Bits of Blue

A Monthly Publication of the Tampa PC Users Group, Inc.

   May in Tampa

Meeting

Google Applications
by
Kevan Sheridan

Wednesday, May 11, 2011

6:30 PM

Pepin Distributing Co.
4121 N 50th Street
Tampa, Florida

Meeting Preview: Kevan Sheridan will educate us about the different Goggle Applications. The previous time he did this there were five applications; now there are 60. As usual, Bob LaFave will conduct the Windows SIG for the first half-hour of the meeting.

Editor's Comments

By William LaMartin, Editor, Tampa PC Users Group
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Thanks to Merle Nicholson for filling up the newsletter this month. He writes about free programs and the Windows 7 Explorer.

I suppose many of you went out and purchased Android phones following last month's presentation by Steve Singer. I am still waiting for the Microsoft Windows Phone 7 to appear at Verizon. The latest guess now for that is the middle of May. However, my daughter has her eyes on an Android.

Another TPGUG member has left us. Don Patzsch died at age 91 on April 24. He was one of the longest continuing members of our group. A search of the old newsletters for the word Patzsch has him attending a meeting in May of 1990, where he won a door prize. According to the Adobe index for all our newsletters, the word Patzsch appears in 120 newsletters with 200 instances. However, since the early newsletters were scanned into Acrobat and then OCRed, the indexing for them may omit some instances. I then did a search for the word Don

June Meeting: To be announced

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Minutes of the April Meeting

By Merle Nicholson, Secretary,
Tampa PC Users Group
merle@merlenicholson.com

The Windows Special Interest Group (SIG) normally opens our monthly meeting and began as usual at 6:30 PM. The SIG is devoted to a discussion of all aspects of the Windows operating systems and of computer-related subjects in general. The SIG moderator introduces new or little known products and technological developments for discussion by the group. He accepts questions and requests for help in solving problems from attendees. Bob LaFave, the designated moderator could not attend, so the April SIG was conducted by myself, Merle Nicholson. It concluded at 7:00 PM, and the regular meeting began.

Our April speaker was Steven Singer CEO of RDI, Inc., a wholesale computer hardware distributor. Steven has been a valuable presenter to TPCUG for many years. His presentation was on Android phones, being an Android user himself for several years. He mentioned several products available and software availability, tethering and "rooting". He answered many questions from the audience on a variety of subjects.

As always, a big thanks goes to Steven (pictured below) and to his wife Pam for a valuable and informative presentation. ◆

A dozen free PC applications everyone needs on a new computer

By Merle Nicholson, Secretary,
Tampa PC Users Group.
merle@merlenicholson.com

All of these are excellent quality free software. Most do not even have a paid version and are maintained by professional organizations. All are available from http://download.cnet.com/windows/, but I've included the source websites. I recommend downloads from cnet. The files are tested spyware free, and it's easy to use. http://download.cnet.com/windows/

VLC Media Player At the top of this list is the VLC media player from Video LAN Organization. It's an all-purpose audio player, which also plays all video formats. There's no need to go looking for codecs, as in Windows Media Player. http://www.videolan.org/vlc/

Irfanview Everyone's favorite picture viewer. It will also play most movie formats, as well as audio files. The program has a lot of features and is a great photo manager, but it only does minor photo editing. http://irfanview.com/

ImgBurn For those of you who like to work with ISO images and need reliable ways to create and burn ISO images on and off discs effortlessly, ImgBurn is the CD/DVD burner utility you want. I'm using ISO CD/DVD images more and more as hard drives become cheaper. http://www.imgburn.com

Open Office/LibreOffice If you can't afford Microsoft Office, then Open Office or LibreOffice will do the job for 95% of what you need . The newest open-source version of this is called LibreOffice at http://www.libreoffice.org/

This version comes about because Oracle, the current owner of OpenOffice (acquired from their acquisition of Sun), is making some content and distribution decisions outside of the Open Source community (according to the Open Source maintainers). So they've broken away and have reversed some of those deci-

sions. There are Linux and Mac OSX versions, too.

