

February 2010

Bristol Village Computer Club

Computer Club (BVCC) Meeting, Feb. 8, 2010, 7:30 p.m.

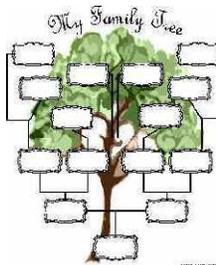
Computers and the Public Library, Tom Adkins, Director of the Garnet A. Wilson Public Library of Pike County under the auspices of the Pike County Friends of the Library. It will be broadcast live on Channel 99 starting at 7:30 p.m.

How have computers and, more importantly the internet, impacted public libraries? Have they meant less reliance on the necessity of a library for reference and information, or have they simply changed the way libraries carry out their mission? Adkins will give his thoughts. He will also highlight the services offered by the library and announce some exciting events happening in 2010.

Notes from Kent

Another kind of Genealogy Software

In contrast to most genealogy software programs (for which there is a comparative review of the “top ten” at <http://genealogy-software-review.toptenreviews.com/>), *Geni* (<http://www.geni.com>) is free. In addition, it offers a central site for family members to share information including photos and videos. Access to your family tree is restricted to family members (having been identified by existing members and invited to join). The tree grows through information provided by existing members. In my family's case, a niece invited us to join a nascent tree about nine months ago. By Janu-



BVCC Officers

President: Kent Mulliner
Vice President.: Don Netzley
Treasurer: George Hartwell
Secretary: Thurlie Knapp
Newsletter Editor: Len Nasman
CLUB EMAIL: bvclub@bvres.org

ary, it has ninety-six members (mostly living, making it a mile wide and an inch deep—so far).

Of these, only about a dozen would be considered “real” family as the others arise from relatives of-in-laws also entering their families—to whom we are related only in the broadest sense. Still, growing from a handful to a hundred in nine months is pretty amazing. It will be interesting to see how growth continues.

Other features offer some analytical capabilities: a time-line and statistical breakdowns. The time-line can be restricted to immediate relatives, making it less cumbersome (and perhaps less interesting). The statistics offer a variety of analytic tables, including an age analysis of the living, a life expectancy, number of children, frequency of first and family names, places of birth and residence, birth month, and gender. Possibilities are to include ethnicity, religion, language, and other categories that our family has not included. Generating the tables is automatic and they can be expanded or restricted to the users wishes.

Useful and annoying features are automatic news and event reminders for information on new additions or upcoming anniversaries and birthdays. Accompanying these reminders are the ability to send public or private messages and virtual gifts. A number of the latter, such as a virtual birthday cake,



are free but others (such as a virtual hug, a virtual kiss, or virtual flowers) cost one gift credit (gift credits sell for \$1 each). It also is possible to send real flowers (not too exorbitant prices) for the various occasions.

In all, Geni is an interesting experiment in social linkages (but hardly a reason not to buy or own other genealogy software for serious genealogists). It does offer some abilities to remove or block objectionable posters or to correct erroneous information but, overall, it lacks any way to authenticate or document information provided. But it is a relatively painless way to recruit family members in a genealogical undertaking and to easily share information as well as providing a common site to share pictures and videos.

Microsoft Releases Free Anti-virus Software

By Len

I have successfully installed Microsoft Security Essentials on several computers running Windows XP, Vista, and 7. However, it cannot be installed on computers running Windows XP Professional 64.

The program can be downloaded from:

<http://www.microsoft.com/Security Essentials/>

When downloading these programs, I prefer to use the Save option and make a **Downloads** folder available to keep track of downloaded software.



If you have any other anti-virus software on your computer (even if its license has expired), you must

first uninstall it before installing the new program. An common symptom of slow-running computers is multiple anti-virus programs.

Once Microsoft Security Essentials has been downloaded, close all program windows, and then use Windows Explorer to go to the appropriate folder and double click on the install file. When the program has been installed it will automatically download the latest virus definitions and run a system scan. This will take a while so be prepared to have a good book or some other chores to do.

Microsoft Security Essentials will add a tool to the right side of the Windows Taskbar. When you double click on the tool, a dialog box will open that provides access to the program functions and features.



It will be interesting to see what happens to Norton, McAfee, and other anti-virus software companies now that Microsoft has released their own free program.

Internet Access to Sick Friend Updates

Info from Fred

It seems that everything and everyone is on the Internet these days. Fred Scheniter (BVCC President Emeritus) has received information about a web site called **Caring Bridge** where people can track the medical condition of friends and relatives. The web site is:

<http://www.caringbridge.org/>

Here is how Caring Bridge describes their services.

About CaringBridge

CaringBridge is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit providing free websites that connect family and friends during a serious health event, care and recovery.

A CaringBridge website is personal, private and available 24/7. It helps ease the burden of keeping family and friends informed. The websites are easy to create and use. Authors add health updates and photos to share their story while visitors leave messages of love and support in the guest book.

This is another unanticipated application of the Internet. Fred has supplied us with a Caring Bridge example to view.

<http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/larrykehl/guestbook>

Unwanted Privacy Problem Fixed?

By Len

Wait a minute... Did you say unwanted privacy?

