
EXTONPC.ORG NEWS

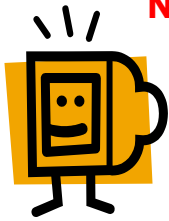
Volume 26, Issue 11

November 2011

THE EXTON PC COUNCIL www.ExtonPC.org



NEWS FROM THE EDITORS:



**Bob Linaberry and
Stephanie Varis**

On behalf of the EPCC, we would like to thank our recent guest speakers from Best Buy they presented what to look as gifts, with the holidays coming upon us. Much of the talk was about tablets and Smartphone's, since this is where things are going as we become a mobile society. Digital cameras were briefly discussed.

In addition to the Best Buy people, a rep from Seagate showed us a 500 GB portable drive designed to work with and about the same size as a typical Smartphone (a bit thicker, of course) and a 2 TB NAS device, (network storage). Even with low attendance, there was still plenty of interaction between the members and the Best Buy folks.

We will be closing this upcoming December with another Open House!

The EPCC Dues for 2012 is \$20.00. This will cover up to January, 2013. The dues will subsidize our expenses for the rental of the room and the EPCC website.

In this issue, on the next page, please see our new "WEBSITE LINKS' CORNER" for home and office free websites! ❖



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**

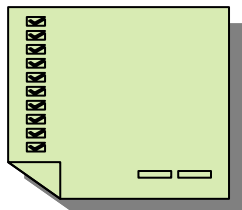
**Wednesday, November 9
Board Meeting**

Monday, December 5

**Open House Presentation
and Holiday Gathering! ❖**

During this meeting 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.

WEBSITE LINKS' CORNER:



Form-Filling Software Links:

These free links below will help you fill out your online forms with ease! You click and the information you have released to the sites will fill out forms for you. The programs use your user name, name, address, phone, password and personal data. It will save you time and effort!

<http://www.formautofiller.com>

Form AutoFiller is a complete solution that offers you an easy way to fill web forms and auto-fill passwords. Friendly user interface lets you start using the program within minutes.

<http://keepass.info>

KEEPASS is a free open source password manager, which helps you to manage your passwords in a secure way.

<http://orangecopper.com/blog/6-best-free-auto-form-filling-firefox-addons>

[Checking around for Firefox I found 6 Best free Auto form filling Firefox add-ons.](http://rockyourfirefox.com/2010/07/sxippe)

<http://rockyourfirefox.com/2010/07/sxippe> or <http://lastpass.com> are free add-on

services through Mozilla Firefox browser. LastPass is a free online password manager and Form Filler that makes your web browsing easier and more secure. It is also for IE, Safari and Chrome. Your sensitive data is encrypted locally before upload so even LastPass cannot get access to it.

www.roboform.com

ROBOFORM works on most browsers and operating systems. You can use the free download or the paid version. It works on most browsers, as well as operating systems.



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FEATURES:

Aurora Firefox 7 Promises Speed

**By Christoph Laumann,
President and Managing
Partner, TuneUp**

Mozilla recently pre-released Firefox 7, also known as Aurora, which promises massive performance enhancements for Javascript and significantly lower memory usage. Over the past few years, Mozilla had gained a reputation as a somewhat slow browser, but that's about to change with Aurora. This version sits right between the stable beta release of Firefox 6.0 and the highly experimental nightly builds currently running at version 8.0.

One of the first major improvements of note is a massive reduction in overall memory consumption. According to the [company's developer blog](#), memory fragmentation of Javascript objects has been a serious problem. For example, after closing a Javascript applet the memory it previously occupied would not be entirely regained and eventually the browser's memory usage would grow exponentially, leading to massive slowdowns. This issue has been fixed in Aurora. Additionally, the "garbage collector" runs more frequently to clear up memory occupied by Firefox. Users can also now see how much memory is

occupied by individual components of the browser with the new and improved "about: memory" page.

This enhanced memory is good news for serious multi-tab users, who often experience a delay in page loads. Firefox 5 users especially may have found multi-tab loading particularly cumbersome. TuneUp recently conducted a performance intense memory usage [benchmark](#) to test how the new browser measured up. With 27 tabs, Firefox 5 claims an astonishing 659 MB of RAM for itself after all tabs have finished loading. Compared to Firefox 7.0a2, loading 27 websites dropped from current memory usage of 670 MB to 496 MB. Firefox.exe peaked at only 658 MB.

To put these results into perspective, Internet Explorer 9 needed a total of 814 MB with a peak at almost 1.3 GB to display the 27 websites which is an incredibly large amount. Google Chrome's latest beta release consumed 693 MB and peaked at 1.1 GB. It was surprising to see Firefox 7 as the most resource-friendly browser.

This new version of Firefox is optimized for web developers as well. Since optimizing the browser is only one part of the equation, Mozilla also integrated performance monitoring tools to help developers gauge how fast their websites' navigation works. Firefox logs websites' responsiveness so that developers can optimize their own websites accordingly.

