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# MEGAPHONE

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTRAL MARYLAND USER GROUP

## Editor's Note

*from Paul Van Bloem*

It seems I'm always apologizing for getting the newsletter out late, these days. Between more responsibility at work and weekends that seem to get shorter all the time, I'm afraid this newsletter will be going out late, too.

The last I heard from President Mike, he was just back from one trip and getting ready for another. So you'll have to manage without a President's Message this month.

## Thanks

Let me first thank Art Silverglate for his presentation last month. There is an amazing amount of digital-photo-related software out there; even programs that are primarily designed to let you look at your pictures, like IrfanView, have a surprising number of features.

This month's presentation also relates to digital photography. Jack Fogarty has talked Youlong Yang into coming to display his photos of China and to discuss how he uses Photoshop to work with them. I believe Jack said that Mr. Yang was a professor in China, and is now retired. I look forward to seeing how photo editing can enhance digital photography, because my photos need a lot of enhancement...

## Elections

Remember that June is CMUG's Election Month. As per our bylaws, we elect a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer, who serve for one year. These four officers make up our Board; other Board members are appointed by existing Board members, and also serve until the next election.

We currently have only one candidate running for each position. Additional nominations can be made at the meeting (with the nominee's permission!), or you can write-in a CMUG member on your ballot.

The current nominees are:

- ✉ President: Mike Kerwin (incumbent)
- ✉ Vice-President: Mike Hayes (incumbent)
- ✉ Secretary: Bill Baxter
- ✉ Treasurer: John Weske (incumbent)

As you can see, three of our four candidates are already serving in the position they've been nominated for. Mary Guarnieri, our current Secretary, did not want to serve again.

Elections, and the changing of the guard, are a good time to consider how our user group is running and how it can be improved. You might also consider what you can do to improve CMUG. We are still looking for a volunteer to coordinate the programs for our meetings, and there are other small jobs which could make the user group a more valuable resource to members. I hope you will all seriously consider devoting a few hours a month to keeping CMUG moving forward.

## Last Gift Card Drawing

As I reported a few months ago, the CMUG Board decided to discontinue the \$50 gift card drawing. This was originally instituted to encourage and reward people who wrote articles for the newsletter (and subsequently for people who did a meeting presentation). But we haven't had many people contributing lately, and the names in the hat developed a certain monotony. So, the Board decided the gift cards were not a good use of the



## Next General Meeting

Mr. Youlong Yang, who has exhibited his photos at Slayton House, show us some of his pictures of China, and discuss how he works with them in Photoshop.

Also, June is Election month. Members will vote for President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Wednesday, June 20, 7:30 pm.....Florence Bain Senior Center

## Next Windows SIG Meeting

Topic: Even MORE Useful Software

Tuesday, June 26, 7:00 pm.....Florence Bain Senior Center

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club's resources.

This month, we're having one last drawing. Everyone who wrote an article for the newsletter in the last six months (excluding articles that are part of an officer's duties, like this Editor's Note or Mike Kerwin's President's Messages), and everyone who did a meeting presentation in the last six months, has been entered into this drawing. And the nominees are:

- ↳ Art Silverglate: Picasa presentation at February meeting.
- ↳ Paul Van Bloem: Websites Worth Visiting article on Jajah.com phone service in February newsletter.
- ↳ George Coffin: presentation on the IRS website at the March meeting.
- ↳ Art Silverglate: presentation at April meeting on digital photo editing with freeware and shareware programs.
- ↳ Jack Fogarty: Upgrade from Hell article in April newsletter.
- ↳ Mike Hayes: "10 PM: Threats to your PC" article in April newsletter.
- ↳ Art Silverglate: May presentation on IrfanView and other digital picture programs.
- ↳ Mike Hayes: May article on Free PC Protection.

So, we've got eight names in the hat, with Art leading the pack with three chances. That's actually more names than usual, so I guess the tradition will be going out with a bang.

I'd still like to encourage people to write for the CMUG Megaphone. If anyone has some thoughts on how to better encourage that, I'd be glad to hear them.

### APCUG Deal

We just recently received a notice from APCUG that TigerDirect ([www.tigerdirect.com](http://www.tigerdirect.com)) and Tiger's parent Global Computing are offering user groups a discount on all the products they carry, which, as the APCUG email notes, "is a lot." Tiger sells pretty much every piece of computer hardware known to man, and some software, too. I've dealt with them for years (my last two computers came from them), and never had any serious problems; to be honest, I've never had to call them about a problem, so I don't know how their customer service is.

