

October 2007



# MEGAPHONE



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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTRAL MARYLAND USER GROUP

## Editor's Note

from Paul Van Bloem

I haven't heard from President Mike since the board meeting. I know he was planning a trip, so I guess we will give him a month off from writing his column. (Of course, we'll have to dock his pay!)

So you'll have to settle for an Editor's Note instead of a President's Message. And if you're going to keep sobbing that way, I'll have to ask you to go in the other room; none of us want to listen to that!

## Thanks

Let me start by thanking Nick Mosby from Verizon, who spoke at our September meeting. Jack Fogarty talked to Ms. Donni Dingman at Verizon about bringing CMUG up to date on what Verizon is doing with their FiOS service. Donni herself lives up in Hobbits Glen, not far from the Bain Center, and works in Verizon's External Affairs department, which does community outreach. However, she thought we might have technical questions outside her expertise, so she got Nick Mosby to come speak to us.

Nick was very knowledgeable, and explained some of the basics of Verizon's fiber-to-the-house system. He also answered numerous questions about FiOS broadband, DSL, FiOS television, HD television service, and future service.

I was interested to hear about Verizon's HD plans. Nick admitted to one question that there was no way the current FiOS system could carry 400 HD channels; there just isn't bandwidth on the current fiber. (He also thought a lot of channels wouldn't go HD any time soon, so he didn't see this as a near-term problem.) But since Verizon has fiber all the way to the house, their bottleneck is the connection between each Central Office and your neighborhood hub. Comcast has a similar setup, but they also have a bottleneck in the copper wire from the neighborhood hub to your house.

One of the ongoing

research efforts in communications is fitting more data on the same fiber optic cable; when you think about it, it's a lot cheaper to put new transmitter/receivers on each end of a fiber than to put in new fiber all over the place. So I expect that Verizon is in a much better position than Comcast, because they can increase the bandwidth to each neighborhood hub as new transmission and compression technology comes online, and so avoid their bottlenecks. Comcast, however, will have to address the copper-to-the-house issue far sooner as we get more HD channels; their only option that I can see is to start installing fiber-to-the-house too, which will be a huge effort.

Anyway, thanks very much to Nick for coming and enlightening us. He offered to return in six or nine months to report on changes at Verizon, and I expect we'll take him up on that.

## October Meeting

Normally I'd say something about the speaker for the upcoming meeting, but as far as I know we don't have one. This, of course, is a side effect of our Program Coordinator vacancy.

It would be helpful if a CMUG member would volunteer to handle this job. The work doesn't require putting together a newsletter every month, or even writing a monthly column like President Mike. You'd need to contact people by email (or phone), send them info about CMUG, and give them directions to the Bain Center. When Andrew Rein handled programs, he introduced the speakers at each



### Next General Meeting

Open Meeting: we do not have a speaker for this month (last I heard), so we will have an open meeting. Bring your questions, and we'll have more time for answers and discussion.

Wednesday, October 17, 7:30 pm.....Florence Bain Senior Center

### Next Windows SIG Meeting

Topic will be "Microsoft: Helping You Protect Your PC"

Tuesday, October 23, 7:00 pm.....Florence Bain Senior Center

### Inside the Megaphone

Editor's Note.....from Paul Van Bloem.....Page 1

Upcoming Meetings and Help Needed.....2

Deals from the DealsGuy.....by Bob Click.....3

Open Source Software.....by Ira Wilsker, via APCUG.....5

Mostly Free to Use and Modify

The Phenomenon of Facebook.....by Courtney Jewett, via APCUG.....7

Redefining Social Networking



meeting; I suppose that part is optional. Really, the job is flexible, and can be changed to suit.

I suppose the group can stagger on a while longer, but we do need someone to handle the programs. The meeting presentations are what get members to come to meeting, and what (hopefully) attracts new members. Not having a program, or not knowing about the program in time to publicize it, will continue to hurt CMUG.

