



OMUG



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

News

Vol. 16, No. 11

Olympia Microcomputer Users Group

November 2008

HO, HO, HO, OMUG's Christmas Party/Auction Coming!

By Max Whipps
OMUG President

Mark December 11th on your calendars and plan on attending the annual OMUG Christmas potluck and auction. I've lost track of how many years we've been doing this now, but it's always fun and helps our battered treasury as well.

See box below for a suggested list of what to bring to the potluck based on the first letter of your last name. This helps ensure that not everyone brings a salad or a dessert. Come to think of it, the latter might not be bad. 😊 OMUG will furnish all the paper plates and plastic ware including knives, forks, cups and glasses. Additionally, we will have coffee as usual and soft drinks left over from the picnic. If you can,



please come early to help set up the tables.

Also, start planning on what you can bring to donate to OMUG for the auction. While the emphasis has always been on computer-related items, you're not limited to that. You are welcome to bring anything of value that other members are likely to want. That last part is important. We don't want junk such as hardware or software that is obsolete or unusable. Likewise, books and manuals of obsolete software aren't useful. Look around your house; I'm sure you can find useful

items that you don't want anymore but that someone else probably would. Also keep in mind that the fair market value of anything you donate to OMUG is tax deductible.

While the auction portion of the evening can be a help to our treasury, the more important aspect is just the fun of it. The format will, as in the past, be a "silent auction." This means that each item will have a bid sheet on which members write their bid and name. You have to keep checking on items you really want as other members may increase the bid without being noticed.

So, plan on bringing your family, a potluck item, lots of money, and a festive mood to our December 11th meeting. 🖥️

Thanks for Renewing!

Phyllis & John Batten
Curt & Myrna Rosler
Joyce & Gregg Reynolds
Lorenzo & Mary Lee McNall
James & Sharon Reddick
Jean & Dale Rancour
Arlene Buchanan
Wolfgang & Gerda Priebe
Pat Sonnenstuhl
Tom Johnson
Joe Strain
Wallace Music
John Tissell
Joe Ryan

Christmas Potluck/Auction
Food to bring by your last name:

A—F: Main Dish/Entrée (hot dishes would be good!)

G—L: Salads or Vegetables

M—R: Dessert

S—Z: Bread, Rolls or Snacks (Chips, etc.)

**Welcome,
New & Returning Members!**

Joan Bollig
Shirley Frost
William Smith

Want to respond to something in your newsletter?
Email: newsletter@oly mug.org

November 13 Program at the General Meeting:
Publisher 2007

Member Glenda Reed will give us a tour of Microsoft's latest version of Publisher. For those who do newsletters and other desktop publishing, Publisher has been a reliable standby. Join us to explore the latest tricks and tips with Glenda! 🖥️



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.

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The Internet & Web 2.0

By Larry Jensen
 OMUG Secretary

Vice President Vivian Forrester opened the October 9 OMUG General Meeting at 7:00 PM. There were about 35 present.

Vivian introduced new members Bill Smith and Shirley Frost, and reported that the November 13 program will be a presentation by member Glenda Reed on Publisher 2007.

John Marshall announced that he will be available to make home visits to help solve hardware and software problems. He will charge \$10 to make the visit and \$50 for the fix.

Vivian introduced Chuck Vose, the presenter for the evening. He is the OMUG Scholarship winner for 2008, a student at The Evergreen State College. Chuck has four years experience with non-profit small and medium businesses. He has worked as a programmer, architect, systems administrator and coordinator. He is also maintainer of RBridge, an Open Source project that bridges Ruby and Erlang (two programming languages). Chuck has been developing software professionally for four years but many years before that as an amateur.

Chuck started out by saying that the term "Web 2.0" is really facetious because there was never a "Web 1.0." It really referenced the change in the Web after the bursting of the dot.com bubble around 2001. Before that time programmers were trying to develop uses for the Web. There was a great deal of venture capital invested in start-up companies which did not fill a need, and as a result, many of them failed. Since then, the Web has evolved in a way far different than the way it started. Because it became obvious that it was impossi-

ble for programmers to anticipate and create everything that people might want, there was more and more user-generated content. Examples are Weblogs, Social networking, G-Mail and Wikipedia

In describing how the Internet works, Chuck showed the structure, starting with the individual computer and working its way up through the servers such as Comcast and Quest and ending with the "backbone", a few companies that provide the overall world-wide communication facilities, a superstructure overlying everything.

