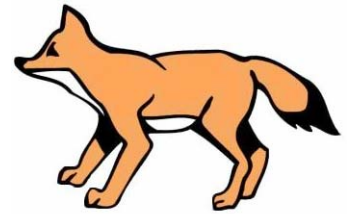


FOX TALES



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May 2008

There Have Been Sightings! Spring Is around Here Somewhere!

By Jon Jackman – President, FVPCA

Presently, it is 50° in Aurora. The other day we approached 80°. The averages for the entire month of May have highs near 72°, average 59° with lows around 46°, and we have been below the averages. It has been so wet that farmers are having a difficult time planting their crops. I was playing golf with a friend a few weeks ago and it got so cold that there were some snowflakes in the air! I mention this as roofers are scrambling to tear off and replace the roof of my house before it rains again, but today looks good. The five-man crew is making great progress. This is one project that has been overdue for several years. I am pretty much house bound as they scrape, bang and pound away. So it's time to get this month's newsletter wrapped up!

The auction for the used Epson S1 LCD projector is underway. Presently, there have been four members who expressed an interest in participating in this auction. The current high bid is \$250, and that may end up to be the final bid, since counter bidding has slowed down considerably. The winning bidder will be able to pick up the projector at our next monthly meeting on May 17th.

One of the discussions at our recent executive board meeting involved a projection screen solution. The brightness of our new LCD projector lends itself to a larger projected image. So we discussed various options for a larger screen. Tom suggested that we combine several sheets of butcher paper that we could hang on the wall. I have picked up a couple of white shower curtains and some cardboard tubes to fabricate a larger screen for use at our meetings. There were several do-it-yourself projection screens projects that I found through Google that gave me some good ideas. We will see how this one works at our May meeting.

Another item of discussion was the upcoming APCUG regional meeting. The Chicago Computer Society will be hosting a Midwest Regional Conference September 19, 20, and 21, 2008. This is the first Regional Conference in several years. There will be vendor presentations, roundtable discussions, and plenty of door prizes. We are beginning to start planning to attend this event and look forward to more details in the next several months. As the event is scheduled at the same time as our September meeting, we are considering substituting the regional conference for our meeting. In the next several months we will have more details and poll our members interest in attending, working out details for registration, travel, carpooling, costs, etc. This may offer an opportunity for some of our local members, as well as those who live outside of the Fox Valley to attend a major computer conference. It will be held in Chicago Heights at Prairie State College.

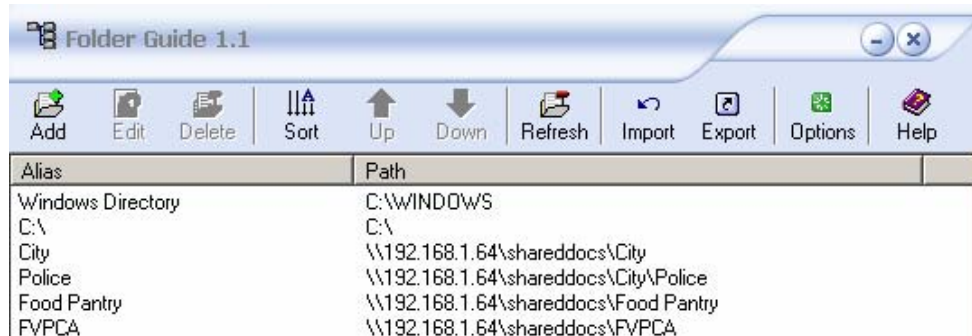
(See Page 3)

My Favorite Utility...

