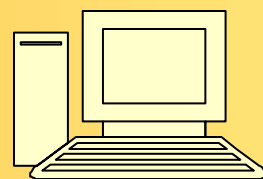


# BAY BYTES

Greater Tampa Bay Personal Computer User Group, Inc.



Newsletter

Issue 2

February 2011

24th Year of People Helping People!



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Don't forget to visit our club's site at:  
<http://gtbpcug.org>

As well Don Miller's and Darrell Manns' :  
<http://www.dmanns.org/dmiller/>

## Could this be the first real Cyber war?

.WikiWars: The face of future conflicts. Attacks, and government's own unconventional strategy, could be the first real cyberwar,.

By William Jackson, [Government Computer News](#), Dec 10, 2010,  
<http://bit.ly/ijieHG>

We appear to be in the middle of the first real cyberwar. And like so much on the Internet, it has evolved in ways that weren't expected. The war against the controversial, anti-secrecy WikiLeaks is being fought not with conventional weapons such as worms, Trojans or even targeted malware such as 'Stuxnet'. It is a guerilla war — and this time the U.S. government is playing the role of the insurgent. The objective is not the short-term takedown of WikiLeaks but a strategic denial of services to future online leakers, and WikiLeaks supporters are playing into their hands.

The WikiWars are exploiting an inherent weakness of a free, unregulated Internet: the need for service providers to make money.

WikiLeaks first incurred U.S. wrath with the publication this summer of a cache of low-level intelligence observations from Iraq and Afghanistan. The more recent release of thousands of classified diplomatic cables has ratcheted things up several notches.

A spate of conventional denial-of-service attacks were launched against the site, but were easily brushed off. But then Sen. Joseph Lieberman (I-Conn.), chairman of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, launched his own denial-of-service attack in the form of a letter from his staff to Amazon, which was hosting the WikiLeaks Website. Amazon soon announced it was no longer hosting the site. Amazon said it was because WikiLeaks broke its rules and not because the senator made any demands, threats or promises. But Rep. Peter King, (R-N.Y.) the incoming chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee for the 112th Congress, was explicit in a statement praising Amazon's decision.

*Continued on the next page*

This Situation should serve as an example for all private U.S. and international companies that conducting business with WikiLeaks is intolerable and against American interests,. he said.

WikiLeaks has lost its original Web address, and financial companies PayPal, MasterCard and Visa no longer are processing donations and payments to the organization.

This has not taken WikiLeaks off line. In fact, the Washington Post commented that .WikiLeaks now is stronger than ever.. Hacktivists have launched conventional denial-of-service attacks against companies that have repudiated WikiLeaks, using the online DOS tool =Low Orbit Ion Cannon' to flood target sites with TCP and UDP packets and HTTP requests.

But although the United States might like to prosecute founder Julian Assange, taking down WikiLeaks is not an important goal. The documents already are released, the horse is out of the barn, the cat is out of the bag. But these guerilla actions may well prevent the next wiki leak.

Taking up residence on the Internet is a low-cost proposition, with lots of options around the world. But an online presence depends on private-sector service providers who provide and control the infrastructure, and they are not likely to ignore the concerns of the U.S. government or the hassles of running afoul of hacktivists, on either side of the fight, who might want to shut them down.

.At the end of the day, these are businesses,. said Dean Turner of Symantec Intelligence Services, who has been observing the online attacks. .It costs them a lot of money when they are under attack like that..

The next wiki leaker to come along will likely find it much more difficult to get and maintain the services it needs and to raise the money it needs from supporters. PayPal, Amazon and others might well say, .No thanks, we don't need those hassles.. Not to mention inquiries from senators.

Not only would it be a terrific propaganda tool against other countries, but a sponsoring country could get first look at classified collections submitted for publication. Then the WikiWars would have to be ratcheted up yet another notch.



