The PULP

HUGE this month:

General Meeting: March 15th
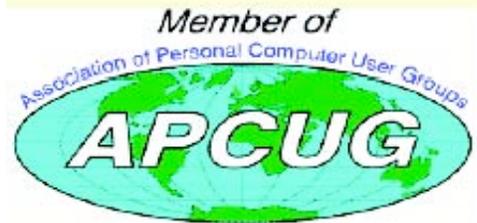
Greening your PC & other stuff

See you there!

East Hartford Public Library
Main St. & Central Ave., East Hartford, CT.

Q&A Session: 7:00PM–7:30PM
Meeting starts at: 7:30PM

Contents:

Member of
Association of Personal Computer User Groups
APCUG

UGC

Apple User Group

H.U.G.E.

MEETING LOCATIONS
East Hartford Public Library
Main & Central Avenue
in the Lion's Room
(downstairs)

Editors Corner

This month we'll talk about 'green computing'. What it means, how to green your current computer, and what to look for in a new one.

We need someone to run a program next month (April) as I will not be able to make the meeting.

Apple has announced the new updated line of MacBook Pros, the iPad2 will be released March 11, and OS X Lion (10.7?) is scheduled for release this fall.

Do your gadget lights (power strips, clocks, DVRs, etc.) harm your health? Researchers at Ohio State have concluded that dim light in a room during sleep may cause depression, can increase hunger and may increase chances of some cancers. (http://www.pcworld.com/printable/article/id,2 20193/printable.html)

Stanford researchers have been able to double wireless networking speeds, researchers at UCSD have a proof of concept to captured images of your physical keys that can be used to make copies, Researchers at the Univ. of Michigan have created a computer that fits on a pen tip (1 ccmm) designed to monitor eye pressure. Netflix is rating ISPs on bandwidth speed (http://www.pcworld.com/printable/article/id,2

Here is the appropriate copyright citation and a link to the full text. articles from "Tidbits"

http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/

Please note that the clubs PO Box has been closed. When membership renewals go out in the fall the return address will be that of our Membership person Richard Sztaba.

A Little Computer Quiz

by Stuart Rabinowitz

The trivia and minutiae of the computer related world. The answers will appear next month or you can submit an answer sheet at the General Meeting. Good Luck.

1 What was the first gaming console to offer ROM cartridges (it was introduced in 1976)?

2 Who was the designer?

3 In 1985 Apple introduced the LaserWriter, do you remember the print resolution, speed, & price?

4 In 1985 a geography learning game was released, do you remember the name?

5 How about the name of the company that released it?

Answers to february, 2011 Quiz

1 What was the first color digital camera and when was it released?
   A The Apple QuickTake 100 was released in 1994 with a resolution of 0.3 MP

2 What was the first digital camera to have a built-in LCD screen?
   A The Casio QV-10 was released in 1995

3 What was the first digital camera to use Compact Flash media for storage?
   A The Kodak DC25 was released in 1996

4 What was the first digital camera released primarily for kids?
   A The Barbie Photo Designer Digital Camera was released in 1998. it had a resolution: 160 by 120 pixels (0.02MP) It could store 6 pictures

5 What was the first computer marketed as a "home computer" and by what company?
   A In 1969 Neiman-Marcus featured the 'Kitchen Computer'. It was for storing recipes and used a Honeywell 316 minicomputer.

6 How much did it cost?
   A $10,600 and included a cookbook and a 2 week programming course.

Cool Products at Macworld 2011
 by TidBITS Staff <editors@tidbits.com> article link: <http://db.tidbits.com/article/11934>

 Face it, we can talk about how useful Macworld 2011 was in terms of education and business networking (and that's true), but a huge part of the enjoyment of Macworld Expo is seeing cool new products. Or really strange products. Either way, here are our picks for the best, the worst, and the silliest products, and those things that just tickled our fancy in one way or another.

