



BGA-Bytes

Official Newsletter of the
Bowling Green Area Microcomputer User Group, Inc.



Association of PC
User Groups

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Vice President's Report

By Jerry Gillette

Dear Members and Friends,

I am honored in being asked by President Linda Todd to write the President's Report this month for BGA-Bytes. As most of you know, Linda underwent arm surgery October 5th, and is still recuperating with some post-op pain and discomfort. She expects to be back in full force for our October meeting.

Our thanks to Program Director Michael Moore for his continuing efforts in setting the stage for our meeting presentations. We've heard so many wonderful comments about Alanna Johnson's September E'Bay Presentation. Everyone seemed to enjoy the information and her style! BGAMUG enjoyed a record number attending the September meeting with forty members and thirty guests.

This month VP Chuck Thomas and Mike will lead us in a File and Folder Organization presentation. For November we look forward to a treat as member Kathy Stinson returns to BGAMUG to do a presentation on E-Mail Etiquette.

Most everyone will benefit by attending these presentations as they will bring together many issues often overlooked or disregarded by both new and seasoned computer users.

November is also the BIG election month. As half of our current BGAMUG officers' terms expire this year, we too will be electing leaders.

Ginny Molloy and Bill Hullhorst are both running for the position of VP of Protocol. Chuck Thomas is hoping for another term as VP of Technology. Lou Travelsted is running unopposed for Secretary. Carlisle Barnes is the only contender for the office of Newsletter Editor. Mike More and Ben Garayua are running for Historian and Sergeant-at-Arms, respectfully. We have three members running for the two Officer at Large seats; Chuck Bayes, Raymond Hutton, and Karen Wickliff.

Final nominations for these positions will be held during the October meeting.

It will soon be December and party time for all BGAMUG'ers, families and guests. You can expect to hear much more about the Celebrations Banquet during the next couple months. Mark your calendar now for Tuesday, December 7th.

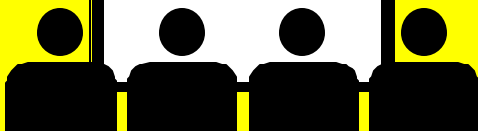
Continued on page 3

General Meeting
October 26 @ 6:30
Bowling Green Technical College
Building F

You don't want to miss this
Exciting Meeting!!!

October Meeting

File Folder Organization
And
E-mail Etiquette



Noteworthy News

I apologize for not getting the birthdays and anniversaries in the past couple of newsletters. Computer bugs are vicious critters. When they bite, they bite hard!!!

Birthdays August - December

August

Ginny Molloy
Kathy Stinson
Jo Crittenden
Art Kolb
Linda Todd
Jerry Gillette
Gene Iglehart

September

Sam Eddy
Ben Garayua
Karen Wickliff

October

Peggy Beasley
James Bronson

November

Shirley Jakel
Maureen McGrath

December

Leon Vincent
Vivian Hand
Karla Andrew

Anniversaries August-December

August

Mildred Collier

September

Carlisle Barnes
Jay Eatherly
Kenneth Jones

October

Howard Margolis

November

Ray & Sam Eddy
Karen Wickliff

December

Art Kolb
Jo Crittenden

Congratulations all you guys and gals: some late, some on time, and some early.

Our best wishes and prayers go to "Chief" Elbert Young who remains in Greenview Hospital in serious condition. We all hope that he will soon be able to be at home and enjoying his new home (across the street from Ginny Molloy.) President Linda has had surgery on her shoulder and by the time you read this, we hope that her shoulder is as good as new! I'm adding myself to this list. I will be having surgery on October 11 and will probably require an extended recuperation time, but will still be able to send cards.

So, if you know of someone that needs a card, please let me know who and what the need for the card is. My e-mail is travel@bowlinggreen.net.

P. S. I still have lots of blanks by many of your names. We can't congratulate you if I don't have your dates! If you don't want to give the date, just the month will do.

Lou Travelstead



Tech Corner – What’s Next By Chuck Thomas

We all know the danger of opening attachments containing .exe (program) files because they may contain a virus, but who would ever think that opening a JPEG (.jpg) image file could cause a similar problem?

A few days ago I received my GDI+ Security Update notice from Microsoft. It describes a possible breach of security involving GDI+ processing of JPEG files by certain Microsoft software and offers a GDI+ detector that scans your computer. Then, if needed, you can download and install their security fix.