Because there are so many companies involved, (a message may go through as many as 50 in reaching its destination), there are many problems involved. It must be fast, stable and secure. As usage grows, these problems become larger. Not only technical problems abound, but also political challenges. An example is the recent trouble in Georgia where Russia shut down the Internet. Other political problems involve the possible regulation of the Internet.

The "Backbones" make their money by charging companies such as Amazon, Google and Yahoo for the use of their facilities. This has become so expensive that companies such as Google are now acquiring their own fiber-optic distribution systems.

Chuck gave the overall impression that the Internet is growing and evolving at a rapid pace. That evolution is fueled by the Open Source revolution in which volunteers are more and more determining the course of change. It was an interesting and thought provoking presentation. Chuck will be offered a free one-year membership in OMUG, and we hope to see him at our meetings!

Gwen Stimmel won the drawing. 🖨

Good Programs Coming Up

By **Larry Jensen**
OMUG Secretary

President Max Whipps opened the October 16 OMUG business meeting at 7:00 PM. Also present were Past President Shirley Bellinghausen; Secretary Larry Jensen; Treasurer Gary Bigger; Newsletter Editor Sr. Dorothy Robinson; Webmaster Pat Sonnenstuhl; and Directors at Large Arlene Kapner and Tonney Yamane. Director at Large Jim Simmons was absent.

Minutes of the September Board Meeting and October General meeting were unanimously approved.

Vivian reported that January's program will be by Cheryl Haywood from Timberland Library. The November program will be a presentation by Glenda Reed on Microsoft Publisher. Max said that he would like to see a program on Open Office sometime.

Evidently some people received their Newsletter late last month. Since they were mailed on time, it must have been a problem with the Post Office. The Newsletter folding party will be October 31.

Pat has made up a sheet with information on the website. One copy is filed with the Secretary's data; Max suggested that the President also have a copy.

Gary submitted the financial report for September. Total income was \$272.39. Total expenses were \$349.64, for a net decrease of \$77.25. There were 156 Primary members and 66 Associate members. Gary also reported that he has not received a check from Rapid Refill Ink, even though Pat was told it had been mailed about three weeks ago. Pat will call them.

Arlene brought a Certificate of Appreciation for the October presenter. It was late because her printer wasn't working. She needs cardboards to back the certificates. Sister Dorothy has some she will contribute. The October beginning class in Word did not have enough people signed up, so Arlene hopes to hold it on the four Mondays in November. Arlene has experience in teaching how to do a presentation and offered to help any members making a presentation who feel unsure of themselves.

Tonney expressed concern about good quality materials for the Silent Auction. Max suggested that we contact vendors to try to obtain some more items. It was also made clear that things other than computer materials are acceptable.

After discussion, Vivian felt that since people had submitted their surveys we need to take some action. So far, they have not been analyzed.



Gary's quarterly report shows that we are doing well. We may not make our projected income from memberships and the auction, but expenses are lower than expected, due to Noral's printing of the Newsletter. If that should change in the future, we might need to change the way we distribute the newsletter.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20. ☞

Learning Something New

Many of us have used some kind of online program and/or stored electronic files online. See page 7 for a brief explanation of "Cloud Computing" and page 4 for a walkthrough of Buzzword, an online application provided by Adobe. Free signup and use plus free storage of files...at least for now. The signup is quite easy—provide your email address and a password. In addition to document collaboration, Buzzword also provides a way to do online meetings. Try it out and tell us what you think! ☞

OMUG Income & Expenses September 2008



Income: \$ 272

(Membership Dues \$240, Donation \$25, Raffle Sales \$5, Bank Interest \$2)

Expenses: \$ 350

(Senior Center Donation \$50, Newsletter Supplies \$300)

Net Deficit: \$ 78

OMUG Treasury as of 10/15/2008

Savings Account Balance:	\$2,664
Scholarship Account Balance:	\$3,005
Checking Account Balance:	\$ 273
To Be Deposited:	\$ 130
Less Outstanding Checks:	\$ 200
Treasury Total:	\$5,872

Buzzword: Working (Playing?) in the Clouds

By Sister Dorothy Robinson
OMUG Newsletter Editor

I've been playing with a new Internet application called Buzzword. It's a part of Adobe, and it is quite a nice word-processing application that you can use online—rather like Google Docs or Microsoft Office Live. Your documents created there are saved online, but you can also “export” them in 8 different formats (e.g. .doc, .pdf, .docx) and save them locally on your own hard drive.

