CKCS

Central Kentucky Computer Society

facebook – COMING ON TECH NIGHT

Is it safe? How does it work? Why should I sign up?

Media and computer expert Paul Stackhouse, a long time CKCS member, will offer an overview and demonstration of Facebook; one of the most widely used and fastest growing Internet phenomena. His presentation will be on **Monday, May 11** as part of the CKCS Tech Night series. Starting time is 7:00 P.M. at the Central Kentucky Computer Society Resource Center.

Paul advises that he will review basic functions, offer advice on the use of add-ons and show how much fun it can be to find friends, old and new through the social media site.

Paul is the original webmaster for KET.org, founded in early 1995. Before the Internet, he served as the SYSOP (system operator) for the CKCS Bulletin Board System for almost ten years. He is also a past President of CKCS.

If time permits, Paul will be available to answer questions on other Social Media web sites and offer insights on upcoming net-based technology.

A snip of a Facebook page

Paul Stackhouse will provide those attending this Tech Night presentation, a sound understanding about Facebook and how to use it. This should be interesting. Mark your calendars and save this date!

DRAWING: One lucky attendee will win 2 tickets to a Legends Baseball game in June.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN
Bob Brown, CKCS President

CKCS is announcing another benefit of membership: A service to erase data files from disk drives being prepared for disposal or donation.
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CKCS Disc Erasing Service

Why?

If you have a computer that you want to dispose of or donate, a common worry is that data left on your disk drive may be read and misused by someone who handles your old computer. There have been many cases in the news of this very issue.

What to do?

Simply deleting all files can be a little difficult to do and may not be effective since restoring deleted files is fairly simple in some situations.   A more thorough erase of the disk drive is advised but also not necessarily easy to do.

CKCS has acquired a device that connects directly to a disk drive and erases every sector of the drive replacing old data with a fixed data pattern. It is also very fast.

This process erases all files, including Windows and applications.

This effectively removes the possibility that a general user could recover old data files using common tools. However, if you are in trouble with the FBI or the CIA, do not count on this service to erase files beyond their ability to recover.

How do you take advantage of this CKCS service?

If you are a member in good standing, bring your disk drive to the CKCS Resource Center on any Friday between 10AM and 4PM. It helps if you can remove the disk drive from the computer and just bring the drive. But, if you need help with that, bring the cabinet or the laptop and we will try to do it for you.

Once the drive is accessible we can connect to it and run the erase procedure. In most cases the whole process takes less than one hour. If there is a backlog we may not be able to complete the erasing until the following week. You may leave the drive and we will call when it is ready.

Does this always work successfully?

No. While it has been successful in nearly all our practice attempts, we have discovered a few cases where the eraser device did not work as expected and we don't know why. You must be prepared for disappointment. So far we have not discovered any case where the device appeared to work correctly but left data on the disk. All failures have been recognizable.

If you would like to volunteer to help with this service or if you have any questions, call Wendell Curtis or Bob Brown at 373-1000 on Fridays.

SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHER TO SPEAK ABOUT TAKING BETTER PHOTOGRAPHS

by Joe Dietz

On Tuesday night May 26, at 7 PM, we will have a quest speaker at our Digital Imaging Special Interest Group. **David Stephenson**, sports photographer for the Lexington Herald Leader, will make a presentation on taking better photographs. If you read the sports

Joe Dietz
Digital Imaging
SIG Leader

section of the Lexington paper you have probably seen some of David images. They are action packed, catching the player in the midst of a tackle or interception or of a thoroughbred breaking out of the pack. David has the knack of being in the right place at the right time to get that special shot. The Kentucky News Photographer's Association named David the still photographer of the year and as well, the sports photographer this year. Check his web site out at www.davidstephenson.com.

David Stephenson

Our **photo contest** this month will be "Flowers". With everything that has been in gorgeous bloom this spring, you have had a lot to choose from. Pick out your best shot and send it to me by May 25. Resample the image to be 1000 pixels on the largest size and send to joedietz@aol.com. Be sure to put photo contest in the subject line.

The Digital Photography SIG meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Check the "MEETING SCHEDULE" for more information.

