



# The Bytes of Las Vegas

May, 2010

## Inside this issue

Message 1

Meeting T&D 1

Announcements 2

Meetin Info. 3

XP SP2 End Support 3

Fotomix 4

Handy Hints 5

APCUG NEWS 6

SIG's Calendar 7

New Clickbook 8

Smart Computing tips 9

Membership Form 10

## Featured Presentation: An Introduction to Social Networking

New! This month, Wendy Jaroslowski, our club president, will present An Introduction to Social Networking. She'll bring us up to date on popular services including Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Plaxo. For those of us who've been avoiding the whole issue, she'll try to nudge us into the 21st Century by showing us their value, and how to keep in touch with family, friends and colleagues using methods which may be more satisfying than plain old-fashioned email. She'll demonstrate how to create a Facebook account, and since she is such an avid user of many such sites, she'll be will be anxious to share her experiences and hear your questions and concerns.

President Wendy Jaroslowski will open the meeting at 6:15PM, then Larry Burgher will conduct a general Question/Answer session, supplemented if time allows by demonstrations of assorted useful utilities and web sites.

This will out last meeting before our summer break, no meetings in July and August due to the hot weather and summer vacations.

See you at the meeting

Next Meeting June 2, 2010 at 6:15 p.m.  
At West Charleston Library located at 6301 W.  
Charleston Blvd, Las Vegas NV  
Please contact [www.lvpcug.org](http://www.lvpcug.org) for the latest info.

**Announcements**

The Special Interest Groups (SIG) will be meeting at their regular times. Be sure to check the calendar on the website. We are looking for a new place for our General meetings and SIGs. If you have any suggestions, please email us at [info@lvpcug.org](mailto:info@lvpcug.org)



Check the website at [www.lvpcug.org](http://www.lvpcug.org) for the calendar dates and times.

Would you like to share a computer talent you have or would be interested in learning about a certain topic. We would appreciate your ideas!

**RECYCLING BRINGS REWARDS**

The LVPCUG is receiving rebates for recycling ink cartridges and cell phones. The Recycling Committee urges members to set aside those used ink cartridges and cell phones and bring them to the general meeting. You might also spread the word to family members and friends to save them for you too. There is no cost to the club, only your time in gathering the material and the committee members' time to package it.

If you have any questions, please see Charles Finnilla at the General Meeting at the West Charleston Library.

**Officers and Volunteers Contact by sending an email to [info@lvpcug.org](mailto:info@lvpcug.org)**

**Board of Directors**

- Wendy Jaroslowski.....President
- Harold Rozinski.....Vice President
- Joyce Shore.....Treasurer
- Robert Lynch.....Secretary
- Judy Ruf.....Executive Director
- Larry Burgher.....Technical Director & Webmaster

- Product Review & SIG Coordinator
- Howard Mark..... Down the Road Editor
- Leland Beel..... Bytes of Las Vegas Editor & Little Bytes Editor
- Charles Finnilla.....Recycling Chairman

**Membership Questions**

If you have any questions about your membership Please send email: [Membership@www.lvpcug.org](mailto:Membership@www.lvpcug.org)

**Website: [www.lvpcug.org](http://www.lvpcug.org)**

**Membership**

Dues are \$30 per year. Dues are collected Annually from your membership date. If you would like to join, a membership form is located at the end of the newsletter. Please complete and forward to our mailing address.

**Mailing Address**

Las Vegas PC Users Group, Inc.  
1350 E. Flamingo Rd. #188  
Las Vegas, NV 89119

**Newsletter**

The Bytes of Las Vegas is published on a monthly basis.

A PDF version is available to members online at the website.

Information in this newsletter was obtained from sources considered to be reliable.

Accuracy and completeness are not guaranteed.

**Deadline for article submission:**

15 th of each month to [editor@www.lvpcug.org](mailto:editor@www.lvpcug.org)



**Next General Meeting Date: Wednesday, JUNE 2nd, 2010  
Time: 6:15 – 8:15 p.m. Place: West Charleston Library  
6301 W Charleston Blvd (East of Torrey Pines)**

## **End of Support for XP SP2 is End of an Era**

by Dennis Fisher

Microsoft's announcement this week that it is preparing to end support for machines running Windows XP SP2 not only represents a challenge for the thousands of businesses still running SP2, but also is the end of an era for both Microsoft and its customers.

