



**The Interface**  
**November, 2008**

## **President's Message**

### **November, 2008**

The club elections are over for another year and in case you haven't heard you have the same old administration this coming year as you had this year with the exception that Kathy Coulter is our new secretary. I would like to thank Ellie Bast for the excellent job she did in that position and I'm happy to say that as the club Sunshine Lady she will remain on the board. It's too bad national elections can't be as simple as ours; my thumb is getting really tired from hitting the mute button on my TV remote over and over and I approve this message.

Suddenlink did a nice job presenting at our October meeting and in response to several questions Bert did indeed try multiple times to contact somebody at CenturyTel to see if he could get a similar presentation from them. He talked to a lot of remote folks but had no luck at all in finding somebody local but if we ever do find someone we'll schedule them to present.

This month's meeting program will be our annual greeting card creation demonstration. We do this in November so those of you who want to create your own Christmas cards will have time. The meeting is on the third Wednesday (11/19 this month) at 2 in the meeting room at the Comfort Inn. Don't forget to wear your badge for the 1 GB flash drive drawing and make use of the help desk which will open around 1. I keep not having the promised double drawing so this month pay attention and don't let me forget again. This month will see the end of the flash drive stash.

The Saturday classes have been well attended but there's always room for more so don't forget about them. They will start at 10 AM and end between 11 and 11:30 in the library meeting room. The class schedule is posted on the website and will look a lot like last years and the year before. November classes will be on using external storage devices, digital camera basics, and using the free software that comes on your computer. Note that the 11/8 and 11/15 classes have been switched so if you are working from a printed copy you'll need to print a new one. There will only be 3 classes due to a book sale and Thanksgiving (don't forget to root for the Cowboys).

The Office 2007 SIG will meet again on the second Friday, 11/14, where Jerry Wilcoxon will demonstrate how he creates the very impressive PowerPoint presentations he shows all over

the county.

Until next month, good computing.

Jerry Marr

---

## REVIEW

### Adeona

Review by Jerry Marr

November 2008

Adeona is a free laptop tracking service created by researchers at the University of Washington who seem to have too much time and money on their hands. The researchers believed that commercial tracking services such as *Lojack for Laptops* and *PC PhoneHome* could theoretically be used to keep tabs on legitimate users so they wanted to develop a service that insured privacy. I'm not real sure why there would be so much concern about somebody else knowing where I was when I connected to the internet but the result was an easy to use free service and free is a good thing.

What you do is download their software from <http://adeona.cs.washington.edu/> and during install you choose between client and tracker. You want the client program on the laptop and the tracker program on whatever computer you are going to use to track from. Part of the laptop install process will prompt you to create a password and will then create an online account and will put a 'retrieve credentials' file on the desktop for you to copy over to the tracker computer. If you rename this file (being sure to leave the file extension of ost alone) you can have any number of them on the same tracker computer. I've installed the client software on my laptop and both club laptops and can track each of them from my desktop.

Now whenever your laptop connects to the internet the IP (Internet Protocol) address that it last used as well as data on what nearby routers it used to connect to the Internet are uploaded to a free storage server called OpenDHT. If you want to see where your laptop's been used you start the tracker program and it will create a 'retrieve results' file that lists the data from however many connects you want to see from 1 to all over however many days you request. The privacy issue is addressed by the fact that to retrieve any data you need to enter the same password you created on the laptop when you installed and according to them that is the only way to see any data. I think if you're smart enough to write the program you're smart enough to access the data without a password but since I'm a trusting guy I'll believe them.

There is a glaring hole in this picture which can't be eliminated but can be made smaller. The laptop installation process creates an Adeona folder under All Programs that includes an

Uninstall program. I know thieves are not among our best and brightest but one might expect them to be smart enough to check All Programs and maybe even recognize what Adeona was and uninstall it so the first thing you'll want to do is to delete the Adeona folder from All Programs. If you later want to uninstall you simply look in the Adeona folder under Program Files on your hard drive and you'll find the Uninstall exe file. If they're smart enough to look at the Program Files folder and find the Adeona folder there then you're out of luck but at least you can make it a little harder for them.

What you have to remember is that the collected data is not going to provide you with a physical address to allow you to grab your shotgun and go get your laptop back. The IP addresses need to be passed on to the police and they will be able to contact the service providers and come up with real locations. Bottom line is that even though it's not perfect it's sure better than nothing.