That vague message doesn’t explain why, suddenly, JPEG image files can be dangerous! And their directions at <http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/bulletin/MS04-028.msp> don’t provide much more information, except to say the Windows XP SP2 isn’t vulnerable. Still, Office and some other products you run may still need the update, even with SP2.

This Microsoft Security Bulletin provides more information: First, this problem is rated “Critical” – not to be ignored! Also it includes a list of the affected software. Finally, there is a *hint* of what the problem is all about—but *only a hint!* <http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/bulletin/MS04-028.msp>

The hint is in the title of the bulletin: “*Buffer Overrun in JPEG Processing (GDI+) Could Allow Code Execution.*” But like the local weatherman who never explains why yesterday’s prediction was a mile off, Microsoft does not explain what this means nor do they take responsibility for it!!

Here’s an explanation from another security web site:
“A buffer overrun vulnerability exists in the processing of JPEG image formats that could allow remote code execution on an affected system. Any program that processes JPEG images on the affected systems could be vulnerable to this attack, and any system that uses the affected programs or components could be vulnerable to this attack. An attacker who successfully exploited this

vulnerability could take complete control of an affected system.”

As a programmer, I understand buffer overrun but have never heard of GDI+ before. Perhaps we can shed some light on the whole issue with help from the Web.

First, a “buffer” (in computer operations—as opposed to social situations or warfare) is simply a storage facility in memory or a file that holds temporary data. You may have heard that files are often written to a “print buffer” or “queue” so that printing can take place in the background. There are many other uses of buffers as well.

A computer programmer must write the implementation of a buffer in a way that prevents overrun. If not protected, the additional data overflows the buffer and overwrites important data in the system area of memory causing a computer error. It is a kind of error that may allow a malicious virus in the data (a JPEG image in this case) to take over the computer.

GDI+, the updated version of GDI, is a set of software (programming) tools used by programmers in writing graphics programs for Windows. These tools were written by Microsoft, and they contain the errors that now need to be fixed. So, careless Microsoft programmers created this security problem—now we have to trust *their* fix!! Sigh!

A piece of good news in all this is that Norton Anti Virus software will identify a JPEG file that contains code trying to take advantage of this vulnerability. You can read about it at: <http://securityresponse.symantec.com/avcenter/security/Content/11173.html>, but don’t expect to understand the explanation! Also, don’t depend upon antivirus software to solve the problem—apply the fix.

It is interesting that Symantec (Norton) calls this a “Microsoft GDI+ Library JPEG Segment Length Integer Underflow Vulnerability.” Well, I’m not even going to try to explain the difference between *underflow* & *overrun*! But I do know that both result from bad programming. Shame, Microsoft!



Ginny Molloy, our Vice President of Protocol, was born at a very early age in New Albany, Indiana—just across the river from Louisville.

Some of her most cherished childhood memories involve get-togethers or ‘jam sessions’ with family and friends who shared a love of music. Her father played violin and several types of guitars. His love of music spread to Ginny who plays guitar, accordion, autoharp, and piano. But it is singing that keeps her most involved in music.

Ginny remembers singing four-part harmony in church with her three brothers and she sang in choir in high school. Also, Ginny has directed a few choirs and still sings in the Broadway Methodist Church choir in Bowling Green.

After high school graduation, Ginny took a stenographic course (shorthand, typing, etc.) in a business college in Louisville. Later she took keypunch and business machines courses, and she even wired boards for early mainframe computers!

While working for the government at Ft. Knox, Ginny reached typing speeds of 100 words per minute. Still her fingers stayed attached to her hands! But though they were attached, Ginny wasn’t—until the right man came along. While riding in a car pool to the Army base, she met Jim Molloy, a single, older man who kept asking her out! Finally she accepted, and they followed this with marriage in 1969. They moved to Mt. Washington, KY to be closer to Ft. Knox and later lived in Elizabethtown where Ginny attended community college. She was starting a music education degree with a concentration in voice—of course!

After a time, Jim, was transferred by the the US Inspector General's office to St. Louis, Missouri. So Ginny transferred to the University of Missouri at St. Louis. But in 1980, before she could finish her program, he was transferred to Bowling Green.

Instead of going back to work, Ginny pursued the breeding of purebred Maine Coon Cats, which she was involved in for 25 years. These are large, shaggy

cats that is the only long-hair breed native to the United States.