By the time Microsoft drops support for XP SP2 on July 13, Windows XP will be nearly nine years old. The OS was released in August 2001 as a replacement for Windows 2000 and was the last full release of Windows before Microsoft started its Trustworthy Computing effort. Very soon after the famous memo from Bill Gates appeared, attention both inside and outside the company focused on hardening Windows XP.

The first release of Windows XP was not seen as much of a security upgrade over Windows 2000, and it became clear fairly quickly that it was going to need some serious help. And soon. Windows XP had a firewall installed with it, but it was turned off by default and wasn't obvious to a lot of users.

### **Recommended Reads**

- End of Support for XP SP2 is End of an Era
- MS Discovers Over 1,800 Office 2010 Bugs
- Windows Exploitation Part 2

### **Get News by Email!**

With Service Pack 2 Microsoft set out to fix that and add a number of other security protections, as well. It wasn't until 2004 that the final release of XP SP2 actually hit the streets. But when it did, it represented a huge step forward in security for Windows users. It wasn't necessarily the feature set that mattered as much as the fact that the protections were enabled by default and taken out of the users' hands.

Not only did XP SP2 turn on the Windows Firewall by default, which was a major upgrade. But the service pack also added hardware support for DEP (Data Execution Prevention), an important defense against buffer overflow attacks. This was at a time when worms such as Code Red, Nimda and others were tearing through networks around the world, exploiting memory vulnerabilities and paralyzing systems.

The combination of these security features and the addition of the Windows Security Center, which gave users a dashboard-type view of the status of their antivirus software, firewall and other protections, was a milestone in desktop security. Microsoft has continued to add security features to subsequent releases of Windows, but XP SP2 was the one that started it all.

And now, Microsoft is ending support for XP SP2, as well as for Windows 2000, a move that's been anticipated for some time. (The company will still support SP3 for Windows XP.) It's a decision that likely has as much to do with the company's interest in having customers upgrade to a new version of Windows--or even a new machine entirely--as it does with the practical considerations of continuing to provide patches and tech support for outdated OS versions. But that doesn't make it any less problematic for organizations that have plenty of XP machines happily humming along.(cont P 4)



[Continued from Page 3](#)

As Byron Acohido points out, this is not an insignificant problem.

"Such desktop PCs and servers are still widely used in corporate networks globally. And as anyone paying attention knows, infected PCs in corporate settings are in high demand by cyber gangs controlling the botnets driving all forms of cybercrime. Botnets are used to spread spam, steal data, hijack online bank accounts, commit click fraud and conduct denial-of-service attacks for extortion or political reasons," Acohido writes.

Older machines often are prime targets for attackers, who know that these PCs are less likely to be fully updated. But they're just as valuable to botmasters, spammers and other attackers as newer PCs are. A win is a win, regardless of the victim's age.

For Microsoft and its customers, the end of support for XP SP2 is the end of the beginning of Microsoft's security initiative.

[Thanks Robert](#)

Most of us like to play around with pictures - it's fun to see what you can do with different photographs. And to do amazing things with digital photographs you need good image editing software, and there's a lot of good image editing software, some of which is free.

One of the hardest things to do is to remove the background from a picture and overlay it on a different background. But we've found a program that lets you use a technique Hollywood calls "blue screening" to remove the background from one picture and overlay it on another picture and combine the two pictures into one. We stumbled on FotoMix one day and gave it a try. We were amazed how easy it was to use. We've been using Photoshop and Paintshop Pro (among others) for years and years, but removing the background from a picture was tedious and tiring work - sometimes you had to do it pixel by pixel. It was so time-consuming it wasn't fun at all.

FotoMix not only makes it very easy to remove the background from a photo, it makes it fun. You don't even have to know anything about photo editing software to use it. The only limitation is your creativity. We didn't have much time to hunt around for a couple good photos to work with, so we quickly chose a picture of a child sitting in a rocking chair and a picture of an autumn scene. We remove the rocking chair and background from the child's picture and overlaid it on the autumn scene. The whole procedure took maybe 5 to 10 minutes. I would have taken hours with other image editing software. Anyway, here's the result:

Now it's time to call upon the author of FotoMix to throw in his two-cents worth, we know you look forward to this part, because it means our yammering is coming to an end. Take it away Mr. Fotomix: "The easiest way to mix and manipulate your photos. FotoMix is a versatile program that allows you to mix and manipulate different pictures, to create a wide variety of images.