The actual discount percentage is not mentioned in the APCUG announcement, and apparently varies from product to product. I wouldn't expect a big discount, because Tiger's prices are usually pretty good. But even a 5% discount on a \$500 order is \$25, and well worth a phone call.

To get the discount, you need to go to [www.globalcomputer.com](http://www.globalcomputer.com) and write down the item number and description. Then you call Clay Bennett at 866-310-1947, identify yourself as a member of CMUG (which is a member of APCUG), and tell him

what you're ordering and your credit card number.

There's a little more detail in the APCUG email. If you're interested in this deal, email me ([pjvanbloem@gmail.com](mailto:pjvanbloem@gmail.com)) and I'll forward it to you.

### Sales Circulars Online

These days, I don't usually have time to make notes of interesting things to include in my Editor's Notes, as I once did. Fortunately, I was just recently told about a useful website, and I've remembered it long enough to pass the information on to you.

The website is called SalesCircular.com, and it basically aggregates the sale items from all the stores which sell electronic items, and tells you what's on sale this week. The stores covered include BestBuy, Circuit City, Target, Walmart, Staples, Office Depot, Sears, Kmart, and CompUSA.

When you go to the SalesCircular.com home page, you're first asked what state you're shopping in. Then you're shown a page with a breakdown of different types of products. Under Computer Hardware, for example, is the category Computer/Monitor/Printer packages, and Laptops, and various peripherals. If I choose "All-in-One Printer", I get a list of all the deals involving all-in-one printers (there are about 40 listed right now). Items are listed in price order, so I can see that BestBuy has the Epson CX6000 for \$69.99; a note in the Details column tells me that that is after a \$30 instant savings. Scanning down the list, I can see that Staples, Circuit City, and CompUSA all have deals on the same printer, but the Staples deal is after a \$25 online rebate (and costs \$74.98). CircuitCity and CompUSA offer instant savings, but the total cost at each of those stores is \$79.99.

In addition to computer hardware and software, there are categories for Car Electronics, Audio Electronics (phones and stereo equipment), Video Electronics (TVs, cameras and camcorders, DVD players, and game consoles), Major Appliances, Small Appliances, Cell Phones/Services, and finally Free Stuff. That last category lists all items which are free after rebate.

The site is a bit cluttered with ads, but this doesn't interfere with looking at the items on sale. There are links to help you find the nearest store once you've decided who has the best price; the links mostly work, too!

If you get chance, please check out SalesCircular.com, and let me know how well it works for you.

Hope to see you all on Wednesday.

Editorially,

Paul



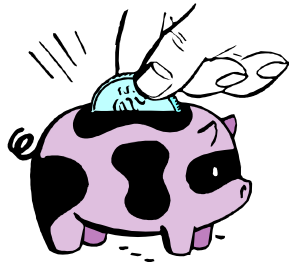
## Deals from the DealsGuy

by Bob Click, Greater Orlando Computer Users Group

### Lightning Fast Trades

Here's an interesting article for investors. It explains how modern technology has progressed to the point where stock trades are now processed almost at the speed of light. I found it very enlightening:

[www.informationweek.com/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=199200297](http://www.informationweek.com/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=199200297).



### Microsoft Plays Catch-Up

It's hard to think of Microsoft being behind the times in technology, but that is said to be the case in web interface design. Adobe's Flash has prevailed so far, but Microsoft will introduce a competitor called "Silverlight" and some tools called Expression Studio that sound interesting. After I read about this in InformationWeek, I saw more in the 5/21/07 "Microsoft At A Glance" newsletter. They made mention of those products and gave the URL to watch a video and download the beta version of Silverlight. It is referred to as a "cross-browser and cross-platform plug-in." They also included the URL for the Expression Studio design products, <http://go.microsoft.com/?linkid=6824909>, where you can download free trials. There was other information included in that newsletter.