Best Way to Retrieve Files from Home -- Local network-attached storage devices seem like a great idea, but can be frustrating when you're traveling. Dane-Elec thinks it has found a good solution for local and remote access with its myDitto, a plug-and-play network drive that also uses USB keys to restrict local and remote access to only those people who are authorized. Geared toward home and small business users with an introductory price of just $139.99 for 500 GB of storage, the myDitto could store all sorts of shared files—music, documents, photos, and the like—among a family. Attaching the USB key to a computer anywhere on the network or Internet establishes a secure connection to access the files. An iOS app is also available for connecting to the myDitto using an iPhone, iPad, or iPod touch. Two hard drive sleds in the back enable you to increase the device's storage capacity to up to 4 TB. [JLC]

<http://my-ditto.com/>

Best Imitation of a Marsupial -- If you think the Teletubby look is flattering, Alphyn Industries offers a polar fleece pullover with a kangaroo iPad pocket in front. Zipped up, it's secure, and the iPad inside will also protect you from being punched in the stomach. Unzip it, and you have a little shelf for your iPad. It's called the PADX-1 LEDGE Wearcom and costs $285. Really. Perfect for reading while walking (or standing in line for the next iPad!). Just watch out for cars. [GF]

<http://alphynind.com/padx1-ledge-wearcom-pullover/>
<http://www.tidbits.com/resources/2011-01/MW11-padx1-ledge.jpg>

Sleekest iPhone Car Mount -- We've been unimpressed by most solutions for mounting an iPhone in a car; they're usually ugly or hard to use, and the last one we tried worked fine for the iPhone 3GS but wouldn't hold the iPhone 4. The $34.99 Tetrax XWAY solves the problem neatly, by providing a screw-tightened clamp that attaches to car vents, and a small X-shaped mount with four magnets in the center. (There's also the FIXWAY version that you can stick anywhere with adhesive.) You attach another tiny rare-earth magnet to your iPhone or case—or to any other gadget like a standalone GPS navigator—and mounting your iPhone becomes merely a matter of letting the magnets grab onto each other. Tetrax is Italian, and their Web site doesn't do a great job of explaining all this in English (check out the pictures in the Applications page instead), but I'll be buying a couple of these for our cars. The smaller FIX, GEO, and EGO models will technically work with the iPhone, but aren't as stable as the XWAY. (For those with small children around, be careful that the magnets can't be loosened and swallowed; they're dangerous when allowed inside the body.) [ACE]

<http://www.tetrax.com/us/products/iphone-ipod/tetrax-xway>
<http://www.tetrax.com/us/applications>

Least Comprehensible Use of Space -- The New York Times had not one, but two booths, neither of which had anything particularly interesting to offer. A smaller booth was selling print subscriptions, while a larger booth in a central location seemed devoted to demoing the company's free iPad and iPhone/iPod touch apps. The New York Times will soon switch to charging for full access online and via mobile apps; perhaps the booth was booked in anticipation of that happening before the show. [GF]

<http://itunes.apple.com/us/artist/the-new-york-times-company/id284862086>

Best Way to Stabilize iPhone Movies -- The

iPhone 4 is a surprisingly good video recorder, but like all small video cameras, it's prone to vibration as you shoot handheld. iMovie on the Mac can compensate for camera shake, but there's no such facility in the iMovie iOS app. Creaceed's Movie Stiller app ($2.99) applies image stabilization to any video you've shot and stored in your photo library. After a clip has been analyzed, Movie Stiller offers controls for how much stabilization to apply, and can then export the finished video as a new movie to the Photo Library. Movie Stiller also works on the iPhone 3GS and fourth-generation iPod touch. [JLC]

<http://www.creaceed.com/elasty/iphone/>
<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/movie-stiller/id397583851?mt=8>

Best Impression of a Desk Phone -- AltiGen's $149 iFusion was at first inexplicable. Why would you want to plug your iPhone into a deskset with a corded receiver? In a home, it makes little sense, but in an office, the iPhone gains a charging dock that doubles as a speakerphone, while providing a comfortable handset. The iFusion can also play music through its built-in speakers or output it through an audio jack. The handset is paired via Bluetooth, so the phone doesn't need to be docked to use the handset. The firm is accepting pre-orders in black _and_ white! [GF]

<http://thefusionphone.com/features.html>

Hottest Product (While In Use) -- Although the booth had nary a functioning grill or oven on the premises to give a real demo—a cold grill was on site—Macworld Expo attendees still mobbed the iGrill booth to find out what it was all about. The $99.99 iGrill includes a temperature probe that you stick into meat, and a wire that connects the probe to a display unit with a wireless transmitter for nearby monitoring with a remote device on which you set temperature and time alarms. Many standard digital thermometers also have such features, including wireless connections. What's different about the iGrill is that its remote device is your iPhone, iPod touch, or iPad, on which you run the free iGrill app. Using

a Bluetooth connection, the app's attractive interface allows you to monitor your roast's temperature in Fahrenheit or Celsius, set time and temperature alarms, and get an estimate of how much cooking time remains. The app also includes recipes and tips. [TJE]