Audacity is a sound editor. For someone who likes to work with sound files but doesn't want to buy professional systems, this program is a gem. I use it to clean up recordings from vinyl records. Available for Linux and Mac, too. http://audacity.sourceforge.net/

Paint.NET It isn't PhotoShop, but it's at least Paint-Shop Pro quality, and it's free. You'd be surprised at how much photo work this will do. It's available in 64-bit version. http://www.getpaint.net/download.html

Daemon Tools Lite gives you a virtual Blu-Ray/DVD/CD player so you can quickly mount and play .IMG and .ISO files. It's a nice complement to ImgBurn. There's a paid version, too, but my needs are pretty simple, and the free version is excellent and non-obtrusive. http://www.daemon-tools.cc

KeePassX is a login/password encrypted database that works across most all platforms, including MacOS X, Linux, Windows, iPhone, PocketPC, Blackberry and Android. http://www.keepassx.org/

FileZilla is a first class FTP client. There's a FTP server version, too. http://filezilla-project.org/

By the way, Windows does FTP from Windows Explorer, but it's difficult to set up, in my opinion. But if you have an FTP site that you send and pull from regularly, set it up and save it as a shortcut in Windows Explorer. Once set up, it's fine.

Oracle VM VirtualBox – An excellent virtual machine, far superior to Windows Virtual PC. It's much faster, the screen fonts are as good as your screen can get, and it has a snapshot system for experimenting with software scenarios. With a Windows XP machine loaded, it runs 16-bit programs. Think Microsoft Arcade. Pac-Man and Dig-Dug!
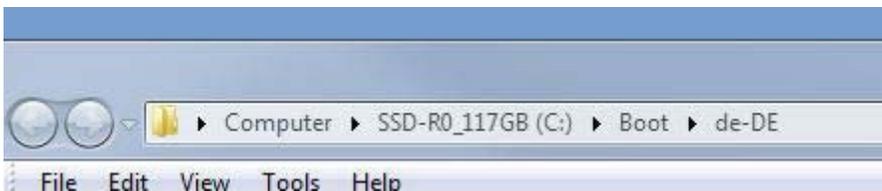
You can use a VM to test software, to see how it works before you commit it to your main machine, or to maintain old systems if you have a favorite program that won't run on your current system. I run virtual machines for Windows 7 64 and 32 bit, XP SP3, and

Internet Picture of the Month


A Reminder

With all the excitement over the death of Osama bin Laden, I thought it appropriate to remind our-selves of why he was hunted down.

The image above is from a PowerPoint presentation found at the financial advice website http://www.cumber.com/ with exact URL http://www.cumber.com/content/special/aerial_photos.pps. When I did a search on both Bing and Google, I thought it would be trivial to produce many good images. That was not the case. There was much junk, little quality and more than one site attempt-ing to induce me to click on a popup window to clean a supposed virus from my computer.

