



# OMUG



<http://www.oly mug.org>

## News

Vol. 14, No. 11

Olympia Microcomputer Users Group

November 2006

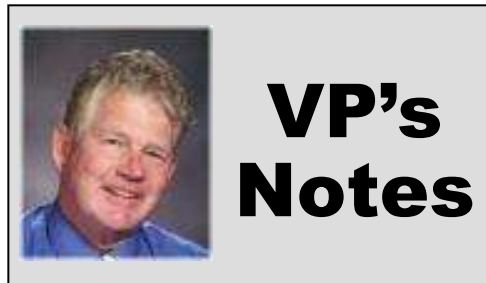
## Vista in November, Auction in December

**By John Acocks**  
OMUG Vice-President

**W**e've been looking forward to November for a few months now because that's when OMUG's board member **Gary Bigger** will be making a presentation on Vista®—Microsoft's new operating system. Gary has been working with a Beta version of Vista® for a few months and has agreed to show it to us along with what he has learned in the process.

The release of Office 2007 is expected to coincide with the release of Vista®. The word on the street is that there are significant appearance changes to the programs, especially Word, which we'll need to adjust to when we eventually upgrade to Office 2007. The word "upgrade" has always made my wife Carol Ann scream because she knows there are changes coming that will affect the way we use our computers.

Next month, we will not have our usual presenter because of our December potluck/auction which has been **wildly** successful for many years. Everyone brings a food item usually based on an



alphabetical assignment...A – F salads, G – hot dish, etc.

The auction part of the evening has been great fun. We have a silent auction of merchandise either donated or offered by OMUG members. This includes unused software programs, carefully used computer books, monitors, computer peripherals, but no food items. Note: please refrain from bringing along the fruit cake you received for Christmas last year that has been serving as a door stop. Money collected in the auction goes toward OMUG's scholarship fund similar to proceeds from the annual Rest Stop coffee/cookie service. ☞

### Washington State Digital Archives

**By Larry Jensen**  
OMUG Secretary

At the October General Meeting, John Marshall introduced the presenter, Terri Nelson. Terri is a na-

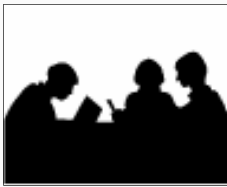
tive Washingtonian, born in Tacoma and a graduate of the Evergreen State College. Before assuming her present job as coordinator of the Secretary of State's Historical Records Project, she spent seven years working as a preservation specialist for the Washington State Archives.

The Washington State Digital Archives is the nation's first archives dedicated specifically to the preservation of electronic records from both State and Local agencies that have permanent legal, fiscal or historical value. As such it has attracted a good deal of attention, not only from other states but also from some foreign countries.

Terri described the process of obtaining information from original sources by volunteers and transferring it digitally into the records. These records are kept at a new facility in Cheney, Washington which opened October 4, 2004. The facility was designed from the ground up to host the program. It includes a state of the art research room complete with computer research stations, a high tech presentation room and a world class data center.

Only Washington State data is archived here. This information includes such things as census records, birth and death records, marriage and military records and much more. All of this information is available on line at <http://www.digitalarchives.wa.gov>





## EXECUTIVE BOARD

**President:** Shirley Bellinghausen  
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**Vice-President:** John Acocks  
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**Secretary:** Larry Jensen  
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**Treasurer:** Max Whipps  
treasurer@olymug.org 486-9959

**Newsletter Editor:** Sister Dorothy  
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**Director at Large:** John Marshall  
director1@olymug.org

**Director at Large:** Gary Bigger  
director2@olymug.org

**Director at Large:** L.D. McNall  
director3@olymug.org

### KEY MEMBERS:

**APCUG Representative:** John Gerech

**Budget Committee Chair:** Wim Verhoef

**Database Manager:** Max Whipps

**Elections Chair:** Bob Steinberg

**Historian:** David Belles

**Membership Chair:** Rich Cunningham

**Newsletter Distribution Coordinator:**  
Joanne Homolka

**Nominating Committee Chair:**

Arlene Kapner

**Public Relations Chair:** Vivian Forrester

**Scholarship Committee Chair:**

Bob Wing

**SIG Coordinator:** Bob Steinberg

**Special Activities Coordinator:** Open

**Visitors Coordinator:** Glenda Reed

The Olympia Microcomputer Users Group is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to helping computer users improve their skills with computers.

