

The

Computer Link

September 2009

The Newsletter of the Northern Neck Computer Users' Group

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Send newsletter
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➔**DEADLINE**➔
for **NEXT ISSUE**,
One week after meeting

Gabe Goldberg on Cleaning Up Your Computer

Gabe Goldberg, APCUG District 2 Advisor, made his almost annual pilgrimage to NNCUG at the August meeting. This year's talk was on "Cleaning Up Your Computer."

He first determined that 75% of the audience used XP and the rest Vista. He explained the theory, techniques and necessity are almost the same, and the payoff is longer-lasting systems. He kept his previous system going for eight years using good hard drive (Windows, applications, data) cleanup practices. However, for physical cleaning, he takes it to a pro annually where disassembly, updating hardware, vacuuming or blowing dust may be needed. He recommends keeping a written record of changes such as software installs/removals, major updates, cleanup events, etc.

The theory behind computer cleanup is to make computing **faster and more efficient**. Get rid of the junk, the things you do not need that somehow got there. Here is an abbreviated version of Gabe's steps to success. He recommends doing it often and creating a **check list**

after you are done as a memory jogger for the next time.

1. Start as administrator, then **back up** the hard drive.
2. From (my) computer, check C drive capacity and note gb availability
3. From accessories, options, disk **cleanup**, select checked items
4. From Desk Top files, eliminate or move unwanted files from C drive to CD, thumb drive, or recycle bin.
5. Remove (delete) **old emails** no longer needed. Create folders or compact
6. As precaution, create a restore point
7. From msconfig, eliminate (add/remove) unnecessary **startup** programs from lower right corner of screen
8. Eliminate (uninstall) all desktop programs no longer needed
9. Check registry (get advice)
10. **Empty** recycle bin.
11. From accessories/ systems tools, defrag to get all those loose packets back together
12. Check for empty space gain on C drive.(see step 2)

Gabe offered handouts of articles on computer cleanup which further explain some of the

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Gabe Goldberg Photo -Chris Christensen

Open Office.Org 3.0 An Evolutionary Improvement

Written by *Bill Wayson*, LINUX SIG Leader,
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OpenOffice.org (OO.o) is Free and Open Source Software's (FOSS) premier alternative to the Microsoft Office productivity suite. It offers a high level of compatibility with many of the ever-changing MS Office formats, provides many of the same features as MS Office, and works similarly to MS Office. This month, we will explore the recently released OpenOffice.org 3.0, which is available for Microsoft Windows, Linux, Apple's Macintosh, Sun's Solaris, and several other operating systems. Many, if not most, users of MS Office who require the broad, deep range of features of MS Office could change to OO.o and become productive after a very shallow learning curve.

If your requirements are more for just compatibility with Microsoft's Word document formats in a word processor, you can consider more streamlined FOSS alternatives such as AbiWord.

OO.o is a full-featured office productivity suite comprised of six integrated applications: the Writer word processor (which also has a Web page editing mode), Calc spreadsheet, Draw graphics program, Impress presentations program, Base database program, and Math equation editor.

It costs you nothing to try, you may just like it, so it just may save you hundreds of dollars.

OO.o 3.0 is an evolutionary improvement on the application suite, with new features, enhancements, and user interface improvements. Users of Apple Macintosh OS X systems benefit greatly from OO.o 3.0, which will now run as a native OS X application. OS X users will also have support for Microsoft's VBA macro language and the Calc Solver component, which allows solving optimization problems where the optimum value of a particular spreadsheet cell has to be calculated based on constraints provided in other cells. Both of these features are missing in MS Office 2008 for Mac OS X.

All users of OO.o 3.0 benefit from its improvements, including the two above. Another area of significant improvement is one where OO.o is breaking out of Microsoft mimicry mode: support for open document standards. OO.o 3.0 supports the latest OpenDocument Format (PDF) specification. In fact, ODF is the OO.o default document format. ODF is gaining wider acceptance worldwide, being adopted by more companies and governments as the standard for documents, and becoming supported by an increasing number of applications. OO.o will also read and write many other formats, including those of various versions of MS Office and Word, plain text, and several PDA document formats.

Additionally, it will read the newest formats introduced in MS Office 2007. Exchanging documents with users of Microsoft's prod-

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<Broadhurst> from Page 2

CREATE A PERSONAL SCREEN SAVER

For a great way to put your digital photos to work, try creating a slide show presentation for use as a screen saver.