## Class / meetings Reports

### January 4. 2011

The president Jo Ann and Parker both agreed that the post of membership should be filled as soon as possible. Latest figures show, that the membership has dropped by 10% since last year. GTBPCUG can not survive, if we do not maintain the amount of paying members (\$16.00 annually) since we have to pay for the meeting room beginning of 2011. The position of the newsletter editor is secure for one more year, but they also would like to see another member take over during the year and all help he or she would need is well provided.

Darrel Manns in his Windows SIG should members a site relating to Windows 7. It seems more and more members have made the change and this site has lots of features and how to... for this new operating system. However, only available as an e-book for \$7.00: <http://www.tips.pirillo.com>  
Lots of other Windows problems were discussed.

### January 11. 2011

It was nice to see Gene Barlow and his wife Linda again paying a visit to the GTBPCUG showing the latest Acronis software. Gene's motto for the presentation was: "Backup and Protect."

Acronis True Image Home 2011 has some new features included. The "Sandbox" application is well worth having on one's PC. The help features increased to a point where Gene pointed out a site that could be of great benefit to the software users. The Acronis Drive Monitor has the ability to trigger an immediate, automated backup if any disk shows signs of imminent failure.

<http://www.acronis.com/homecomputing/download/drive-monitor/>

Two door prizes were given out to the lucky winners.

### January 18. 2011

No class/meeting

### January 25. 2011

No class/meeting



## Laptop Batteries

by Fred Langa

[www.http://windowssecrets.com](http://windowssecrets.com)

I just got a new laptop with Windows 7 for Christmas. The new laptop has a 6-cell lithium-ion battery. How can I get the most life from my new laptop's battery and make it last the longest?

"Should I periodically charge and then use/drain the battery? Should I leave the battery in the laptop even when I'm using the AC plug? Will heat from the laptop when it's plugged into AC affect the lithium battery?"

### Excellent questions!

Heat is the enemy of lithium-ion (Li-ion) batteries. When your laptop runs on AC, it's smart to remove the battery pack and store it in a cool place. Low temperatures forestall the inevitable and irreversible chemical changes that occur in Li-ion batteries.

In fact — and this will sound odd — if your laptop is run mostly off household AC power, you can greatly extend the life of its Li-ion battery this way: run the battery down to about 40% of maximum charge, remove it, and store it in a tightly wrapped plastic bag inside your refrigerator! Storage at about 40 degrees F (4 to 5 degrees C) is ideal. Think of it as the 40-40 rule: 40% charge, 40 degrees F.

If you can, avoid running Li-ion batteries all the way down. Early portable electronics used nickel-cadmium batteries, which benefit from full discharge cycles. Conversely, Li-ion batteries last longer when kept in a charge state between 40% and 100%. It's OK to run Li-ion batteries flat when you have to, but the ideal scenario for longest life is one full discharge cycle for about every 30 or so partial cycles.

Sad to say, even if you're perfectly careful with your Li-ion batteries, they'll slowly go bad on their own due to their irreversible and inevitable chemical changes. This is one of the main reasons why cool storage helps preserve Li-ion battery life: the cool temperatures slow the chemical reactions.

Even a well-maintained Li-ion battery will usually show signs of age two or three years after manufacture. That's why it's not a great idea to buy a spare battery for your laptop unless and until you really need to use one. If you buy a spare you don't really need, it'll slowly go bad on its own, giving you no (or reduced) return on your investment.

If you do have a spare battery, store it in the fridge with about a 40% charge when it's not in use.

When you buy replacement batteries, check the date of manufacture. This will usually be stamped or printed on the battery case. Cut-rate batteries may have been sitting on a warehouse shelf for a couple of years, meaning that a good chunk of their useful life will have passed before you ever plug them in.

With careful use, you can get 300 to 500 charge cycles from a new, high-quality Li-ion battery — especially if the battery's stored in a cool location when not in use. With just a little luck, by the time the battery no longer holds a useful charge, you'll be ready for a new laptop, anyway!

