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In this issue: *Vista Vexes - Windows XP Services Manager - Fun with Freeware
Accesseries for that Christmas Computer - How does Windows Handle USB Devices
My Registry Adventures - Essential Tech Books for Non-Dummies - Chapter Reports
Editorial License - Shopping for Free and Open Source Software*

Renaissance Faire in Michigan

August 2006; Camera - Olympus C5060;
Photographer ; Charlie Sickels



JOURNAL OF THE CHICAGO COMPUTER SOCIETY

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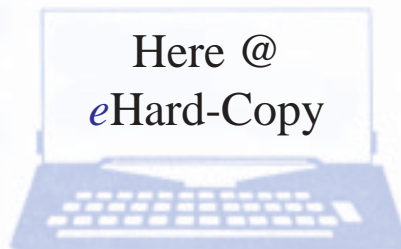
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by Charlie Sickels, Managing Editor
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Commentary and news about some of the articles and also our writers, along with related matters, all intended to make this journal more useful to you.

Greetings, loyal readers and members of our society. We have again information and news tailored to the interests of our varied range of expertise and interests. You may have noted in previous issues of Hard-Copy that we have had very little information on computer gaming, which is wildly popular among many users, along with teens' interest in computer chatting with pals—old and new. We do not cover gaming since we have little knowledge of it and because many other sources and publications are more informed and competent—might we even say greedy—in that area.

But we do pay increasing attention to another growing field, digital photography. Most of us enjoy taking pictures. Some of us even did the film and print developing and enlarging, messing with trays and chemicals in darkened rooms. Ho ho. Easier and quicker now. Store hundreds of shots on a little flash card. Work in a dry and lighted environment at any pace. Photo editing computer programs do trickier things with images. Printers turn out the prints. What's not to like? No regrets and no problems except disposal. How best to bestow the old trays and enlarger when many other liberated darkroom escapees are also seeking worthy recipients for valued equipment no longer needed. Museums don't want them. Col-

leges don't need them. Elevators already have counterweights.

So now more people are taking more pictures. These pictures, too can be looked at, kept, and treasured. They can also be shown to others more easily than ever before. So we get portable collections and portable photo contests. Many months ago, we tried a modest one here. No structures, no rules, no takers. Then APCUG announced its contest, complex. We started our own, simple. They got a few score entries, nationally. CCS got a few hundred entries, locally. The 321 entries we got are all available for viewing on the CCS website. Final judging is in process as this is written. Winners will be shown here. Prizes will be awarded to the top categories.

The cover of this issue shows one of the pictures that was not entered in our contest. Its details are: subject - Scottish dancers and pipe band at a Renaissance Faire in Michigan; date - August 2006; camera - Olympus C5060; photographer - this editor.

A new feature starting in this issue is the series "Know Your Board". In it we present a monthly portrait. In text and picture, of one member of the CCS Board of Directors. This month we feature our Administrator, Beata Kernan.

The Chicago Computer Society is a 501(c)3 educational not-for-profit personal computer User's Group with monthly meetings throughout Northeast Illinois and Northwest Indiana. All chapter and Special Interest Group meetings are open to the general public.

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The Chicago Computer Society
is proud to be a member of



Association of Personal Computer
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Visit The Chicago Computer Society at
<http://www.ccs.org>.
Website hosting for CCS is provided by
Network Solutions.
Contact our CCS Administrator,
Beata Kernan, at
(708) 588-0385 for a membership
application.

This month, as every month, there is a semi-hidden prize for one lucky CCS member (who remembers his/her CCS membership #). In the space at the end of one of the articles herein is a five-line paragraph specifying that member number as the winner of a year's subscription to *Smart Computing*. [Hint: the number of that page is a prime number.]

One of the primary benefits of CCS membership is attending meetings. Since this is a large urban area, meetings are held at various locations. They are listed in one of the pages inside. It would benefit you to find and attend those convenient to you, as you already know if you do attend. It would be of further benefit to members to be able to read reports of more of our meetings. If you attend, please consider noting down what occurs and is presented so that others may also know. As an aid to your composing a report, presenters at meetings usually can make available to you material like a text copy of presentation highlights as well as ID information on a business card. Using reports you see here as a model, you could make up a draft report for us to edit here. You can send this material to my e-mail address listed above. Others will thank you when the report appears. I will thank you now. ■ (TOC)

*The address for Hard-Copy
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*Be Sure to check out the monthly
calendar for meetings about your
computing needs at
www.ccs.org*

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Chicago Computer Society Purpose

The Society is an education and information service organization dedicated to expanding knowledge, understanding, and the use of microcomputers by individuals and professionals.