A recent article in PC World magazine According to the article, the founder of Facebook has stated..

"People have really gotten comfortable not only sharing more information and different kinds, but more openly and with more people. That social norm is just something that's evolved over time," Zuckerberg said. "We view it as our role in the system to constantly be innovating and be updating what our system is to reflect what the current social norms are." Zuckerberg then pointed to Facebook's [recent privacy policy change](#) that made user's key information open by default as an example of the social network's willingness to reflect "current social norms."

The argument seems to be that Facebook users want less privacy and the legal system is imposing unwanted privacy on Facebook users.

What is Facebook anyway?

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia:

Facebook is a [social networking](#) website that is operated and privately owned by Facebook, Inc. Users can add friends and send them messages, and update their personal profiles to notify friends about themselves. Additionally, users can join networks organized by city, workplace, school, and region. The website's name stems from the colloquial name of books given at the start of the academic year by university administrations with the intention of helping students to get to know each other better.

Facebook has met with some [controversy](#). It has been blocked intermittently in several countries including Syria, [\[7\]](#) China,[\[8\]](#) Vietnam,[\[9\]](#) and Iran.[\[10\]](#) It has also been banned at many places of work to discourage employees from wasting time using the service.[\[11\]](#) [Privacy](#) has also been an issue, and it has been compromised several times. Facebook settled a lawsuit regarding claims over source code and intellectual property.[\[12\]](#) The site has also been involved in controversy over the sale of fans and friends.[\[13\]](#)

A January 2009 [Compete.com](#) study ranked Facebook as the most used social network by worldwide monthly active users, followed by [MySpace](#).

The complete PC World article describes the various lawsuits related to Facebook and privacy issues. If you want to see the complete article go to:

http://www.pcworld.com/article/186584/facebook_ceo_challenges_the_social_norm_of_privacy.html.

**Internet Speakers Bureau
Technology Entertainment Design**

by Len

Enrichment Hour is great, but how would you like to be able to attend speeches by internationally respected experts in various subject areas? Well, your broadband Internet connection can bring these speeches to you.

TED is a small nonprofit devoted to Ideas Worth Spreading. It started out (in 1984) as a conference bringing together people from three worlds: **Technology, Entertainment, Design**. Since then its scope has become ever broader. Along with the annual TED Conference in Long Beach, California, and the TEDGlobal conference in Oxford UK, TED includes the award-winning TEDTalks video site, the Open Translation Program, the new TEDx community program, this year's TEDIndia Conference and the annual TED Prize.

<http://www.ted.com/pages/view/id/5>

The TED web site allows you to search speeches by Themes, Speakers and Talks.

Nobel Prizes

If you can't find something of interest at TED, perhaps speeches by Nobel Prize winners might grab your attention.

<http://nobelprize.org/>

Forum Network

More speeches can be found at:

<http://forum-network.org/>

ABOUT THE FORUM NETWORK

The Forum Network is a PBS and NPR public media service in collaboration with public stations and community partners across the United States.

Through an expanding network of local [public stations](#) producing content with their community partners, we intend to bring a diverse range of perspectives on both local and global issues to audiences around the world.

The Forum Network online library features thousands of lectures by some of the world's foremost scholars, authors, artists, scientists, policy makers, and community leaders, available to citizens of the world for free.

The Forum Network collaborates with hundreds of [community partners](#) in cities across the US, including libraries, museums, academic institutes, public lecture forums, public policy think tanks, cultural councils, and various other community organizations.

I can remember when personal computers were first introduced. At the time I subscribed to all the computer magazines in print (there were three.) There was a lot of speculation about what use might be found for these new high tech toys. One writer claimed that 'the personal computer is a solution looking for a problem.' No one in those days imagined how these electronic boxes could enrich our lives by providing access to the world of ideas.

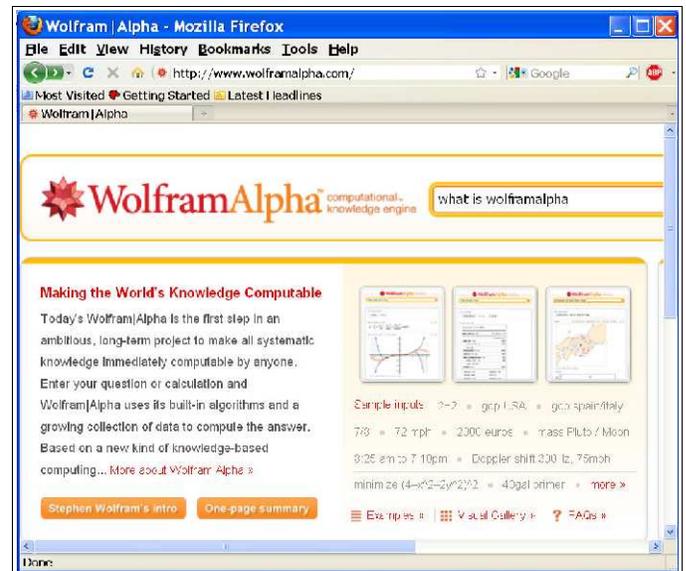
Len

Internet Search Option

(Thanks to Betty Glenn for this tip)

Google is the most common search engine on the Internet and Microsoft is trying to cut into the Google market with their newly named Bing. There is another search option which provides a completely different slant on searching, especially in the science and math fields.

www.wolframalpha.com/



If you click on the Examples option on the WolframAlpha home page you can select examples from a variety of areas.