Jim retired in 1985, and then, after 34 years of marriage, he passed away suddenly in November, 2002. After recovering somewhat from this severe blow, Ginny put her home in Franklin up for sale. She was finally able to move back to a beautiful new home in Bowling Green in May of this year

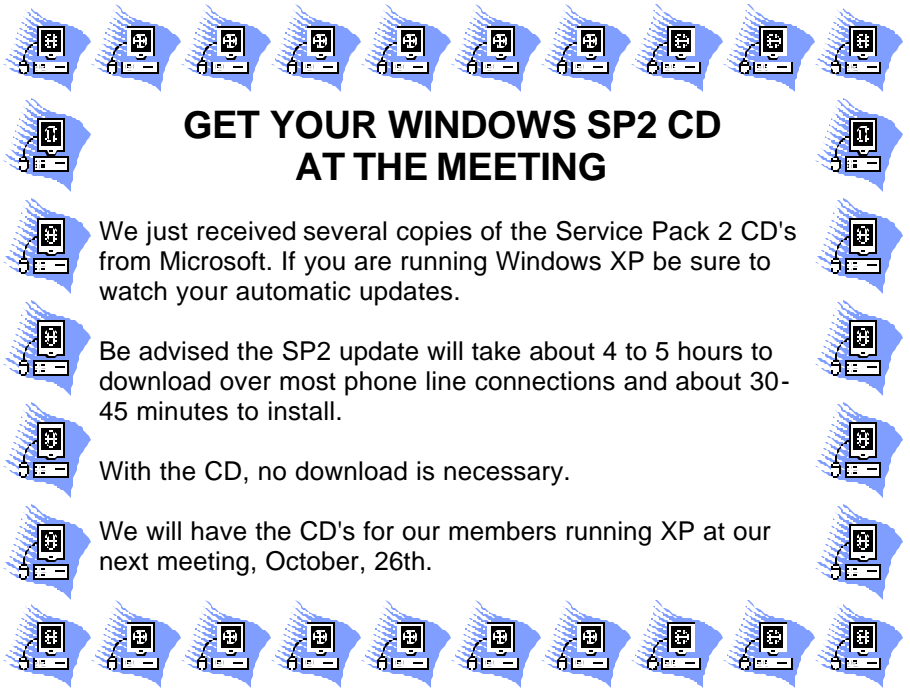
Amazingly, Ginny got into personal computing with a used Kaypro in 1994. After using it for several months, she wanted a new PC but Jim wanted a new dining room table. They compromised and got both! Her new box was a custom built 486 with Windows 3.1 and DOS, of course. Ginny had learned to work in DOS with the Kaypro and still does many things in DOS today. At one time, she created a Maine Coon pedigree database with over 19,000 records using a DOS program called, appropriately, “Cats.”

In fact, the first computer class she attended was a DOS and Windows class taught by Jerry Gillete, who encouraged Ginny to attend club meetings. And she has continued with BGAMUG over the entire time since, completing ten years next January. We appreciate her faithful membership and service to the club!

Ginny enjoys emailing friends and using the Internet to get information. She also maintains a name and address program and her bank accounts on the computer.



Ginny
Molloy



GET YOUR WINDOWS SP2 CD AT THE MEETING



We just received several copies of the Service Pack 2 CD's from Microsoft. If you are running Windows XP be sure to watch your automatic updates.



Be advised the SP2 update will take about 4 to 5 hours to download over most phone line connections and about 30-45 minutes to install.



With the CD, no download is necessary.



We will have the CD's for our members running XP at our next meeting, October, 26th.



Vice-President's article continued from page 1

We hope all members will volunteer some of your time and talents in one or more of our community service programs discussed elsewhere in this newsletter.

In closing, I would like to remind everyone to keep Hope to see you at the meeting, Tuesday October 26th 6:30 PM.

Stick With the Best Beware of the Rest

By Jerry Gillette

You should never reply to an email or write newsletter articles while you are mad and upset. But I must tell you about a new consumer trap. Maybe I'll calm down.

The Best –

For years Dell has been one of the most respected companies manufacturing and offering very good computers. By ordering direct from the manufacturer, consumers enjoyed good quality at a big savings. Though I have never owned a Dell, I have had nothing but positive experiences using their computers.

The Rest -

This year, however, Dell has entered into the printer market, manufacturing their own Dell printers. Sounds nice. And at the low prices of their all-in-one printer-scanner-copiers, one can only ask, "How can they do that"? They even advertise, "Hassle Free Dell Ink Management System" - Never go to the store for ink again" Wow!

The Trap-

Buyers of these Dell printers must buy all their ink only from Dell at premium prices by mail with delivery in 3 – 5 days. Stores will not carry ink for Dell printers, so, duh' no need to go to the store.

