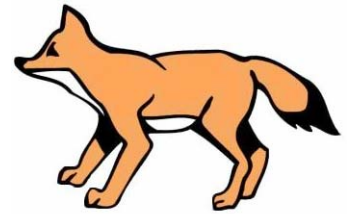


# FOX TALES



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April 2009

## April Meeting

Jon Jackman – President FVPCA

At our March general meeting we paused to recognize Richard Chamberlain as the 2009 Users Helping Users Award winner. As mentioned previously in this newsletter, Richard has decided to step down from his position as Treasurer for organization. The 2009 UHU Award was presented to Richard in recognition of his many years of service to our club. At the break we enjoyed a cake and congratulated Richard for all of his good work. Dean Holste has volunteered to be our Interim Treasurer, and will be working closely with Richard during the transition. We have decided to use software to manage our treasury and Dean will share his experiences in an upcoming meeting.

Coming up in April, we will be taking a look at the new version of Google Earth. Norm Hoube and Craig McGregor will conduct a program that will explore Google Earth from the PC, as well as from the new iPhone. Norm will be looking at Google Earth from a PC. Last month we experienced very slow connectivity over our Wi-Fi Internet connection when we attempted to view the Live Meeting link and the APCUG site. We are exploring what the problem may be, and will be looking into an alternative in the event that the connection is not fast enough for a smooth Google Earth program. Meanwhile, Craig is working on a way to connect his iPhone to the projector. We had successfully tested the connection of a camcorder to the LCD projector, which will serve as a backup plan allowing us to zoom in on the small LCD on his phone. We hope that all may see a close-up of the neat iPhone applications that Craig demonstrates... one way or the other.

Richard and Dean are working together to provide a list of all the donors to the Bill Swiss USO Memorial. At present, this list has not been finalized. Once we have a list we will make our donation to the USO Memorial in Bill's name and publish the names of the donors. At that point we will mail Bernadette Swiss notification that the donation was made.

We are looking forward to seeing you at our April meeting at the Civic Center location. Be sure to bring a friend!

## First Tee of Aurora SIG

Jon Jackman – President of the FVPCA

On Wednesday, April 1, 2008 several members of the Fox Valley PC Association met at the office of the First Tee of Aurora at Phillips Park. Our goal was to set up network services so that they were able to access data and share printing tasks.

Overall, the project went quite well. Dave Chrestenson, Bill Palmer, Bill Powell and I showed up at about 1 p.m. and met with Kathryn Farrell (First Tee worker and FVPCA member.) Bill Powell had to leave early due to a family commitment, but the rest of us pressed on. After reviewing our list of things to do, we sawed up some shelving material and modified a small typing desk so as to house the networking devices. We left just enough room behind the top shelf so as to run cables from below.

Four new CAT-5 cable runs were created to connect two of the existing computers, leaving two for expansion later on. Installation of the network cables required crawling around under tables and moving cabinets. I brought along my RJ-45 plug crimper and a box of RJ-45 connectors to create custom patch cables. We still had some CAT-5 cable left over from the OLGPC PC Lab project that provided enough for the lengths necessary. (Thanks to Richard Ramme's generous donation.) The cabling was secured using plastic pull ties for a neat appearance.

The DSL modem and wired router were moved to a more convenient location within the modified typing desk. (I forgot my camera at home, so we missed the chance to take photos. Darn!) Installation of the two 500 GB SATA drives went very smoothly. The two drives just snapped into the DNS-323 enclosure. Using the D-Link installation disk we were able to use a "wizard" to format the drives quickly. The two 500 GB SATA drives were installed using RAID-1 (mirroring) so as to have redundant backup of the 500 GB NAS.

As it was formatting, we set up the First Tee network. Then we modified the settings on the PCs so they could join the network. We then updated the firmware of the NAS from 1.04 to 1.06, using the patch downloaded from D-Link's support site. We put the NAS on the network and mapped the NAS as "M:" to each PC using the D-Link Utility. I demonstrated how easy it was to copy files and folders to the M: drive. We also modified security settings on the router. A donated D-Link switch was added to allow for expandability. (Thanks go to Tom Anzalone!)

