

The Estes Park Internet Computer Group

Meeting Minutes

3/17/2009

Next meeting: April 16, 2009, 7:00 PM in the Hondius Room of the Estes Park Public Library

I. Announcements

President Lee Lasson opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Annual membership dues are now due. EPICUG membership is \$12.00 per year

New Business:

Bruce Cairns asked if anyone had any older spare computers or parts that they would like to donate to a non-profit in Boulder. Bruce's email is cbcairns@gmail.com and phone: 970-586-1865

Bruce also had problems with an older computer that take forever to bootup. Hugo suggested checking the memory one stick at a time and clean and reseal all the cards and contacts.

II. Discussion

There was no specific topic or presentations scheduled this meeting so Lee lead us in a discussion on two topics he deemed of interest: **On-Line Chatting and Podcasts.**

On-Line Chatting

Lee talked about two programs in particular; Apples' iChat and Windows Live Messenger. Both have similar features.

- iChat uses AIM and an AOL ID to allow for video conferencing
- Messages can be both Audio and Video.
- Lee's computer reads the message in the background and uses the voice generator to speak the message (He doesn't have to see message alert to hear the incoming message).
- Lee did an on-line demo with his friend in Texas where he established a connection and each party was able to share the others desktop
 - This technique is also used for "Remote Assistance"
 - Firewalls must be set to allow on-line communications (PNP)
 - Vista has added security and must exchange pre-shared password
- On-line communications works with both XP Pro and Home editions.

Some helpful hints were also discussed that go along with on-line networking:
From the Command Window:

Ping 127.0.0.1 or Ping localhost--- this will check the connectivity on your machine

Type ipconfig /all --- This will give you the IP address and other information about your machine

www.dyndns.com – allows you to create a host name for free. The host name can then be used to connect to your machine. If you have a dynamic IP Address (changes the public address) you can get yourhostname.dyndns.org. With the help of some free software that works with dyndns your machine will update dyndns.org when the public IP Address changes.

<http://www.on-line.com/ip> --- Tells you your public IP address

We then had a discussion about security issues that affect the various networking protocols including Real VNC and VPN. Lee explained that hackers use buffer overflows to break into computers.

PODCASTS

Podcasting is a method of publishing files to the Internet, allowing users to subscribe to a feed and receive new files automatically by subscription. A podcast is a digital recording of a radio broadcast or similar program that is available on the internet to download to your computer or a personal audio player for playback. Many podcasts are available for free and paid for via the advertising contained in the broadcast. Other subscription podcast can be purchased for a fee. Apple's iTunes is free to download contains a huge library of available podcasts.

Mike Connolly
Secretary .