## 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.

**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

**September 19:** To be determined

### Another Use for Wi-Fi

On another note, I have always thought of Wi-Fi as a connection for my laptop, or a broadband installation of some kind, but one particularly well-traveled rail route in southern California will be getting Wi-Fi for security purposes. Because railroads often traverse very remote areas, this project is a difficult one and includes some solar powered nodes. Vandalism is a problem in the area getting that installation. I have often wondered how good the cell phone service was on some rail routes that are less traveled and have remote routes. Some cruise ships offer limited cell phone service and it is slowly being introduced on airlines, but not without resistance from the airlines and from the public. I know I wouldn't want the person next to me talking on a cell phone for the entire trip.

### Announcements

Remember that the announcements below are written by the PR people; I edit them to save space and try to improve on the wording. I have not tried any of these products, so check the company's website carefully and do your homework if you are interested.

### Better Menus for MS Office

Addintools announced the release of Classic Menu for Office 2007 v.2.18, a user interface enhancement add-on for Microsoft Office 2007. The new interface will replace the system of layered menus, toolbars and task panes with a so-called Ribbon. It lets users retrieve and show the main menu bar, standard toolbar, and formatting toolbar that are hidden or moved away from direct view. The program works with Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. All new Office 2007 features

## Windows SIG

### June 26: Even MORE Useful Software

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 useful freeware and shareware. If you have a suggestion or a topic for a future SIG meeting, please email me at [mikes\\_line@hotmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.myCMUG.org) for maps and directions.

Hope to see you there.

- Mike Hayes



remain accessible in the classic menu and toolbars.

Classic Menu for Office 2007 also lets users add the menus and toolbars to the Quick Access Toolbar so it becomes possible to minimize the Ribbon and finish all operations without having to open it again. The program has been optimized for complete compatibility with Microsoft Office 2007 and supports all major languages, including English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Japanese, Arabic, Korean, and Chinese.

Classic Menu for Office 2007 v.2.18 runs under Microsoft Windows XP/2003/Vista and costs \$29.95 (USD) for a single-user license. User group members receive 15% discount on the purchase of Classic Menu for Office 2007 v2.18 by entering coupon code ADDI-CARU into the coupon box on the order page. Licensed customers are entitled to free updates and technical support for 2 years after the date of purchase.

↳ Product page link: [www.addintools.com/english/menuoffice](http://www.addintools.com/english/menuoffice)

↳ Direct download link: [www.addintools.com/english/menuoffice/Setup\\_OfficeMenu.exe](http://www.addintools.com/english/menuoffice/Setup_OfficeMenu.exe) (2.62 MB)

↳ Company website: [www.addintools.com](http://www.addintools.com)

## File Recovery Product

Enplase Research Corporation has announced the immediate availability of MultiStage Recovery 2.8 that will recover any file and back it up to a hard disk drive. MultiStage Recovery lets users recover all recoverable files (20 gigabytes in 20 seconds!) The program supports all Windows file systems and comes with a built-in preview for over 60 file formats. Designed as do-it-yourself data recovery software, MultiStage Recovery will restore all file types including audio, images, and documents. It supports all FAT12/VFAT/16/32 and NTFS/NTFS5 file systems used by Microsoft Windows. It helps users restore precious data if files are lost due to a virus, malicious hacker attack or an operating system crash in which a hard disk drive has not experienced physical damage, and restores files from any brand of hard disk drive and type of storage media, including hard disks, floppy disks, flash drives, and digital camera cards.

MultiStage Recovery 2.8 runs under Microsoft NT 4.0 (with SP4), 2000, XP, 2003, and Vista, and costs \$39.95 (US) for a single-user license. User group members get 20% off by using the coupon code 8192 (making it \$31.96) at <http://enplase.com/pages/BuyProduct/Product-Name-MultiStage+Recovery.html>. For other types of licenses, please refer to Enplase's Software Store at <http://enplase.com/pages/Purchase.html>. Additional information on the product, as well as its free evaluation copy is available from <http://enplase.com>.

Product page link: <http://enplase.com/pages/MultiStage+Recovery+description.html>.

## I'm Not a Fan of Screensavers, But...

**DealsGuy Note:** Screensavers have long been known to sometimes cause problems so I don't use them. Also, this company only offers a discount for purchasing more than one, but I am including it because there are certainly fans for screensavers, and I get asked for deals on them quite frequently.

FancyBytes Software announces the release of Dolphin Aqua Life 3D Screensaver 3.0, Shark Water World 3D Screensaver 1.5, and Mountain Lake Waterfall Screensaver 1.0.

