

SAIT^{*} Bytes

** Syracuse Area Leader's in Technology*

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LinuxTM



The Open Source Alternative!



Dave Soergel

Dave has a degree in Computer Engineering from Syracuse University and currently develops microprocessor based electronic controls. He is the coordinator for SyrLUG, the Syracuse Linux Users Group.

With a proud history as an operating system for servers, Linux continues to improve the user experience in the desktop, laptop and netbook computer markets. Find out why Linux is a better alternative than those proprietary operating systems.

Feb. 1st, 6:00 PM- Liverpool Library, Registration Requested!

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Our meeting location for CNYPCUG



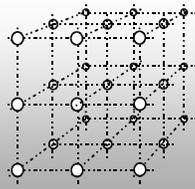
Directions to the library:

From the NY State Thruway: Exit at Route 57 (exit 38). After the tollbooth, turn right on Route 57 towards the Village of Liverpool. At Tulip Street, turn right and go one block. Liverpool Library will be on the left side at the corner of Tulip and Second Street.

From Interstate 81 North: Take the Liverpool Exit to Onondaga Lake Pkwy (Rte 370). In the Village of Liverpool, follow Rte 370 West (called Second St. in the Village) to the corner of Tulip St. Liverpool Library will be on the left.

From Interstate 81 South: Take 7th North St. exit. Bear right on 7th North St. and follow it to the end. Take a left on Electronics Parkway. Go to the end and take a right on Old Liverpool Road. At the Liverpool Village center (Heid's Corners) follow Rte. 370 West to the corner of Tulip St. Liverpool Library will be on the left.

Parking is available on Second St., on Tulip St., and underneath the Library in the garage.



SALT

Bytes

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Submission Deadline is the 5th of the month!

Articles, advertisements, and other submissions should be made only in RTF or MS-Word format, unless prior arrangement has been made. Margins, double spaces at the end of sentences should be removed before submission. A single hard return should occur at the end of paragraphs, not at the end of each line. Send all submissions via e-mail to newsdesk@cnypcug.org.

You are encouraged to submit articles for publication in SALTBytes. Due to space limitations, the Editorial Staff reserves the right to restrict publication to articles offering the greatest benefit to CNYPCUG or its readers. We encourage articles which educate and entertain our readers.

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President's Message

by Vice-President Paul Fleischmann

Nasty weather kept many of our members at home this past month. But those that ventured out got a great discussion of some of the latest technology gifts and gadgets.

Primarily, the talk centered on E-readers, the 'replacements' for hardcopy books. The main players are the "Kindle" (Amazon), "Nook" (Barnes & Noble), and Sony's "E-reader." All use the same display technology - "e-ink", a black on gray screen with no backlight. Interest was so intense that we may have to do a full presentation on these!

Join us on February 1st for our own Dave Soergel presenting "Linux, The Alternative OS". This should be very interesting!

PLEASE NOTE: Our April General Meeting (and Annual Business Meeting) will be on the **second Monday- April 12!** We have some more date changes for 2010 so check the newsletter and www.cnypcug.org for details.

Paul



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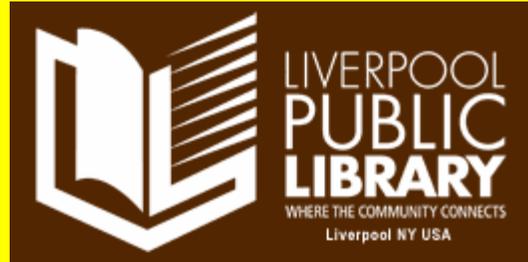
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Library Co-sponsors

CNYPCUG is a co-sponsor with the
Liverpool Public Library.

CNYPCUG supports the library with volunteer activities and technical assistance.



DOOR PRIZES

Here's a partial list of some of the items we have lined up for future meetings:

- Targus Laptop Chill Fan!
- 50 pack of DVD+R's
- 50 pack of CD Jewel Cases
- Brother Label Maker!
- Casio Label Maker!
- Logitech QuickCam!
- Camera Sunshield
- SanDisk 2 & 4 GB Thumb drives
- Books- VISTA, Networks, Notebook PC

And many more valuable prize items!

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Please be aware that we would like you to register for EACH month's meeting!

CNYPCUG requests that all members and non-members **register** to attend our monthly meetings at Liverpool Public Library. The registration form is available online at -

www.cnypcug.org/reserve.

