



# OMUG



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

## News

Vol. 16, No. 8

Olympia Microcomputer Users Group

August 2008

## What Goes Around...

**By Max Whipps**  
OMUG President

For the first couple of years after OMUG began in 1986 as the Olympia MSDOS Users Group, the meetings consisted of the membership coming together and holding discussions.

Although MS Windows 1.02 was beginning to attract notice, it wasn't taken seriously by members of the group. The general meeting was the only meeting OMUG (generally just called MUG) had. There were no Special Interest Groups (SIGS) and there were no presentations by outside organizations. The general meetings were discussions of DOS related subjects. All the members took part in the discussions, with various members sharing their knowledge and discoveries with each other. Some were more advanced than others, but all contributed.



Last month's general meeting was kind of a throw-back to 1987. There wasn't actually a "presentation." There was a meeting of the membership having a discussion about various Windows related subjects, DOS being long gone as a common operating system. We covered a lot of subjects yet hardly scratched the surface of available subjects. Various members asked questions and more than a few members provided answers which were often elaborated on by still other members. Personally, I had a good time and, as always at such meetings learned a few things. If you would like more of this kind of meeting to

supplement the SIGs, let Vivian Forrester, our Vice President and Program Chair know. If you have other ideas for our general meetings, share these with her also.

Finally, a reminder—don't forget that the annual OMUG Picnic will be held at Shelter # 1, the Rose Garden, in Priest Point Park on Saturday, August 16<sup>th</sup>. As usual, OMUG will supply hamburgers & hotdogs along with buns, condiments, soft drinks, and plates and utensils. Members are encouraged to bring any specialty dishes they would like to share with us. Children and grandchildren are more than welcome too. It's a lot of fun! See you there. ☺



### Windows Tips

from <http://www.davebytes.com>  
Via APCUG; Used with permission.

**Access The Start Menu Without a Mouse (XP):** Press CTRL-ESC to open the Start Menu then use arrows to navigate and the Enter key to run programs and make selections.

**Access System Properties:** Press the Windows icon key and the Pause/Break key to open System Properties. This window gives you

information about your computer system. Handy when online with tech support.

**Create a Shortcut to Your Printer (XP):** To make it easy to access print options or stop your printer, click on Start, select Control Panel, then Printers and Other Hardware, then click View installed printers or fax printers, right click on your printer name and select Create Shortcut. Place shortcut on desktop.

*Continued on page 7: Tips...*

**August 14 Program  
at the General Meeting:  
FREE & OPEN  
SOURCE  
SOFTWARE**

Paul Braget, GNU/Linux SIG Leader, will present a video about free and open source software (FOSS). This is a fascinating film concerning the history, and the future, of this important movement. You'll want to see this one.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD

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The Olympia Microcomputer Users Group is a 501 (c) (3) non-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

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# The Windows SIG

By Larry Jensen  
 OMUG Secretary

President Max Whipps opened the July 10 General Meeting at 7:00 PM. There were about 25 present.

John Marshall described the project for the last two Hot Topics sessions. A computer was built from components. The operating system and other programs were installed. This is now a good workhorse computer that will be given to someone that needs a computer. John asked that anyone with a candidate contact him.

John said that, as of now, there is not a subject for the next Hot Topics sessions. Anyone with suggestions should contact John.

Members were reminded that the annual OMUG picnic would be held on August 16<sup>th</sup> in the Rose Garden at Priest Point Park. It begins at 11:30. Max will send out a reminder.

The program for the night was a demonstration of what goes on at a Windows SIG. To do this, Max and John, the SIG Leaders, had replicated the setting in the upstairs computer room, with people seated at a long table. A digital projector showed the screen of Max's laptop so that he was able show what he was doing.

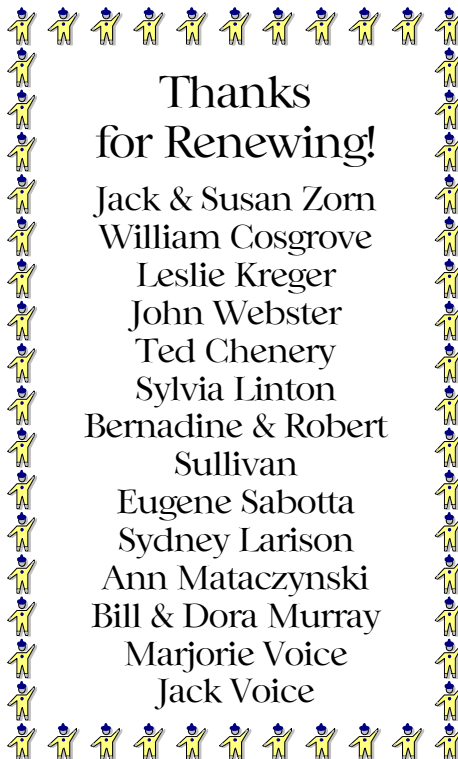
Max emphasized that this is not a class. It is a group where everyone is encouraged to bring questions and where everyone contributes to finding the answers. The demonstration went exactly as does a regular Windows SIG meeting.

