



The Cursor



Monthly Newsletter of the
Washington Area Computer Users Group

Meeting Location:
Fairfax County
Government Center



Next Meeting:
June 19, 2004



Presidential Bits

By Paul Howard

June Meeting

June 19th Meeting

WACUG's June meeting will offer our Computer Clinic - we'll attempt to assist you with hardware and software problems, LINUX installations, new drive installations, etc. Please be sure to check the link to Clinic Groundrules from the web site's Meetings page. If you plan on bringing a computer for assistance, calling the group's helpline at least 48 hours in advance is required.

This meeting will also offer the opportunity to view the "Backing Up Your Hard Drive" audio / visual presentation from Gene Barlow at User Group Resources. Additional information about this presentation is available on WACs Meetings page. A link is included to the User Group Resources' web site, should you wish to obtain a copy for yourself.

Another learning opportunity at this month's meeting will be the availability of video tapes from Microsoft, with program segments on: the Tablet PC and Office 2003 Suite; and Digital Image Suite, Innovative Hardware, Mobile Devices, and Protecting Your PC from Viruses and Unwanted Email. These are from the Tech TV program series.

As always, attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and seek advice from WAC colleagues.

Our usual reminder is that if you bring your system in for a consultation with our members, please bring all cables and peripherals that are involved with your problem or installation to maximize your time with our experts.

We hope to see you there!



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Lu Spriggs Web Sites for June 2004

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Lu is on vacation this month, but his column will return next month. In the meantime, you may visit his earlier columns at <http://www.wacug.org>



## Anniversary of Computer Virus No Cause for Celebration

Beverly Rosenbaum, Member, HAL-PC (Houston Area League of PC Users), Texas

Over several decades, viruses and worms have grown from academic exercises to online threats, wreaking havoc on millions of computers worldwide.

Not everyone agrees on their exact origin, but they date back at least 20 and maybe even 30 years. The idea of using the term "virus" to describe unwanted computer code was first published in 1970, and some accounts detail the

spread of the first virus in 1975 as simply the distribution of a game on UNIVACs (Universal Automatic Calculators). The virus Elk Cloner that infected Apple IIs followed in 1982. In 1984 a professor at the University of New Haven wrote a research paper describing possible threats from self-propagating viruses and explored potential defenses against them. He wanted to further investigate antivirus countermeasures, but the National Science Foundation denied his request for funding.

The term "worm" was first used in a 1982 paper by researchers at the Xerox Palo Alto Research Center to describe the automated program they used to update an Ethernet performance-measuring application. However, a bug in the program eventually crashed all 100 of the experiment's computers. The paper cited a 1972 science fiction novel describing a "tapeworm" program spreading around the global networks as the inspiration for the term.

Many virus historians believe that two Pakistani brothers created the first IBM personal computer virus in 1986 as a way to advertise their company, Brain Computer Services. They programmed the Brain virus to overwrite the boot instructions found at the start of system disks, displaying the message "Beware of this VIRUS.... Contact us for vaccination..."

That was only the beginning of viruses that infected floppy disks, hard disks and files. Although viruses and worms took more

than a decade to emerge in significant numbers, they soared in subsequent years. By the end of 1990, about 200 viruses had been identified. Today, that number has jumped to more than 70,000.

Even if viruses aren't designed to be intentionally malicious or dangerous, there can be unexpected results if they get outside a controlled environment. The exponential doubling of viral code greatly magnifies minor errors and becomes the difference between a harmless prank and a devastating attack. The ability to propagate across the Internet has allowed this kind of malware to spread very quickly. Although many programs quickly fizzled out, others have far outgrown the intentions of their authors, and small modifications of the original code produced new variants that continued the attacks.

