

---

---

December 2007

# The P-See UrGent

Newsletter of the Southwestern Indiana Personal Computer User Group  
PO Box 4336 □ Evansville, IN 47724-0336 □ <http://swipcug.apcug.org>

---

## The New, The Best, and The Worst

December 2007

Collected by Pim Borman  
SW Indiana PC Users Group, Inc

### The Semantic Web

In the 15 years or so of its existence, the World Wide Web has grown like kudzu into a monstrous collection of documents that require powerful search engines to retrieve information of interest to the user. Google can not judge whether the information is relevant, so it just dumps everything it finds in the user's lap. Even existing databases on the Web are incompatible and require separate retrievals. Picasa, Flickr and Adobe Elements all allow storage of tagged photos on the Web, but need to be searched individually to find specific images.

A universal way is needed to categorize information in documents and online databases so that a single search can combine and retrieve all relevant results. The Semantic Web, an extension of the WWW, is being developed to achieve this goal.

Initiated in 1999 by Tim Berners-Lee, the father of the World Wide Web, the Semantic Web has been taking shape under the supervision of the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C). Early adopters have agreed on standards that have made the Semantic Web practical to use. Large companies are implementing its tools to allow

one-step retrieval of cross-functional business performance data and scientific research results.

For now it still operates behind the scenes. According to *Scientific American* (December 2007), "*We won't see how it helps Eli Lilly create personalized drugs; we'll just buy them. We won't know how Vodaphone makes cool ring tones so readily available, but we'll appreciate how easy they are to download.*" It will be some time before we can use Firefox to create our own Semantic Web pages.

The Semantic Web uses a special language, **Research Description Framework** (RDF) to define information on the Web. It assigns **Universal Resource Identifiers** (URIs) to data and the conceptual relationships between them. Relationships such as *lives in*, *situated*, *found at*, share a concept *set in* that has a specific URI. Similarly *Soho*, *Chinatown*, *Bronx* share a concept *NYC* with its own URI. These standard concepts are grouped in the **Web Ontology Language** (OWL) that is part of RDF. Furthermore there are inference engines that find new relations based on existing ones. It gets very complicated very quickly and Artificial Intelligence experts are significant contributors to the effort.

Conversion programs are available that allow the representation of existing database information in RDF format. Participating organizations now store new information directly in RDF format. Early skepticism about the feasibility of the Semantic Web is being silenced by its early successes.

The *Scientific American* article presents some

case studies. Biomedical research data are published by multiple research organizations in a variety of formats. In overlapping areas, results reported in one article might be applicable to the problems in another one. At present, a knowledgeable researcher has to study both articles and happen to notice the connection. As a result much useful information is overlooked. The Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, with the help of a Semantic Web consultant, combined databases with information about genes, diseases, and genetic disorders and translated them into RDF. By querying the combined data they came up with four genes implicated in dilated cardiomyopathy, a weakening of the heart's pumping ability. These genes are now being investigated as possible targets for new therapies.

In another case, the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston uses a Semantic Web-based system, called SAPPHIRE, for early detection of public health problems. It combines a wide range of data from local doctors, hospitals, environmental protection agencies, and scientific literature to look for problems, such as the spread of influenza or the treatment of HIV cases.

Look forward to hearing more about the Semantic Web as it develops further and becomes an essential part of the Internet.

### New USB Standards

*PC World* (December 2007) reports that Intel and others, including Microsoft, HP, NEC, and Texas Instruments, are developing a new USB 3.0 standard with transfer speeds up to 4.800 Kbps, 10 times faster than USB 2.0. It will be designed to allow use of fiber optic cable, as well as copper, for even higher speeds.

Wireless USB (WUSB) is also being updated. The new WUSB 1.1 will be capable of up to 1000 Kbps speeds.that will improve digital music and video transmissions.,

### Habbo Hotel Robbed!

A 17 year-old teenager in The Netherlands was arrested for stealing € 4,000 worth of furniture from other Habbo Hotel rooms to add to his own. To understand this weird behavior (and why I mention it here) you need to know that Habbo Hotels only exist in cyber space. It is a social networking website, owned by Finnish firm Sulake, that claims to have 80 million registered users in 31 countries. It is aimed at teenagers, who can assume a virtual character that obtains a private room where



friends can visit to chat. The rooms can be furnished with furniture that is available for sale on the Habbo website.

The culprit managed to hack into other players' accounts, allowing him to steal their furniture and install it in his own room. Since the furniture, although non-existent, had been paid for with real money, the boy's actions amounted to theft, according to the website. It seems to be the first time someone has been arrested for virtual theft. (Various Internet sources, including [www.habbo.com](http://www.habbo.com))

© 2007 Willem F.H. Borman. This article may be reproduced in its entirety only, including this statement, by non-profit organizations in their member publications, with mention of the author's name and the Southwestern Indiana PC Users Group, Inc.

