



Central Kentucky Computer Society

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS 1984 - 2009

CKCS Resource Center, 160 Moore Drive, Suite 107, Lexington, Kentucky, 40503

(859) 373-1000

www.ckcs.org

November 2009 – Vol. 17, No. 10

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Posted Oct 31, 2009

NOVEMBER SEMINAR

Understanding and Maintaining Your Computer

The Central Kentucky Computer Society will be offering a Seminar on November 17, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. on how to keep your computer in good running order. Seminar leader is Mike Seiler, a member of the CKCS Board of Directors. He also teaches basic computer subjects in CKCS Classes.

A range of topics will be discussed. A few of them are: how to determine



Mike Seiler

everything that is installed on your computer, finding out relevant information about hardware installed in your computer, how to make sure your malware programs are running correctly, and stopping programs from launching at startup. The seminar will cost \$25.00 per person. To sign up, call (859) 373-1000 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. during the week or stop by the CKCS Resource Center at 160 Moore Drive, Suite 107. ■

A VOLUNTEER ONE OF MANY



CKCS WEBMASTER JOHN NEWSOM.

If you enjoy the looks and efficiency of the CKCS website, you can thank CKCS member John Newsom. John has been maintaining our web site for 'about 6 years' now. He started while living in Lexington, but now he resides in Lawrenceville, a suburb of Atlanta, GA. John moved three years ago to be near relatives. On the web, John makes adjustments as needed for officers and SIG leaders to post information on the CKCS site when they need to do so. Working from a distance is "not really a problem" John commented. For 30 years, John worked for IBM in Lexington. Presently, he is retired and keeps busy by maintaining web sites in Atlanta for businesses and some non-profits. "Jim McCormick designed the present web site and I have maintained it ever since" John said. CKCS members should be thankful for John's dedication. He is another volunteer which helps make CKCS a smooth running organization. ■

Central Kentucky Computer Society Incorporated

160 Moore Drive Suite 107
Lexington Kentucky 40503
(859)-373-1000

OFFICERS

Tenure end June 30, 2010

President: Bob Brown
Vice-President: Mike Seiler
Treasurer: Jim McCormick
Secretary: Ben Rice

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Tenure end June 30, 2010

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David Highet
Matt Snoddy
Paul Stackhouse
Joe Dietz

Tenure end June 30, 2011

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Webmaster	John Newsom
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How do I join the Central Kentucky Computer Society?

It is simple:

**Click here to go to the online
application form:**

<https://www.iglou.com/ckcsweb/other/onlineap.htm>

**Complete the form -- all blanks
Click the SEND APPLICATION
button.**

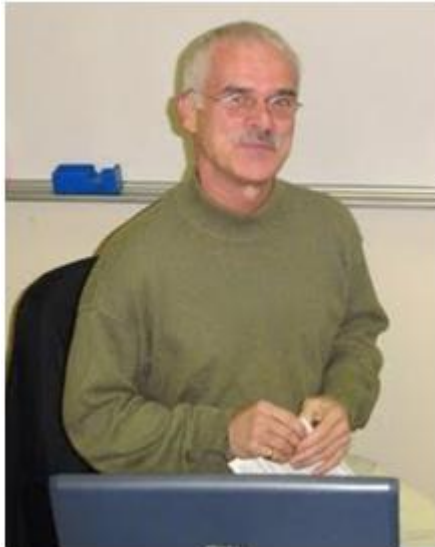
Or

**Call the office 10a.m. to 4p.m.
and a helpful office workers will
help you sign up**

JOIN TODAY

Windows 7 tutorials and Photo tips will be featured at next Windows SIG.

By Joe Isaac joeisaac@insightbb.com



On Tuesday, November 10 at 7 pm at CKCS, Joe Dietz, Digital Photography SIG Leader, will demo the 10 Top Photo Tips, also No's No's of photography.

We will demo Microsoft's new operating system Windows 7 with the actual program and with tutorials. We will also look at Microsoft's new FREE Antivirus.

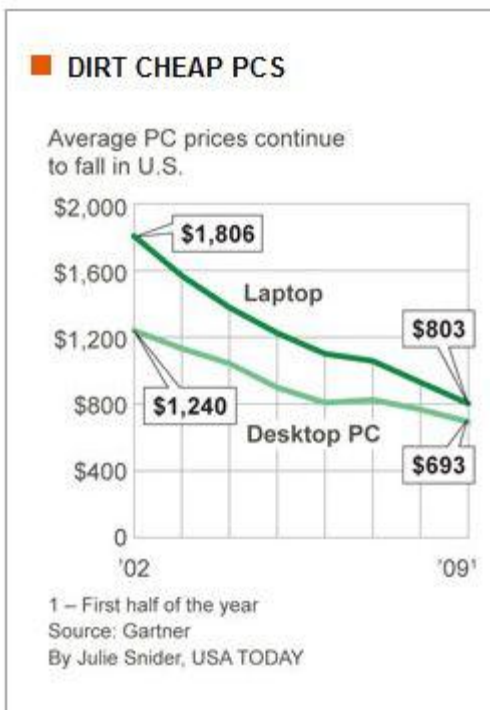


This operating system is the greatest. It is user friendly and does many things to make your life easier and more productive.

