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# The Computer Club At Willow Valley

## Special points of interest:

- The Wonderful Spell Checker, page 5
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## The President's Pen by Sid Paskowitz

**Membership** Your Computer Club has 543 members at this writing, including 109 lifetime members.

**Heads Up!** First, the Spring 2011 *Renaissance* publication will contain a number of computer classes, each of which has limited seating capacity. The Master Calendar in Information Central unofficially shows when those classes are scheduled. If you are interested in signing up, be ready when the *Renaissance* arrives in your mailbox. Also a reminder, if you sign up for a class but don't tell the instructor or Activities Facilitator that you cannot attend a class, there may be a charge on your monthly statement.

Second, if you get an unexpected pop-up and pressing the ALT key and the F4 key at the same time does not get rid of it, a more powerful re-

moval technique is to press the CTRL key, the ALT key, and the Delete key at the same time to display the Task Manager window. (Another way to display the Task Manager is to right-click in an open space at the very bottom of the screen and then left-click on Start Task Manager.) Task Manager has a number of tabs, two of which are Applications and Processes. If you click on the Applications tab and you see a name similar to the name on the unwanted pop-up, left click on the application (highlight it) and left-click on the End Task button at the bottom of that screen. If you don't see a similar name in the Applications list, left-click on the Processes tab and look for a name similar to the name on the unwanted pop-up. Left-click on  
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## Why Computer Security? by Al Williams

You've heard through newspapers and magazines, friends and family, that the Internet is dangerous. What is the danger? There isn't a single danger, but rather multiple dangers. The most significant dangers are described below.

Organized crime wants assets. Currently, they are focused on small businesses because those businesses do not have Information Technology people who can help protect the business from outside intrusion. Typically, organized crime  
*(Continued on page 3)*

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## Coming Programs

### November, 2010

Dave Mott, ComputerLynx  
*How Computers Work*

### December, 2010

Jim Cluck, WV VP  
*IT Update*

### January, 2011

Tony Poulos, Resident  
*Overview of Adobe Products*

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*All programs are held  
in the Education Room  
at the Cultural Center  
on the 1st Thursday of  
the month at 2:00 p.m.*

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## President

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the process (highlight it) and left-click on the End Task button at the bottom of that screen. Close the Task Manager by left-clicking on the X in its upper-right corner. DO NOT CLICK ANYWHERE ON AN UNEXPECTED POP-UP IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS. MALICIOUS SOFTWARE CAN BE TRIGGERED BY CLICKING ON IT OR EVEN PUTTING YOUR POINTER ON A POP-UP. *(Editor: BE CAREFUL! Ending the wrong process could result in your computer becoming unstable and not functioning properly. You could be forced to do a manual power shut down/restart to regain control.)*

**Time to grind some old axes** Despite my requests and Willy's excellent column in a past Newsletter, we have not added enough new volunteers to our list of Computer Room Monitors or computer class instructors. Smooth operations of Computer Club functions depend on volunteers and it is not fair that only a few members shoulder the work while the great majority sits back and enjoys the benefits of others' contributions. The Lakes Manor Computer Room was not open two days in October because no one had signed up as a Monitor. I understand it takes a certain level of expertise to teach computer classes, but being a Computer Room Monitor does not require expert knowledge – and we will be happy to have classes for Monitors who want to sharpen their computer skills. Any Computer Club member with basic computer skills who is willing to spend a couple of hours each month as a Computer Room Monitor is requested to contact

Dick Dressel at 464-6508 for the North Computer Room or Gene Simasek at 464-4605 for the Lakes Computer Room (E-308). Let Dick or Gene know if you would like training to help you feel more comfortable as a Computer Room Monitor. We also need computer monitors for computer systems that our computer recycling team is working on. If you have a *working* computer monitor (flat screen or CRT) that you no longer need, drop it off in the Manor North Computer Room (M-107) at 1:00 p.m. M-F.