## SWIPCUG Minutes

November 18, 2007



Kurt Pritchett

President Jim Geiser opened the meeting at 2:10 PM in the Browning Meeting Room B of the Evansville Central Library. 15 members and 3 guests were in attendance.

Jim opened the floor to nominations for 2008 officers. Pim Borman nominated Bill Bean for the office of President. Bill was not present at the meeting but had indicated earlier to Pim that he was willing to have his name put in nomination. Kay Anne Peake nominated Jim Geiser for vice-president and Jim accepted the nomination. Ruth Hadley had earlier indicated that she would be willing to continue as treasurer if no one else volunteered. Duane Morrow added that he was willing to accept the nomination for treasurer. Pim Borman indicated willingness to continue as secretary and Web Editor (an appointed position) but would like to pass his temporary assignment as newsletter editor on to someone else. No immediate volunteers spoke up. There will be additional opportunity to nominate officers until the December 9, 2007 meeting, at which time the election will be held.

During a brief For The Good Of The Order session Jerry Noland inquired about the Dish Network. Deb Travers commented that they had poor customer service. Zach Schnell mentioned that some of his friends liked the service.

Jim Geiser complained about Windows XP running very slowly. Pim Borman referred

him to an earlier meeting when Jim Derk mentioned several Windows utilities that are helpful in identifying problems [*See the April 2007 issue of the P-See UrGent*]

Jim then introduced the speaker, Detective Kurt Pritchett with the Financial Crimes Unit of the Evansville Police Department, to tell us about Cyber Crime. Pritchett has been a member of an FBI task force since 2003, facilitating international cooperation. He also belongs to a Southern Indiana Cyber Crime task force on computer crimes. National and international cooperation is essential because of the high-dollar and multi-jurisdictional aspects of computer crimes.

The Financial Crimes Unit started out as the Bunco-Fraud Unit in 1974. It investigates forgery, fraud of all kinds, computer tampering and trespassing, con games, identity deception, and more. In some cases of identity fraud, when someone uses your name for opening credit accounts and such, it turns out that a family member or friend is the culprit. But the wide-spread use of MS Windows from servers as well as desktop units has made it attractive to devise schemes for obtaining personal data from unsuspecting victims. It is no longer necessary to be an experienced hacker to become a computer criminal. Malware programs, such as viruses, worms, Trojan Horses, key loggers, and all the other tricks of computer criminals, can be found and bought on The Internet. The perps usually use convoluted schemes to hide their origins, crossing multiple jurisdictions that make it hard to prosecute them if you can even find them. To go after a criminal in a foreign country may require the existence of a treaty that makes it possible in the first place. Then it is up to the American Embassy in that country to contact local law enforcement to arrest the criminals. Proxy servers such as *stayanonymous.com* are used as intermediates to pass along communications while hiding their origin. Newsgroups are easily found that provide the code of malware ready for use by "script kiddies."

Identity theft can occur by loss or theft of wallets (don't carry your Social Security card with you, but how about the Medicare card that all us older folks have in our wallets?). Also, don't put the "flag of theft" up on your rural mailbox if you are mailing checks; it is an invitation to crooks to steal them. Some may even "borrow" the mail, copy the information on the check, and then put the check back in the mailbox so you won't even know your info was stolen.

Burglaries are also a source of identity theft. Burglars of the Kentucky Farm Bureau got birth certificates that they used to get social security cards, then driver's licenses, then bank accounts. Those were used to cash counterfeit checks made with the Versacheck check writing program. Before the checks bounced the money was withdrawn from an ATM in another state (so who has jurisdiction?).



Pritchett mentioned many other schemes - the variety seems to be endless. He mentioned "shoulder surfing," using miniature cameras mounted near ATMs that look over your shoulder to read your PIN number as you enter it; also Trojans that, once they enter your computer, set themselves up as robot servers at the beck and call of some distant perp. With up to millions of desktop computers at their command, the organizers make the "botnets" available, at a price, to swamp the net with spam or disrupt servers by overloading them with messages.

*[The December issue of PC World mentions the Storm Worm botnet, controlling over a million computers, that currently sends vast amounts of spam and viruses around the world and launches attacks against security researchers trying to neutralize it].*

Online employment scams can be tricky. If

"Global Postal Express" accepts you as an account receivables representative (sounds great!) you are to set up a separate business bank account to receive funds from "international sales" or "international financial consultants." All you have to do is to consolidate these funds and send them on to company representatives. Actually the funds are received through online scams and you are the conduit. At the end of the scam you are left holding the bag and civilly liable for the monies you sent abroad.

