

JUNE 2009

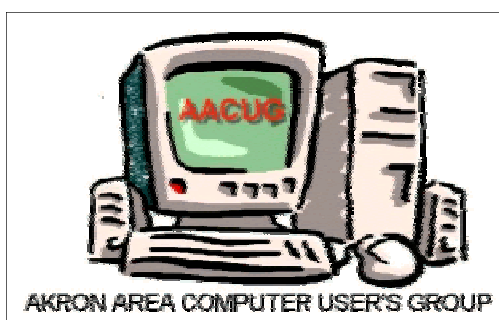
HARDCOPY

AKRON AREA COMPUTER USERS GROUP



Member of Association
of PC User Groups
www.apcug.net

www.acorn.net/aacug



Microsoft
MINDSHARE
User Group
Community

Inside this issue:

President's Message	2
May Mtg. Notes	3
Upcoming Events	4
Ohio Midwest Conf.	5
Program Schedule Ohio Midwest Conf.	6
Moving on to Vista Part 14	7
Bing Search Engine	8
Bing News	10
XP Utilities	11
MSWord Tip	12
Perks of Old Age	12
Club Officers	13
Snail Mail Address	13
Next Monthly Mtg.	13



Meeting:

**Saturday June 20, 2009, 1 p.m.
Steering Committee — 12 Noon**

**Program: "Navigating Online Music"
By: Chris Cisar**

July meeting: Mark Welfley

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

First, I would like to thank Don Smith for his informative presentation last month on internet browsers. We have quite a few to choose from and Don very skillfully pointed out the pros and cons of most of them, as well as directing us to web sites where we could find more in-depth information.

This month, we are honored to have Chris Cisar as our speaker. You may remember him from the March meeting in which he brought us up to speed on Facebook and Flickr. His presentation on Saturday is going to be "Navigating Online Music," which should be of interest many of us.

So, bring a friend and come to the meeting on Saturday ... you just may learn a thing or two.

I also want to wish all of the fathers in our group a "Happy Father's Day."

Eugene DiDonato



FROM THE MAY MEETING:



Update from last month's presentation on Browsers

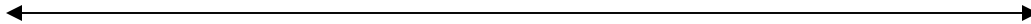
By: Don Smith

Last month we looked at Internet Browsers,
Which one was the best?

They all had their own strong points and weak ones alike.

In The June issue of PCWORLD, they had a "Browser Speed Showdown".

In the article Chrome 2 Beta was the fastest. The article went farther to say, that with today's broadband service, you likely spend little time waiting for a page to load and many users won't notice the difference between most browsers.



- AACUG T-shirts \$8.75 Regular Sizes.
(Sign up w/Eugene DiDonato if you wish to buy one)

50/50 DRAWING:

- Dick Donze—\$6.50

DOOR PRIZE WINNERS

- Diskettes Eugene DiDonato
- Paper Nancy Straw
- Duster Dale Thorn
- Cases John Turbak
- Anti-Static Wipes..... Marge Fetherson
- Jar Strawberry Jam* Angie Mudd
- Jar Strawberry Jam* Rose Conley

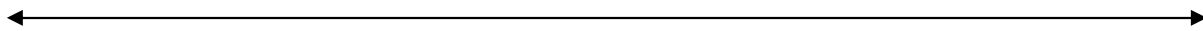
* Donated by Joann & Dale Thorn

Upcoming Events

- **AACUG Annual Picnic—August 9th, Lions Park, Tallmadge, OH**

There will be terrific prizes, good food, fun games and good fellowship. The club will furnish hot dogs, hamburgers, buns, catsup, mustard, relish and onions. Members are to bring their own table service, beverages and a covered dish to share.

This event is open to all members, spouses, children, grandchildren and anyone else you want to bring. The more ... the merrier



- **OHIO MIDWEST COMPUTER CONFERENCE August 28-30, 2009, Newark, OH** (For *details*, see Pages 5-7)

To Fellow User Group Members:

I'd like to invite you to join me and the other attendees from APCUG Region 3 and around the country at the Association of Computer User Groups (APCUG Annual Ohio Midwest Regional Computer Conference August 28th, 29th and 30th. This event is being co-hosted with The Licking County Computer Society (LCCS) in Newark, Ohio at the beautiful Cherry Valley Lodge Resort and Conference Center.

This event has something for everyone – from the novice to the advanced computer user. Besides the Vendor Presentations at the various meal times there will be 3 different Tracks of workshops, they will include a Technology, User Group Information and an IT Professional Track. You can attend any track you desire or choose various programs from each track. You will hear what's new from vendors during meals and tech sessions, learn and improve your computer skills at the various workshops. You will have the opportunity to network with other computer users, as well as meet the exhibitors up, close and personal at the Saturday night Expo. Your registration fee covers meals, workshops, tech sessions, welcome bag, and door prizes.