Low prices mean it's time to buy a New Computer.

With Microsoft's new Windows 7 operating system due Oct. 22, PC prices have never been lower. ■

The Windows SIG meets on the second Tuesday of each month. Check the "MEETING SCHEDULE" for more information.



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Bob Brown, CKCS President *crb7@yahoo.com*



NOVEMBER PLANS

Here is a look at a few interesting activities coming in November.

The Open Source Special Interest Group will meet at 7PM on Wednesday, November 4. The topics to be demonstrated are Google Chrome and CrunchBang Linux.

What does Open Source mean? Open Source is a term that applies to what is normally considered intellectual property such as computer software, hardware blueprints, design plans, documentation, etc. These items are “open source” if the creator makes them legally open for anyone to have a copy without a copyright. This use of “open” means free of most legal constraints. It is also the case that most such software is free of cost but that is not necessary to be open source. Open source software is widely available on the Internet and nearly every popular computer application has open source competitors.

A new seminar titled “**Understanding and Maintaining Your Computer**” will be held on Wednesday, November 18th at 1:30PM. See story on page 1 in this newsletter. This seminar is for aggressive computer users who want to be in control of their computer and fight off the nonsense that tries to takeover. Call 373-1000 for enrollment.

A new class has been created by Joe Dietz for **Advanced Digital Photography**. It is a 4 week class to be held in November and December. This class is already sold out but probably will be scheduled again as soon as we can talk Joe and his team into it.

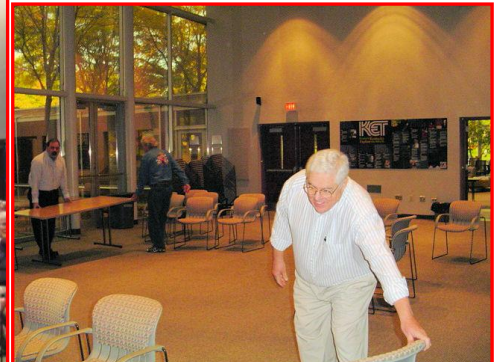
Another class is in development which we are hoping to have ready by mid-November. It will be a one-session class on setting up a Facebook account. Watch for a more detailed announcement coming soon.

Also our winter class schedule is almost ready to unveil. Watch the web site at www.ckcs.org where the schedule will be posted as soon as all the dates are verified. These classes will start during the week of January 26. ■

OCTOBER TECH NIGHT DRAWS BIG CROWD

Exactly 100 members and guests signed in at the Kentucky Educational Television building to attend the CKCS rollout of the latest disc containing Jerry's Guide to Better Word Processing and Joe's Tips and Reviews. Jerry's Guide consisted of 237 pages of information and tips about using Microsoft Word, and Joe's Tips and reviews had 1,501 folders and documents assembled in the past 14 years of teaching Microsoft Windows 98/XP/Vista at CKCS. Each family attending received a CD containing the combined efforts of Joe Isaac and Jerry Heaton.

The pictures below were taken by Joe Dietz and Joe Isaac.



Top left clockwise, Members sign-in and received their CD; Jerry Heaton opened the program and told about CKCS; Many members helped with the setup of the room, which had to be restored to original setup afterwards; Jerry gave a demo of speech recognition and Joe Isaac reviewed the content of the CD. ■

Why your next computer might be a Mac

By Kurt Jefferson Macintosh SIG Leader lextown2@gmail.com

A grandmother of six. A retired schoolteacher. A self-proclaimed geek who creates Web pages.

What do these three folks have in common? In 2009, they bought a new computer. Instead of an HP, a Dell, or an Acer, they bought a Mac.



Kurt Jefferson

They are among the growing numbers of folks who are discovering Mac laptops, the iMac, the Mac mini and the Mac Pro desktop line.

In its latest report issued in mid-October, Apple reported that Mac sales climbed 19 percent over the same period in 2008. Apple is now the fourth largest PC maker in the U.S. behind HP, Dell, and Acer.



What's behind the growth?

1. **Momentum:** Even folks who never thought they'd own a Mac are buying one. In a Reuters report on Apple's fall sales figures, Barry Jaruzelski, a partner with at consulting firm Booz & Co. remarked, "The big story is the renewed ascendancy of the Mac."
2. **Easy-of-use:** The Mac operating system (called Mac OS X—that's pronounced "ten") is considered by many to be easier to use and troubleshoot than Windows. There's no registry, device driver, or DLL issues common with Windows machines.
3. **Halo effect:** Many users are impressed with the quality, features and ease-of-use of their Apple iPods and iPhones. Analysts who keep a close watch on technology say this has directly translated into growing sales of Macintosh computers. I believe iTunes software (available for Macs and Windows computers) also has convinced some folks to buy a Mac.
4. **Security:** In a recent live chat on the washingtonpost.com Web site, Security Fix columnist Brian Krebs tackled the issue of Internet security. A reader from Falls Church, Virginia asked: "I just bought a Mac and despite what people say, I think they can get viruses. What are some good virus protection programs for Macs?"