There was a question about changing icons and Max demonstrated how there are a large number of icons available to substitute for the default icons. The same goes for sounds, where there are other sounds available, or you can record your own and then install them in place of the defaults.

There was discussion of several security programs such as AVG, Norton and McAfee. Max demonstrated McAfee's "Site Advisor" a free program that indicates which sites are safe to use and which are questionable or dangerous. See <http://www.siteadvisor.com>

Methods of generating and keeping passwords were discussed. Networking, online backups and various other subjects were touched on also. The program was very well received and demonstrated to everyone just how valuable such SIG's can be.

Larry Jensen was the lucky winner of the drawing for the Door Prize.



# "Sumer Is Icumen In"...And So's the Picnic!

By **Larry Jensen**  
OMUG Secretary

President Max Whipps opened July 17 OMUG business meeting at 7:05 PM. Because of traffic problems in Olympia, the meeting was held at the St. Placid Priory at the invitation of Sister Dorothy Robinson. **Present:** President Max Whipps; Vice President Vivian Forrester; Secretary Larry Jensen; Treasurer Gary Bigger; Webmaster Pat Sonnenstuhl; Newsletter Editor Sister Dorothy Robinson, Past President Shirley Bellinghausen and Director at Large Arlene Kapner **Absent:** Directors at Large Tonney Yamane and Jim Simmons.

Vivian reported that the August program will be presented by Paul Braget on Open Source Software. The subject of the September General Meeting will be "Computers in Elections." Someone from the Thurston County Auditors Office will make the presentation.

Vivian has been talking to people from Precious Metalsmith, a company that designs and makes jewelry. They use high-end computers for their design work. It is possible that we could have a General Meeting at their plant, where they could demonstrate the use of computers in their work. The board felt that this is a distinct possibility and we should work on it for sometime next year.

Vivian has been busy in her role as PR Representative. She listed a number of offices and business establishments that she had contacted. Many reacted favorably to her request to leave OMUG brochures, although at some they could only be left in the employees lounge.

Vivian also had a certificate of appreciation for Kelsey Smith who had presented a program for the General Meeting in June.

Larry will be away and miss the August general and business meetings. Shirley Bellinghausen agreed to substitute for him. He reported that we still have no accounting for the ink cartridges turned in to Rapid Refill; he'll continue to ask for that but the project is effectively terminated.

Gary reported income for June was \$248.40. Expenses were \$50.00. Net income was \$198.40. We had 160 Primary members (30 less than last year) and 70 Associate members (the same as last year). All money over \$3000 in the Scholarship Fund has been moved into the General Fund per the board's decision. In accordance with the recommendation of the Audit Committee, Gary had a Quarterly Report on the Budget status.

Sister Dorothy said that she would like to get more member profiles. Max suggested that she send out specific requests.



There was considerable discussion about the GNU/Linux SIG and Olympic Softworks. The Board felt that we need to clarify the relationship between OMUG and Olympic Softworks and to emphasize that the GNU/Linux SIG is an OMUG activity. Sister Dorothy Robinson volunteered to talk to Dave Thompson, Chairman of Olympic Softworks, and attempt to reach a suitable accommodation.

The Picnic will be held August 16 in the Rose Garden at Priest Point Park. Gary will buy the meat and soft drinks; Phil Vogel will barbecue. Shirley felt that we need to give it more publicity and also have directions to the Rose Garden. Max will send out a reminder.

Sister Dorothy informed us of a Silent Vigil for Peace, to be held at the Capitol from Noon August 2<sup>nd</sup> to Noon August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM. ☐

**Invite a friend to attend an OMUG meeting. If your friend joins, YOU get three free months added to your membership!**

## OMUG Income & Expenses June 2008



### Income: \$ 248

(Membership Dues- \$240, Raffle Sales \$6, Bank Interest \$2)

### Expenses: \$ 50

(Senior Center Donation \$50)

### Net Increase: \$ 198

### OMUG Treasury as of 07/19/2008

<b>Savings Account Balance:</b>	\$3,061
<b>Scholarship Account Balance:</b>	\$3,001
<b>Checking Account Balance:</b>	\$ 379
<b>To Be Deposited:</b>	\$ 0
<b>Treasury Total:</b>	\$6,441

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# Make Your Wireless Network Safe

**By Marjie Tucker**, Editor  
Mountain Computer User Group  
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Obtained from APCUG with the  
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Wireless networks are becoming more and more popular, but they do add some additional security risks. You need to spend a little extra time to ensure that your data and your identity are secure.