Anyway, I don't know if we will have an open meeting, or if Art Silverglate will quick develop a presentation, or if someone else will be presenting. If I learn anything new, I'll put it up on the CMUG website ([www.myCMUG.org](http://www.myCMUG.org)). Or just come on down to the Bain

Center on Wednesday and find out!

Next month, the meeting is the day before Thanksgiving. And we can give thanks because we already have a program, which will be on Ubuntu Linux.

Mike Kerwin gave me the name of the speaker, who is involved with an area Linux user group, but I seem to have misplaced my notes. I don't know much about Linux, but Ubuntu is currently the most popular Linux "distribution" out (a discussion of why: <http://linux4coffee.wordpress.com/2007/10/15/the-7-reasons-why-ubuntu-is-so-successful/>). Again, check the CMUG website for the latest news.

### NSA Map

If you've been following the long-running debate about the government tapping terrorist phones, you might be interested in this article at Wired: [www.wired.com/politics/security/news/2007/10/domestic\\_taps](http://www.wired.com/politics/security/news/2007/10/domestic_taps).

Congress is currently discussing whether the government is allowed to tap phone calls that begin and end outside the U.S., but pass through switches on U.S. soil.

The article explains that many phone calls pass through the U.S. because the routing system evolved based on pricing set up by the International Telecommunications Union, more than a century ago, on how international phone calls would be paid for.

The prices favored small and developing countries with higher fees, so phone calls tended to be routed through the U.S. because it was cheaper. Internet traffic has tended to follow suit, partly because the U.S. was the first with Internet backbones.

So, surprisingly, "Miami sees most of the internet traffic between South America and the rest of the world, including traffic passing from one South American country to another..."

I'm not sure how any agency, even one as big as the NSA, can manage to monitor all that volume. They may not be able to for much longer, either, as new fiber is being laid in Asia and Europe; in the long run, fewer calls and less Internet data will be routed through the U.S. because it will be cheaper to send it by another route.

### How Small is Small Enough?

Came across an interesting article at the ExtremeTech website (<http://www.extremetech.com/article/0,1697,2194862,00.asp>; that's where I got the top picture from, too). An Israeli company is marketing a complete computer in a 5 by 5 by 2 inches, and it draws only 5 watts. It's called a Fit PC.

For \$285, you get a 500 MHz processor (AMD Geode, which I gather is basically a system-on-a-chip), 256 MB of RAM, 40 GB hard drive, video output up to 1920x1440, Ethernet, sound, and two USB ports. It ships with Linux, but you can install Windows on it.

Now, this is no speed demon. It'll be fine for surfing the Web and word processing, but photo editing might be a bit much for it. Still, it is so small, it can be used in a lot of places where space is at a premium. It has no fan, and can be run from inside a drawer or attached to the underside of a desk. There's more discussion at ZDNet's Education blog: <http://education.zdnet.com/?p=1262>.

Unfortunately, the company is currently sold out. They expect to begin shipping again in December. Only \$40 s&h to the U.S. (and \$10 for each additional unit)! Take two, they're small!

*See you Wednesday,  
Paul / Ye Ed*



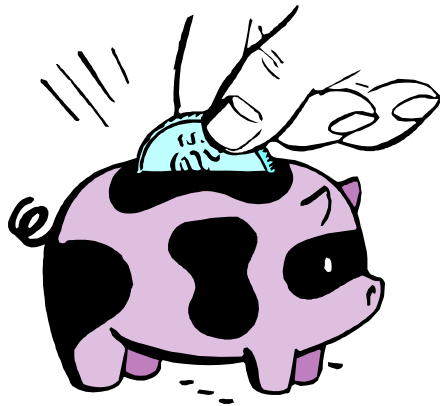
## Deals from the DealsGuy

by Bob Click, Greater Orlando Computer Users Group

Thanks for all your messages about my well-being. Because of some nagging pains in my chest I was very worried that night and decided to send the column out early, just in case. Seven years ago, the doctors told me to get my final affairs in order because of all the artery blockages, but I believe my frequent walks have prevented my wife from spending my insurance money so far. Problem is, I can't walk much right now because of a bone spur. A few editors welcomed the column being early, but I don't usually accomplish that.

