

Philadelphia Bits & Bytes

Official Newsletter of the Computer Education Society of Philadelphia

May 1998

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\$1.50 US

Computer Solutions ***Saturday*** ***May 16, 1998***

On Saturday, May 16, we will be holding our second Computer Solutions Workshop for our members. Our first session went very well and we are looking forward to continuing interest in this project. If you are having a problem with either hardware or software configuration, this is your chance to get some free advice and assistance in finding a solution to your problem. You must bring your system and all related components that are needed to operate your system. If you do not have a problem with your own system, feel free to attend because you may have the needed answer for a fellow member that is having a problem. You may even pick up a few tips for future use.

Tables and electric will be available where required.

Starts at 10:00 AM
7th Police District Community Room
1701 Bowler St (Bustleton & Bowler)
N.E. Philadelphia
Enter through the Bowler St door

May 13, 1998 is our next Business meeting. Some of the things to be discussed are: TCF follow-up, our meeting place and our agenda for the summer.

The meeting starts at 7:30 PM and as always, coffee will be available.

President's Report

May, 1998
by Tom Burke

First, on behalf of the CESOP executive board, I would like to thank all those who volunteered to help at TCF '98. Without your help, we couldn't do it.

This will be your last issue of Philadelphia Bits & Bytes if you have not renewed your membership. You can easily find out your status by checking your address label on the last page of this issue. If the date listed on the label is 4-30-98, this will be your last issue. You can renew your membership by completing the application found inside this issue and returning it with your dues.

While reviewing the membership applications, I noticed that some members expressed an interest in helping with the newsletter. What I need is original articles from our members. You can write about anything related to computers, especially your personal experiences with any hardware or software. Articles can be as short as a paragraph or as long as practical. The procedure for submitting articles can be found on page 6.

I want to take this opportunity to welcome Ravi Moonsammy and Roy Kalbs as the new Web Administrators for the CESOP web site. Visit

our web site at www.cesop.org and let Ravi and Roy know what you think. If you have any suggestions for added features or if there is something that isn't quite right, they would welcome that information as well.

I hope to see you at the next business meeting on May 13. Until then, take care.

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Thomas J. Burke

**Simple Notary service is
free for CESOP members.**

**Notary service is available after a meeting or call
728-7751 to make other arrangements.**

The Computer Education Society of Philadelphia, Inc. holds its monthly business meetings on the second Wednesday of each month in the parish hall of St Asaph's Episcopal Church of Bala Cynwood, PA. The meeting is called to order at 7:30 p.m. The church is located one block north of City Avenue (US 1) at the corner of Conshohocken State Road (PA route 23) & St Asaph's Rd.

CESOP is formed exclusively for charitable, educational and scientific purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the "Code") (or corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), and particularly to: engage in the exchange of ideas, techniques and information for the broader and more effective use of computer hardware and software; promote the general pursuit of knowledge and education in computer hardware and software generally; sponsor meetings, seminars, lectures, and workshops to share knowledge, experiences, and discussion of computer topics of interest to members and the general public; publish and distribute a periodic newsletter containing computer information and news...

Unless specifically stated otherwise, the opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the individual author(s) and do not necessarily represent an official position or endorsement by the Computer Education Society of Philadelphia. The Computer Education Society of Philadelphia is independent, non-profit, educational users' group and is not affiliated in any way with any vendor, equipment manufacturer or software publisher. Unless otherwise noted, all articles are Copyright © by the Computer Education Society of Philadelphia and may be reprinted in other computer users' group's newsletter as long as credit is given to both CESOP and the original author.

Secretary's Summary

8 April '98 Meeting

John Membrino (610) 644-0252

This was the meeting at which Bob Ross was to present his operational plan for the acquisition of donated computer equipment and its distribution to schools and other needy organizations. However, Bob didn't attend to present his proposal. As a result, those present at the meeting passed a motion to dissolve the present committee that was to undertake the mission if Bob's proposal had been adopted.