**OMUG News** Published monthly  
PMB 225

3430 Pacific Ave SE Suite A6  
Olympia, WA 98501-2177

November 2006

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# What is APCUG?

An article from the Newsletter of  
Henry Ford Village Computer Club  
Dearborn, MI  
**Eugene Freeman, Editor**

What is APCUG? It's the Association of Personal Computer User Groups. Do you know that our Club is a member of APCUG?

IF Yes! Then have you explored the many other clubs located in the USA, Canada, Japan and Australia that are also members? If not, you are missing something.

IF No! And you are interested in finding out—click on <http://www.apcug.net> Oh! Too much to click on, of course. Start with Newsletters → then Online newsletters → States → Pick the State you want.

What state should I pick first? Why not Michigan? The Henry Ford Village Computer Club AND the SouthEastern Michigan Computer Organization, Inc. <http://www.semco.org/> are members of APCUG.

OR—Find Florida in the list of states & click on Central Florida Computer Society. <http://www.cfcs.org/newsletter.asp>

OR—Find the MOTHERBOARD, a publication of the Computer Us-

ers Group of Redding, CA. Of course look in the California list of clubs. <http://users.snowcrest.net/ibmpcugr>

Ohio is near—check out <http://www.acpcug.org/site3/presentations.htm> (Akron Canton PC Users Group) and click on Past Newsletters.

Look at all the sites you can contact from their Web site. There are over 300 Computer Clubs that belong to APCUG.

Why Bother?

Of course, to read the Computer Club **newsletters**—current & past issues—and find what they are doing.

Get helpful tips and tricks that other Club members have found and are sharing. **If you find a good one to share, send it to your Editor.**

Try Canada, our neighbor. Big Blue & Cousins: <http://bbs.bbc.org/newsletter/index.php>

**EMAIL** Sister Dorothy with any ideas you find that interest you—which might be of interest to other OMUG members!

**Thanks for Renewing!**  
**L.D. & Mary Lee  
McNall  
Elizabeth & Keith  
Ross  
Helen Wilder**

**We have no new  
members this  
month!**  
**Remember, you  
earn a 3-month  
extension of your  
own membership  
for each new  
member you  
refer.**

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# January 2007: Library Online Databases

By Sister Dorothy Robinson  
For Larry Jensen  
OMUG Secretary

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Vice-President John Acocks opened the meeting at 7:00 PM. Also present were Treasurer Max Whipps, Webmaster Pat Sonnenstuhl, Newsletter Editor Sr. Dorothy Robinson, Directors at Large Gary Bigger, L.D. McNall and John Marshall, and Newsletter Distribution Coordinator Joanne Homolka.

Sister Dorothy volunteered to take notes in Secretary Larry Jensen's absence. Approval of minutes from prior meetings was tabled.

John Acocks asked for feedback from the October General Meeting, and comments were positive. John Marshall has donated a USB device that controls a laser pointer and also advances slides in PowerPoint presentations. The loudspeaker was not used, and L.D. said he could hear well—but that the speaker had good projection. John Marshall says he has an alternate method in mind to try out for amplifying sound. At our January General Meeting someone from the Timberland Library will talk about databases on various topics which can be accessed online.

Gary, who has been working with Vista Beta, talked about it and answered some questions. He will be presenting on this topic at our November general meeting.

Pat has nothing new to report about the website. She now has a general email list of all members, so that information that should go to the whole membership can be sent as needed, since not all members want to be on the Reflector.

Sister Dorothy reported nothing new for the newsletter. She knows Shirley will be happy on her return to hear that we have someone who is willing to fill out an interview form!

L.D. reported that some people are contacting him for rides now, and he wondered what the best way to organize rides might be, since we don't all live near each other. Joanne suggested we do a signup at the next General Meeting for those who need rides and those who are willing to give rides.


Treasurer Max Whipps reported that there is \$2579.04 in the savings account, \$3021.40 in the scholarship account and \$178.94 in the checking account. Together with

\$180.00 yet to be deposited, the treasury total is \$5959.38

We have 189 primary members (12 more than last year) and 78 associate members for a total of 267. This is 14 more than a year ago. We are glad to see membership increasing, and would like to see it up more. We discussed taking brochures and newsletters to Panorama City's computer center. Pat volunteered to contact someone she knows there.