## Is Your Internet Security up to Date?

**Antivirus up to date?**

**Firewall?**

**Windows up to date?**

**Spy Ware?**

**See how to protect your computer at:**

<http://gtbpcug.org/protect/>



### More about Internet Threats

## Your Online Reputation

By Bob Rankin

<http://askbobrankin.com>

Does it matter what people are saying about you online? If someone is posting unkind, unflattering, or downright false comments about you or your business, it may matter a lot. Your online reputation is at least as valuable as your offline reputation, and much easier to keep tabs on. And you might be surprised at how much personal information can be found about you in cyberspace.

Here's how to track and defend your online reputation...

Protecting Your Online Reputation.

Are people trash talking you, behind your virtual back? Sites like Facebook, GetSatisfaction, and myriads of online blogs and forums are hotbeds for haters, complainers, saboteurs, as well as those who feel they have legitimate gripes. It's a good idea to occasionally do a web search for your name, or the name of your business, and see what pops up.

But you might want to go a step further, and do some pro-active monitoring of your online reputation.

Here are some free tools you can use for that:

Google Alerts is one of the easiest ways to keep track of your online reputation (or anything else, for that matter).

You can enter key search terms - such as your name or the name of your business - and Google will email you an alert every time a matching item crosses its mammoth radar screen.

That may be a bit overwhelming if your search term is very broad, such as a common name like "Bill Smith". Fortunately, you can narrow the scope of your Google Alert in several ways.

First you can limit the search to News, Videos, websites, blogs, or any combination of these categories. You can also specify that an alert should be sent on an item only if your search term occurs along with other specified keywords, i. e., "scam", "sucks" or "bad experience". Add negative keywords to your search, such as "-soccer" or "- australia" if there's a well-known person (or some guy in Australia) who shares your name. Finally, you can set the frequency at which you wish to receive alerts; maybe once a day is too often for you.

Technorati is a search engine specializing in blogs. When you search the Technorati site, the results page includes an "RSS" button that will activate an RSS feed of all future posts indexed by Technorati that match your search criteria. On the site, you can limit your results to Posts, Videos, or Photos pertaining to your search terms.

[MonitorThis](#) monitors the results of 26 different search engines for keyword phrases that you specify. Its results include the big search engines - Google, Yahoo, Bing, etc. - and also many smaller "boutique" search engines that often index items within their areas of specialization before the big boys do.

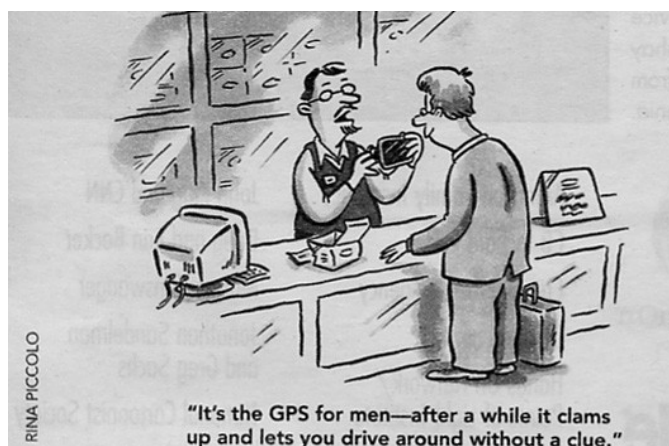
### **Cyber-Slander: How to Fight Back**

What can you do if someone is trashing your reputation online? You can ask them, nicely, to stop. If that doesn't work, you can sue if you have that kind of money. But actually, the cheapest and most effective way to counter bad words about you is to bury them under good words about you.

It doesn't matter what someone says about you if his / her words are on the 11th page of [Google-search](#) results; very few people are going to find them. So your best bet is to get lots of positive items about you on the Web and get them ranked above the negative talk in search engine results. It sounds difficult and it is, so of course there are specialists who will do it for you - for a fee.