JOIN CKCS NOW OR

GIVE A CKCS MEMBERSHIP AS A GIFT

It is easy to apply, just go to https://www.iglou.com/ckcsweb/other/onlineap.htm . Fill in the blanks and use your credit card. It is that simple. Another way is to call the CKCS Office (859) 373-1000 and an office supervisor will help.

 A CKCS membership is a great birthday or special occasion gift. After you complete the application, just send them a card to share the good news of your gift.

DON'T LIKE YOUR APPLE KEYBOARD OR MOUSE? REPLACE THEM. THAT'S WHAT I DID.

By Kurt Jefferson – Macintosh SIG Leader

Can you name the two most overlooked parts of your Mac?
Answer: Two devices you use more than any other—keyboard and mouse.

Apple's latest keyboard and mouse versions spark strong opinions. Most folks belong in one of two camps: they love 'em or hate 'em.

Let's say you buy a new iMac. Open the box, take out the machine and start attaching the keyboard and mouse. You get an Apple keyboard (with keys some say resemble Chiclets, a gum I loved in my childhood) and Mighty Mouse (no, it's not a bar of soap, but instead a white two–button mouse with a teeny–tiny scroll button on top).

Kurt Jefferson

If you want to upgrade, you can buy an Apple wireless keyboard and a wireless Mighty Mouse. The latter two use Bluetooth, which connects both devices to your Mac without the need of a small USB receiver.

I bought the latest version of Apple's Wireless Keyboard last year at Lexington's CompUSA before that nationwide electronics chain shuttered its doors.

As Wikipedia notes, the keyboard appears much thinner than earlier models and is encased in aluminum. There's no keypad on the right side of the keyboard.
I thought I would absolutely love using the keyboard. That never happened. Instead, the romance never developed. I could never get totally accustomed to the keys.

So here's what I did.

I ditched them.

Okay, I didn't really get rid of my Apple Wireless Keyboard and Mighty Mouse. I still use them periodically.

But I began a search for replacements which I could use daily.

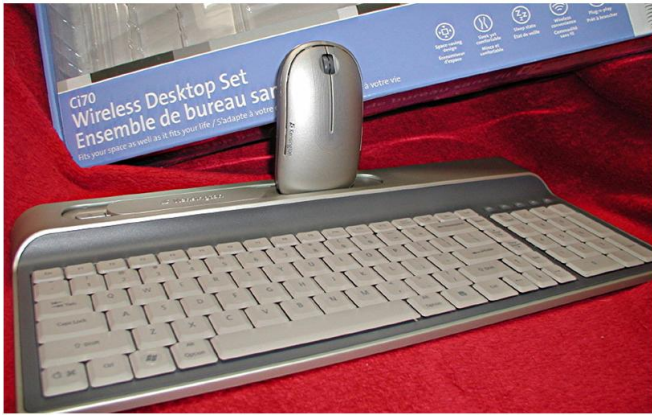My search began using these Web sites:

Macworld: http://www.macworld.com/browse.html?type=3&cat=219
(This is Macworld's giant review of so–called "input devices." Here is where you can read the magazines reviews of Mac compatible keyboards and mice).

Applelinks reviews by Charles Moore:
(Moore's a Canadian who knows his stuff. He regularly reviews Mac keyboards, mice, and plenty of other goodies. Here is his review of a popular Kensington keyboard and mouse set:

Kensington Ci70 Desktop Set
http://www.applelinks.com/index.php/more/charles_moore_reviews_the_kensington_ci70_wireless_desktop_set/

Amazon.com
Type "mac keyboards mice" without the quotes in Amazon.com's search blank. Then scroll down the page. Find something that interests your fancy? Click on its link.

Then scroll down to the bottom of the page and read what Amazon buyers are saying about this product. Sure, some of the reviews are not valid. But others are. You can get an overview of what buyers are saying. You also get to see what's selling well there.

For example, the Logitech Cordless Wave Desktop Set is the #1 selling Mac–compatible keyboard/mouse sold at the Amazon site.

MacUser (The British magazine)
Go to www.macuser.co.uk/ and click on "Reviews Archive" under Product Reviews on the left–hand menu under the "Search For:" bar. Then click on Input Devices under "Browse by Category." I spotted one Mac Logitech keyboard and a Mac Microsoft keyboard desktop set (keyboard and mouse) there. You get to see both got a "4" rating out of "5" mice. I clicked on Microsoft Wireless Laser Desktop 7000 to read the review. The MacUser reviewer puts the Desktop 7000 through its paces and ends with "It's not cheap, and far from perfect, but we like it nonetheless."

