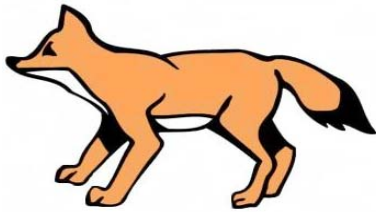


# Fox Tales



August 2011

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## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

### I'd Rather Be Busy than Bored

Jon Jackman – President – FVPCA

Well summer is turning the corner. The recent heat and rain have been a blessing and a curse. It has been nice to not have to water the lawn, but the expense of running the air conditioner will likely be a shocker when the Com Ed bill arrives later this month. Presently a beautiful day around 80... Enjoy these days while you can!

There never seems to be enough time to get everything done around here. A recent kitchen upgrade also meant using some of the old cabinets in my garage to improve storage. I am waiting for an order of tile to arrive so I can install the backsplash in the kitchen. Painting, yard work, various projects at my church, PC repairs for friends, and weekly golf all compete for time. And of course, the obligations for the FVPCA! Gotta set priorities and "get 'er done!"

At our meeting in July we had a low turnout, but that did not stop us from presenting a few interesting programs. Bill Powell did a show-and-tell on his wife's iPad and Craig McGregor shared the workings of his Flip Video camera. We also had a few interesting videos concerning virtual health care as well as an amazing technology that makes 3D copies of objects. Here is a link: <http://tinyurl.com/4yjph96>.

This month we will be busy. There will be a SIG at OLG as we take on the annual maintenance at the school's PC Lab. Several members have volunteered to help out on Saturday, August 13<sup>th</sup>. (Thank you!) We will give an update at our August meeting.

I have been working on the 2011 DOQ-3 and have some interesting selections which we will review at our August 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. (Bring your thumb drive!) I will show how to explore the listings of all of the DOQ's (which is in an Excel file.) I am working on summarizing the 2011 FVPCA member survey and will share that at our meeting. Kathy Farrell will give an overview of her work on the FVPCA website. There will likely be some additional topics that will come up. Hope you can make it on August 20<sup>th</sup>!

We are moving ahead with obtaining Dreamweaver CS5 to use for our web site make-over. I took advantage of an offer and obtained some web creation software (Serif's WebPlus X5) which I may quickly explore at the meeting.

(Cont'd on Page 6)

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*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)

Our regular meeting place is in the South Point Center community room located at 810 Preston Lane in Oswego, Illinois. The formal meeting starts at 9:15 A.M.

Visitors are always welcome!

"USERS HELPING USERS"



## Cloud Computing – A Blessing or a Curse?

Tech-Tip# 325 By Mark Tiongco - July 31, 2011

There's no doubt that [cloud computing](#) has made a huge splash in our technologically ubiquitous society. Its benefits help businesses with productivity and give consumers more convenience about back-ups and data storage. **Still, there are a few issues that should be addressed for anyone, whether a business owner or average Joe computer user, before making the jump to any cloud computing solution.**

*"...What if you had personal (or company) information that was compromised?"*

<http://tinyurl.com/3c8yz4n>



*"...Really this is only the beginning of the soon-to-be realized wireless charging future."*

## Wireless Charging - Really?

Tech-Tip# 324 By Bryan Lambert - August 07, 2011

Not long ago it seemed that we wondered why we would need some particular technological gadget. Whether it was a smartphone, dumbphone, tablet, cheap laptop computer, ebook reader, mp3 player, or digital camera (just to name a few) - it really seemed that the things that we once lived without just fine only a few short years ago, we can't seem to live without now. While they are great to have, it becomes painfully clear very quickly that all these electronic gadgets and gizmos need their power!

Pretty soon you find yourself a plethora of cords in various shapes and sizes just to keep their batteries juiced up and ready to roll! On a recent trip, I had to take along NINE different power cords just to keep the cameras, phones and games going.... <http://tinyurl.com/3klmbb>



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# THINGS, THINGLETS and THINGASSOS - NOVICE CORNER

By S. Jack Lewtschuk, Past President & Columnist, Monterey Bay User Group-PC, CA  
June 2011 issue, mbug-pc newsletter / [www.mbug.org](http://www.mbug.org) / Blacklion (at) royal.net

## Spam

Symantec's MessageLabs Intelligence: 2010 Annual Security Report shows that the global spam rate increased 1.4% compared to 2009. Botnets\* were responsible for sending significantly more spam this year, accounting for 88.2% of all spam, and they did so mostly from Asia and South America early in the year and predominately from Europe later in the year. About the same number of botnets (5 million) sent spam this year [2010] as in 2009 although the average amount of spam per botnet per minute dropped from 85 to 77. The Rustock botnet was responsible for 47.5% of all spam.