If you're concerned about privacy, a service like [ReputationDefender.com](#) will monitor the Web, finding and removing your personal information for \$20 a month, or \$99 for a full year. In addition to telephone directories, they also scan dozens of social networking sites for references to you.

If you need bigger guns, [MyRepOnline](#) offers to monitor and repair your online reputation, with plans ranging from \$999 to \$3999. Its consultants will write multiple, slightly different articles about you or your business; put them on websites, blogs, and consumer review sites; work some "SEO" or Search Engine Optimization magic, and get the positive words about you ranked way above the negative. The process takes about 3 to 5 weeks and isn't guaranteed to work forever; the trashtalker is not gagged, just outshouted. But a lawsuit costs more and takes much longer.



## What to do when neighbors' networks show up

**Q.** I have a TiVo set up on a wireless home network. The TiVo networking screen shows multiple network names. I called and talked to TiVo tech support. They tell me the TiVo is scanning all the networks in the neighborhood. And they said the function can't be disabled. Is there some way I can block these names with my router? I'm just concerned that this will compromise my network. Thanks!

**A.** I'm glad you're taking your network security serious. A compromised network can cause lots of problems. It can let hackers and viruses on to your computers. However, in this instance, you don't have anything to worry about. It is perfectly normal for wireless gadgets to scan for available networks. And it's common to see multiple wireless network names. That's because wireless routers broadcast their names by default.

This makes it easy to find and connect to the correct wireless network. Think of it like driving down a street full of restaurants. You want them to have signs so you know what's what.

There really isn't anything you can do about it. And seeing the network names isn't doing any harm. It just means you have several routers in the area. Your TiVo isn't in any danger from hackers. You are the one who tells the TiVo where to connect. No one can hijack it from the outside.

Likewise, your Wi-Fi router isn't really in any danger from other routers. The danger lies with other wireless gadgets. For example, let's pretend your neighbor has a wireless TiVo. He could select your wireless network for a connection. Then he could stream shows and movies over your Internet connection. Or he can connect a computer and download much worse.

Fortunately, it's easy to keep this from happening. You just need to encrypt your wireless network. Learn all about encrypting Wi-Fi from this tip. Modern encryption is very strong. It will keep unauthorized users out of your network. But you can go even further if you want.

While you're changing settings, prevent your router from broadcasting your network's name. In the settings, this will be called the network SSID. Look for the SSID Broadcast setting or something similar. When that is turned off, your router is essentially invisible.

Of course, that does create some complications. You will have to remember your network's SSID. And connecting a gadget will require entering the SSID manually.

Some gadgets don't handle manual SSID entry very well. So it could cause some headaches with certain gadgets. You may have to turn it back on again anyway. For the increased convenience, leaving SSID broadcasting on is an acceptable risk. Routers are the backbone of most home networks. But they can still be confusing. Here are some things you need to know about routers:

The router is the central controller for your network. It's important that you buy the correct one. Learn what makes a good home router. Routers can be confusing to configure. Get instructions on dealing with common router problems.

Some routers have advanced features like network hard drives. Learn the best ways to put a hard drive on your network.

## Some things to look into...

<http://www.winsupersite.com/windows7.aspx>

Still undecided about Windows 7? take a look at this site, maybe it will help you to make up your mind. Lots of stuff to consider.

<http://technologizer.com/2009/11/30/windows-7-survey/>

This site represents mostly opinions from people that made the change to Windows 7 and might give some more encouragement to take the step.

<http://www.pcworld.com/printable/article/id,191312/printable.html>

Tech Secrets: 21 Things 'They' Don't Want You to Know. Eavesdropping Webcams, spying ISPs, toxic PCs, and more. Here are 21 dangers that the industry is hiding from you--and what you can do about them.

[http://news.cnet.com/8301-13860\\_3-20002693-56.html#comments](http://news.cnet.com/8301-13860_3-20002693-56.html#comments)

One of the newest MS Windows features is ||Fix it|| a Windows repair service worth giving it a try.