For more information, visit the website at www.apcug.net and for more details visit: <http://ohiomidwest.apcug.org/>. We hope to see you at the conference in Newark, Ohio at the end of August.

*Respectfully
Robert Lee Vance (Bob)
APCUG Region 3 Advisor
APCUG Representative (LCCS)
Licking County Computer Society
Newark, Ohio*

rleevance.apcug@gmail.com

OHIO MIDWEST CONFERENCE

August 28-30, 2009
Newark, OH

To register for the Annual Meeting at the Ohio Midwest Regional in Newark, Ohio on August 28th, 29th & 30th, 2009, go to <http://apcug.asentus.net/apcug/ohio>.

During this "Early Bird" period, registration costs \$70 for members of APCUG member groups and \$80 for non members. Register before May 31 when prices go up to \$90/\$100. OnLine Registration will be closed after August 20, 2009, and anyone that has not registered by that time will have to register on site, where the fee will be \$110, payable only by cash or check (we will not have the ability to accept credit cards on site).

This registration is just for attendance to the conference, and the meals to be served to conference attendees. You will need to reserve your room at the Cherry Valley Lodge separately. The rate is \$109 per night and the reservation code is "**lccs09**".
<http://www.cherryvalleylodge.com/> (Phone: (800) 788-8008.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed for the Conference for the following tasks. If you would like to volunteer, please email **Robert Vance** at rlavance.apcug@gmail.com

- Registration Check In
- WelcomeBag stuffers
- Raffle prize ticket sellers
- Credential Checker at the event doors
- Pass out one free door prize ticket each day for a small drawing
- Volunteers for workshops and presentations
- Trouble shooting tech for AV and audio equipment
- People to redirect attendees to other sessions if one of them is full

Ohio Midwest Conference Program

Subject to change

	<u>Conference Agenda</u>	<u>Track 1</u>	<u>Track 2</u>	<u>Track 3</u>
Friday 28 August 2009		Technology	User Group	IT Professional
4:00 pm 6:00 pm	Registration			
7:00 pm until.....	Meet and Greet at the Water Park Pizza Pavilion			
Saturday 29 August 2009				
7:00 am 9:00 am	Breakfast and Guest Vendor Speaker Presentation	Corp Sponsor Main room	Magix	Ai Squared
9:00 am 10:15 am	Tech General Workshop Sessions 1-3 events	Genealogy Workshop	Live Meeting	Gene Barlow Accronis??
10:30 pm 11:45	Tech General Workshop Sessions 1-3 events	Free	P.C. Renew	Don Corbet The Linux Guy
11:45 am 2:00 pm	Lunch and Guest Vendor Speaker Presentation	Corp Sponsor-Main Room	Corel	
2:00 pm 3:15 pm	Tech General Workshop Sessions 1-3 events	Identity Theft	Remote Presentation	Running 3 OS's on Mac
3:30 pm 4:45 pm	Tech General Workshop Sessions 1-3 events	Face Book Social Program	Publicizing Your Group	V Machines and History
5:00 pm 7:00 pm	Dinner and Guest Vendor Speaker Presentation	Corp Sponsor Main room		Windows 7 Demo
7:00 pm 10:00 pm	Vendor Fair			
Sunday 30 August 2009				
7:00 am 9:00 am	Breakfast and Guest Vendor Speaker Presentation	Corp Sponsor Main room	Steganos	
9:00 am 10:15 am	Door Prize Raffle Drawing	Main room		
10:30 pm 11:45 am	General Workshop Sessions	Digital Photography	PD Particles	Hard Disk Data
11:45 am 2:00 pm	Lunch	Local restaurants .04 mile or less & on site		
2:15 pm 4:00 pm	User Group and Vendor Panel Discussions	Main room		

Moving on to Vista – Part 14

by Neil Stahfest, Librarian, Tacoma Area PC User Group, Washington

www.tapcug.org

ncstahfest(at)msn.com

This article has been obtained from APCUG with the author's permission for publication by APCUG member groups; all other uses require the permission of the author (see e-mail address above).

One of the features that I liked about previous versions of Windows was the *Search* feature. Just click on the "Start" button", Click on "Search" and enter the file name that you want to find. If you have multiple hard drives, you can specify which ones to search. Its easy and simple.