A team of key Computer Club members is working with the IT staff to redesign the Resident Computer Kiosk displays. If you have suggestions (or complaints) about the Kiosks, please share them with one of the following so the issue can be reviewed as part of the redesign: Joan Burks, Dan Drummond, Bob McRobbie, Sid Paskowitz, Marge Schmieder or Gene Simasek.

Note: The Internet address for the Kiosk Home Page (the page with the 12 icons) has been changed from

[http://  
eventregistration.willowvalley.org/  
kiosk/default.htm](http://eventregistration.willowvalley.org/kiosk/default.htm)

to

[http://  
eventregistration.willowvalley.org/  
kiosk/default.aspx](http://eventregistration.willowvalley.org/kiosk/default.aspx)

If you have that page as a Favorite or desktop shortcut, it needs to be reset. •

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## Why Computer Security?

*(Continued from page 1)*

sends an email to a person who has access to the business checking accounts. They entice that person into clicking on a link and the newly displayed web site then downloads a Trojan Horse. The Trojan Horse monitors the steps taken to log onto the checking accounts and sends that information to a criminal who logs on the business' checking accounts and transfers the contents of the accounts to a checking account set up by the criminal organization. The organization then transfers the money out of their checking account to "money mule" accounts in other banks. These "money mules" (individuals) take an agreed upon cut of the money and transfer the remainder to off shore accounts belonging to the criminal organization. Although organized crime is currently focused on small businesses because of the higher return on investment for their labor, the techniques they use are readily used on individuals. Small-time criminals probably are using these techniques; we just haven't heard about it.

Retailers want to know more about you. The more they know, the easier it is to tailor their advertising to your wants and needs. They want to know what web sites you visit, what you buy, how old you are, your sex, your medical needs, your clothing tastes, clothing sizes, what you eat, what car you drive, what are your choices for recreation, what do you read, etc. They do this by tracking you while you are on the web.

Employers want to know what you are saying – especially about them. They monitor your activity on Facebook, My Space, and also your Tweets. You've probably already heard about people not being hired or being fired because of something they said on Facebook.

The Federal government wants to know if you are a terrorist or an active sympathizer. They can read your email and your Tweets.

Law enforcement finds Facebook helpful to determine which persons know a suspect and to monitor statements that may provide information to help them make an arrest.

All of the above is Internet based, but it isn't just your activity on the Internet that provides information about you. For example, EZPass knows when and where you use toll roads and bridges. Credit card purchases provide information about your shopping habits. The list goes on and on.

What can you do? If you do not want to learn about computer security or protecting your privacy, there are many things you should not do. Here are some. You should not do any online banking or online investing. You should not do any shopping online. You should stay away from Facebook or My Space. You should not click on any links in an email and you should also be very careful about what you say.

Even then you are not safe because if your software is not up to date, malware can invade your computer and capture information. You could just not put any personal information on your computer but although that would keep your personal information safe, that malware could use your computer to send spam to others – you've then become part of a botnet.

So you have two choices: don't use a computer or learn about computer security and protecting your privacy.

Does this sound drastic? Think about what you've read until now. Keep reading newspapers and magazines to learn the latest about computer security and privacy. As an alternative, you could check out Brian Krebs' online reporting. He's very readable and focuses on computer security and privacy issues. His blog is at [krebsonsecurity.com](http://krebsonsecurity.com) If you do think the above is drastic now, I think that after you do additional reading you'll decide that it isn't. •

## The Equipment Corner by Ed Dahrsnin

**Refurbished Systems** The following refurbished system is available:

#210: Dell L4666cx, tower, Windows XP Home SP3, 467 MHz Intel Celeron, 35.82 GB Free Space, 320 MB RAM, HP OfficeJet Model 350/600 Printer

#218: IBM 380D, laptop, Windows 98SE, 150 MHz Intel Pentium, 1.87 GB Free Space, 80 MB RAM, Power adapter, No Printer

#219: Dell V350, tower, Windows XP Professional SP3, 350 MHz Intel Pentium II, 4.36 GB Free Space, 208 MB RAM, Compaq A3000 Printer

#221: Dell XPS T550, tower, Windows XP Professional SP3, 550 MHz Intel Pentium III, 7.27 GB Free Space, 320 MB RAM, HP 6310 All-In-One printer

**Miscellaneous** We have 3 volt CR2023 batteries (suitable for motherboards to keep the system clock running) and a variety of CD-ROM's, floppy disk drives, keyboards, 2-button mice, various power supplies, and assorted cables. Please contact Ed Dahrsnin at 464-6591.