An APC uninterruptible power supply (UPS) was put in place to provide backup power for the main computer as well as some of the networked devices. APC PowerChute Personal Edition was installed to enable monitoring of the UPS, as well as provide automated system shutdown via a USB connection in the event of a prolonged power outage.

There seemed to be a problem connecting to the Internet at one point, but we discovered that a loose cable on the router was the culprit. (Not one of my home made cables, but a shorter one that was already on site.) Kathryn had installed Acronis 2009 before we arrived and had performed a preliminary backup. We provided her with a flash drive which we then made bootable so that it would be possible for a quick boot into Acronis for backup and recovery.

At present, we are continuing to try and network the existing Lexmark X6100 all-in-one printer. There have been some problems using the USB print server which is included in the DNS-323. (Sometimes all-in-one printers are incompatible with network printing. We will see.) If our efforts are unsuccessful, we will try to hook up a dedicated USB print server.

Kathryn was very pleased with our efforts. Once the network printer issue is resolved we hope to move ahead with providing any assistance that we can in regards to a review of their database needs, and pursuing solutions that will work the best for this youth golf program. All of the participants seemed gratified that we were able to be of some "behind the scenes" help for this SIG. We want to thank all who participated. Too bad it was short notice and during an afternoon, or we might have gotten some more helpers! If you have an idea for a SIG, please let someone on the Executive Committee know. We welcome these challenges.

# Tech News Tidbits

Written by Terry Robert, Program Chair, I  
CON (Interactive Computer Owner's Network), MO  
www.icon.org  
terry (at) iconusersgroup.org

**This article has been obtained from APCUG with the author's permission for publication by APCUG member groups; all other uses require the permission of the author (see e-mail address above).**

My intention in writing this article each month is to help us understand technology's emerging trends that affect our everyday lives. While researching material for this month's submission, I felt compelled to share these alarming trends with the rest of you.

Sophos, a leading U.K.-based IT security and control firm, just published their "Security Threat Report 2009", which examined the "threat landscape" over the last 12 months, and predicted the emerging cybercrime trends for 2009. Two major points in the report are very alarming:

- American computers are making a disturbingly large contribution to the problems of viruses and spam affecting all of us today."

American websites host more malware and relay more spam than any other country

Graham Cluley, senior technology consultant for Sophos, said "Too many American computers have been compromised and are under the control of hackers, and nationally, the U.S. is carrying the most malicious Web pages. When an American Internet company, accused of collaborating with spammers and hackers, was disconnected from the net in November, the amount of spam was immediately reduced by 75%.

Sophos's research reveals that in 2008, organized criminal gangs tripled their attacks against innocent websites, injecting malicious code to infect visiting home users and businesses. They also documented an average of five new scareware websites (hackers posing as legitimate anti-virus vendors) each day, with the intention of scaring users into believing that their computers have been compromised.

By the end of 2008, Sophos was also tracking five times more malicious attacks arriving through e-mail attachments than at the start of the year, proving that hacking has become mainstream among organized crime.

As the Internet has matured into the foremost information resource on the planet, cyber criminals have refined their methods. Hackers are using automated systems to break into vulnerable websites and/or generate new variants of their malware throughout the world!

According to Sophos's findings, China was responsible for hosting more than 50 percent of all web-based malware in 2007, but this position was taken over by the U.S. in 2008. Their breakdown of the top malware hosting countries follows:

1. U.S. 37.0 percent
2. China (including Hong Kong) 27.7 percent
3. Russia 9.1 percent
4. The rest of the connected world 26.2%

(Continued on Page 5)

# Tech News That Affects Everybody

Written by Sandy Berger, CompuKISS

[www.compukiss.com](http://www.compukiss.com)

[sandy\(at\)compukiss.com](mailto:sandy(at)compukiss.com)

**This article has been obtained from APCUG with the author's permission for publication by APCUG member groups; all other uses require the permission of the author (see e-mail address above).**

Some of us scour the technology and business sections of the newspaper and the Web to get the latest news. Some of us head for the lifestyle and community sections, without much of a care about technology. Yet, today's technology news is often news that will affect everyone's life in one way or another.

