
EXTONPC.ORG NEWS

Volume 26, Issue 12

December, 2011

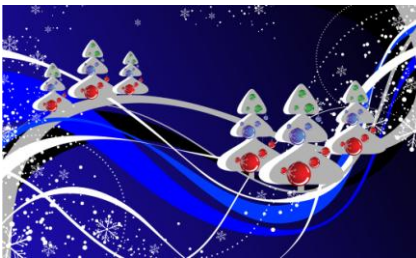
THE EXTON PC COUNCIL www.ExtonPC.org



NEWS FROM THE EDITORS:

Bob Linaberry and Stephanie Varis

EPCC Wishes you Happy Holidays!



**PLEASE ATTEND OUR OPEN HOUSE,
MONDAY, DECEMBER 5 AT 6:30 PM. AT
THE STRUBBLE ROOM AT EXTON LIBRARY.**

Woody Allen once said "90% of success is just showing up".

Is it time to ask ourselves, "Has the clock run out on the Exton PC Council"? For the last few general meetings, attendance has been very low. Even with some interesting programs, such as the October meeting where the Best Buy of Downingtown staff, demo-ed a very clever Wifi based portable hard drive that would be a great adjunct to an iPad, the club had a poor turnout for the meetings. This has left your board scratching their heads and pondering whether it is worth continuing the club into 2012. The board is ready and willing to continue with program topics lined up

through next June. The Exton PC Council needs you, the members, to support the club by coming to a general meeting.

The best way to combat no turnout is our upcoming Holiday Time Open House meeting on Monday December 5 at 6:30. Traditionally, this has always been one of the club's best attended meetings. It will feature as always, the tasty Lola Stretch Christmas cookies and other refreshments. The meeting will be set up in the informal mingling style where club members, guests, and friends can wander about to several tables, each with a different topic.

The goal is to have a friendly Open House style get together.

Table topics you can check out include:

Bob Linaberry, showing Genealogy Websites for those of you tracking down long lost relatives.

Nate Rosenthal, explaining the elements and features of Windows 7.

Jack Stretch, providing tips on using your digital camera and your computer to organize, enhance and share your family pictures.

George Bourrie, in his role as Mister Computer Know It All, who will precisely

answer how to deal with any computer issues or problems you may be having, (you can bring along your laptop if you want him to see what the problem is).

And last but not least - Jim McKittrick with the help of Joe Holzman, presenting all the free web based applications you can use with your computer to communicate - such as sending text messages to mobile phones, sending and receiving faxes, and making video email that anyone receiving can read with just a click.

We guarantee it will be a nice meeting and together we can show our support and commitment to the Exton PC Council just by showing up. We look forward to seeing you and any friends you bring along on December 5.

The EPCC Dues for 2012 due for \$20.00 that will pay up to January 2013 - our main expense is to cover the rent of the room as well as the cost of our EPCC.

See our new "TRIVIA CORNER", as well as our "WEBSITE LINKS' CORNER" for free book sites to read on your PC or e-reader!

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

**EPCC Meetings are on Mondays,
6:30-9:00 in the Struble Room**

**Board Meetings are on Wed.,
6:30-9:00 in the Board Room**

Monday, December 5, 2011

**Open House Presentation
and Holiday Gathering!**

During Open House, we are planning to have presentations on Windows 7, Genealogy, Video Chat, Digital Imaging and Answers to Your Questions, make sure you come with some.



Monday, February 6, 2012

Online Tax Preparation

By Nate Rosenthal

None of us likes preparing our federal and state income tax returns. For many taxpayers we can make this annual chore easier by using our computers.

Both the Internal Revenue Service and the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue offer the option of preparing and filing income tax returns online. No need to buy and install tax preparation software or struggle filling out the numerous forms manually. Plus you may pay less tax by taking advantage of deductions and credits you may not realize are available to you.

At the EPCC February meeting I will show you how to access and use free online tax preparation software provided by IRS and PA Department of Revenue. Come learn how you can utilize these free services.

Monday, March 5, 2012

Know Before You Go

By Jim McKittrick

In March EPCC will be presenting Know Before You Go, by Jim McKittrick. If you like to travel there are many ways using your computer and the internet can help.

We will provide tips on how to read online travel accommodation rating sites like Trip Advisor as well as using online tools to help select ship cabins, air line seats, and

theater seats, as well as how to preplan with Google maps and other useful sites.

Monday, April 2, 2012

LibreOffice by George Bourrie

LibreOffice is a comprehensive, professional-quality Open Source productivity suite that you can download and install for free. It is from the developers of Open Office and has the same parts: Writer, Calc, Impress, Draw, Math, and Base.

It is available in more than 30 languages and for all major operating systems, including Microsoft Windows, Mac OS X and Linux (Debian, Ubuntu, Fedora, Mandriva, Suse, ...). It is compatible with all major competitors' file formats.

Although it defaults to saving documents as open document files (.odt, .ods, .odp), you can easily import files from Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint and many other formats, and can easily save to Microsoft Office and other formats when needed or change the defaults.

