Vero Beach Computer Group

THE HOMEPAGE

In this Issue...

Officers and Board Members

Jean B Grider, *President*
VeroBeachLady@comcast.net

Joan Pannenborg, *Past President*
vbcg2000@yahoo.com

Doug Horton, *Vice President*
dhorton@comcast.net

Patti Christensen, *Secretary*
TgreTdane@aol.com

Rosalie La Vista, *Treasurer*
roselav@comcast.net

Bob Randall, *Director*
Director_vbcug@bellsouth.net

Bill Bailey, *Editor*
thebaileys@bellsouth.net

Tim Glover, *Director/Webmaster*
tcglover@comcast.net

Lucia Robinson, Director & *SIG*
Coordinator   robinson@bellsouth.net

Eleanor Ryan, *Director*
eleanorryan@comcast.net

Eric Schoen, *House Chairman*
eschoen624@hotmail.com

Our newsletter is published monthly and is a benefit of membership. Your dues support our activities and programs. Dues are $25/ year for either individuals or families.

VBCG
P.O. Box 2564
Vero Beach, FL 32961
Email: webmaster@vbcg.org

General Meeting, Monday, August 4, 7 PM
Main Library, Vero Beach
1600 21st Street

Sgt. Rick Vidiri with the Indian River County Sheriff's Department will be our guest speaker this month. He will be giving a presentation on crime prevention and home safety.

Sgt. Vidiri has been with the IRC Sheriff's Office for 28 years, involved in undercover, narcotics and SWAT work. He presently is a coordinator for the crisis intervention team.

Don't forget:

Come early! Computer "Help Desk" available from 6-7 p.m. for those needing some extra help with a computer problem.

Need more help? Have you used our "Discussion Boards"? Check them out in the "Members Only" section of our website. Look for the "Members Only" menu button on the opening page of our website. You will find a Discussion Board corresponding to each of the topics of our SIGs. Review any comments or discussions presently posted, post a question or even offer your own expertise to help someone else out! You can even "subscribe" to any Discussion Board and be notified by email when there is new activity posted to the board. Try it—you'll like it! Even Mikey likes it.

Also—we will be auctioning off several pieces of VBCG computer equipment at our October General Meeting. See the "Mac Corner" for info about the G4 PowerBook and next months newsletter for info about the other items.

Pay Up or Die! Email extortion on the rise
Published July 17, 2008 by Computerworld.com

A new wave of extortion e-mails that threaten recipients with bodily harm and death if they do not pay thousands of dollars to the sender is circulating on the Internet, according to security vendor SecureWorks Inc.

The messages are sent by scammers claiming to be assassins hired by third parties to harm the recipients. The sender offers to spare the recipient from harm in return for thousands of dollars.

Unlike many spam emails, these threats come from valid email accounts, instead of being masked by proxies and relays, so they seem more "genuine."

Secure Florida first brought you this story on January 9th and April 24 of 2007. At that time the FBI was reporting that the messages were generally untargeted. Now, it appears, they they are *primarily directed at higher-income professionals such as doctors, lawyers and business owners.* For more information, visit www.secureflorida.org.

Microsoft Releases Windows XP Service Pack 3
"Security Fix" - Brian Krebs on Computer Security, May 6, 2008

Washingtonpost.com—Technology

"Microsoft today finally released Service Pack 3 for Windows XP users. The update should now be offered via both Windows Update or Automatic Updates. The company was expected to release it last week, but pulled the plug at the last minute due to a compatibility problem with an obscure product they offer."

"Many readers have asked me whether this update is really necessary, given that there isn't a whole lot new in Service Pack 3 aside from all of the security and non-security updates Microsoft has ever released for the operating system."

"The following are some of the things you should know about installing Service Pack 3 for Windows XP...." To read the full article, visit:
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/securityfix/2008/05/microsoft_releases_windows_xp_1.html.

You may also want to read the Microsoft "Help and Support" article—"Information about Windows XP Service Pack 3" on their website here: http://support.microsoft.com/kb/936929. This is also supposed to be the final Service Pack for Windows XP as they have stopped selling Windows XP to the public as of June 30, 2008. According to the Microsoft website, they will continue to support XP though until 2014. You can read more about "The future of Windows XP" on the Microsoft website here:
www.microsoft.com/windows/windows-xp/future.aspx.

The Mac Corner
By Eleanor Ryan

Apple sells one million iPhones 3Gs in first weekend

July 14, 2008—On Sunday, Apple sold its one millionth iPhone 3G, the company announced today. "iPhone 3G had a stunning opening weekend," said Steve Jobs, Apple's CEO. "It took 74 days to sell the first one million original iPhones, so the new 3G iPhone is clearly off to a great start around the world." Read more: www.apple.com/iphone.

More than 10 million downloads from iPhone App Store in first weekend

July 14, 2008—During its first weekend, iPhone and iPod touch customers downloaded more than 10 million applications from the new App Store. The groundbreaking App Store now has more than 800 native applications, including over 200 offered for free and more than 90 percent available for less than $10. Read more at www.apple.com/hotnews.