Let me give you a few examples. The Pope recently announced opening of the Vatican YouTube channel ([www.youtube.com/vaticanit](http://www.youtube.com/vaticanit)) which will feature short video clips of Pope Benedict XVI's activities and links to news and information about the Catholic Church. The Pope is posting two or three videos each day. Most are short clips showing the Pope's speeches, activities, and participation in important events. In a recent speech, the Pope praised the Internet as offering rich opportunities for dialogue, friendship and spreading the Christian message.

There is a lot of irreverent stuff on YouTube, but the Pope's participation shows how mainstream this popular video website has become. YouTube, FaceBook, MySpace, and other social networking websites have become more and more popular. If you haven't yet visited any of these, YouTube is a great place to start. ([www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com))

Another recent news announcement was the Palm Pre, which is a smartphone that will be available in a few months through Sprint. You might think that this is just another phone, and you would be right. But the implications for cell phones are quite dramatic. Palm has developed a totally new version of the operating system for this phone. Google now has their own cell phone operating system as do Microsoft, BlackBerry, and Apple. These are some pretty big name and you will notice that the software that runs these phones is called an operating system. That's because these phone are really mini-computers that can do email, surf the web, and perform many other functions. Cell phones are changing dramatically. They are turning into handheld computers that will change the lives of those who use them.

We also should not overlook Apple's recent announcement that they will be dropping the DRM (digital rights management) for all songs in their iTunes store. The DRM crippled the songs so they had limited use. For instance, they could only be played on a certain number of devices or be copied a certain number of times. So music lovers the world over will be rejoicing to see that by April of this year, all of iTunes 10 million songs will be DRM-free. There is one caveat. Those who have previously purchased music and/or videos on iTunes that included Apple's DRM will now have to pay to get the DRM removed. Apple will be charging 30 cents a song. iTunes has sold six billion songs since going online in 2003. They did not offer any DRM-free music until recently. So most of those six billion songs had DRM. If every purchaser pays Apple 30 cents for taking away the DRM, Apple would make \$180,000,000. A boon to Apple, a pain-in-the-rear for honest music lovers who previously used the iTunes store.

(Continued on Page 5)

## Tech News That Affects Everybody (cont'd)

Written by Sandy Berger, CompuKISS

Microsoft was also in the news recently with their announcement that the beta testing version Windows 7, their next operating system could be downloaded and tried for free. Their website was inundated by curious Windows users. So many came, that they had to add more servers and download services. They originally said that they would limit the downloads to 2.5 million, but recently removed that restriction and will continue to offer the beta trial until February. Don't think that you will be getting something for nothing, though. The beta of Windows 7 will stop being functional on August 1, 2009. At that time you will either have to reinstall your previous operating system or pay for Windows 7.

Last but not least in the technology news is the announcement that Western Digital has created a 2 terabyte hard disk drive. Believe it or not, this may have one of the biggest effects on individual users. As we can store more and more digital data at reasonable prices, more and more data will be digitized. We are already living in a digital world, but that world gets more reliant on technology every day.

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## Tech News Tidbits (cont'd)

Written by Terry Robert

Symantec also found the U.S. to host the most malware of all nations, but with lower percentages, and did not include Russia in their results.

We haven't devoted a lot of time to security issues recently, but if you've participated in some of the discussions we have had, you know there are numerous effective strategies for protecting yourself from attacks.

Avoid being connected to the Internet unless protected by:

- Dependable antivirus software (with current updates)

  - Products include Avast, AVG, Norton, and McAfee

- Malware detection and removal software

  - Products include Spybot Search and Destroy, Adaware, Spyware Blaster, and Advanced WindowsCare

- Software firewall

  - Products include Windows Firewall (protects only against incoming threats in XP), Zone Alarm, and Kerio

- A healthy dose of common sense

If you receive a popup telling you that your computer has been compromised, advising you to: "Click here to correct the problem"...**DON'T TAKE THE BAIT!**

If you have no strategy, do yourself (and the rest of us) a favor, learn to protect yourself. Maybe you should attend more ICON functions?!