May's Interesting World Wide Web Locations

Tampa PC Users Group (that's us)	http://www.tpcug.org/
September 11, 2001 Images	http://www.cumber.com/content/special/aerial_photos.pps
Alan Friedman Averted Imagination	http://avertedimagination.com/main1.htm
Engadget Mobile	http://mobile.engadget.com/
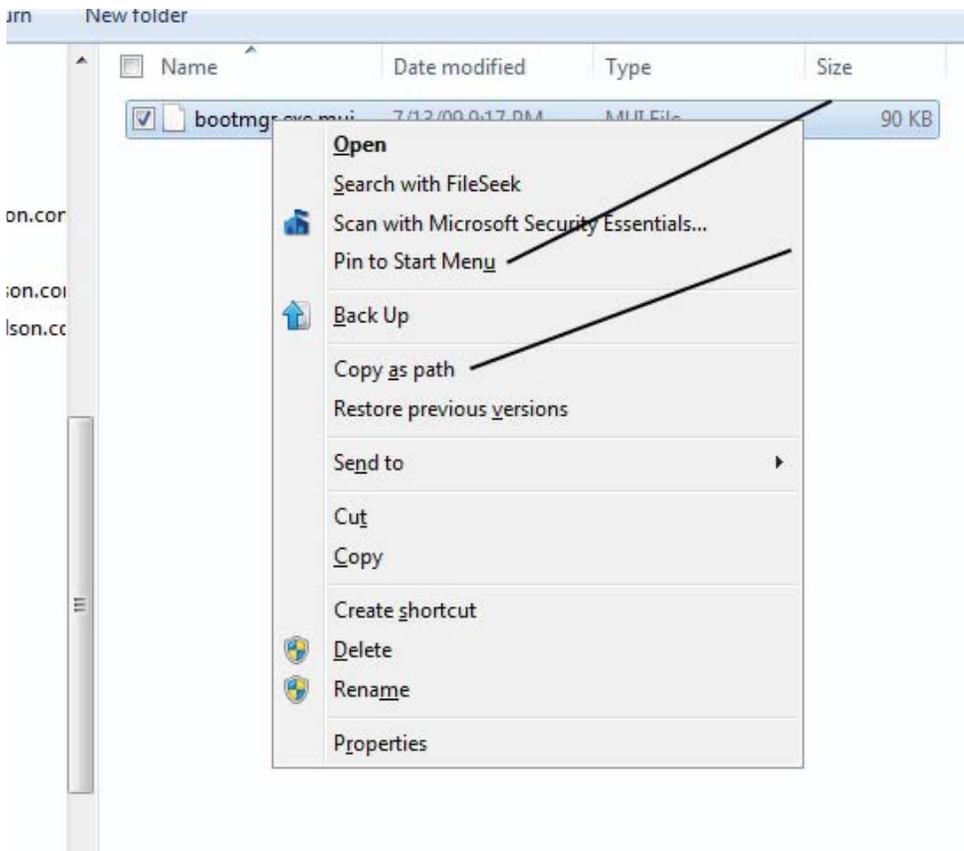
And while I'm at it, the in-context menu in Windows Explorer is slightly different when you hold down the shift key and right-click on a file: Two items are added as indicated in the image on the left. The Copy as path is really useful. It puts the entire drive, path and file name as text onto the clipboard.

And if you Shift+right-click on a blank area in Windows Explorer, you get one with "Open Command Window Here". Less useful, but kind of interesting. See the image on the left on page 7.

You may get other variations on a

and found a fellow named Don Patszch (obviously a misspelling) mentioned in the May 1989 newsletter who had four short articles in that issue. So he was a very active member.

When I joined in 1991, I recall his being interested in hardware items such as modems, on which he gave several SIGs and wrote several articles. Later he took a great interest in different operating systems, seeming to prefer anything other than Microsoft. First there was OS/2, and, when that disappeared, Apple, to be followed by Linux. At one time he appeared to have an in with IBM, managing to get a couple of free computers from them, possibly also the jacket he is wearing in the photo at the left. The photo was taken at the February 1996 meeting. I think the last meeting Don attended was the 2009 Holiday Party. He particularly enjoyed a meeting where there was food and wrote at least two articles about FACUG yearly meetings where he lauded the free meals.

As an aside, current Vice President Kevan Sheridan was mentioned in the 1990 issue and again in the 1981 issue, along with current members Merrill Friend and Roger Waters. ◆

Special Interest Groups

Visual Basic .Net SIG (and sometimes Access SIG)

This SIG meets the third Wednesday of the month at 6:30 PM. For information, contact Editor William LaMartin at william@lamartin.com.

