

Toledo PC Users' Group

A Forum for Personal Computer Users

MARCH 2005

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

March Program -
Queen Ink

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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!

TPCUG's Web Site



<http://WWW.toledopcug.org>

**The Toledo PC Users' 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 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. "

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.

President's Message

Floyd Miller

The following information shows that we homo sapiens with human brains (excluding Rush Limbaugh who only uses half his brain) will have to become much smarter to prevent our mental abilities being taken over by a chip of whatever composition.

Chris Nuttall reveals that Semiconductor designers from IBM, Sony and Toshiba will reveal the inner workings of a "supercomputer on a chip" they claim could revolutionize communications, multimedia and consumer electronics. Products containing Cell including Sony's PlayStation 3 games console are expected as early as next year.

Advance reports suggest the chip is significantly more powerful and versatile than the next generation of micro-processors announced by the consortium's competitors, Intel and AMD. The two leading chip makers are just moving from 32-bit to 64-bit computing and to dual-core processors essentially two "brains" on a single chip. Cell is understood to have at least four cores and be significantly faster than Intel and AMD chips.

"This is probably going to be one of the biggest industry announcements in many years," said Richard Doherty, president of the Envisioneering research firm. "It's going to breathe new life into the industry and trigger fresh competition." Cell is being presented as an architecture capable of wide-ranging functions and powerful parallel processing that will allow it to distribute its work among the different cores in order to perform many tasks at once.

The consortium says this will improve the quality of video delivered over the broadband internet and increase the fidelity of computer games. High-definition TVs from Sony and Toshiba, a Sony home server for broadband content and the PlayStation 3 all featuring Cell are due to appear in 2006. Cell's architecture is

described as scalable from "small consumer devices to massive supercomputers" IBM is expected to begin pilot production of the Cell chip in the first half of this year. Oh well, I don't want to work that hard any more — let the darn thing take over for me {;-} }

Now back to the reality of the moment we need to discuss a major change that is in process for the publishing of the Group's Newsletter. Given our financial resources and lack of opportunities to supplement income from membership dues, we have decided to make the news letter available on line. This will eliminate printing costs as well as postage costs. Nina Sherman is in agreement with this change and has already mastered Adobe Acrobat to create the news letter as a PDF document which will make it easy to publish as a page on our web site. If you have only e-mail capabilities perhaps we can make it available to your e-mail address.

Before we reach the end of your attention span and your ability to assimilate information, we merely say Visitors are Welcome - Members are expected.

Respectfully submitted,
Floyd L. Miller, Your Prez

Subject: Treasurers report

Balance Ending 1/10/05	\$1,590.45
Income	
2 renewals , Shepard, Tenney	50.00
1 new member, Barocsi	<u>25.00</u>
	Total 75.00
Expense	
Feb. Newsletter	<u>51.67</u>
Balance Ending 2/14/05	\$1,613.67

Secretary's Minutes of the February 2005 Meeting

After Joe Bassett's talk, at 21:12 the meeting was called to order by Floyd Miller, president.

The minutes, printed in the newsletter, were accepted.

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

There were 14 present, and one newcomer.

Queen Ink was invited for next month. (F. Miller passed this on in L. Miller's absence).

The Internet SIG meets in Whitehouse, on the third Monday at 7ish. A crowd to go in one car meets at Asbury Church at 6:30ish.

Old bizness:

To ease the burden of printing & mailing the newsletter, Roy Ballogg moved that it be sent to the membership in PDF through email from the group "tpcug" kept at TBBS; it was seconded but not passed. Sándor Halász moved that it be kept at TBBS on the club's website, whence the membership may read it; it was seconded and passed.

New bizness:

Al Zohn's wife died; let the secretary send a condolence-card.

The meeting was adjourned at 21:47
Sandor Halasz, Secretary

Online Tip of the Day - from Smart Computing Magazine, February 18, 2005

(Reprinted with permission from Smart Computing Magazine)

What Really Gets Restored During A 'System Restore'?

Microsoft designed System Restore to fix unexpected system-level problems that can arise from the aforementioned events or other errors that result in system failure. At the same time, the company built the program to protect your personal data from being accidentally deleted when you roll things back. When you run System Restore, the following changes and repairs are made:

OnlineTip of the Day: February 19, 2005

Use Msconfig to Boot Into Safe Mode

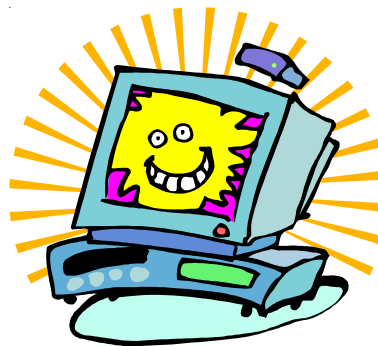
(Reprinted with permission from Smart Computing Magazine.)

One of the best ways to troubleshoot errors or remove a problematic driver is to boot Windows without loading any special drivers or programs, and most of us resort to hitting that F8 key at just the right second in the boot sequence to flip Windows into Safe Mode.

There's an easier way. The much-ignored System Configuration Utility can force your system to reboot with only generic drivers.

From the Start menu, select Run, type msconfig in the Open field, and click OK. In the General tab of the System Configuration Utility, check the radio button Diagnostic Startup, which will start Windows without the major drivers and startup programs. Click OK and you are prompted to reboot. When you are ready to boot in normal mode, open the utility and check the Normal Startup radio button.

Don't forget, when troubleshooting a problem, use the Startup tab in this tool, which shows you which programs are loading into memory at startup. By unchecking specific programs, you can prevent them from loading at boot. This is a great way to eliminate some of the irritating resource hogs that some programs insist upon installing in your system. It is also the first place to look for spyware, which often plants itself as a startup program.



