



Bellaggio Computer and Technology Club Newsletter April 2011

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**There will be
no April
meeting.**

May 16 meeting

Guest speaker:

Charles Prince

Topic:

**"Protecting Your-
self and Your
Identity Online"**

The Florida Association of Computer User Groups (FACUG) is sponsoring its third annual Computer Conference Cruise, returning to the ship that we sailed on in 2010, Norwegian Cruise Line's "Sky". The 2012 cruise, a 4 night, 5 day sailing to Freeport and Nassau, should be better than ever now that we have the support of the national organization, the Association of Personal Computer User Groups. The prices: interior cabins @ \$294, exterior cabins @ \$344 are extremely competitive. If you register for the conference and book the cruise **before May 15** you will receive a \$45 per person rebate. More information on page 4 and at www.facug.net.

The Photography SIG, led by Karl Wittman and Steve Caplan is winding down a most successful season. Lessons on how to compose pictures as you shoot, photography sessions at both Butterfly World and Worth Avenue, and follow-up critiquing sessions, have made better photographers of those who participated. Want to see some of their photos?  www.flickr.com Thank you Karl and Steve!

There will be NO April meeting. Our scheduled speaker for May 16 is Charles Prince. His presentation, "Protecting Yourself and Your Identity Online" will focus on normal computer users, not "IT Geeks", and he'll explain security myths, internet dos and don'ts, the evolution of computer threats and much more. This is a presentation not to be missed.

To our "snowbird" friends migrating from Bellaggio; have a wonderful summer. We'll man the fort.

Happy Passover! Happy Easter!

Jeff

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A time waster, but so much fun...

Throughout movie history, certain objects have come to symbolize a particular film. To some, a shower head would be reminiscent of Alfred Hitchcock's Psycho. To others, a moth brings Silence of the Lambs to mind. This site shows you famous objects from classic movies and asks you to identify the movie. You are given spaces to enter the name. If unsure, you can skip the next one. And if you'd like to see a trailer of the movie or read other information about it, you can do that, too. You (probably) saw the movie, now see the trailer....



www.famousobjectsfromclassicmovies.com

On advice of our lawyers, the firm of Dewey, Cheatham and Howe, we MUST mention the following:

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Remember: Member discounts with membership cards

Batteries Plus Lake Worth ... located on the southeast corner of Lantana and Jog Rd., behind the Outback Steakhouse & Jiffy Lube. Save 10% on all purchases.

United States CONTRACT Post Office ... Target Shopping Center (across from Bellaggio) ... a few doors north of Sal's restaurant. 10% discount on non-postal items. When I was there they were selling swimming pool supplies. He hopes to expand, selling greeting cards and other sundry items. Please remember **POSTAL items (stamps & services) NOT INCLUDED.**

Magical Word Wizards A hint from Smart Computing Magazine

Although it's simple to open Microsoft Word and start creating documents, Word's many wizards can help you create professional letters, résumés, and other documents with ease. For example, to start the Letter Wizard, open the File menu and click New. In the New Document task pane, click On My Computer under Templates. In the Templates dialog box, click the Letters & Faxes tab and double-click Letter Wizard. The Letter Wizard gives you a number of options for tailoring your letter to your own tastes. Click any of the other tabs in the Templates dialog box to work with a number of different templates.



The Florida Association of Computer User Groups (FACUG) has announced the details of their 3rd Computer & Technology Conference@Sea. The Bellaggio Computer & Technology Club is fully supporting this effort. In addition, the Association of Computer User Groups (APCUG), the largest computer group in the world, will be joining forces and holding their Annual Meeting aboard the ship. Combine this with User Groups from around the state and country and it promises to be one spectacular event. Don't miss it.

We thought we had a good deal in 2010, but the deal for 2012 cannot be matched. With the experience we have gained the past two years, we are acting as our own travel agents and working directly with Norwegian Cruise Lines to bring you one fantastic package. NCL has free style dining. You dine whenever you want and wear whatever you want. There are no jackets, ties or gowns.