Later, worms evolved into two categories. Some camouflage themselves as interesting e-mail attachments, which execute when opened, infecting systems and mailing themselves to every name listed in the computer's address book. Other worms need no human interaction, infecting computers that have certain security flaws and then using the new host to scan for more computers with the same flaw. These worms are modeled after the Cornell Internet Worm, which overloaded an estimated 3,000 to 4,000 servers, or about 5 percent of those connected to

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## GNU/Linux SIG

By Geof Goodrum

### New Software Releases

#### Phishing Alert

Many of you are already aware of this, but there has been a significant increase in “phishing” e-mails recently and this warning bears repeating. Phishing is using spam e-mail to trick the recipient into revealing personal information. These e-mails appear to be from a well-known company (I’ve received phishing attempts claiming to be from PayPal and Citibank), asking you to visit their website using the link provided and confirm your account information. Through various tricks, the addresses for the e-mail sender and linked website may appear legitimate.

Do not provide any personal information requested through e-mail (or by phone, for that matter). Protect yourself against identity theft and fraud by following the advice from the Federal Trade Commission website at <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/pubs/alerts/phishingalrt.htm> or the Anti-Phishing Working Group at <http://www.antiphishing.org>.

[org/](#). Companies such as PayPal, Comcast and Citibank also issue alerts to their customers through their websites and e-mail, and many provide directions on how to report phishing attempts.

#### Linux Installation and Help at Computer Clinic

I will be available to help with installation and troubleshooting of GNU/Linux operating systems and applications during the WAC computer clinic on June 19th. While priority is first-come, first-served, please contact me ([ggoodrum@bigfoot.com](mailto:ggoodrum@bigfoot.com)) no later than June 15 if you want me to bring a particular version of a downloadable GNU/Linux operating system (e.g. Fedora Core 1, Mandrake Linux 10) for installation. To allow sufficient time for new GNU/Linux installations, it is helpful if you have unallocated disk space or an unused hard disk (5 Gigabytes is a reasonable minimum). Also bring your entire computer system including monitor and manuals, but you may want to leave them in the car until checking in at the meeting room.

#### Fedora Core 2

The community supported GNU/Linux operating system Fedora Core 2 (FC2) was officially released on May 18, 2004. This release is the first to feature the 2.6 kernel and Security Enhanced Linux (SELinux). FC2 requires at least a 200 MHz Pentium-class processor (400 MHz Pentium-II for graphic mode), 620 MB disk space (6.9 GB to install everything), and 64 MB

RAM (256 MB recommended for graphic mode).

While most reviews of FC2 have been highly favorable, Ken Barber’s review on Linux.com (<http://www.linux.com/article.pl?sid=04/05/26/1441241>) pointed out a number of defects. Chief among these is that installing FC2 new in a dual-boot configuration with Microsoft Windows already installed results in Windows being unbootable. Therefore, new users would be well-advised to wait for fixes or use FC1, instead.

#### Networking TiVo

My parents’ TiVo Digital Video Recorder (DVR) was damaged by a lightning surge last summer; the modem that the TiVo uses to download TV schedule listings stopped working. My parents bought a new Series2 TiVo as a replacement but I kept the original model TiVo with the intent of repairing it (instructions and parts for repairing the modem are at <http://www.9thtee.com/tivomodemrepair.htm>). However, the repair requires tricky soldering. As I setup a wireless network for my parents using their cable broadband service, I decided to add network adapters to the original and Series2 TiVos so both could download schedule updates over the Internet.

The same company (9thTee) that sells the TiVo modem repair kits also sell network adapters for TiVos. While a wireless adapter is available for original models,

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the early Internet, in November 1988.

The growth in popularity of computers and Internet use along with the vulnerability of the Windows platform and other Microsoft programs have allowed the rapid spread of viruses and worms. In 1995 Microsoft accidentally shipped the first macro virus that could infect Word documents. The Concept macro virus rewrote the rules for viruses and they began spreading via e-mail and the Internet. In the early days of viruses it would take months for a virus to spread into the wild. The first successful mass-mailing computer virus was Melissa, a macro virus that started spreading in March 1999, and contained a lot of code from previous viruses.