In addition, Bob Ross resigned as the club's Web Page Administrator. As a result, Tom Burke once again stepped into the breach and agreed to administer it until a suitable volunteer can be assigned. Tom has reorganized the page now so that those who do not have Java working on their computers can access everything available on the site. It looks great to me and I hope lots of our members access it.

Beyond the above, there was not much other business discussed, however there was a lot of computer talk going on. And speaking of same, I goofed last month in describing Heinz Wendt's computer problem we encountered at the "Computer Solutions" session. Not that it wasn't a headache, but rather than one of an intermittent failure to boot the computer, it was an intermittent failure to initialize his modem. I hope he's got it solved by now. And for the rest of you who have hardware or software problems - or want to come out to help - plan to come to our next session on Saturday, May 16th.

In any case, I'll see you all in May

Review of Norton Utilities 3.0

by Roy Kalbs

I don't usually upgrade my utilities every time a new version comes out but Norton utilities boasted several new utilities that intrigued me.

The install went flawlessly, no problems at all. Norton speed disk (optimize the hard drive) really impressed me. It did the following automatically:

1. It optimized the swap file. It made it a permanent size, depending on the amount of ram your system has, and places it first.
2. It then places all your folders next.
3. After your folders, it then places all infrequently changes files .
4. Then finally it places all frequently changes files last.

Where Norton really surpassed itself is *WIN DOCTOR*. This utility really impressed me. This utility automatically checks your windows registry for invalid or missing entries. When I ran this utility it found 148 invalid or missing entries and repaired all of them, by either deleting or upgrading the path.

The next utility is *Crashgard*. It really worked. I have one program on my system that 's not very well behaved, and in certain conditions it will freeze my entire system. Well, I used this program to test *Crashgard*. When I caused this program to crash, Norton *Crashgard* stopped my system from freezing up, and allowed me to close the program, and save my work.

The other utility that is worth the upgrade is the *Optimization Wizard*. This utility works with speed disk. It optimizes your registry; it closed all the holes where you made deletions, it moves items around for faster startups, and allows speed disk to optimize your disk for the most effective placement of your files.

The next CESOP Workshop

will be held

Saturday

May 9, 1998

11:00 AM

7th Police District

Bustleton & Bowler

(Entrance on Bowler Street)

the topic is

TO BE ANNOUNCED

Hosted by Steve Short



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BEWARE...BEWARE

Reprinted from Lehigh Valley Computer Group

Center for Democracy and Technology

Who's Watching You and What are You Telling Them?

Many people surf the web under the illusion that their actions are private and anonymous. Unfortunately, there is more information collected about you than you might think. Every time you visit a site, you leave a calling card that reveals where you're coming from, what kind of computer you have, and many other details. Most sites keep logs of all visitors.

Here's a sampling of the kind of information that a site can collect on you (please wait a moment):

Hi! This is What we know about you: Your Internet browser is Mozilla/4.02 [en]C-DIAL (Win95; U). You are coming from usrx2a-1-1.enter.net.

But Others May Know A Lot More... As a small non-profit public interest organization, CDT's web pages reside on a server run by our (very accommodating) Internet service provider, and as a result, our ability to collect even more revealing personal information than what is displayed above is limited. However, a web site operator with the right equipment and the desire to do so can easily obtain your e-mail address, the exact files you viewed, and other detailed information without your knowledge. And you reveal information to web site operators both directly and indirectly.

How Your Personal Information Gets Collected

Web sites and Web browsers

Your personal information (including your hobbies, political and product interests and ways to contact you, such as your e-mail address) can be collected by web sites in two ways: directly or indirectly.

Passive recording of Transactional Information:

The transactional information revealed in the normal course of surfing the net reveals a great deal of information about your online activities. When you visit a particular web site, for example, the webmaster can determine what files, pictures, or other information you are most interested in (and what you ignored), how long you examined a particular page, image or file, where you came from, where you went to.