I can't count the times I have run out of ink during long print jobs, simply went to one of the many local stores that carry the cartridges, just so I could meet a printing deadline.

I lost respect for Lexmark years ago due to their arrogant policies forcing consumers into using their expensive ink.

I will continue to recommend only printers from the top leading printer companies, Hewlett Packard, Canon, and Epson. Seems printers by any other names just don't have all it takes.

Dang! Writing this didn't help. I'm still mad about it!

Light Out! Again? By Jerry Gillette

I can't count the times the electricity goes out in my neighborhood. Most of the time it's only a flicker. Nonetheless, it is enough to set many of my clocks to midnight and cause my computer to re-start.

You can imagine my outrage when this occurs while creating or working on a big file.

This year, for my birthday, I asked for money so I could buy something for my computer.

Caution note: It is not always a wise idea to give a computer gift to a user unless you know exactly what they want or need. It may be the ideal gift, but may not meet their computer's requirements. Be sure to check first and your thoughtfulness will be much more appreciated.

Thanks to the monetary gifts I received, I purchased a UPS. A UPS, short for Uninterruptible Power Supply, contains a battery and provides power for a short time, usually long enough for the original power source to be restored or for users to save their work to their hard drive and safely shut down the system.

I chose the APC brand BACK-UPS ES 725 for \$89.00 mainly because it had a connector for my cable internet service.

If the cable connector is not required, you can get other UPS's with smaller batteries for half that amount.



APC BACK-UPS ES 725 SRP = \$99

During the first month with my new UPS I have had three occurrences of power fluctuations that the unit saved my day, and my work, by keeping my system running on battery power.

Over the years UPS units have dropped in price significantly allowing home users to afford and enjoy their benefits.

Ooops, Lights Out, No problem

WANTED

Community Service Volunteers

BGAMUG has ongoing community service programs that need members to volunteer a little time each week or month to fuel and keep them running.

The PC Placement Program, Director Gene Iglehart, needs volunteers to advise when there is a qualified person needing a computer that may not afford them, or someone wishing to donate equipment. It would be helpful if members could help pick up or deliver some of the equipment. Contact Gene at iglehart@aol.com

The Fern Terrace Project, chaired by Committeeman Raymond Hunton, needs member volunteers to assist at the Fern Terrace Retirement Home Computer Lab each Friday afternoon between 1 and 3 PM. Residents are assisted by our volunteers during their short periods at the computers. Contact Raymond at rhunton@insightbb.com or check the website www.abelct.blogspot.com for more details.

Abel Court Apartments partnered with BGAMUG during the summer to provide mentoring and supervision service to residents at their new computer Lab. They need volunteers six days a week. Mon. – Fri. afternoons & Evenings, and Saturday mornings and afternoons. Soon there will be a special event where three residents will “Build their Own Computers” as a result of contributions from Mayor Sandy Jones, Emerson Electric of Russellville, and Harris Lumber Company.

Contact Jerry at jagky@insightbb.com or check the website www.abelct.blogspot.com.

Kroger Cares



Do you like helping people and always know how? Here is a way to help BGAMUG to help others.

As most of you know, BGAMUG is a non-profit organization but we still have expenses to meet. One of the many ways we earn our money is thru the Kroger Cares Program. For every dollar you spend at Kroger using the Kroger gift card purchased thru BGAMUG, Kroger pays us a small percentage. It is easy and a valuable way to help.

All you need to do is purchase a \$25 gift card that comes with a \$25 balance so it really costs you nothing. Then you can use the gift card when you make a purchase at Kroger just like any gift card or debit card. Most of us live on a budget. We know how much we spend on groceries in advance. All you need to do is go to the service desk and add ever how much you plan to spend (by the visit, week, month, etc) to the card balance then when you go thru the check-out, use your card. The few minutes you take to do this extra step earns BGAMUG money without it actually costing you anything. Doesn't that sound GREAT?

It's easy and it is for a good cause. So if you shop at Kroger anyway, why not help us out. Just come see me (Elisa Davison, Treasurer) at the monthly meeting or you can contact me thru the month at ejdav@copper.net and I will be glad to help you in any way I can.

