

Toledo PC User's Group

A Forum for Personal Computer Users

April 2005

The next **MEETING** of the
Toledo PC Users Group
will be held on
Monday, April 4th at 7:30 p.m.

The Program will be -
“Identity Theft Experiences”
By Mike Tschappat

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Notice:

This is the last paper copy of the Toledo PC Users Group *Newsletter*. All future issues may be viewed at our website:-
<http://www.toledocug.org>

Meetings held on the
1st Monday of each Month
at the
UAW Local 14 Hall,
5411 Jackman & Northover
(Between Laskey & Alexis Rds)
Toledo, Ohio
Visitors Are Always Welcome!

Toledo PC User's Group
P.O.Box 13085
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Statement of Intent: The Toledo PC Users' Group is a not-for-profit corporation, formed to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and information regarding the use and enjoyment of personal computers.

Affiliations: TPCUG is a member of APCUG (Association of Personal Computer User Groups) which provided the APCUG Logo.

Meetings: Meetings are generally held the first Monday of each month, at the UAW Local 14 Hall, 5411 Jackman Rd., Toledo OH. In the event of emergency, members may be reached during meetings at a pay phone in the hall, 419 473-9571

Visitors are always welcome at monthly meetings! Executive Board Meetings will generally be held after the regular meeting.

Membership: Dues are \$25. per year. To obtain an application, call any officer or member.

Moving? Notify the Membership Chairman to redirect your newsletters.

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Newsletter Deadline: is the 15th of each month. All members are encouraged to contribute articles and reviews for this newsletter. Submissions may be made by E-mail or submitted by floppy or CD in ASCII or other acceptable format at the meetings, e-mail or by snailmail. (Please contact editor.)

Advertising:

Business cards (2 x 3-1/2") \$5. for 3 issues

Commercial ads: 1/4 page - \$10. "

" 1/2 page - \$20 . "

" 3/4 page - \$30. "

" Full page - \$40. 2 "

Larger ads will be run in two issues, and should be a graphics format such as jpeg or tif, or camera ready copy. Members may place free ads for the sale of computer related personal items on a space available basis. Contact editor for details.

Production Notes: This newsletter was compiled in Adobe Pagemaker7 for Windows and printed on a HPDeskjet d135.

TPCUG Mailing List: If you're on the Internet, keep in touch with Club doings by subscribing to the TPCUG mailing list: Send e-mail to tpcug-request@toltbbs.com with only

subscribetpcugAtoltbbs.com

in the body of the message. You will then receive communications sent to the list through e-mail.

Send e-mail to:-

who-tpcug@toltbbs.com

to see who else is subscribed to the list.

The President' Message

By Floyd Miller

The following quotes just about blew me away. Life as we have known it for the last three or four generations is about to become elements for the museums of the land.

Mike Rogers offers a bombshell prediction. He is a disk jockey in Japan. He writes about a new technology that will be introduced within six weeks in Japan: HDD DVD. This is hard drive disk DVD.

Rogers says that it will doom one-way radio airwave broadcasts, wipe out TV broadcasting, wipe out newspapers, and even wipe out TIVO. HDD DVD will allow you to record programs, sports events, movies, etc., and cut your own - rewrite-able DVD's for storage. Not only that, HDD DVD will not have a monthly charge like TIVO does, and the units will sell for approximately the same price.

How does HDD DVD work? From what I have read and seen, the HDD DVD is basically a computer hard drive system coupled with a DVD RWR (Read, write, re-write) player. The unit is merely switched on in the morning — no programming necessary — when you are heading out for work. When you return home, an on-screen menu will show you exactly what was recorded and at what times. The menu listing will allow you to click a button to immediately view only what you want to view and in what order — as easily as choosing a track on a CD. Television and radio commercials, or entire sections of programs, can be automatically deleted. I'm not talking technology that will be outrageously expensive either. I found that Wal-Mart will be offering units at \$299 dollars by this Christmas in the United States. Perhaps \$99 dollars by Christmas 2006?