The Deals Guy

by Bob Click -

Greater Orlando Computer Users Group



Our bank, Washington Mutual, was recently taken over by Chase via the FDIC. Our checking and a small savings account were with them, and a Home Equity Loan of just a few thousand. Although our original purpose for the HEL fell through, we had eventually borrowed a small amount for home improvements. We opened the HEL three years ago and have never been late or missed a payment. We usually pay a substantial amount on the principal as well as the monthly interest, but on a few occasions, we only paid the monthly interest, which you can do on a HEL. Shortly after Chase took over, we received a letter from them with two forms they wanted signed to enable them to get copies of our IRS returns for the last two years. They also demanded that we furnish them proof of our income.

I was appalled at the intensity of their demand and decided to ignore it; after all, our record is unblemished, and our FICO score is over 800 and we weren't asking for more money, so I didn't feel we were doing anything wrong? I expected to hear from them by phone, but instead, the next month brought a letter demanding we pay the loan off and there would be no financial penalty for early payment. I also ignored that one. I guess I could have paid it off, but paying money back to your savings does not always happen as planned, so I'm just continuing to pay on the loan, wondering what their next move will be. Am I some kind of criminal?

They then discontinued our credit line, which really doesn't matter to me. Now they're hitting us with extra fees for each payment, called "back dating fees." I've tried complaining to a couple of state agencies, but neither office has responded. My feeling is, beware of dealing with Chase. We're changing our checking to another bank, and since our utilities are automatically withdrawn, we're communicating with them to change bank accounts. The utilities tell me many of their customers are also complaining about Chase.

*Interesting Reading

Everyone is interested in Flash Memory technology

these days, but few end users really understand what it's all about. Information Week had an interesting article that explains some of how it works along with the shortcomings, and what the future might bring. This article might fill in some blanks, but it's written for IT people so read it carefully. Sorry for the long URL, but some readers dislike tinyurls. They tell me they want to know where they're going when they click a URL. <http://www.informationweek.com/news/storage/systems/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=219501231&queryText=Howard%20Marks>

Another interesting article in IW is about "The Internet of Things"; keeping track of all kinds of things, using RFID tags, and other types of information tags. It covers different topics and problems not covered in the RFID article I gave you recently, and might give you something to think about. <http://analytics.informationweek.com/abstract/25/1343/Virtualization/monitoring-technology-creates-internet-of-things.html>.

*Oops, Nobody Home

In my November DealsGuy column, I wrote about an interesting 3D address book with a discount. Two of my readers have told me they tried to order it, but were unable to do so, or even get a response to e-mail. We both tried to contact the PR person that I coordinated it with, but to no avail. They don't seem to respond at all and I have no idea why. I have that problem a lot with vendors who send out announcements for a new product, but when that happens I don't usually use that item, but in this case, I had several communications with the person and she assured me everything would work fine. I guess those things happen, but I can't help but feel bad. I'm still trying to contact them.

*Need To Uninstall Something?

Mike Ungerman <http://musings-from-mike.blogspot.com> (interesting site) of Central Florida Computer Society <http://www.cfcs.org> suggested Revo Uninstaller as

his favorite product for program removals <http://www.revo.uninstaller.com/revo_uninstaller_free_download.html>. User Group members in Florida will remember Mike as the founder of the Florida Association of Computer User Groups (FACUG). He put his own money on the line in the hopes that FACUG would be a success that first year, and it has been a resounding success every since, with the help of many other people.

Here is an excerpt from the Revo Web site: "Revo Uninstaller includes; Junk Files Cleaner, Windows Tools, Auto Run Manager, Browsers Cleaner, MS Office Cleaner, Windows Cleaner, Evidence Remover and Unrecoverable Delete tools! You can reach all these tools from the 'Tools' tool bar button of Revo Uninstaller."

Another of Mike's recommendations

Belarc Advisor is a popular product for analyzing your system, but Mike suggests a similar program, SIW - System Information for Windows, that, in his opinion, presents the data in a more manageable format <<http://www.gtopala.com/>>. Check their Web site to find out about its many features and download the freeware version. This is an impressive program.