## What are the Risks?

Because wireless networks don't require a cable between the computer and your Internet connection, it's relatively easy for someone else to use your Internet connection for free, to hijack your messages, or to sneak into your computer and view or steal your data.

## So What Should I Do?

There are several important steps that you should follow to protect yourself and your computer:

1. Don't use a default password on your wireless equipment. Most networking devices are pre-configured by the manufacturer with a simple password to simplify the setup process. This is the password that allows you to access the router configuration.

These "default" passwords are well known by anyone who has used a similar device and they are available online, eroding any protection they might have provided. Check the instructions that came with your device and immediately change the password.

Remember that the best passwords contain both upper and lowercase letters as well as numbers. And, always shy away from passwords that can be easily guessed by your friends—such as

the names of your children or your dog.

Experts suggest using a poem to derive a "pass phrase." You merely take a line from a poem or poem title and use the first letter of each word. For example, using the poem "Mary had a little lamb" you would use the letters from the first line—Mary had a little lamb; its fleece was white as snow—mhallifwwas. Add at least one uppercase letter by capitalizing the M for Mary—Mhallifwwas. Next add at least one number by changing some of the letters to numbers, such as making the first letters for little and lamb into 1s. Now we have a phrase (Mhal1ifwwas) that is reasonably secure and very easy to remember.

2. Restrict your network to only your computers. Every computer device has an embedded address on it called a media access control (MAC) address. Wireless access points and routers can be configured to exclude all other MAC addresses.

3. Encrypt the data on your network. Encryption prevents outsiders from viewing your transmissions. There are two methods of ensuring that your information is adequately protected, Wired Equivalent Privacy (WEP) and Wi-Fi Protected Access (WPA). Because WEP has several security issues associated with it, WPA is considered the more effective method, if it is supported by your equipment. However,

since this is another area where a secure password is important, you should use a passphrase like I described in item #1.

4. Choose a unique SSID. Your equipment may have a default name that identifies your network, called an SSID. Be sure to setup a unique name and, if possible, avoid broadcasting that name. That will make it harder for outsiders to find your network.

5. Install a firewall for your network. Microsoft Vista and XP both provide a firewall that is designed to protect your computer, but your network itself will be safer with its own firewall. A host based firewall is easy to obtain (some of them are free over the Internet) and can be installed directly onto your wireless device.

6. Install and regularly update both anti-virus and anti-spyware software. You can keep attackers at bay with these protective programs. However, remember to update both of them on a regular basis. New viruses and spyware attacks are being developed daily; so your software must be updated to be effective. ☞

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## Editor's note—

Some other resources on this topic:

<http://www.pcstats.com/articleview.cfm?articleID=1489>

[http://www.practicallynetworked.com/support/wireless\\_secure.htm](http://www.practicallynetworked.com/support/wireless_secure.htm)

<http://www.windowsecurity.com/articles/Wireless-Network-Security-Home.html>

# Unsought Fame

By Sister Dorothy Robinson  
OMUG Newsletter Editor



When you put something out into the universe—you never know what might come of it. Phil Vogel, OMUG member and a former OMUG director-at-large, attends the GNU/Linux SIG.

A while back Phil agreed to write an article about why he likes the Ubuntu operating system for our newsletter. We published his article, and I asked him if I could submit it to APCUG so that other newsletter editors would have access to it. That was fine with Phil, so I did, and then I think we more or less forgot about it.

When I received the PUSH articles from APCUG for May, there was Phil's article! Recently I decided to do a search, and found that "Why I Like the Ubuntu Operating System" has been published online by [nwapplpkrs.org](http://nwapplpkrs.org), [slobytes.org](http://slobytes.org), [ckcs.org](http://ckcs.org), [mycmug.org](http://mycmug.org), and others.

Most of us belong to OMUG to share our knowledge of computers and software, giving and receiving help and having a good time doing it. Please consider writing an article on your favorite computer-related topic for our newsletter. This is a great way to contribute to our user group!

# Annual Picnic: August 16, 11:30 AM

## Don't Miss It!

To get to Priest Point Park from Olympia, turn north from State Ave onto East Bay Drive (Plum becomes East Bay). Go approximately two miles and turn into the South Entrance of the park on the right. Drive up the hill, bearing left, and turn right at the top—you'll see the Rose Garden Picnic Shelter and OMUG's red and white banner.