Remove, add or alter backgrounds. Add or remove your loved and not so loved ones from your pictures. Design eye-catching photo collages, illustrations, wallpapers, CD and DVD covers, and miscellaneous Web graphics. Create photo montages by combining multiple pictures into a unique heirloom depicting retrospectives of a birth, marriage, anniversary, etc.

Anything is possible.

The result is so high in quality that it is almost impossible to tell if the photo has been manipulated. Once your creations are finished, you can print them, email them to friends or transfer them to T-shirts, mugs, calendars, etc. Make the most out of your photo collection! Play with it. Explore the possibilities. You will love it."

The author is right - you will love it, even if you've had no experience at all with photo editing software, you will love FotoMix. You can read more about and/or download this week's freeware pick of the week, called FotoMix (duh!) by visiting the FotoMix web site.

[http://www.diphso.com/Diphso\\_ENG/FotoMix.html](http://www.diphso.com/Diphso_ENG/FotoMix.html) Thanks Joyce and Karl

**Microsoft Confirms: Internet Explorer 9 Won't Run on XP**

**Microsoft has confirmed earlier reports that Internet Explorer 9 (IE9) will not run on XP. That's prompted speculation that the company may be using the browser as a way to encourage users to upgrade to Windows 7...**

**<http://go.infopackets.com/e20100510-05>**

**This describes one of the things I said at the general meeting about Facebook info being compromised:**

**Facebook Glitch Exposes Chat Conversations**

**Facebook users are generally trusting when it comes to their privacy, but some issues push them right over the edge. Take a recent glitch that allowed outsiders to view private user information, including friend names and the content of their chat conversations. ...**

**<http://go.infopackets.com/e20100511-04>**

**Windows 7 'Compatibility Checker' Actually a Trojan**

**Beware any program that describes itself as a Windows 7 compatibility checker promising to verify whether or not your system can run Microsoft's new operating system (OS). Prominent security firm ...**

**<http://go.infopackets.com/e20100513-07>**

**Google's iPhone Challenger Loses Another Carrier**

**Sprint has dropped plans to carry the Nexus One, Google's flagship cellphone. The news has somewhat undermined the revelation that Google's Android system is -- technically, at least -- outselling ...**

**<http://go.infopackets.com/e20100513-05>**

**- AVG Rescue CD - Posted on 2010-03-24 14:55:11-04**

**You may not be able to boot your PC at all if you catch a really bad computer virus infection. That's when a free toolkit from the well-respected AVG Technologies antivirus and security software team can come to your rescue...**

**[http://askbobrankin.com/avg\\_rescue\\_cd.html?awt\\_l=8XIRx&awt\\_m=1fkAmIwNFuP6SL](http://askbobrankin.com/avg_rescue_cd.html?awt_l=8XIRx&awt_m=1fkAmIwNFuP6SL)**

We are Looking for a space to conduct an information demo about LVPCUG  
If you know of any place that is available to conduct an information demo about the club Please contact Judy Ruf or send email to [info@lvpcug.org](mailto:info@lvpcug.org). Needed are a table space some chairs and an electrical outlet to plug in a laptop computer.

#### Message from Membership

Is there a neighbor or friend who is always asking you questions about their computer? Invite them to the next general meeting or one of the monthly SIG meetings and encourage them to join our organization.

#### APCUG NEWS on the LVPCUG web site

Check out the latest Quarterly Report from APCUG, 2010 Q1. The full report is listed on our web site.

Newsletters--APCUG REPORTS--2010 Q1.

#### LIVE MEETING TRAINING

Log in to the APCUG website to get the correct links. [www.apcug.net](http://www.apcug.net)

The URL for the Live Meeting Training for Monday, Jun 14, 2010 10pm EDT, 9pm CDT, 8pm MDT, 7pm PDT is here. Before you attend you will need to have downloaded the client from here and checked to be sure it is working here

The URL for the Live Meeting Training for Sunday, Jun 20, 2010 5pm EDT, 4pm CDT, 3pm MDT, 2pm PDT is here. Before you attend you will need to have downloaded the client from here and checked to be sure it is working here .