Vista is different. Vista has a totally new search feature that is in some ways easier to use, fast and very sophisticated. It doesn't just try to match file names. It looks inside files and reads and searches the contents of text files, your Windows Contacts and Calendar as well as any Microsoft Office files (documents, spreadsheets and PowerPoint files). To do this Vista automatically maintains an index file which contains all this information for the file linked to your personal user folder. To keep the index file from becoming too large and to speed up the search process, it does not maintain a list of files located in your Windows system folder, contents of application file folders or on a local computer network (information usually only useful to computer programmers). When you start searching for a file or word, it only has to check this index file to find what you want. The results are displayed almost as fast as you can type the search name.

To use the most basic features of Vista's search engine, click on the "Start" button. When the "Start Menu" appears, a "Start Search" box appears directly above the "Start Button". As

you start to type a folder or file name, a list of folders and files appears above the box. As you type more letters, the list of names becomes more specific. If you don't see what you are looking for, at the bottom of the list is an option to search for the file name on the Internet (assuming that you have an Internet connection of course). When you do this, the Internet search uses your default Internet search engine whether it be Microsoft, Google, Yahoo, etc.

The Search Results window does not show the name of every file match found. Using some form of artificial intelligence Vista limits itself to to the 20 most likely matches. It shows them under file group headings such as "Programs", "Files" and "Communications".

An interesting aspect of this feature is that you can point and click on a program listed in the Search Results window and actually run it. Document or spreadsheet files can also be accessed this way. Printing at the file name activates the default file program, such as Microsoft Word.

Using this feature of Vista's search function moves it beyond just a way to locate files and folders. It becomes a way to quickly locate files and then take action to use them. To prepare this column I simply went to my desktop, clicked on the Start Button, entered "vista.rtf" in the Search Box and then clicked on the file name to open it with my word processing program. How simple is that! No need to open a series of folders to burrow down to my Vista column files.

In most cases, doing the above steps will locate the information you are looking for. But suppose it doesn't. Windows will tell you that the information can't be located and suggest that you use some of the advanced search features. We'll address advanced search features next month.

Bing – The New Search Engine from Microsoft

By Ira Wilsker



WEBSITES:

<http://www.bing.com>

<http://www.discoverbing.com/tour>

<http://www.google.com/products>

Most people think of Google when they want to do an online search. Google has even become a pseudo-verb for internet searches, as in the context, "I am googling for it." Yahoo! is a strong number two in the crowded and competitive search engine field, with Microsoft's Live Search being third. Anecdotally, most internet searchers who use Live Search use it because it is the default search engine linked with recent builds of Internet Explorer, which defaults to MSN and Live Search unless manually changed by the user. Microsoft is well aware that its Live Search is not the coveted top ranked search engine, and that it has significant room for improvement both in technology and in the size of the website database. This has been demonstrated by Microsoft's on again, off again discussions to take over Yahoo!, along with Yahoo!'s canonical search engine (my personal favorite), AllTheWeb (www.alltheweb.com). As a free standing search engine, Microsoft's Live Search has simply lacked the pizzazz of its major competitors until now.

Microsoft recently rolled out the latest iteration of its search engine, formerly Live Search, and now called Bing, at www.bing.com. Bing will function well as a traditional search engine, but has additional features that are an obvious attempt to compete against the many additional features of both Google and Yahoo! While all of the search engines have a simple search box where queries are entered, Bing goes a step further by adding additional search features to make the results more meaningful. Bing has the slogan, "When it comes to decisions that matter, Bing & Decide". Bing offers the user the opportunity to select from different categories of information, specifically travel, shopping, health, local, and "even more". Another feature that I found helpful was the "hover" feature, where hovering the cursor over a website provided a preview of the contents of that website. Bing

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

also offers specialized searches for other forms of content, such as images, video, shopping, news, maps, and travel. By selecting a content category, such as images, only the database of images will be searched and displayed. The Bing news search feature is clearly inferior to the news search features on Yahoo! and Google, and in need of improvement.

In terms of travel, Bing will find the lowest airfares, best hotel deals, and real-time flight status. There is no need to enter a specific search area or click on a special link to get travel information on Bing. All the user needs to do is type the request in the search box. For example, simply typing "flight info" in the search box will display the websites that have real time flight info, including a secondary search box where the name of the airline and flight number can be entered to display the flight status. Typing a city pair in the search box, such as "Houston to Atlanta" will display not just airfares, but a projection of changes in airfares helping the traveler decide whether to buy now before the fare increase, or to wait for lower airfares.