Unique to these screensavers is their dual monitor support and sleek 3D graphics. If you have two monitors installed on your system, you likely have already looked for screensavers that can fit your configuration. With FancyBytes Software you can now enjoy beautiful 3D screensavers with dual monitor support.



Of course, the screensavers will look nice on a single screen, but with two monitors, you'll receive a continuous panoramic image, showing the aquatic world in all its beauty. Use these screensavers to make the most of your dual monitor system. The free trial downloads are available at [www.fancybytes.com](http://www.fancybytes.com). Below are details about the screensavers:

↳ Dolphin Aqua Life 3D Screensaver

Travel to the sea bottom with the most intelligent inhabitant of the sea, the dolphin. See the amazing play of light on its skin as light creates interesting patterns on the sea floor, which is covered with age-old rocks and shells. This dignified creature and a variety of small fishes leisurely swim back and forth, as you admire the aquatic scenery and take a rejuvenating rest.

↳ Shark Water World 3D Screensaver

Find the remnants of ships that once belonged to unlucky Caribbean pirates who now lie in Davy Jones' Locker. Chests containing countless riches peacefully lie on the sea floor, but watch out for the sharks! These hunters guard the treasures from anyone who would dare steal their gold.

↳ Mountain Lake Waterfall Screensaver

See the pristine beauty of Mother Nature. Stand in awe of the majestic waterfall tumbling into a clear mountain lake. Unwind to the sounds of murmuring water. Admire the picturesque lake scenery and nearby forest. Just the kind of place you've been wanting for some rest and relaxation?

Dolphin Aqua Life 3D Screensaver costs \$19.95 (USD). Shark Water World 3D Screensaver costs \$19.95 (USD). Mountain Lake Waterfall Screensaver costs \$14.95 (USD). For a discount on two or more of the registered versions of these products, please visit; [www.fancybytes.com/orders\\_special.html](http://www.fancybytes.com/orders_special.html). All prices are for a single-




# Top Web Hoaxes and Pranks

by Steve Bass, via APCUG

[This is an excerpt from a longer article by well-known author Steve Bass. APCUG talked him into allowing publication by APCUG member groups; I don't think there were any horse heads involved, but who knows? You can find the complete article at <http://www.pcworld.com/article/id,131340-page,1/article.html>.]

These online spoofs and shams have made the rounds on Web sites and through email. Perhaps you even believed one or two of them yourself. Though some of these deceptions originated years ago, the originals--and dozens of variants--continue to make the rounds. If you keep a patient vigil over your email, you too may eventually spot a message urging you to FORWARD THIS TO EVERYONE YOU KNOW!!! And if you haven't had enough when you finish reading this article, take a hoax test at the Museum of Hoaxes, and then hop over to Snopes, the premier myth-dispelling site for coverage of zillions of other falsifications.

From the supposed last photo taken at the top of the World Trade Center to the endlessly revised request for assistance from a Nigerian functionary, here are our top five Web and email hoaxes.

 user license. The screensavers run under all versions of Microsoft Windows. Licensed customers are entitled to the fully functional version of the product, free technical support and free upgrades. Additional information on the screensavers, as well as free trial copies are available from [www.fancybytes.com](http://www.fancybytes.com).

↳ Product page: [www.fancybytes.com/about\\_dolphin\\_aqua\\_life\\_3d\\_screensaver.html](http://www.fancybytes.com/about_dolphin_aqua_life_3d_screensaver.html)

↳ [www.fancybytes.com/about\\_shark.html](http://www.fancybytes.com/about_shark.html)

↳ [www.fancybytes.com/about\\_mountain\\_lake\\_waterfall\\_screensaver.html](http://www.fancybytes.com/about_mountain_lake_waterfall_screensaver.html)

↳ Direct download link: [www.fancybytes.com](http://www.fancybytes.com).  
Click the Download buttons for the desired file.

## That's All Folks

That's it for this month. I'll have more new product announcements on my Web site (not offering a discount). 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  
[bobclick@mindspring.com](mailto:bobclick@mindspring.com)

## 1. The Accidental Tourist (2001)

Quite possibly the most famous hoax picture ever, this gruesome idea of a joke traveled around the Web and made a grand tour of email inboxes everywhere soon after the tragedy of September 11. It depicts a tourist standing on the observation deck of one of the World Trade Center towers, unknowingly posing for a picture as an American Airlines plane approaches in the background.