Web servers collect transactional information in order to allow the system operator to perform necessary system maintenance, auditing, and other essential system functions. However, when correlated with other sources of personal information, including marketing databases, phone books, voter registration lists, etc, a detailed profile of your online activities can be created without your knowledge or consent.

Cookies:

Additionally, many web browsers contain a feature called "cookies," or client-side persistent information. Cookies allows any web site to store information about your visit to that site on your hard drive. Every time you return to that site, "cookies" will read your hard drive to find out if you've been there before. For example, try visiting <http://www.illuminatus.com/cookie> this web site twice.

Direct disclosure of personal information:

A growing number of web sites offer users the ability to register with the site. In many cases, registration brings real, important benefits, such as access to special areas,

timely information, discounts, etc. While registration or other mechanisms by which users divulge personal information to a web site provide some obvious benefits to a users, it also provides the site's operator with a detailed picture of how you use the site. Regardless of how the information is obtained, a great deal of personally identifiable information is revealed in the normal course of surfing the web.

Commercial Online Service Providers:

Commercial online service providers are configured in a variety of ways, but generally, little personally identifiable information is revealed to Internet sites visited directly from an online service.

If you subscribe to a commercial online service, your service provider has access to lots of information about your online activities. These records are generated in the normal course of using the service, and are important for billing and maintenance purposes. However, not all services treat the use and disclosure of this information the same way. CDT'S Clearinghouse on Privacy Policies focuses first on the fair information practices of the http://www.cdt.org/privacy/online_services/chart.html major commercial online service providers including America Online, CompuServe, Microsoft Network and Prodigy.

Later, CDT will focus on other Internet entities, such as browsers, content providers, and Internet service providers. Why should you care?

Although it may not seem like it, someone is following you through cyberspace. Every time you retrieve a file, view an image, send an e-mail message or jump to a new web site, a record is created somewhere on the Net.

While much of this information may never be used, it can be, and you have little control over it. In the hands of a marketer with a powerful computer, or the government, it is possible to build a detailed profile of your tastes and preferences by monitoring your online activities. The information can be used to send you unsolicited e-mail or snail mail, to call you, or to even put you on a list of people likely to support a particular political candidate. A

single piece of information about you can support a tremendous range of activities. For example, if your repeated visits to web sites containing information on cigarettes results in free samples, coupons, or even e-mail to you about a new tobacco product, you may not be concerned. However, if your visits to these web sites result in escalating insurance premiums due to categorization as a smoker - now you're beginning to get concerned.

Privacy Policies and Practices

In the United States, there is no comprehensive law that protects people's privacy. Instead a patchwork of Constitutional, statutory and private sector guidelines that protect different areas of your informational privacy.

CDT's Web Site Privacy Policy

Like virtually all web sites, CDT collects information to analyze traffic patterns and to perform routine system maintenance. We do not use the system logs or other records for any other purpose, nor do we sell, rent or otherwise disclose our mailing lists.

For the purposes of this demonstration, we will use information generated during your visit to the Privacy Web site to illustrate examples of what information you are revealing to us. None of the information generated during the course of your visit to this demonstration will be used for any other purposes, and logs will be purged on a regular basis.

How to Surf without Being Watched <http://www.anonymizer.com>

The Anonymizer

The Anonymizer was created by Community ConneXion ("C2") for those whose illusions of anonymity have been shattered. It is a web site that shields your personal information from the other web sites that you visit. By visiting the Anonymizer web site before visiting other web sites, you are assigned an anonymous identity which is revealed (instead of your real identity) as you surf the web. It allows you to surf freely, even if you follow a hypertext link to another web site, without having to worry that the web site you are reading is keeping track of who you are and your interests.

Visit CESOP on the Internet

www.cesop.org

Submitting Articles to Philadelphia Bits & Bytes

Articles may be submitted in any of the following ways:

1. internet e-mail sent to tjburke@voicenet.com
2. on 3.5" diskette mailed to Philadelphia Bits & Bytes Editor 1312 Brighton Street Philadelphia, PA 19111

The required format is electronic, IBM compatible in either plain ASCII text or MS Word 6.0 or better. Do not use any justification or margins. Single space between lines and double space between paragraphs. Paragraphs should not be indented. Lists or table entries should be separated by indenting or tabs... do not use spaces. Drawings or artwork not in digital form should be in black ink suitable for scanning.