Windows SIG

This SIG occupies the first 30 minutes of our monthly, regular meeting and is devoted to a general Windows and computing discussion. Member Bob LaFave moderates the discussion.
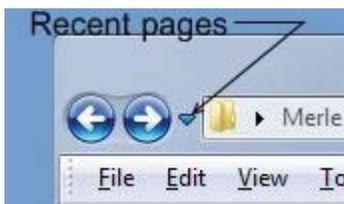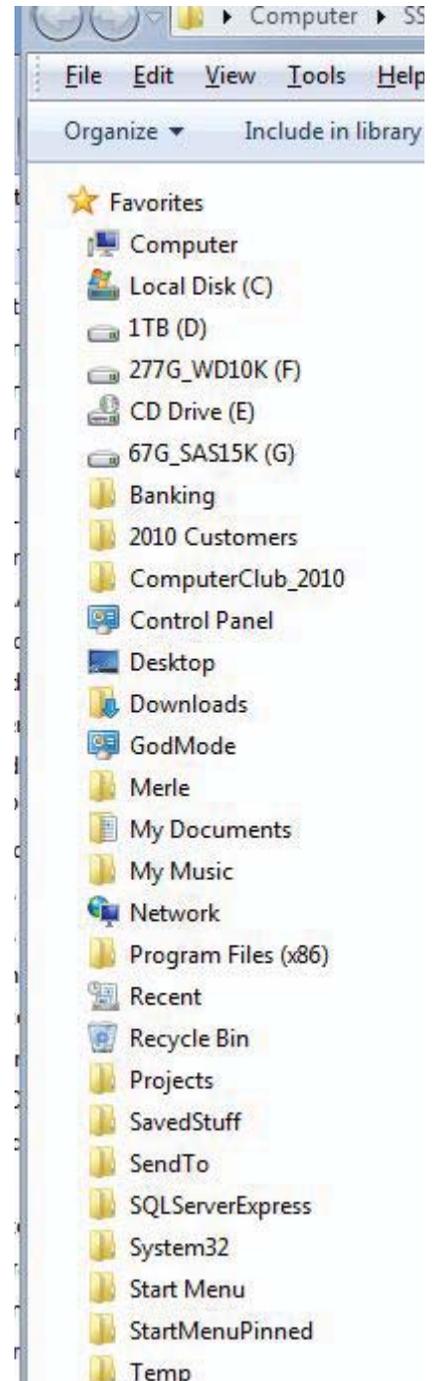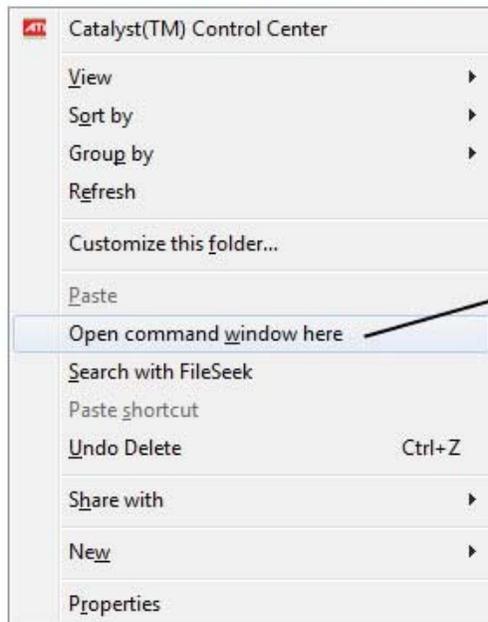

Explorer........Continued from page 6

right-click, depending on the file type.

I also added a lot of items under Favorites (see image on far right), because I find the tree menu inadequate. It's not the entire tree, but it's 99% of all the places I go. This really works.

Also there are the Back and Forward buttons and the "Recent pages" button (see image below). The forward and back buttons do not traverse up and down the directory tree, but they have the history of the views of where you've been. As does the Recent pages button. You'll have to try the Recent pages button. It can be very useful. ◆

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☐ *Member: Your membership is up for renewal*

Free........Continued from page 3

Ubuntu 11.04. They run flawlessly. http://www.virtualbox.org/. There are versions for Linux and others, even "DOS/Windows 3.x".

7-Zip I guess you could argue (and I have many times) that Windows doesn't need a zip file manager. If you do need something for 7z, cab, gzip, gz, rar and many others, you can't go wrong with this. I prefer this over WinZip. It has a newer interface, and it's free, open source besides. http://7-zip.org/

CutePDF Writer All computer users need to save lots of printed stuff, especially invoices and receipts. There's no better way to do this than with a PDF printer. There are several free ones out there. I've settled on CutePDF Writer. http://www.cutepdf.com/Products/CutePDF/writer.asp ◆

to I-275

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