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MEGAPHONE

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTRAL MARYLAND USER GROUP

President's Message Backing Up Your Data

from Mike Kerwin

The theme for this month came to me while trying to help a colleague at work backup the photos on her digital memory card so she could reuse the card for her next photo trip. I thought this would be easy, but... There's always a "but" in a good story.

This little project that I undertook did not start well. It seems that since the last time I had helped this individual, my workstation computer had been upgraded (or maybe "downgraded"). When I had done this task before, I had used my card reader device and the CD burner on my computer to create archive files on CD-RW disks.

(I have preference for using RW [re-writable] media as it seems wasteful to use only part of the capacity of a disk, as it leads to a proliferation of CDs lying around and piling up [possibly in landfills]. I also know that these disks are not readily recyclable due to their composite composition. You can see what I mean by visiting the HowStuffWorks website [www.howstuffworks.com] and searching for Compact Disk as I did in researching this article. These disks have a polycarbonate plastic base on which additional layers of material are glued [the source of longevity issues] and they are not readily separated for reuse.)

However I immediately noticed that I could not access the "DirectCD" format option from Windows Explorer. Further investigation disclosed that my new computer had Nero as the CD Burner software while the previous unit came equipped with Roxio's Easy Media Creator. Apparently DirectCD is an exclusive with Roxio, so the search was on for how to proceed. I called upon the collective wisdom of other CMUG board members and got good leads to the Wikipedia and HowStuffWorks sites which

provided lots of information, but no easy answer to my quest to make full use of RW capabilities with Nero. Please don't take my limited research as definitive, but I will relate what I learned.

The CD Beginning

It seems that folks in the 1980s were looking for alternatives to floppy disks for some time due to floppies' limited capacity (they met my needs for many years) and tendency to wear out from friction with the read/write head of the drive. About that time, audio CDs were replacing vinyl records for similar reasons – use of a non-destructive laser for reading in place of a mechanical needle to ride physical grooves. This new media also used digital signals in place of the analog signals which had been in use since Edison first invented the phonograph back in the 1870s (that approach lasted nearly 100 years). Somewhere a bright light went off in the head of a geek and the connection was made – modern computers are based on digital signals and CDs store digital information.

Well it took some doing to make the new media work as CDAs (audio) are generally mechanically mass-produced and digital data is most useful if it can be changed or created as the need arises. Do you remember trying to back-up the early hard drives onto a pile of floppies? In those days of very small capacity (though physically large) hard drives, it was conceivable, but HDs soon



Next General Meeting

Art Silverglate will talk about the free IrfanView image viewer; free PhotoShop plugins; and online services to help you print your digital photos in all sorts of formats.

Wednesday, May 16, 7:30 pm.....Florence Bain Senior Center

Next Windows SIG Meeting

Topic: More on good freeware and shareware

Tuesday, May 22, 7:00 pm.....Florence Bain Senior Center

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grew to tens of MBs and floppies were not up to the task. There were a few attempts to incorporate lasers into floppy systems to extend capacity – Flopticals. (I still have a camera which uses LS-120 disks and can be used for external storage of digital files.) The allure of being able to store 600 or 700 MB on a single disk was ample enticement to adapt this new media to computers.

Initially the new media found use for installation media for software in the form of CD-ROM (Compact Disk- Read Only Memory); these software disks could be produced in a similar manner to CD audio disks. It did not take long for new hardware and standards to be developed to make CDs that could be written by a PC device and hence the birth of CD-R (CD- Recordable, which allowed you to write once). This approach had an initial drawback of giving only one opportunity to write to the disk, so each new back-up meant your next-most-recent back-up was now a nearly useless drink coaster, but at least the data got archived. Later some ingenious folks developed more sophisticated hardware, media, and *software* to make CDs work more like the venerable floppy which persisted due to its R/W capabilities.