Please include the article name, your name and phone number, (with area code).

Deadlines

All articles submitted for publication in Philadelphia Bits & Bytes must be in our hands by the third Wednesday of the month preceding the issue month you request.

Example: articles for the June issue must be submitted by the third Wednesday in May.

Advertising in Philadelphia Bits & Bytes

Commercial Advertising is available at the following rates:

| | | | |
|--------------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| Full Page | 6" x 9" | \$40.00 | |
| Half page | 3" x 9" | \$25.00 | 6" x 4.5" |
| Quarter page | 3"x 2.25" | \$15.00 | 1.5" x 9" |

Column inch 1.5: x 1" \$2.00

All ads must be camera ready and be in black in on white paper.

Payment must be received in advance for all commercial advertising. Make checks payable to the *Computer Education Society of Philadelphia*.

Non-commercial & Personal Advertisements

CESOP members may submit a non-commercial or personal ad to be published in Philadelphia Bits & Bytes *free of charge*.

All non-commercial or personal ads must follow the same format and submitted as outlined previously for submitting articles. Feel free to contact the editor for further information.

Deadlines

All advertisements submitted for publication in Philadelphia Bits & Bytes must be in our hands by the second Wednesday of the month preceding the issue month you request. Example: articles for the June issue must be submitted by the second Wednesday in May.

About Philadelphia Bits & Bytes

Philadelphia Bits & Bytes is the official newsletter of the Computer Education Society of Philadelphia, users' group open to users of all types of personal computers. This current issue was prepared using Microsoft Word 7.0.

The Computer Education Society of Philadelphia is a non-profit corporation under the guidelines of 501-C-3 of the IRS code.

The next CESOP business meeting will be

Coffee is always available



Wednesday, May 13, 1998.

The meeting will start at 7:30 PM sharp!

Reminder: All Workshops usually scheduled during the month of April are CANCELLED

Computer Education Society of Philadelphia

1998/99 Membership Application

- New Member - Membership Renewal - Information Change

PLEASE PRINT

Date- _____

Last Name - _____ First Name - _____ Initial - _____

Address - _____ Apt # _____

City- _____ State- _____ Zip Code- _____

Phone #- _____ Fax #- _____
Please include your Area Code *Please include your Area Code*

Phone #- _____ Ext.- _____ E-mail address- _____
Please include your Area Code

Age- _____ (*Applicants must be at least 14 years old*) Date of birth- ____/____/____ - Male - Female

Special Interests- _____

Computer & Equipment- _____

Operating System- Windows 95 Windows 3.1 MSDOS OS2 Windows NT Macintosh OS

Other _____

Please contact me. I am interested in helping with the following Workshops Presentations Newsletter Trenton Computer Festival
 One on one help to other members Other _____

Signature of applicant _____

Signature of parent or legal guardian for applicants under the age 18 _____

Membership dues are \$12.00 per year. New members dues are prorated based on the CESOP membership year, May 1 to April 30. Prorated dues for new members are as follows:

| | | | | |
|--|---|-------------------|----------------|----------------|
| If you apply before the 5 th day of | May - \$12 | June - \$11 | July - \$10 | August - \$9 |
| | September - \$8 | October - \$7 | November - \$6 | December - \$5 |
| | January - \$16 * | February - \$15 * | March - \$14 * | April - \$13 * |
| | * These dues are prorated to include membership through the April 30 of the year following your new application | | | |

Make checks payable to: **Computer Education Society of Philadelphia**

Mail it to: **CESOP Membership**
PO Box 632
Berwyn, PA 19312

For further information call
215-728-7751 from 9am to 5pm
717-786-7934 evenings



The Computer Education Society of Philadelphia
Members Helping Members

CE SOP has Computer Solutions
Once a month
Details inside



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