Where will the new machine get its shows? From the Internet. It's all about broadband technology. Broadband is essentially free these days. It's only the marketing and distributing apparatus that costs us. There is more "dark fiber" — unused fiber optics cable — than

there is used fiber, by something like 10 to one. The Internet is the key. Internet news is destroying the newspapers, and helping Big Media TV news destroy itself. Internet radio is here. Internet TV is just around the corner. HDD DVD is coming this year. And the beautiful part? No sponsors, no fees, no commercials. We are moving from broadcasting to narrowcasting. We are moving from advertiser-supported to free. We are moving from the era of the gatekeepers (about 6,000 years old) to gate-free communications. And the dinosaurs can't stop this. The era of Establishment control over the flow of ideas is ending. The internet be it wired or wireless is the key to the future. We who have taken 20 years to "cut our teeth" on the BBS's and the Internet are about to see it become as common as a cup of coffee (double cream please). The digital revolution keeps rolling on and on and on. But, I guess, the PC box and modem will be around for a year or two Some of you who subscribed to "Smart Computing" have received their "P C Errors" Reference series. The article "Coping With PC Anxiety" starts by saying "Sooner or later, you are going to have computer problems. That's not a warning; it's a guarantee." I guarantee you'll need Toledo PC Users Group).

Will you guarantee that I will see you at the next meeting - April 4th?

Floyd Miller, Prez

This will be the last paper copy of the TPCUG newsletter.

The Newsletter will now be available on-line at the Group Web Site:

toledopcug.org

It will have it's own page and will be in PDF format.

In order to read it you will need an Adobe Acrobat Reader. It can be down/loaded (free) from the Adobe web site - Adobe.com/.

In the left column is the Adobe Acrobat Reader download Icon.

Minutes of the March Meeting
By Sandor Halsz, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 19:46 by Floyd Miller, pres.

The minutes, printed in the newsletter, were approved.

The treasurer's report, printed in the newsletter, was accepted, subject to audit, but the right total is \$1613.78.

There are 22 members, 14 were present. Lester Miller said that the speaker planned for April is Mike Tschappat, "My Experiences with Identity Theft"

The Linux group, TALUG, now meets on the third Saturday. The topic for March "Myth TV, an open-source alternative to TiVo".

The Internet SIG meets on the 3d Monday at Jim Bell's place in Whitehouse, around the corner from Chickaroo's. The carpool leaves from around Reynolds Corners, from the Asbury-Church parking lot.

Donna Bardis holds no meeting this month, but on the first Saturday of even-numbered months. She teaches about investment software.

Old bizness: Steve Tryc advised that it be printed on the last printed newsletter's first page that it is the last, lest outsiders who get it not know that that is the last printed one.

Floyd Miller made up a new organization page for the club.

New bizness: The Hamfest is at the Rec Center on March 20th, 8am-2pm.

Floyd Miller said that Bob Burr, who so often has gone to it and manned a table for the club, will not go, because of tending his wife, whose hip is broken. Steve Tryc said that Jim Bell & Clyde Burroughs got a load of surplus stuff that they will take to sell there.

Gene Curtis said that he has sought to advertise the club at the library, in the newspaper, and elsewhere; there is not always in a branch a column or board for posting, and he will make up a small thing that looks like a dollar bill for members to hand out.

The meeting was adjourned at 20:35.

Computer Investing Group
By Donna Bardis

SSG - Basic Class

April 09, 2005, 09:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Wood County Library, 251 N. Main St.,
Bowling Green (Map on web page)
Cost: \$30.00 (includes SSG manual)

SSG - Basic - One Day Class

This one day workshop on the Stock Selection Guide (SSG) is for people who are new to completing and using the SSG to evaluate companies. It's a good refresher course for the experienced investor too. The SSG helps you identify a growth company and then helps you identify a fair purchase price.

We will cover:

Finding and using sources of information (ValueLine)
Plotting historical revenues, earnings, and stock prices for a company
Estimating past and future growth rates
Evaluating management
Determining a "buy range"
Applying "judgment" and other criteria for stock selection

There will also be a short introduction to the NAIC software available to do SSGs. Bring a calculator and a ruler.