Here is 2012's deal. Enjoy a 5 day 4 night conference aboard the Norwegian Sky. The cruise will leave from Miami on Monday, January 23, 2012 and return January 27th. Buses will be provided to and from the port at \$15.00 per person/each way. Ports of call are The Grand Bahamas Island, Nassau, and Great Stirrup Cay, NCL's private island. They are refurbishing the Island at a cost of \$20 million dollars. It will have a new dock, new restaurants and an amphitheater that will allow for programs to be presented outdoors. We are planning on having one of our two complimentary cocktail parties on the Island.



Those of you who attended the 2010 conference can testify that the variety and quality of the programs offered were outstanding. The final survey of the 350 attendees showed that 98% rated the conference an "A or B". We expect this year's to meet or exceed that event.

How much do you think a conference like this would cost? Inside cabins, including all port charges, fees and government taxes are only **\$294**. For an outside cabin it's **\$344**. Tips are extra and paid at the time of final payment. Insurance too, is extra. The FACUG registration fee is **\$75** for the first person in the cabin and **\$25** for the second. Now here is the best part. As an early bird incentive, **GOOD THROUGH MAY 15, FACUG will be refunding \$45 of the registration fee; YES, EVEN THOSE WHO REGISTERED AT THE \$25 SECOND REGISTRANT IN A CABIN RATE GET \$45**. Play mind games by yourself; does that lower the cost of the cruise, the conference, pay for insurance, or does it give you a few extra bucks to "do with as you please"?

You WILL need to act quickly (**by May 15**) to take advantage of this offer.

We expect to have several non technical, fun type activities for spouses, so everyone attending can have a wonderful time. Come SAIL-ABRATE with us.

To register, you need to go to FACUG's website, www.facug.org. You will register for the conference and then be directed to the 800 number of NCL to book your cabin. The deposit is \$100 per person; it is fully refundable until 70 days prior to the cruise. Book now! Call me for more information.

Save on utility bills

The Department of Energy has a site to help you possibly save on your energy bills. Start by running an energy audit of your house. You can see how much energy you're using and possibly wasting.

Then, check the tips to learn how to improve your home's efficiency. Some methods can cut a chunk out of your monthly bill.



www.energysavers.gov

For DOG lovers... Here is a non-technical, non-computer related information you should be aware of...



A treat for you might be toxic for your dog (maybe cats too)

Sugar-free gum and goodies may help keep you slim, but if Rex wolfs down any of these nice-for-human treats, it could make him very sick.

The Food and Drug Administration has issued a new warning to keep anything with xylitol, a sugar alcohol used in sugar-free baked goods, candy, chewable vitamins and chewing gum, away from our furry friends.

Signs of xylitol illness can occur within minutes to days of ingesting a problem food. Some symptoms to look for include depression, loss of coordination and vomiting; it can even lead to seizures and liver failure!!! So call your vet ASAP if you notice any of these signs.

Also check out K9 Domain for more pooch-risky foods to keep out of Rex's reach.



www.k9domain.org

Snopes

If you get lots of email forwards, this site is for you. Snopes seeks to dispel the many myths floating around the Internet. Do you really need to press the Clear button at the gas pump? Is Ashley Flores really missing? Are cut onions contaminated? Here is where you find out.



www.snopes.com

Definition of the month



Ohnosecond:

An instant of time even smaller than a microsecond in which you realize the disastrous consequences of your actions. Usually applies to the moment when you realize the command you've just given is deleting important data.



"When you took time off due to an emergency, I thought it would be more serious than trying to decide if you wanted to switch to Firefox."

a new CPR technique that can save a life...

This is a new CPR technique which is very simple.. This is a very important video regarding the latest CPR procedure. Please watch and forward to your friends and family if you haven't already done so. You never know, a life may be saved utilizing this new procedure.



<http://tinyurl.com/2fx8r59>

Cleaning Out Your Dusty PC sans Vacuum Cleaner www.howtogeek.com



It's bad to clean the inside of your computer with a vacuum cleaner because vacuuming creates a large static build up that could (and most likely will) discharge into the sensitive electronics inside your computer case. There are specialized vacuum cleaners designed for cleaning out computers and electronic

equipment but given the limited amount of use a single user would get from such a purchase it's not a very wise one—they start at \$300+ and can easily break the \$1000 price barrier.

