
EXTONPC.ORG NEWS

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THE EXTON PC COUNCIL www.ExtonPC.org



NEWS FROM THE EDITORS:

Bob Linaberry and Stephanie Varis



Our December meeting, the Open House, was very successful with many people attending. We would like to thank those who had stations there as well as those who attended.

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.

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, 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 rural state provided WiFi for all residents, earning it a Yahoo "Most Wired City in America" award?

What Windows virus damaged 500,000 hard drives on the 13th anniversary of Russia's deadliest nuclear disaster?

What movie did Apple use to hype its new QuickTime4 format, sparking a net-clogging 25 million downloads of the trailer?

What communications giant owned Palm Computing when it produced the first handheld with integrated wireless Internet connectivity?

How can you tell that your computer is suffering from old age?

What happened when the computer was dropped on the floor?

How do you describe a computer virus?

What part of the keyboard does an astronaut like best?

Come to our February 6 meeting for the answers to the Trivia questions...

WEBSITE LINKS' CORNER:



Free E-Book Sites – For PC or E-Reader –

Now that the New Year is rolling around, use your e-

readers from Christmas to download free e-books. You can transfer files through a program named Calibri which can be downloaded online, if needed. Also, Google, Kobo, Kindle and Nook all have PC e-readers available so you can read your e-books on your computer. Try the Chester County Library Website and you can download software for e-books and audio to download the books they will lend you.

For Free E-Book Download sites, try this link for the article and then follow the links provided below for book websites. Enjoy!

These sites were found by doing a Google Search and checking them to be sure they really have ebooks. Most of these sites have many pages listing ebooks by category. There were so many pages that I figure it is best to just list the sites using the Google listing. If you read this online you should be able to click on the top line, the one in blue.

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Electronic Books. Free E-Book Sites Free Personal Digital Assistant Sites Commercial Sites E-Book Reader Software Dedicated E-Book Readers. Tips. Reading ...

[446 Places for FREE BOOKS ONLINE](http://www.techsupportalert.com/content/50-places-free-books-online.htm)
www.techsupportalert.com/content/50-places-free-books-online.htm

I decided to put together this list of sites that offer free eBooks as a reference. Originally, the list was for 50 sites (hence that number in the link) and I thought that ...

[FREE EBOOK SITES, already in iBook \(ePub\) format](http://www.ipadforums.net/.../1941-free-ebook-sites-already-ibook-epub-f...)
www.ipadforums.net/.../1941-free-ebook-sites-already-ibook-epub-f...

Sep 30, 2010 – I have posted a few of these in various places, but thought I would tie it together here. These are some sites that have FREE ebooks that are ...

[ManyBooks.net - Ad-FREE EBOOKS for your iPad, Kindle, or EBOOK ...](http://manybooks.net/)
manybooks.net/

Thousands of free ebooks, pre-formatted for reading on your computer, smartphone, iPod, or e-reading ... Content; Download; Navigation; Footer; Mobile Site ...

OnlineComputerBooks.com
OnlineComputerBooks.com contains an index of free computer books, free ebooks, free programming books, free online books and sample chapters related to Information and Communication Technology, Computer Science, Internet, Engineering, Business, Marketing, Maths, Electronics, Physics and Science. They are provided by publishers or authors on their websites legally and free of charge. Some of these books require a web browser as they are presented as web pages rather than a file download.

Planet eBook
Planet eBook provides free classic literature. Their novels and books are entirely free for download and share.

Helpful Links

[Lifehacker, TIPS and downloads for getting things done](#)
lifehacker.com/

Lifehacker curates **tips, tricks**, and technology for living better in the digital age. ... We've shared a number of **tips** on how to make lasting resolutions during the ...

[HELPFUL TIPS](#)
huntingtondisease.tripod.com/fixittips/id2.html

Helpful Tips ... There is space in your Attic · Emergency cure for dripping tap faucet or ceiling · Tips for removing wallpaper · Sanding, smoothing with abrasive...



GET ORGANIZED:

Tips.Net

<http://excel.tips.net/>

<http://windows.tips.net/>

<http://word.tips.net/>

<http://Home.Tips.Net>

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<http://Gardening.Tips.Net>

<http://Cooking.Tips.Net>

<http://Cleaning.Tips.Net>

<http://Organizing.Tips.Net>

<http://store.tips.net/>

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FEATURES:

How to protect your address book!

I learned a computer trick today that's really ingenious in its simplicity. As you may know, when a worm virus gets into your computer it heads straight for your email address book, and sends itself to everyone in there, thus infecting all your friends and associates.

This trick won't keep the virus from getting into your computer, but it will stop it from using your address book to spread further, and it will alert you to the fact that the worm has gotten into your system.

Here's what you do:

First, open your address book and click on "new contact," just as you would do if you were adding a new friend to your list of email addresses.

