

# EXTONPC.ORG NEWS

Volume 23, Issue 5

May 2009

***The EXTON PC COUNCIL [www.extonpc.org](http://www.extonpc.org)***

*All meetings are free and open to the public in the Struble Room of the  
Exton Public Library at 6:30 P.M.*



## Elected to the Board of Directors

The Board is pleased to announce that Isabelle Bourrie became the first woman to be elected to the board. We are blessed that she will share her experience and talent

Her name is Isabelle but most people call her Iz or Izzi. She accepted her first position as a Computer Programmer in 1969. The field of computers and Data Processing was in its infancy and it was all very exciting. Those were the days of early mainframes and punched cards. She worked for 19 years (until 1990) at Penn Mutual Life Insurance Company as a Programmer, Systems Programmer and Manager of Communications. Following that she worked for Lockheed Martin for 15 years as a Systems Engineer designing and implementing communications systems before retiring in 2006.

She got her first home computer in 1982. It was a Franklin (an Apple II clone) and she has progressed through the Personal Computing spectrum hardware and software to the present day.

She loves to travel and over the past several years has been to Hong Kong, Alaska, France, Greece, Italy, Egypt, The Peruvian Amazon, Kenya and Tanzania, New Zealand, and Switzerland. She is a member of her Church Choir and the Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Chester County and loves Classical Music and Opera.

Her hobbies include computers, photography, bridge, and cooking. She enjoys lighthearted, fun times with family and friends and share, with her husband, an adventurous spirit for new experiences and a fascination with computers

## April 29 Meeting

### Short Introduction of Novice Program By Izzi Bourrie

May 4-Managing Expectations & Interacting with the computer

June 1-The Mouse Button & Web Access

June 22-E-mail-set up Icon on Desktop & Documents-Letters etc

June 27-Games- & Other Uses

### Linux Operating System Presented by Nate Rosenthal

Did you know that there is an Operating System which has all the power of Microsoft Windows but without the high cost? The answer to this question is LINUX, an operating system which can be obtained for virtually no cost over the Internet.

LINUX has made great strides over the past few years and is almost ready to move from the "geeks only" stage to the mainstream. At the April meeting I will demonstrate two different varieties of LINUX: Ubuntu which has become one of the most popular LINUX distributions; and Puppy, a small but powerful distribution you can install on a thumb drive

## May 4 Meeting Your Favorite Website

As the internet has developed, many helpful and useful websites have become as established as any other type of useful service or institution. We invite all members to come and tell what their favorite website is and why they find it useful, fun or interesting. Some Board members will reveal their picks.

## Excerpts of Windows 7 Article in PC Magazine

### What are the new versions?

Windows 7 [Starter](#), [Home Premium](#), [Professional](#), [Enterprise](#), [Ultimate](#), [Home Basic](#) will also be sold, but only to emerging markets.

### So what versions will I be able to buy in a store?

Consumers will only be able to buy either Windows 7 **Home Premium** or Windows 7 **Professional** at retail—and deliberately so; Microsoft wants to try and limit consumer confusion by only putting the two versions in front of consumers. Windows 7 Ultimate will be included on both discs, but will require a user to go through the upgrade process, either online or offline, to access them.

Except for Windows 7 Starter, each version will be available in either a 32-bit or 64-bit version.

### Windows 7 Home Premium

#### What advantages does Windows Home Premium offer?

Well, for one thing, this will probably be one of if not the most popular Windows 7 version. [Microsoft's](#) good-better-best delineations position this as one better than Home Basic, with support for:

[Aero Glass and advanced Windows navigation](#)  
[Easy networking and sharing across PC's & devices](#)  
[Improved media format support. Enhancements to Print to the right printer at home or work with Location Windows Media Center & Media streaming including Play To](#)  
[Multitouch and improved handwriting reorganization](#)

### Windows 7 Professional

It appears so, yes. Windows 7 Professional builds on Windows 7 Home Premium, and adds these features:

[Ability to join a managed network with Domain Join](#)  
[Protect Data with advanced network backup and Encrypting File System](#)

[Aware Printing](#)

"Professional combines all of the features of Home Premium plus provides access to some of our more advanced networking capabilities, location-aware printing, and encrypting file system for added security,"

[Microsoft](#) said. It makes sense that some consumers would see advantages in these features.

Need Computer Help ?. Then ask for help

from your club members by

Visiting the EPCC Help Desk & Discussion Group

At <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/gr>

## May Suggestions for Low - Tech Fixes for High – Tech Problems

Today's shaky economy is likely to produce many problem solvers like those in postwar Japan when the economy wasn't doing so great. You couldn't get everyday-use items like household cleaners," says Lisa Katayama, author of "Urawaza," a book named after the Japanese term for clever lifestyle tips and tricks. "So people looked for ways to do with what they had."