There will be a break for lunch at a nearby restaurant of your choice.

Registration should be postmarked by April 2, 2005. Click on the link on our chapter web site for the form and use SSG - Basic Class as the program name or print out the form at the end of this message.

Mutual Funds April 23, 2005, 09:30 AM - 4:00 PM- Heatherdowns Library, 3265 Glanzman Road, Toledo (map on web page)

Cost: \$30 (manual included) Register by: April 16, 2005. This is a one day workshop which will provide a comprehensive look at mutual funds, using NAIC's evaluation tools and Manual. Mutual funds are not all equal as this workshop will reveal!

More details on our web page.

(The following article has been excerpted from the NWA-PCUG Newsletter Issue of January, 2005)

Computer Essentials

By Pim Borman, Web Editor & APCUG Representative SW Indiana PC users Group

What can be done to make computers true household appliances, intuitive and simple to use even by technophobes?

Computers capable of email and word processing, Internet browsing, audio and video editing and storage, simple data processing such as checkbook and genealogy tree maintenance, and entertainment in the form of games and puzzles. After all, modern cars have highly complex, powerful engines under the hood, but turn on with a simple ignition switch and only need a steering wheel, accelerator and brakes for operation. Computers should be just as simple to use. Here are some suggestions:

A simple on/off switch for instant-on computing, with a reset button for the rare occasions the system goes haywire and needs to reboot. The hibernate feature in Windows XP is the nearest thing to it, but for shutting your system down you must first click on Start (!), then hold the shift key down to change the Standby option to Hibernate, and click on Hibernate. Stupidly unobvious, and it should be easy to replace the whole rigmarole by reprogramming the current on/off switch Security and privacy, built-in virus and spyware protection, automatically updated. Upgraded Internet/email protocols to thwart sender address spoofing. Fortunately, the need for improved security is now widely recognized and the search for solutions is on. **Application programs.** As my former boss used to say, "Be reasonable, do it my way." That should go double for computer applications that satisfy the users' needs without extraneous bells and whistles and with simple menus to access special features and built-in security provisions. Most common menu

items should be available by using clearly labeled, standard, special purpose keyboard keys; read on.

Special purpose keys on the keyboard to perform common operations in most programs. There already are Insert, Delete, Backspace, Home, End, Page Up and Down, and Arrow keys; why have not more of that kind? To start with, the function keys (F1 - F12) could be reassigned, standardized, and clearly labeled to make them more useful. F1 might always provide context-sensitive help and be relabeled as such. F2 could Save current work while shift-F2 would Save as.... F3 might do Find and Find/Replace operations, and so on. Many current programs, such as Microsoft Office, already make extensive use of the F-keys, but usage is non-standard and few users are familiar with them for lack of labeling. The same holds for the Windows and Menu keys on most keyboards; they provide handy shortcuts but are mostly underused.

Wireless Connections, high-speed, self-configuring, to peripherals such as a mouse, printer scanner, sound system, and router for connections to Internet and a local computer network. That rat's nest of wires under and behind our computers has to go!

Broadband connection to the Internet, essential for regular updates of security programs and desirable for other internet activities. You may be able to think of more simplifications. Let me know about them.

(Pim Borman is Web Editor and APCUG representative for the SW Indiana PC users Group, Inc. (<http://swipcug.apcugg.org>). This article appeared in the November 2003 issue of the P-SEE URGENT, newsletter of SWIPCUGs.

Query: Does the TPCUG have a Software Library for Member use?
Go to the website and find out.
www.toledopcug.org

(The following article has been excerpted from the NWA-PCUG Newsletter issue of December 2004.)

How and When to Enable Windows XP's Firewall

By Linda Gonse, Editor, Orange County IBM Users' Group, California

Most users are aware of a need for an antivirus program and a firewall in order to be protected from regular, daily Internet threats.

What some may not know is that Windows XP has a built-in firewall. While it lacks the bells and whistles of a full version firewall, such as Norton or Zone Alarm, it is still useful.