Today, a virus can spread around the world in a matter of minutes, and virus writers quickly pass techniques for creating the latest worms by posting their toolkits in the virus-exchange underground. Many worms are written in one of several scripting languages, which can be read by even semi-knowledgeable virus writers and changed to release variants in only hours after a major virus epidemic. For example, virus writers latched onto LoveLetter, which struck in May 2000, and cranked out more than 40 variants.

Boot viruses began to diminish in 1997 as macro viruses flourished until 2000, when they

too declined as worms began a steady rise. Soon the worms dominated the top ten variants of malicious code. Two months after the major Code Red worm attack of July 2001, Nimda hit the financial industry hard, giving Microsoft a security wake-up call and illustrating the dangers of self-reproducing threats that used multiple vectors of attack. Nimda infected computers through the same flaw Code Red used but also infected shared hard drives, spread itself through e-mail, and created Web pages that spread the worm. Even after Microsoft issued patches for the vulnerabilities, most people were apathetic and failed to download and apply the patches.

To stave off future attacks, companies and Internet providers began filtering e-mail attachments at their gateways, the connections to the Internet. Antivirus software companies try to beat worms at their own game by distributing new virus detection faster than the viruses can spread. However, if a new virus doesn't match any of the types contained in the filtering software's definitions, the scanner won't flag the attachment as malicious code.

The latest Mydoom virus was effective because it initially passed the scanning software. It posed as a harmless text file containing an e-mail message that claimed to be a failed mail transaction from a colleague or friend, offering the believable explanation that the original message had to be translated

into a plain-text file for delivery. Even some savvy recipients were duped to open the attached file, which was really an executable file that included a malicious virus. The innocuous subject line of the infected e-mail was "Hello," "Server Report," "hi," "Mail Delivery System," "Mail Transaction Failed," "Status," or "Error."

The SCO Group, target of the original worm's denial of service attack scheduled for February 1, 2004 (its fourth in the past 10 months), offered a \$250,000 reward for information leading to the virus author's arrest. When a variant targeted Microsoft, they offered a similar reward.

MessageLabs reported that in the first 4 days it had trapped over 5.5 million copies of infected e-mail headed for its clients. At one point, one in every 12 e-mails was laced with this worm, compared to last year's SoBig virus outbreak, which peaked at an infection rate of 1 in 17 e-mails. Other antivirus companies reported that Mydoom (also known as Novarg) generated more traffic than any e-mail worm in history.

Viruses that have multiple vectors are the worst threat because they can send e-mail, perform a distributed denial of service attack and open a backdoor. The most problematic viruses have been the most recent. The SQL Slammer broke all records for the speed at which it was able to spread, to the point of disabling

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I bought the cheaper (\$69.25 +S&H) TurboNET wired adapter and an Ethernet patch cable. The instructions were spare but adequate when used with the information on the web site at <http://www.9thtee.com/turbonet.htm>. The case must be opened and the adapter slipped onto the card edge connector at the rear of the main circuit board. I did loosen the main board mount tabs so I could slide the network adapter fully into place. There is a square-ish hole at the bottom of the case near the fan (which I removed briefly) that is just large enough to push the ethernet cable through. Connect the cable to your cable/DSL router and enter '#401' (without the quotes, entered with Pause Enter 4 0 1) into the TiVo dialing prefix and its ready to go!

The Series2 is much easier to network, because it has USB ports on the back. TiVo, Inc lists (and sells) compatible USB network adapters at <http://customersupport.tivo.com/tivoknowledge/root/public/tv2006.htm>. After confirming compatibility against our TiVo unit's service number, I purchased a Netgear MA-111 USB wireless adapter that was on sale at Best Buy (sale ends June 30) and plugged it into the USB port using the included extension cable. Once the wireless adapter was plugged in, the TiVo setup screen allowed network configuration, automatically detecting the SSID of my parents wireless network. The TiVo setup supports WEP

encryption (recommended) and displays signal strength so you can choose the best channel and location for the wireless adapter.