What we'd recommend doing is taking your computer case into a well ventilated area (outside on a sunny day or in your garage is a great place), grounding the case to protect against static discharge (although the risk here is very very low) and using compressed air to clean the dust off. If you're using an air compressor (as opposed to just a can of compressed air from the computer store) make sure to start a good 24" or so away from the case and work your way in closer. You want to use just enough air pressure to blast the dust off the surfaces and out of the case without overdoing it and pushing dust into even more difficult to remove places.

One important thing to consider: compressed air (from a compressor, not a can) contains minute amounts of water vapor. Although we've never actually heard of this happening to anyone it is (however remote the chance) possible to blow moisture into the connectors on your motherboard and damage it if you were to boot it immediately afterwards. This is in the range of lightning-strike remote, however. None the less to be extra cautious we would recommend that you leave the computer off and in a warm dry location for a few hours after you give it a good air-compressor cleaning to allow any residual moisture (if it's even there to begin with) to evaporate. This borders on paranoid caution, mind you, but better safe than sorry.

Time to Get Your Gear Organized Written by Sandy Berger www.compukiss.com

No offense to anyone, but people simply don't have a handle on their computer papers, passwords, disks, or equipment. They often spend valuable time searching through a stack of papers or a box of jumbled cables looking for certain items. Sometimes it is a disk that came with the printer. Sometimes it is a password that was scribbled on a scrap of paper. Sometimes it is the small transmitter that came with the wireless mouse. All of these things are important and really should be easy to find....but often, it just isn't so. Most people, it seems, simply do not keep their computer gear organized.

So now is a good time to get going. Liz Szalankiewicz is an organizational expert. She has a saying that I just love. She says that "Life is too complicated not to be organized". That hits the nail on the head! We all lead such complex lives that unless we get organized, we are adding complexity, which in turn sucks our precious time and adds frustration to our lives.

So let's get down to it. Go through your den or your kitchen or wherever you keep your computer stuff and pull out every paper, disk, software box, receipt, cable, memory stick, and piece of computer-related equipment that you have. If you have things spread out around the house, this chore may be a little more difficult, but it is still doable.

Once you have gathered everything, you can start to pare it down a bit. Go through all the equipment you have. Any equipment that you are no longer using and do not plan to use in the future goes into one pile. If the equipment is not too old and is still in working condition it can be handed down to others or donated to a local organization.

Anything that does not work or is too old to be useful should be recycled.

Next attack the papers and disks. Throw away any miscellaneous offers and minor receipts. Put all the major receipts in a pile. Organize any papers that have passwords scribbled on them. You should create a succinct list of all the passwords you use, especially those from your router and email. Gather all the disks together and discard the ones you no longer need. Be sure to save any disks that came with your computer, printer, scanner, or other equipment. If you have made backups on disks or USB drives, be sure to keep them, as well. Also save any program disks that you have for programs that are currently installed on your computer or that you may use in the future.

This is also a good time to make some recovery disks for your computer. In bygone days, these disks used to be delivered with the computer. They are used to restore your computer to its factory condition if it gets messed up. Most manufacturers' today don't give you the disks anymore. Instead they create a special partition on the hard drive where they store the data needed to reconstruct the computers operating system and initial software that came with it. You are expected to create the disks. You can use the hidden partition on the hard disk if Windows just gets a little messed up, but if the entire hard drive crashes you are left in a lurch, unless you have transferred this data to a set of recovery disks. So, creating the recovery disks is a good idea. There may be instructions for how to do this in the documentation that came with the computer (which you have now saved) or on the manufacturers' website. If you are using Vista or Windows 7, just click on Start and type in the word recovery and you should find instructions for creating these disks.

If you don't know what programs you have installed on your computer, now is a good time to find out. There is a terrific free program called Belarc Advisor, available at ww.belarc.com/free_download.html. Once the program is downloaded and installed it will analyze your computer and list everything that is installed on it. It will also show you if your Windows updates and virus protection is up-to-date. Even more importantly for our current task, the Belarc profile will list every program that is installed on your computer and give you version numbers and software license numbers. This is unbelievably important information that you will need if your hard drive ever crashes. So be sure to print it out and put it in a safe place.

