



Sharing ideas, discounts perks of OMUG

By Bill Gortz
OMUG President

Recently I was going to send some information to OMUG members on the Reflector and I remembered that some of our members have told me they are not on the Reflector - some by choice, some because they did not know how to join, and others stated they did not know about the Reflector.

Basically the Reflector is an e-mail address listing of subscribed OMUG members by which one member can send an e-mail and it will be received by all other members on the list.

Please note that this free service is available only to active OMUG members. The e-mail can be from a member asking for help with a computer problem, it can be some computer related item being sent to all members for their information, it may be from an OMUG officer passing information to keep members current on some aspect of OMUG happenings, etc., but it has to be OMUG and/or computer related somehow.

Much more information is available on the OMUG website at: <http://www.oly mug.org/reflector.htm>.

Step by step

Follow these steps to subscribe (join) the Reflector:

1. Send an e-mail message to info@oly mug.org, with the word **Subscribe** in the subject line.

2. Please list your name, e-mail address, and membership status.



3. Once the webmaster receives your e-mail and you are approved (OMUG membership verified), you will be added to the Reflector database.

Next you will receive a welcoming e-mail message and you will begin receiving e-mail addressed to the reflector (omug@oly mug.org). You can now send e-mail to the Reflector (e-mail address omug@oly mug.org) but only from the same e-mail address you joined with in step 2 above.

To be removed from the Reflector, or change your e-mail address see the instructions on the Reflector web page.

Good deals

As many of you know, OMUG is a member of an umbrella group called the Association of Personal Computer User Groups. Recently we have received some vendor discount offers through APCUG as follows:

Blue Squirrel, www.bluesquirrel.com/usergroup, maker of many software programs has a User Group program that offers a 50 percent discount on most of its programs. You can go to its website and get a description of programs and download trial copies. Until Dec. 31, they are offering a bundle of the following programs: ClickBook, Spam Sleuth, WebWacker, WebSeeker,

Click2PDF, PopUp Stopper, BlueSync, and Snapture for a price of \$79.95; normal user group discount price is almost \$120. Retail price would be almost \$250.

An order form will be placed on our website www.oly mug.org. To order the bundle (or individual programs) mail or fax the order form to Blue Squirrel, or call 1-800-403-0925 and let them know you want to use the User Group Discount. I will also bring some order forms to the general meeting on Dec. 8.

I have used ClickBook for years and find it very easy for making booklets and many other things.

Other offers we've received include: LapLink, <http://www.laplink.com> has offered a 50 percent discount on two of its products until Dec. 31. One product is PCmover.

PCmover is Laplink's solution to the problem of moving all your "stuff" from an old PC to a new one. For information visit: <http://www.laplink.com/products/pcmover/overview.asp>. Our discounted price is \$19.97.

Laplinks other product offered up to us is Laplink Everywhere.

Laplink Everywhere 4 is Laplink's secure web-based remote access utility. If you have a PC with an always-on broadband connection, you can now get "Anytime, Anywhere Access to Your Remote PC". Visit <http://www.laplink.com/products/11e/overview.asp> for more information on Laplink Everywhere 4. Our discount price is \$44.95.



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How to unlock a computer

By Vinny LaBash

Sarasota PC Users Group, Florida

Some time ago one of my students came to me with what appeared to be an insurmountable problem. She had lent her laptop to a relative who changed the password allowing her access to the hard drive. A dispute developed between the two, and the relative refused to disclose the new password. Upon boot-up, a message appeared that the hard drive was now password protected. She asked me, "How can I break this password and access my computer"?

I had mixed feelings. Most people ask me how to protect their data and equipment, and prevent unauthorized access. I was now being asked to break into a machine. Even though the woman was the legitimate owner of the laptop and the data recorded on it, it felt strange to be on the other side of the fence. After dusting off my notes, we tackled the problem.

Before revealing what actually worked, let's examine what you can do if you are ever locked out of your own computer.

We started with the presumption that the password was embedded in the BIOS, which stands for Basic Input/

Output System. Your BIOS is a set of instructions that tells the computer who it is and what it has. Imagine that every morning you woke up with total amnesia and someone had to tell you not only who you were but how to walk, talk, read, and how to use your brain. The BIOS is like that.

