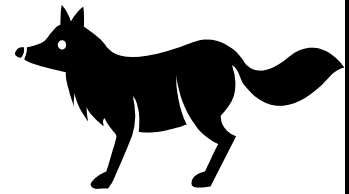


FOX Tales



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Networks and Servers

By Jon Jackman / President - Fox Valley PC Association

Bill Swiss has had some problems bouncing back from recent surgery, so we will get this month's newsletter put together using an old template in Publisher. I will give it a try Bill! Get well soon!

I would invite members to feel free to submit "copy" for the *Fox Tales* newsletter. User perspectives need not be complex, just something of interest. We often borrow from APCUG, but it would be nice to have more of our members consider doing a little free-lancing. In the long run it would help our newsletter develop even greater character. Do you want to be published? Submit your offering in doc, txt or other compatible format... Please submit your contribution about three weeks before the next meeting. We will review and print them as space allows.

This past month we met at the Eola Branch of the Aurora Public Library. At that meeting we reviewed networking terminology. That program went from basic to complex principles as we reviewed networking terminology. Some of the issues presented may have been over the heads of some of our members, but it was an in depth look at a topic that could easily take many more hours to review. This month on June 17th, we will be looking at actually setting up a wireless network. Same location as in May.

Though the Eola Branch was one of our smaller venues, it had the basics. The projection screen was a late arrival, and worked well as did the Internet connection. There was a small counter for our coffee and donuts which were enjoyed at the break. About 24 members were present plus an interested visitor at the Eola location. It was standing room only. We will see if everyone fits this month!

Our upcoming program will be presented by Tom Anzalone and should be interesting and a "must see" to learn how to set up a wireless network at home. There will be a trouble shooting session. Tom invites users to bring their own laptops to try and connect wirelessly. (Not much room for full size PCs I am afraid...) We will also be looking at approving the Board of Directors: Dr. E.W. Lowry, Kathie Long, Bill Powell and Bill Palmer. They will then review the revised Constitution and Bylaws for ratification later this year. More on that in an upcoming issue of *Fox Tales*, as we are required to publish the revisions prior to ratification.

(Networks and Servers...Continued on page 2)

(Networks and Servers...Continued from page 1)

We had looked at peer-to-peer networking in our program in May. We also touched on Network Operating Systems (NOS). Though I had some experience administering a LAN, I did not set it up. The hotshots from the Information Services Unit (ISU) in Springfield did that, as they ran the show statewide for the Department of Corrections. I have always wondered what it would take to set up server based network, and admired those who were capable of doing so.

This past week I became involved in the upgrade of a school PC lab from a hodgepodge of mixed platform computers to 28 XP Pro machines. I could not help but wonder, "Why not use a NOS with this school's network?" I recalled the LAN that I had tended (45 PCs, 2 servers and about 100 users!) I remembered what we had presented last month and considered moving from the peer-to-peer setup in this school towards a NOS, like Windows Server 2003, or perhaps an open source NOS based on Linux. There is no server as of yet, as the old network did not require one. I thought some more and realized that it may not be that hard to build a basic server that would do the job quite well. School budgets being what they are, I considered the possibility of the FVPCA sponsoring a service project. I may also have a connection for a copy of MS Server 2003... This idea is well received by the school and seems to be taking on a life of its own. The project will take place over the summer with a target completion by mid August. My, oh my! That would really give members a chance to learn networking first hand! We will talk about this at the meeting and in future issues of the *Fox Tales*. Interested? Let us know.

On another note, the distance of travel and varied locations for our meetings has presented a hardship for some of our members. This was to be expected as the results of our survey indicated the very same correlation. As they say, "You can please some of the people all of the time and all the people some of the time..." Sorry for the inconvenience. We will continue to look for one location where we can have our monthly meetings. In the meantime, we will continue to hold meetings wherever we can get a broadband connection. There may still be a few programs at the Civic Center when we get on topics that do not involve the Internet, though I do not think many of us miss moving furniture around before and after meetings. As the WiFi initiative in Aurora develops, we hope to find a decent meeting location with the free Internet, or perhaps find some other benefactor willing to sponsor us. Ask around.

Consider Special Interest Groups (SIGs). What interests you about computers and the digital revolution the most? As we mentioned, we are getting involved in setting up a network in a school lab. We would need interested volunteers. By definition it would be a SIG! We would be hopeful that the visibility of our work might even bring on some more members. There are many of you who have spent long hours on some favorite PC activity. Perhaps, with a little encouragement, you might share your experience with the rest of us. Bill Powell recently expressed such an interest in an online investment game, "Investopedia." We expect to see a demonstration later this year. Sounds like fun! We invite you to consider putting on a brief (or long) program on a subject that is compelling to you. You can do it!

Tom presented some exciting ideas at the recent Executive Committee meeting. Just to let you know: do not throw out that old 486, P-I, P-II or P-III just yet. There may be some very interesting possibilities ahead. Tom will be looking into that for programs over the Fall and Winter.

