

# Toledo PC User's Group

A Forum for Personal Computer Users **June 2005**

The next MEETING of the  
Toledo PC Users Group  
will be held on  
Monday, June 6th at 7:30 p.m.

## **Program ~** **“My Experience With Identity Theft”** **By Mike Tschappat**

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### **Notice:**

All current and future  
TPCUG Newsletters 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  
Toledo OH 43613

### Officers

President - **Floyd Miller**  
Vice-President - **Roy Ballogg**  
Secretary - **Sandor Halasz**  
Treasurer - **Steve Tryc**

### Standing Committees

Computer Shows - **Steve Tryc**  
Membership & Programs - **Lester Miller.**  
Public Relations - **Lavern & EugeneCurtis**  
Newsletter - **Nina Sherman**  
Complaint Dept. - **Helen Waite**

### SIG Leaders

Internet SIG: **Jim Bell**..... 419 877-1109

**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 email to the 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](mailto:tpcug-request@toltbbs.com)

with only

[subscribetpcug@toltbbs.com](mailto:subscribetpcug@toltbbs.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](mailto:who-tpcug@toltbbs.com)

to see who else is subscribed to the list.

## The President' Message

An early computer guru , who is being featured in a current computer commercial, has his mother asking him in the early days, why would anyone want to buy a computer? Even I have asked myself that same question when I become totally frustrated when that box won't put on the screen or print on paper what I want or what, I think, I want or should have.

We cannot get around the the fact in this day and age that almost every part of our life is touched in some way by a computer either directly or indirectly. They are there to send the simplest e-mail to preparing our taxes, to doing our personal banking, to providing search engine information of every hue and stripe, to down/loading all kinds of programming, to auction buying and selling, to genealogy research, to this and to that and to something else. Add to that all the detailed complicated programming of business and industry. I suspect finally we might come to the conclusion that if we had the computer taken away, we would be back in the dark ages never to fly the universe again. How could two of more persons pull all the levers and push all the buttons in the proper sequence and at the exact right time to launch a satellite into space and get it back down again safely.

So here we are with that monotonous or multicolored box with monitor, keyboard and mouse and innards we don't quite comprehend or understand, doing things that would have amazed us 2, 5 or 10 years ago and more. But here we are learning more every day, having light bulbs go off in our heads and finally we have taken another step up the ladder to "computer heaven".

Since this is all true to a greater or lesser degree for each of us,

we want to celebrate the fact at least once a month as we gather together on the first Monday night of each month as the ToledoPCUsers group comes to meet.

We hope that as you are reading this issue of the newsletter we will have mastered the process of publishing it to our web-site <toledopcug.org>

As always, "Visitors are welcome -  
And members are expected,"

Your Prez. **Floyd L. Miller**

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## Minutes of the May Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 21:09 by Floyd Miller, president.

The minutes were accepted.

The treasurer's report was accepted, subject to audit.

L. Miller said that there was yet no one for June. Doug Kuhn and Queen Ink were suggested.

There were 13 members. Larry Martin, formerly a member, joined anew.

New bizness:

Roy Ballogg moved that the existing newsletters be deleted from the club's website, because they hold phone numbers and email-addresses; seconded and carried.

The officer's names and email-addresses are shown on the organization page: it was suggested that these be lessened to one. Steve Tryc was willing that his be left there; it was suggested that only the club's email-address, tpcug, be left there; it was suggested that a new email-address be made up, that forwards to the officers or such.

The Internet SIG meets on the third Monday on Maumee St, around the corner from Chickaroo's.

The topic at the coming TALUG meeting is Linux at the lowest level, on the third Saturday, the 21st, 2-5pm at Stautzenberger College.

Submitted by: **Sandor Halasz**, Secretary

## Computer Investing Group

By Donna Bardis

Computer Investing Group  
06/04/2005, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Heatherdowns Library, 3265 Glanzman Road,  
Toledo, Ohio 43614 419-259-5270

### Manage Your Portfolio with Toolkit 5

In-depth look at the new offense and defense features of Toolkit 5 to improve your portfolio's performance.

No registration, no fees; just come to learn.

For more information on the computer group, to add a friend to our mailing list, and to send ideas of possible programs, please contact Donna Bardis, at (419) 535-6146 or [pbardis@pop3.utoledo.edu](mailto:pbardis@pop3.utoledo.edu)

### NW Buckeye Chapter Annual

#### Meeting & Dinner

06/08/2005, 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM  
Highland Meadows Golf Club, 7455 Erie,  
Sylvania, Ohio 43560  
419-882-7153  
Cost: \$25

The speaker will be Richard T. Eppstein, President of the Better Business Bureau of Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan.