After all of this reading, reviewing, and searching what did I do? I bought the Kensington Ci70 Wireless Desktop Set from the Amazon Web site. It comes in two colors—Titanium and Black. I chose Titanium.
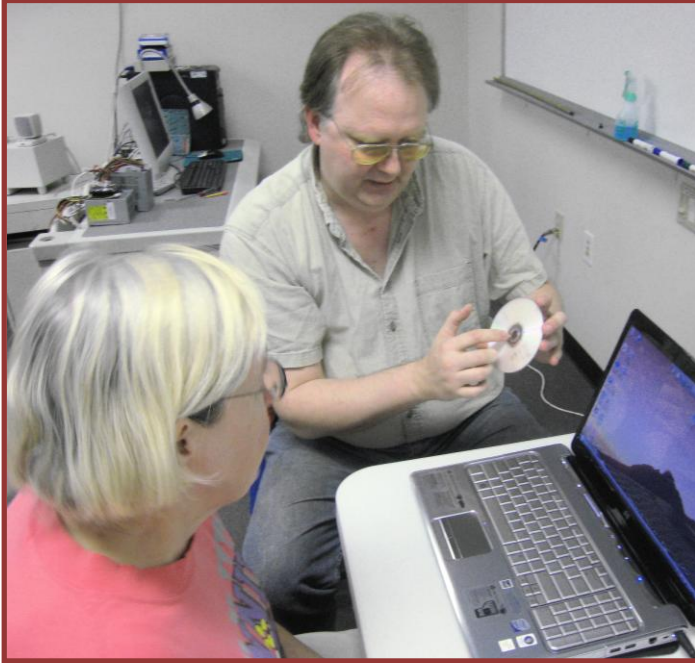
There a few quirks, but overall I'm very pleased with my purchase. Since this keyboard is designed for both the Mac and Windows, there's a windows key I don't use. And the Command key (sometimes called Apple key) is on the far left of the keyboard, not just to the left of the space bar where it normally is. But I love the so–called scissor action feel of the keys. And the two–button mouse can be stored in the keyboard's built–in docking station when not in use.

From time to time I still use the Apple Wireless Keyboard and Mighty Mouse. But I now use the Kensington Ci70 Wireless Desktop Set most of the time. And the new keyboard and mouse remind me daily just how vital these overlooked tools can be. If you're unhappy with your keyboard, mouse, or both, find replacements you can live with.

Note: If you buy a Kensington or Logitech keyboard, mouse or desktop set (keyboard and mouse), make sure you download the company's Mac software. This will activate additional buttons to make the hardware work as it's supposed to.

The Macintosh SIG meets on the second Thursday of each month. Check the "MEETING SCHEDULE" for more information.

THE DOCTOR IS IN

When **Dr. Fixit** (Norm Funk) arrives at the CKCS Resource Center on the first Saturday of each month, he usually has a number of sick computers waiting – well members with sick computers are waiting. For several years now, Norm has served as Dr. Fixit, and has rendered much help to CKCS

members to get a 'sick' desktop or laptop computer running again. If the computer needs some replacement parts, then Norm is usually able to explain what you need to buy to get things running again. The Dr. Fixit SIG starts at 2:00 PM on the first Saturday of each month. In the pictures **TOP LEFT**, Norma Hampton learned that the CD she was using was not appropriate for the drive in her laptop. **TOP RIGHT** Norm Funk was helping Sigrid Kunev with her laptop problem while V. Q. Cox waited his turn. **AT LEFT**, Larry Johnson explained his problem to Dr. Fixit. On this day, only laptops were bought in which was unusual. When bringing a desktop computer, you only need to bring the CPU (tower) because Dr. Fixit will use 'in house' keyboard, mouse and display (unless one of those three items might be your problem).

WHAT IS THE BEST WAY
TO SPEED UP A COMPUTER?
See Dr. Fixit's thoughts on page 10

NAMEPLATE

At the top of page 1 is the third of four nameplates that will be submitted to the board of directors as candidates to become a standard for the CKCS Online Newsletter.

The first one appeared in the February and March 2009 online issues.