**Donations** We are once again accepting the donation of used, working, tower and laptop computers (with power units and batteries) from club members along with all software CDs. You may deliver them to the North's Computer Resource room on the first floor of M building after 1 pm on Monday through Friday. No Macs or Mac parts, see Lee Wermuth or Bob Handler for additional information. •

## The Mission

The Mission of the Willow Valley Computer Club is to:

- Provide the means to educate beginners or interested non-users on how to use a computer.
- Arrange for speakers to talk to the Club about subjects that would be of interest to those with some background and experience in computer use.
- Provide a forum for interchange of computer information among members.

For more information about the Club, contact Sid Paskowitz at 464-2127 or [wvrccc@Yahoo.com](mailto:wvrccc@Yahoo.com)

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## The Leadership

### Officers

President: Sid Paskowitz

Vice President: Dan Drummond

Secretary: Gert Skelly

Treasurer: Dick Dressel

### Community Representatives

Manor: Robert Kemp

Lakes: Gene Simasek

### Committee Chairpersons

Program: Dan Drummond

Training: Bob McRobbie

Equipment: Ed Dahrsnin

Technical Support: Larry Gallagher

Website: Sid Paskowitz

Publicity: Wally Gordon

Newsletter: Al Williams

Mac Interest Group: Lee Wermuth

Room Coordinators: Dick Dressel, Gene Simasek

Microsoft Liaison: Ed Dahrsnin

### Past Presidents

Larry Gallagher

## The Wonderful Spell Checker submitted by Larry Gallagher

Thank goodness for the spell checker.

Eye halve a spelling chequer

It came with my pea sea.

It plane lee marcs four my revue

Miss steaks eye kin knot sea.

Eye strike a key and type a word

And weight four it two say

Weather eye am wrong oar write.

It shows me strait a weigh.

As soon as a mist ache is maid

It nose bee fore two long

And eye can put the error rite

Its rare lea ever wrong.

Eye have run this poem threw it.

I am shore your pleased two no

Its letter perfect awl the weigh.

My chequer tolled me sew.

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## ClearCloud by Al Williams

Worried about accidentally clicking on a link in an email? Worried that one of those links on a web page will take you to a malicious web site? You are not alone. Many others, including government agencies, also are concerned.

Sunbelt Software is now providing a free utility that you can download and execute on your computer. I've been using it for weeks without a problem. I highly recommend using ClearCloud.

This is what they say about their solution to malicious links:

"ClearCloud is a free service that checks every website address your computer is trying to access, whether you're browsing the internet, clicking a link in an email, or a program "under the hood" trying to communicate with servers for information or updates.

ClearCloud prevents you from being able to access known bad websites, sites that will download malicious files to your computer. Even better, ClearCloud prevents you from being able to access malicious websites that you may not even know your computer is trying to access — and it prevents potentially nasty programs from "phoning home" and secretly communicating between your computer and cybercriminals.

Many programs legitimately phone home to get software updates. Microsoft Windows and Adobe Reader are two common programs that will check for current updates. ClearCloud knows the websites accessed by over a million safe programs and provides free passage to these sites.

How does ClearCloud know which websites are malicious? ClearCloud is part of the DNS network, and has access to every URL in the world. When

## ClearCloud (continued)

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you type in the URL in your browser and click "Go" or "Enter" your browser sends the URL to ClearCloud. ClearCloud looks it up in a table, checks it against the list of bad websites, and if it passes, sends back the numeric IP address so your browser knows where to go to get the web page. All in milliseconds.

If ClearCloud discovers that it's a bad URL, it sends back the IP address of our webpage that informs you about the malicious site."