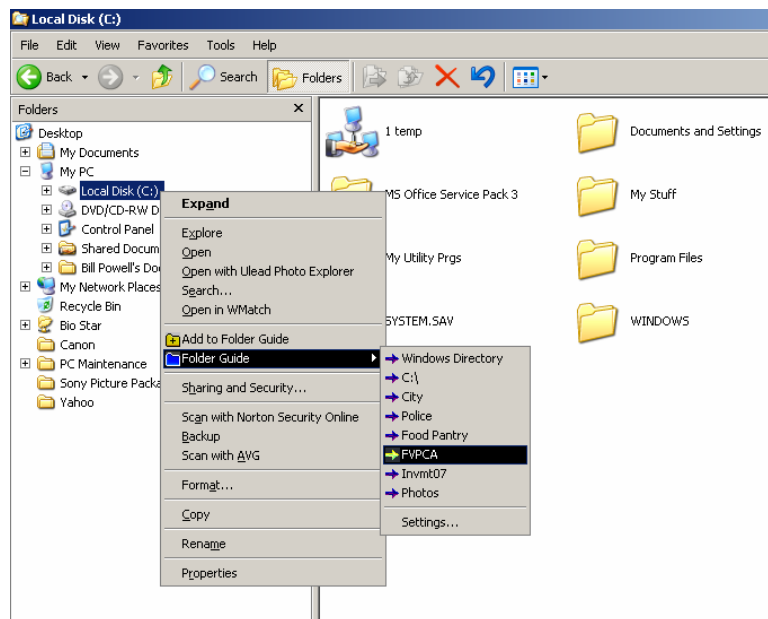
There are many utilities that make your PC life easier. One that I like is called **Folder Guide**. In essence, it creates shortcuts to quickly drill down windows explorer tree (identify the desired path) folders that you use most often. Since I have many folders and subfolders it really saves me a lot of time and clicking to get to the folder I want.

Folder Guide can be found at <http://www.freeware365.com/desktop/folderguide.htm>.

As you can see in the figure below, to add a folder just click on the add icon in the menu bar.



Once you have created the **Folder Guide** shortcuts, just right click within windows or even other programs such as MS Word, and the shortcut menu appears.



This saves me a great deal of time one click at a time...

I think it's worth a look...

Bill Powell, Membership Coordinator

There Have Been Sightings! Spring Is around Here Somewhere! (Cont'd)

Last night's 10 o'clock news had a story about Sprint Nextel and Clearwire and their venture to launch a nationwide WiMax network offering enhanced broadband to cell phones and laptops. See the article summarizing this technology later in this newsletter.

Tom Anzalone recently signed our user group up with the O'Reilly User Group. This program will allow us to get free copies of books for us to review. An interested member would examine the book and then write a review which we would post in our newsletter, and also send a copy of the review to O'Reilly. Our group would be entitled to discounts on O'Reilly products purchased directly from them. Additionally, they regularly donate books and other promotional items for raffles or auctions to help our group raise money. We're looking forward to their latest catalog so that we may begin to participate in this program. Some of their authors may be willing to speak at one of our meetings. We will be posting a banner on our website and encourage our members to review their books and post reviews on Amazon, our site, or our newsletter.

A few months ago we gave Craig McGregor a copy of, "Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing" (a typing tutor program.) One condition of this software "gift" was that he prepare a short program explaining its use. Craig will present his program at our May meeting. I missed the opportunity to take a typing class in high school, and have played with typing tutors. I am not a great typist by any means, but the program did help improve my skills somewhat. I still use Dragon Naturally Speaking, a speech recognition program, for long typing sessions. (Like writing newsletter articles!)

Recently, I have had problems with an older HP 2100 LaserJet printer. It came with a JetDirect network card. Even though I used the latest JetDirect software from HP, I was having problems printing to the 2100. This printer has a parallel port print connection, so I could have hooked it up to my computer and shared it through that computer across my network. However, that would mean I would have to have the "host" computer on all of the time for other computers to print to the 2100. I decided to install a 1-port 10/100 Mbps parallel port print server. While I was at it, I decided to install a 1-port USB 2.0 print server on my HP 7550 PhotoSmart printer, which I had set up as a share on my network. I will detail the steps on how to set up a network and then set up one of these print servers as a brief program at our May meeting.