Now if you were reading carefully, you will have noted that “software” has become inextricably linked to the recording media and this was the flypaper in my initial project. Mary and I were personally disappointed when we got our first computers with CD-Burner capability. We had waited for CD-RWs to come out before we could completely chuck floppies.

When we first tried to use the RW disks, we learned that the software included with the computer would only allow us to write to the disk a second time by starting over at track 0 (I’m not sure this is technically right, but the concept is true.) and writing over the top of previously stored data. Whoa! That was not our intention, as we wanted to make incremental updates and keep the data stored conveniently. Now we found that to fully make use of our hardware we had to fork out more bucks for software. This is not a reasonable expectation when purchasing a new computer system.

Thus we got started on purchasing upgrades and updates of the software on a regular basis – does anyone else smell something rotten? Not only was that a problem, but the disks could not be read on computers lacking the same software – Bummer! Further we found that CDs had to be “finalized” for other machines to read them. This is a story reminiscent of one of Apple’s less successful approaches when they encoded serial numbers on removable media which could then only be read by the creating machine.

Well greater minds went to work on these types of problems and today we have “Multi-Session” approaches to writing CDs (and DVDs) but the price is

a loss of capacity. This is a “kludge” to my way of thinking, since it works around a problem without really solving the problem. But why in this age of recycling would this problem be allowed to continue?

A Useful Standard?

It appears that in 2002 the IEEE standards group did adopt a solution called “Mt. Rainier” formatting and it was supposed to be built-in to the operating system. Something apparently happened on the way to the market though as my present machine does not recognize Mt. Rainier formatting for CDs. My research showed a flurry of activity in 2002 but very little since then. What happened to Mt. Rainier formatting? If you know, please pass it along to me as the homepage for this is currently inactive.

I did find that an enterprising software vendor does offer for sale “EasyWrite Reader” which makes use of this format. More software to buy just to fully utilize the advertised capability of an existing standard! I still get that rotten smell. Supposedly you will see if your hardware/software is capable of this format when the “CD-MRW” format appears as an option under the UDF file system for data packet writing. So what happened over the past 5 years? Did it make it into Windows Vista? [Ed. Note: *Wikipedia says that Windows Vista supports Mt. Rainier, as does Linux since kernel version 2.6.2.*]

Are CDs Out of Date?

I don’t have a full answer, but maybe it proved too intractable to deal with proprietary issues or maybe a newer technology made a solution unnecessary. After polling my colleagues, the technology answer seems to be the one that fits. Today the price of memory cards (solid state



Windows SIG

May 22: Freeware & Shareware

The Windows Special Interest Group (SIG) meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month. The SIG focuses on using and maintaining Windows, all platforms. We take questions, present tips and techniques, demonstrate freeware/shareware and even feature some web topics using a little trickery.

This month we’ll be continuing our discussion of some useful freeware and shareware I’ve collected. If you have a suggestion or a topic for a future SIG meeting, please email me at mikes_line@hotmail.com.

Remember that the meetings are at the Florence Bain Senior Center, and begin at 7 pm. See the CMUG website at www.myCMUG.org for maps and directions.

Hope to see you there.

- Mike Hayes



memory) has fallen almost to the point that folks can just buy more cards and not erase the ones holding pictures of vacations or family, for prices comparable to the cost of buying and developing film images.

Another technology has also entered the picture – external hard drives. This week in the electronic ads of the paper I see that one can purchase 250 GB of storage for \$70. This seems to be the most economical form of storage going and it also seems to be the most portable. Who really wants to cart around a file box full of CDs or even DVDs. For the CD, the capacity of 600MB is far exceeded by the capacity of memory cards in the GB range. For DVDs the wide availability of true DVD burners is getting better, but until recently most units could read DVDs but only burn capacity-challenged CDs. DVDs themselves come in a variety of formats, but that's another story for another column.

So what did I do to help my colleague? I created Multi-Session CDs, as that was the best I could accomplish with the tools at hand. I suggested that she invest in an external HD for truly portable archiving of her precious photo memories and that she selectively print images of special value. In all of our digitizing we have not found a better media for image preservation than paper and it doesn't even require a computer to read the files, only two eyes.