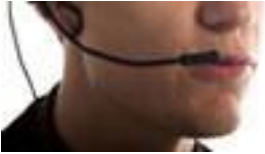


Krebs responded, "Really? When was the last time you got a Mac virus? The only real threats I'm aware of are those that trick the user into installing them. That is, they pretend to be a browser plug-in (most often a video "codec" offered by some porn site), or they piggyback on pirated software that is distributed on peer-to-peer filesharing networks and Bittorrent.

That said, you can grab a free anti-virus tool for Mac systems called ClamXav. (Available here: <http://www.clamxav.com/>)

I'd answer your question with a recommendation, but the thing is I haven't really tried that many security programs for the Mac. What's more, there aren't many threats to detect, so it's kind of hard to compare the performance of various products for that platform."

5. **Tech Support:** In the June 2009 issue of *Consumer Reports*, Apple took the top spot in tech support for both desktops and laptops. The non-profit firm surveyed magazine subscribers to see how readers rated online tech support, tech support phone staff, length of time waiting on the phone, and whether or not the problem was eventually resolved. In all categories, Apple earned scores over 80. Translation: *Consumer Reports* said magazine readers were very satisfied with results from Apple Inc.



6. **Apple Stores:** The closet Apple Stores are in Louisville and Cincy. These stores have gotten high marks for their Genius Bars (the counter, often at the back of the store, offering help and support for Apple products), classes, and helping new Mac users. I bought a Mac at the Cincy Apple Store in November 2008. It was the first time I'd ever purchased a computer at one of Apple's retail stores. I normally buy through a Mac catalog outlet because the prices are better. But the Apple Store agreed to meet MacConnection's price and that cinched the deal. (Note: The *Kentucky Kernel*, the University of Kentucky's newspaper, reported on October 12th that Apple was opening a store in the U.K. Bookstore by the first week of November. The newspaper reported the bookstore director said, "Rumor got out too soon that Apple was coming. People started coming in before we could move any products onto the floor." The article added that the new store would provide U.K. students, faculty and staff the opportunity to buy products from Apple-certified U.K. Bookstore employees instead of driving an hour and a half to the Apple Store in Louisville's Oxmoor Mall.)



7. **Ability of Macs to run Windows OS:** When Apple switched the Mac's processor from PowerPC to Intel, it opened the door to running Windows. Some folks refer to this as the "best of both worlds." Mac users may run Windows on their Macs by using Apple's software called "Boot Camp," or by using other so-called virtualization programs such as VM Fusion and Parallels Desktop. If you're interested, read Joe Kissell's e-book or printed edition of *Running Windows on a Mac*.



8. **Windows Vista:** Rob Pegoraro wrote in an Oct. 18th review of Windows 7 that "Microsoft's new release ought to turn the troubled Vista into a bad memory. But it shouldn't make people forget about Apple's Mac OS X." Many computer users failed to upgrade to Vista. That opened the door for Apple to show folks the Mac.

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JOE ISAAC A STAR

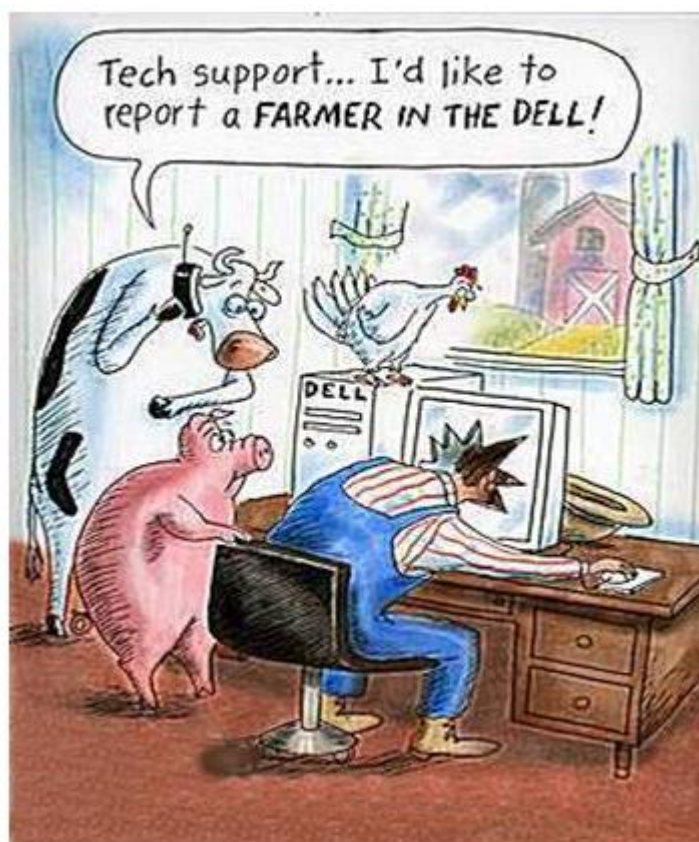


CKCS's Windows expert, Joe Isaac was recognized recently as a Senior Star for his many contributions for the betterment of our community and the state. His work as a businessman in Cumberland and in Lexington, and his volunteer work at the Central Kentucky Computer Society was mentioned in the presentation. The William R. Markesbery 2009 Senior Star award was presented at the Marriott Hotel – Lexington on October 6. Congratulations Joe! ■

Talk family history

Genealogy SIG leader Phyllis Vannoy Spiker has announced that she will cancel the scheduled Genealogy SIG meetings for November and December 2009. In the meantime, she encourages everyone to "talk" family history at their family events and record it. Take lots of photographs.