One thing I like to be able to do with a document is to add pictures, and Buzzword does this nicely. You can use the “align” buttons to move it to the left, center or right, or just drag it where you want it to be.

There are all the usual ways to format text, and it's easy to do by high-

lighting the text and clicking, for example, the “down arrow” next to the text-color button on the menu bar—it's an A with rainbow colors next to it. Choose a color by clicking it, and your text changes color.

The sliding toolbars which contain menus are reminiscent of Microsoft's Word 2007 ribbons. At first I couldn't figure out how to get rid of a menu once it was opened—but when I clicked on another item, it closed.

An interesting feature of Buzzword is that you can invite colleagues to collaborate with you on a document online. Once you start the document, click the Share button at lower left, then type the person's email address into the “Share with” box. Then choose a level of collaboration for that person—Reader, Reviewer,

or Co-Author. Readers can only read the document; reviewers can comment; and co-authors can make and save any kind of changes on the document. Click “next” and enter any additional message you'd like to send the person, and click “Share.” This action sends the email. (Note that you will have set up your email information when you first signed up for Buzzword.)

Now, when your colleague receives the email, all s/he has to do is click on a link—and your Buzzword document opens up in their browser. Then they can do whatever level of collaborating you have indicated.

Here is a link to a document I created; sign up, try it and see what you think: https://buzzword.acrobat.com/#d=q6L24A1FQEye5xI*XFIG7g
See Note on page 5, & have fun! 📧

YouTube for Posterity

By Mike Moore, Editor
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The video sharing websites, such as Google Video and YouTube, are either great resources or the world's biggest time-wasters, depending on your viewpoint. YouTube for example, allows users to view and share video clips with ease, and anyone can upload a video clip on this site without cost, making it a kind of “America's Funniest Videos” of the internet. In an effort to keep users coming back to their site (and thus generating more ad revenue), You-

Tube encodes its video files in the Macromedia Flash format (SWF), with Flash video (FLV) data embedded within, which also prevents viewers from downloading files and making digital copies. Instead, the video files are streamed directly to the embedded player in your browser (Internet Explorer or FireFox). There is no obvious download link for users to save the video locally for offline viewing or for transferring to a portable media player. You might think of this in terms of your desktop: you get the link, but not the file.

One of the things I like about the internet is it's a little bit like a dream that you can control. Or, if you like, some kind of software heaven. If you can just imagine a solution for some perceived problem, often times you can look out there, and a solution will have already been created, like magic. In reality, this arises from the very large number of creative folks that use the internet and come across the same difficulties that you and I do, and are actually able to whip up

a solution. More often than not, they don't want any money in exchange for the solution, they just want the problem to be fixed.

There are, in fact, multiple solutions for this problem—that YouTube offers no handy download link and no apparent way to put its videos on your iPod or computer for later enjoyment. I will present only one, but I also want to tell you how I found it, because that process is one that will help you with locating future solutions like this.

You can find YouTube video recorders at download.com and a host of other download sites, but I have a problem with programs found on these sites. I look for well behaved programs that only minimally solve the problem and do not try to do too much. And the distinction between well-behaved programs and ad-ware and spy-ware is getting to be very small indeed. The word “free” on

Continued on page 5...YouTube

these sites, in reference to a program, usually means anything but free.

It is difficult to find a site that presents only open-source, well-meaning programs that respect my desktop and my time. Such programs are like finely crafted European or Japanese tools. They are understated and unassuming, and behave exactly as expected and are documented well. The closest I have ever come to a site that presents such tools for download is <http://sourceforge.net>.

Sourceforge.net is not perfect. One of the pervasive problems on the site is that you won't always know if a particular program is for Windows, Linux, Unix, Mac or some other more exotic computer. Another problem is sometimes programmers jump right into the middle of their story when documenting the program and forget to tell us what the heck the program is supposed to do.

Anyway, I browsed to sourceforge.net and typed in two keywords: youtube recording ...and got 45 hits. Try that on Google and you be lucky to get less than 45,000!