CMUG Business

On to business. Thanks to our own Art Silverglate for our programs for both April and May. This month, Art will be talking about options for printing photos, both at home and via online services; bring your questions and horror stories!

I don't know how we would continue as a group without the dedicated efforts of the Few, the Committed, the Board Members such as Art. You too could be a member of this elite geek group by volunteering some time and effort for the greater good of CMUG. Now is the time to step forward as we prepare for our annual meeting in June to elect a slate of officers and then to appoint committee chairs and at-large Board members. Please see any of the current Board members to sign up.

Digitally,

/s/ Mike



Upcoming Meetings and Help Needed

As was announced previously, Andrew Rein has stepped down from his job as Program Director. So CMUG is in need of someone who can coordinate presentations for our general meetings.

The presentations are an important part of the educational mission of our user group. The Program Director acts as a central coordinator, and as liason between the group and the speaker. On the other hand, I don't think this job is particularly time-consuming; we only have 11 presentations a year, after all. If you have questions about the workload or are otherwise interested, you might speak with Andrew (or one of the other officers) at the meeting.

June 20: Elections, and Youlong Yang will show us his photos of China and his use of PhotoShop (tentative)

July 18: Kacey Fisher of Fisher Theatrical will discuss how her company installs computer-based sound equipment (mostly in theaters) for best results (tentative)

August 15: To be determined

Deals from the DealsGuy

by Bob Click, Greater Orlando Computer Users Group

I saw this article about a new operating system to be released later this year, and thought it might interest you. It's a free XML-based OS that runs inside a Web browser. Free software, especially an OS, might be good news, but we'll see when it is introduced. The article's at www.informationweek.com/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=197801331.



Also from Information Week, here is an article about some amazing technology to "rewire the brain" of stroke victims and perhaps help the patients develop movement: www.informationweek.com/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=199000976.

The February 5 issue of Information Week had a lengthy article about conflicting opinions inside the open source community, which are hindering further development of it; even some of the foremost developers don't agree. The main article is at www.informationweek.com/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=197002953; there were also some side articles on particular versions.

A Few Shows

We worked the 2007 CTIA Wireless show (www.ctia.org) that you might have seen news reports on. It was a large show taking the entire West building of the Orange County Convention Center (1.1 million square feet of exhibit space) and I didn't get much chance to tour the show. A couple of editors asked me if I would





write up something, but I didn't feel up to going in early to look around. Actually, I don't know enough about that subject to write an intelligent article on the show. [Ed note: CTIA mostly involves cell phones, and also wireless broadband.] Past Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton were the featured keynote speakers. I read about an interesting comment by George H.W. Bush. He said, "This hour I'll be up here (speaking) is about the longest I ever go without using my Blackberry."

It was unusual that after the keynote speech the presidential entourage entered the show floor to see some exhibits, probably because this show was important for all the new products introduced, especially concerning security. The security company working that show, building security and the Secret Service cleared a 15-foot path for them to caravan from one booth to another for a while. I'll bet a few attendees were thrilled to be that close to those guys regardless of the politics. There may also have been security people watching from the catwalks 40 feet above the show floor. I was working afternoons, and missed all that.

May 2007 will bring the largest trade show ever, at least in total exhibit area, to Orange County Convention Center:

www.nationalhardwareshow.com. It will take both the old and the new buildings (over 1.1 million square feet of exhibit space in each building, not including meeting rooms, concourses, lobbies, etc.). Some of the show and its events will be in at least four hotels nearby, and even two tents will be set up in the parking lot. [Ed. Note: before you get too excited, this is hardware as in Home Depot, not computer hardware. Okay, now you can get excited.]

Microsoft's Tech Ed 2007 show will also be back here in June, and it's only \$1,995 to attend the full conference: <http://go.microsoft.com/?linkid=6643812>. You'll have 440 breakout sessions to choose from if you attend.