At first glance it appears to be real, but if you examine certain details, you'll see that it's a craftily modified image. For starters, the plane that struck the WTC was a wide-body Boeing 767; the one in the picture is a smaller 757. The approach of the plane in the picture is from the north, yet the building it would have hit--the North tower--didn't have an outdoor observation deck. Furthermore, the South tower's outdoor deck didn't open until 9:30 a.m. on weekdays, more than half an hour after the first plane struck the WTC. The picture is a hoax, through and through--and not a particularly amusing one, under the circumstances.

## 2. Sick Kid Needs Your Help (1989)

This gem had its roots in reality. It all began in 1989, when nine-year-old cancer patient Craig Shergold thought of a way to achieve his dream of getting into the Guinness Book of World Records. Craig asked people to send greeting cards, and boy, did they. By 1991, 33 million greeting cards had been sent, far surpassing the prior record. Ironically, however, the Guinness World Records site doesn't contain any mention of Craig Sherwood or a "most greeting cards received" record, presumably because the fine folks at the site don't want to encourage anyone to try to break his mark. (Astonishingly, Guinness doesn't have an entry for world's stoutest person, either, but it does honor the World's Largest Tankard of Beer.)

Fortunately, doctors succeeded in removing the tumor, and Craig is now a healthy adult, but his appeal for cards has turned into the hoax that won't die. Variations on the theme include a sick girl dying of cancer, and a little boy with leukemia whose dying wish is to start an eternal chain letter. A recent iteration tells a tragic tale of a girl who supposedly was horribly burned in a fire at WalMart, and then claims that AOL will pay all of her medical bills if only if you forward this email to EVERYONE YOU KNOW!!! Okay, enough already.

## 3. Bill Gates Money Giveaway (1997)

No, it's true. I thought it was a scam, but it happened to a buddy of mine. It seems that Microsoft is testing some new program for tracing email, and the company needs volunteers to help try the thing out. He forwarded me an email that he received from Microsoft--and get this, from Bill Gates himself! Two weeks later, as a reward for participating, my pal received a check for thousands of dollars!



Sure he did. Another version of this hoax claims that AOL's tracking service is offering a cash reward. Tell you what: when you get your check, send me 10 percent as a finder's fee, okay?

#### 4. Five-Cent Email Tax (1999)

"Dear Internet Subscriber," the email starts. "The Government of the United States is quietly pushing through legislation that will affect your use of the Internet." It goes on to reveal that "Bill 602P" will authorize the U.S. Postal Service to assess a charge of five cents for every email sent. Not a bad way to cut down on the number of dopey email chain letters and lame jokes people let loose on the world. But credulous curse averters and connoisseurs of boffo laffs can relax: This email alert, which popped up in 1999 and comes back for a visit every year or so, just isn't true. Still, it sounded plausible enough to fool Hillary Clinton during a 2000 debate when she was running for the Senate.

#### 5. Nigerian 419 Email Scam (2000)

"DEAR SIR," the email starts. "FIRSTLY I MUST FIRST SOLICIT YOUR CONFIDENCE IN THIS TRANSACTION; LET ME START BY INTRODUCING MYSELF PROPERLY..." I'm sure you've received one of these: a confidential, urgent email message promising you a reward of mucho dinero for helping this person convey money abroad. All you need do in return is entrust your name and bank account number to the government bureaucrat (or his uncle, aunt, or cousin, the ostensible "credit officer with the union bank of Nigeria plc (uba) Benin branch") who needs your help.

It's the Nigerian con, also known as an Advanced Fee Fraud or 419 scam (so called because of the section number of the Nigerian criminal code that applies to it). Ancestors of these scams appeared in the 1980s, when the media of choice were letters or faxes--and they're still wildly successful at snagging people. In fact, Oprah recently featured a victim of the Nigerian scam on her show. And if you think that smart, educated folks couldn't possibly fall for it, you'll be surprised when you read "The Perfect Mark," a New Yorker magazine article profiling a Massachusetts psychotherapist who was duped--and lost a fortune.

To see how the hoax works, visit Scamorama, a fascinating site that features a progression of email messages stringing along 419 scammers, sometimes for months at a time. Finally, check out the 3rd Annual Nigerian Email Conference, an absolutely perfect spoof.

This article comes to us via APCUG, the Association of Personal Computer User Groups, of which CMUG is a member.