Computer Trivia Corner:

Did you know that The Amateur Computer Society was founded on May 5, 1966 by Stephen B. Gray? He began publishing a quarterly called the ACS Newsletter. The ACS was the birth of the personal computing movement!

Trivia Questions:

What must-read magazine for computer fans bit the dust in 1999?

What nationwide movie guide and ticket business became part of the AOL family in 1999?

What Amazon founder was the first-dot-com exec to be named Time's Person of the Year?

What Apple portable debuted in a choice of two fruity color schemes, Blueberry or Tangerine?

What Outlook macro virus, with a dainty female name, was the first to infect a million computers?

Come to our Dec. 5 Open House for the answers to the Trivia questions...

WEBSITE LINKS' CORNER:



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Contributed by Stephanie Varis



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FEATURES:

Why Do I Care?

By Wil Wakely, President, Seniors Computer Group, CA October 2011 issue, Bits and Bytes www.scgsd.org Wilw31 (at) gmail.com

This article might be a bit “techy” for some of us, but it is important to know a bit about what goes on inside of our computer so when something bad happens, we have a clue as to what might be wrong, and we

can save time and money by not having to hire a high-priced technician to fix a simple problem.

First, let’s review the hardware. The **power supply** converts the house electricity, 110 Volts AC (alternating current), to the appropriate lower DC (direct current) voltages that the rest of the computer requires. It contains a fan to keep it cool, which is about

the only noise you should hear. There is one large printed circuit board inside called the “**motherboard**”, because it contains connections, or “slots”, where other smaller “daughter boards” can be installed that do specialized functions. The motherboard is

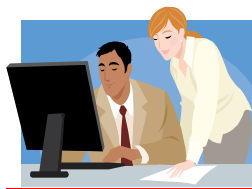
essentially the “head” of the computer and contains the major memory and connections for all of the other components. It has connectors for the keyboard, mouse, hard drives, modem, video, sound, fan and USB devices. It also contains the **CPU**, Central Processing Unit, a large computer chip which is the genius that runs everything. The latest versions of the CPU can do over three billion calculations per second, so it is really loafing most of the time. It is truly multi-tasking which means that it can do a variety of things at the same time.

So here’s what happens when you first turn on your computer and it “**boots**”. Booting comes from “bootstrapping”, or lifting oneself by his bootstraps. The computer needs to know some rudimentary facts about itself before it can come fully alive. This information is retained in a computer chip on the motherboard called a **ROM**

programs you desire. Keep these to a minimum for faster booting.

At this point Windows should be running and you are a happy camper to have full control. As you can see, lots of things happen before you are allowed at the controls, and all it takes is a minor glitch in any of these booting processes for your computer to fail to boot. It's amazing that it works at all! Frequent **backups** of your hard drives are the solution to major computer headaches. It is not a case of 'if' your computer crashes, it is 'when'.

Happy Computing! ❖



Visit our Help Desk & Discussion Group [EPCC Yahoo Group](#)

Chester County Library Workshops

To register online and to view workshops, go to the Chester County Library website:

www.ccls.org>Find an Event>Chester County Library>Computer Adult>

If you have any questions, visit the Jacobs Technology Center (JTC)

or call (610) 280-2666

or e-mail ccljtc@ccls.org

Seeking New Technology Groups!If you want to start a new interest

group in computer technology, web, photography, film-making, etc., please contact us!



Become a Guest Speaker!

We are greatly interested in bringing in new guest speakers! Please contact us and share! We appreciate your participation

Contribute a Newsletter Article



All members are encouraged to submit articles or other items of interest for possible Newsletter publication. The deadline for articles to appear in the next issue is the 1st Monday of the month. All articles are gladly accepted at anytime for our future publications. When you send your contribution as an e-mail attachment, please save your text file in text (*.txt) or MS Word Format (*.doc); Images are to be saved in Jpeg Format. ❖

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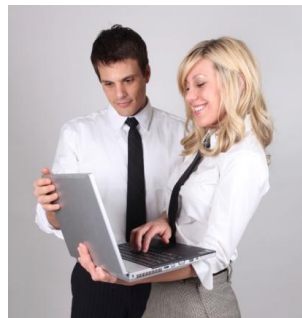
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MEMBERSHIP 2012

Thank you to those who have renewed. We welcome New Members who joined us! Please encourage family & friends to join...

See the Exton PC Council membership form on the following page... ❖



Computer Services: Web Edits, Research, Information Gathering, Content Creation and inserting on your website, Computer issues, Office Work, for you and your friends, "best rates in town" just call me (Bob Linaberry) @ 610 873 0204.

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Non-members and former members are encouraged to join.
Please fill in the Membership Application below and mail it with your check now!

EXTON PC COUNCIL (EPCC) 2012 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL

(valid October 2011 thru December 31st 2012) Membership includes email notices, privilege to post on EPCC's Yahoo Groups, privilege to participate in special prize give away raffles at various meetings and affords additional benefits of special offers through the national APCUG (Association of Personal Computer User Groups).

New Member: \$20.00 _____ Renewal: \$20.00 _____ Date _____

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Please pay at the next main meeting, or mail this form with your check made payable to **EPCC**.

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