Besides freeing up your phone by configuring TiVos for Internet updates, a broadband Internet connection obviously speeds up the daily update process. Owners of Series2 units can also subscribe to TiVo's Home Media Option at an additional cost, which gives the TiVo the ability to display digital photos and play digital music, as well as view and change program recording schedules over the network from a PC (only Microsoft Windows and Mac PCs are supported, shameful given that TiVo is Linux-based). Owners of multiple Series2 TiVos can also view and share the content of each DVR with the others. The TiVo



community has also developed software to add network access features to original TiVos; see the TurboNET web page for the links.

## **Sony Playstation2**

Sony recently announced a price drop in the Sony PlayStation2 game console. I decided this was the time to buy. For \$149, I got the playStation2 unit complete with the modem/Ethernet Network Adapter and the ATV2 Offroad Fury game (which can also be played with up to four players online). Although I knew the PlayStation2 also plays movie DVDs, I was impressed that it supports an optical cable output for digital sound, DTS audio decoding and progressive scan video when used with an optional component video output cable (I bought the \$10 MadCatz cable versus the \$25 Sony and \$60 Monster Cable products). Frankly, I have only played a couple of my original PlayStation games and have not tried ATV2 Offroad Fury, yet. However, the DVD video quality and sound is excellent, though the progressive scan feature required some menu navigation effort to enable. I was able to use a Sony universal remote that came with my A/V receiver to control the DVD player, but the game controllers are also easy to use for DVD control. If you are only looking for a DVD player, do consider the PlayStation2!

I am also considering purchase of Sony's Linux kit. The PlayStation2 was originally developed with GNU/Linux, and Sony acknowledges the Linux community with this \$99

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kit that contains a USB mouse, keyboard, 40 GB hard disk (for Playstation2 Linux use only), VESA monitor cable, Kondara (Red Hat based) GNU/Linux distribution, Network Adapter, and full documentation on how to use and write software for the PlayStation2 system. An 8MB memory card (~\$25, not included but widely available) is also required. A complete description and online ordering information is available at <http://www.us.playstation.com/peripherals.aspx?id=SCPH-97047>. Although the description implies a computer monitor is required, the community FAQ (<http://playstation2-linux.com/faq.php>) provides information on how to use DTV, NTSC and PAL video outputs. The FAQ also has information on alternate GNU/Linux distributions such as the Debian-based BlackRhino; note that distributions such as Mandrake, SUSE, etc. for Intel systems will not work on the PlayStation2.

### Call to Open Source Java

In February, Open Source luminary Eric Raymond published an open letter urging Sun Microsystems to release the Java programming language under an Open Source license (<http://www.catb.org/~esr/writings/let-java-go.html>). IBM followed with an open letter of their own offering to help Sun transition Java to Open Source. Of course, the argument isn't entirely convincing coming from a competitor. Since

then, the software development community has been debating the issue, with most strongly in favor. However, Java is one of Sun's most valuable assets and the company appears to be intent on retaining control over it. Sun has indicated that it is willing to turn over stewardship of Java to a neutral third-party, but is anxious to avoid forking of Java into different, incompatible versions.

### Linux Community Disputes AdTI Claims

The Alexis de Tocqueville Institute (<http://www.adti.net/>), a so-called "Think Tank" partially funded by Microsoft, issued a press release on May 14 promoting a study by Kenneth Brown that questions Linus Torvalds claim of inventing Linux. Linus responded to the ensuing furor by telling LinuxWorld, "Ok, I admit it. I was just a front-man for the real fathers of Linux, the Tooth Fairy and Santa Claus." Andy Tanenbaum (author of the Minix operating system) and Richard Stallman (founder of the Free Software Foundation), both of whom are quoted in the study, have disputed the claims and representations made by Mr. Brown (<http://www.cs.vu.nl/~ast/brown/> and <http://www.linuxinsider.com/story/34069.html>).