We have renewed our subscription with our Domain Name Registrar so that our website (fvpc.org) remains active. (Ours expired around April 25th.) Typically, when you set up a webpage and want to have a friendly URL, you need to register that name with a Domain Name Registrar (providing no one else has used - register that URL.) At the present time, we have not deployed the good work done by our friend in England, Ivan Rood. He recently contacted me and wanted to know the status of our updated website project. There have been other distractions, so I have not been able to set up a local server to test the functionality of the new website. I also need to take the time to learn some PHP basics. Once that is done we will proceed to move ahead with our revised website. Any members who have web development experience and know some PHP basics are invited to contact me, so that we can work with Ivan and move ahead.

Our thanks to Norm Hoube for his program on "Interesting Internet Locations" at last month's meeting. Be sure to visit the GCFLearnFree.org site which provides an interactive learning experience to build the skills and confidence needed to function in the world today. You have the freedom to learn what you want, when you want, absolutely free. He also provided a handout with links to some locations that may be of interest to our members. We will see if we can put some of those links on our website.

(See Page 4)

There Have Been Sightings! Spring Is around Here Somewhere! (Cont'd)

We will continue to explore new opportunities for our club. Recently we have had members who wanted to sell computer related equipment. We are looking into the possibility of having a "Swap Meet." We continue to ask members to step up to the plate and help us with programs. They can be short or long, depending on the topic and presenters expertise. I also welcome anyone to submit articles for our newsletter. If you have had an interesting computer related experience, or on any digital topic, please consider writing up a brief article that we may insert into the *Fox Tales* newsletter.

If your membership subscription is due or past due for renewal, please consider submitting your check to keep your membership current as soon as possible. Our next general meeting will be on Saturday, May 17th at the Oswegoland Civic Center location. Bring a friend!

Jon Jackman
President - FVPCA

The Power of "Z" ... Bill Powell - Membership Coordinator

Many times the automatic capitalization feature in Word is not what I want to do... If you press Ctrl-Z immediately after Word auto caps the word, it will undo the cap.

The more impressive thing about Ctrl-Z is this function has many other uses. For example if you accidentally delete a file or a whole directory, pressing Ctrl-Z immediately will restore the file or directory...

Pretty cool...

Here's a quick way to shut down your PC

Start / Control Panel / Power Options / Advanced / When I press the power button on my computer / select [Shut Down] / Apply

PS: First, remember to save your work...

Tip for Missing Desktop Icons

Jon Jackman – President FVPCA

After adjusting the screen resolution on my computer to try out another setting for game play, the icons for my desktop shortcuts disappeared. (Desktop – Properties – Settings – Screen Resolution.) I tried several repairs including going to My Computer - Disk Properties - Tools – Error Checking – Selecting both options and re-booting, but the icons were still missing. So I Googled the problem and came up with this solution:

There is a folder where Windows keeps a collection of your icons, and sometimes it gets a little garbled. You need to get Windows to load fresh copies into the file.

In XP, right click a blank spot on your Desktop, and select Properties from the pop-up menu. Click on the Appearance tab, and then click on the Effects button. Find the box "Use large Icons", and click it (whether or not it is checked) then click Apply. Your icons will ripple and change size, but will become the correct ones. You can repeat the process to put the icons back to the original size.