"Time goes on and those family stories go with it" she said. "At our January meeting you can share a new bit of family history you learned during the holidays." ■



QUESTION

**HAVE YOU INVITED A FRIEND
TO JOIN CKCS RECENTLY?**

Open Session planned for November

by Joe Dietz Digital Imaging SIG Leader joedietz@aol.com

In November, (November 24 at 7:00 P.M.) we will go over some of the basic tools in photo enhancement programs and discuss the ones we use the most and the ones that are most useful! What tools in your program do you find yourself using the most? Crop? Brighten? Darken? Clone? Sharpen? Bring your ideas and thoughts to discuss with the group.

We will also spend a little time on “Restoring Lost Photos”. Have you ever downloaded images from your camera memory card only to find that you have accidentally deleted them from your computer? With a free program you can download on line, you can go back to your flash drive and download it again (if it hasn't been written over).

As time permits we will go through the steps for downsizing an image to use on the internet or just to send quickly to a friend. We will use three examples – Paint Shop Pro, Irfanview, and Photo Shop Elements.



Joe Dietz
Digital Imaging
SIG Leader



**Kurt Gode, Professor
Transylvania University**

The subject for the monthly photo contest for November is “**Portraits**”. Go through your old photos – or new ones - and find a good portrait shot. Please e-mail them to joedietz@aol.com no later than November 23. Put photo contest in the subject line.

In October, our guest speaker was Kurt Gohde, a Digital photography professor from Transylvania University. Kurt made a presentation to the members on “Alternative Photographic Processes”. He went through several demos and showed the group some pinhole cameras and examples of alternative processes such as embedding an image on the inside of a cup or bowl. His presentation was well received by all! ■

Digital Photography SIG meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Check the “MEETING SCHEDULE” for more information.

House Party for Windows 7 had standing room only

When Windows 7 was released on October 22, Microsoft encouraged their 'corporate partners' and others to have small house party's in their home to show off the new system. CKCS member Matthew Snoddy, instead, brought his 'house party' to the CKCS Resource Center where no less than 70 showed up. That was a bit larger than the Microsoft promoters had in mind. They had sent a party kit and door prizes for about ten people. Matt had previously displayed a beta version of the new operating system, but on that Thursday, he showed the final release with all its features in place.

Kentucky Trade joined the party with a display of some new computers with Windows 7 factory installed and some old ones that had been upgraded. Their display was held in the hallway entrance to the Resource Center. Members reportedly found the whole program interesting. It was well received. The following are some pictures taken by Joe Dietz at this event.



Starting above, and moving counter clockwise, Matthew Snoddy, showed Windows 7 to members; James Aristizabal of Kentucky Trade spoke to the group. The two photos at left showed the Kentucky Trade display in the Resource Center entrance hall. ■

VIDEO'S / SHOWS TO WATCH

To watch some of these shows, you must have a PowerPoint program on your computer. If you don't have that, you may download [a free PowerPoint viewer](#) from this Microsoft link:

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyID=048DC840-14E1-467D-8DCA-19D2A8FD7485&displaylang=en>

JUMP ROPE DANCE.

This is almost identical to the 'FIRECRACKERS' a group of youngsters ages 8 to 16, from Eastern Kentucky, who perform annually at halftime of a UK basketball games. This group and the Firecrackers are remarkable. You may have to click OK after you click on this unusually long link.

http://e.blip.tv/scripts/flash/showplayer.swf?file=http%3A%2F%2Fblip.tv%2Frss%2Fflash%2F1826380%3Freferrer%3Dhttp%25253A%25252F%25252Fco122w.col122.mail.live.com%25252Fmail%25252FInboxLight.aspx%25253Fn%25253D1331266045%26source%3D3&showplayerpath=http%3A%2F%2Fblip.tv%2Fscripts%2Fflash%2Fshowplayer.swf&feedurl=http%3A%2F%2Fsoonereyo.blip.tv%2Frss%2Fflash&brandname=blip.tv&brandlink=http%3A%2F%2Fblip.tv%2F%3Futm_source%3Dbrandlink&enablejs=true

Furnished by CKCS Member Harold Washburn

HAMMER KING

You are not a handyman until you can do this

http://www.metacafe.com/watch/857432/hammer_king/

Furnished by CKCS Member Carl Peter

WHEN AUTOS WERE ART

<http://www.slideshare.net/colmena/z-ppt-when-autos-were-art-bn>

Furnished by CKCS Member BW Blanton

DANCERS ONE ARM ONE LEG (Watch this full screen)

<http://bolstablog.wordpress.com/2009/03/31/ballet/>

Check out today's front page of hundreds of US newspapers A most interesting site

<http://www.newseum.org/todaysfrontpages/flash/>

Furnished by CKCS Member Mal Gil

WHITE DEER HERD -- INTERESTING

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/video/flv/generic.html?s=inwi10s22a3q81f>

Great Dance Routine: James Cagney and Bob Hope

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JOoNOs8QI28>

These two furnished by Ted Mellinger

WORKING WITH WORD(s)