### Check This Out!


Macon Users Group ([www.maconusersgroup.org](http://www.maconusersgroup.org)) has an excellent newsletter (MUG Monitor) and their president is one of my favorite writers. Louis Vitale has written "Lou's Views" for ages and he is my kind of writer because he tells it like it is and minces no words. In their August issue, he wrote about the data mining capabilities of Vista, and mentions his source for the information. I never miss reading his monthly column and can't remember ever disagreeing with his view, just cheering for him. I have that article posted on my website for your perusal: [www.dealsguy.com/Articles\\_column.html](http://www.dealsguy.com/Articles_column.html).



## A New APCUG Event in the East

I read that APCUG is considering an eastern event because many eastern members don't want to travel to Las Vegas. That's a great idea, but finding a suitable show to coincide with it and help entice attendees could be a challenge. I liked the event tied to PC Expo a few years ago, but it didn't last. The expensive hotel was one problem. Conflicting views on how to run it also created hurdles. I especially liked the leisurely way they met for the meals though.

There are lots of computer-oriented shows in the east, but nothing as immense as CES. Microsoft has had a large show in Orlando during June the last few years that brings in a lot of big name vendors. The Photo Marketing Association (PMA) show that used to be in Orlando would have been excellent, but it moved this year, as has the Home Electronics Show, which would have been smaller, but still interesting. Finding the right show might be tough. I don't agree that the show must be computer oriented. I have worked plenty of shows that were just as interesting, but most trade shows move around.

Timing also complicates it, but some feel that without a good show it might not attract enough attendees. How about using a cheaper hotel and meeting place, and inviting vendors without making them buy a meal and spend a fortune for the booth, which might bring in more of them if they had a reasonable attendance to talk to. Their absence proves they don't want the expense of the meals. 

## 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 liaison between the group and the speaker. So, this is an important job. On the other hand, I don't think it's particularly time-consuming; we only have 11 presentations a year, after all, and most of the communication can be done via email. 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.

**November 21:** Ubuntu Linux

**December 19:** Annual Holiday Meeting and Potluck Supper

**January 16, 2008:** To be determined

## Windows SIG

### October 23: Microsoft: Helping You Protect Your PC

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, our topic will be "Microsoft: Helping You Protect Your PC." 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



Catered meals are very expensive and attendees should pay for their own meals. Attendees can get their favorite food at a modest price close by or maybe box lunches could be brought in for lunch. Roundtables done by vendors are popular.

These ideas might not work well either, but it has never been tried because it is assumed that we are so cheap that we won't show up without free meals. I disagree and overly frugal attendees don't help any event. We don't ask vendors to buy anything when they present at our UG meetings so why do it at our APCUG and regional gatherings? The regional events have only a few vendors, but most are only a two-day event so it's more the camaraderie than the vendors. A five-day event is lengthy and not all stay the full time.

Maybe surveys would help provide ideas for arranging such an event. Let APCUG know your opinions and ideas. My views may not be popular, but they are another way to attract vendors.

### Be Aware

I have not tried or checked out any of the following products or claims.

### Why Not Try File Encryption?

BluestSoft introduces Bluest CryptShield 1.5 that can encrypt files, folders or drives to protect them from unwanted access. CryptShield uses one of three types of encryption algorithms – Rijndael (AES), Twofish (AES finalist), or Blowfish (448 bit) – to scramble the data and create secure file-based virtual drives or entire storage drives. Once the encrypted drive is created, it gets completely invisible for other people until it is mounted. The hidden drive can be mounted either manually or automatically (with password authentication) and can even be shared with other network machines. In automatic mode, the drive can be set to mount when you log in, and unmounted when you log off, or when the application is closed, or after a time duration of inactivity. Since the encryption is on-the-fly and has almost no impact on system resources, you will hardly notice the encryption. Restrict the connection of removable devices like USB drives and optical disks by registering only accepted devices. The CryptShield application verifies the validity of the drive and if it sees it's a non-registered device, it is not detected by the system.