<http://www.igrillinc.com/>
<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/igrill/id400796680?mt=8>
<http://www.tidbits.com/resources/2011-01/MW11-igrill.jpg>

Tastiest App (When Used Properly) -- Remember when computer companies marketed personal computers for storing and recalling cooking recipes? (These ads were usually targeted at women who, presumably, had no technological needs outside the kitchen. Sigh.) Although laptops have come closer to being true "kitchen computers," the iPad may be the ideal fit: no keyboard to get in the way or accumulate food particles, and it can be mounted on vertical surfaces (like the refrigerator, using a ModulR case and bracket), or placed in a stand. As I was browsing the mobile applications area of the show floor, the soon-to-be-released Appetites app caught my eye. Rather than present a database of recipes, Appetites uses videos of food bloggers explaining how to cook a dish from the viewer's perspective. So, not only can you know how much of a pomegranate to use, but also see how to chop it up. (The recipes are also available without the video follow-along,

Optimize Your PC
Written by Jon Jackman, President, Fox Valley PC
Association, Illinois
Fox Tales, August 2009
www.fvpca.org
jockojkj (at) aol.com

This article has been obtained from APCUG with the author's permission for publication by APCUG member groups; all other uses require the permission of the author (see e-mail address above).

I saw an e-mail from PC World inviting me to speed up my slow PC. This directed me to a link for a "free scan" of my computer using PC Pitstop Optimize 3.0. Recently, we had a discussion at our general meeting of slow system performance, so I decided to give it a try and document the effort here. It may postpone an inevitable Windows re-install, but we will see.

The scan yielded some interesting results and offered to do it for me if I purchased the program (for about $30.) I looked at the results and wondered how I might be able to do this manually for free? I looked around on Google and found some step-by-step guides on basically accomplishing the same things that PC Pitsop's Optimize would do if I paid the $30. I ran the program and it began to scan my system. Interestingly it ran 3 scans of my Download speed. Not sure what that was about. It then displayed several pages of results: Junk Files, Internet Settings, Startup Programs, Registry Fixes and Performance Tweaks. When I reboot, it reminds me of what it can do to make thinks run better by displaying red messages. I will try some manual fixes and watch to see if the start-up scan gets progressively greener.

Looking at what Optimize tries to do I first decided to run CCleaner, a free program that has been a recent DOQ offering (2009 DOQ-2). Alternately, you can download it from www.ccleaner.com.

Junk Files
The first Optimize Results screen listed the junk files that I could safely delete. In my case, Optimize listed Temporary Files, Recycle Bin and Internet Caches. Using CCleaner in the Cleaner option under the Windows tab, files for Internet Explorer, Windows Explorer and System are listed by default, so I ran the "Analyze" tool. I was reminded to close Firefox to enable the Internet Cache to be cleaned as well. After several minutes it was complete and it said that ANALYSIS COMPLETE -
(526.859 seconds), 555.9MB to be removed.
(Approximate size). As a comparison, Optimize indicated that 729 MB would be cleaned. I ran the "Run Cleaner" option.

Internet Settings

The second Optimize Results screen looks at Internet Settings and explains that they may be tuned for faster throughput and may provide a substantial increase in Internet performance. In my case, my connections (HTTP, TCP/IP and Firefox) had no recommended adjustments. However, you may try using the Optimize free scan yourself and see that you have some that are recommended. In that
case, you may try to Optimize your settings manually. Search Google for "TCP Optimizer", download and run it. Select "Optimal", then apply. Look around carefully and see what else you might optimize.

You will need to reboot.

Startup Programs
When Windows starts up it automatically loads a number of programs, many of which you may not need. As you install more and more programs, this list can continue to grow. In my situation, there were several Startup Programs that Optimize considered "unnecessary." (You could run the free scan and see what it says about your system.) The ones listed on mine were: InstallShield Update Service (2 instances), Adobe Acrobat SpeedLauncher, QuickTime Icon and Realtek HD Audio. Using
CCleaner I went to Tools and then selected Startup. I looked at the programs that Optimizer 3.0 suggested and right clicked on them and chose "Disable".

Registry Fixes
Programs sometimes leave incorrect information behind in the registry, either because they uninstall improperly or because the files associated with the entries have been moved or deleted. Cleaning the Windows registry would hope to keep your PC in working order and keep the system running at peak performance. Using CCleaner, select Registry and then "Scan for issues". You can then choose to Fix them. Afterwards, not too many of the Optimize findings were changed.