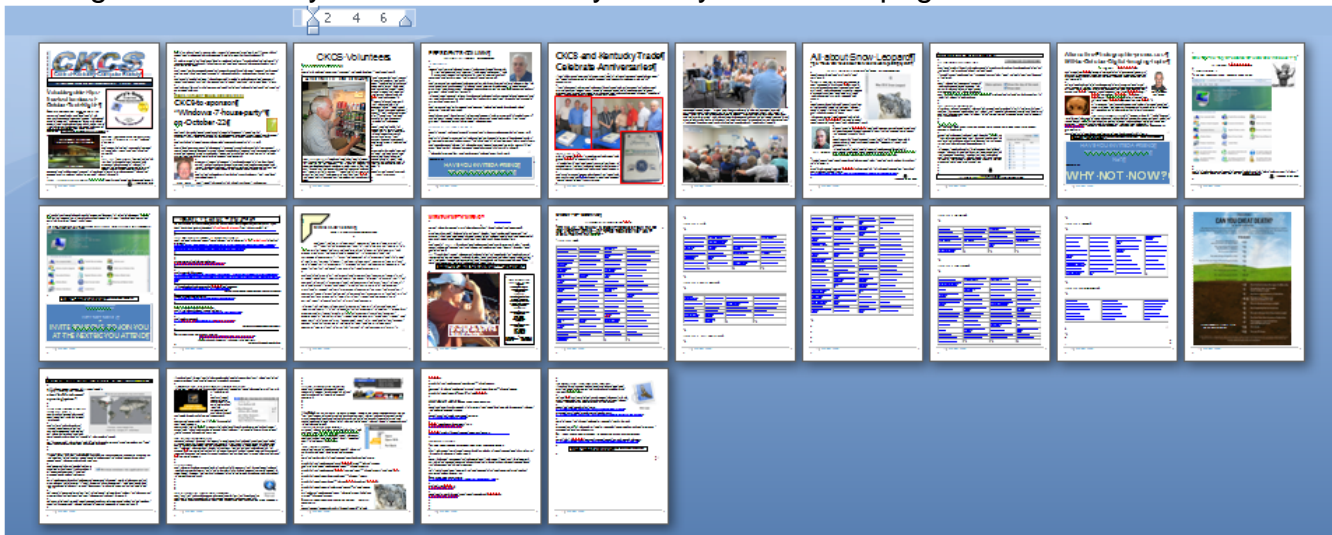
A wheel mouse can be so useful

By Jerry Heaton, Word Processing SIG leader j.heaton@insightbb.com

When you are working with a multiple page document, MS Word offers you a **print preview** option when you are ready to send your document to the printer. In print preview you begin by viewing a full page view one by one, of each page in your document. This allows you to check each page view, one at a time, so you are not surprised by the general document layout once the document is printed.

However if you're not ready to print your document and you would like to visually check all the pages, all you need to do is use the control key and your wheel mouse. When you hold down the control key and turn the wheel on your mouse you are simply changing the zoom level setting. By rotating the wheel toward your wrist, this reduces the size of the pages so you may view multiple pages on your display at one time. By rotating the wheel away from your hand you zoom in on a smaller portion of a single page.

Here's an example of the view of last month's entire newsletter and that was published on this web site. Using the control key and wheel mouse you may view all 25 pages of the document at once.

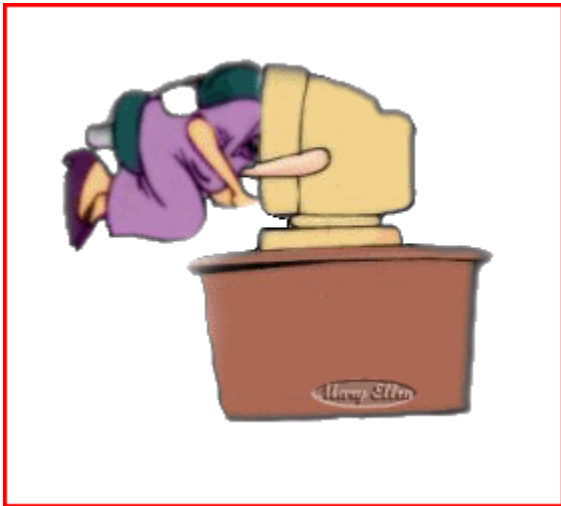


If you spot a layout problem, on one particular page, a single click on that page and then spinning the wheel you may zoom right to a full page view of the problem page, allowing quick correction.

This is also a handy feature and when working with longer documents, as it is easy to move from place to place as you are editing the document.

This is one of hundreds of tricks that we sometimes discussed during our Word Processing SIGs at CKCS. Come join us each month as we learned some of the many features available to help you type and edit your documents. ■

*The Word Processing SIG meets on the first Tuesday of each month.
Check the "MEETING SCHEDULE" on the CKCS home page for more information.*



THE COMPUTER SWALLOWED GRANDMA

The computer swallowed grandma.
Yes, honestly its true!
She pressed 'control' and 'enter'
And disappeared from view.

It devoured her completely,
The thought just makes me squirm.
She must have caught a virus
Or been eaten by a worm.