There is another layer of security for documents you create on public computers. After copying an important file to the encrypted USB drive, you can shred the original document completely by

overwriting it by 0x00. CryptShield renders the file completely unrecoverable even for the most advanced recovery software.

Bluest CryptShield 1.5 runs under Microsoft Windows 2000/XP/Vista and sells for \$39.95 (US) for a single-user license. Users group members get 50% off the purchase price of the new Bluest CryptShield until the end of November. Use coupon code; cs50nov. Additional information and a free evaluation copy are available at [www.bluestsoft.com](http://www.bluestsoft.com).

➤ Product page link: [www.bluestsoft.com/en/products/cryptshield.html](http://www.bluestsoft.com/en/products/cryptshield.html)

➤ Download link: [www.bluestsoft.com/en/download/downloadrequest.html](http://www.bluestsoft.com/en/download/downloadrequest.html)

➤ Postal address: 2102 Business Center Dr., Suite 130, Irvine, California 92612

➤ Phone: 949-253-5763

### Freeware Is Always Nice

A new free all-in-one system utility that helps protect, repair and optimize computers with a single click of the mouse has been introduced. The product is called Advanced WindowsCare V2 Personal. IObit, the software company that developed it, says it's vital that users maintain and optimize their PCs on a regular basis to keep computers free from Adware and Spyware. This freeware is designed to be the first point of call in solving these issues.

Advanced

WindowsCare Personal offers four major benefits:

- 1 Defends Windows: Scan and remove Spyware and Adware with the latest definitions; prevent spyware, hijackers and bad websites from being installed; erase the history of all activities in computer including traces of online site visit activity.
- 2 Cleans Windows: Boost system performance by deep scanning and cleaning out all missing, unwanted, obsolete and corrupt registry entries and junk files.
- 3 Keeps peak performance: Fully optimize Windows for ultimate system performance and top Internet speed, based on how users use computer and what kind of network they have.
- 4 Fixes system errors: Repair system configurations, eliminate system bottlenecks and prevent crashes, keeping your PC stable and roaring at peak efficiency.

Advanced WindowsCare Personal works on Windows Vista/ XP/ 2000. It is 100% clean and safe, free of adware and spyware (DealsGuy comment: their words, not mine). For more



# Open Source Software

## Mostly Free to Use and Modify

by Ira Wilsker via APCUG

### Websites in this article:

- ↪ [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open-source\\_software](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open-source_software)
- ↪ <http://mashable.com/2007/09/23/open-source>
- ↪ <http://openoffice.org>
- ↪ <http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/thunderbird>

### What is Open Source?

Wikipedia defines Open Source Software as "... computer software which source code is available under a license (or arrangement such as the public domain) that meets the Open source definition. This permits users to use, change, and improve the software, and to redistribute it in modified or unmodified form. It is often developed in a public, collaborative manner."

Open Source software has been around in its current context since 1998 and hundreds of titles are available for almost any computing need. As a general rule, Open Source software is free to use, modify, and redistribute as the user sees fit. For this reason it has evolved from products that only a geek could love to software that it widely used in corporate, academic, and home environments. Some Open Source software, such as the comprehensive and free office suite Open Office, has in some places taken a substantial market share from its pricey commercial competitors with hundreds of millions of users. Much of the Open Source software is now in the mainstream, and is no longer in the exclusive realm of nerds.