These are the Frequently Asked Questions from the ClearCloud web site:

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

*What is ClearCloud™?*

*How does it work?*

*Do I enable ClearCloud on my computer or on my router?*

*How do I get ClearCloud?*

*Where do I find the directions to set up ClearCloud?*

*How do I disable ClearCloud?*

*Do I need special software?*

*What languages does ClearCloud support?*

*Does it work in all countries?*

*Does ClearCloud make my web browsing safer?*

*Does ClearCloud make my web browsing faster?*

*If I have ClearCloud can I get rid of my Antivirus software?*

*Where do I go for support?*

*What's behind the security provided by ClearCloud?*

*It looks like ClearCloud is blocking my site. What do I do?*

**What is ClearCloud?** ClearCloud is a service that provides safe and reliable web browsing by preventing you from going to websites that are known to perform malicious activity. It's like having a GPS in your car that won't let you turn down a street with known criminal activity.

**How Does It Work?** At heart, ClearCloud is a DNS server. DNS stands for Domain Name System. Every website on the planet is located by a number address, known as an IP address, similar to a phone number. For example, Sunbelt's IP address is 64.128.133.180. While some folks can remember the phone numbers of all of their friends and family, most of us save phone numbers in our cell phone by their names.

DNS works the same way. It's really a big phone book of all the IP addresses and website names, known as URLs (Universal Resource Locator), the address "name" of the website. It's much easier to remember "www.sunbeltsoftware.com" than to remember "64.128.133.180."

### **Do I Enable ClearCloud On My Computer Or On My Router?**

You can enable ClearCloud on your computer or on your router. The easiest way for most users is to enable it on your computer, and we have directions on the ClearCloud forum to do this.

We have a little "applet" that does this for you on your computer swiftly and easily. For now, the applet only changes your local DNS settings. In the future, we are looking at adding the ability to change your router's settings, as well.

We have general directions for enabling ClearCloud on your router, however each router is different and we're working on compiling directions for the common routers available today.

**How Do I Get ClearCloud?** Anyone can use ClearCloud

## ClearCloud

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by making a simple change to their network settings. If you are tech savvy, you can simply set your DNS server address to 74.118.212.1. If you're not tech savvy, links to the directions are in the next topic.

In about a month we'll have an "applet" that will enable ClearCloud for you at the touch of a button.

**Where Do I Find The Directions To Set Up ClearCloud?** Use the appropriate URL:

Windows: <http://www.clearclouddns.com/Setup/Windows>

Mac: <http://www.clearclouddns.com/Setup/Mac/>

**How Do I Disable ClearCloud?** Directions to disable ClearCloud can be found at the links above.

**Do I Need Special Software?** No. You can set your DNS servers manually on your PC or on your router. The "applet" makes it easy to enable or disable ClearCloud on your PC.

**How Much Does It Cost?** ClearCloud is absolutely free! It's a service provided by Sunbelt Software to promote safe browsing for everyone.

**What Languages Does ClearCloud Support?** The ClearCloud service works in any language. A few months after the release of ClearCloud, the ClearCloud website and Applet will be available in a number of European and Asian languages.

**Does It Work In All Countries?** Yes.

**Does ClearCloud Make My Web Browsing Safer?** Absolutely! ClearCloud prevents you from going to hundreds of thousands of known bad websites. These sites are detected and updated continuously, often within hours of them going live.

**Does ClearCloud Make My Web Browsing Faster?** Everyone

will have a different experience, but in general, you can expect that ClearCloud will perform as good as or better than your current DNS provider.

**If I Have ClearCloud Can I Get Rid Of My Antivirus Software?** A good security strategy should include antivirus/antispyware software, a firewall, and web filtering capabilities. ClearCloud is a web filtering feature that works "in the cloud." In other words, it works in the Internet "Cloud" instead of on your pc, and is an important component in your defense against malware and attacks.

**Where Do I Go For Support?** This forum at <http://forums.clearclouddns.com/>

is the place to find support for ClearCloud. We have specialists monitoring the forum continuously to answer your questions.