April 23

#### Dallas Regional Cancelled

The APCUG Dallas Regional Conference has been canceled. However, APCUG will be looking at including almost everything in the Dallas Program schedule, including raffle prizes, attendee prizes, etc. in the next regional that APCUG schedules. Keep watching this site for an announcement of a date, time and venue for the next APCUG Regional event.



If you are a member of LVPCUG that means you are a member of APCUG and you have a great opportunity to use the resources that they provide. Such as the calendar that members may log in and view a meeting of a different club or SIG and see what they are doing. Please go to [www.apcug.org](http://www.apcug.org) and create a users account in the APCUG SharePoint Site so that you can enjoy some of the benefits of membership in the LVPCUG and its shared portals.



## SIG CALENDAR

SIG Name	Meeting Date	Place	Time of meeting	SIG Leader
HelpingHands	1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday	Wengert Room	10 AM to 4 PM	Linda DiGiovanni 395-6676
Windows Developers	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday	Sahara West Library	6:30 PM to 8:30 PM	Richard Rosenheim 897-1117
Genealogy SIG still meeting regular time and place	2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday	Family History Center	10:00AM to 12:00 PM Noon STILL Looking for a new SIG Leader	
Novice(new users) and Internet)	2 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday	Wengert Room	1 PM to 3PM	Chuck Frederick 452-9440
Software and Product Review	2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday	Wengert Room	3:30 PM to 5:30 PM	Linda DiGiovanni 395-6676
Digital Imaging Techniques	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	Wengert Room	12 PM to 2 PM	Howard Mark 262-3662
Linux/Open Source Applications	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	Wengert Room	1 PM to 3 PM	Don Sabatine 451-6805
How-To-Workshop	4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday	Paseo Verde Library	9:15 AM to 2:30 PM	Dennis Kemper

**Places are:**

Wengert Room is located in the Back of the NV Energy building just west of Jones on W. Sahara

Family History Center is located at 509 S. 9<sup>th</sup> Street in Las Vegas.

Paseo Verde Library is located in Henderson at 280 S. Green Valley Parkway.

Sahara West Library is located just west of Fort Apache on Sahara Av West.

All meetings are subject to cancellation by the SIG Leader or the Property Owner. The Calendar Page of the LVPCUG website is keep as current as possible.

If you would like to be a SIG leader for some of the SIG's that are not meeting at this time Please contact Wendy to get the details of the duties of the Leader.

**"Don't be too timid and squeamish about your actions.  
All life is an experiment. The more experiments you make the better."  
Ralph Waldo Emerson**

How secure is Flash? Here's what Adobe won't tell you

<http://www.zdnet.com/blog/bott/how-secure-is-flash-heres-what-adobe-wont-tell-you/2152?tag=nl.e539>

The CEO of Lifelock, Todd Davis, became famous for advertising his Social Security number on television ads and billboards promising his \$10 monthly service would protect consumers from identity theft.

The company also offered a \$1 million guarantee to compensate customers for losses incurred if they became a victim of identity theft after signing up for the service.

But the Federal Trade Commission said Tuesday that the claims were bogus (.pdf) and accused Lifelock, based in Arizona, of operating a scam and con operation. The commission announced, along with 35 state attorneys general, that it had levied a fine of \$12 million against the company for deceptive business practices and for failing to secure sensitive customer data. Of that amount, \$11 million will go to refund customers who subscribed to the service. Consumers will receive a letter from the FTC and their attorney general explaining how to take part in the settlement.

The FTC said that Lifelock, which advertises itself as “#1 In Identity Theft Protection,” engaged in false advertising by promising customers that if they signed up with its service their personal information would become useless to thieves.

“In truth, the protection they provided left such a large hole ... that you could drive that truck through it,” said FTC Chairman Jon Leibowitz, referring to a Lifelock TV ad showing a truck painted with the CEO’s Social Security number driving around city streets.

Read More <http://www.wired.com/threatlevel/2010/03/lifelock-accused-of-running-con-operation/#ixzz0oPa3gl4O>

MAY 2010

Volume 4, Number 5

=====

**CLICKBOOK MMX**

The wait is over, the 'Best ClickBook Ever' is finally here.