Open Source software should be seriously

considered as an alternative to commercial software. A recent article that lists almost 500 categorized Open Source products is online at <http://mashable.com/2007/09/23/open-source>. Look through this listing and you'll find a wealth of resources that are mostly free for the taking. All businesses, and many households, need some type of accounting software, and Open Source is a viable choice. Some of the accounting programs listed provide budgeting help, personal finance assistance, point of sale (POS) applications that work with barcode readers, inventory control, and other fiscal functions.

### Some Open Source Software

Many businesses are now dependent on "Customer Relationship Management" software, known in the industry as CRM. About 20 CRM titles are listed in the Mashable.com article listed above. Generally, these titles allow for the recording and utilizing of customer data. One product intended for charitable or religious use, is listed as "CiviCRM - The world's first downloadable constituent relationship management system; fund raising software that allows users to manage information about donors, volunteers, etc." CRM software generally allows for the creation and maintenance of mailing lists, client tracking, project management, and other customer related information.

Many of us would like the opportunity to customize what we see on our Windows desktops, and not be forced to utilize what Bill Gates provides us. Open Source obliges by providing about a dozen "Desktop Environments and Shell Replacements". Some of the functionality added to Windows by these programs includes enhancements like



information, and to download a copy, visit:

[www.iobit.com/](http://www.iobit.com/)

[AdvancedWindowsCarePersonal/](#)

### Keep Those Freebies Coming

ESTsoft Corp. released ALZip v7.0 beta, the full featured zip archiving utility for Windows 98/Me/2000/XP/Vista, with new features for faster extracting, updating, and restoring backups. The new Speed Extractor functionality in ALZip gives users one-click extraction, making ALZip the fastest way to extract files from archives. A second Speed Extractor option gives users a clean and simple menu, free from clutter that gradually creeps into Windows Explorer right-click context menus. Those looking to restore projects/file sets to a previously known good state can now overwrite files on disk with only the older, good files from their backup archives. Well known for its cute "Egghead" characters, ALZip follows up with a robust set of functionality, including support for extracting 36 archive formats and creating 8. ALZip is available in 25 languages.

Free for home users, commercial users can purchase licenses on the honor system for between \$20 for a single license and \$3 per seat for volume orders. Current licensees can upgrade for free. Free downloads are available at [www.altools.net](http://www.altools.net)

### That's All Folks

That's it for this month. I'll have more new product announcements on my website (most not offering a discount): [www.dealsguy.com](http://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

*bobclick at bellsouth dot net*





minimizing windows to floating icons, freeing the taskbar, controlling wallpaper and icons, real-time wallpaper effects, and other customizable functions. For those who like to tinker with Windows, these desktop environments and shell replacements can be a lot of fun to play with.

## Open Source Email

One computing function that almost all of us deal with on a daily basis is email. While the industry leader, Microsoft's Outlook Express is free (bundled with Internet Explorer), and its commercial big brother Outlook is commonly bundled with Microsoft Office, there are some excellent alternatives in Open Source software.

One of the most popular Open Source email clients is Mozilla's Thunderbird, which is a very full-featured email client with millions of users. Thunderbird can be downloaded (free) from [www.mozilla.com/en-US/thunderbird](http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/thunderbird). Thunderbird has much of the look and feel of Outlook, but provides many advanced features not available in Outlook. Thunderbird is compatible with almost all email services, and is easy and quick to configure. Thunderbird generally provides better security than Outlook, and includes some protection from phishing (identity theft) scams. Spam email is the bane of email, and Thunderbird offers active spam filtering which routes suspicious email to a junk mail folder for quick review and deletion, if desired. It is also a universal email client in that it can run on Windows, Mac OS-X, and Linux, and is currently available in over 30 languages. Thunderbird would be a great alternative for those who want to get away from Microsoft products. Thunderbird, as popular as it is, is not the only Open Source email client listed; there are about a dozen email clients listed. The selection is good, and the price can not be beat.