Pritchett gave some advice to prevent identity theft. Request credit reports from the three major credit bureaus. Use safe passwords that are hard to guess. Monitor contractors within your home and business. Securely store confidential information. Use a good shredder. Don't raise the flag on your rural

mailbox when sending checks. Don't give out personal information over the telephone and be cautious when using the Internet: look for the lock symbol in the system tray indicating secure transmission. *[Don't trust a lock symbol in front of the URL in the address box - it is easily faked]*. And of course, use a router, firewall, good virus protection and ad/spyware blockers. Use encryption software on your wireless router. Keep your software patched and up-to-date. Don't store passwords and personal information online. Consider using a separate credit card with a low maximum for online purchases or use PayPal. Pim Borman mentioned using one-time credit card numbers such as available with Citibank credit card accounts. Be paranoid! When disposing of a hard drive with personal information don't just delete and reformat, but use a wiping program that overwrites the contents multiple times with random bits.

If you are the victim of fraud, file a fraud

report with the police (make extra copies!), put a fraud alert on your credit accounts, alert the credit bureaus and request a credit report with possible clues about the perpetrator. Be aggressive but patient, keep a log of all contacts and copies of correspondence (a logbook is good).

Pritchett's interesting presentation included a lot of fascinating details. He offered to end his talk when time was up, but was encouraged to continue. He received a warm applause.

Jim Geiser thanked the speaker and mentioned that the next meeting will be December 9th, a week earlier than usual to avoid conflicts with Christmas shopping. Chad Tew of the USI Speakers Bureau, will be speaking on Identity Theft. The meeting broke up close to 4:30 pm.

[Comments between brackets added by the secretary]

Submitted by Pim Borman, secretary from notes by Kay Anne Peake.

**How to use  
Google Street Views  
to see streets, places, routes and faces!**

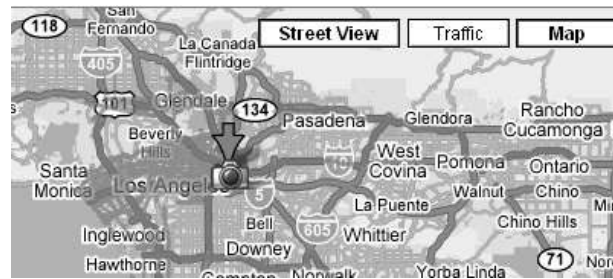
by Linda Gonse,  
Editor and Webmaster,  
Orange County IBM PC Users' Group, CA  
www.orcopug.org - editor(at)orcopug.org

*Obtained from APCUG with the author's permission for publication by APCUG member groups.*

Beyond the curiosity of the new panoramic on-the-road reality shots, Google's detailed Street Views give you a feel for really being where you want to go. Although only a handful of large cities are represented in these views, it's still likely you will want to look for destinations in them occasionally.

If you aren't familiar with Street Views, go to Google.com and click on Maps, a link at the top of the screen. Type in a location of a street or a city. If one of the boxes at the top of the

map shown says "Street View," click on it.



A map looking like a plate of blue spaghetti shows where panoramic shots were taken. (Figure 1.)

Zoom in to see streets outlined in blue. (Figure 2.) A "person" icon (that's you) is facing in the direction you are heading. You can move the icon to wherever you wish to go, or simply double-click on one of the blue-lined streets.



You can enlarge a panoramic shot to full screen, so you don't have to squint to see into a little peek-a-boo window. Other handy features allow you to zoom in and out, and to "drive" along a street or freeway by clicking on an arrow with your mouse. You can look in all four directions, of course, and the names of the streets and the routes are superimposed on the photos. (Figure 3.) You can even email the view to family or friends.



In the meantime, a different type of map searcher is ignoring the privacy controversy caused by Google Street View's high-quality, crystal-clear, panoramic photos, and are magnifying certain side-of-the-road scenes they find and sharing them online!

What they've found falls into categories, which include actual lawbreaking or crimes in progress, people doing ordinary things that seem extraordinary when you know that people worldwide will be seeing them; surreal sights caused by the panoramic camera being halted or later photo-stitching in an editing program; visual commentaries about places and people; and street views divulging the homes of the famous, or landmark homes and places. Map searchers uploaded these mini-slices of life to [www.streetviewr.com](http://www.streetviewr.com).

Check out the maps and see what you can find. Maybe you'll even see yourself in one of the shots!

*This article has been provided to APCUG by the author solely for publication by APCUG member groups. All other uses require the permission of the author (see e-mail address above).*

## **Google Search Bar and Your Telephone Number**

By Sandy Berger,

CompuKISS.com

[www.compuKISS.com](http://www.compuKISS.com) -sandy(at)compuKISS.com

*Obtained from APCUG with the author's permission for publication by APCUG member groups.*

If you know someone's telephone number, how hard would it be to find that person? Well, with Internet resources, it couldn't be easier. Type any telephone number into the Google search bar and you will quickly be given the name and address that relates to that number. Even a bit scarier is the fact that right next to the name and address is the word "map". Just click on that word and the location

in question is marked with a big green arrow on a detailed map. One more click and you can see the building with that address from a satellite view.