I've searched through the recycle bin
And files of every kind;
I've even used the Internet,
But nothing did I find.

In desperation, I asked Google
My searches to refine.
The reply from him was negative,
Not a thing was found 'online.'

So, if inside your 'In-box,'
My Grandma you should see,
Please 'Copy,' 'Scan' and 'Paste' her
And send her back to me.

Furnished by CKCS Member
Gertrude Gajardo



This is a tribute to all the Grandmas who
have been fearless and learned to use
the Computer..... They are the
greatest!!!

It's Surfer Grandma !



We do not stop playing because we grow
old;

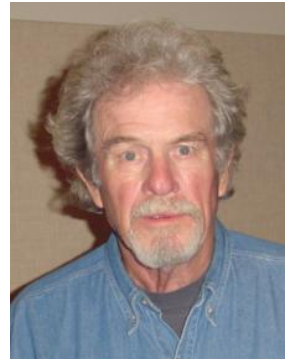
We grow old because we stop playing
NEVER Be The First To Get Old!

Membership Corner

By Dave Hight

Membership in the Central Kentucky Computer Society provides a person so many ways to learn, experience, and have hands on experience with computers that it should be a privilege to be a member rather than an option. To me it is a privilege to be a member. What makes it a privilege is that as a member I have the opportunity to meet and learn from members who are true experts in their fields.

While working and learning from them, I am also working and learning from other members who are not experts and who are benefiting as much as I am from the learning experience.



Where else could I go to get the quality and depth of computer training and experience for just the minimal cost of my membership dues to CKCS? The answer of course is nowhere. As members of CKCS we share the benefits of being able to keep up to date on all aspects of the ever-changing world of computer technology. For example, as members of CKCS we were able to learn about the features of Windows 7 before it was even announced. At all times we have access to learn and keep up to date on any of the changes in the computer world that are going to eventually affect us, either in the workplace or in our daily lives.

As members of the Central Kentucky Computer Society we truly have a head start on the rest of computer users and enthusiasts in the community. Take a moment to think about it, all it costs is us is the annual membership fee. For the cost of taking your special person out to diner and a movie (for which you may pay more) you receive the full benefits of membership in a professional society where you not only have the opportunity of first class training, but to meet and make special friendships with other members with the same interests and aspirations as you do. The lifetime friendships you make are alone worth the minimal membership dues you pay.

Isn't membership in the Central Kentucky Computer Society something that you want to share with all of your friends, neighbors and business associates? Wouldn't you like to attend a meeting, SIG, or computer class with your best friend or neighbor? If your best friend had something as good as CKCS in their life, wouldn't you want them to share it with you? Don't keep the benefits you share as a member of CKCS to yourself, share them with your friends and neighbors. Tell them about the good things you experience as a member of CKCS. Help the Central Kentucky Computer Society to stay alive and grow by bringing in new members. Bring your best friend or neighbor to the next CKCS event you attend. Let them experience the CKCS environment for themselves.

Remember, where would you be without CKCS? What if you had no place to go without paying expensive tuition to learn the skill necessary for you to keep up in the workplace or with your special interest or hobby? That could very easily happen. The Central Kentucky Computer Society has to grow in membership. We need more members to help us to pay the bills. Even though the Central Kentucky Computer Society is a non-profit organization, it costs dollars to keep the doors open. We have bills to pay. It takes little of your time to share your experiences at CKCS with your friends and neighbors. Tell them about the benefits of membership. Bring them to the next event you attend at

CKCS. Let them see for themselves the benefits of membership. Encourage them to become members of CKCS, help them sign up.

As the Central Kentucky Computer Society Beginningins its 26th year of operation, let us all, as members work together with the common cause to insure that CKCS will survive for another 25 years. Let us insure that the Central Kentucky Computer Society will be available for all of our grandchildren and their children to attend! ■

Winter CKCS class schedule nearly ready

Frankie Harvener, one of the coordinators of the CKCS Classes, announced this week that the schedule is complete, except the dates have yet been approved by the instructors involved. It is anticipated that most likely all classes will start the last week in January 2010. CKCS classes are two hours a week and normally for six consecutive weeks. The following classes are on the winter schedule.

SUBJECT	INSTRUCTOR AND ASSISTANT INSTRUCTOR
Beyond Basics	Mike Seiler, Harold Washburn
Word	Larry Parker, Adrienne Saffell
Photoshop Elements	Ilse Newbery, Susan Umberger
Beginning Digital Imaging	Joe Dietz, Larry Cox
Creative Graphics	Marcie Miller, Lilly Crawley
Adv. Digital Imaging	Joe Dietz, Larry Cox
Digital Image: Individual Work	Joe Dietz, Larry Cox
Adv Photoshop	Ilse Newbery, Kay Kass
Computer Basics	Cathy Anderson, Nancy Alverson
Computer Basics	Myra Engle, Nancy Dawson
Mac OS X Basics	Frankie Harvener,
Mac Beyond Basics	Kurt Jefferson, Joe Settles
Movie Maker	Fred Kendig, Brooke Thomas

Classes cost \$49 per class . Dates will be firm early in November. Classes are limited to 8 students. Call the office for exact dates, more information and to enroll. The CKCS phone number is (859) 373-1000. ■