**What's Behind The Security Provided By ClearCloud?** Sunbelt processes 100,000 to 1 million samples each day. We analyze the activity of every sample and watch to see if a file tries to "phone home" and download malicious files, send sensitive data about you or your computer to its home base, or engage in other malicious activity. These addresses of bad websites are saved into a database that is used by ClearCloud.

Our list of bad websites is so well regarded that it is used by a number of government agencies and large corporations, the same list that is used by ClearCloud.

**It Looks Like ClearCloud Is Blocking My Site. What Do I Do?** If the site you want to go to is being blocked, chances are 99.9+% that your computer has just been saved from being attacked.

If you think the site you wanted to visit is being incorrectly blocked, you can post the information in the "Report an Incorrectly Blocked Web Site" sec-

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## ClearCloud

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tion on the forum.

If you really want to go to the website, simply disable ClearCloud, then re-enable it when you're done with that site. •

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## Overcoming Malware by Al Williams

Sometimes it is difficult to bypass malware so that you can remove it. The following info-article from Sunbelt News describes how one person overcame a difficult problem. It is presented here for insight into how malware may be overcome and not for the detailed steps because malware infections differ. This info-article is intended for more technically oriented readers.

“Useful Trick from Sunbelt News 9/9/10

I wanted to share a useful trick I learned in handling a particularly nasty infection. All the machines in our office are protected with VIPRE. One laptop, however, had been parked in our office since two years, the rightful owner never reclaiming it. Thus it had been used for random things, even traveling around to different locations. At one point I had installed a trial version of VIPRE on it, just to give it some protection. To make a long story short, it had not been updated for almost a year, and I found it in a deplorable state: flash drives immediately getting infected, and all Internet connections to anti-virus sites blocked.

So I couldn't scan, I couldn't update. What now? Oh, VIPRERescue, of course! Easy. So I grabbed my flash drive and tried to install VIPRERescue. Next surprise: "Win-Zip Self-Extractor header corrupt. Possible cause: bad disk or file transfer er-

ror". Granting the possibility of a bad download, I downloaded the latest version, but the same thing occurred. I now started to really look closer and discovered that VIPRERescue actually increased in size by 40 KB whenever I inserted the flash drive in the laptop! In other words, the malware lurking on the laptop rendered the .exe file totally unusable by adding 40 KB of God-knows-what to it. The very tool that's supposed to be your last resort when everything else fails, had failed me.

The question now was: How could I prevent the VIPRERescue from being corrupted before it could be installed? Answer: burn the .exe file to a CD! I did so, and now it installed beautifully, ran for two hours straight and came up with an impressive list of 50 threats cleaned and 142 items quarantined! And now the laptop is back to its old self and totally usable once more, clean as a whistle!

So to everyone else who might face a similar scenario, the solution is to simply burn the files you want to install to a CD. This makes them impervious to any malware influence and tampering. - [submitted by] GA Operations: What You Need To Know”

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## Reviewer Acknowledgment

The following individuals kindly reviewed this issue:

Domenic Buttiglieri

Bob Handler

Sid Paskowitz

Wendy Williams

Thank you,

Al Williams

Interested in reviewing the Computer Club newsletter before it goes to press, or providing advice about the content? Please contact:

Al Williams at [atwms@comcast.net](mailto:atwms@comcast.net)

## Key Willow Valley Web Sites

These are URL links to key Willow Valley web sites. Please copy the URL to your browser's URL space, open the site, and then add them to Favorites/Bookmarks or create desktop icons.

Information Central: <http://eventregistration.willowvalley.org/kiosk/cclub/index.asp>

Kiosk Home Page: <http://eventregistration.willowvalley.org/kiosk/default.asp>

Resident Phone Directory: <http://eventregistration.willowvalley.org/kiosk/cris%20files/phonesearch.aspx>

Service Request: <http://eventregistration.willowvalley.org/kiosk/wo.htm>

Computer Club Newsletter: <http://eventregistration.willowvalley.org/kiosk/cclub/p/Newsletter.pdf>

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