<http://www.pcworld.com/printable/article/id,196049/printable.html>

Home networking is never as simple as merely connecting device A to device B. This guide will walk you through the jargon of setting up a home network. It will talk about consumer electronics gear in the context of delivering material from your PC to the living room, as well as Internet connectivity.

<http://www.wxpnews.com/archives/wxpnews-423-20100329.htm>

Among other very interesting articles, this one addresses the issue how to cut your phone bill using your PC.

[http://www.ashampoo.com/en/usd/pin/2506/System\\_Uilities/Ashampoo-WinOptimizer-7](http://www.ashampoo.com/en/usd/pin/2506/System_Uilities/Ashampoo-WinOptimizer-7)

With the reliability of 12 years of experience, Ashampoo WinOptimizer 6 makes Windows maintenance fast and easy – and it works for Windows XP just as well as it does for Vista and Windows 7. The One-click Optimizer does what it says and you can even schedule it to run automatically so that you don't need to think about it at all. It keeps your Windows computer running as fast and smoothly as on the first day you bought it.

<http://www.fileseek.ca/>

Have you ever needed to find a file buried somewhere in your computer? Have you ever needed to find a specific string of text inside a file? FileSeek can do that, and more. FileSeek is lightning fast, small and super easy to use. It can even be integrated right into the Windows Explorer right-click menu to provide quick and easy access. FileSeek doesn't use background indexing, so when FileSeek is closed your computer's performance won't be affected.

## Make your computer start up in a flash

<http://www.komando.com>

**Q.** I just bought a Windows 7 computer. It runs much faster than my old Vista machine. But boot times are still slower than I expected. Is there any way I can speed it up?

**A.** Microsoft made a lot of improvements in Windows 7. It is much speedier than Vista, especially on older hardware. However, the startup process can still be a little slow.

That's not surprising, given the amount of information processed at startup. In other words, don't expect to see instant-on booting. Manufacturers have been promising near instant boot times for years. We're still waiting for them to make good on their promises.

Still, there are a few tricks you can try to speed your boot time. First, you'll want to limit what programs run at startup. Many programs you install add items to run at startup.

This will help the programs start faster when you want to use them. But, it also causes your computer to slow down.

So I recommend weeding out nonessential programs. This will shave off some time at startup.

[Click here for step-by-step instructions](#) (*Members only. Ed.*) to control what starts up with your machine.

Programs aren't the only thing that can slow your startup. Surprisingly, fonts can be a factor. On startup, Windows processes all the fonts installed on your computer.

Some people have a lot of extra fonts. Programs often install additional fonts. This is particularly true if you're using graphics programs. Most people won't use these fonts.

You can remove fonts you don't use fairly easily. Just click Start>>Control Panel>>Fonts to examine your font library. Select one or more fonts you don't need.

Then hit the Delete option to remove them. Note that this will get rid of the files permanently. So, you'll want to be very careful what you delete.

You will also see a Hide option. This hides fonts from Microsoft programs without uninstalling them. That way the fonts aren't cluttering up Word, for example. However, this option will have no effect on startup time.

There is a third option. You might try a third-party font program like [FontFrenzy](#). It has many options for managing your fonts. You could use the Unload and Store feature. This uninstalls selected fonts and stores them in a folder.

Just open the program and click Frenzy Man. Select the fonts you don't need. Select Unload and Store Selected Fonts and then click Select. Specify where you want to store the fonts and click OK.

You can reinstall the fonts if you need them later. But until you reinstall them, they won't slow down your startup. It's a nice compromise. To reinstall a font in Windows 7, simply right-click the font file. Then select Install.

*Continued on the next page*

Note that there are some fonts that you can't hide, delete or move. These are fonts that shipped with Windows. Even if you don't use them, Windows thinks they are important. If you can't delete a font in Windows or FontFrenzy, it is a system font.

Streamlining software isn't the only way to improve boot times. It is possible that Windows isn't taking full advantage of your computer hardware.