You can enable it by going to Control Panel and clicking on the Network Connection icon. In the Connections window, right click on the name of your connection and click on Properties in the drop-down menu. Click on the Advanced tab. Check the box next to "Protect my computer and network by limiting or preventing access to this computer from the Internet." Then, click O.K.

Follow these steps each time you wish to enable the firewall for other Internet connections on your computer. But, before enabling XP's firewall, you should be aware of these points:

- * It must not be used through software or hardware routers. It only works on incoming Internet traffic, not outgoing traffic from spy-ware, Trojan viruses, or hacker tools.
- * On local area networks (LANs) with other computers, it will block File and Printer Sharing.
- * It can be turned on or off for each of your dial-ups, LAN, or high-speed Internet connections.

Query: Does the TPCUG have a list of member's email addresses? Go to the Website and find out.

<http://www.toledopcug.org>

(The following article has been excerpted from the NWA-PCUG Newsletter issue of January 2005.)

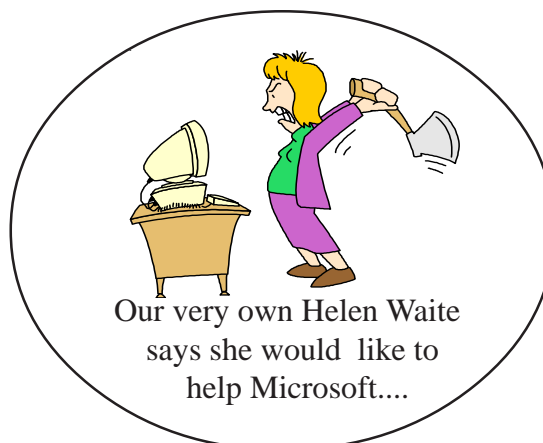
The Deals Column

From the Dealsguy, Bob Click Greater Orlando Computer User Group.

How about Helping Microsoft!

My thanks to Joe Barth of Alamo PC Organization for sending this information. Joe says: "They are seeking people to participate in Microsoft product evaluations and get free software. Ever wanted to talk to Microsoft about that one feature you wished the company would change in a product, or on a Web site? The usability Research Group at Microsoft is interested in talking to you! All participants will receive a software gift for participating in a study." Check:-

<http://www.microsoft.com/usability/jump1.htm>



Treasurer's Report

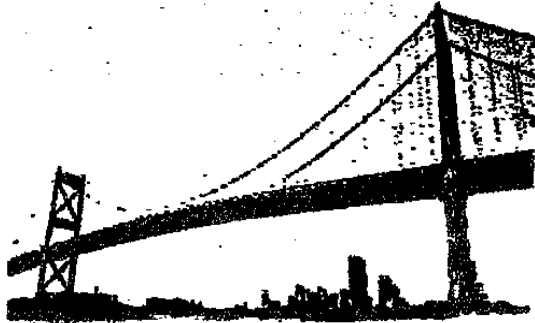
By Steve Tryc, Treasurer

Balance ending 2/14/05	\$1,613.78
Income: 3 Renewals, Curtis, Geiger, Richardsonon	75.00
Expense: March Newsletter	<u>55.51</u>
Balance Ending 3/15/05	\$1,633.27

Toledo PC Users' Group

High Speed Internet Access

Home of Toledo's TBBS



56 Kb/ISDN

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Serving Toledo
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TPCUG Membership Application

Dues are \$25 per year, payable to TPCUG, PO Box 13085, Toledo, OH 43613

Your Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phones: Home _____ Work _____

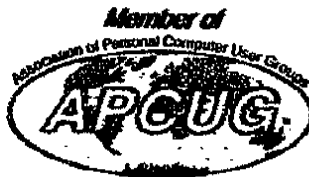
Types of Computers Used _____

New Member _____ Renewal _____

Membership Benefits: Monthly meetings with programs featuring guest vendors or other presentations, Q. and A. opportunities, monthly newsletters, participation in SIGs (special interest groups for enhanced learning).

**Toledo PC Users' Group
PO Box 13085
Toledo, OH 43613**

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<http://www.apcug.net>