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## The Tornado – A Review

*by Sharon Walbran, via APCUG*

Transferring files to a new computer is a task that's become common with people replacing their computers every few years or so. A product that can make the transfer of files and settings less painful is "The Tornado" from Data Drive Thru, available online at [www.datadrivethru.com](http://www.datadrivethru.com).

The lightweight device which fits in the palm of your hand houses two USB cables. One cable is connected to the old computer; the other USB cable is connected to the new computer. No software needs to be installed if the computer running the software has Windows XP installed. When the USB cables are connected, built-in software automatically starts up, displaying a split screen with the folders and files on the old computer in one half of the screen and the folders and files from the other computer in the other half of the screen. Copying files from one computer to the other involves dragging the files from one half of the screen to the destination folder in the other half. The computer you are using for the transfer is identified as "This Computer"; the other as "Other Computer."

Transfer of files can be made from computers running versions of Windows back to Windows 98. If both computers are running Windows 98, the company provides drivers for Windows 98. What makes this device particularly attractive is the speed of transfer. The company claims a transfer rate of 25 MB per second and my experience confirms the speed.

The span when the USB cables are fully extended is just 4 feet, but that can be expanded by using a USB extension cable. However, as a result of the limited range, the device works best when computers are placed in close proximity to each other.

No mention is made on Data Drive Thru's website as to whether this is one of the transfer devices approved by Microsoft for transfer of files and settings from Windows XP computers to computers running Microsoft Vista.

The current price is about \$60 but discounts have sometimes been offered to user groups. The company also offers the Eraser product which is touted as removing all data from a hard drive

*This article comes to us from APCUG, the Association of Personal Computer User Groups, of which CMUG is a member. Sharon Walbran is the editor of The Digital Viking, the newsletter of the Twin Cities PCUG in Minnesota ([www.tpc.org](http://www.tpc.org)). She can be reached at [SQWalbran\(at\)yahoo.com](mailto:SQWalbran(at)yahoo.com).*



# Internet Addressing

by *Hilton Kaufman, via APCUG*

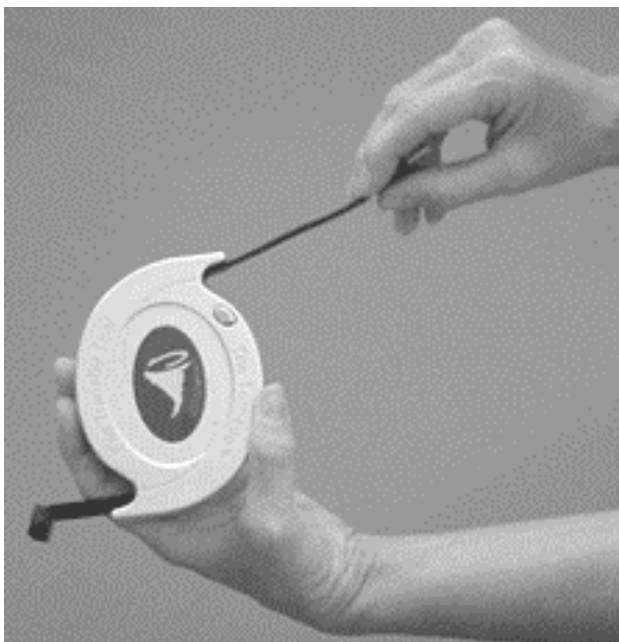
*[Ed. note: this article is part of a series on the Internet. If you find this interesting, please let me know, and I'll track down the other parts of the series to run in future newsletters.]*

Each individual or computer on the Internet has an individual and unique address in the system. Part of this address might reflect how messages to and from this address are routed, but it is possible to buy or rent what is known as a domain name. Within the system, everything is routed by numbers, but there are tables available to many servers that translate the names, easier for mere humans to understand, to the proper routing numbers.

There is a regular hierarchy to how these names work and are assigned. Generally if you control a domain name, you can control the individual names under it. There are individuals who only use one individual name under a domain name. This might be done to advertise a company or service. An ISP might have thousands of names under its domain.

An international agency, called ICANN, that is subject to control by the U.S. Department of Commerce if it gets out of line, assigns the high level domains, such as .com. There are between 100 and 150 of these high level domain names. An authority for each of these high level names registers the specific domain names. Every nation-state has its own high level name, such as .de for Germany (Deutschland). Some are general or for certain types of users, such as .com and .edu.