Now for the Deals

I have not tried any of the items below so study them well if you are interested. A klutz like me is not qualified to try out and give opinions on most products. The write-ups are theirs, but edited by me to shorten them, and correct some wording.

Chop Up Your PDF File without an Ax

A-PDF Solution has announced the immediate availability of A-PDF Size Splitter 1.2, the newest version of a useful and handy tool for splitting any Acrobat PDF file or group of files into smaller-sized PDF files. A-PDF Size Splitter 1.2 doesn't require Adobe Acrobat and works independently producing PDF documents compatible with Adobe Acrobat Reader 5 and above.

A-PDF Size Splitter 1.2 is a flexible utility letting the user set any size of split files, and supports

batch operations. Thanks to the built-in output file name pattern, each of the split PDF files is logically named and can be easily identified later. A-PDF Size Splitter 1.2 works even with password protected PDF files. It keeps the original PDF file encryption. Additionally, the generated split PDF files can be recombined with other PDF files, using A-PDF Merger, another utility developed for forming new composite PDF files.

A-PDF Size Splitter 1.2 runs under Microsoft Windows 98/NT4/Me/2000/XP/Vista and costs \$49 (USD). User group members get 20% discount on a purchase using coupon code APD-AASX. Click the "Buy now" button, then click the "Add to basket" button and input the code. A free 15-day evaluation version is available to download at www.a-pdf.com/size_splitter/a-pdf-ss.exe. For more information, please visit www.a-pdf.com.

Product page link: www.a-pdf.com/size_splitter/



Manipulate Your Files and More

SoftPrime today announces the release of Advanced File Organizer 3.0 that not only features an opportunity to collect all information about drives, files and folders, but developers placed great emphasis on the ability to use this information later. Advanced File Organizer offers several ways to organize your data: add searchable comments for your files and folders; combine disks and folders into groups based on any feature you want; or sort your data by categories. All files can be referred to one or several categories that form a hierarchical tree, making your own virtual file structure. You can restructure your data collection in a minimum of time and effort by just dragging a certain item (file or folder) and dropping it wherever necessary in categories.

The program includes an ability to extract information from ISO and Nero CD/DVD images and import it as a folder, and to import information from DVD-Video thereby getting a comprehensive catalogue of all information on your hard drive, and any other data storage media.

Advanced File Organizer runs under Windows 95/98/ME/NT 4/2000/XP/Vista and costs \$29.95 (USD) or 24.95 (Euro). User group members get a 10% discount on Advanced File Organizer 3.0 by following this link: www.softprime.com/discount/group.htm, and using the SOFT-6C6F coupon code. The trial version of Advanced File Organizer is available at www.softprime.com/download/aforg.exe (1.85 MB download).

Company website: www.softprime.com



Free PC Protection

by Mike Hayes

The old adage "You get what you pay for" used to apply in all situations. Now, though, there are gray areas. For example, if I asked about antivirus and Internet protection, most would think of Norton and McAfee, even though Norton has been Symantec for some time now and the "Norton" part is just for name recognition! Coke, Kleenex, Xerox etc.: name recognition has ruled our world for a long time and looking beyond the glitter is sometimes hard. I have reported many times to the Windows SIG about test results of the top 10 antivirus products and Symantec and Norton are never at the top of the list. For example, 6starreviews.com rated them 5 & 7 respectively. Cascadia Labs tested the "top 3" in Jan 2007 and reported "Overall, Sophos was rated the best product in the review, scoring 4 out of 5 – beating both Symantec and McAfee in the installation, usability and performance categories, matching them in the other areas tested." Read more at Sophos.com.

Listed below is protection that can be had at no cost. Some of these products have fared quite well in comparison testing, beating the big names. Just because it's free doesn't always mean that a paid-for product is better. Do some research and see for yourself. There are many other good, free products available. I've tried here to focus on the ones that are easy to install and use.