Most modern computers have multi-core processors. They can handle more than one task as once. However, in many cases, Windows 7 only uses one core. Changing a setting will force it to use all the cores.

Go to Start and type "msconfig" into the Search field. Hit Enter; the configuration screen will pop up. Find the Boot tab and then click the Advanced Options button.

Find the Number of Processors setting. Click the check box to set a custom number. Then select the number of cores your processor has. This will be the highest number on the dropdown list.

If things are still too slow, you might consider getting a solid-state drive. SSDs are faster than traditional hard drives. This means information is available more quickly on startup. Click here to learn the advantages of an SSD.

The downside to an SSD is price and storage capacity. A 120-gigabyte SSD runs between \$250 and \$400. The price varies by the drive's speed. By contrast, a traditional 1TB hard drive costs about \$100.

Of course, you could buy a smaller, cheaper SSD. A 32GB drive costs about \$80. You can put the operating system on that drive for faster access. Then use a large, traditional drive for additional programs and storage.

Windows 7 has a few advantages over previous Windows versions. Find out why you might want to upgrade:

A secure computer is more important than ever. Windows 7 has some new security features that help keep you safe. [Learn more about them here.](#)

Keeping your children safe online is important. Fortunately, Windows 7 has excellent built-in parental controls. [Find out how to set them for your kids.](#)

Windows 7 has some interesting new networking features. One lets you turn a Windows 7 laptop into a Wi-Fi hotspot. [Click here to try it out.](#)

*("This is what happens when your e-mail address falls into the wrong hands! It really isn't that funny!") Editor*

## The lighter side

From Mrs Comfort Ibruni to Dearest Friend

C/177 FIFAJI close ZOGBOWE Cotonou, BENIN REPUBLIC.

Dearest Friend,

It is my great pleasure and the trust which I have on you, though we have not met before, neither have we seen for the first time, but before I pick up your E-mail contact and write to you I prayed over it that God should direct me to a trustworthy and God fearing partner who will help me to invest this money in a good business of your choice.. For this will permit me to go into business relationship with you,

since I have made up my mind to make this money transfer with you. My name is Mrs Comfort Ibruni 43 years old the wife of Late Benjamin Okon Ibruni who was a Cocoa and Gold marchant in Cotonou Republic of Benin and i have only one child His name is RUBEN. My husband was poisoned to death by his business associate on one of their business outings to Accra Ghana, on 19th Oct 2007. Before the death of my husband on the 26th December 2007 in a private hospital here. He sincerely called me on his bed side and told me that he had a sum of (\$5M US.DOLLARS) which he deposited in Finance Firm.

He also used his name to Deposit the money and explained to me that it was because of his wealth that he was poisoned by his business associates, That i should seek for a foreign partner in a country of my choice where I will transfer this money and use it for investment purposes, I want you to assist me by investing this money into a good Nbusiness and also be a guardian over this money I am honourably seeking for your assistance in the following ways.

(1)To assist me to transfer this money into your account successfully

(2)To provide a trust bank account where this money would be transfered

(3)To make arrangement for me and my son to come over to your country for investment, (4)To help find admission in a good university to enable him finish his educational career in your country.

In line with this, am willing to offer you 25% percent of the total sum as compensation for your effort/input after the success-full transfer of this fund in your safe account Below informations is what i need from you so that the bank can start this transfer immediately without delay.

Your Bank name and addres together with Account Number Your direct Telephone and Fax Numbers and Your full name and address. On receipt of the above mentioned informations, I believe that this transaction would be concluded within 7 working days as the bank Director promised me that he will commence on the transfer immediately if i provide a bank ac-count for re-mittance. I am waiting to hear from you soonest. Thanks and God bless you for your kind understanding.

Best Regards, Mrs Comfort and Son.00229 93021416

*Some of the articles and material appearing in this issue were sent to the editor by:  
Parker Monroe, Darry D Eggelston and Charlie Vanderford*

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