

Personal Computer Security

Thursday, September 9, 2004, 7 P.M.
Lecture Hall of the Carr-Gottstein Academic Center
Main Campus, Alaska Pacific University

Robert Sprowl will discuss various aspects of personal computer security for the Windows. He plans to cover firewalls, web-browsing, anti-virus utilities, applications security, and data protection in general and the vulnerabilities and updates (including WinXP Sp2) for windows.

The Alaska Computer Society is a nonprofit educational organization. Our meetings are always free and open to the public. We meet the second Thursday of each month, usually at the Carr-Gottstein building at APU.

For further details about our group and a map to the meeting location, visit our web site at www.acs-pcug.org.

Serving Alaskans since 1983.

Notice:

I appolgoze for not publishing this issue in a timely fashion. It is being published after the fact as an historical record. ed.

Contents

1 The DealsGuy	2
2 The Editor's Keyboard	6
3 Friends of ACS	7
4 The Back Pages	8

1 The DealsGuy for September 2004

by Bob (The Cheapskate) Click,
Greater Orlando Computer Users Group

Last month I wrote a little about the American Water Works Assn. Show and here's more about it this month. I briefly watched the "tapping" contest, which was fun. There was seating for a small audience and the competition teams came from all over the world. There was a twenty foot length of approximately eight inch steel pipe mounted on pedestals and it was capped and pressurized with water at about 45 psi. When a three-man team was ready, a signal was given and they were to quickly install a special tapping device around the pipe tightly, then drill and tap a hole, then install an outlet valve on that eight inch pressurized steel pipe. At the same time, one of their team was cutting a six foot length of one inch copper tubing, forming a proper bend, and connecting one end to a pressure gage mounted on a stand, and the other

end to the newly installed valve when the tapping device was removed. When they pressurized the gage, it stopped the clock. This procedure must end up without any leaks.

Improper bending of the copper tubing, any leaks, and a couple of other rules, if infringed upon, were assessed an extra seconds penalty to determine the official time. A Hawaiian team performed the fastest time I saw in one minute 55 seconds. I can tell you that there were hands and elbows flying everywhere for those sessions. Unfortunately, I only got to watch a few contestants, but it was held every day of the show. When I watch our own local utility workers, there are never any record times. In fact, I worry about the quality of the shovel handles they are leaning on.

I Was Impressed

This is only human interest, but it is something that I felt should be passed on. We just finished working an event that greatly impressed us. It was not a trade show, but was the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod 2004 Youth Gathering. It is only held every three years, but what an event for the youth. There were over 37,000 attendees from 38 countries including USA (most were from USA), and, of course, they were mostly youths. I was somewhat wary of trying to work with a group that was mostly kids, but was very pleasantly surprised. All of us working the event remarked to each other on the great attitude, manners and camaraderie of those kids.

In one building was a so-called Café where they met (all 37,000) each morning for their prayer event, and in the convention center on our side there was a large area set up for recreation. It was filled with a small carnival and games of all types, along with crafts and many other things for young people. Games even included volleyball and a large twister square. They had a ball for five days and so did we. There was not one incident that I heard of and everybody involved had a wonderful time. What a great job those parents must have done at raising them. My hat is off to those folks. I have not heard of other churches hosting such great events, but they certainly should. When I was compliment-

ing one of the volunteers, she said for me to come join them some time because they know how to party, and it is always good clean fun. From my observations, I can attest to that, although I was high-fived so many times that my hand eventually began to sting a bit. Those kids mean it!

News From Binary

I have not heard from Binary Research for two years, but this was recently sent to all user groups. If you did not see it posted on my Web site, here is their information. "Universal Imaging Utility: With the UIU, you can create an image file that is deployable to any computer, regardless if it's a Dell, Compaq, HP or even a white box. No longer will the release of software updates and patches mean endless updating of numerous cloning images. The UIU also eliminates the burden of hunting for Plug-and-play IDs and the frustration of the post-cloning Blue Screen. Finally, you can create hardware-independent image files with any cloning utility. Try the UIU and see for yourself how truly effective it is.

www.binaryresearch.net/UIU.htm

(The various prices are on the Web site, but I saw no specials.)