With a fresh new look and feel, more power, better compatibility, and rock solid stability, ClickBook MMX is sure to be your favorite application.

We've added a ton of improvements, while keeping ClickBook remarkably user friendly.

New features include:- Improved Printer Setup- Updated PDF converter- Improved Layout editor and organizer

- Ability to open documents in ClickBook (requires application support)- and much more...

To read about all the updates visit:

<http://www.bluesquirrel.com/products/clickbook/whatsnew.html>

You can download the trial version by going to:

[www.bluesquirrel.com/download/ClickBookMMXSetup.exe](http://www.bluesquirrel.com/download/ClickBookMMXSetup.exe)



### Smart Computing Tips & Fun Facts

As a member of the Smart Computing User Group Program, you are welcome to reprint these tips in your user group's newsletter. If you choose to do so, please include the following disclaimer with the reprint:

**"Reprinted with permission from Smart Computing. Visit [www.SmartComputing.com/Groups](http://www.SmartComputing.com/Groups) to learn what Smart Computing can do for you and your user group!"**

- **When In Doubt, Reboot & Reboot:** Dropped connections, sluggish speed, limited connectivity, and "missing" networks often can be resolved simply by rebooting the wireless router first and then rebooting the affected PC. Start by unplugging the router for 30 seconds and reconnecting it. Often, a router reboot will reset the IP address and the signal so that the devices can pick them up again. If that doesn't work, reboot the affected PC.
- **Troubleshoot Options In Windows 7:** One of the coolest additions to Window 7 is an extensive Troubleshooting center. But there is more here than might meet the eye. You can open the console by typing troubleshooting in the Start Search box and pressing ENTER. The first time you start this tool, you may be asked if you want to update the troubleshooting tools available. If you agree, Troubleshooting reaches out to Microsoft for an updated list of programs. Now, click View All in the task pane. The list of problem-specific tools now includes both those installed on your system (tagged as "Local" in the third column) or available from Microsoft's online library. Mousing over any of these choices pops up a thumbnail description of what they diagnose. If you click one of the online items, the tool will be downloaded and executed.
- **Do You Need A Surge Protector?:** A surge protector looks similar to a power strip and has multiple outlets to plug in your computer, monitor, and other peripherals such as a printer or fax machine. But more importantly, it also protects your computer and peripherals from power surges, which are sudden peaks in the electrical current flowing into your home. Power surges can be caused by downed power lines, faulty wiring, or regular electrical maintenance in your neighborhood. Fluctuations in the electrical current being delivered to your PC and its components can cause permanent damage to hardware, such as the motherboard, processor, or hard drive, causing a loss of irreplaceable files. Over time, power surges can shorten the life span of your computer equipment, but a surge protector will absorb any increase in electrical current and shield your system from potential harm.

### PC Pitstop: The State of PC Security

PC Pitstop's Rob Cheng has done some remarkably valuable research. He looked at over 50,000 PCs and has stats on computers with no active security, infected PCs, best and worst antivirus and antispyware tools for preventing rogue attacks, spyware prevention, and keylogging protection. It's a short, must-read report (<http://techtalk.pcpitstop.com/2010/05/13/the-state-of-pc-security/>).

Thanks Wendy



Las Vegas PC Users Group, Inc.

Membership Application

New Members or Renewal with Information Changes

To join the Las Vegas PC User Group, please complete the information below. The form can be mailed with a check or brought to the General Meeting. Dues are \$30 per year per family. More information about the Club can be obtained from: www.lvpcug.org

Date \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

(Please Print)

Name(1): \_\_\_\_\_ Name(2): \_\_\_\_\_

Email (1) \_\_\_\_\_ Email (2) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

It is LVPCUG policy to keep your information confidential.

Supplemental Information ( optional, but helpful):

How did you hear about the LVPCUG? \_\_\_\_\_

Areas of Interest: \_\_\_\_\_

Send check for \$30 to:

Las Vegas PC Users Group, Inc.  
Membership Director  
1350 E. Flamingo Rd #188  
Las Vegas, NV 89119-5270

Club Use only: Memb, No. \_\_\_\_\_ Rec'd \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \_\_\_\_\_ Method \_\_\_\_\_