Press Release: Microsoft Ordered to Pay Lindows 944 Euros Jun 2nd, 02: 31 UTC

Amsterdam District Court Ruled in Favor of Lindows On All Counts

San Diego, California - June 1, 2004 - The Amsterdam District

Court ruled on May 27, 2004 in favor of Lindows, Inc. on all counts in Microsoft's second attempt for a preliminary injunction on trademark infringement and has ordered Microsoft to pay Lindows 944 Euros. The court agreed with Lindows that not every use of the trade name Lindows infringes on the trademark 'windows'. Visit [www.linspire.com/microsoftfine](http://www.linspire.com/microsoftfine) for a copy of the ruling in English.

"This victory is quite a turnaround because Microsoft had asked for a daily fine of 100,000 euros to be levied against us and instead they are the ones required to pay," said Michael Robertson, chief executive officer of Lindows, Inc. "We hope Microsoft can move past these legal tactics and learn to compete in the marketplace rather than the courtroom."

According to the ruling Lindows has complied with the use of the trade name and can continue to use the name Lindows on a limited basis, accompanied at all times with the additional phrase that Lindows is not affiliated with 'windows' in any way. Since the trade name Lindows is still legal outside the Benelux and the use of the name does not justify a competitive advantage, the court concluded that the use does not contravene the prior judgement nor the settlement agreement. The court could not require nor was it obligated to have Lindows adapt its trade name outside the Benelux, ruling there was no infringing use of the trade name, and therefore denying Microsoft's claim and ordering the company

to pay Lindows 944 Euros.

This ruling permits Lindows to resume sales in the Benelux countries. Beginning immediately residents of Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg can order Linspire products for either digital or postal delivery at [www.linspire.com/order](http://www.linspire.com/order). Sales through resellers are planned to resume in late June. To re-energize desktop Linux in Benelux, Lindows is making its latest version of Linspire available for free via BitTorrent for a limited time using the coupon code free4benelux. For complete instructions on receiving this special offer, please visit [www.linspire.com/p2p-pr](http://www.linspire.com/p2p-pr).

In 2003, Microsoft took its lawsuit overseas regarding MS Windows trademark infringement while the same issues were being heard in United States courts. In response to Microsoft's lawsuits worldwide and to continue operating overseas, Lindows changed its product name and website address in April 2004 to Linspire. Microsoft then filed a second request for a preliminary injunction in Amsterdam stating that Lindows was continuing to infringe on their trademark based on small print use of the trade name. Currently no products are being sold under the Lindows or Linspire name into the Netherlands and the term 'Lindows' is not used on the website except as required for corporate and copyright identification purposes.

Linspire is an affordable, full-featured computer operating

system that delivers the power, security, stability and value of Linux with an easy and intuitive design. Meeting the needs of all skill levels, Linspire can be installed in less than 10 minutes or comes pre-installed on a wide-range of desktop and laptop computers. Linspire is currently being distributed to over 350 OEMs worldwide and continues to identify new channel partners and strategies to drive sales in emerging markets. To learn more about the Linspire builder program, visit [www.linspire.com/builders](http://www.linspire.com/builders).

For more information, contact Ellie Sanchez, Lindows, Inc., 858-587-6700 ext. 263, [pr@lindows.com](mailto:pr@lindows.com)



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## Linux CD of the Month

In addition to the CD-R discs described below, I can provide any downloadable GNU/Linux operating system distribution (e.g. Fedora Core, Mandrake, Debian) on CD-R. **Note:** download versions of commercial distributions do not include official technical support or printed documentation.

Beginning in 2004, each disc will contain incremental monthly updates for major GNU/Linux distributions instead

of cumulative set of updates for one distribution. This will help distribute security patches quickly and, on average, leave more room for other software. If your distribution is not included, please request it.