## Open Source Music Editors

Another computing function that many of us participate in is ripping music, and converting it to formats that can be handled by our portable music players. Some of us edit videos, such as the ones we take with our camcorders. The Mashable.com article above lists over three dozen ripping, music editing, and video editing utilities. Formats supported by some of these Open Source utilities include MP3, MPEG, MPEG1, MPEG2, DivX, WAV and several other formats. Some of the software will edit and repair damaged audio and video files, while others allow for the conversion of DVDs to other video formats. There is an impressive selection of audio and video utilities available as Open Source, and they are worthy of consideration. And once you've converted your media to digital, you'll need a player program; you'll find several dozen Open Source media players are

available.

## Other Open Source Utilities

Another popular computing task is file sharing and "FTP" (File Transfer Protocol), and there are about three dozen free utilities listed. While some are for traditional file swapping, others allow for the remote access and synchronization of computers.

Many of us are artistic and graphically inclined, but the major commercial graphics design programs are often expensive. Open Source can come to the rescue with about 40 titles to choose from, allowing for an excellent selection. Some Open Source graphics utilities are simple photo editors, while others include 2D and 3D animation. Other Open Source utilities provide sophisticated webpage authoring tools where a novice can produce a professional appearing webpage.

Adobe's PDF (Portable Document Format) has become the de-facto standard for saving and distributing documents in "What you see is what you get" (WYSIWYG) format. While Adobe Acrobat (writer) is an expensive utility, there are about a dozen Open Source programs that can perform a similar task for free.

A lot of busy individuals need a "PIM" (Personal Information Manager) to keep track of their personal information, appointments, calendars, address books, to-do lists, and other daily mundane tasks. About a dozen "Personal Information and Task Managers" are available as Open Source, which may provide some help in controlling our often hectic lives.

There are several other categories of Open Source software listed, including project managers, reporting tools, RSS (news) feeds, system utilities, office suites, office programs, and web browsers such as Firefox. Open Source is here to stay and may be a key player in the future of software. It is definitely worthy of a serious look and consideration.

[Ed. Note: one of the interesting things about Open Source software that Ira doesn't get into is the "free to modify" part. Open Source is more than just freeware, because the source code is completely open. You can actually look at the source code for these programs. If you want to write a word processor, you can (with some restrictions) basically copy an existing Open Source one and make whatever changes you want to. I'm pretty sure you can't turn around and sell your work (since it's mostly not your work!), but you can end up with the perfect word processor (would you design anything less?) without having to reinvent the wheel.]

*This article comes to us from APCUG, the Association of Personal Computer User Groups, of which CMUG is a member. Ira Wilsker is an APCUG Director, a columnist for the Beaumont TX Examiner, and a radio and TV show host. He can be reached by email at [Iwilsker\(at\)apcug.net](mailto:Iwilsker(at)apcug.net).*



# The Phenomenon of Facebook

## Redefining Social Networking

by Courtney Jewett, via APCUG

What do Hillary Clinton, Tony the Tiger, and millions of college students have in common? They all have profiles on the contemporary social network known as Facebook.

As a college student, and avid Facebooker, I intend to share my knowledge and experiences with the site in order to uncover the reasons behind Facebook's widespread success.

As Facebook.com explains, the purpose of this "social utility" is to keep friends connected and help people network in a safe online environment.

Mark Zuckerberg, an extremely intelligent student at Harvard University, created Facebook three years ago. Then 19, Mark and his college friends launched the site as a place to connect Harvard students. Today, Facebook has connections to universities across the globe, with over 25 million registered users. If you have a high school or college age child, chances are they're very familiar with this popular site.

Once a fixation only among college students, Facebook is quickly expanding in the hope of connecting a diversity of users. Anyone with a valid email address can register and create a free Facebook profile.

The site is successful because it is changing the ways in which the world can communicate. Through Facebook, users create a profile where they can express their interests, activities, favorite movies, shows, books, quotes, and basic contact information. They can search for their friends and co-workers, and then click to add them as their 'Facebook friend'.