He will report on their survey on identity theft and other activities of the BBB.

Clubs with anniversaries of 5, 10, 15, etc. years will be recognized. Please let us know which of you will be present.

The dinner will be a buffet featuring roast beef and pecan chicken. Registration should

be postmarked by May 24, 2005.

Click on the link for the registration form on our web page or use the form in our newsletters. Use Annual Diner as the program name.

Send registration form and check payable to NW Buckeye Chapter—NAIC to:  
Doris Como, 25964 West River Rd.,  
Perrysburg, OH 43551.

If you need more registration information, please call Doris Como at 419-874-8088

### Treasurers Report

Balance Ending 4/14/05	\$1,707.89
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Income:

3 renewals: Martin, Parker,

Snyder	<u>75.00</u>
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1,782.89

Expense:

None-



-0-

Balance Ending 5/12/05	\$1,782.89
------------------------	------------

Submitted by Steve Tryc, Treas.

### Humour Corner

Laughter, the Best Medicine (*Excerpted from The Readers Digest Website*)

A man is recovering from minor surgery when his nurse comes in to check on him.

"How are you feeling?" she asks.

"I'm Okay," he says, "but I didn't like the four-letter word the doctor used during surgery."

"What did he say?" the nurse asks.

"Oops." (Submitted by Robert Rea)

(What! No "Control-Z" Button? Ed.)

## Five More Annoying PC Annoyances

**Steve Bass** tackles five of his most irritating annoyances.

Bio: By Steve Bass, Contributing Editor, PC World; by Steve Bass, author of PC Annoyances, 2nd Edition

When I wrote PC Annoyances, I thought I'd soon run out of annoyances to fix. Ha! No sooner had the book landed in bookstores than I was barraged with email from—who else?—PC World and O'Reilly readers, tossing me more annoyances to handle.

That led to the second edition of PC Annoyances. I've added 160 more annoyances—and fixes—to the new book. (You can grab a copy on Amazon at <http://snurl.com/annoyed2> or see at a chapter sample at: [http://snurl.com/sample\\_annoy](http://snurl.com/sample_annoy).)

It didn't take long (nothing does with computers, right?) for readers to send another batch of irritating problems. So, for your reading pleasure, here are yet more annoyances. (These are actual annoyances contributed by annoyed PC World and O'Reilly readers.)

### Speed up Adobe Acrobat Reader

**The Annoyance:** I use Adobe's Reader 6 to read Acrobat PDF files, and it takes aeons to load on my already slow PC. Isn't there a way to speed it up?

**The Fix:** There's a quick-and-dirty fix that will make the Reader fly onto your screen. It's a free tool—Adobe Reader SpeedUp—that removes many of the add-ins the Reader ordinarily loads and few of us need. Get the tool at the [http://snipurl.com/adobe\\_speedup](http://snipurl.com/adobe_speedup).

**Kill Some Time:** The guy's (almost) a marketing genius. He's been covered all over the internet. Too bad he doesn't have an area code on his truck, eh? <http://www.snurl.com/plumbtruck>.

### SP2 says "Reboot now"

**The Annoyance:** OK, so I have Automatic Updates set to Automatic in Windows XP. But no matter what I'm doing, this last upgrade keeps smacking a message in the middle of my screen asking if I want to reboot now or wait until later. It's happening every ten minutes and driving me nuts, and no, I can't turn off this alert.

**The Fix:** Unpleasant as it is, when Microsoft has an update it considers critical for you to install, Automatic Updates slams an icon in your system tray. That's its not-so-subtle way of informing you that upgrades are available to download and install. But here's the rub: on these oh-so-very-critical updates, Windows wants you to reboot your system once the installation is complete. And like a pouty three-year-old, it doesn't care what you're in the middle of doing.

So when you click on the icon in the system tray and choose either Express Install or Custom Install in the dialog that appears, you're stuck. XP will keep reminding you to reboot until you're so aggravated that you throw in the towel, close all your open apps, and reboot.

**My recommendation?** Wait till the end of the day before clicking on the icon and agreeing to take the update.

**Kill Some Time:** How about reminiscing back to the time before web bugs, spam, and, well, the internet. Remember "NYC's Bozo Show," "Wonderama," and "The Felix the Cat Show"? (Didn't think I was that old, eh?): <http://www.tvparty.com/lostny2.html>.