Discs are available only to WAC members by pre-order. Contact me by phone (703-370-7649) or e-mail ([ggoodrum@bigfoot.com](mailto:ggoodrum@bigfoot.com)) at least 48 hours before meeting day to order or for more information. Single discs cost \$4 each; GNU/Linux distributions on two or three discs cost \$6 per set. All executable programs are for Intel x86 compatible Linux distributions unless stated otherwise. Your requests and suggestions are always welcome!

### June 2004

**Cube** - v2004\_05\_22. Free zlib/libpng License source code by Wouter van Oortmerssen. Cube is an open source multiplayer and singleplayer first person shooter game built on an entirely new and very unconventional engine. Cube has configurable fps and graphic detail for high performance on most machines, and allows in-engine editing of geometry in full 3D (you fly around the map, point / drag stuff to select it / modify it), which can even be done simultaneously with others in multiplayer (a first! ). Cube also features a Doom/Quake-style singleplayer (2 game modes, savegames) and multiplayer (12 game modes,

Continues.

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master server / server browser, demo recording) game. Cube uses OpenGL and SDL.

**KDE Radio Station** - v1.1. GNU General Public License source code by Josef Spillner. KDE Radio Station enables easy access to Internet radio stations all over the world. Multiple directories can be consulted, with some of them even allowing you to contribute your own suggestions. Beside integration into KDE, all major free media players are supported.

**PwManager** - v0.8.1. Free GNU General Public License source code and executables for Mandrake and SUSE distributions by Michael Buesch. PwManager is a password manager. Passwords are protected using strong Blowfish encryption. It supports many features such as importing and exporting KPasman, GPasman, and plain-text files. The password-list can be encrypted with a master-password or with a key-card (a.k.a. chipcard or smartcard). PwManager requires the KDE 3.1 or higher library.

**UJAC** - v0.9.11. Free GNU General Public License and Lesser General Public License Java source code by Christian Lauer. Useful Java Application Components is a collection of Java components that may be useful for your project. It provides a powerful expression interpreter, a iText based document processing engine that generates

PDF documents based on XML templates, a charting library and much more.

**GNU/Linux Distribution Updates** - Security and bug fix monthly updates for Fedora Core 1 and Mandrake 10.

**Kernel Source** - The latest versions of 2.4 and 2.6 kernel source code for all platforms.



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ATM machines and bringing Internet traffic to a halt. The SoBigProject employed spammed worms to infect PCs that could be used to install spyware, steal financial credentials, act as a front for spamming operations, launch DDoS (distributed Denial of Service) attacks on anti-spam sites, and allow spammers to be virtually untraceable.

Although many worms are benign, they demonstrate serious vulnerabilities, and the sheer volume of traffic can cause effective denial-of-service attacks because of bandwidth consumption. While IBM-

compatible computers are the initial target, the network downtime and cleanup costs affect computers on all platforms. Mail servers are overloaded with the sheer volume of bogus messages, and automated responses from filtering software multiply the problem.

Once the latest threat has passed, the opportunity still remains for potential control of infected machines. So everyone should remain vigilant to apply patches, maintain current virus signatures, and otherwise secure their systems. Whether the next attack comes from worms, e-mail spamming of Trojans, newsgroup postings, websites or other methods, one thing is for sure. This kind of malware has gone from being just a nuisance to a permanent menace.

There is no restriction against any non-profit group using this article as long as it is kept in context with proper credit given the author. The Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization of which this group is a member, brings this article to you.



## NCTCUG

Visit our "sister" user group. The National Capital Tandy Computer User Group meets the first and fourth Wednesday of the month. They meet in Carlin Hall in Arlington at 5711 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street. Visit their web site for more information, a map and directions:

<http://www.nctcug.org/>



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## Tech News

By Sue Crane, Editor *Bearly Bytes*, Newsletter of the Big Bear Computer Club, California

- **Windows XP Service Pack 2**, scheduled for release next month, will be available as a “critical” download on the Windows Update site and will ship with new PCs. The update will introduce technologies for network protection, memory protection, secure e-mail handling, secure browsing and PC maintenance. A new Windows Security Center allows firewall monitoring, Automatic Update and third-party anti-virus software and warns customers when they need to apply patches. Microsoft will probably ship free CDs, but consumers will probably pay for shipping and handling.