The second one, designed by Bruce Klobeke was in the April issue.

The third nameplate appears on page one of this issue.

The fourth nameplate was the one that was used on our printed newsletters – the last issue published in August 2007.

A color version of the above appears each week on the Listserv notices that are Emailed to those who subscribe for that service. The logo was designed by Hilary Baumann www.fascinationdesign.com

An earlier version of the CKCS nameplate with running horses was designed by Alice McCormick

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

David Highet CKCS Membership Chairman

Just like the racehorses at Keeneland, the members of CKCS need to be eagerly awaiting their call at the starting gate to go out and find new members for the Central Kentucky Computer Society. The horses at Keeneland are racing for prizes to benefit their owners and the chance to qualify them for even bigger races in the future. Our prizes consist of adding new members who can share their computer talents with us, whose experiences will help to broaden our knowledge of computers and enhance our computer skills. By strengthening our membership base we are safeguarding our very existence as an organization.

Not unlike any of our own households, the Central Kentucky Computer Society has financial obligations. CKCS has rent, utilities, and other bills to pay each month just the same as each of us. If we are to continue to enjoy the fine programs that CKCS offers each of us every month, we need to maintain a strong membership base to help pay the bills. As a non-profit organization, we must sustain our self. We do this by paying monthly membership dues. Simple math shows us that if we do not have enough members to pay the bills, our membership dues will rise.

To prevent this, we as members can spread the word to our friends and neighbors to enlist them into membership. This is a good thing for both them and us. We can keep our membership fees low, and offer our friends and neighbors the best of possible computer experiences. By soliciting their membership, we are offering the best available computer training opportunities, high quality computer seminars, and exposure to the very best computer specialists in the area.

We are actually doing our friends and neighbors a big favor by introducing them to the Central Kentucky Computer Society. Their association with us will provide them with the same fine experiences and services that we enjoy. Stop for a second and think about it. The only way your neighbors and friends are going to get to know about our fine computer society is by your telling them about it. The truth is, you have an obligation to tell your friends and neighbors about the Central Kentucky Computer Society. That is, if they are truly your friends and neighbors.

Which would you rather have, satisfied friends and neighbors attending CKCS activities with you, or higher dues!

Coming next month in the June newsletter:

The History of CKCS

ONE OF THE TOP 5 FEATURES OF VISTA
By Joe Isaac Windows SIG Leader

Search Boxes (one of the great features of Vista, it is faster than a speeding bullet.) are everywhere, each program, file, Start Menu, etc.   They are fast and respond with each letter you type in.

When you go to Start, and start typing in the **Start Search** box, it immediately starts searching your Programs, Folders, Documents, Pictures, Music, Desktop, even your contacts, and email messages.

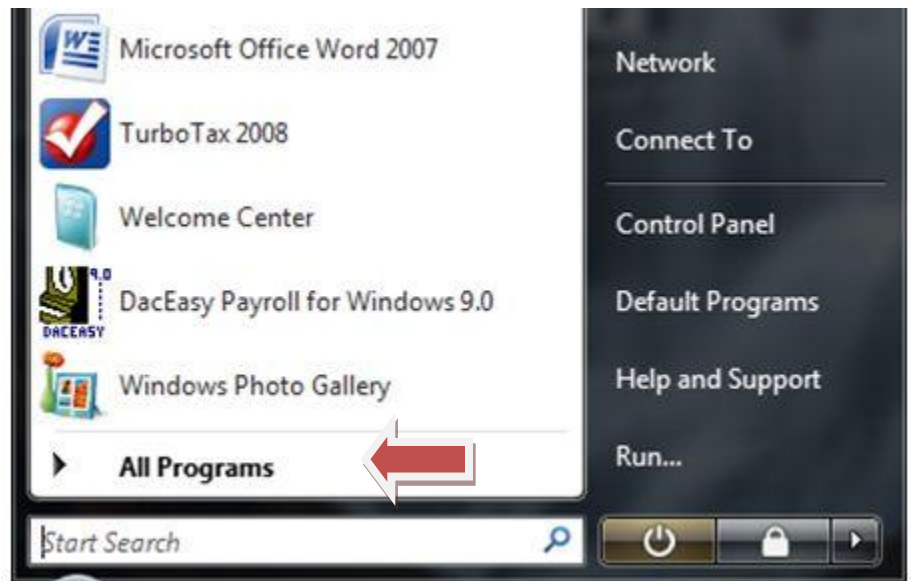Talk about a time saver. When you can't remember where you filed something, Start Search will find it pronto.