Overall, Mozilla has done some incredible work improving their

Continued: Aurora Firefox 7

performance. Other browsers need to follow suit as users' move to low-powered devices such as netbooks and tablets, which increases the demand for lean browsers. It will be interesting to see the additional improvements Mozilla has made to the final version and what's in store for Firefox 8.

For more Windows tips and tricks visit the TuneUp Blog about Windows at <http://blog.tune-up.com> ❖

eBay Adventures –

“So what gives?”

By Rick Eblaw, Vice President,
Southern Tier Personal Computing
Club, NY
August 2011 issue, Rare Bits

www.stpcc.org ekblaw (at) juno.com

If you spend some time on eBay, you'll find all kinds of interesting stuff offered for sale. There's lots of collectibles, some of which would be hard to locate unless you were willing to travel the country going to flea markets. There are items that you can find in stores that are sometimes offered at a substantial discount. Then some items that are hard to explain...

Here's a recent example. There's a fellow in China who is currently selling a lot of “Mini USB 2.0 Wireless Bluetooth Adapter Dongle” items, which you can readily find by searching eBay for “usb

wireless” and sorting by “Price + Shipping: lowest first.” That in itself isn't interesting, there's no shortage of sellers offering USB Bluetooth adapters. What's interesting about this one is that the minimum bid is \$0.01 (one penny) and free shipping is offered. You don't have to be a financial genius to see that if only one person bids on one of these auctions, the seller is going to lose money. Since the seller is in China and presumably has direct access to the manufacturer of these devices, he's probably paying just a few pennies for each one. However, he still needs to pay the international postage, and if you check the feedback, you will see a number of folks who did get their device for just \$0.01. So what gives?

I had \$1.08 in eBay Bucks “burning a hole in my pocket,” so I figured I would give this a shot. On my first attempt I set my maximum bid to \$0.99, and a couple of people tried to outbid me in the last few seconds of the auction, but the highest attempt was a \$0.50 bid, so I won with an automatic \$0.55 bid. I then tried to bid on another, but I was only allowed to bid on one of these items from the seller in a 10-day period — so the seller was not going to allow someone to buy a whole bunch of these for \$0.01 each in a short period of time. So I found another seller of the same item for the same price and put in a maximum bid of \$0.53, figuring that at worst I'd use up my eBay Bucks which is “bonus money” based on how much you bought on eBay in the

Continued: e-Bay Adventures

previous month). Again, I had someone else bid, but they only tried up to \$0.36, so I won my second dongle for \$0.41. When I paid the sellers using my eBay Bucks, I discovered that both "sellers" had the same PayPal account, so there was really just one seller using multiple eBay accounts.

Back to the "So what gives?" question. I see at least 3 possible ways to explain:

1. The seller is hoping that the \$0.01 price will bring in bidders, but there will be enough people bidding on these so that the final bid will be high enough to make a profit, on average, over a large number of sales. This doesn't seem to be happening, I see lots of people getting these for \$0.01, and even my two quick attempts on this didn't raise the price to a point where the seller could break even.

2. The seller is offering these dongles as a "loss leader," just like a retail store, in hopes that you will buy from the seller again when you want something that is being sold at a reasonable profit. While the "loss leader" concept has shown some success in the retail store market, on eBay and the Internet, you have many choices available instantly so I don't think this concept is going to work.

3. This is my best guess to explain these auctions: The seller is trying to quickly raise his total number of feedbacks, his positive feedback percentage, his detailed feedback ratings, and to be a "Top-rated seller." To understand why these measures are important, you have to be familiar with the eBay rating system and the preferences of most eBay buyers. I'm not going to go into the details here, but it's clear that the majority of eBay buyers want to buy from the "Top-rated sellers," they like seeing big feedback numbers, and they want to see positive feedback near 100%. Normally, to achieve these sorts of numbers you have to sell a lot of items over a fairly long period of time, which is why most buyers feel that they can trust a "Top-rated seller" -- they've got a "proven track record." This seller is effectively trying to "buy" a solid reputation in a short period of time at a relatively low cost -- the loss on each individual sale of these dongles is the business cost of building his reputation. He's basically giving away USB Bluetooth dongles to get a large number of positive feedback ratings.

You might wonder why a seller would use multiple eBay accounts. If a seller gets too many negative feedbacks in a short period, eBay may ban the account, or require the seller to take specific actions to "repair their reputation." Even a handful of negative feedbacks in a

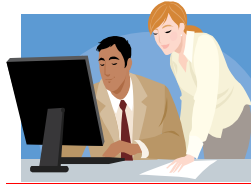
Continued: e-Bay Adventures

week will turn off buyers even if eBay doesn't take any action, so

many of the "big sellers" have multiple accounts so that they can "throw away" an account that has been "poisoned" by negative feedback ratings.



NEED COMPUTER HELP?



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 EPCC Newsletter Committee:

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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 _____

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)

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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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