Performance Tweaks
Optimize made some recommendations to adjust some settings in the Registry. Using the

from pg. 5

too.) Unfortunately, the company behind Appetites, Clear Media, doesn't yet show anything about the app on their Web site (total marketing failure, go back two squares), so you can't get a sense of how beautifully designed the app is until Apple approves it for the App Store, hopefully soon. [JLC]

<http://www.modulr.com/>

Most Control over iPad Gaming -- Apple doesn't offer haptic feedback on its devices yet, where there's a physical response to a digital action, like pressing a virtual key on a keyboard and feeling a click. Haptics may be the future, but a set of simple plastic widgets with suction cups provide the sensation of feedback without complicated electronics. Ten One Design's Fling is a joystick-like controller for the iPad ($19.95 for one or $29.95 for a pair). A rubber button is mounted on a spiral of plastic that has two suction cups attached. Many games use touch-based joystick controls—the company says there are about 100 of those, which it lists on its Web site. Center the Fling over the on-screen joystick controller, and you're good to go. It seemed silly until I played an Asteroids-like game and the entire convention center disappeared. The Fling more fully immersed me, and faster than I would have thought possible. Plastics! If Fling (and the inevitable copycats) catch on, game designers could test against the controllers to improve the experience. [GF]

<http://tenonedesign.com/fling>
<http://www.tidbits.com/resources/2011-01/MW11-fling.jpg>

Cheesiest Costumes, in an Unnecessary Way -- The biggest surprise at this year's show was the display of hired pulchritude and branded derrieres. That's right: after a number of years in which companies were somehow able to attract show-goers to their booths without appealing to baser instincts, a number of exhibitors brought in attractive women and dressed them in skin-tight tube dresses that required constant adjusting. One exhibitor even put their product name across the chest and

their booth number in a strategic position on the back, and had the women walk around as human billboards. It was impossible not to notice whenever they went by, but our main thought was, "They look cold." (We were right—one of them even acquired a pair of pink iPhone-compatible gloves after the first day.) Come on, exhibitors! This is a professional show, and we heard both from annoyed female professionals and from guys who were creeped out by the thought of their daughters in such a role. [ACE]

Cheesiest Costumes, in the Nicest Possible Way -- Codeweavers avoided booth babes in favor of booth impersonators, promoting its CrossOver Mac software (standard $39.95, professional $69.95) that enables emulation of Windows applications without a full virtualized copy of Windows running. Ladies and gentlemen: Elvis has left the booth. [GF]

<http://www.codeweavers.com/products/cxmac/>
<http://www.tidbits.com/resources/2011-01/MW11-crossover.jpg>

Fastest Time to Mindshare -- The fellows behind the Glif, Tom Gerhardt and Dan Provost, had a small booth where they demonstrated and sold their iPhone tripod mount adapter. The $20 adapter snaps on to an iPhone 4, and contains a standard threaded bushing, allowing the phone to be used with any tripod. The adapter also works freestanding as a sort of kickstand. The Glif went from idea to reality in the space of a few months, raising over $135,000 through crowdfunding, and changing the lives of these young designers. I wrote about them a couple times at the Economist's Babbage blog during their creative journey, and their story was written up around the world. Seeing them on the Macworld show floor was a treat. [GF]

<http://www.theglif.com/>
<http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/danprovost/glif-iphone-4-tripod-mount-and-stand>
<http://www.economist.com/blogs/babbage

/2010/10/small-scale_production>
<http://www.tidbits.com/resources/2011-
01/MW11-glif.jpg>

**Best Way to Clean Your iPad Screen
Without Newspaper** -- The folks at
LensPen, who make a variety of screen- and
lens-cleaning products, gave non-stop
demos of the SideKick, a new touchscreen-
cleaning device. The SideKick looks and
feels like a small, smooth chocolate bar.
You split it in half, and a carbon-laden
cleaning pad on a short handle pops out.
Run the pad over an iPad screen and the
carbon soaks up the fingerprint oils. When
you finish, you put the pad back into the
case, which also somehow reconditions it.
You reportedly get about 150 uses per pad.
I tried the SideKick on my iPad, and it
worked well. The LensPen booth rep
claimed the SideKick is based on the same
chemistry employed when you clean a
window with a wadded-up newspaper, but I
found newspaper significantly more
awkward and slow to use. I can't find
anything about the new SideKick on the
LensPen Web site, though the company
does mention it on their Facebook page. If
you want a SideKick but missed the
opportunity to buy it at Macworld Expo,
you'll have to look for it through
distributors a little later this year. The price
should be around $20 for the device plus
one extra pad. [TJE]

<http://www.lenspen.com/>
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/LensPen
/107122149356364>

**Greatest Live Performance of Songs about
Apple** -- During the lunch hour on
Saturday, I happened on the Rock Cookie
Bottom, a band led by Jonathan Mann,
performing in the lobby area of the second
floor of Moscone West. I thought, huh,
novelty act, as they sang about Steve
Wozniak (link is to music video version). But
after a moment, I realized I was in the
presence of great humor and talent. The
band rocked, and their lyrics were hilarious.