## \*Botnet (Robot Network)

Also called a "zombie army," a botnet is a large number of compromised computers that are used to create and send spam or viruses or flood a network with messages as a denial of service attack. The computer is compromised via a Trojan that often works by opening an Internet Relay Chat (IRC) channel that waits for commands from the person in control of the botnet. There is a thriving botnet business selling lists of compromised computers to hackers and spammers.

Make sure you do your part to try to reduce the amount of spam you receive or send (knowingly or not). Some well-known spam filters are listed below:

<http://www.spamato.net/>

<http://getpopfile.org/docs/doku.php>

<http://www.mailwasher.net/>

ISPs (Internet Service Providers) usually use filters that reduce the amount of spam received. In 2010/2011, I have received spam from MBUG members that was sent because their computers were infected (botnet), and in one instance, spam was sent knowingly.

## What is Core?

The "core" is the part of the processor that does all the work. Multi-core processors have been around for quite a while now. You can find dual-, tri-, quad-, hex- and octocore processors. Some server processors even have 12 or 16 cores. Each additional "core" is just like having another processor in your computer in the space occupied by the one core. Your CPU (central processing unit) with multiple cores allows multiple pieces of information to be processed simultaneously. This makes processing much faster, same as several people doing one job, compared to you doing the same job alone.

At first, most software was designed to work with a single-core processor, so the second core was of little help. Modern operating systems and programs are designed for multiple cores. Especially those of you who do photo and video editing will appreciate the additional cores. Gamers will really like the speed due to the much better animation renderings; artificial intelligence can be assigned to a core and sound effects to another core. Multitasking is also generally improved by having multiple cores. Software still isn't as good at parallel processing as it could be. Past a certain point, more cores don't make a difference for most tasks.

Multiple core processors increase in cost with the number of cores. A quad-core CPU is the top processor recommended for the average user.

## Unwanted Telephone Calls Bothering You?

I guess that I am lucky; I do not get telephone calls from sales people because I registered my phone numbers with "DO NOT CALL."

Actually, there are times when I miss these calls. Back in "the old days" I used to engage the callers in a conversation, trying to persuade them to buy something else, change bad habits, join MBUG, etc.

The National Do Not Call Registry gives you a choice about whether to receive telemarketing calls at home. You can register your home or mobile phone for free. Telemarketers should not call your number once it has been on the registry for 31 days. If they do, you can file a complaint at this website: <https://www.donotcall.gov/confirm/conf.aspx>



If you think that you have already registered your phones a few years ago, you can check that with the registry also. If you would like to know more about the registry, go to: [http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/alerts/ alt107.shtm](http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/alerts/alt107.shtm).

## Good Old Snail-Mail Junk

Long before digital spam, our friendly mail carrier was filling our mailboxes with “snail-spam” and never stopped.

Getting too many catalogs and commercial solicitations from companies you have never done business with? How about “preapproved credit card applications?”

The Direct Marketing Association (<http://bit.ly/kTMROB>) operates a free online service that is the official mail preference service for catalog and direct marketing companies and is supported by the U.S. Postal Service. Your registration won't stop mailings or calls from organizations not registered with the service, but it should help you to get the mail you want and less of the mail you don't want. Sometimes mailings are prepared several months ahead, so it could take up to 90 days for your registrations to become fully effective.

## Position for Your Monitor

Position the top of your monitor at or slightly below seated eye height. Lower it a little more if you:

- Work with hard copy.
- View through bifocals or progressive lenses.
- Look at the keyboard when typing.

## A Little Trivia

The world has 295 exabytes worth of information. Scientists have measured the amount of information stored in the world. The grand total comes to 295 exabytes. That amount would fill up about one billion 250-gigabyte hard drives.

An “EXABYTE” = 1 million terabytes = 1 billion gigabytes.

You better start reading!