***Be Warned About Those Nasty Web Sites**

Hewie Poplock <<http://www.hewie.net>> of Central Florida Computer Society alerted his Windows SIG to this valuable utility, <<http://linkscanner.avg.com>>. Some of the nastiest malware could download unknowingly from innocent looking Web sites, so a timely warning might help. I recently mentioned Site Advisor from McAfee, and Site Hound from FireTrust to warn you about undesirable Web sites. They turn your browser red and warn you about possible malicious code. Also check out LinkScanner from AVG Technologies. They acquired this product a while back, which used to sell for \$29.95 before they bought it, but now it's free. It works with Windows 2000, XP, Vista and Windows 7. It's also OK on either 32 bit or

64 bit systems. It's a plug-in for IE-6 or later and also works with Firefox.

***Can't Make Up a Web Site For Your Business, Look Into This Announcement!**

Talkbiznow will offer a free online storefront with the launch of Webstore, a service that enables businesses, start-ups and charities to create their own micro-Website promoting products on the Internet. "A Webstore, which can be created for free within eight minutes, dramatically cuts the time and costs required to set up a well-designed business website, which often costs users between £10,000 (\$16,000) and £20,000 (\$32,000) to build." The biggest use of the new service is expected to come from Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) who are already turning to Talkbiznow in the current tough economic conditions as a low-cost and technologically efficient way to reach new markets, recruit staff and create partnerships.

Talkbiznow users can design their own Webstore and choose audio and video promotional tools to help ensure that each micro-website is tailor-made to meet their specific business brand. Each Webstore will have its own URL address, available to all Internet users. Visitors to a Webstore can pay for products and services via PayPal, the online payment system. The accessibility of Webstore reflects the philosophy of Martin Warner, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and co-founder of Talkbiznow, who is committed to offering services for free, empowering SMEs with the technological bandwidth to compete with large corporations.

Warner says: "Webstore represents a unique, non-technical experience to market yourself. Talkbiznow members will be able to create their own storefront. Businesses, charities, events and personal profiles will all be reachable outside the network itself. A Webstore will effectively function as an online business card." Webstore users choose between elegant off-the-shelf templates to define their product, service, event or brand; also advertise prices and describe their industry. Browsers will find each micro-website intuitively easy to navigate with a Webstore acting as a portal that lies between an advertisement and a business website. Users will be able to upload videos about themselves, or their business, from their smart phones and upload them to the page."

(Continued on page 12) Deals Guyr



The Great Computer Build

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The Great Computer Build, 2009 DIY in the Decade of Dell

First in a series on building a high performance computer with the latest technology.

Personal computers have become ubiquitous. Not only as desktop computers, but as a variety of portable computers. These days, laptops of various stripes outsell desktop computers by a large margin. And why not? – Laptops do nearly everything that a desktop computer can do, and are smaller and portable. The present crop of Netbook

computers are a case in point: they are the first new variant introduced that break the march of the past (bigger, more features, faster) with a new reality appeal: the just-right size and performance for the task.

This scaling doesn't always work in the performance direction. A high performance laptop with a big screen will cost lots of low performance dollars but its performance will still fall well short of a desktop computer that costs half as much, particularly in graphics performance. So if you want to build a performance computer, you are still looking at buying or building a desktop computer.

I use a laptop computer for much of my work for the same reasons most people do: it's portable, and good enough for all but the most demanding graphics tasks. For the more demanding CAD/CAM work and for desktop publishing (DTP) I rely on my desktop machine because of its superior graphics capability.

In the early days of PCs, enthusiasts normally built their own machines from individually selected components, which had the advantages of getting exactly what you want, and it was cheaper to roll your own than buy one pre-built from a retailer. Companies like Dell have turned this scenario inside out, and it is now possible to buy a pre-built computer cheaper than you can put it together yourself from identical components. Computer consulting is part of my business, and I have gotten away from building

computers for my clients because I can get the computer they need pre-built from an online source cheaper than I can build it myself. This also has the advantage of

knowing all the parts will work together (a potential problem when dealing with bleeding edge technology) and I don't have to warranty the machine myself.

