



Oakmont PC Users Group

E-Mail Newsletter

October 1, 2009

Volume 3, Number 7

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Granville DeMerritt
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Help Volunteers: *The following is a list of individuals who have offered to help solve your computer problems. If you have a problem and before you do violence to your computer, give one of these knowledgeable folks a call:*

Jack Feniger	538-8809
Gordon Ramsey	538-4981
Bob Rietow	537-0451
Phil Kenny	538-2075
Bob Stinson	539-7684

We're on the Web!

<http://opcugroup.googlepages.com/>

President's Message

We would like to hear comments from our members on our programs and receive suggestions for future programs. Your officers want to present programs in which you are interested and that provide knowledge you want and can use. In our newsletter, under each of our officers' names, is a link on which you can click and send an e-mail. Please feel free to send your requests and comments. We encourage the feedback.

Gordon Ramsey, President

Thank You, Gary!

We want to thank Gary Pickering, one of our board members, for his September presentation of the program on the new *Windows 7* software. We had an excellent turnout.

Many members are asking whether they should be upgrading to *Windows 7* from either *Windows XP* or *Vista*. I think our club members who have been using the Beta edition of *Windows 7* agree it is a big improvement over *Vista* which has not been enthusiastically accepted. However, if you have been using *Windows XP* successfully, you may want to continue using it until it is time for you to get a new computer. We understand that Microsoft will continue to provide security updates for *Windows XP* through 2014.

Purchasing and installing a new operating system is a chore, so you have to have some good reason to do it. "If it ain't broke, don't fix it!"

New Members

We would like to welcome the following new and returning members to our club:

Fritzie Amantite	John Renwick
Becky Hulick	Jean Rockwell
Valerie Hulse	Al Thomas
Charles W. Martzall	Caroline Thune
Paul and Jan Rasore	

We would encourage you to become participants and please feel free to contact any of the officers for help or assistance.

Need Help ??

October Question and Answer Session

Monday, October 12 – West Recreation Center at 2:45 p.m.

If you have a computer question or problem you would like resolved at our Q & A Session, Bob Mandelstam is our Coordinator and M/C. If you would e-mail your questions or problems to Bob at bobmandel@psualum.com several days before the meeting, he will work with our experts to determine a solution which will be addressed at the meeting. We will continue to take questions from the floor but the e-mail requests will have priority.

We encourage our members to attend this session whether you have a question or not. There is always something to learn and sometimes even the most knowledgeable pick up something new.

The Q & A session follows our board meeting, which is held at 1:45 p.m. and is open to any members who would like to attend.

October General Meeting

Monday October 19 – West Recreation Center at 2 p.m.

The year-end holidays are fast approaching. Would you like to send out a letter to many friends and family, each individually addressed, and make a set of address labels for the envelopes? At this meeting Jack Frantz will show you the “Miracle of Mail Merge” and how easy it is to do this on your computer.

Miracle of Mail Merge

A database (address book) will be built, the letter with data fields (names) will be written, and the two merged to give you a series of letters, one for each addressee with appropriate first name/s salutation in each. Label sheets for the envelopes will then be generated using the database.

This demonstration will use the free *Open Office* program but will also show how to do it when using *Microsoft Office* or *Microsoft Works*.

Hospitality Committee

Thank You!

Thanks to Dorrelle Aasland and Betty Seacord for arranging the refreshments at our September meeting. We are always looking for additional help, and those who are willing to help please call Dorrelle at 537-1518.

Exchange Table

Help and Opportunities

On our Exchange Table at each General Meeting we have a variety of donated books, magazines, and computer items, all free for the taking. If you have similar items to donate, please bring them to the meetings.

Gran DeMerritt has also printed out a new helper list, which is available. This is a list of our own volunteer helpers as well as some professional computer people. Handouts from previous programs are also available.

Check the Web Page

Technical Stuff



What's New on the Web Page

The club's web page, <http://opcugroup.googlepages.com/>, has been updated with the following:

1. The May 1, 2009, Newsletter was added to the Archive and the September 1, 2009, Newsletter was mounted in the masthead. Any newsletter since the beginning in 2007 can be downloaded and viewed whenever desired by paging to the Archive.
2. The program for September 21, *Windows 7 - Change - Is it for You?* presented by Gary Pickering, included a handout which was added to the web page as a link to the complete presentation.

It should be noted that in the near future, Gary Pickering will be taking over as Webmaster of the club's web page.

Microsoft Security Essentials

Last month we discussed the very attractive *Windows Live* free offering from Microsoft. On September 29 a new program, *Microsoft Security Essentials* was released. This is a comprehensive security suite, which provides high quality protection against viruses and spyware, including worms, Trojans (as in Trojan Horse) and other malicious software. It can be downloaded at:

http://www.microsoft.com/security_essentials/?mkt=en-us .

This new free software is a replacement for *Windows OneCare* which was a for fee subscription service. A beta (test) version was offered to 75,000 evaluators in June of this year and the target number was reached in a few days. At the same time the company announced that *Windows OneCare* was being retired.

As far as can be determined, independent evaluations by testing laboratories rate the beta version as ranking with the best of the commercial products. Detection of malware was very good and the only real criticism was that the scan of a complete computer was slow. Much of this was caused by the fact that when *Security Essentials* finds a suspicious file that does not match known malware, it contacts Microsoft servers (on line in the background) for additional analysis. The beauty of the system is that once installed, it requires almost no attention from the user. When the *Security Essentials* icon in your systray is green, you are protected.

Coming early next year are the *In the Cloud* (on line) versions of the *Microsoft Office* applications *Word*, *Excel* and *PowerPoint*. They will have most of the features of the installed versions but they will be free and not require the installation and update agony. It will all be done for you at the server and you can store your documents on line and on your computer.

To Opt Out of this E-Mail

If you do not care to receive information from the club through the E-Mail Newsletter, you may opt to have us delete your name from our distribution list. You will need to let us know at: krystine_at_oakmont@yahoo.com