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**There are a growing number of locations that offer free Internet via a wireless Wi-Fi connection! We would like to find a place where we could meet and have Wi-Fi too!**

***THE FOX VALLEY PC ASSOCIATION***

**The Fox Valley PC Association is dedicated to the task of providing computer information to our fellow members. We are a non-profit organization. The group has been active since January 1985. The dues are \$30 per year. Our meetings are held on the third Saturday of the month (except December.)**

**The meeting place for (April) will be at the Oswego Civic Center, 5 Ashlawn Ave, Montgomery, IL The formal meeting starts at 9:15 A.M. Non-member visitors are always welcome. If you can, please come early & help with set-up. Thanks!**

**"USERS HELPING USERS"**

**Membership Renewals**

*Gaylon Mace*

**Thank-You for your continuing support!!**

## **The "FOX TALES" Newsletter**

The "Fox Tales" Newsletter is published monthly by the Fox Valley PC Association, Post Office Box 369, Oswego, IL 60543, a non-profit organization, established to provide information about IBM PCs and IBM Compatible personal computer systems (and almost anything "digital") to our members.

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### **Kane County Electronic Recycling Dates for 2009** May 8th & 9th, June 12th & 13th

#### **Location:**

Kane Co. Circuit Clerk Office  
540 S. Randall Rd. St.Charles, Il 8:00am-12:00pm

#### **Items Accepted for Recycling:**

Personal Computers, Monitors, Printers, Scanners, Modems, Tape, Disk, CD Drives, Cables, Keyboards, Mice, Plotters (*Limit of 25 pieces on Towers/CPU's and Monitors*)

Televisions, Camcorders, Cameras, Stereo Equipment (no speakers), Game Players, Joysticks

Telephones, Cell Phones, Pagers, Answering Machines, Typewriters, Calculators, Adding Machines, Fax Machines, Shredders, Copiers, Postage Meters

Electronic Media: Floppy Discs, Compact Discs (and cases), Videotapes, Audio Cassettes)

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## **Fox Valley PC Association Officers & Board Members**

### **President**

Jon Jackman 630-892-7767  
e-mail [jockjoj@aol.com](mailto:jockjoj@aol.com)

### **Vice President**

Tom Anzalone 630-482-9808  
e-mail [tanzalone2@earthlink.net](mailto:tanzalone2@earthlink.net)

### **Secretary**

Bill Palmer 630-859-8939  
e-mail [william\\_palmer@att.net](mailto:william_palmer@att.net)

### **Treasurer (Interim)**

Dean Holste

### **Newsletter Layout Editor**

Dean Holste  
e-mail [deanholste@sbcglobal.net](mailto:deanholste@sbcglobal.net)

### **Membership Coordinator**

Bill Powell 630-553-1887  
e-mail [wpmkp81@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wpmkp81@sbcglobal.net)

### **Website Webmaster**

VACANT  
e-mail:

### **Publicity Coordinator**

VACANT  
e-mail:

### **Program Coordinator**

Craig McGregor 630-554-1923  
e-mail [Craig.McGregor@ACXIOM.COM](mailto:Craig.McGregor@ACXIOM.COM)

# Fox Tales

Fox Valley PC Association  
P.O. Box 369  
Oswego, IL 60543-0369



The Fox Valley PC Association Web site is:

**[www.fvpca.org](http://www.fvpca.org)**  
Courtesy of APCUG



Have a computer hardware problem or a technical question? Head over to our website and click on the red question mark to send your question! We will research it and have an answer at the next meeting or sooner if needed.

## April Program:

### Exploring Google Earth

Norm Hoube & Craig McGregor

The Next Meeting Will Be at 9:15 A.M.

**April 18, 2009**

At the Oswego Civic Center  
5 Ashlawn Ave. Montgomery, Illinois