- **Chipmaker**, Intel, and PC makers are shifting the PC to multimedia hub for the home. Intel predicts two new categories

- **Entertainment PCs** will imitate stereo and video components, like a VCR, and will play music and DVDs, record TV programs and even show picture slide shows.

Entertainment PCs will use your TV for display and be operated by remote control.

Lifestyle PCs, designed to inhabit bedrooms and kitchens, will look like desktop computers and will be operable via remote control or keyboard, allowing users to write an e-mail and later play a video or music. Lifestyle PCs will also come with multimedia software such as Windows XP Media Center.

The new PCs will be pricey. An entertainment PC might start at \$700 - \$900 and sell for \$1,400. Lifestyle PCs could start at \$600, but with a large flat panel display could sell for as much as \$2,000. PC makers have also announced plans to offer special media adapters called the Windows Media Center Extender, which will let consumers view Media Center files on TVs. SnapStream Media has also figured out a way to get your PC in touch with TV. Firefly is a remote control that lets people manage media and entertainment on their PCs --TV tuning, DVD playback, streaming video, digital music players and photos. Firefly is compatible only with Windows XP and Windows 2000 PCs equipped with a 500MHz processor, 128MB of memory, 100MB of free hard disk space, and a CD or DVD drive. Firefly will cost \$49.99.

- **HP's Media Center PC** of the future has a remote control with a built-in LCD screen for programming recordings. The PC, known as the Windows Home Concept, also supports Internet telephony, dual high-definition TV tuners, biometric security, and a built-in cable modem. For a web-based slideshow and more information about these new concept PCs, see: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,1759,1586428,00.asp>

- **Internet2**, the high-speed network designed to facilitate scholarly collaboration among university researchers, has spawned a new turbo-charged

file-trading network dubbed i2hub. University network administrators are concerned that copyright violations are occurring and a computer support specialist at Florida State University says: “The fact is, (the network) cost a lot of money and downloading games and music should be the last priority on any campus network.”

- **Yury Gitman**, a self-described “wireless and emerging-media artist” in New York, has outfitted his bicycle with an iBook laptop and Wi-Fi antennas so that everywhere he goes, a cloud of free, high-speed wireless Internet access follows. Demand for wireless Internet access in automobiles has been picking up, and plans are to offer it in airplanes soon.

- **Memory designer Rambus**, has begun to license designs for interfaces for DDR DRAM, or double data rate DRAM, the most common type of memory found in PCs and a technology that's often used in consumer electronics devices. The interfaces let another component retrieve data out of DDR DRAM chips. A new version, called DDR 2, will be released soon that runs at 533MHz. It will soon speed up to 800MHz.

- **Last year**, Congress increased the amount small businesses can write off on new equipment purchases from \$25,000 to \$100,000. Known as the Section 179 deduction or the SUV tax, the increase is serving

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as motivation for sport utility vehicle purchases, but also is an incentive to purchase technology-related equipment. It's available only through 2005, so businesses should decide quickly whether or not to spend while the spending's good.

- **IBM** plans Web-based desktop software. Lotus Workplace strategy, is a bundle that includes e-mail, word-processing, spreadsheet and database applications aimed at business users. The new software is designed to be distributed and accessed through a Web server, and accessible from systems running Windows, MAC, Linux, Unix and handheld devices. IBM hopes to sway customers to Lotus Workplace with ease of management, mobility and price. The new software is designed to be used offline, so mobile users on laptops or handheld devices can connect, quickly access applications and disconnect to work offline. IBM plans to charge \$2 per user per month for access to the software, plus the cost of server software to make the system work.