John Marshall said that the eBay presentation at the Hot Topics SIG on Tuesday October 24 may be the last for that topic, and he may wait until January to introduce a new topic. He also said he had been attending the Linux SIG so that he can become more knowledgeable about Linux.

Our annual potluck and silent auction was discussed in general terms, and John Acocks agreed to write about it for the President's Post for the November newsletter.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM. 

## OMUG Income & Expenses September 2006



### Income: \$265

[Membership Dues—\$260, Interest—\$5]

### Expenses: \$265

[Newsletter Copying—\$136, Newsletter Supplies—\$31, Membership Committee Supplies—\$76, Picnic Site 2007 Reservation—\$22]

### Net Income: \$0

### OMUG Treasury as of 9/20/06

<b>Savings Account Balance:</b>	\$2,579
<b>Scholarship Account Balance:</b>	\$3,021
<b>Checking Account Balance:</b>	\$278
<b>Bank Accounts Total:</b>	\$5,879
<b>To Be Deposited:</b>	\$180
<b>Treasury Total:</b>	\$6,059

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# Surprising New Search Engine

By **Sandy Berger**  
Compu-KISS  
www.compukiss.com  
sandy(at)compukiss.com

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Google has been my search engine of choice for several years, but recent developments have made me change my alliance to a new search engine.

Perhaps you read about it. A few weeks ago, 20 million of AOL's customers Web search queries appeared on the Web. These included the user's ID, the query they typed into the search engine, and other information.

Newsmakers picked up on the story because of some of the dramatic Web searches performed. For instance, AOL user 2708 searched for "I hate my ex boyfriend," "how to humiliate someone," "free angry stuff to send to an ex lover," and "makehimpay.net". User 17556639 looked for even more vicious information with searches on "how to kill a wife", "photo of dead people," "decapitated photos," "wife killer," and "steak and cheese." (Guess they got hungry.)

After the sensationalism died down, many people realized that the true story was that search engines are keeping a collection of information that can lead to a personal dossier of an individual. AOL's information included user numbers that were identified by cookies, but users can also be identified by Internet addresses, bringing them closer to our true identities.

All of the big search engines keep such information. Recently Google, AOL, Microsoft, and Yahoo were subpoenaed to turn over information of this type to the Justice Department. Of the big four, only

Google refused to release the information.

In response to this story, one search engine, Ixquick, immediately issued a press release stating that they are taking steps to provide privacy protection for their users. Ixquick stated that after a search, they will immediately and permanently delete all personal search details.

I was impressed by a company who thought that protecting our privacy was more important than gleaning information from our searches and selling data for marketing purposes. I had never heard of Ixquick, but I immediately surfed over to www.Ixquick.com. I was impressed with what I found.

Ixquick, which is owned by a Dutch company, is a metasearch engine. That means that it searches several databases to get its search results. Ixquick uses Yahoo/Alta vista, Gigablast, Ask Jeeves/Teoma, Open Directory and 7 other search engines. It is available in 18 languages.



Ixquick marks the search results with stars, one star for every search engine that chooses that particular Web site as one of the ten best results for your search. This effectively gives you the relevancy of the search results. Also, the Ixquick interface is clean and easy to use. It allows you to quickly choose if you want your search to find only one of the words of your search phrase, all of the words, or the exact phrase. There is also a place where you can easily enter words that you may want to eliminate from your search. You don't need to fool around with pluses, minuses, or quotation marks

as you do with some popular search engines.

I was extremely impressed with the Ixquick's International Phone Directory. Just type in a name and city or state and you can actually find people. Ixquick's Reverse Directory can tell you who's calling when you enter a telephone number. With Bigfoot and most other people directories now charging for people searches, this is an extremely useful free search tool.

Ixquick also has a comparison shopping service and an image search feature. Like Google and others, Ixquick offers a search toolbar.

After using Ixquick for a few weeks, I can honestly say that I have been very happy with the results. Using it in conjunction with Google gives you a wonderfully wide selection of search results. If, however, you want to really keep your searches private, then you will want to use Ixquick exclusively. After the recent AOL debacle, I feel that Ixquick is providing a great service not only as a search engine, but also as a leader on privacy issues. ☞

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.