Mann has been writing a song a day for nearly
three years, and he apparently hasn't lost his
knack for catchy, fun lyrics. [GF]

<http://www.rockcookiebottom.com/>
<http://www.tidbits.com/resources/2011-
01/MW11-rock-bottom-cookies.jpg>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3FzuZdZL
t54>

Smallest Projectors -- Two companies
were showing iPad-, iPhone-, and iPod touch-
compatible pico projectors, which are a
relatively new category of display. A pico
projector uses one of several alternatives to
standard projection bulbs, and run cool. Pico
projectors are designed to be much smaller
than the units you see in conference rooms,
but they can produce a passable large image
in a dark room, and often a good small image
in a lighted room. The brightly lit show floor is
a tricky place to view such projections, and
both devices were impressive in those
conditions. Microvision revealed its $399.99
Showwx+, which connects via a dock cable.
The $479 Neo-i from Optoma is larger, working
as a docking station with speakers that can
play music or project from its built-in pico
system, as well as provide VGA and HDMI
video output. You can watch a demo of the
Neo-i from Macworld. Both rely on iOS's built-
in video output options; no apps or tweaking
is required. [GF]

<http://www.microvision.com/showwx/>
<http://www.optomausa.com/Product_detail.
asp?product_id=547>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I95KblPjM
RI>

**Real Product That Sounds Most Like a
Parody** -- You've tried slicing, you've tried
dicing, but you've never tried sticking a
television on your head! Now you can! The
$29.95 TV Hat was the goofiest product we
saw on the show floor. It's a hat-based mount
for an iPod touch or iPhone designed to shade
the screen from light and place it far enough
away to focus your eyes through a special

lens. None of us could bring ourselves to try it, possibly because of its "As seen on TV" badge. Or because we were afraid someone would take our picture while we were testing it. It's that silly looking. [GF]

<https://www.buytvhatnow.com/flare/next>

 ---- read/post comments: <http://db.tidbits.com/article/11934#comments> tweet this article: <http://db.tidbits.com/t/11934>

from pg. 6

suggested tweaks I searched the Registry and made the adjustments to the keys that I could find, although not all of the ones recommended could be found. As always, back up your registry first! (CCleaner would have done that prior to fixing the registry in the step above.) Start, Run "regedit", then Edit, Find and enter the string. Right click and adjust the value.

Additional Fixes
Use Auslogics Registry Defrag
  Defrag your hard drive!

Uninstall Optimize 3.0… You might want to reinstall it and run a new scan after you have done all of these steps to see if you made progress.

You should see a faster booting, faster running machine!

Good luck!

from pg. 2

18027/printable.html).

Google has filed for a patent in Europe for technology that uses facial recognition and social networks to identify you. Ken Olsen, founder of DEC passed away, and the last IPv4 addresses have been assigned to the regional registries. Time to think about IPv6.

Stuart Rabinowitz
Editor-in-Chief

PULP Staff

Editor	Stuart Rabinowitz
Distribution	George Carbonell

Officers & SIG Leaders

President:	George Carbonell	860.568–0492	george.carbonell@comcast.net
Vice President	Stuart Rabinowitz	860.633–9038	s.e.rabinowitz@att.net
Secretary:	Ted Bade	860.643–0430	tbade@cox.net
Treasurer:	Charles Gagliardi	860.233–6054	epencil@att.net
Director at Large:	Richard Sztaba		richer1@aol.com
Web Manager:	Bob Bonato		wmaster@huge.org
Membership:	Richard Sztaba		richer1@aol.com
Integrated SIG:	Stuart Rabinowitz	860.633–9038	s.e.rabinowitz@att.net

March 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 1968 HP 9100 introduced	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 1976 Apple I design completed	11	12
13	14	15 **General Meeting 7 PM**	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 1962 LINK Computer demo'd	28	29	30	31		