Thanks to Tom and Bob for their contributions to this month's *Fox Tales*!

***Hey Bill, get well soon!
Your friends at the FVPCA***

HOAXES, CHAIN LETTERS & SCAMS

Bob Tuftee / Webmaster - FVPCA

Many of you may have received an e-mail message warning you about a “dangerous” virus or worm that can erase all the information on your hard drive, or a new disease that has no known cure, or an insect that’s bite can result in serious health problems or even death. These messages usually ask you to forward this information to everyone in your address book. Sometimes these messages may suggest that you will be paid large amounts of money if you forward the message to everyone you know. Some are very cleverly written and sound plausible. I recently received an e-mail warning me of a “New Poisonous Spider” that originated in Indonesia and had bitten several people causing fever, chills muscle paralysis and death. This “spider” was supposed to hide on the bottom of toilet seats, so you should always lift the seat up and inspect it before sitting on the seat! This sounded like a “Hoax” to me, so I checked it out on the “Truth or Fiction” website (<http://www.truthorfiction.com/>), and sure enough, this hoax has been around for a long time. There are 2 reported variations of this hoax.

I’ve used the “Truth or Fiction” website quite often to verify stories about viruses, worms, and other suspicious sounding e-mail messages. This is not the only web site useful in verifying Hoaxes, suspicious emails and even non-internet related stories. Here are some others:

<http://snopes.com/> and <http://hoaxbusters.ciac.org/>

The Hoaxbusters site is a part of the U.S. Department of Energy web site, <http://www.ciac.org/ciac/index.html>. This site has links to Security Sites that include <http://www.us-cert.gov/> that has links that allow you to report a security “Incident”; http://www.us-cert.gov/nav/report_phishing.html allows you to report “Phishing” scams.

Just a couple basic rules to follow:

- If it sounds to good to be true, it probably is NOT true.
- If someone asks you to “send this message to everyone in your address book”, DON’T.
- If someone sends you a story that sounds plausible but you’re not sure, CHECK IT OUT on one of the sites listed above.
- If you find out that it is a hoax, reply to the sender and let them know, even forwarding a link to the site that busts the myth.* Offer a friendly explanation that they should review such suspicious e-mails at one of the sites above before forwarding it along. We all want to do good deeds, but we should not contribute to the flood of junk mail in various forms that take so much of our time to review and delete. (*Suggestion from the Editor.)

The “Hoaxbusters” site has a lot of good information about spotting Hoaxes, Scams and Chain Letters and how to deal with them. I urge all members to log the Hoaxbusters site and review the articles there. Also, share your own experiences with hoaxes, chain letters and scams with all members at the FVPCA meetings.

Bob Tuftee
Webmaster, FVPCA

SECURITY TIPS

From APCUG Tips

<http://www.apcug.net/help/tips.htm>

Phishing:

Using email to leverage your trust in a company, brand, or person and trick you into providing personal financial information or access vehicles (passwords, account names, email addresses) to an unknown person or group. If you receive an email that you think is a “phish”, the tips below can keep you from taking the bait.

1. Know thyself: Know the online companies you deal with. When a suspect email arrives, remember: it could be fraud, it's definitely spam, and it is definitely not for you. Delete it.
2. Subject matters: Consider the subject line of an email carefully. Citibank will never send you an email headed “_Citiibank_account_update ACT-N0W”. These messages may get through spam filters because they appear to come from a reputable source, but that doesn't mean it's really from Citibank.
3. Learn the language: Understand how the companies you deal with want to interact with you. For example, banks usually want you to access your account through their website—not an email link. “Phishing” emails stand out because they don't follow the rules.
4. Browsing around: Practice safe browsing. Open a new browser window each time you log on to a web site that displays personal information. When you are done at that site, log out and close that browser window.
5. Spelling counts: Be sure to read emails that say they are from companies you know. Sometimes a real email will have a spelling or grammatical error, but anything more than one error is suspicious.
6. Mousing around: Scroll over the links in emails you receive and check them. In some email systems, you can scroll over the different links in an email and see the actual contents of the link. If the email says PayPal, but the link content says “ www.paipall.com”, be careful. And note: URLs can be disguised—so don't take a suspect link at face value.
7. All form, no function: Never enter your personal or credit information into a form in an email. If you feel the email is legitimate, call the company or visit their web site and log in to provide the requested information.
8. It's personal: Expect good customer service. Unless your name is “eBay User” or “johndoe99”, most “phishing” emails are not personalized. If you receive a “Dear Customer” email, it may be time to move on. Stay on Guard.
9. Make a statement: Read your statements – every one, every month to ensure your charges and debits are correct. Often information obtained through phishing is not used right away. Stay vigilant and report any suspicious activity immediately.
10. Stay current: Use and maintain your email protection software for spam blocking, fraud blocking, and anti-virus. If you have any questions, there are many fine web sites which can provide the latest information on the latest virus, “phishing” attack, or on-line scam.

"Phishing" schemes will continue to get more sophisticated and harder to detect. A combination of technology and consumer awareness is the key to keeping the “phish” at bay and making your email good again.