Since SourceForge is about teams of programmers communicating towards a solution to a particular problem, we find far less junk on here than we do on one of the more popular download sites. But we also find projects that have only just started, and don't really have anything for us to download yet. To help me decide which of the 45 solutions to look at, I focus on the last column, which tells me the number of downloads and therefore the relative popularity of the program.

Based on over 35,000 downloads, it looks like "Youtube Downloader" is a good choice. Note: SourceForge is not known for creative program titles either!

Note that the description of this program indicates the program is

"platform independent," meaning that it does not matter whether you have a Mac or PC, this should run on both. Platform Independent usually means that the program runs inside of a browser and uses Java technology to achieve its independence. See Java.com for more information on how Java manages to do this. If you have the latest Internet Explorer or Firefox browser, you probably have Java. If not, it's easy to download it from Java.com if you have a fast internet connection.

The file comes down as `ytd17.zip`. After I unzip the file to a directory (a good choice would be My Videos), I notice there are two directories, one labeled YouTubeDownloader and one called simply, bonus. Without even being tempted by the "bonus" directory, I navigate into the other directory and find two more directories, "full" and "opensource," and I chose full. Inside there is a file called `ytd.jar`. It carries a little blue and orange coffee-cup logo which is another giveaway that this is a java program. I double click on this file and hope for the best. Windows asks me if I want to open it, and I click OK. It opens, but I am also directed to a web site automatically. I hope the programmer just wants me to know something about the program and is not wanting to sell me anything!

Here we see another benefit of Java programs—no installation needed. Just double click and it goes to work for you.

I opened my browser and went to YouTube.com, selected a video and then copied the URL (from the browser address window) using CTRL-C, put my mouse cursor in the space where it says "Enter youtube links separated by a new line" and hit CTRL-V to paste the URL in there. I guess you could type it in too, if you were very accurate. [In Europe, they refer to the ENTER key as a "new line."]

I clicked on the download button and when the download was complete, the program rather cryptically referred me to the download directory, which turned out to be where I installed YouTube Downloader, My Videos. There was a file in there called YouTube-Dancing Liquid.flv, which was indeed my video, but there was a problem—the FLV file extension was not associated with any of my applications! No matter, when I double clicked the FLV file, Windows gave me a choice of what to open it with. I chose my trusty VideoLAN player (on your BGA-MUG CD), and it worked just fine.

Happy YouTubing! ☺

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Invite a friend to an OMUG meeting. If s/he joins, YOU get 3 free months and they get the benefits of membership! Our next meeting is November 13, so bring your friend along!

Note on Buzzword

For those of you who want to try clicking the link to Buzzword on page 4—You need to sign up for a Buzzword membership first. Once you do that, Buzzword will ask you to sign in and then display the document.

Beginning Word

Register now for the next Beginning Word class, led by Arlene Kapner

Class to be held on the four Mondays in November: November 3, 10, 17 & 24.

Call Arlene to sign up (see page 6 for phone)

Cloud Computing...

When did you first hear or see the term “cloud computing”? I’m usually the last to know *anything*, it seems, so I’ve only recently started noticing this term on the Internet. I did some research, and some say it’s the greatest thing since sliced bread—but others think it isn’t such a hot idea. In *very* simple terms, cloud computing is this: rather than having programs and files on your computer, you would store files online and also access applications (programs) online (think Google Docs or MS Office Live; think Flickr or Buzzword). Your computer really wouldn’t need to have much on it, *and* you’d have to have an Internet connection in order to run applications or access your files. Not only individuals, but also companies would be doing this (and in fact, are doing it now). One of the major benefits is that a company (or an individual, for that matter) has the use of combined server resources they might not otherwise be able to afford “in house.”

The ever-vigilant Richard Stallman warns against the use of cloud computing: “Somebody is saying this is inevitable—and whenever you hear somebody saying that, it’s very likely to be a set of businesses campaigning to make it true... One reason you should not use web applications to do your computing is that you lose control,” he said. “It’s just as bad as using a proprietary program. Do your own computing on your own computer with your copy of a freedom-respecting program. If you use a proprietary program or somebody else’s web server, you’re defenseless. You’re putty in the hands of whoever developed that software.” Food for thought. 🖨

—Sister Dorothy, OMUG News Editor

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.