ICANN also arranges for several high level



*Picture of The Tornado, for article on previous page.*

servers in different locations to have the master list for the system. I believe that there are currently seven of these servers. If one is lost or compromised, the others can still function and quickly correct the data on the other ones. Much of this information is also fed down the line to other name translation servers on a regular basis.

The rules as to how a domain will be issued under a specific high level varies with the issuing authority. They may contract the administration out to a service, such as VeriSign, that does this for a profit. Sometimes the rules are strict and might require an actual presence, type of entity and/or citizenship to use a domain name with a particular national high level name. In other cases, it may simply be whether or not one is willing to pay the required fee. The small pacific island nation of Tuvalu covers much of its government expenses by selling .tv domain names through VeriSign. Tuvalu is not even mentioned in the online advertisement for .tv domain names.

Specific names work a bit different for email than for the World Wide Web. Typically an individual will have an email address, but not a uniform resource locator (URL) for the Web. The email format is a bit easier to explain, so I'll start with it.

In an email address, the individual name is to the left of an "at" (@) symbol, which separates the two parts of the name. Immediately after the @, the specific part of the domain name follows. A dot, or period, separates this from the high level domain name. An example might be something like **Joe.Individual@example.com**. There may or may not be dots and capitals in the individual part of the name. There is always at least one dot in the domain name.

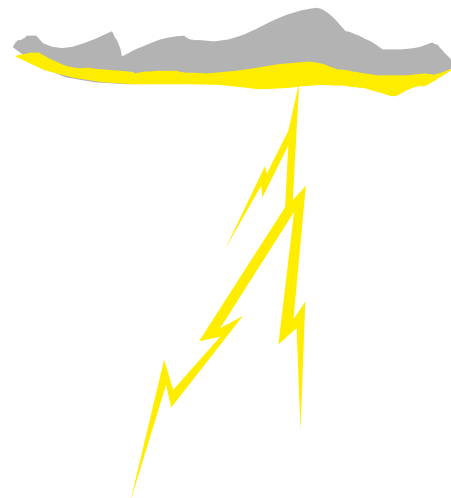
The individual web site services that go through the consumer ISPs as a free feature are a bit weird looking. *[Ed. Note: an example would be our old CMUG website, through Millkern: [www.millkern.com/cmug](http://www.millkern.com/cmug).]* Any business would typically have and use its own domain name. With web sites the domain name comes first, followed by a slash and then the individual part of the name. You can control the specific page naming from whatever level you are able to work. It will probably not have names of individuals. It may or may not start with www. If it is directly at the domain name level, it might default to a specific page name, such as index. A technical requirement of the web sort of requires that `http://` appear before the actual URL. The frequently seen `www` is not required. Letters such as `htm` or `html`, to indicate how the site is coded, are at the end. An example might be **`http://example.com/index.htm`**.

*This article comes to us via APCUG, the Association of Personal Computer User Groups, of which CMUG is a member. Hilton Kaufman serves as the technical support person for the procedures writing unit of an Illinois state agency; at home, he has a powerful machine that allows him to do things like playing games and surf the web without getting in trouble. He is a member of the Chicago Computer Society ([www.ccs.org](http://www.ccs.org)), and can be reached at [hmkaufman\(at\)earthlink.net](mailto:hmkaufman(at)earthlink.net).*



# CMUG MEGAPHONE

George Coffin  
8652 Open Meadow Way  
Columbia, MD 21045



Meeting:  
**Wednesday, June 20, 7:30 pm**  
Mr. Youlong Yang will display some of his pictures of China, and explain how he works with them in Photoshop. Also, **Elections!**

## CENTRAL MARYLAND USER GROUP

### Membership and Change of Address

Send renewals and address changes to:

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8652 Open Meadow Way  
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gcoffin3@comcast.net

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PO Box 125  
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art.silverglate@gmail.com

### Editorial Copy

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

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Att: Paul Van Bloem  
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Columbia, MD 21045  
pjvanbloem@aol.com

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

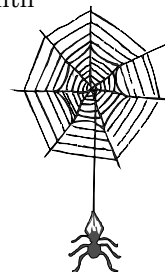
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General meetings are held the third Wednesday of every month at 7:30 pm at the Florence Bain Senior Center, near the Harpers Choice Village Center in Columbia MD. The number there is 410-313-7213.

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.



**www.myCMUG.org**