---

## **Computer Tips**

### **WINDOWS XP TIP**

#### **HOW TO REMOVE AN ITEM FROM THE START MENU**

You can remove items from your start menu that you no longer use. The left side of the main Start menu is divided into two sections. The top part consists of menu items that remain in place, including the Internet and E-mail icons and any "pinned" program items. The bottom part consists of the six programs that you have used most often, so these change as you use your computer. You can remove programs that you no longer use from either section on the left side of the Start menu.

Here's how:

1. Click start
2. Right-click the item you want to remove.
3. Click remove from this list.

Marie

---

## **Likable Links**

**[Baxter County Library Databases](#)**  
**[Special Interest Group \(SIG\) Questionnaire](#)**

## Monthly meeting program schedule

**November:** See President's Message above.

**December:** To be announced

---

### Twin Lakes Computer User Group TLCUG General Meeting October 15, 2008

The meeting at the Comfort Inn Conference Room in Mountain Home was called to order by the president, Jerry Marr, at 2:00 PM. There was a help desk held one hour before this General Meeting. Forty Four Members were present with no visitors present.

It was reported that we now have 162 members.

Treasurer Report - Balance according to bank statement was \$5,752.89

Election of officers was headed by Leigh Coulter, the following people were nominated.

President - Jerry Marr

V. President - Marie Gehman

Secretary - Kathy Coulter

Treasurer - Lea Chodacki

No further nominations from the floor and the motion was moved and seconded that the above slate of officers be elected.

Upcoming meetings:

**Office SIG** 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday at 10:00 AM at the library meeting room

**Digital Camera SIG** As stated in the October TLCUG newsletter The Digital Camera SIG will meet October 28<sup>th</sup> at 11:00AM in the library meeting room. After the meeting will be "Going out to lunch time", location to be determined. - Jerry Wilcoxon, SIG Coordinator

The November meeting will deal with creating Greeting Cards.

Ron Vincent from Suddenlink spoke about what Suddenlink has to offer the public and answered questions.

Allison Parks from Suddenlink spoke about e-mail and the ins and outs of logging on and off at home as well as away from home on a secure or unsecure network.

The winner of today's drawing was Wayne Faust.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted  
Kathy Coulter, Secretary

---

## Special Interest Groups

**The Digital Camera SIG** The SIG will meet November 25<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM in the library meeting room. After the meeting will be "Going out to lunch time", location to be determined.

Jerry Wilcoxon  
SIG Coordinator

---

## Members Photo Gallery

Click on the camera



## Sunshine Lady

So, you ask, what is a Sunshine Lady, anyway, and what does she do? She sends cards of congratulation, sympathy, and get well as required for members of the Twin Lakes Computer Users Group. But --- she can't do that unless she knows who needs a card for what, and that's where you members come in. Please let me know if you know of anyone of our members or their families who could use a card for any special occasion, and a card from the group will be immediately dispatched. Right now, she doesn't do birthday cards or anniversaries unless it's something memorable like a 50<sup>th</sup> or better. Maybe birthdays at 90 or above. We are not an uncaring group and want to be sure all our members know it - so please let me know if there is a need for a card of remembrance for any occasion.

Email: [ellielb@suddenlink.net](mailto:ellielb@suddenlink.net)  
Phone: 870-508-4197  
Ellie Bast

108 Turnberry Ct  
Mountain Home, AR 72653

---

*Webmaster Note:*

*The views and/or recommendations of the program presenters and reviewers are just that. TLCUG does not endorse or sell software. From time to time publishers and software vendors have supplied (solicited) a copy of their product for a review or demonstration. They may include a special promo or discount to the club members. It is up to you to determine whether it is what you need or not. Unsolicited reviews by club members may be accepted for publication here if they are considered to be appropriate. And again, the authors comments are just that. Understand that unsolicited reviews are not to be used by the author for personal gains. Additional reviews of a product or book can always be found on the web by using a search engine such as Google (this is also just a recommendation).*

---

### **Virus protection for your computer**

You are strongly encouraged to have an antivirus program on your machine, and to download the periodic updates from the internet. (If you do not update regularly you won't be protected from the most recent viruses.) Need help? Your mentor or other club member will assist you.

**PLEASE---It's your computer---keep it SAFE**

---

### **Disclaimer**

The Twin Lakes Computer Users Group [TLCUG] is in no way responsible or liable for any damages resulting from articles, opinions, statements, advertising representations, warranties expressed or implied in this publication, nor do we endorse or recommend any products or services mentioned.

Comments or opinions herein do not necessarily reflect the policies of the TLCUG. Materials contained herein may be reproduced by other User Groups, provided proper credit is given to the author and the publication, except articles marked "Reprinted by permission..." or "Copyright".

---

See you next month