Tip of the Week—The Immaculate Desktop

Are you the sort of neat-freak who abhors Desktop clutter? Who keeps all apps and docs in carefully organized folders? Consider diving deeper into onscreen clean by making your mounted drives and discs disappear from the Desktop and accessing them instead via Finder windows.

Here's how to try it: From the Finder, pull down the Finder menu and select Preferences — or just press Command-comma [⌘,] from within the Finder. Click the General tab and uncheck Hard disks; CDs, DVDs, and iPods; and Connected servers.

Next, click the Sidebar tab and check the boxes next to all the items you unchecked under the General tab.

When you want to access a drive, disk, or server, just open a Finder window by pressing Command-n [⌘n] from within the Finder. And when you close the Finder windows, your desktop will be spotless. (Remember, Command-w [⌘w] closes a Finder window, and Command-Option-w [⌘⌥w] closes all Finder windows at once.

Now playing on iTunes U: "Ask a Biologist"
July 18, 2008

Hosted by Dr. Biology (CJ Kazilek) and brought to us by Arizona State University, "Ask a Biologist" features interviews of prominent scientists who discuss tiger beetles, marine biology, the history of fire, microbes, bird song, arachnology, and a wide range of other life science topics. Whether you listen to the shows, read the transcripts, or both, "Ask a Biologist" makes for an enjoyable and thought provoking experience. Read more: www.apple.com/iTunesU

G4 PowerBook for auction

The VBCG will be auctioning off our old G4 PowerBook Mac laptop at our October General Meeting. This is the one that the group has owned for the last several years and used at the Mac SIG. It has a 12 inch screen, 867 MHz CPU, 640 MB of RAM and the Mac OS 10.4.7.

The minimum bid is $100. For more information about the laptop, please ask about it at our upcoming General Meetings, visit with Eleanor and Joe at the Mac SIG, download the complete spec sheet on our website or search online for more details.

MEETINGS AND SIGS

All meetings and SIGs are held in the Indian River County Main Library
located at 1600 21 Street, Vero Beach, Florida

August 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 National Ice Cream Sandwich Day
3 National Watermelon Day	4 General Meeting 7 PM Help Desk—6 PM	5 Basics for Vista 11AM—1PM Photoshop Elements 1—3 PM	6 Cameras, Scanners & Printers 6—7:30 PM	7 Using Your Computer (PC) 2 - 4 PM	8	9
10 National S'mores Day	11	12 IBM PC announced—1981 Microsoft Office No meeting	13 International Left-handers Day	14	15	16 Mac Users 10 AM-Noon
17	18	19 VBCG Board of Directors 6:30 PM	20 Surfing the Internet 6:00 — 7:30 PM	21 National Spumoni Ice Cream Day	22	23
24	25 National Banana Spilt Day	26 Susan B. Anthony Day	27	28 St. Augustine, FL established, 1565	29 Chop Suey invented, 1896	30 National Toasted Marshmallow Day
31						

Basics for Vista Beginners	Jean Grider	August5	(772) 569-4289	Media Room
Photoshop Elements	Frank Lombard	August 5	(772) 794-2293	Media Room
Cameras, Scanners & Printers	Frank Lombard	August 6	(772) 794-2293	History Room
Using Personal Computers	Jean Grider	August 7	(772) 569-4289	History Room
Surfing the Internet	Tim Glover	July 16	(772) 569-0636	History Room
Macintosh Users Group	Eleanor Ryan	July 19	(772) 562-2869	History Room
Macintosh Users Group	Joe Piazza	July 19	(772) 567-9004	History Room

Tip and Tricks
From Webmaster Tim Glover

Ultimate Boot CD v4.1 [115M] Windows FREE, Lockergnome Windows Digest, 7-29-03

http://www.ultimatebootcd.com/

"I'm a bad girl. I don't have a special boot CD or diskette around here. There are too many options, and I never know what I need in a boot disk. This one sounds like the solution for a person in my situation because it fits as many diagnostic tools as possible onto the CD. It comes with a memory diagnostic tool and a few hard drive utilities. Those who DO have bootable floppies can dump them all for one nice CD package. All you do is boot up with the CD and it goes right to the menu, waiting for you to select the tool to use. Note: The Web site does not list specific OS compatibility information, although the program was tested successfully on Windows XP." [Meryl]

MemTest v3.7 [15k] W9x/2k/XP FREE, Lockergnome Windows Digest, 7-29-03

http://www.hcidesign.com/memtest/

No goats were harmed in the review of this program, as "RAM" - in this case - refers to memory, not animals. MemTest evaluates your computer's memory to store and retrieve data. If a computer can't do both tasks with 100% accuracy, then it is less stable and prone to crashing. Left untouched, it will get worse, and using MemTest will verify the RAM is functioning correctly. Before running the test, close all programs and allow the test to run for at least 20 minutes (overnight is optimum).