From: marcy-gunn
Sent: Jan 14, 2005 1:10 PM

Subject: Smart Computing User Group Program

Dear Toledo PC Users Group,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Toledo PC Users Group for taking part in the *Smart Computing* User Group Program. We appreciate your efforts to bring *Smart Computing* and our sister publications to your user group and would like to reward your group for its participation! With the *Smart Computing* User Group Program, we will reward your user group with a free 1-year subscription for every 5 paid subscriptions we receive from your group! Through the 4th quarter of 2004, the Toledo PC Users Group accumulated enough credits to earn 1 free 1-year subscription(s) to *Smart Computing*!

To redeem your group's free subscription(s), all you need to do is send me the name, address, email and phone number of the person to whom you would like the subscription sent and I will get things started up for the lucky recipient as soon as possible. Simply email or call me with the information when you have it ready. For your records, below is the Toledo PC Users Group's account activity for the 4th quarter of 2004.

Smart Computing Code Number: 12841

CPU Code Number: 1049PC

Today Code Number: 657

Buy 5 Get 1 Free Program

Credits Carried Over from 3rd Quarter of 2004: 0

Credits Earned during 4th Quarter of 2004:

8Total Credits: 8

FREE SUBSCRIPTIONS EARNED: 1

If you have any questions regarding the *Smart Computing* User Group Program or your group's free subscription(s), please feel free to call or email. And don't forget about the *Smart Computing Start Smart Giveaway 2005*. Get involved today for a chance to win a presentation by Smart Computing's very own Rod Sher. Rod has been the editor of *Smart Computing* since 2002 and has been involved with the technology industry for over 20 years. Don't miss your chance to have Rod come and talk to your group.

Here's how you can get involved:

- 1) Place a write-up in your newsletter about *Smart Computing*
- 2) Place a write-up on your group's website
- 3) Place a link to *Smart Computing* on your group's website
- 4) Book a Presentation with a *Smart Computing* Representative
- 5) Buy a subscription, gift subscription, or renewal for *Smart Computing*, *PC Today*, or *CPU*.

Your user group can earn chances to win by doing one or more of the above items by March 31st 2005. The more you do the more chances you'll have to win. Get involved today! For more details about the program, see our note* at the end of this letter or contact us today at .

I look forward to hearing from you soon!

Best Burner Ever

It's sometimes interesting to watch the evolution of open-source software. Early software is often difficult to use, as it requires extra configuration and an in-depth understanding of what's going on behind the scenes. With time, existing applications improve or entirely new applications raise the bar. Before you know it, Linux has a piece of software that can rival anything found on Windows. K3b, a CD- and DVD-burning application, is one example.

Reburn Configuring a Linux system to use a CD/DVD burner used to be a fairly complex task, and a good GUI-based application was hard to find. Today, nearly all Linux distributions automatically detect and configure a CD or DVD burner during installation, and K3b is a vast improvement over older GUIs.

In addition to K3b, you'll also need `cdrecord` and `cdrdao`. You may already have these applications installed, but if not, you can usually find them on your installation media. If you're using Debian or another Internet-based distribution, you should have no problem finding binary packages for your distribution. Debian users, for instance, can install all three applications by typing **`apt-get install cdrecord cdrdao k3b`** at the command line. (You'll need root privileges.)

From The Start The first time you load K3b, it should ask you to confirm your drive's maximum write speed. In most cases, you should just have to click OK. You may see a warning that `cdrecord` and `cdrdao` require root permissions to run. K3b makes changing permissions as simple as clicking the K3Setup2 button (you'll need to provide the root password when asked) and clicking OK to close the K3Setup2 window. You'll then see four options: New Audio CD Project, New Data CD Project, New Data

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DVD Project, and Copy CD. The Audio CD option lets you burn a music disc that your home or car CD player can read. The Copy CD option, curiously enough, creates a copy of an existing CD. The CD and DVD data options are used for any other type of CD or DVD. No matter which option you select, the basic interface is the same. After selecting the type of project, you'll see a split window. Files and directories on your hard drive are in the top portion. Navigate to the file or directory you want to burn in the upper section and drag the item to the bottom section. If you're making a music CD, you can drag songs into the proper position. Click the Burn button to burn files to the CD or DVD.

If you've downloaded Linux from the Internet, you're probably familiar with ISO files. These files are a bit-by-bit snapshot of a CD's contents and need to be burned in a specific way. Select either CD or DVD in the Tools menu and click either Burn CD Image or Burn DVD Image as appropriate. Click the folder icon next to the Image To Burn field and select the ISO file you want to burn. You can change the options listed if you want. To burn the file, click Start.

Integration Because K3b is integrated with KDE's file manager, there is a second way to burn files. If you want to burn everything in a folder to a CD or DVD, you can simply open Konqueror (the KDE file manager) and right-click the directory. Select Actions and click Create Data CD With K3b. You can also select multiple files from within the file manager and burn them using the same procedure. This method also works great for ISO files. Simply right-click the ISO file, select Actions, and click Write CD Image With K3b.

Extras K3b is extremely easy to use, but it also has a number of advanced options. For instance, you can select the Encode Video option from the Tools menu. This is a handy feature if you want to create DVD videos. For more information about encoding DVDs, click K3b Handbook in the Help menu. The K3b plug-in system lets you extend the operating system's functionality. For instance, you can add plug-ins for encoding audio in MP3, Ogg Vorbis, or other audio formats. You can also choose from more advanced projects by selecting New in the File menu. *by Chad Denton*

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