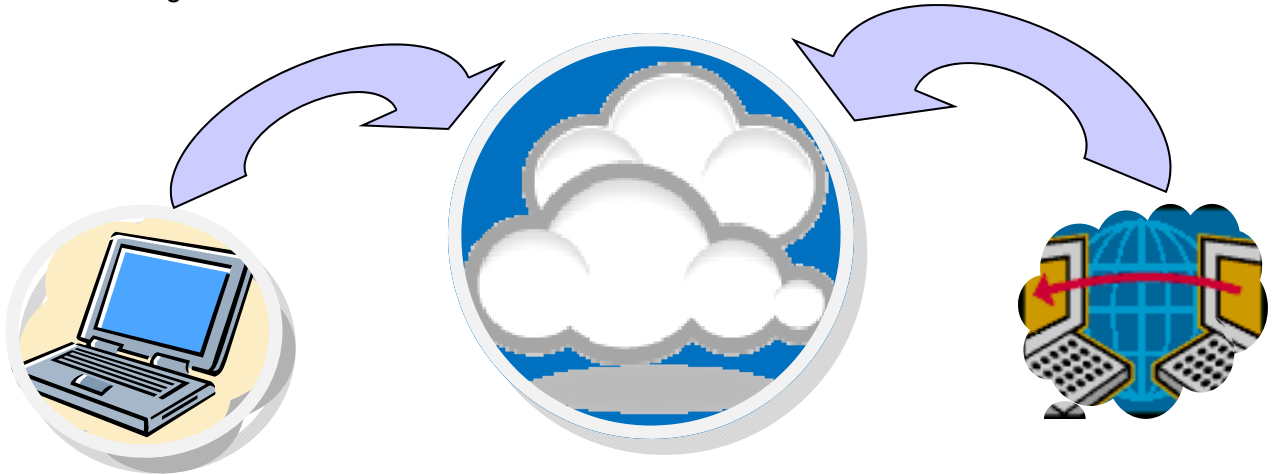


## President's Column (cont'd)

(I had shared it with the new principal at OLCG who wants to re-vamp their old web site. I will be a mentor of sorts for that project. Anyone else want to volunteer to help?) I have used MS Office Front Page 2003 to create the surveys. It appears that WebPlus does not offer the feature of saving form submissions in a .csv (comma separated values) file (as FP 2003 does), but rather e-mails the results when the form is submitted. I am not sure how to import that data into a spreadsheet for analysis, but will eventually get an understanding of it. It should be helpful as I move ahead with some projects: re-vamping the Valley View Alumni website and start up another website for a retiree group. Looking at the survey results, not many people actually have a web site of their own. We may look at some advantages of having a personal web page, the cost and what it takes for someone to get started. It really is not too difficult and there are "free" alternatives available.

We are still working on the membership directory. We just need to find the time to attend to that. By the way, we still need to get the photos from several members who have not, as yet, been at a meeting to have a new photo taken or submitted one on their own. We will be sending out a reminder to the members who need to do that soon.

Coming up in September will be nominations for officers for 2012! If anyone is interested in running for an office, speak up. We will address the election and open appointed positions at our upcoming meetings. So come to our August meeting and see what is happening! Bring your questions and we will try to provide answers. Also, bring a friend!



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## Should you worry about image retention on an LCD monitor?

By Linda Gonse, Editor/Webmaster, ORCOPUG (Orange County PCUG), California  
July 2011 issue, Nibbles 'n Bits / [www.orcopug.org](http://www.orcopug.org) / editor (at) orcopug.org

I just bought a brand new HP ZR22w LCD flat screen monitor. My understanding always has been that burn-in (also called image retention or image persistence) does not occur on LCD screens. But, an HP help file that came with my monitor dispelled that notion.

"Image retention occurs when the monitor is left ON while displaying the same image for an extended period of time, leaving a 'shadow' of this image on the screen."

I researched the burn-in problem further and About.com, <http://bit.ly/k05clD> said "Image retention can be corrected in most cases and is easily prevented." That statement was a relief!

The article went on to list methods that could be used to prevent image retention/persistence.

"Set the screen to turn off after a few minutes of screen idle time under the Power functions in Windows. Turning the monitor display off will prevent an image from being displayed on the screen for extended periods of time. Of course, this could be annoying to some people as the screen may go off more than they wish."

"Use a screen saver that either rotates, has moving graphic images or is blank. This also prevents an image for being displayed in screen for too long."

"Rotate any background images on the desktop. Background images are one of the most common causes for image persistence. By switching backgrounds every day or few days, it should reduce the change of persistence."

"Turn off the monitor when the system is not in use. This will prevent any problems where the screen saver or power function fails to turn off the screen and result in an image sitting on the screen for long times."

The bottom line is not to be too worried about image burn-in, but keep it in mind when using your LCD monitor and you can easily prevent it from happening.

If somehow it does happen, see <http://bit.ly/k05clD> for instructions on how to correct existing image retention on LCD monitors.

Finally, the HP text helpfully revealed another problem not known to all LCD monitor users, "the fluorescent lights inside the display have a limited lifetime and will gradually degrade." This is reason enough not to leave a monitor on 24/7, even with a screensaver enabled. Use the timed Energy/Power setting to automatically turn the monitor off when your system is idle for a while.



# Fox Tales

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The Fox Valley PC Association Web site is:

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



This Month's Program will be:

Survey Summary—Jon Jackman

Website Update—Kathy Farrell

DOQ 3 files and how to find a past file

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

**August 20, 2011**

**Location: South Point Center—Multi-Purpose Room  
810 Preston Lane Oswego, Illinois**