### Unfreeze Windows XP

**The Annoyance:** You're happy because your recent upgrade to Windows XP Service Pack 2

*(Cont. to page 6)*

(Cont. from page 5)

went like a breeze. But all of a sudden, your system freezes.

**The Fix:** I know, you want me to tell you why XP crashed and how to prevent it from happening. You could try switching to a Mac or waiting for me to write a 1,600 page-tome (neither of which I suspect will happen). In the meantime, here's a quick way to get yourself out of the jam. Even though Windows XP is locked up solid, chances are good you can still open Task Manager by pressing Ctrl-Alt-Del. In Task Manager, click on the Processes tab, choose Explorer.exe, and click on End Process. Then select File -> New Task (Run), type explorer, and click on OK. No harm if it doesn't work; nifty rescue if it does.

**Kill Some Time:** The best I could do on Escape (<http://snipurl.com/dodgeit>), a tough and deeply annoying game, was 9 seconds. I could probably do better with my eyes closed. You'll find out right away that bumping the black frame ends the game.

### **AOL idle Terminator**

**The Annoyance:** I've about had it with America Online. Even if I'm downloading a big file, I have to respond to that pesky "You have been idle" warning. Hey, AOL, I'm not idling!

**The Fix:** You need the Terminator. And no, it's not the California governor. It's a tool that keeps your AOL connection cooking past the 46-minute envelope allowed by AOL. And it doesn't matter whether you're downloading a humongous file or just sitting and, yes, idling. The program's free to try and costs a mere \$5 if you keep it. Grab a copy at [http://snipurl.com/AOL\\_terminator](http://snipurl.com/AOL_terminator).

**Kill Some Time:** I'm often accused of offering links that are too cerebral. That, of course, just ain't true. Witness Blacksheep (at <http://snipurl.com/blacksheep>), a cool mouse-clicking Flash game. The trick is to pass the cursor over just the black squares, never the red

ones. (Warning: lower your PC's volume.)

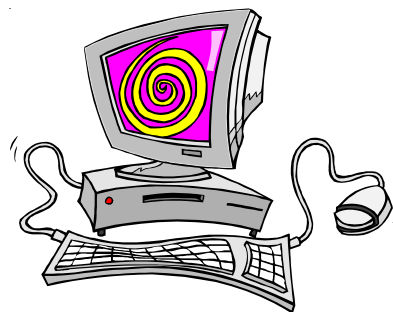
### **Importing DVD presentations in PowerPoint**

**The Annoyance:** I'm well experienced with PowerPoint and can import most everything—except DVD videos. I've been hunting high and low for a way to do it; is there a trick I'm missing?

**The Fix:** You can call off the dogs. The trick is to spend \$99 for Visible Light OnStage DVD for PowerPoint. The handy utility adds itself to PowerPoint, and with it you can import DVDs to your heart's content. For details—and a trial version—visit <http://www.snipurl.com/visiblelight>.

**Kill Some Time:** You know what happens when you get to a web page that no longer exists, right? You get a 404 error. Here's a 404 that's a huge waste of time and will keep you busy past at least one deadline: <http://www.ukpaganlinks.co.uk/404.htm>.

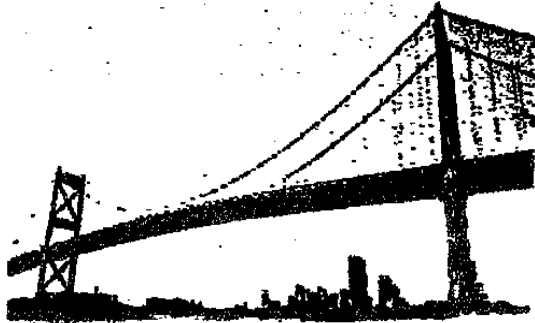
Copyright © 2005 by Steve Bass and O'Reilly Press. Reproduced with permission. Steve Bass is a Contributing Editor with PC World and a founding member of APCUG. He's also the author of the second edition of PC Annoyances: How to Fix the Most Annoying Things about Your Personal Computer, O'Reilly Press. Check out a sample chapter at [http://snurl.com/sample\\_annoy](http://snurl.com/sample_annoy). It's available on Amazon at <http://snurl.com/annoyed2>.



Toledo PC Users' Group

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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 \_\_\_\_\_

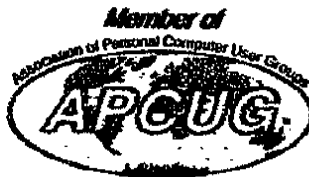
Types of Computers Used \_\_\_\_\_

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**

*A Forum for Personal Computer Users*



<http://www.apcug.net>