Death2Spam

With all the hype surrounding Anti-Spam/Anti-Virus products, how do you separate the gibberish from the truly useful solutions? For starters, you can try it on your e-mail account. Binary Research is excited to present *Death2Spam*, a third-generation Anti-Spam/Anti-Virus utility with a true accuracy rating that puts other Spam products to shame. *Death2Spam* exceeds 99% accuracy in both Anti-Spam and Anti-Virus filtering. Because it employs an adaptive, probabilistic Anti-Virus engine, **D2S** does not require any signature updates, meaning there is no lag time while you wait for your AV vendor to update for the latest threats.

[Death2Spam¹](#)

(I only saw corporate prices on the Web page, but you can look for yourself.)

Let This Do The Checking For You

Formula Software has introduced a new product that is interesting. I have noticed that people use Excel for many things. It is not just a pretty spreadsheet for a CPA. For example, if you

use it to formulate price sheets, how do you know you have the latest one if you keep updating them? I guess the date and time would help, but Formula Software has introduced "Excel Compare 2.0" to help resolve this problem. It can compare them, and with the results you will have the information at your fingertips. You can find out more about the product and download a demo version at

www.formulasoft.com/

I won't take the space to better describe it here, but take a look and see if it suits your purposes. It is for Windows (95, 98, NT, ME, 2000 or XP) and if you would prefer to purchase it, they have offered user group members a 30% discount off the \$34.95 retail price of a personal license (\$39.95 business license) by using the discount coupon code 45GT-88RR-UZ67. Purchase links are:

- [Business License²](#)
- [Personal License³](#)

The discount codes are imbedded in the URL.

¹The URL is: www.binaryresearch.net/Death2Spam.htm

²The URL is: <https://secure.element5.com/sherit/checkout.html?productid=167952&cartcoupon=1&COUPON1=45G5-88RR-UZ67>

³The URL is: <https://secure.element5.com/shareit/checkout.html?productid=167951&cartcoupon=1&COUPON1=45GT-88RR-UZ67>

Nab That Spam

I have complained about spam and Paul Witheridge says I should try *POPfile* to conquer that problem. He claims it is 99% successful for him and best of all, it is free. Beyond that it is also antivirus software. Download it at

sourceforge.net/projects/popfile/

I have not tried it since I have another philosophy about spam filters. After it has filtered your e-mail, you will probably take a look at what it filters out to make sure it didn't remove something you would have wanted. If I have to look it over anyway, I might as well just do it all in the first place. However, Paul says it is easier and quicker to look at the filtered e-mail, and with the amount of spam I am now receiving, I may try it. Be aware that there are limitations. It does not work with Web based mail as the name *POPfile* suggests. Anyway, I'm including his suggestion for your perusal. I thought the Web site was confusing, but I'm told the help file in the software is much more understandable for setting it up. There is also a good help forum at

sourceforge.net/forum/

Paul says *K9* is another popular software — smaller, simpler, less capable than *POPFile*, but quite popular, and also free. Check it out at

keir.net/k9.html

That's it for this month. Meet me here again next month if your editor permits. This column is written to make user group members aware of special offers or freebies I have found or arranged, and my comments should not be interpreted to encourage, or discourage, the purchase of any products, no matter how enthused I might sound. Bob (The Cheapskate) Click

bobclick@mindspring.com

Visit my Web site at

www.dealsguy.com

for interesting articles from user group newsletters. I also posted some interesting NEW Web site pages for your viewing. They contain new product announcements that I received over a period of time. More will be forthcoming when I get the ambition.

2 The Editor's Keyboard

Client/Server

Ten years or so ago the phrase *Client/Server* and its relatives such as *Thin Client* (as opposed to *Fat Client* of course) seemed to appear regularly in the trade press. Neither Microsoft nor Apple seemed interested. As I remember, hardware and software were produced, but the concept did not light the flame of desire in the hearts of either users or those who controlled purchasing decisions.