Speaking of a safe place, that is where you need to keep everything that you have gathered that you want to keep. Depending on the amount of stuff you have, this might be a file cabinet, a file box, or even an old shoebox. Where you keep it is not as important as keeping it all together and being able to find it when you need it.

Remember Liz's saying, ""Life is too complicated not to be organized".



Free online alarm clock

Waking up in the morning, or from a quick afternoon nap, can be so difficult sometimes. After years of the same alarm sound, it's easy to tune it out. And if the snooze button is in reach, forget about it..

You should have to get up to turn it off (gets you out of bed or off your easy chair and burns 3 calories). And you want an alarm that can vary its sound. But don't go buying another alarm just yet.

Instead, try Kuku Klok. It's a very simple free online alarm clock. Just set the time you want to wake up. Note that it is in military time (3:00pm = 15:00, 8:15pm = 20:15 etc.)



www.kukuklok.com/



"Fixing our computer to save us money would be a good idea... if you knew what you were doing."

Keyboard Leds 1.1

Some new model of notebooks, netbooks and cordless keyboards have no indicators for Caps Lock, and Num Lock. Indicator of Scroll lock disappeared almost from any hardware. Keyboard Leds software solves this problem and allows you to see the current state of keyboard locks on small icon in the system tray or on the floating small window over your screen.

You can download and use Keyboard Leds software absolutely free, either for personal or business purposes.



www.karpolan.com

TheSage's English Dictionary and Thesaurus

A Comprehensive and Easy-to-use Language Reference System and it's FREE

TheSage's English Dictionary and Thesaurus is a professional software package that integrates a complete dictionary and multifaceted thesaurus of the English language into a single and powerful language reference system.

TheSage can look up words directly from almost any program (IE, Word, Firefox, Outlook, Thunderbird,...) and is 100% portable.



www.sequencepublishing.com



What is it??? (answer on p. 11)



Massive Epsilon Personal Data Breach: Make Sure You're Protected by Brian Oliver Bennett

Both security professionals and consumers alike were shocked to learn last Friday of Epsilon's mega security breach. Epsilon, an e-mail marketing firm, keeps an impressive client roll including top tier companies such as Target, Citi, JPMorgan Chase, Capital One, Disney Destinations, and Hilton Hotels just to name a few.

Epsilon says that about 2 percent of its clients were hit by this attack which compromised customer email addresses and names only. Still, this prompted the company to launch an internal investigation. Folks have also been alerted directly by Epsilon clients such as Best Buy, Chase, and Target.

But how dangerous is this breach? Luckily the threat isn't as bad as it could possibly be, meaning no credit card numbers or account data were exposed. Still, with confirmed e-mail addresses of actual account holders, targeted e-mail phishing (called spear phishing) could more successfully dupe customers.

Protect yourself using the usual online street-smarts. First be aware that a company you do business with could be one of those affected. Hopefully Epsilon will release a full list of compromised clients. More likely though, you will receive an e-mail from one of Epsilon's business partners directly explaining the situation. These memos as a rule never ask for account information.

As always, never provide account details via e-mail whether unsolicited or otherwise. Also be on guard for suspicious links and only navigate to sites you know and trust.

Word Search Games

There are hundreds of games available. And you can select from over a dozen word categories.

 www.onlinewordsearch.org

Mood Music... behind every song there's always an emotion. We don't know why but maybe that's why we love music. Stereomood is the emotional internet radio, providing music that best suits your mood and your activities.

