



The Ottawa Valley Computer Club

Newsletter

November 2001

Issue 1

Next Meeting Nov 8, 2001

7pm at the Computer Network
Training Centre
185 Pembroke Street West
Pembroke, Ontario

Topics

Tour of Computer Network Training
Centre

Meeting Report Oct 11, 2001

Joe Almassy did an excellent job presenting Symantec SystemWorks and describing all it's functionality. Eric Moisen gave club members a first look at Window XP. Club members were quite impressed by XP but Eric advised not to upgrade. If you want XP either purchase a new computer with it pre-installed or do a clean install of XP on your existing PC.

Beware of Hoax viruses

When someone sends you a message warning of a new virus always be sceptical. A few months ago a message circulated around warning people of an undetectable virus and instructing how to remove it manually. That message was a hoax that tricked people into deleting sulfnbk.exe a beneficial windows application. When you receive a virus warning from a friend check it out on the anti-virus websites such as:

<http://www.mcafee.com/antivirus/>
<http://www.symantec.com/avcenter/>
<http://ca.com/virusinfo/>

Review: ECleaner

ECleaner is a free program that makes it easy to cleanup email message that have become hard to read because it full of angle brackets (>) and message headers. It is easy to use just open up the offending message copy the contents and paste it into ECleaner. Before you click happy face button to start the cleanup I recommend that you set the "Leave Blank Line" option.

Download at:

<http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/>

E-Bay? I Love It!

By Becky White, Pasadena IBM Users Group

I have been using ebay to sell our antiques for about a month now. And I LOVE IT!

With ebay, you are using them as a vehicle to sell or buy stuff, but the deals are worked out between the seller and the buyer directly. Ebay charges a very moderate listing fee for each item listed and a moderate percentage of the item sold, ONLY IF IT SELLS. If an item does not sell, you are only responsible for the listing fee, which is from \$0.25 to \$2.00, based on your starting value or your reserve price.

Did Your Item Sell Quickly?

Ebay asks you to set a specified period of time for each item listed.

The choices are 3 days, 5 days, or 7 days. You may be able to ask for a few more days, but most people go with the 3, 5, or 7-day scenario. So, if you get any bids, items will sell as quickly as you choose.

Did it Sell for the Amount Asked?

When listing an item, you (the seller) defines the opening bid required, so that no one can bid below your requested opening price. In addition, there is an option to set a "reserve" price for each item, which sets a minimum bid that you are willing to accept. Unless an item is especially valuable, most people do not use the reserve option. For some reason, it turns people off!?

Do You Get Paid Right Away?

Since ebay is only a conduit, the money changes hands directly between the seller and the buyer. When an auction closes, the buyer and seller have three days to Email each other. Email addresses are supplied by ebay. The seller tells the buyer how much shipping and insurance will be and what the total due is. In most transactions, the buyer pays shipping and insurance up front.

When the seller receives the check, then the item can be shipped, however, most sellers wait 10 days or so until the checks clear the bank. A seller can request specific types of payments, like only money orders (safe to ship next day) or visa or checks or COD or whatever works for the seller. The seller then packs and ships the item.

WinTidy 2

Do you have a messy looking Windows desktop with lots of icons? WinTidy 2 keeps your Desktop icon configuration organized and easy to use. If display settings change or if anyone messes with your machine, this PC Magazine utility quickly restores order and sanity. Download at: <http://www.pcmag.com/downloads>

Club Membership

A \$10 membership fee includes:

- 10 general meetings
- Tours and presentations
- Help from other computer users
- Door prize draw
- Free monitor magazine
- Monthly newsletter
- Yearly MegaBucks auction

Submissions

We are looking for articles, reviews, news, tips, etc... for the newsletter.

If you would like to submit something drop it off at the General Meeting or email it to: webmaster@ottawavalleycomputerclub.ca

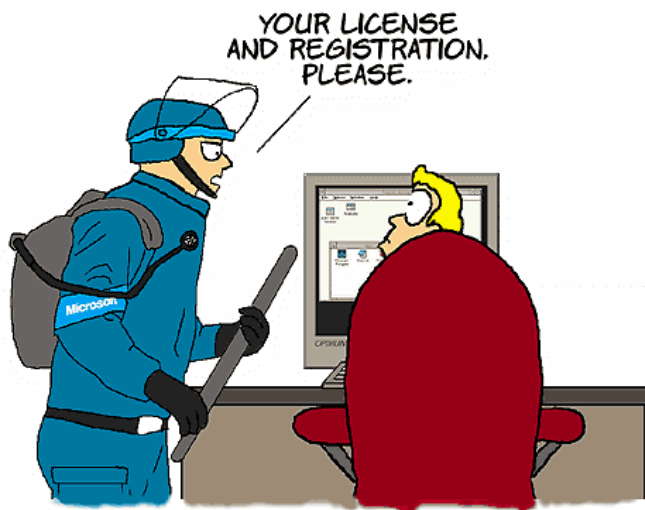
Any Hassles...Or was it Fun?

I have had a blast selling and buying stuff this way! I have made many Email friends and even have an Email pal in England, because of some of the deals I have made. Many of the people are incredibly friendly and personable! All, so far, have been good about paying on time and pretty good about communicating through Email. A few times, I have had dealings with people who are not accustomed to using Email and they "forget" to check their mail. When they realize that they need to read their mail, then the money comes quickly.

Over all, I have LOVED every part of my ebay experience with the possible exception of having to pack the darn stuff and take it to the post office! Stan helps out in that area a lot.

Becky White is known as "whitebear" on ebay.

THE POLICE STATE, YEAR 2003



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The Club Executive

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We are a member of APCUG

The Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG) is an organization dedicated to helping member computer user groups succeed. <http://www.apcug.org>

How do you join?

Attend a monthly meeting and signup. Our meetings take place 7pm every second Thursday of the month at the Civitan building 346 Broadview Drive, Pembroke Ontario.