There are many different ways to participate on Facebook: sending messages, of course; uploading pictures, and 'tagging' or identifying Facebook friends that appear in your pics; writing on friends' walls; customizing your profile; writing notes to publish on Facebook; and updating your status to allow your friends to know exactly what you're up to at any given time.

With all of these opportunities to connect, it's no wonder people (especially students) are spending hours on this site, and visiting it repeatedly in order to stay updated with what's happening in the lives of

their Facebook friends.

Through Facebook, I am connected with 73 different networks, and hundreds of people, from the U.S to Australia. I can see what my friends who are currently studying abroad are up to, and view pictures of their adventures.

Some of my favorite professors are now Facebook users. The site is an excellent tool for professors to get to know their students on a more personal level. It's not uncommon for students to ask academic questions through Facebook messaging instead of email, or to write friendly comments on their professor's wall.

Employers are also discovering the benefits of Facebook, and can search for the profiles of potential employees. Therefore, it's smart to keep a clean profile, and to be aware of who you are associating

with through the site. Many sororities, fraternities, and campus organizations monitor the profiles of their members and discourage pictures of drinking, and inappropriate behavior.

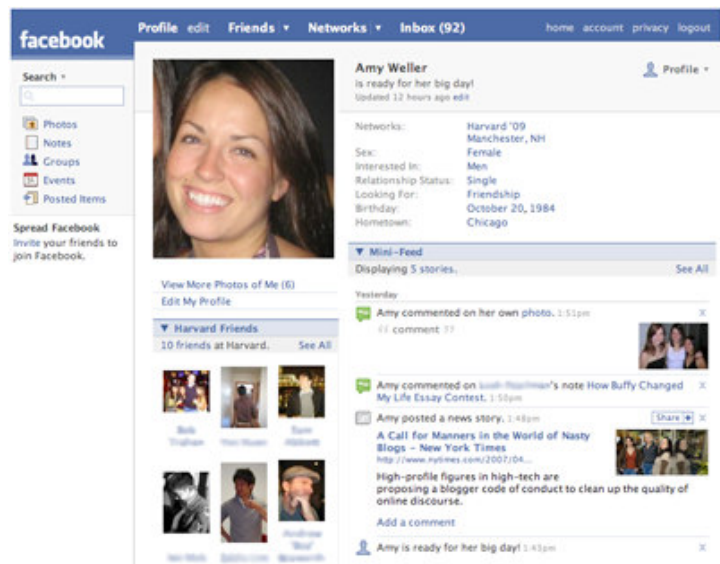
Facebook's privacy settings and methods of connectivity separate it from Myspace, and other Internet social networks. Myspace, which has features similar to Facebook, emphasizes

individuality and expression through more personalized profiles. Facebook focuses on simple, safe connectivity.

Facebook corresponds more with real life than Myspace, as users typically add people they already know as their Facebook friends. Myspace users are often contacted by random locals.

In upcoming articles, I'd like to further examine the role Facebook plays in the life of the student, as well as the advantages (and maybe one or two disadvantages) of the site. Lastly, we'll uncover how Facebook is affecting the dating world, and improving the love lives of college students everywhere.

*This article comes to us from APCUG, the Association of Personal Computer User Groups, of which CMUG is a member. Courtney Jewett is an English major at Baylor University, pursuing a career in journalism, and a member of the Alamo PC Organization ([www.alamopc.org](http://www.alamopc.org)). She can be reached by email at **Courtney\_Jewett (at) baylor.edu**.*



# CMUG MEGAPHONE

George Coffin  
8652 Open Meadow Way  
Columbia, MD 21045

Meeting:

**Wednesday, October 17, 7:30 pm**

We do not have a speaker for this month (last I heard), so we will have an **open meeting**.



## 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  
Att: Art Silverglate  
PO Box 125  
Columbia, MD 21045  
art.silverglate@gmail.com

### Editorial Copy

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

CMUG Megaphone  
Att: Paul Van Bloem  
PO Box 125  
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](http://www.myCMUG.org)