I say this is scary because it is. This information may be put to good use by friends and relatives, but in the hands of a stalker or a criminal, it can be highly dangerous. Imagine how easy it would be to find a woman who lives alone in a rural area. Or think about a child who might innocently give out their telephone number and have a pervert be able to find their exact location so easily.

If you think that you are exempt from this because you have an unlisted or unpublished number, think again. Google states, "Our phone and address listings are gathered by a third party provider, which collects telephone directories and other public records available elsewhere on the web." It is the "other public records" that might get your telephone number into these listings. They use everything from public utility records, court records, and property records, to business records. I was able to easily find the names and addresses of several people who have unlisted telephone numbers.

Because of privacy complaints, Google has initiated a way to be removed from this reverse telephone lookup. Just search for your telephone number in google and click on the link with your name. You will be taken to another page with an obvious removal link.

Yet, if you want to remove your name and address from the entire Web, you should be prepared to settle in for a long, tedious task. Removing my telephone number from Google was easy. Unfortunately, I quickly found more than a dozen other places that had my telephone number listed including Yahoo, InfoSpace, Intelius, AnyWho, and addresses.com. Each one of these has a different method for removing your name and number, and often the process is quite convoluted. At Yahoo, there was an obvious "Remove my Listing" link. But the link went

to the Yahoo help pages, which were not at all helpful. It took me about 30 minutes of searching to find the correct removal link. (<http://phone.people.yahoo.com/py/psPhoneSupp.py>)

Although most of the major search sites did not have listings for cell phones, I found that I could get the names and addresses for many cell phones numbers at Intelius for just \$14.95. Getting your name and address out of Intelius is even more complicated than removing it from some other websites. To opt out of Intelius they require that you fax them a copy of your driver's license or a notarized form proving your identity.

Even if you take the time to eliminate your name and address from all the directories that you find today, you might appear in some new directory tomorrow. Yet, if you want to guard your privacy, it may be worth the effort to eliminate yourself from as many of the directories as possible. It may also be time to realize that a simple thing like a telephone number can now lead to more personal identification than you ever imagined. Perhaps we need to start guarding our telephone number as carefully as we do our social security number.

*This article has been provided to APCUG by the author solely for publication by APCUG member groups. All other uses require the permission of the author (see e-mail address above).*



Waiting for the meeting to start

## Removing Highlights in an MSWord Document



**Don Edrington**

The Senior Computer Tutor

Getting back to Word, a reader called to say she had highlighted a number of phrases in yellow while editing a multi-page document, but that now she could only remove a few of the highlights. We tried all the traditional ways of unhighlighting text during the call, but nothing worked. So I asked her to email me a copy of the file. Well, I found the highlights to be equally intransigent on my computer, so I used a favorite Word tool to accomplish the task — the **Format Painter**. 🖌️

Its toolbar icon resembles a little yellow whisk broom, and I use it constantly to format one part of a document to match the formatting in another part. Here's how: Let's say you have copied and pasted some verbiage into Word (or into OpenOffice Writer) from some Web pages that were created with several different fonts in various sizes and colors — and you would like all the text to appear in one consistent style. Simply drag your cursor over a few words in the preferred format, click on the Format Painter tool, and then drag it over the text you want to change. Voila! Everything matches. Works like a charm.

---

### SWIPCUG TREASURER'S REPORT

Only available in printed copy



**SWIPCUG**  
**Southwestern Indiana PC Users Group, Inc.**  
**PO Box 4336**  
**Evansville, IN 47724-0336**

## **On Our Web Site**

*<http://swipcug.apcug.org/>*

In the **WORM HOLE** find useful hints by Computer Don and interesting articles from other user group newsletters. The **HUMOR** section brings funny stories people sent me. The 2007 **PHOTOS** page shows pictures from November and earlier meetings. You can read about the **NEXT MEETING** before you receive the next newsletter. **AREA LINKS** has links to member Web sites as well as other local sites of interest.

Please let me know if you want me to add or update your Web site. Please send questions, comments, and especially material to Pim Borman, your Web site editor, at [swipcug@gmail.com](mailto:swipcug@gmail.com). To receive monthly meeting reminders via email, please make sure I have your current email address.

**December 9, 2007**

### **Identity Theft**

**Chad Tew**

USI Speakers Bureau

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Election of 2008 Officers**

\*\*\*\*\*

Central Library

Browning Room B

ML King Blvd. & Walnut Street

2PM - 4PM

Parking at rear of Library on Chestnut St.  
above and below ground

---

**VISITORS WELCOME**