Avast! 4 Home Edition

Avast Software offers a free antivirus for home and non-commercial users. Avast! 4 Home Edition found at www.avast.com includes an up-to-date scan engine and like most commercial antivirus products scan inside compressed files like ZIP, ARJ and MIME. After installation the user should review configuration settings to meet your needs. Avast offers a wide range of settings such as scanning during file move or copying. You can also restrict scanning to specific extensions only. Email protection is also available, using SMTP, POP3, IMAP4, or NNTP protocol level. Users can also download a special plug-in for MS Outlook.

Long-time users should be sure to get the latest version since it now includes a heuristic scanner analysis of email. This feature protects against unknown viruses and worms that are not yet in signature files by watching for suspicious signs defined by the user. This process may be beyond the expertise of a newbie, but the price is right.

AVG Antivirus Free Edition

Grisoft offers home users the same antivirus protection for free that is included in its upgrade products. The upgraded products include anti-spam and spyware plus firewall and tech support. Download it here: <http://free.grisoft.com>. Also noteworthy is their free anti-rootkit application.



Translate Everything for FREE

New York, 4/16/07 - LingvoSoft

(www.lingvosoft.com) has announced the launch of the newest web-based translation service for anyone needing to work with foreign languages. LingvoSoft Online (www.lingvosoftonline.com) provides visitors with an array of indispensable translation utilities. It features a selection of tools that can be used to communicate over the web. LingvoSoft Online not only delivers dictionaries based on its own translation vocabularies, but also an online PhraseBook that is able to translate between 45 of the world's most popular languages, and their FlashCards language learning utility.

The service is available for over 40 languages, and offers voice capabilities. LingvoSoft Online provides the voicing of translations out loud using the latest TTS (text-to-speech) technology as well as native-speaker voice narration of the PhraseBook entries. It has an advanced spell-check function that finds misspelled and incorrectly entered words, and a similar word search that provides a list of synonyms for a word.

LingvoSoft offers other website owners the opportunity to put the added functionality of online translation to work for them on their own sites by

providing the opportunity to include a LingvoSoft translation module on their pages to increase traffic and keep visitors coming back for more.

A Bonanza of Freebies from Microsoft

Here is an excerpt from the Microsoft Newsletter if you are not getting it: "Here are 101 fantastic freebies by clicking on <http://go.microsoft.com/?linkid=6626107>. Want to make your PC more productive, secure, informative and entertaining? These downloads and services will do the trick and they don't cost a dime." These goodies were actually selected by PC World.

That's it for this month. I'll soon have more new product announcements on my website, at www.dealsguy.com. Meet me here again next month if your editor permits. This column is written to make user group members aware of special offers or freebies I have found or arranged, and my comments should not be interpreted to encourage, or discourage, the purchase of any products, no matter how enthused I might sound.

- Bob (The Cheapskate) Click

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VistaVexes

Windows Vista Pains 'n' Gains

by Jan Fagerholm, via APCUG

I've been transitioning to Vista cautiously with a dual boot system with both Vista and Windows XP, for several months now. This has not been as painless as I expected because of the changes that Microsoft made in NTFS and the System Restore feature. Before delving into diatribe, though, I need to explain how this system is set up.

I use conventional IT practices for installing the operating system (OS), programs, and data on separate partitions on the hard drive. This is useful for preserving data in case the OS fails. (That's "when", not "if" in the case of Windows.) So, installing another operating system is a simple matter of creating a new partition for it, then installing the OS on that partition. You can boot

into either OS at startup, then access the data, which is on its own partition. (Incidentally, this also makes backup chores easier, as you can simply back up the partition with the data on it, which is what you really want to keep.)