I note that during this time, used PC's had a lively market. The cost of the *Thin Client* hardware was generally higher than a useable second-hand PC. In any case, there was no general movement to the *Client/Server* model.

The New Millennium

Times have changed. The bottom has dropped out of the used PC market. Businesses and governmental IT departments have found that it is expensive to dispose of old PC's. There have been two electronic recycling days so far in this new millennium. Observers have reported to me personally seeing many useable PC's heading off to the bone yards down in the lower 48.

This is really a sad situation. Rural Alaska has a need for PC's in the

schools and in the homes. There are likely many households here in Anchorage that have an unfulfilled need for a PC. Hopefully a greater portion of this steam of junk can be diverted to useful purposes here in Alaska.

The New Client/Server Model

The old model assumed purchase of thin-client hardware. This new model assumes re-use of cast-off PC's. In fact, this concept has a new name:

[Linux Terminal Server Project \(LTSP\)](#)

Synergy for Success

An experiment is underway as I write to combine cast-off PC, the free⁴ software from the LTSP, and a desire to setup an after-school program.

I expect to have more details in the coming months. Stay tuned.

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Fielder George Dowding
Editor and Publisher
PC NEWS

⁴Free software is a matter of freedom: people should be free to use software in all the ways that are socially useful. Free Software Foundation (www.gnu.org)

3 Friends of ACS

We thank those businesses and individuals listed below and the many others who have donated all or a portion of some of the services, materials, and time required to help make the Alaska Computer Society succeed.

AARP – resource center, classroom space, and meeting space in the Northway Mall.⁵

Alaska Pacific University – General meeting room, special pricing.

Michael Ardaiz of Mad Dog Graphx – ACS PCUG logo.

Brown Bear Software – iCal program used to create the monthly event calendars.

Lewis & Lewis Computer Store – door prizes for the annual technology show and monthly meetings.

Microsoft Corporation – software for user group support functions and door prizes for monthly meetings.

Application for Membership
Alaska Computer Society — PC Users Group

Name _____

Address _____

E-Mail _____

Dues are \$25.00 per year, \$15.00 for students, seniors and the military. Please make your check payable to, the Alaska Computer Society. Thank you.

⁵Ed.:The initials used to stand for “American Association of Retired Persons”. However, one does not need to be retired to join.

4 The Back Pages

The Alaska Computer Society – PC Users Group (ACS–PCUG) publishes *PC News* monthly via the Internet. This newsletter is copyright © ACS-PCUG 2003. The current edition and the archive of the newsletter may be found at the ACS-PCUG web site:

<http://www.acs-pcug.org>

ACS Board of Directors

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Fielder George Dowding

⁶Replace the “{at}” in the address with the “at-sign” to contact one of the volunteers. I have mangled the address to thwart harvesting by spam-bots.

ACS Board Meetings

Board meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at the AARP meeting room. Great effort is expended to start the meeting at 7:00 P.M. and to end the meeting before 9:00 P.M. The board meetings are open, and the board encourages members to attend.

ACS PCUG Volunteers

The ACS-PCUG is a volunteer organization. The members of the board are volunteers. Nothing happens without our volunteers who make it happen. Here is the current list of volunteers, who, in addition to the board members, make things happen:

Publicity Coordinator *Publicity1{at}ACS-PCUG.org*
Holly Hawkings

Public Service Announcements *PSA1{at}ACS-PCUG.org*
Marjorie Feldberg

Publications Coordinator (Position Open)

SIG Coordinator (Position Open)

E-Mail Addresses:

1. The policy of *PC NEWS* is to make e-mail addresses accessible to human beings but inaccessible to robots.
2. Members who volunteer are assigned an e-mail address from the pool available within the *ACS-PCUG.org* domain. This is the address that will be published unless a volunteer requests a personal address be published.

The Final Word:

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