Thinking about a new computer?
AMD or Intel Dual Core Processor (@ 2.4 GHz or more)
3 to 5 GB DDR2 Memory (RAM)
160 GB and up Hard Drive
15.4 " wide screen.
Integrated 802.11n wireless LAN (optional)
DVD- RW Drive to burn CD's and DVD's.

Digital Media Reader, If you have a Digital Camera
Windows Vista Premium (comes with firewall and antispyware program)

With rebates, you should get a great computer for less than $800.
You'll love the new Vista Premium operating system plus the great speed of the new computers.

The Windows XP – Vista SIG meets on the second Tuesday of each month. Check MEETING SCHEDULE for more information.

DATE SET FOR ANNUAL CKCS PICNIC AND ELECTION

You are urged to reserve the evening of **Monday, June 8th** on your calendar to attend the annual CKCS picnic and election. More will be posted on the web site when the details become firm.

DO YOU NEED A FASTER PC?

By Dr. Fixit – Norm Funk

A lot of people have asked me "What is the best way to speed up my computer?"
I let them know that the biggest bang for the buck is improving a computers performance is increasing the amount of memory (RAM) in the PC. There is an article with background information and research available on Kingston technologies web site.

http://www.kingston.com/tools/umg/umg01a.asp

There are also many other memory resellers that sell reasonably priced memory. Just be sure that what you order is compatible with your machine by using the tools online to check your machines manufacturer and model or by checking the label on the RAM that is currently in your machine.

There have been many machines I have worked on that had the CPU horsepower to be good machines but lacked the RAM to operate efficiently, with the side effects of long boot times, slow program response, instability, and excessive hard drive usage. Memory upgrades are one of the most useful improvements you can do for your computer.

EBay was the topic on Tech Night in April and **Bill Heaton** received a warm welcome from attendees as he touched on the history of EBay, and explained how it works. He use a teapot to show how easy it is to post an item for sale. Bill provided numerous tips and tricks in selling stuff on what is promoted as the World's Online Marketplace -- EBay.

Dr Fixit meets on the first Saturday of each month at 2:00 PM

DID YOU EVERY WONDER WHICH IS BEST?
HAND DISH WASHING VS A MACHINE

By Jerry Heaton

Computer search engines are wonderful !

For years, I have argued that you are better off using a dishwashing machine rather than hand washing dishes, It has all been to no avail – a couple of my relatives, who own a dishwasher, often wash the dishes before they put them in a dishwasher. Ridiculous I argue! Of course I have a lazy gene in me so I put everything, pots and pans and often really dirty dishes there without a thought. I am told I am wasting water and electricity.

As I started my dishwasher this morning, I decided use good old Google™, to see if they had any information on the question. It led me to a website ONE GREEN GENERATION which had some interesting – even surprising -- statistics on the subject. If I have spiked your curiosity, you may want check out this web site. http://1greengeneration.elementsintime.com/?p=314 . It is a long read, but I found it most interesting.

A GOOD WORD PROCESSING PROGRAM MAY BE ALL YOU NEED

Using email and visiting websites are by far the most prominent uses of the home computer today. Perhaps for many computer users, that is all you need. There is one other program, though, that I would recommend that you purchase and have on your computer, if you do nothing else. And that is a good word processing programs such as Microsoft Word.

I use my word processing program all the time to make notes of tidbits of information that I don't want to lose. I give each item a good title that will help me find it when I search in the future. Of course the main purpose of a word processing program is to do letters and notes plus preparing envelopes and labels and numerous other tasks.

But Microsoft Word offers so much more. You may create a table in a word document allowing you to conveniently organize related segments of information such as addresses, phone numbers and such. Once you create a table, that table can easily become a database should you do later choose to merge files and text together – a powerful feature of MS Word.

So if you want to conserve money, a purchase of a recent copy of Microsoft word I'd be your best bet.

Attend the next word processing SIG where topics of this type are presented and discussed by members.

The Word Processing SIG meets twice on the first Tuesday of each month. Check the "MEETING SCHEDULE" for more information.