The problem comes when running Vista and XP on the same drive, because of the changes Microsoft made in System Restore. They are not compatible between Vista and XP. If you have System Restore set to monitor all partitions (the default), XP will wipe out Vista's restore points when it starts, and Vista will wipe out XP's restore points when it starts. So if you have a problem with, oh, let's say Vista, which you will because it's barely out of beta, then you boot into XP to recover something, guess what! – you cannot restore any of your drives in XP because Vista wiped out all of XP's restore points! (Ask me how I know . . .)

There is a solution to this, though it does require you to commit to one system or



AOL

AOL offers McAfee protection to its users. AOL states its antivirus, spyware and firewall protection is "powered by McAfee." All you need is a free AOL account. In case you have not heard, AOL went free a while back. Paying subscribers had the choice of going free or continue paying to qualify for tech support. Don't forget to read their site to ensure their products suit your needs: ASSUME nothing. AOL's FAQ states that its protection applies to Netscape and Compuserve browsers and to IE6 or higher; there's no mention of Mozilla's products. One also has to read between the lines. The anti-phishing is available only to those using TopSpeed. One last consideration is the need for dial up access. AOL offers it in some of its pricing plans, but after spending way too long trying to locate it, and not willing to call AOL support and wait on hold, I'll leave researching dial up options to the reader.

Comcast

Comcast subscribers have access to McAfee protection as a free benefit. Antivirus, Firewall, Parental Controls and Anti-Spyware modules are available to install on as many PCs you choose. This offering is through McAfee and you need to sign in to McAfee to activate your product. As mentioned elsewhere, you need to read up on what you are getting. For example, to get the anti-spyware you must download and run the Comcast Toolbar. How many toolbars do you need?

Windows Defender

Windows Defender from Microsoft is mediocre in its protection, but you get what you pay for. It does

offer real-time protection, something many other free anti-spyware apps don't. Since it is not as strong as some others, you may want to run this for the real time protection and also regularly run another utility such as Lavasoft's Ad-Aware (see below). Windows Defender does include a very nice utility: Software Explorer displays Startup programs, currently running programs, network connected programs and Winsock Service connections. These would show you various information about what's going on "in the background". Windows Defender is available for download from Microsoft.com.

Ad-Aware SE Personal

Lavasoft's anti-spyware, found at www.lavasoftusa.com has been a favorite of many for a long time. Lavasoft states, "At Lavasoft we believe that every individual, regardless of economic status or geographic location, should have the power to control their individual privacy and security. Lavasoft is the original anti-spyware company, and we are still delivering the best protection today."

From the description you would think there are various real-time protections available, but that's not available in the free ("Personal") version. You need to pay for the Plus (\$27) or Pro (\$40) versions for real-time monitoring. Still, as a "run to scan" program, Ad-Aware has a good reputation; it claims to eliminate both spyware and hijacked browsers, and it offers quite a few different scan configurations.

Conclusion

I hope you find one or more of these program helpful. And they go to show that sometimes you get a little more than you pay for!



Editor's Note

by Paul Van Bloem

A few more quick notes from your friendly newsletter editor.

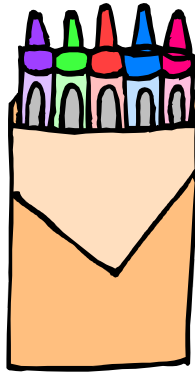
Upcoming Elections

CMUG's officer elections will be held at the June meeting, as per our bylaws. The CMUG Board has assembled the slate of candidates listed below for the four elective offices. Additional candidates can be nominated (with their permission!) at the May meeting; these additional candidates will appear on the ballot in June. In addition, CMUG members can write-in candidates at the election.

- ↪ President- Mike Kerwin (incumbent)
- ↪ Vice president- Mike Hayes (incumbent)
- ↪ Secretary- Bill Baxter
- ↪ Treasurer- John Weske (incumbent)

Now is also a good time to consider how the group can change to better serve our members, and also how CMUG members can better serve each other. We are still in need of a Program Director, and there are numerous other jobs that would make CMUG a better resource for our members and for the community. So what can you do to improve CMUG?