## Story from a Field Rep

When I worked for a company that had a contract with 3M, 3M had asked me to write them a memo describing why we were having problems with diskette failures. I said in the memo that the disks were failing due to head crashes. "If the customers would just clean their heads periodically, we wouldn't have these problems," I said in the memo. One customer responded with "What kind of shampoo do you recommend?"

*(from netfunny.com)*

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# The New, the Best, the Worst

Collected by **Pim Borman**  
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## Backup, Schmackup

I can't pick up a computer magazine without being harangued about the urgent need to back up my hard drive(s) before the world is coming to an end. I have never been able to bring myself to follow that well-meant advice, although not without lingering feelings of guilt. On a few occasions I have used the latest hot backup program to store data folders to a compressed file on a backup drive. Then I wondered if I would be able to retrieve my data from that file if the need arose, and conveniently forgot to update the backup.

Last year I bought a 200 GB external hard drive to store backups. It came with a backup program that I used to back up those data folders I wanted to protect. After I was done I had about 199 GB of external disk space left. It dawned on me that it might be easier to just copy the data folders I wanted to back up directly to the external drive. No big deal and no worry about the integrity of my backup data.

After all, what is there that's irreplaceable? I edit our User Group's Web site, about 12 MB by now. After every update I publish the site to my external hard drive and two locations on the Web. Once or twice a year I also copy the whole thing to a CD-ROM that I give to our president for safekeeping. That's safe enough by any measure.

I keep extra copies of photos and genealogy data on several hard drives, and annually copy them to a backup CD. Current financial and tax data I keep on removable storage with backup to CDs, as well as hard

copies in a file cabinet. Personal email correspondence gets backed up occasionally, although I can't remember ever going back to letters from years ago. I might have to borrow a computer from the Smithsonian to recover my earliest correspondence, written in the late eighties with a Textra word processor on floppy disks that actually flopped.

During the past two Christmas seasons, while nostalgia was running high, my son Mike and I dug out some old 8-mm family movies, taken in the 60's, 70's, and 80's, for conversion to digital format. The old projector suffered from a broken drive belt, but thanks to Google I managed to find a replacement on the Web. I still had some splice tapes left to repair the brittle film as needed. We used a Vivitar UVC-1 All-In-One Universal Video Converter to funnel the images into Mike's digital camcorder. The converter is a rectangular box with an opaque glass projection window in the long side, and a condenser lens in the short side. The camcorder, on a tripod, is focused through the condenser lens and a diagonal internal mirror on the projected image. We needed to adjust the frame rate of the camcorder to obtain a steady picture. Mike then recorded the camcorder copy with a SONY RDR-GX300 DVD Recorder on DVDs for sharing with relatives and archiving. Now THAT is worthwhile backing up! The quality of the old movies is primitive by today's standards, but the contents are invaluable and irreplaceable.

If you run a business I can see the importance of regularly and completely backing up everything, making sure to keep extra copies off-site. But as a private individual, just use common sense and stop worrying. What is there to lose, really? And while you are at it, maybe you should

look around the garage, the attic, or the basement for clutter that can safely be thrown away!

## Dell DeCrapifier

Dell stock has gone down more than 50% during the last several years. Many reasons are given, including the presumed ineptness of its CEO during the last two years, Kevin Rollins. Specifically mentioned are poor customer service and the loss of key personnel (The Wall Street Journal 8/22/06).

There is no mention of the disgust of many new Dell customers when they find their new computer loaded with unwanted software and spyware that slows everything down and is almost impossible to remove. Jason York to the rescue! He has written a script called the Dell DeCrapifier that automatically detects and removes unwanted software from new Dell computers. If you have a new Dell you can find it at [www.yorkspace.com](http://www.yorkspace.com). (PCWorld September 2006). ☹

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## True Microsoft Story

*By Frederick Wamsley*

I once got an especially helpful reply to a question I asked on Microsoft's on-line tech support service. I wrote back to thank them for a complete and concise reply, and said how much I appreciated it.

The next day I had a response:  
"We are looking into the problem and will contact you with a solution as soon as possible."

*(from netfunny.com)*