To make things more obtuse, the settings in the BIOS are dynamic. They need some kind of electric power to work. If you take out the battery on your motherboard or let it drain, the BIOS settings are lost. What saves you is that the BIOS resides in ROM (Read Only Memory), which is not battery dependent.

Try resetting the BIOS to its defaults. This can be done by removing the CMOS battery after turning the computer off. The CMOS battery is about the size of a five cent piece, and you'll find it on the motherboard. Some motherboards will let you reset the BIOS by using jumpers. Your owner's manual may be helpful. If you don't have an owner's manual, go to the manufacturer's web site, and look for an online version. Some sites list the

See UNLOCK, Page 4

Welcome
New/Rejoined
Members

Nuri Burville
Myrna Orsini
Bob Robb

Thanks For
Renewing

Sandra Pishner
Dorothy Kelly
Henry Alai
Peter Hansen
Violet Tanner

Board votes to increase center donation

By Larry Jensen
OMUG Secretary



The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m., by President Bill Gortz.

Also in attendance were Shirley Bellinghausen, vice president; Larry Jensen, secretary; Max Whipps, treasure; Pat Sonnenstuhl, web master; L.D. McNall, director at large; and John Marshall, past president.

Minutes of the October board meeting were accepted.

Max submitted the treasurer's report. We have \$2,953.14 in the savings account; \$1843.29 in the Scholarship Fund and \$398.44 in the checking account. Still to be deposited is \$160.00. The treasury total is \$5,354.87

We have 175 Primary members and 76 associate members, for a total of 251 members. This is down 26 from this time last year.

After some discussion, it was moved by Max and seconded by Pat that we increase the donation to the Senior Center from \$25 monthly to \$50 starting in January. Motion approved.

John Marshall reported that he will have a computer system ready for the December auction. He asked if anyone could donate a hard drive, since the one he has is too small to be able to run Windows XP.

Shirley reported that preparations are under way for the December potluck and silent auction. Setup will be as before.

In order that there be a balance of dishes brought to the potluck, a list will be provided, based on the alphabet. People contributing to the silent auction may claim their contributions as tax deductible if records are kept.

Shirley moved and Pat seconded that we appropriate \$10 to buy the liquor permit necessary in order to have wine available. Motion was approved.

Since Chris McCormick was unable to attend, no action was taken on rules regarding payment to presenters.

With all of the various features and services available from Internet Service Providers, some of the board members have suggested that we check with other ISP's to see what features they could provide to us and host the OMUG Website. Bill

PERKS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The ordering links are quite long so if any OMUG member would like to order one of the LapLink products please contact me and I will e-mail the links to you.

Don't forget the General Meeting this month on December 8th will be the annual Potluck Dinner and Silent Auction. More details are elsewhere in this newsletter.

has talked to a representative of ReachOne and they may send someone to our next board meeting to explain what they can offer.

Laplink Software Inc. has offered to send us a boxed version of each of the following software programs for use as door or raffle prizes: "PC Movers" (a program to use in moving files, settings, etc., from one computer to another) and "Laplink Everywhere," which is a remote access utility.

There was discussion of Comcast Digital Voice telephone service over cable. Shirley has contacted Comcast and it may be possible to have a representative give a presentation in January.

We may also be able to get someone from Microsoft to give a presentation on Microsoft Publisher.

There was discussion of the possibility of raising the amount of the scholarship the club offers from \$500 to \$1,000. This would depend on having adequate funds in our scholarship account to protect us for several years. It was suggested we review the scholarship description and see if the definition can be expanded or changed to encourage more applicants.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

OMUG Income & Expenses October 2005



Income: \$364

[Dues-\$360, Interest-\$4]

Expenses: \$228

[SSSS Donation-\$25, Newsletter Copying-\$111, Membership Committee Supplies-\$17, TESC President's Dinner (Scholarship Committee)-\$75]

Net Income: \$136

Savings Account Balance:	\$2953	11/25/05
Scholarship Account Balance:	\$1843	
Checking Account Balance:	\$398	
Bank Accounts Total:	\$5194	

Repeated checking key to auction bidding

By Shirley Bellinghausen
OMUG vice president

Thanksgiving is over and I hope you enjoyed your selves with relatives and friends.

Time to get ready for the next holiday event.

We will have a grand potluck dinner and get some Silent Auction bargains to bid on at the Dec. 8 general membership meeting.