Looking ahead, the time will come when some



of our current officers will want to step down from their post (as Mary Guarneri is this year, as Secretary). We can probably stumble along without a Program Director, but we can't manage without a President or a Treasurer. If you derive some benefit from CMUG, you might keep in mind that it takes people to keep turning the cranks that keep it going. Small cranks, mostly, but when they stop, so will CMUG.

Newsletter

Speaking of jobs left undone, I'm finding I have much less time to devote to the newsletter than I'd like. This month we received a number of interesting articles from APCUG, but I don't have time read through them, edit and format them, and paste them in to the newsletter. Is there someone out there who thinks they could at least review articles we get from APCUG and make suggestions? Let me know.

Also, remember that this June will see the last of our drawings for a \$50 gift card, among those who have written for The Megaphone or presented at a general meeting. I know Art Silverglate will be in the drawing, seeing's how he's done three meeting presentations this year. Mike Hayes will also be in (he's got an article in this issue). Haven't figured out who else is already qualified, but there's still time for you to write an article for the June issue and get your name in the hat!



the other. In my case, I took the plunge and gave System Restore responsibilities to Vista by turning off System Restore in Windows XP. This way I can still use both XP and Vista without losing the much-needed functionality of System Restore. I am committed to moving to Vista on the Windows side (though I spend most of my constructive time in the *nix systems of Linux and OS X.) At least this way I am able to use System Restore where I need it most, namely in Vista.

Looking beyond the gloom and doom view, there have been a couple of nice additions to Vista since it came out. I'm running Vista Ultimate, which offers something called "Windows Ultimate Extras". These are some fluff pieces offered from time to time that are similar to what the old Plus Pack used to offer. In the case of Windows Ultimate Extras, these additions are offered as downloads and you receive notification of them through Windows Update, where you can download them. A recent addition is a wallpaper feature called DreamScenes, which provides animated displays as wallpaper on the desktop. Microsoft has turned some thoughtful people loose on this concept, so while my first reaction to things that wiggle on the

desktop is that it is just distracting, there are some very pleasant and gentle animations that I find pleasing without being disquieting. There are a couple of nature scenes that I like to activate while I am writing, as the effect is similar to gazing out the window when you sit back seeking inspiration.

The last month has seen two of my must-have applications come out with Vista-compatible versions; Corel Graphics Suite X3 and ABBYY FineReader Pro (an OCR program). I'm still recommending that you wait for Vista service pack 1 before upgrading from XP, unless you are adventurous enough to try some alternatives to what you may be using now.

So this month I found out that dual booting XP with Vista will trash my system recovery options while soothing my jangled nerves with moving wallpaper. What next?

This article comes to us via APCUG, the Association of PC User Groups, of which CMUG is a member. Jan Fagerholm is the Associate Editor in the PC Community user group (www.pcc.org) in Hayward, California (near San Francisco). He can be reached at [jan-f\(at\)pacbell.net](mailto:jan-f(at)pacbell.net).



CMUG MEGAPHONE

George Coffin
8652 Open Meadow Way
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Meeting:

Wednesday, May 16, 7:30 pm

Art Silverglate will discuss IrfanView image viewer,
free PhotoShop plugins, and printing your digital
photos using online services.



CENTRAL MARYLAND USER GROUP

Membership and Change of Address

Send renewals and address changes to:

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Reviews

Send review software, hardware, books,
and info to:

CMUG Reviews
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Editorial Copy

Send articles, letters, ad copy, questions,
and comments to:

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Use any of these formats: ASCII (text),
RTF, or Word.

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General meetings are held the third Wednesday of every month at 7:30 pm at the Florence Bain Senior Center, near the Harpers Choice Village Center in Columbia MD. The number there is 410-313-7213.

Membership in the user group is currently \$30 (cheap!). Membership includes a monthly subscription to the CMUG Megaphone, a membership directory, full access privileges to the Website, and drawings for free and review software at meetings.

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