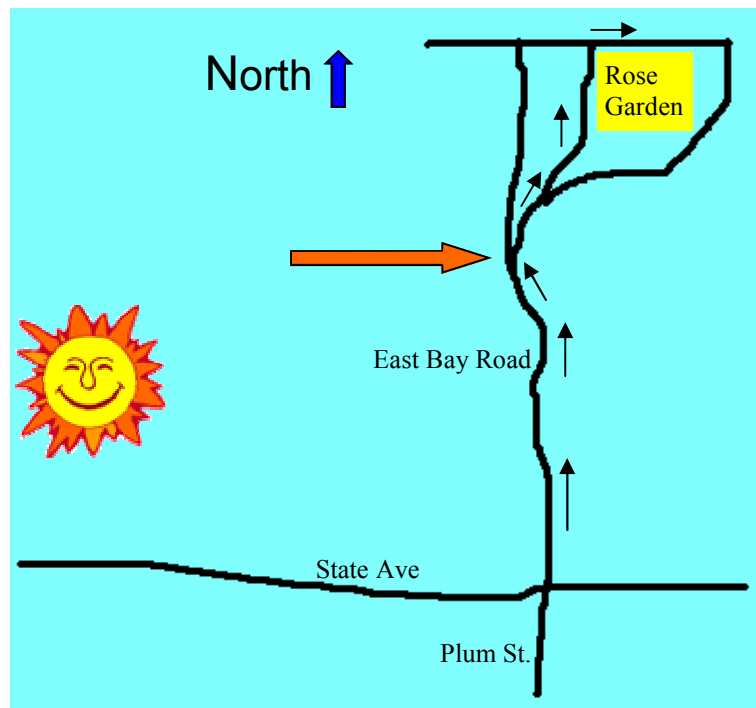
There will be lots of good food and soft drinks—so bring your family, your friends, a side dish or some chips and—most important—your appetite! Phil Vogel has generously agreed to barbecue the burgers and dogs again, and OMUG is providing the meat, buns, condiments and soft drinks as well as the paper plates and cups, knives and forks.



The Rose Garden Picnic Shelter

Keep in mind that there are a few competitive spirits in OMUG, and if you like a game of cards you'll likely find it—and maybe some other games—after we eat. Or if you just like to talk, there'll be plenty of like-minded souls to chat with.

Come out Saturday August 16 to enjoy this annual get-together—a time to relax and have fun with all your OMUG friends!



**The red arrow tip shows the South Entrance of the park: Turn right off East Bay, bear left to the top of the hill, then turn right again and you'll see the Rose Garden Picnic Shelter.**

Continued from page 1: ...Tips

**Killing a Window:** Have you ever had one of those windows that misbehave? By "misbehave," I mean you cannot get it to Maximize or Minimize. Sometimes Web programmers want to splash a screen onto your PC with no controls and will use this technique so that you can't get their junk off your screen. For some bizarre reason they think this is a good thing. Anyway, you do have some control with the standard Windows window control options.

Click anywhere in the misbehaving window and hit Alt + Spacebar.

On the resulting menu, you can choose Close and kill the window.

**How to Rename a Series of Files:** If you have a series of files you want to rename, but want to keep the sequence intact, here's how:

Using Windows Explorer, locate the files. Be sure you're in Details mode. Go to the last file in the sequence and select it. Hold down the Shift button and select the first file in the sequence. All the files should now be highlighted. Go to File/ Rename. You should now be able to rename the first file. Be sure to keep the file extension. All the files should now be renamed in sequence with the new appellation.

## OMUG Supporters

We are thankful for the many people, organizations and businesses who support OMUG.

Below is a list of a few who have given back to the community by assisting OMUG in its mission to help computer users help computer users and their community.

Our supporters provide services and discounts, give of their time, provide space for OMUG activities, introduce OMUG members to new products, share knowledge and expertise, provide OMUG with software and hardware, or provide educational opportunities. All of them are appreciated.

Senior Services for South Sound  
Olympia Computer Central  
IPMA  
Adobe  
Microsoft  
Cartridge Care, Inc

**Idea for a new SIG?  
Tell any OMUG board member!**



## MEETING LOCATIONS

**Capital High School:**  
2707 Conger Ave NW  
in Olympia. Follow the signs to the computer lab from the lower parking lot.

**El Sarape Restaurant:**  
1200 Cooper Point Road  
in West Olympia near Staples and the Post Office.

**The Olympia Center:**  
222 Columbia Street NW  
in Olympia.

**Note:** The computer lab at the Olympia Senior Center is on the second floor behind the boutique.