Here is what I saw when I entered my birth date. The day of this writing I was 24,927 days old. I'm sure you find that interesting.

Topic interpretation:
Monday, October 27, 1941

Date format:
10/27/1941 (month/day/year)

Time difference from today (Monday, January 25, 2010):
68 years 2 months 29 days ago
3561 weeks ago
24927 days ago
68.25 years ago

Maybe you would like to know what size hole to drill for a #10 machine screw. OK, maybe not. But WolframAlpha is an alternative to buying a copy of *Machinery's Handbook*.

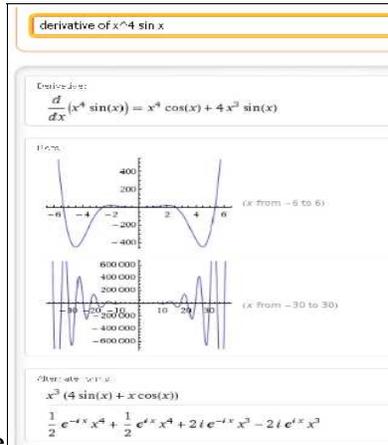
Coarsest pitch	coarse	fine
tapping	25 (0.1495 inches)	21 (0.159 inches)
tapping steel	20 (0.161 inches)	18 (0.1695 inches)
right fit	9 (0.196 inches)	9 (0.196 inches)
loose fit	7 (0.201 inches)	7 (0.201 inches)

Diagram showing a screw thread with labels for 'major diameter' and 'minor diameter'.

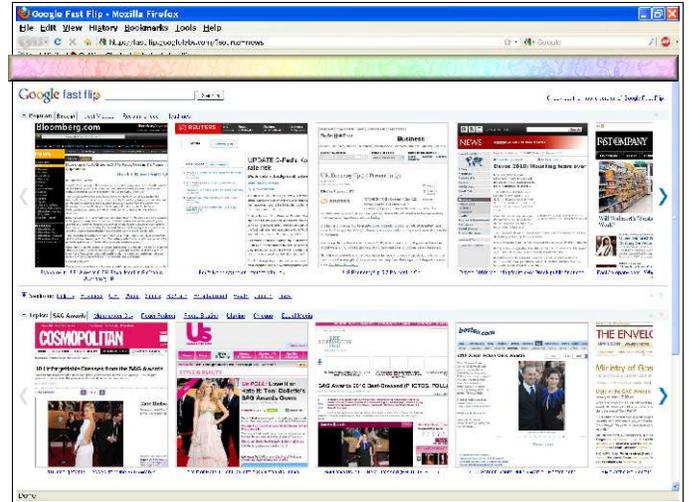
One of the many features of WolframAlpha is that you can enter a mathematical expression and it will do the calculation and display the results. We are not talking about a simple adding machine or calculator here. This thing can evaluate formulas from trigonometry and calculus (examples below).

If you enter something that WolframAlpha does not know about, it politely suggests that you try a different search engine.

There are many more fun things to try with WolframAlpha. Check it out when you have a bit of time to kill.



The folks at Google are at it again. They have both a lot of imagination and a lot of money to spend. They started with Google searches, added news headlines, maps, books, street pictures from around the world, and another new wrinkle... fast flips. If you want to browse the front pages of multiple publications, and then dig into the stories beyond the headlines, fast-flips are for you.

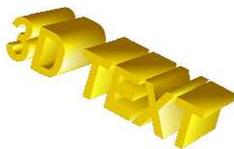


Using the arrows on the right edge of the display you can flip through current publications. When you find something to explore, click on it to open a larger view. Clicking on that view takes you to the publication web site where you can explore all of their offerings. Fastflips makes it easy to browse current periodicals from the comfort of your favorite computer seat.

How To Create 3D Text

by Len

Here is a project for a cold lazy day. It is fairly easy to create 3D text using the free Open Office Drawing program. A four page tutorial that will lead you through the process is now available on the BVCC website.



www.bvres.org/BVCCWeb/Tutorials/3D%20Text/3D%20Text.htm

Fast flips, a new way to browse magazines

<http://fastflip.googlelabs.com/?source=news>

Coming Next Month

Bristol Village School House

Fortbildning

OBS: Green länkarna här öppna PDF-filer som kräver Acrobat Reader.

Dator Tips

- Använd Utforskaren-Print Version
- Använd Utforskaren-Web Version
- Windows Tips och tricks

E-post info

- Email basics-Print Version
- Tipps Basics - Web Version
- Installera Mozilla Thunderbird - Mozilla Thunderbird är ett gratis e-postprogram. Den har ett rent gränssnitt utan reklam paneler som är en del av de flesta gratis e-postprogram.

www.bvres.org in *Swedish* and other languages.

Stay tuned! ☺