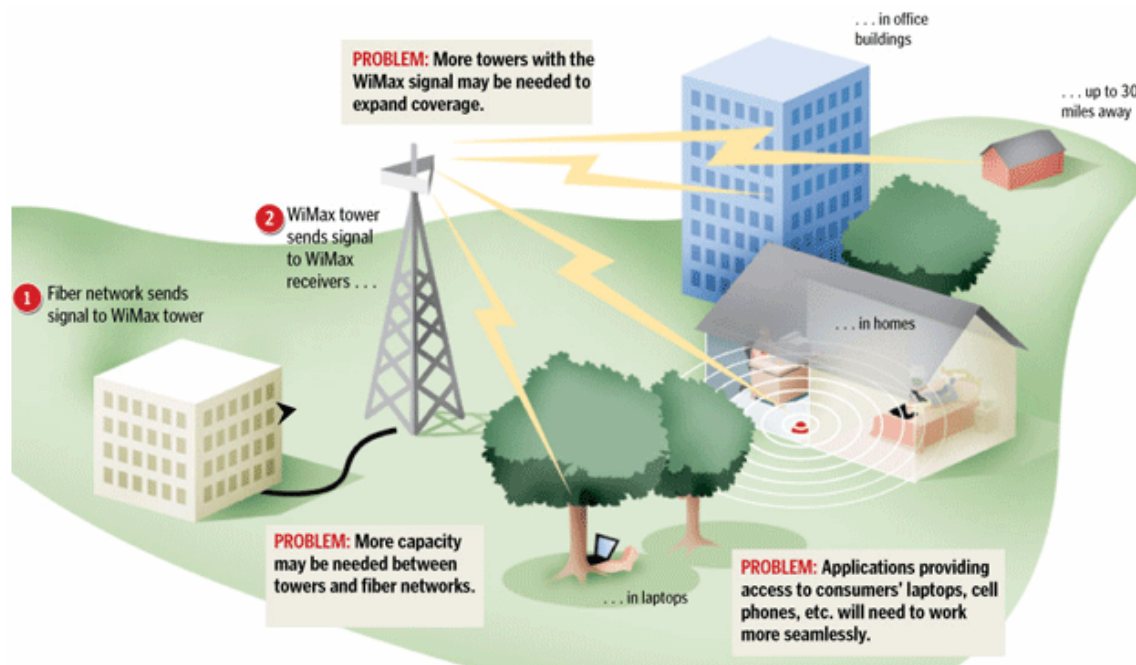
However, you may need to re-arrange the icons to suit your preference. This solved my problem!

Thank you LadyLuck05 on the TechGuy.org forums!

WiMax pursued by Sprint Nextel and Clearwire

(From the WashingtonPost.com site, by Cecelia Kang and Kim Hart, Washington Post Staff Writers, May 8, 2008)

WiMax technology promises faster wireless service over greater distances and for more users, but there are some potential bumps in the road. A look at how WiMax works and some of the uncertainties surrounding the technology:



If the \$12 billion venture formed by Sprint Nextel and Clearwire recently works out, your cell phone may turn into a far more powerful, versatile and perhaps costlier mobile device. Although the new wireless connection, called WiMax, should be much faster than what's available on today's cell phones, it won't be as fast or as reliable as the pipes that bring cable television, Internet and phone service into houses from the street. And though it is being tested now, expanded service is about two years away. The companies aren't saying how much the service will cost. A few analysts estimate it at \$40 to \$60 a month. At first, at least, it would most likely be an extra rather than a substitute for the monthly phone, Internet and paid television services that cost many customers \$150 to \$200 a month now.

Consumer advocates hope WiMax will help simplify various telecommunications and television subscription plans. Eventually, broadband wireless should allow consumers to cancel other subscription-based Internet and phone services, Chris Murray, senior counsel of [Consumers Union](#) said. Free Internet phone services like [eBay's Skype](#) along with Web-based video should be used over the network, he said. "The reason we've always been excited by broadband via wireless is not because it gives consumers the possibility to do a lot of new nifty things, but because it has the possibility of saving people a lot of money," Murray said.

However the many uncertainties that surround the technology make it unclear when that could occur. WiMax requires a complex and expensive technological infrastructure of cell towers and underlying fiber-optic systems that is expected to take at least two years to build before the service could be deployed to most areas of the United States.



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Recycling Tips

Obsolete electronic gadgets -

Don't pitch them, recycle them. Check out www.epa.gov/ecycling or www.earth911.org for info about electronics recycling.

In Illinois, http://www.commerce.state.il.us/dceo/bureaus/energy_recycling/recycling and http://www.illinoisrecycles.org/byteback_text.html.



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 (May) 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"

Welcome to our newest member!

Aaron Maggio

Membership Renewals

Dr. Ana Eng

**Thank-You for your continuing support!!
Don't forget to check the mailing label for your dues date!**

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 2008

May 10, June 9, July 14, August 11

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)

www.co.kane.il.us/Environment/recycle/electronic.htm



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The Fox Valley PC Association Web site is:

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.

May Programs:

Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing
Craig McGregor

A Review of Network Printing
Jon Jackman

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

May 17, 2007

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