 www.stereomood.com

Inserting Symbols Not on Keyboard Sandy Berger, www.CompuKiss.com

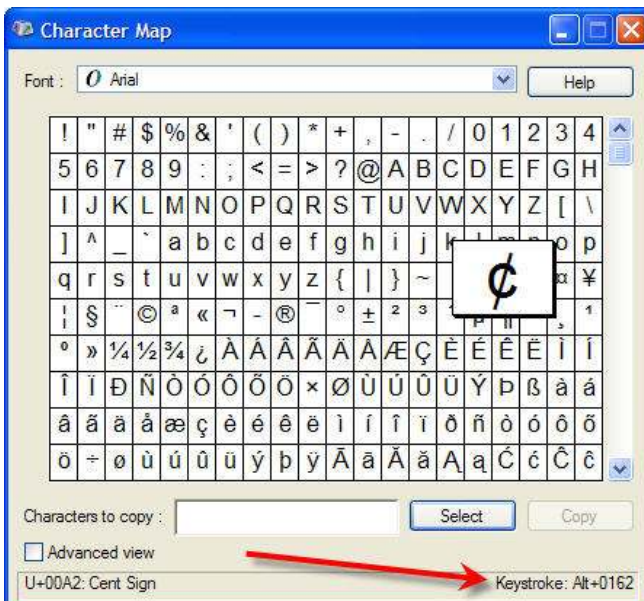
In Windows XP, Vista, or Windows 7, click the Start button, point to All Programs, point to Accessories, point to System Tools, and then click Character Map. If you are using Vista or Windows 7, you can simply click on Start, then type Character Map into the search box above the Start button and choose Character Map when it appears near the top of the list.

When the Character Map appers it will look like this:



Find the character that you want and click on it. This may be a foreign letter, a degree symbol, a registered trademark symbol, or many others. Then click Select and then click Copy. The symbol that you want will be copied to the Windows clipboard. Then you simply go back to your email program or your document and click on Edit, then Paste and the chosen symbol will appear in your document.

If you use that symbol a lot, you can also use its shortcut key to put it in any document without opening the Character Map every time you want to use that symbol.



You must use the numeric keypad rather than the numbers above the alphabet keys to enter the shortcut keystroke.

Make sure the NumLock for the numeric keypad is on. (It is a toggle key, pressing once will turn it on, pressing it again will turn it off.) Hold down the Alt key while you enter the numbers that represent that symbol. As you can see from the above screen shot, the cent key numbers are 0162. So for the cent sign you would enter 0162 on the numeric keypad. When you release the Alt key, the symbol will appear in your document.

Jot down that shortcut key. If you will use it a lot, memorize it or put it on a sticky note on your computer. Then go to the email or document and put your cursor where you want the symbol to appear.

How to buy a personal computer.

Suddenly everyone is talking about personal computers. Are you ready for one? The best way to find out is to read Apple Computer's "Consumer Guide to Personal Computing." It will answer your unanswered questions and show you how useful and how much fun personal computers can be. And it will help you choose a computer that meets your personal needs.

Who uses personal computers.

Thousands of people have already discovered the Apple computer—businessmen, students, hobbyists. They're using their Apples for financial management, complex problem solving—and just plain fun.

You can use your Apple to analyze the stock market, manage your personal finances, control your home environment, and to invent an unlimited number of sound and action video games. That's just the beginning.

What to look for.

Once you've unlocked the power of the personal computer, you'll be

using your Apple in ways you never dreamed of. That's when the capabilities of the computer you buy will really count. You don't want to be limited by the availability of pre-programmed cartridges. You'll want a computer, like Apple, that you can also program yourself. You don't want to settle for a black and white display. You'll want a computer, like Apple, that can turn any color tv into a dazzling array of color graphics.* The more you learn about computers, the more your imagination will demand. So you'll want a computer that can grow with you as your skill and experience with computers grows. Apple's the one.

How to get one.

The quickest way is to get a free copy of the Consumer Guide to Personal Computing. Get yours by calling 800/538-9696. Or by writing us. Then visit your local Apple dealer. We'll give you his name and address when you call.

*Apple II plugs into any standard TV using an inexpensive adapter (not included).



 **apple computer**
10260 Bandley Dr., Cupertino, CA 95014

Answer to What Is It? on page 9...

It's a hard disk drive ...

In September 1956 IBM launched the 305 RAMAC, the first 'SUPER' computer with a hard disk drive (HDD). The HDD weighed over a ton and stored a 'whopping' 5 MB of data.

Buy, Sell, or Trade

Have you got something to sell? Something to trade? Something you're trying to find? Post it here and maybe a fellow member can help match things up.

Email your 'ad' to ourbctc@gmail.com