Why your next computer might be a Mac

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9. **Great Stories:** Back in July, PC Mag.com's John Dvorak wrote a column titled, "My Son Bought a Mac." Dvorak's son bought a MacBook Pro that Dvorak described as "one of the few laptops being sold that actually impresses me." He adds that his son's purchase "was a smart move since he was following the advice of pundits, technology writers, and everyone who ever gave advice about what to buy and why. Buy solutions, not hardware." Dvorak mentioned that his son was using software called DEVONthink which he needed for a book that he was writing. The software is only available for Mac, says Dvorak.
10. **Windows 7 launch:** "I analyzed the impact of the last four Windows launches and found no negative correlation between them and Mac sales," said Brian Marshall who's an analyst for a firm called Broadpoint AmTech. What he's saying is that even if Windows 7 turns out to be a huge seller, it probably will have no impact on Mac sales. Marshall compared Mac sales with the launches of Windows 98, Windows 2000, Windows XP and Vista. He found in all but the case of Windows 2000, Mac sales either increased or remained steady.



The trackball of my eye

I recently attended a dinner at an upscale Lexington restaurant. All of us sitting around a table were using the same company to invest our retirement funds.

The local investment firm's branch manager mentioned that the company's online investment Web site had just been updated. "Does it work on a Mac?" asked one man sitting to my left. "It works fine on the Mac," I responded since I had visited the site and encountered no problems.

A few minutes later, the topic turned to trackballs. I mentioned that I had replaced my mice with a trackball and absolutely loved it. A 20-something woman glanced my way and asked, "What's a trackball?" I replied that it's sort of a mouse turned upside down that's a lot better on your wrist, arm and hand than a conventional mouse.

One woman in the group remarked that she uses and loves a trackball. She added that her grandchildren didn't know what they were. When they came to visit they asked grandma what that thing was in front of the computer?

A CKCS member let me borrow her trackball for a week. I was convinced after that experience that I'd never go back to a mouse. The trackball was that much better.

This experience led me to believe that many more computer users would replace their mice with trackballs if only they knew about them. When you buy a Mac or PC today, you get a mouse. For millions of folks, that's all they know. There is something better but they haven't yet discovered the trackball.

I'm not the only one discovering trackballs. Yahoo's Working Guy columnist Christopher Null wrote back in April that he hadn't been a trackball user for many years, "but Kensington's new SlimBlade

Trackball could make a convert of me once again.” The key sentence which I noted was: “Overall I found the trackball extremely comfortable even for extended computing sessions.”

Null’s column is here: <<http://tech.yahoo.com/blogs/null/137396>>

A number of firms make trackballs, but the best known makers are probably Kensington <<http://us.kensington.com/html/1436.html>>

and Logitech <http://www.logitech.com/index.cfm/mice_pointers/trackballs/&cl=us,en>.

My personal favorite is the Kensington Expert Trackball Mouse. It has a large ball in the center surrounded by a scroll ring. It’s more expensive than most others, but comes with a 5–year guarantee.

There is a small learning curve, but most folks pick it up quickly. Trackball users seem to a very devoted lot.

Before I bought my own trackball, I spent about an hour reading reviews on Amazon.com’s Web site.

I quickly discovered that most folks who learned to appreciate trackballs really, really liked them. You don’t often hear that level of devotion from mouse users.

In case you’ve had it with your mouse, I suggest you check out the world of trackballs.

One place to start is TrackballWorld < <http://www.trackballworld.com/>>.

Here you’ll read all about a variety of trackballs available for sale today. Some trackballs you might want to check out:



Kensington

11. Kensington Expert Trackball Mouse <<http://us.kensington.com/html/2200.html>>

12. Kensington Orbit Optical Trackball <<http://us.kensington.com/html/4771.html>>

13. Kensington Orbit Trackball with Scroll Ring (pre–orders taken, for sale soon)

<<http://us.kensington.com/html/17531.html>>

14. Kensington SlimBlade Trackball
<<http://us.kensington.com/html/16632.html>>

15. Kensington SlimBlade Trackball Mouse (for those who like a trackball but don't want to give up a mouse)
<<http://us.kensington.com/html/13880.html>>



Logitech

16. Logitech Trackman Marble
<http://www.logitech.com/index.cfm/mice_pointers/trackballs/devices/4680&cl=us,en>

17. Logitech Trackman Wheel
<http://www.logitech.com/index.cfm/mice_pointers/trackballs/devices/166&cl=us,en>

18. Logitech Cordless Optical TrackMan
<http://www.logitech.com/index.cfm/mice_pointers/trackballs/devices/189&cl=us,en>

19. Logitech Cordless Trackman Wheel
<http://www.logitech.com/index.cfm/mice_pointers/trackballs/devices/159&cl=us,en>

Remember, you might find better prices from an online seller such as Amazon.com or buy.com than from the manufacturer's Web site.

In addition, brick and mortar stores often don't sell trackballs. You can find a much better selection online.

A grandma friend of mine who used to live in Lexington and moved back to Ohio to be closer to her daughter is a recent convert.

She bought a Kensington Orbit Optical Trackball and wonders why she didn't buy one years ago.