Gamez Arena, Lockergnome Windows Digest, 7-29-03

http://www.gamezarena.com/

"I was fearful when I entered this site because I could see it had a variety of games, including action, casino, classic, puzzle, strategy, and adventure. Why fearful? Because I'm swamped and don't want to get hooked on a good game. Here goes nothing. Yep, I got sucked into Beanie Mastermind. The game graphics are attractive, adding more to the fun. What's nice about this site is we can rate the games. Casino Gamez is the only section requiring free registration. Games are in pop-up windows, so turn off your pop-up stopper to play. Also, they're all in Flash or Shockwave, so the plug-ins are required." [Meryl running off into the PC sunset]

AceMoney Lite v3.10 [1.8M] W98/2k/XP/Vista FREE, Lockergnome Windows Digest, 8-4-03

http://www.snapfiles.com/get/acemoney.html

AceMoney Lite (personal finance manager) makes it easy to manage a checkbook, create and manage budgets, juggle finances in multiple currencies, track spending habits, record expenses, transfer among accounts, and even do on-line banking. The account information can be shared or password protected. The program offers an easy to use interface that is straightforward and much easier to use than most commercial packages, yet it offers everything you need to balance your personal bank account and keep track of where your money is going. The free version is limited to one bank account.

XP SysPad 7.9.5 [727k] W2k/XP FREE, Lockergnome Windows Digest, 8-4-03

http://www.xtort.net/xtort-software/xpsyspad/

XP SysPad is like a Windows dashboard with a search box and calculator. Across the top of the dashboard are Net, Directories, System, Control Panel, Programs, Admin, and Favorites. The Net includes links to e-mail, searches, favorites, address books, IP information, network information, netstat, and IE cache deletion. Also, get quick access to main directories like My Documents, Recycle Bin, Program Files, and Windows folders. The Control Panel is available along with its sub-programs. The Programs lists installed programs, Task Manager, WordPad, NotePad, Windows Media Player, screen shot capture, and more. Instead of looking in two or three places for these main Windows utility programs, the dashboard gives you one-click access to most of these programs - about 85 functions. The useful utility uses a small memory footprint and doesn't touch the registry.

@MAX Tray Player v1.01b [840k] W98/2k/XP FREE, Lockergnome Windows Digest, 8-4-03

http://www.snapfiles.com/get/maxtrayplay.html

@MAX Tray Player is a small and easy-to-use multimedia player that integrates into your system tray and takes up very little Desktop space. It provides instant access to the control buttons as well as a small and larger interface on mouseover. Even though it is small and compact, it includes some powerful features, like spectrum analyzer with customizable visualizations, hotkey support, custom media folders, customizable control display, and more. It supports all popular audio formats as well as video and CD playback. @MAX Tray Player is the perfect player for those who like to listen to music while working on the computer; it is small, compact, and attractive.

Email—Message Without A Mouse

"Samrt Computing" Web Only article, August 2008

When you're typing away at a keyboard-intensive site such as Gmail or Yahoo! Mail, every trip to the mouse only slows you down. If you've ever used shortcuts, such as CTRL-S to save a word processor document or CTRL-P to print, you know that keyboard shortcuts can make working in frequently used applications much speedier. There's no need to go back-and-forth from keyboard to mouse for simple navigation if you take a bit of time to learn how your fingers can do the heavy lifting.

Gmail—Gmail has a fairly extensive set of keyboard shortcuts for quickly moving through your inbox. Learn some of the more important commands, and you'll be able to do all of your work in Gmail without ever touching the mouse.

One of the nicest shortcuts when you're just starting out learning the keyboard ropes is the question mark (?), which brings up a list of all shortcuts for handy reference. Press any key to close the list and return to Gmail.

To read the full article, visit: www.smartcomputing.com/editorial/article.asp?article=articles%2F2008%2Fs1908%2F53s08%2F53s08.asp

Windows Vista—Make The Sidebar Work For You

"Smart Computing", September 2008

"What the heck is that?"

One of the first things you may have noticed about Windows Vista was a broad stripe along the right edge of the screen. It faded in and out of view as you moved your mouse pointer over it. Moreover, it contained a column of what looked like big icons.

This is the Sidebar, which is one of Vista's more useful new features. It's a sort of dock for Gadgets, which do indeed resemble big icons. But whereas some icons on your Desktop launch applications and others act as shortcuts to file folders or documents, Gadgets play a somewhat different role.

Similar to doodads such as Apple's Widgets in Mac OS X and Stardock's DesktopX Widgets, Gadgets are simply small applications that hang out on your Desktop. They're graphical, very simple to use, and tightly focused on doing just one task.

To read the full article, visit:
www.smartcomputing.com/editorial/article.asp?article=articles%2f2008%2fs1909%2f07s09%2f07s09.asp&articleid=49689&guid=FB4D195319A9470F871D25A2444A2DE4 or read the September issue of "Smart Computing".