Popular urawaza include picking up broken glass from the kitchen floor with a slice of bread, or placing houseplants on a water-soaked diaper to keep them watered during a vacation trip.

Today, Americans are finding their own tips and tricks for fixing misbehaving gadgets with supplies as simple as paper and adhesive tape. Some, like in the March article about Mr. Azar's plastic bag trick on a failed credit card magnetic strip, are open to argument as to how they work, or whether they really work at all. But many tech home remedies can be explained by a little science.

### Become a Gene Mitchell Fan Again

**COMPUTER CORNER** is back on the air at WCHE 1520 on Saturday mornings from 8 to 9 AM.

Computer Corner" will take calls from listeners who experience computer problems, both hardware and software as well as questions about topics being discussed. The show starts with up to date computer news and information and a discussion topic. Many shows will have guests that are movers and shakers in the industry. Special tips and web site recommendations are offered.

From an article in the January 2009 PC Magazine

By Edward Mendelson

## A Serious Rival to Microsoft Office

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OpenOffice 3, is a free, open source replacement for Microsoft Office. It is the first and only application suite that can be considered a substitute for the massive power and flexibility of Microsoft's suite.

OpenOffice.org used to look clunky and work slowly, but V 3.0 is sleek and fast, retaining the look and feel of Microsoft OFFICE 2003 instead of imitating the new ribbon interface of Office 2007. That's a plus for many users who want as much interface continuity as possible when switching to a new application. OpenOffice.org doesn't include all of Office's features, but adds some conveniences that Office can't provide, such as built-in PDF export and a single interface for opening and editing word processing documents, HTML files, worksheets, presentations, and drawings. For government offices and corporations that don't want to depend on Microsoft (and don't want to continue paying Microsoft higher prices) OpenOffice.org deserves an attentive look.

The suite has six basic components: WRITER, a word processor and HTML editor; CALC, a spreadsheet; DRAW, a graphics editor; IMPRESS, a presentation program; MATH, an equation editor; and BASE, a database application program. I was impressed with the way the interface hews closely to Microsoft Office 2003 standard and even improves on the placement of some of the menu items. However, I was less fond of the word processors VIEW options. In the OpenOffice.org spreadsheet, I missed the graphic flexibility conditional formatting, but I managed with the low frills 20<sup>th</sup>-century formatting features.

Overall I found the performance impressively fast on a par with Microsoft Office, but with some limitations. File loading and saving, in all parts of the application was almost instantaneous. OpenOffice.org is the only application that runs on Windows, Mac OS X, and Linux with almost the same feature set on all platforms. Furthermore, it works astonishingly well with the existing Office docs although it has some rough edges. OpenOffice's impressive feature set, a generally lucid interface and pure open source credentials are reason enough to give it a try-especially considering it is absolutely free.

Editor: Since this article appeared Sun Microsystems, developer of OpenOffice has been purchased, first by IBM & then by Oracle.

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EPCC has a few of the popular lesson discs available to the members. They are in the possession of Jig Charlebois. The topics include:

#### **ACCESS**

#### **DIGITAL DEVICES**

#### **NETWORKING**

#### **PUBLISHER**

#### **OFFICE INTERGRATION**

Each topic contains 3 discs with each disc holding about 6 lessons. The lessons are a show and tell method of how to perform one or more functions. A detailed list can be e-mailed upon request to Jig and copies will be available at each meeting.

#### **Trial Rules;**

Cost for discs: None  
Loan Period: 1 week  
Packaging: Box will have return label (if needed)  
Receive: Will be mailed or pick up at meeting  
Return: Meeting or mail to:  
E. Charlebois  
400 Campbell Circle  
Downingtown PA.

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## **Loan of Video Professor Discs**

# The Who's Who of EPCC



Introducing "Jig" Charlebois

Member of EPCC since December 1995, who decided to get more involved last fall when the newsletter asked for a volunteer to take over the membership function. Volunteered I did, worked it for about three months, when I was asked to give newsletter editor a shot. So here I am and still learning. My credo is that the most important people in this club are its members and they must be catered to.

Spent the last 5 years of my career with Lee's Carpet, a division of Burlington Industries traveling the United States doing sales and marketing management training, where I met groups of talented people. I retired in 1983 and started a carpet sales agency, which I still dabble in working large commercial projects. I have a fantastic partner, Elaine, a daughter Carrie living in Georgia, three grand kids ( 2 boys 1 girl) also in Georgia and now I have my first great grandson. Life is beautiful so I don't have much to complain about..