She told me via phone that her arm would sometimes go to sleep after using her Mac for hours. After using the trackball, the symptoms disappeared.



Random Reviews



20. Recent review of the **Kensington SlimBlade Trackball** from the United Kingdom:

<<http://labs.v3.co.uk/2009/10/kensington-slim.html>>

21. 2005 review from *About This Particular Mac* of the **Logitech Trackman Wheel**:

<<http://www.atpm.com/11.12/trackman.shtml>>

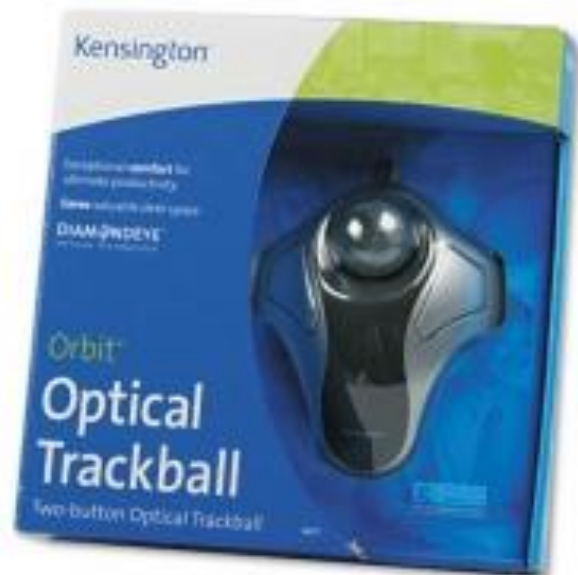
You'll find dozens of trackball reviews on Amazon.com. Just type in the name of the one of the trackballs listed above and you'll find plenty of reviews on that site.

The best advice I found for new trackball users came from an Amazon.com reviewer who bought the Kensington Orbit Optical Trackball. Here's a portion of his review:

Controlling a trackball can be tricky for users changing from a mouse but PLEASE give the trackball at least 1 month before giving up.

I control the ball with my middle and index fingers - usually they are STRAIGHT with the ball between the 2 slightly spread fingers.

My little finger clicks 1 button, my thumb clicks the other button (the ring finger is rarely or never used in controlling the trackball).



You CAN get used to this new way of controlling the trackball and you WILL LOVE it compared to moving a mouse around.

I can put the trackball on the arm of a chair and use my laptop in places a mouse would be impossible.

I also was getting wrist pain from using a mouse (and "straight" keyboards) and that has not been an issue for more than 10 years since I switched to a trackballs exclusively and ergo keyboards.

I've seen others trying to convert from mouse to trackball come up with a lot of completely impossible hand configurations trying to use the trackball making the conversion process impossible - nobody could EVER successfully use the trackball the way they were trying to use it.

So keep in mind the hand position tips I described above... THEY WORK and will help you get a grasp on the switchover to a trackball.

With a trackball this good, a mouse is officially a stupid way to control a computer cursor. (But you have to give this trackball at least a month of use to learn that if this is your first trackball!!!! - Kensington also provides a 90-Day return policy in addition to the 5 year warranty. If you simply can't get the hang of the trackball in less than 90 days you can get a complete refund.)

New Machines

In mid-October, Apple released a number of new machines.

This included new iMacs with new designs and new screen sizes, a new wireless keyboard, the new Magic Mouse and a high-end iMac utilizing Intel's Core i5 quad-core processor.

A build-to-order option allows the buyer to swap an Intel Core i7 chip for the Core i5.

The new Magic Mouse contains no buttons. Instead, you can use one finger to scroll up and down and around—if the program supports it.

Apple's least expensive laptop, the white MacBook, gets a unibody design, a faster processor, and a bigger hard drive.



Apple says the new battery cannot be removed by the user (like other MacBooks), but increases its life to seven hours of use.

Macworld reports that the new MacBook also has no Firewire 400 port. The MacBook Pros are now the only laptops with Firewire ports.

New Mac minis increase processor speed and double memory capacity. The top of the line called the Mac mini server replaces the optical drive with two 500 GB hard drives.

Apple also upgraded its Airport Express and its Time Machine models.

Read more about the updates from *Macworld*:

Apple overhauls iMac line, with 21.5–27–inch models

[<http://www.macworld.com/article/143394/2009/10/imac.html>](http://www.macworld.com/article/143394/2009/10/imac.html)

White MacBook gets unibody design

[<http://www.macworld.com/article/143393/2009/10/whitemacbook.html>](http://www.macworld.com/article/143393/2009/10/whitemacbook.html)

Apple updates Mac mini, adding server configuration

[<http://www.macworld.com/article/143396/2009/10/macmini.html>](http://www.macworld.com/article/143396/2009/10/macmini.html)

Apple unveils multi–touch Magic Mouse

[<http://www.macworld.com/article/143395/2009/10/magic_mouse.html>](http://www.macworld.com/article/143395/2009/10/magic_mouse.html)

Apple quietly updates AirPort Extreme, Time Machine

[<http://www.macworld.com/article/143398/2009/10/airportupdates.html>](http://www.macworld.com/article/143398/2009/10/airportupdates.html)

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The Macintosh SIG meets on the second Thursday of each month. Check the "MEETING SCHEDULE" for more information.

