

Even though it boots from a cd, Puppy Linux can store persistent information to any Windows 95, Windows 98, or flash drive. This means personal data such as bookmarks can be saved and available to the user even after the computer is shut down. Puppy does this without needing a Linux partition on the

computer, which eliminates the need to risk creating a new hard drive partition even if you want to use Puppy on a regular basis. Of course if you have a Linux partition Puppy will gladly use it. You can continue booting your Windows system like always or if you want to boot Puppy just load the cd and boot from the cd drive.

Windows XP uses an NTFS partition which Puppy can read from, but it cannot write to. Future versions will allow Puppy to work with Windows XP computers the same as Windows 98 (or any VFAT partition), but for now if Puppy is booted from a Windows XP machine the persistent data must be stored on a flash drive or memory card. Puppy is so small that the entire os can be loaded to a flash drive, and if your computer can boot from a flash drive (usb drive) you would not even need to have a hard drive on the computer.

I have been using Puppy since May of 2004 and love it! It meets my computer needs and I cannot see any reason for using anything else. Bear in mind that I use my computer as a tool to meet only MY needs. I want it to do the things I want to do, not the things everyone else wants it to do.

I use Puppy to connect to the internet (with a Firefox web browser), read and write Word and Excel files, view and edit photos, read pdf files (with the Open Office version I can create pdf files from Word or Excel files), listen to music cd's and rip songs from a music cd and convert them to small mp3 files, burn data or music cd's, play some games, and watch dvd movies.

Out of the box (from the bootable cd) with little or no additional work you can boot with Puppy Linux and do all of the above. Connecting to the internet is the only thing that may require running a wizard. If you are connecting via a network connection (like DSL or cable modem), the network connection is usually automatically detected, but with a modem the modem wizard will have to be run to properly set up the modem, the number to dial, and the user account. With a little extra work Puppy can be configured to use a printer and a scanner.

There are several versions of Puppy Linux. The standard Puppy Linux distribution can be downloaded at: <http://www.puppyos.com/download/downpage.htm> and less than 70 M (which is VERY small compared to most Linux distributions that are usually 700 M or greater).



To see screen shots go to: <http://www.puppylinux.org>
There is a Puppy Linux that includes Open Office, a Barebones Puppy Linux that is even smaller, one built for gamers, and one that can be run on top of windows as a virtual machine. Puppy has programs that allow you to "remaster" or customize the Puppy cd to only include the programs you want.

Puppy Linux has steadily improved since I first began using it. I use it at home on an older PC with 128 M of ram running on a 500 Mhz processor. I store all of my data files on an sd card which allows me to carry all of my files with me at all times giving me access to them even when I am at work and have to use Windows XP. The desktop has the look and feel of Windows 95 and is simple to use.

It does everything I want it to do and I see no reason to switch just to have the latest and greatest software. While I am not able to go into a retail store and buy off the shelf software (requires Windows), I have found the programs that come with Puppy Linux meet my needs (did I mention all of the programs and the os are FREE). How does the old phrase go: if it ain't broke, don't fix it. :) I am very happy using Puppy Linux and recommend it to anyone considering an alternative to Microsoft products.

See www.puppylinux.org

Basic DVD—from page 1

in order to acquire the greatest performance when recording video. You will use 4 to 20 GB of your hard drive for recording a two hour video depending on the format you use.

“NERO” (Version 6 or 7) is the cheapest way to go for software. This program will do just about everything for you (two hours plus on DVD, some editing, excellent recording). I also have used “MyDVD v4 or5” by Sonic (easy to use, some editing, up to 1.9 hours on a DVD), “MyDVD v6” by Sonic (up to 3.5 hours on a DVD, but SONY players do not like the recording format), “Premiere Elements” by Adobe (easy editing is great, but recording is only good for one hour, jumps around with movement and going more than one hour really destroys it by also getting choppy), “Movie Factory2” by Ulead (not bad, but very time consuming and hard to use, 1.9 hours on DVD) and “Studio Plus 10” by Pinnacle (very demanding, needs more memory and high quality video card; very hard to use!).

I am using an INTEL P4, 3.06 Ghz, 512 MB RAM @ 800 MHz, GeForce FX5200 128 MB RAM video card, and a Digital Research model DDVD116DL (DVD Recorder with NERO software), an ADS Instant DVD VHS input

device, which converts the antilog video to digital Mpeg2 format via a USB port, and an IEEE firewire port for my DV Digital Camcorder.

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.

*By Bob Elgines, Editor, Colorado River Computer Club, Arizona Elginesz(at)rraz.net
<http://www.crccaz.com>*

Q & A — Submitted by Sam Sloan Chautauqua Cyber Club, Inc.

Q:

Are there any Web sites out there today that are aimed directly toward senior citizens? I sometimes get bored with some of the other sites and I would like to try something new.