- **The History Channel's** 13-episode series on "Decisive Battles" that debuts July 17 makes use of a not-yet-released PC game to re-create the epic battles that mark ancient Rome's colorful history. "Rome: Total War" will be published by Activision this fall.

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is kept in context with proper credit given the author. The Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization of which this group is a member, brings this article to you.



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## Networking Tips

By Chuck Roberts

With the increased interest and proliferation of wireless networking, I have encountered numerous questions about sharing files and not sharing files on a network that is *not* using a server.

When a serverless network is connecting multiple computers, the security of each computer is all that secures the entire network. To allow other users access to "shared" files on a computer, each user *must* have an account on the host computer. In addition, the folder that contains the files to be shared, must be a "shared" folder with the users identified by name.

On a network under the control of a server, each computer is responsible for it's own security, but access to the network resources is controlled by the network server. Meaning a user may have access to an individual computer, but may not have access to the network files and /or printers.

The general rule is that for around five computers and users or less, a network server is not necessary. But once the number of computers and users grows much

beyond five, the work required to administer the network and monitor security becomes quite large.

I have found that using a Windows 2000 server with my home network helps keep me sharp and makes managing my computers much simpler. I have networked most of the printers and I recently expanded my network to include both wired and wireless segments.

As a result, my wife and I may both work on the dining room table and print using either laser or color inkjet while the television news is on to keep us company.



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**Linux SIG Leader, Membership Chair:** . Geof Goodrum, 703-370-7649, ggoodrum@bigfoot.com  
**Meeting Setup/APCUG Liaison:** ..... Bill Walsh, 703-241-8141, bill.walsh@cox.net  
**Web Site Team:** ..... Paul Howard and Chuck Roberts  
**Newsletter Editor:**..... Kathy Perrin, 703-369-6511, 4k4@4purple.com  
**Newsletter Layout:** ..... Chuck Roberts  
**Scanning, photography:**..... Don Miller, 703-405-5916, donmiller@airbridge.net

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2004 Dues are for the Calendar Year and include Disk Library Discounts, and WAC's monthly newsletter, *The Cursor*, by 1<sup>st</sup> Class mail to your home.

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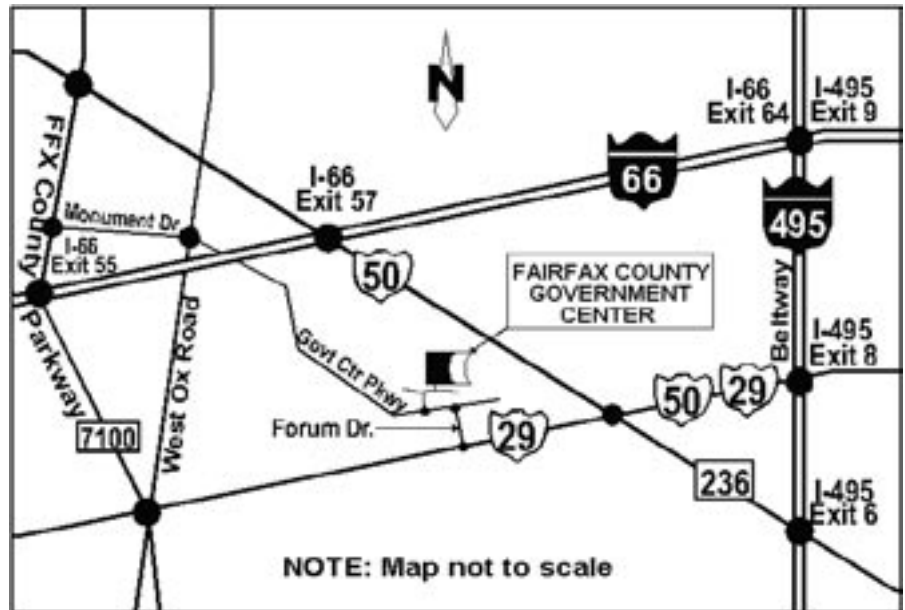
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