BARGAIN WEBSITES FOR ANY SEASON

Tom Anzalone

Vice President—Fox Valley PC Association

As we enter into the summer months, we will find ourselves outdoors more. We may be logging less time on our computers as the sunshine and long days beckon to us to go for a bike ride or walk. But even though our computers may sit idle, shopping one for computer bargains is something we can do year around.

One of my favorite bargain sites is www.techbargains.net. Listed on this site are daily deals from around the web. Another similar site I find myself visiting daily is www.bensbargains.net. Here you will find everything from deals on CDs to GPS systems. If you want to search for bargains that also include toys, home items, clothing as well as geek gear then point your browser to www.dealnews.com.

All of these sites will offer you daily deals as well as offering online forums so you can discuss your shopping experiences.

Last on my list is a site I use before I ever purchase any type of computer item. This site, www.pricegrabber.com, will search the online stores for the best price on the item you enter. I use this site to gauge if I am really getting a good deal on an item.

So get out and take a walk, ride your bike, or have a picnic this summer. But remember that you can always use these online sites to pick up that new digital camera or LCD year around.

Tom Anzalone

VP FVPCA

FATHER'S DAY IDEAS

Jon Jackman

Well it has come around again. I suppose that there is a reason why Father's Day is 6 months after—before Christmas. If you have been blessed with children, it may also be a time to reflect. One year my son gave me a small framed sign: "Anyone can be a father, but it takes someone special to be a dad." I think it is important to, "Stop and smell the roses" from time to time. This is one day that I try to do that, although my part-time job at the golf course will put me away from home that afternoon. So I will probably choose to celebrate it on Saturday if I can.

My sons are asking me, "What do you want for Father's Day?" They are both grown now and graduated from college. I am tempted to mention some super dad friendly gadget. But as I think about it, maybe just simply doing something together would be nice. I do not see them that much any more and for them to jump off their merry-go-round of life and spend a little quality time with the old man would suit me just fine. They know what I like, so I may drop a few hints: join me in a round of golf, followed by a nice dinner and a few beers. Maybe a charter fishing trip out on Lake Michigan. It has been some time since I have been out there, and neither son was with me on the boat back in those days. Perhaps a Father and Sons trip to a Cougars game or maybe Wrigley Field. (Neither are Sox fans.) Whatever it will be, I want us to have a great time together. The trick is to get them to honor the IOU and not let it slip too far down the road. One never knows...My father is long gone, but I cherish his memory. He was a special man with many talents. I can only hope that my sons will remember me as fondly... I feel very lucky and I am ever grateful for "family."

May all of the fathers out there have a Happy Father's Day... God bless you & yours!

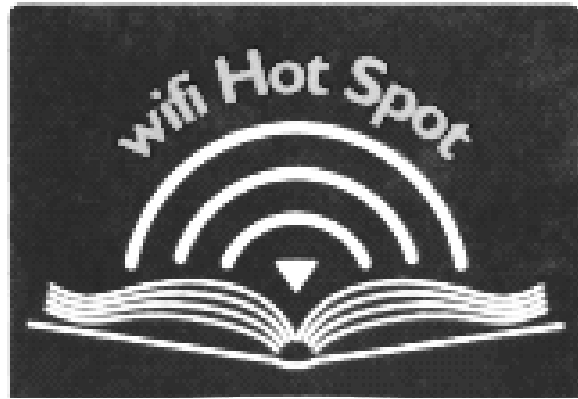


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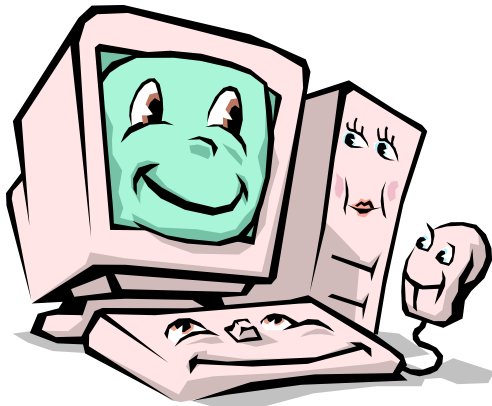
The Aurora Public Library has WiFi
Go here for guidelines:
<http://www.aurora.lib.il.us/WirelessFAQ.htm>

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 this month is at the Eola Branch of the Aurora Public Library at 555 South Eola Road Aurora, Illinois. The formal meeting starts at 9:15 A.M. Non-member visitors are always welcome.

“USERS HELPING USERS”



The Following Members have renewed their memberships

Tom Anzalone
Carl Dedrick
Richard Goold

Thank You

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 to our members.

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Future computer show dates

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2006-2007

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The Fox Valley PC Association Web site is:

www.fvpca.org
Courtesy of APCUG



Check the Web Site for the title of the June 17, 2006
“Program of the Month”
And the map of the Meeting Location

The Next Meeting Will Be
June 17, 2006
At the Eola Branch of the Aurora Public Library