A:

This is a very interesting question and it's not something we've really touched on before, but I think it will be good material to cover. I know a lot of World-Start's readers spend a lot of time on their computers and it's always good to have new and exciting Web sites to look at throughout the day. Whether it's while you work or in your leisure time, there are several Web sites designed just for senior citizens.

Okay, before I list some sites for you, I'll let you know that these are all good for networking with other seniors, making new friends, learning more about computers, obtaining information about retirement, etc. If that sounds interesting to you, go along with me as I explain some of them!

1.) **Senior Citizens Resources** - This Web site is run by FirstGov and it provides several tips for senior citizens. It gives information on consumer protection, places senior citizens can volunteer, seniors and adult education, advice on estate planning and federal and state agencies for seniors. This site also has links to the government sites that may be beneficial to senior citizens, such as the Administration on Aging, the Social Security Administration and the Veteran's Health Administration. Check it all out at:
<http://www.firstgov.gov/Topics/Seniors.shtml>

(see Tips—page 6)

Tips—from page 5

2.) **SeniorNet** - This Web site's mission is to provide access to computer technology for older adults. As a result, senior citizens will be able to gain more knowledge and wisdom and eventually share it with others. This site is basically set up as a discussion board. Everyone is welcome to participate in the SeniorNet RoundTable discussion groups. You just have to sign up for the boards and then you will be able to learn and teach others about computers and using the Internet. If you feel like you could share your wisdom with others or if you want to learn more, this site is perfect for you. Check out SeniorNet

www.seniornet.org/php/default.php

3.) **Web Pointers for Seniors** - If you're looking for even more sites to try out, this is the place you'll want to go. It is managed by a retired couple from Oregon and they have set up a whole Web site full of links they feel would be of special interest to senior citizens. There are links to such topics as senior issues, grandkids, senior guides, care giving, health, nutrition, legal issues, financial planning, travel and others. Do keep in mind that this site hasn't been updated in awhile and some of the links no longer work, but it is worth taking a look at. There are still working links to a lot of helpful information that is all useful for seniors. Check it out

<http://web.pdx.edu/~psu01435/startup.html>

4.) **SeniorLink** - This site is mainly helpful for senior citizens in maintaining independence in their own homes. The developers of this site want seniors to be able to do this safely and with dignity. This site even offers some help for children who have aging parents. It gives advice on making the difficult choices that come with the elderly care of their parents. This site does have some parts that require a paid subscription, but you can access free information in the Caregiver FAQ and Top Elder Risks sections. Take a look at it www.seniorlinkonline.com

5.) **Write a Senior Citizen** - Here is one more site I thought some of you might be interested in. This is more on the fun side of things! This Web site was actually created by two teenagers who wanted to bring senior citizens together. You can use it to write other seniors by e-mail or even by snail mail as a pen pal. If you're wanting to get connected with other seniors, this is the best place for it. Check it out

www.seniorlinkonline.com

Now, I know this isn't something we usually share at WorldStart, but I thought some of you might get a kick

out of it. Start fresh with all these new Web sites and bring new life to your Internet experience. You won't be disappointed!

Q:

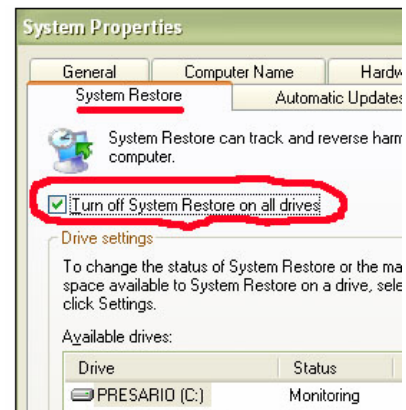
When I try to use System Restore in XP, I click a date, but it tells me I cannot restore. How do I fix this?

A:

So, you're trying to use the XP System Restore feature, but get the message: "Cannot restore the computer to an earlier restore point, no changes have been made to your computer." Am I right? Well, I can't tell you how to get your old restore points back, but I can tell you how to fix this problem so you can use them in the future.

Right click on the **My Computer** icon, choose **Properties**, then click on the **System Restore** tab.

Put a check in the box for "**Disable Restore on all drives.**" Click **OK** and reboot your computer.



After you reboot, go back to the System Restore tab and uncheck the box. Click OK.

Next, go to Start, Programs, Accessories, System Tools and then click System Restore. Choose Create a Restore Point and give it a name like Reset as a reminder.

Now, go ahead and try to use the restore again, using the new point and it should work properly for you this time.

Just in case you're not even sure how to use the System Restore option in Windows XP, read here before you complete this tip.

www.worldstart.com/tips/tips.php/390

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P. O. BOX 251

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Membership renewal:

It's time to renew if the
date on your mail label
is September 06 or before

Announcement

**"Puppy Linux" SIG with
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Oct. 3, 10, 17 – 6PM

**computers for each
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provided for installing
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**Registration will be
required - Limit 6**

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