I remain an enthusiast, though, so the compulsion to roll my own still remains. The justification is that I still think I can build a machine best for my needs (not all rational)

at a price I am willing to pay. If you lean toward the performance end of the scale, it is still possible to just throw money at the problem and get a high performance machine. Moore's Law is still the rule (George Moore, while Director of Research at Fairchild Semiconductor, wrote an article for the April 19, 1965 anniversary edition of Electronics magazine where he hypothesized that the number of

transistors in an integrated circuit would double every year through 1975. Others, later, dubbed it “Moore’s Law”) Bill Machrone, in PC Magazine in 1984, stated a pragmatic corollary; “the computer you want will always cost \$5000.” Neither Moore’s Law nor Machrone’s corollary has changed much to this day. Niklaus Wirth, inventor of the Pascal programming language,

popularized what he credited as Reiser’s Law: “software is slowing faster than

hardware is accelerating” (Martin Reiser, then at IBM Research, subsequently demurred, “It is not the first time I am accused of having said something that I cannot remember having said”.)

Stated in a canonical context, “what Moore giveth, Gates taketh away.” Ask yourself, does your newest computer boot and load applications any faster than the computer you had ten years ago?

But I digress. Today’s point is that I have been one of those who have spent money on the bleeding edge of this technology since 1978, and while I still want a fast computer, I’m not willing to spend \$5000 on it right now. These days, that money will get you a high end gamer machine (that’s where the technology really rides) with the fastest quad core CPU (\$1000), the fastest quad PCI-E video cards (\$2400), 16 GB DDR3 RAM

(\$800), two 7200 RPM 2 terabyte hard drives with hardware RAID 0 (\$750) (note that

“10,000 RPM” and “terabyte” do not come together at this time – more on that

later). We have spent \$4950 on this and we don’t even have a monitor, case, power supply, keyboard and mouse yet. . . What’s a 3D gamer, -er, high end CAD/CAM user to do?

Obviously, some scaling down in expectations is required when you budget purchases. Your performance vs. pocketbook price point will vary, but I will explain mine as we go along. The objective is to build a machine capable of running high end software (Adobe CS4, CAD/CAM) and provide respectable performance with 3D game software. (3D games are one of the better informal benchmarks for hardware.

Right now, I’m starting with a budget constraint and working within that, much as I do for

my clients.

Buying computer by parts, we are dealing with essentially these parts: CPU, motherboard, memory, hard drive, optical drive, monitor, the case, power supply, and

probably a new keyboard and mouse to make the newness complete. (When building

your own, it is tempting to recycle many of the parts from the old computer, but if the computer you are considering is more than three years old, you will probably compromise the new computer’s performance by using these parts.)

In subsequent articles, we’ll examine in turn CPU-motherboard-memory, then the rest of the stuff. Yes, there is even something to learn about cases and power supplies. Stay tuned.

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Genealogy Workshop

By: Paul Fleischmann

"Reprinted with permission from Smart Computing. Visit <http://www.smartcomputing.com/groups> to learn what Smart Computing can do for you and your user group!"

Jan. 13 Genealogy Workshop

"Finding Immigration Records"

Hi genealogists,

The January Genealogy Workshop brought out our six regulars and we were treated to an outstanding presentation by Roger Pape. He did a great program entitled "Finding Immigration Records", walking us through the websites, books, and references that facilitate a search for elusive ancestors. His methodical and organized approach is a great asset for a researcher and his results show it! And for a view of his fine work, contact me at publisher@cnypcug.org and I will forward the ZIP file. Note that it is a big file- 12 MB!

Download, open, unzip and extract the files in FIR.zip, then open the "Finding Immigration Records.pdf" file. Opening hyperlinks within this document requires that you do a "Control-click" to open a new window, otherwise you will essentially 'close' the first file.

I am continually awed by the members of this workshop as they are all very skilled genealogists- and I'm learning a lot from them!

Local Genealogy Events

Here is the link for the CNY Genealogical Society events schedule:

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nycnygs/meetings.htm

February 8 Workshop

Please join us on Feb. 8 at 2:00 PM at **Liverpool Public Library, Sargent Room**. We're moving in an effort to support the library and to allow the library to assist us.

Happy family hunting!