In the window where you would type your friend's first name, type in "A".

For the screen name or email address, type "AAAAAAA@AAA.AAA".

Now, here's what you've done and why it works:

The "name" "A" will be placed at the top of your address book as entry#1.

This will be where the worm will start in an effort to send itself to all your friends.

But, when it tries to send itself to AAAAAAA@AAA.AAA, it will be undeliverable because of the phony email address you entered. If the first attempt fails (which it will because of the phony address), the worm goes no further and your friends will not be infected.

Here's the second great advantage of this method:

If an email cannot be delivered, you will be notified of this in your In Box almost immediately. Hence, if you ever get an email telling you that an Email addressed to AAAAAAA@AAA.AAAA could not be delivered, you know right away that you have the worm virus in your system. You can then take steps to get rid of it! ❖

Tracking the latest information on anything

By John Weigle, Editor,
Channel Islands PCUG, CA
August 2011 issue, The Outer Edge
www.cipcug.org

jweigle (at) vcnet.com

If you want to keep track of the latest news and Web postings on specific subjects, give Google Alerts a try.

I've been using the feature for some time to track three subjects I'm interested in: UFOs, Annette Funicello and Sally Field. I've been interested in UFOs since the early 1950s, a fan of Annette since the Mickey Mouse Club Days and a fan of Field since

her first TV appearance as Gidget. So now you know three of my not-very-secret "secrets."

Google explains its alerts this way at <http://www.google.com/alerts>: "Google Alerts are email updates of the latest relevant Google results (web, news, etc.) based on your choice of query or topic."

"Enter the topic you wish to monitor, then click preview to see the type of results you'll receive. Some handy uses of Google Alerts include:

- monitoring a developing news story
- keeping current on a competitor or industry
- getting the latest on a celebrity or event
- keeping tabs on your favorite sports teams."

When you create an alert you'll be asked to choose the topic for it, the type of information you want (everything, news, blogs, videos, discussions); how often you want alerts (as-it-happens, once a day, once a week); volume (only the best results, all results); and your email address so you can get the alerts. The fault choices are everything, once a day and only the best results. Consider starting with the defaults and then tweaking them if the results you get aren't what you expected.

You might also have to tweak your selected topic. My search for Annette is "Annette Funicello" (in the quotes). That limits results to items with her full name. On the other hand, my Sally Field search is just that (no quotes around the name), so I get everything with Sally and Field, which

results in a few unexpected results. My UFO search results in news about unidentified flying objects, my intent, and the musical group UFO.

I haven't set up searches for computer-related items because I get several electronic newsletters that keep me informed about most of the technical subjects I'm interested in, but it's easy to establish queries for any subject you're interested in. For instance, you could use "Linux, Ubuntu," Microsoft, "Steve Jobs," "Bill Gates."

Or you could try your own name or the name of your business if you wanted to know what people are saying about you or your business.

And if you're a sports fan, you might want to track everything said about your favorite team(s). You'd need to set up a separate alert for each team name.

The site lets you set up an alert and then shows sample results for it. Just for kicks, I tried my first and last name (in quotes) and got references to my Facebook page, an obituary for a John Weigle of Augusta, Ga. (I still get spam about real estate deals in Augusta), and the Weigle Music Ministries, which I had never heard of.

A search for CIPCUG showed only the CIPCUG Web site.

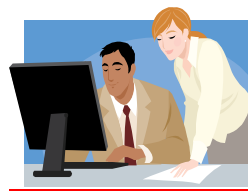
Not surprisingly, a search for "Los Angeles Dodgers" resulted in more hits than any of my other test searches. Topics that get lots of news coverage, such as the Dodgers, are obviously going to have more results than people or topics that are seldom in the

news.

All the results have live links to whatever the alert finds.

The alerts tool isn't for everyone, but it's useful if you have any interests you want to track regularly.

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. ❖

*Please send articles to the
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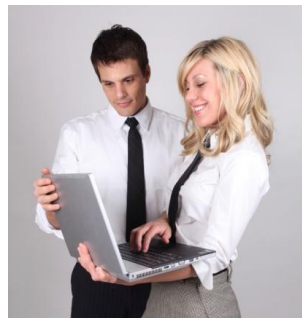
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MEMBERSHIP 2012

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.

Exton PC Council
310 North High Street
West Chester, PA 19380
<http://www.extonpc.org>

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Your Membership Is Welcome!

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 January 2012 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 _____

Notice of downloadable ExtonPC.Org News will be emailed monthly – Add \$5.00 to above fees to receive copy by postal mail and mark here. _____ (To cover cost of postage and mailing)

Last Name: _____ First Name _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ WORK PHONE: _____ (Optional)

EMAIL (please print clearly): _____

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

EPCC 310 N. High Street. West Chester. PA 19380