If you are unfamiliar with our Silent Auction, here's how you do it. You walk around the auction tables and look at all the items your

friends have donated.

When you see something you would like to have, you write your name and what you are willing to pay for it on the sheet of paper beside the item. But wait, there's more.

MAYBE someone else wants that item too, and he put his name under yours and raises the amount they are willing to pay to one higher than what your proposed.

So, you need to go back and take a look. You really want it, so you add your name under his and raise your bid.

Then Gary Jensen calls

out the number of the table where your item is located and announces that the bids are closing in four minutes.

Then you have four minutes to make sure your name is last on the list and you are the winning bidder.

One of our helpers will check the bids and call out the name of the highest bidder. They bring you your bargain and you go pay Max the amount you bided.

This is a fun way for our members to give away good, usable items they no longer need; you get a bargain and help OMUG pay our club

expenses. And your donated items are tax deductible with a receipt (which you can get from Max).

If you're donating an auction item, make sure you filled-in a form (see Page 5), to accompany each of your donated items. The form is also available on the OMUG Website.

Extra forms will be on hand at the entrance to the meeting also.

As always, OMUG meetings and events are open to all.

UNLOCK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

default BIOS password. Don't hesitate to call the manufacturer and ask for help. Sometimes the company will have a master password, but you will need to provide the serial number of the machine. If you're dealing with a laptop, the manufacturer may have more stringent requirements for proof of ownership since theft is a serious issue with these machines.

Many people use dumb passwords like their pet's name, child's birthday, anniversary or birth dates, employer's name, brand of car, etc. Generic passwords like these examples can be easily defeated. Don't forget to try "password". I never cease to be amazed at how often this works. The other two most common passwords are God and love.

BIOS manufacturers have their own list of passwords. This website may be helpful. <http://www.elfqrin.com/docs/biospw.html>.

There are cracking programs that will reveal passwords in many cases. If you decide to go this route, make sure you check for viruses. You can find free programs at the following sites:

<http://www.cgsecurity.org/>

<http://www.11a.nu/>

<http://natan.zejn.si/rempass.html>

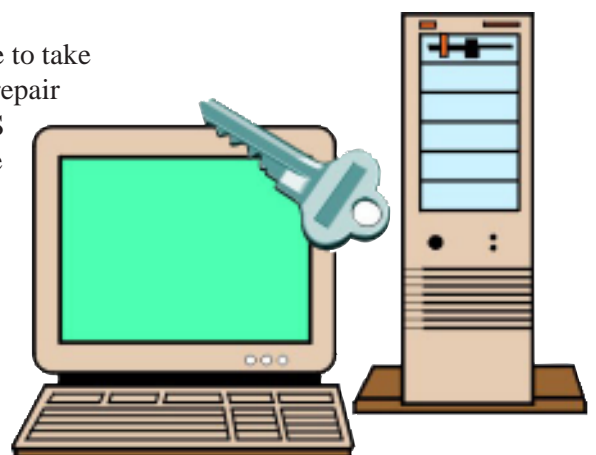
Before accusing me of giving lessons on how to hijack computers, keep in mind that the bad guys already know these tricks and a lot more. There is nothing immoral or illegal about trying to retrieve your own data.

More drastic steps would be to take your machine to a computer repair shop and have the BIOS replaced. You could also have the hard drive replaced, but this would mean losing all information on the disk, and you would need to reinstall your operating system and applications.

What finally worked? The woman baked her cousin's

favorite pie and sent her daughter to deliver it as peace offering. The password was shortly forthcoming. Go figure.

There is no restriction against any non-profit group using this article as long as it is kept in context with proper credit given the author. The Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization of which this group is a member, brings this article to you.





Silent Auction Bidding Form

Description of item: _____

Estimated Fair Market Value: \$ _____ Minimum Bid: \$ _____

System Requirements for software:

All PROCEEDS BENEFIT OMUG. Thank you very much!!

Bidders - Please PRINT IN BLOCK LETTERS your name, and Bid amount:

	NAME OF BIDDER	AMOUNT BID
1		\$
2		\$
3		\$
4		\$
5		\$
6		\$
7		\$
8		\$
9		\$
10		\$
11		\$
12		\$
13		\$
14		\$
15		\$
16		\$