I will admit that I have used Google's price comparison service (formerly called "Froogle") while shopping to get the best deals. Bing goes a step farther by not just displaying a price comparison, but also offers a "cash back" program from merchants that participate in Microsoft's Bing Cashback Program. When prices are displayed from various sellers, a separate column displays the rate of cash back. The "Bing Cashback Program" works on a "search, shop, save" principle, and requires a free registration in order to participate in the program. Search displays competitive prices from multiple merchants, along with any cash back savings, enabling the user to quickly shop for bargains. The cash back amount is automatically credited to your personal account upon purchase, and can be collected in about 60 days, as long as there is at least \$5 in the cash back account. As I type this, over 700 online merchants are participating in the Bing Cashback Program. Just as a check to see if the shopper is really getting a deal, especially on major purchases, I would recommend that the user corroborate the best price on another shopping bot, such as Google's Froogle (www.google.com/products). In addition to getting prices and rebates, Bing's shopping listings also display user ratings and reviews, and other smart-shopper resources.

Health topics are a common search area, and Bing provides an abundance of health related information. Typing an inquiry or health term in the search box will display an answer, as well as other resources on the subject. I tried using the health information search function on Bing, and found it very helpful.

Many people use search engines to locate local information, and Bing's Local section has some excellent resources. One helpful resource on Bing is real-time traffic conditions for dozens of major metropolitan areas. I typed "traffic Houston" and a traffic map of Houston was instantly displayed, with color codes indicating the speed of traffic and any congested areas. Typing a type of restaurant and city will display the establishments of that genre', along with a map locating them, and sometimes even a current menu. Typing the name of a restaurant and a city will present reviews of the restaurant. As a search engine, Bing has done a very good job compiling and easily displaying local information.

The "Even More" category is a catch-all of miscellaneous information. I typed in the make and model of my car and Bing displayed the price range, fuel economy, user rating, and links to more information. The types of information available here are virtually endless.

While in its earliest release, Bing is a valiant attempt by Microsoft to compete with the rich offerings of Google and Yahoo! I would suggest that internet users try the Bing service, and make personal judgments as to what search engine best meets their needs. As the user becomes more familiar with it, Bing may be a viable choice.

NEWS Source: www.davebytes.com

Microsoft's Bing overtook Yahoo Search in only its fourth day of public release according to Web analytics company StatCounter, but it's too soon to tell how well the new search engine will fare in the long run.

On Thursday, Bing became the No. 2 search engine in the U.S. and worldwide, with 16.28 percent share of searches to Yahoo's 10.22 percent in the U.S., and 5.62 percent for Bing to 5.13 percent for Yahoo worldwide, according to StatCounter. StatCounter's Global Stats research data is based on 4 billion pageloads per month.

In a press statement, StatCounter CEO Aodhan Cullen noted that it could be "initial novelty and promotion" that is giving Bing momentum, but said that Microsoft could be successful far sooner than it expected in achieving CEO Steve Ballmer's goal to be the No. 2 search engine within five years.

Microsoft released Bing on June 1, two days earlier than expected. The company is promoting the search engine as a "decision engine" aimed at helping people better organize search information and find what they're looking for more quickly, and has poured between US\$80 million and \$100 million into a marketing campaign to promote it. That campaign even included sending a blue "search" beam of light out from Seattle's famous Space Needle landmark on Tuesday above a launch party below, where the word "Bing" was spelled out in lights on a lawn. Microsoft is headquartered in Redmond, Washington, just outside of Seattle.

Forrester Research analyst Shar VanBoskirk said the early numbers are in no way indicative of how Bing will do against what she calls "the big two" of search — Google and Yahoo — in the long term. "I don't know that three days in it's reasonable to say that Bing has won the race," she said.

However, because Bing is similar to Yahoo in its approach to search, it makes sense that it would take share away from Yahoo before it would Google's search engine, VanBoskirk said.

"Bing is a greater threat to Yahoo than to Google because Yahoo has been sort of the content search engine and Google has been the utility search engine," she said.

In other words, Yahoo has taken more of a "concierge approach" to search, organizing its search results more based on what information other users have found useful in the past and based on services that can be offered around a search result, VanBoskirk said. This gives Yahoo's results more of the feel of a traditional Web portal than merely providing people with a list of relevant searches. Google, on the other hand, is more of a toolbar, she said.

"With Google's utilitarian approach and Bing and Yahoo being the more portal-based approach, it's easier to think why they would be more competitive," VanBoskirk said.

XP Utilities

Written by Warner Mach, Editor of the SEMCO DATA BUS, newsletter of the Southeast Michigan Computer Organization

<http://www.semco.org>

machw (at) att.net

This article has been obtained from APCUG with the author's permission for publication by APCUG member groups; all other uses require the permission of the author (see e-mail address above).