The purposes of the Society are to operate exclusively for charitable, scientific or educational purposes, in the course of which operation and in furtherance thereof:

TO PROVIDE its membership with timely, accurate, and practical solutions to microcomputer productivity problems.

TO ATTRACT and help educate new microcomputer users, and to retain and learn from experienced, knowledgeable users.

TO SATISFY the information needs of its membership.

TO BE a recognizable force in the industry so that Society opinions may positively influence future microcomputer products.

Notes From The President's Desk

by Al Cheeks



APCUG Annual Conference

Early in January, Jerry Sass, CCS Webmaster, and I attended the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG) annual conference in Las Vegas, NV. It should be noted that although representing Chicago Computer Society, all expenses were personally absorbed..... *More*

Consumer Electronics Show

Following the APCUG Conference, I attended the Annual Consumer Electronics Show (CES), also in Las Vegas. This is a week-long exhibition of consumer electronic products. Cell phones have evolved into an All Purpose Device – taking pictures, sending and receiving email, playing music, calculating numbers, and finally sending and receiving telephone calls.... *More*

Photo Contest

Our photo contest has ended, and our thanks to all who participated. A total of 321 photos were submitted, and it is now up to the judges to wade thru them all to pick the winners. Their task is enormous. If you have not seen them yet, they are still available on www.ccs.org. The winners will be announced in the April eHard-Copy.... *More*

Vista Vexes

The Windows Vista Pains'n'Gains Pageby Jan Fagerholm,

OK, so I've suffered through the betas and RC1 and RC2 (Release Candidate = not quite done yet), and now through two succeeding RTMs (Release To Manufacturing = the finished product.) So what's the final version of Windows Vista finally like? Is it worth the pain of upgrade?

I'm not going to spend much time telling you how pretty the Aero interface is, or how cool the Flip3D task switcher is; the computer press has already given lots of space to these features. I intend to relate some experiences with hardware and software that I have encountered. I'll sometimes talk about the new features, as these are the reasons for upgrading to Vista, but I'll mainly be focusing on the stumbling blocks, as these are the reasons that you may want to wait until the problems that relate to you are resolved. If you went through the XP changeover five years ago, you are in for a similar experience with Vista. *More*

The Windows XP Services Manager

by Dick Maybach

Windows, like any multi-tasking operating system, is complex, with dozens of processes running, even when your PC appears to be idle. Some of these are independent, but many rely on other processes. In simpler times, our computers did only one thing at a time, but few of us want to return to the days when, for example, everything stopped during printing. Fortunately, XP provides some tools to help you understand what is going on behind your back, and one of the more helpful of these is its Services Manager. First, a caveat: this will help you figure out what only the benign processes are doing; it is not effective in identifying viruses and spyware, which often hide from you... *More*

My Registry Adventures

by Al Gruber

Suppose you try to delete a file on your Desktop, but instead the system starts to install a program. You furiously click cancel a dozen times, and it stops. So, you try the delete again, and it happens again, and again, even after rebooting. Evidently, some wires are crossed in your computer: the delete key is now assigned to installing a program called ScanSoft PDF Create. That's what made me delve into the registry.

By way of background, I've had problems with ScanSoft ever since their last upgrade, so I knew enough to demand that they remove their setup program, and hallelujah, that did give me back my delete key. But it made sense to me that this fixed only the symptom. Somewhere in there, the wires were still crossed. And that somewhere must be in the registry. Unfortunately, I didn't know enough about the registry—and though I know a little more now, I still haven't fixed the problem. ... *More*

REVIEW

Fun with Freeware

by Cary Quinn

Here are a couple of utilities I have been using lately to correct a couple of bumps in the road to a positive Windows experience.

OverDisk (v0.11 beta) (freeware)

<http://users.forthnet.gr/pat/efotinis/programs/overdisk.html>

Elias Fotinis, a programmer from Greece, is one of those programmers you often find on the net who in their spare time writes little apps and utilities to solve some personal issue they might have getting the operating system, or some other program, to work the way they want it to.