- Isabelle Bourrie** (484) 995-5012 [ibourrie@voicenet.com](mailto:ibourrie@voicenet.com)
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- Microsoft Publisher** Jack Stretch (610) 363-6328 [JLStretch@comcast.net](mailto:JLStretch@comcast.net)
- Linux** Nate Rosenthal (610) 970-5122 [n2add@arrl.net](mailto:n2add@arrl.net)
- Microsoft Office/Works** Salvatore Sano

**Staff Positions**

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- Webmaster** Bob Linaberry [rl55.verizon.net](mailto:rl55.verizon.net)
- CHESCO Library Liaison** Diane Gring

**member input**

Items of interest for possible Newsletter publication. When sending as an attachment in E-mail please save your text file in text (\*.txt), or MS Word Format (\*.doc) and pictures in Jpeg Format.

Send to: Jig Charlebois  
[jcharlebois2001@yahoo.com](mailto:jcharlebois2001@yahoo.com)

**epcc swap table**

A table is set up at each meeting for members to give computer items they no longer want or need to give at no cost. Members can pick it up and take their new treasure home. One stipulation: if item not taken we ask you take it back. So, far it's been working fine.

**April 15th Board Meeting**

**The Board and Staff**

Directors

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

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## Tentative schedule

**April 29<sup>th</sup>: An in depth look into LINUX**  
Instructor will be Nate Rosenthal.

**May 4<sup>th</sup>: Websites (see page 1)**

June 1<sup>st</sup>: Shopping on line is more than E-Bay  
Your guides are Lola & Jack Stretch & Jim McKittrick

## **The Open Office Chronicles**

For several years now, there has been a free, very workable, and very compatible alternative to the ubiquitous Microsoft Office Suite.

Rather than spend a hundred or two or three hundred dollars to buy MS Office, you can download in a few minutes the OpenOffice 3 program and have a word processor, a spreadsheet program, a presentation program, and a data base that all work with and similar to, the program bundle in MS Office. About the only thing missing, besides the high price, is the MS Outlook program.

Jim McKittrick and Sal Sano will be presenting a three part program over **June 22, July 21, and July 27** on this very good software. On June 22 for the Intro to OpenOffice 3, bring your laptops or thumb drives and we will do download instructions and you can download it right then and there. The topic on July 21 will be on the word processing program which they call **WRITE** and the Powerpoint type program they call **IMPRESS**. On **July 27**, Sal Sano will wrap up the basics on using the Excel like spreadsheet program which is known as **CALC**.

This is a case of if it's too good to be true, it really is true- so come on out.

**August 3<sup>rd</sup>: WEBINAR** A different kind of meeting with a presentation by Gene Barlow coming over the internet.

The subject, "Backing Up Your Hard Drive" using Acronis True Image Home 2009.

Gene Barlow is a master at presentations and is well known in the area. More details as we get nearer the Webinar date. Promises to be an interesting evening.

Starting later in August and September the board is reviewing topics such as:

Portable Apps with George Bourrie conducting  
Finance programs for home use like Quicken & Money  
Bringing back the always popular Digital Imaging  
Communications: Skype, Vantage  
Windows 7 update with a Microsoft Representative in September

## Late News: Just in from Microsoft

From the June 2009 Issue of Smart Computing

### Vista Service Pack 2 Near Release

Microsoft says Service Pack 2 for Vista has entered the final phases of testing and is scheduled for release before the end of June 2009.

In addition to consolidating operating systems updates that have been issued since the release of Service Pack 1, Vista SP 2 will include a number of enhancements, including support for the most recent version of Bluetooth (2.1), better WI-Fi connections upon resuming from sleep mode and the ability to record Blu-ray discs.

### Microsoft to Open Retail Stores

On the heels of its "Retail Experience Center" demonstration store, Microsoft is taking a page from rival Apple's playbook and announcing plans to open its own chain of retail stores.

To head the effort, Microsoft has hired a former executive of the movie studio Dream Works (and a 25 year Wal-Mart veteran as its vice-president of retail stores). The company is still working out store specifics, such as number locations, and appearance.

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

Place  
Postage  
Here



Mailing  
Address  
Goes  
Here

### 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) 2009 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL

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 Computer Groups).

New Member: \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_

If you are a current member and renewing, fill in all changes only below. Otherwise fill in all information.

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ (Optional)

E-MAIL (please update and print clearly): \_\_\_\_\_

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

Mail To: EPCC, 310 North High Street, West Chester, PA. 19380