Paul

- **5GHz Frequency:** Most wireless networks use the 2.4GHz frequency, which other gadgets also use. Too many competing devices can cause signal interference in the form of slowdowns and dropouts. If your router supports it, use the 5GHz frequency instead - it's less crowded.
- **Choose 802.11n:** Wi-Fi, whose technical label is 802.11, uses four possible standards: a, b, g, and n. The latest standard is 802.11n, which provides the best combination of transmission speed, range, security, and flexibility. If you have a choice, go with 802.11n.
- **Stop Pop-ups:** If you've ever tried to close persistent pop-up ads, you know it can be a futile effort. Instead of clicking the red X located in the upper-right corner of most windows, press ALT and F4 on your keyboard to close a selected pop-up ad. Alternatively, you can use the Windows Task Manager to close pop-up ads, but be careful not to close critical Windows processes or legitimate applications that are currently in use. If you're receiving constant pop-up ads, you may have a security breach. Run anti-malware software if you think your PC may be infected.





Moving From XP to Windows 7

By: Vinny La Bash, contributing Columnist, Sarasota PCUG, Fla
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Installing Windows 7 from XP is more complex than a straightforward upgrade from Vista. You need to perform a custom install, and you can do this with an Upgrade package of Windows 7. A normal upgrade won't work, but Microsoft describes the installation process as the option to "either completely replace your current operating system or install Windows on a specific drive or partition". Microsoft also allows a multi-boot system to be installed. In other words, you have the option of running both your current version of XP and Windows 7 if you want. Switching back and forth may not be the best choice as the interfaces are very different.

Completely replacing XP will not eliminate it from your system. The setup program creates a folder on your primary hard disk which it names Windows.old . The process then places all the major XP folders such as Windows, Documents and Settings, and Program file folders in the Windows.old folder. Nothing happens to your data files. You can still access them, but your applications will have to be reinstalled.

No matter which option you settle on, back up everything on your system first, especially your data files. Back up your data files at least twice and keep a copy in a separate physical location. Backing up more than one copy may seem like paranoia, but if anything goes wrong you'll be glad you did.

There are lots of ways to back up programs and data. If you use a third party program go to the manufacturer's web site and make sure the program will be modified to work with Windows 7. If you can't verify compatibility with Windows 7 or you don't use a third party backup utility, you will probably turn to XP's backup utility which Microsoft calls the Windows NT Backup-Restore Utility. Microsoft developed and released it specifically for restoring backups created in XP

to restore in Windows Vista. It's pretty safe to believe that Microsoft will adapt it to work in Windows 7. If you can't verify that your third party backup utility will work in Windows 7 or you don't trust Microsoft that it will modify its special XP utility, make copies of all your important data files to CD or DVD.

Read the article called Step-by-Step: Windows 7 Upgrade and Migration on the Microsoft TechNet site. It provides some great information about a utility called Windows 7 Easy Transfer. This program lets you transfer all your data and settings from XP to Windows 7. The Windows 7 installation disks contain a copy of the program and during installation a copy will be installed on your computer. You can then use the program to copy all your data files and settings to Windows 7.

Microsoft has recognized the popularity of low cost net-books, and Windows 7 was designed to operate on systems that many people consider underpowered. You won't need terabyte sized hard disks or 6 gigabytes of RAM to run Windows 7. If your XP system was manufactured in the last four years there is a high probability that Windows 7 will run just fine. To be safe, run Microsoft's Windows 7 Upgrade Advisor on your old system before rushing out and buying Windows 7.

The Advisor does a complete check of your internal hardware, installed programs, and any externally connected devices. If there are any compatibility issues the Advisor will report it, and even make suggestions on how best to eliminate incompatibilities, and select upgrade options. Go to the Microsoft Download Center to download and install a copy of this utility to your system. It will make you much better prepared for the upgrade to Windows 7.

You won't be the only one changing to Windows 7. Don't be shy about asking questions, and please share any good information you get with other members of the PC community. A good place to start is the Getting Ready for Windows 7 section of the Microsoft Answers web site. Don't forget your local PC User Group. There is no better source for good, accurate information. Even Microsoft will acknowledge that.

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Shareware Archive

December 2007

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Talkbiznow enables its users to network, promote, collaborate with each other, and do business online. Services include web conferencing, voice conferencing and file storage facilities. Users can also use the business social network as an online portal to market and advertise services to other users.

For further information on Webstore, call + 44 (0)20 7233 7578, or check the Talkbiznow URL at <http://www.talkbiznow.com>.

That's it for this month. I'll have some more new product announcements on my Web site that didn't offer discounts. 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>. Visit my Web site at <http://www.dealsguy.com>.

PC Tune-Up Clinic

Got problems with your PC?