- Right-click an empty spot on your desktop, and then click Properties.
- Click the Screen Saver tab.
- In the Screen saver list, click My Pictures Slideshow.
- Click Settings to make any adjustments, such as how often the pictures should change,

what size they should be, and whether you'll use transition effects between pictures, and then click OK.

Now your screen saver is a random display of the pictures taken from your My Pictures folder.

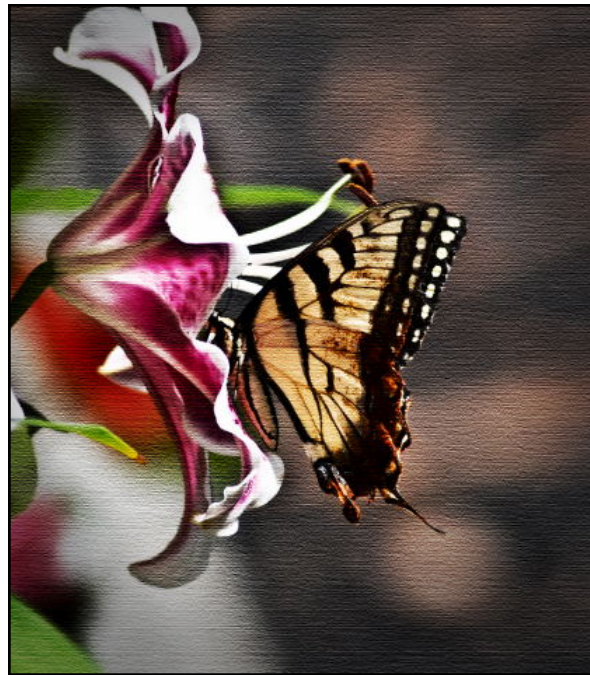
Open Office *Continued from Page 3*

ucts should not be an issue. The Writer screen now sports a handy zoom slider control, making it quick and easy to change the zoom level of the view. Additionally, it will automatically display multiple pages of the document as the zoom level is lowered. Writer now displays notes — notations added to a document that are not necessarily meant to be printed — at the edge of the editing window to the side of the document, making it easier to read them and see their context in the document. In addition, notes from different users are displayed in different colors, together with the editing date and time, facilitating collaborative work on a document.

Calc sees some useful improvements. One is in the charts feature. Now, custom error bars can be included, and regression equations and correlation coefficients can be displayed right in the chart. Another is a new feature, spreadsheet collaboration through work-book sharing. This feature allows multiple users to work collaboratively on a spreadsheet while avoiding editing conflicts. The users share a spreadsheet, each adding their data. The spreadsheet owner can then easily integrate the new data with a few

clicks. And Calc now supports 1,024 columns per worksheet.

Draw now lets you crop images the same way that most other graphics programs do, by dragging handles located at the edges and corners of an image. This same improvement appears in Impress, too. Additionally, Impress now natively supports inserting tables into presentations. Tables can be added directly into the presentation and edited within Impress as native Impress objects.



August 2009 Photo Winner-Butterfly on Canvas by *Richard Davis*

Improvements affecting the entire suite include a new set of icons, expanded feature support when exporting to XML, and a new gateway to the suite called the Start Center, which makes it more intuitive to get to where you want to go in the suite.

There is nothing revolutionary in OO.o 3.0. What is new are several improvements and enhancements that will keep the suite in contention with its competitors. And we have not touched at all on the features OO.o

already had before 3.0. If you need a productivity suite with both a broad and deep set of features and, particularly, if you are not married to Microsoft Office, you should give OO.o a look. It costs you nothing to try, you may just like it, so it just may save you hundreds of dollars.

**BALTIMORE FAMILY
HISTORY AND
GENEALOGY WORKSHOP**
September 12, 2009

At the last general meeting of the NNCUG, Gabe Goldberg recommended attending the annual Baltimore Family History and Genealogy Workshop. The website is: <http://www.baltimorefamilyhistoryworkshop.org/>

Where it says "**click here to register**" you will get a full list of the many workshops. It looks like a fabulous day for sharpening your research skills.

If you attend, please let me know what you thought. I am balancing my schedule and as things stand now, I have a conflict on that date.