I have discovered that Windows XP is chock full of various utilities to solve various kinds of problems. Some of the utilities that I have occasion to use in recent months:

(1) Windows Task Manager

You bring up the Windows Task Manager by holding down ctrl-alt-delete. Some of the useful features are: (a) Go to the applications tab. This shows the running tasks and is useful for ending a task that refuses to go away. (b) Go to process tab. This shows all the miscellaneous tasks in the system and shows the CPU time that each is using. This can frequently be useful when you are not sure what the system is doing. (c) Go to performance tab. This shows the use of resources. Especially useful is the dynamic graph of CPU usage.

(2) Event Viewer

The Event Viewer has a log of recent events, including events at power up and power down. This was of value to me when I was attempting to learn about certain messages that were appearing at power down time. Under the 'application' and 'system' tabs the logs are listed. To get more detailed information on a particular problem, double-click on the 'type' portion of a particular entry. This will give some keyword search hints that can be typed into Google. You bring up the Event Viewer by going to start=>run and typing

'Eventvwr.msc' into the box => OK.

(3) System Configuration Utility

The tab that was useful to me was the 'startup' tab. These are tasks that automatically come up at startup. By unchecking groups of entries (and saying 'apply' and then rebooting) I was able to zero in on one particular entry that was causing a problem. You bring up the System Configuration Utility by going to start=>run and typing 'msconfig' into the box => OK.

(4) Check Disk

This utility checks the space usage on the disk. It also checks the control block chains to be sure that they are correct. Go to start=>all programs=>accessories=>command prompt and type in 'chkdsk.' If the program detects bad command chains and you want to correct the situation then type in 'chkdsk / F' . This command may require a reboot during which it runs stand-alone.

Useful Resources

There is a useful list of utilities, with examples and explanations at:

<<http://tinyurl.com/9um8or>>.

There is also information about the Microsoft '906569' update at:

<<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/906569>>.

This update "... adds the tools tab to the System Configuration Utilities in Windows XP Service pack 2." But even if you don't want to do this, there is a list of useful utilities with an explanation of their function.

Microsoft Word Tip:

Source: www.davebytes.com

Did You know you can compose your email in MS Word (if you own it of course) and email direct from there?

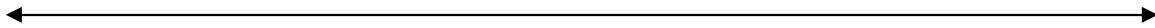
If you already prefer to compose your emails in MS Word, you may be copying and pasting your message into your email program. No need. After you finish your message, click on ...

File
Send To
Mail Recipient

Your message opens up in your email program where you can send it as normal.

If you wish to email it as an attachment, click on ...

File
Send To
Mail Recipient (As an Attachment)

Perks of reaching 50 or being over 60 and heading to or over 70!

Source: www.davebytes.com

01. Kidnappers are not very interested in you.
02. In a hostage situation you are likely to be released first.
03. No one expects you to run--anywhere.
04. People call at 9 pm and ask, did I wake you?
05. People no longer view you as a hypochondriac.
06. There is nothing left to learn the hard way.
07. Things you buy now won't wear out.
08. You can eat supper at 4 pm.
09. You can live without sex but not your glasses.
10. You get into heated arguments about pension plans.
11. You no longer think of speed limits as a challenge.
- 12.. You quit trying to hold your stomach in no matter who walks into the room.
13. You sing along with elevator music.
14. Your eyes won't get much worse.
- 15 . Your investment in health insurance is finally beginning to pay off.
16. Your joints are more accurate meteorologists than the national weather service.
17. Your secrets are safe with your friends because they can't remember them either.
18. Your supply of brain cells is finally down to manageable size.
19. You can't remember who sent you this list.

Snail Mail Address:
AACUG
2465 ARDWELL AVENUE
AKRON OH 44312



CLUB OFFICERS		
President	Eugene DiDonato	eugened43@sbcglobal.net
Vice Pres.	Don Smith	aacug@neo.rr.com
Treasurer	Betty Duncan	
Secretary	Liz Milford	eamilford@yahoo.com
Asst. Sec.	Open	
Newsletter	Rose Conley	rconley44@neo.rr.com
Webmaster	Don Smith	aacug@neo.rr.com
Membership	Lewis Rader	lewis88@att.net

STEERING COMMITTEE	
Eugene Cooke	gene.c.35@att.net
Bob Cronauer	N8AHJ@juno.com
Gwen Rader	lewis88@att.net
Dale & Joann Thorn	D_T_H_O_R_N@yahoo.com

Next Monthly Meeting

SATURDAY, JULY 18, 2009

1:00 P.M. AT

ELLET LIBRARY

12:00 noon.—STEERING COMM.

Help Promote UG Member Awareness and Action in Stamping Out Spyware!