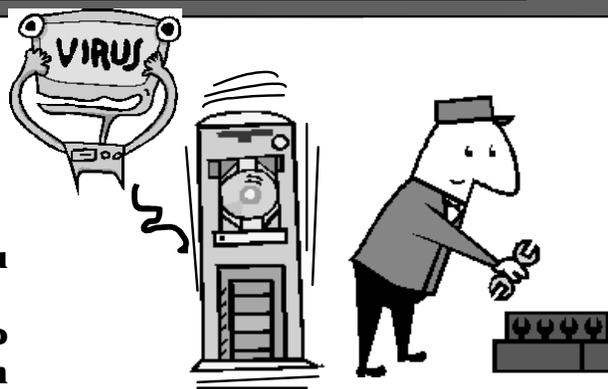
- ⇒ Viruses, worms, Trojan horses?
- ⇒ Poor performance?
- ⇒ Need major updates?
- ⇒ Missing drivers?

Our skilled technicians will help you solve your toughest problems.

Sign up for one of our PC Tune-Up nights at ITT-Tech (see the calendar in this issue and at www.cnypcug.org).

Contribution of \$20 suggested.

Bring your CPU (tower) only, we have screens, keyboards, and mice.



**Signup online at: www.cnypcug.org
Then click on "Tune-up Clinics"
for an appointment!**

Looking to spread the word about your business?

Offering a product or service our members can use?

Looking to support the community?

Your Ad Here

Advertise with us!

SALT Bytes

ADVERTISING RATES

Full Page (7¼"w x 9" h)	\$64
Half Page (7¼"w x 4¼" h)	\$32
Quarter Page (4"w x 4¼" h)	\$18
Business Card	\$10

For more information (like how quickly we'll place your ad!) contact Advertising Manager Paul Fleischman at (315) 329-0329

Advertising with the CNYPCUG is easy, inexpensive, and just feels right! Call today!

CNYPCUG Calendar of Classes & Events

For Info Call 446-3326 (touch tone only)

FEBRUARY

Visit the web site at: www.cnypcug.org

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Be sure to renew Your membership! Renewal & New Member: \$25</p> <p>Mail Check To: PO Box 6444 Syracuse NY 13217 Or Online at: www.cnypcug.org/renew</p> </div>		26	27	28	29	30
31	6:00 PM 1 	2	3	4	5	6
7	2:00 PM 8  Genealogy SIG Paul Fleischmann	9	10	11	12	13
14	6:00 PM 15 Member PC Tuneup (by appointment only) Don Ristagno 428-6057	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	6:00 PM 1 	2	3	4	5	6

Please take note!
Genealogy Workshop will now meet at Liverpool Library in the Sargent Room.

Still at ITT-Tech

March

Join Mailing List
email address GO!

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- Member Benefits
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ADDRESS

CNYPCUG
PO BOX 6444
Syracuse, NY 13217
315-876-9423
www.cnypcug.org



Matt sez: There are alternatives for much in life, and Dave Soergel will show us a really different, alternative operating system! Join us!

New, better Member Door Prizes & Giveaways every month at meetings

Our meetings are at
Liverpool Public Library
Carman Community Room
Tulip St. & 2nd Street,
Liverpool, NY

Next Meeting, Monday
Mar. 1, 2010

Windows 7!

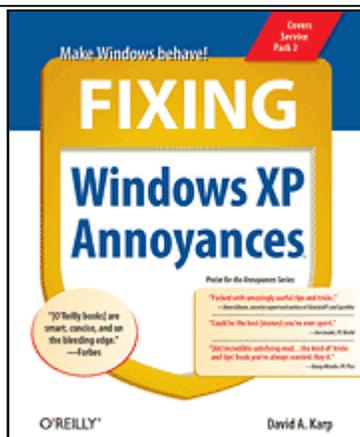
Matt Mallory & Bill Wafful

2010 Presenters

Feb 1	LINUX!
Mar 1	Windows 7!
Apr 12	IPods, iTunes, & iPhones <i>Matt Mallory</i>
Wed. May 12	SOHO Networking SECOND Wednesday.
Jun 7	Google!
Jul 12	E-Readers & Notebooks
Aug 2	Annual PICNIC! At Onondaga Lake Park
Sep 13	Major Geeks!

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O'Reilly continues to support our group by providing computer related books, such as this:



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