Crossword Puzzle Answers by Michael Moore

W	E	P	T		A	S	T	O	R	I	A		A	T	L	A	S		
A	R	E	A		C	U	R	L	I	C	U	E		N	I	O	B	E	
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E	D	G	E	S				N	E	T	T	L	E	D		R	S	V	P

November 2004

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 Exec. Board Meeting 6:30 PM @ Shoney's	3	4	5 Fern Terrace Project 1-3 PM	6
7	8	9	10	11	12 Fern Terrace Project 1-3 PM	13
14	15	16	17 Newsletter deadline	18	19 Fern Terrace Project 1-3 PM	20
21	22	23 General Meeting BGTC 6:30	24	25 	26 Fern Terrace Project 1-3 PM	27
28	29	30				

PC User Group Special Offer!

Save 50% (\$15.00) on #1-TuffTEST-Pro,
professional-level PC hardware diagnostic utility.

ONLY \$14.95 (vs. \$29.95 list price)

Over the years we have successfully worked with many local PC User Groups, and we are pleased to announce this Special Offer to ALL PC User Groups.

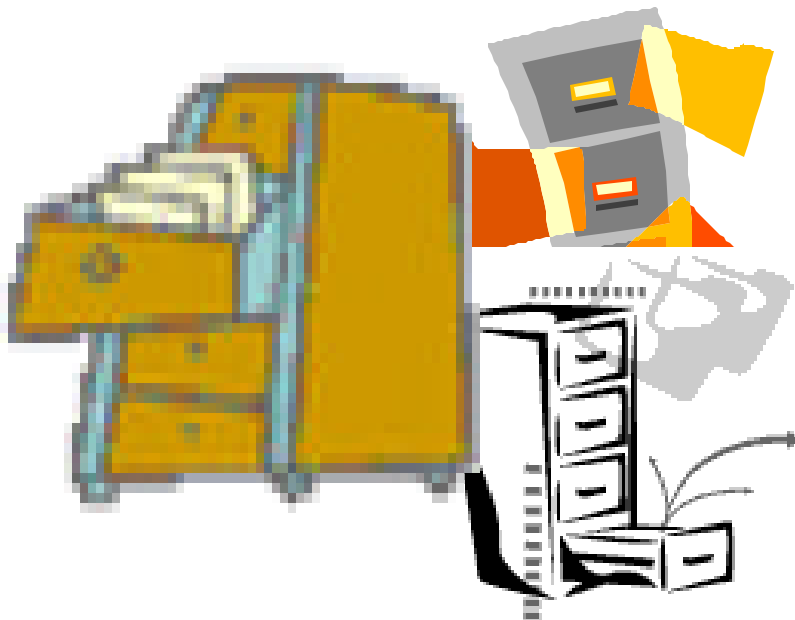
Complete information is on the web at:

www.lab.to/pcu/234

02/54

For product details visit: <http://www.1pcdc.com/pcuttp/tp01.htm>

October General Meeting Presentations



Do your files on your computer look like these, all scattered and you can't find anything?

The solution to your problem is easy come and see Chuck Mike and Kathy.

What: Bowling Green Microcomputer Users Group Meeting
Where: Bowling Green Technical College, Building F

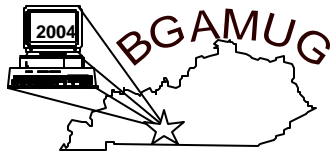


Do you need to brush up on you etiquette, email etiquette that is?

When: October 26, 2004

Time: 6:30 pm

BGAMUG
P.O. Box 20384
Bowling Green, KY 42102



Don't forget this month's meeting
Tuesday
October 26
Bowling Green Technical College
Building F 6:30 PM

BGA -bytes is the monthly publication of the Bowling Green Area Microcomputer User Group, Inc. (BGAMUG). BGAMUG is a nonprofit, charitable educational society recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)3 tax-exempt charitable organization. Donations to BGAMUG may be tax-deductible.

The views expressed in BGA -bytes are those of the author(s), and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of BGAMUG.

BGAMUG is a member of the Association of PC User Groups (APCUG).

BGAMUG holds regular presentation / membership meetings the fourth Tuesday of each month (except December) at the B G Technical College on Loop Drive in Bowling Green.

The public is invited to attend our regular presentation meetings. To join, our annual membership dues are \$25 for an individual, and \$35 for a family membership.

ADVERTISING RATES

BGA-bytes COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING RATES are based on black & white camera ready copy, 8 1/2" x 11" standard paper.

SIZE	1X	12X
Full Page	\$50.00	\$550.00
Half Page	\$30.00	\$330.00
Quarter Page	\$15.00	\$165.00
Business Card	\$10.00	\$110.00

The deadline for advertising is the second Tuesday of each month. Please contact Peggy Beasley, Editor (270) 286-9378 e-mail = Beaslp@wku.edu or by mail to:

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