DirecTV Genealogy Programs

For those of you with DirecTV the BYU channel has several programs that I find quite interesting. Look for these titles in the program listings:

- Questions and Ancestors
- Ancestors

Topics include such things as *Researching New England Ancestors *How to Get Started, *Cemetery Records, *Using the Internet, and many more topics.

**NEXT MEETING OF THE NNCUG
GENEALOGY SIG**
Thursday September 10th 1:30 PM

Considerations in **selecting family history software:**

- How do you plan to use it?
 - What all do you want to include? – photos, deeds, notes, etc.
 - How easy is it to use?
 - Does it create the charts and reports that you want?
- If you already use a family history program, is there another program that you might like better. Comparison of the various elements in some of today's **best rated programs:**

Demonstration of some of the key features in Legacy Family Tree 7.0 and Roots Magic.

Demonstration of importing a GEDCOM file from another family history program.

Followed by a **group discussion** of the attendees' genealogy efforts and questions.

Anyone who has something in the way of a **feature they want to test** with these software packages please let me know in advance. I'll try to find the answer before the meeting. So far including the birth parents of adopted children has been suggested, as well as the names of donors for in vitro fertilization. *Ann Thompson*

August Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Northern Neck Computer Users Group was called to order on August 15, 2009, at 9:30 am by President B.J. McMillan. 40 members and guests were present.

Minutes of the July 18, 2009, meeting were approved as published in the newsletter. Treasurer Jim Thompson submitted a Treasurer's Report and reported that we now have 107 members. Jim also said that the treasury would support purchasing a **more substantial gadget** – in the \$100 or so range – for a one-time raffle item, and asked for suggestions. (Contact Jim with ideas.)

Jim Sapione reported on the activities of the **Photo SIG**. Ann Thompson reported that there were 19 members at the first meeting of the **Genealogical SIG**, and stated that the topic at the next meeting is a review of the Genealogy software available. (Call Ann at 580-8210 if interested in becoming part of that SIG).

The program for August was a presentation by **Gabe Goldberg**, our liaison to the ACPUG, on **Cleaning Up Your PC**. Gabe made a special trip here from Washington, DC and as always, the presentation was excellent. Everyone – even those of us who routinely try to keep their online files organized – learned some new tips. BJ is trying to put together a panel on **Buying and Selling on eBay** for the September meeting. Please call her if you have experience with eBay. The general meeting adjourned at 11:00 pm.

B.J. McMillan, President

Clean Hard Drives from pg. 1 steps. One book he suggested was *Cleaning Windows XP for Dummies*.

It was great having him back again. **Ed.**

Membership Report - September 2009

NEW MEMBER– not available

RENEW September 2009 – not available

RENEW August 2009 – not available

Membership dues are \$20 annually. Please send to:

Jim Thompson, Treasurer, NNCUG, P.O. Box 774, Burgess, VA. 22432

For insertion into our local newspaper advertising, please send to bevnjim@netscape.com no later than 15th of the month.

The Computer Link

Northern Neck Computer
Users' Group
P.O. Box 1213
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NNCUG Meeting Dates

NNCUG GENERAL MEETING

Third Saturday 9:30 a.m.

Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury Meeting Room

BEGINNERS SIG

***Meets three times a year. Those interested, contact
B.J. McMillan at 580-8666***

GENEALOGY SIG

***Meets bi-monthly, 2nd Thursday, 1:30 p.m.—RW-C
Contact Ann Thompson at athompson@kaballero.com
to get on the mail list for announcements.***

PHOTOSHOP SIG

***First Tuesday every month, 9 a.m.
Lancaster Community Library, Kilmarnock
For more information, Call Jim Sapione, 804-462-5831
or message Bird@kaballero.com***

**For a photo treat visit
www.raptapp.homestead.com**



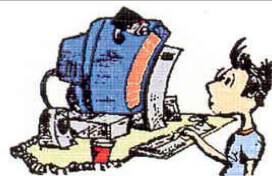
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Computer Help available by appointment. Call Betty Lehman 435-2011 or B.J. McMillan 580-8666

Coming Attractions

Membership—September 15th, 9:30 am—ebay primer

Photo SIG—September 1st, 9 am—Library

Genealogy SIG- September 10th, RW-C 1:30 pm- Programs