Taskbar Shuffle (free, but accepting donations)

<http://www.freewebs.com/nerdcave/taskbarshuffle.htm>

From the home of the Nerd Cave, comes a pretty nifty little tool that answers a minor nit I have had with the Windows Taskbar for a while—why you cannot drag and drop the programs listed on the taskbar for better arrangement of your programs to your preference. With Taskbar Shuffle, you can. That seems pretty simple, and it appears to work quite seamlessly within the OS. .. *More*

BOOK REVIEWS

Accessories for that New Christmas Computer

by *Ira Wilsker*

This Christmas season Santa delivered countless new desktop and notebook computers to good boys and good girls of all ages. Many also received gift cards as welcomed presents, which will allow the recipient to purchase whatever he/she wishes.

While almost all new computers will run out of the box, these same new computers are often the epitome of vulnerability as they often lack appropriate protective security software. While many new computers come with some software and utilities, there are still several items which would make good last minute Christmas gifts, or an appropriate utilization of a gift card... *More*

Finally! Essential Tech Books for Non-Dummies

by *Gabe Goldberg*

With holidays just past, many people reading this article from AARP's Web site will need technowisdom for dealing with gifts received by family, friends, and themselves. But with conflicting suggestions from mailing lists, Web sites, stores, and manufacturers all around us, a trusted guidebook is valuable.

The books are *Sandy Berger's Great Age Guide to Better Living Through Technology, ... to the Internet, and ... to Gadgets & Gizmos*. Their common design is open and uncluttered; accessible language is clear but not dumbed down; there's no mention of dummies or idiots.... *More*

Let's see what you're missing on the

CCS WEB SITE WWW.CCS.ORG

By *Jerry Sass*

Have you seen the member entries of the CCS Photo contest?

Let's go to the CCS Web site main page and select **Announcing the Chicago Computer Society Photo Contest**.

This will take you to the member's only area where you have to enter your user name and password. Once entered, you will be directed to the web page announcing the Chicago Computer Society Photo Contest.

Here you have several options of viewing the member entries. Under the photo categories, you can view each category separately by selecting the entries submitted for **animals, Landscape/Structures or People**. Than you can view each entry separately or look at the thumbnail views and select specific entries to see a larger view of the entry.

Another option is to select the Full slide show. This will display all 321 entries to the photo contest and will take approx 15 to 20 minutes to view.... *More*

West Suburban Computer Club

by Terry Moye

CCS Help Line

For Members Only.

You can get help with your computer needs by going to the CCS web site in the members only area.

Click CCS Help Line.

Meeting of January 4, 2007

Stan Hungness, group's coordinator, called the January, 2007 meeting of the West Suburban Computer Club to order about 7:30 PM. The meeting as usual started with Open Forum, included Latest Technology Update, and ended with the Presentation.

Presentation: Internet Scams

CCS South Suburban Computer Club's Beginner SIG Coordinator, Roger Hale, discussed "Internet Scams". His suggestions:

GOLDEN RULES:

- A, Sounds too good to be true, probably is false.
- B, Don't give out personal info unless you are sure of source.
- C. Be suspect, especially penny stocks.
- D, Buy with credit card, refund if merchandise not received.... *More*

The Chicago Computer Society is the largest Personal Computer user group in Illinois. We have over a dozen Clubs and Special Interest Groups (SIGs) that meet regularly in Chicago, the suburbs and northwestern Indiana. There is a CCS meeting or event held every week! Click the "Monthly Calendar" hotlink (located to the left and on the menubar above) for meeting information.

We offer our members a wide range of educational and networking opportunities. If you're a beginner, joining CCS is a GREAT way to learn how to use your computer more efficiently and effectively. If you're already an expert, you can meet CCS Members who share similar interests, explore new computer-related topics and showcase your computer knowledge and leadership skills. CCS offers something for EVERYONE and provides numerous opportunities for us to help each other find the RIGHT answers to tough questions and the BEST solutions to difficult problems.

Feel free to attend any of our meetings, talk with any of our Members, browse our Website, read our Journal, "eHard-Copy"(tm), and see for yourself what CCS has to offer YOU!

CCS is a not-for-profit, 501c3, educational Personal Computer user group.