

MID-CITIES PC USERS' GROUP

January 2002 Newsletter



Quips N' Tips

by Rick Howell

As I think back over the things that happened in the computing world this past year, I can't help thinking about Shawn Fanning, the 17 year old who created Napster, a file-sharing service named after the nickname his kindergarten teacher gave him. Napster was a brilliant idea. You upload a file to a central server and it is shared with everybody who is logged on. If someone wants a copy of the file, they just log on to the server and download it. The service became so popular that Napster soon boasted 32 million subscribers. The only thing young Shawn forgot to consider was the fact that by having a central repository for shared files, he was guilty of copyright infringement when he allowed someone to download copyrighted material from his server. At the request of some rock groups who felt they were losing money because Napster was distributing their music for free over the internet, Federal courts reminded Shawn of the law regarding copyrights and Napster was stopped from providing free stuff over the web. Shawn is now trying to prove Napster can be a viable medium for the sale of copyrighted material over the Internet, and Napster has become a retail operation. Whether it will be successful is yet to be seen.

In the meantime, several Napster clones have suddenly appeared on the Internet. The only difference with the clones is they circumvent the copyright law by simply providing links between logged-on computers, not actually providing a repository for the copyrighted material. It is a shame Shawn didn't think up this angle, as it seems to be the loophole which has lawyers for the music and motion picture industries frantically searching for a way to shut them down with, as yet, no legal way to do it.

Here's the way it works, and believe me, it works. You find a service like Grokster, Kazaa, Music City, or Morpheus. Look around on the internet, they're not hard to find. Try <http://www.grokster.com> or <http://www.kazaa.com> or <http://www.musiccity.com> or <http://www.morpheus.com>. They are out there. Making these guys even harder to shut down is the fact that Kazaa is based in Amsterdam, Grokster in the West Indies, Music City in Tennessee, and Morpheus in the U.K. (I love how small the world has become because of the Internet.) Kazaa has been under a court order to shut down it's software. Kazaa says unfortunately that it is unable to comply because once the software is downloaded and installed they have no control over how it is used. Anyway, back to the subject. Let's say you want to try Kazaa. Go to their website and download their program. It is free, gratis, no charge, period. Install the Kazaa server on your computer. It will create a directory on your hard drive under "Program Files" called Kazaa, with a subdirectory called "My Shared Files". Start the Kazaa program and go to the "search" option. Select the "audio" option. If you know the name of a song you would like to download, type the

name in the box and hit search. Give it a few seconds, and the program will come back with a list of other computers on the Internet that are willing to upload this song to you. Look for the fastest connection speed and double-click the song title on that server. In seconds the song is on it's way to your computer and being stored in the "My Shared Files" folder. The song now becomes available for everyone else on the Kazaa network to download from your computer. One of the neat features is that you can start playing

Continued on next page

MEETING NOTICE

by: George Miner

When: Tuesday, January 8th, at 7:15 PM

Where: Old Bedford School (in 1800 block of Bedford Road)

Program:

Power Point Presentation to be given by club members. Feedback by members should prove to be very enlightening.

We will also get together at the I-Hop afterwards for coffee and talk. All are welcome.

Quips N' Tips

Continued from Page 1

audio files even before they are completely downloaded onto your system. That really helps if you want to check it out and make sure it is the version of the song you intended to download. On weekends, the Internet traffic on Kazaa is amazing. At one time last week, there were 34 million people logged on with about 54 billion files available for downloading. There is something out there for every music taste, from rap to reggae, country to Buddhist priest chants, old Amos and Andy radio shows, and even Jack Benny radio shows. My wife challenged me to find Perry Como's song "Hot Diggety, Dog Diggety". It was playing on my computer within a minute. I love to show off. I must warn you

though, downloading music can be addictive. I now know how many music files can fit in 50 Gigabytes.

Music is not the only thing available for download on Kazaa. There are categories for video and software as well. Lots of movies are available as well, although they seem to take a long time on the average to download. But, if you're not using your computer while you sleep, queue up a couple of downloads and go to bed. They might just be ready in the morning with your coffee.

See y'all at the meeting.

Bad Times - GOOD JOBS

Taken from Yahoo, December 01 by Don Willmot

In these troubled days of economic slowdowns and big layoffs can the Net still help you find a new job?

Margaret Riley Dikel's book, *The Guide to Internet Job Searching*, is a bible for job hunters who use the Internet, and her Web site, The Riley Guide <http://www.rileyguide.com> catalogs sites that offer listings and career advice. According to Riley, it's not as bad out there as you think. With the right strategies, the Net is still a job hunter's best friend. Here, she reveals her essential insights.

Ignore the Net at your peril.

Every major employer has some kind of recruiting presence on the Net, and even the most exclusive headhunters have gotten in on the act. Maybe some e-mail outreach can help you start networking. To avoid the Internet means avoiding all it has to offer in terms of its broad reach combined with its deep wells of available data. Why tie one hand behind your back?

Understand that online listings remain relatively constant.

With all the sudden layoffs of the past few months, job sites may be getting a few more resumes than usual, but they're probably getting new job postings at the same rate as always. When you see a downward trend in one area, invariably there's an upswing somewhere else. Ask yourself this: How can I take the skills I picked up in one industry and plug them into another? Think about how you can make your skills transferable. Career coaches call this "walking your skills sideways."

Don't forget to check targeted job sites and local newspapers, too.

Big job sites such as <http://www.monster.com> are essential, but if you can also find relevant targeted sites - for bankers, or bricklayers, or Iowans - so much the better. Employers turn to these sites because they want to talk to a smaller, more highly focused audience to avoid getting an onslaught of resumes. How do you find them? Try the Riley guide, <http://www.jobhunt.org> or <http://www.jobstar.org>. And by all means visit the Web sites of the local papers in the city where you want to work. Typically employers advertise there because they don't want to pay relocation costs, but you never know.

Write your resume for the database and then worry about formatting it for paper and the Net.

Most employers use scanning technology, so even paper resumes end up in databases. The question isn't whether to write it for paper or for the Net: It's how to write it with the right keywords so it'll pop up when employers are searching. Today, many people put a skills summary at the top of their resume. The trend started with tech professionals who listed the programs and systems they knew, but it's now expanded to every industry. List the software, hardware, operating systems, and industry-specific things you know, using the phrases and jargon from your field. Read job listings to see what they're asking for and which words crop up a lot. The rest of the resume is the descriptive stuff that backs you up once you pop up on their search. ***To be continued in next issue.***



Thoughts for the New Year



Editors Note: The following was e-mailed to me by Marie Schaefer, and I thought we all could use these words of wisdom.

If you will take the time to read these, I promise you'll come away with an enlightened perspective. The subjects covered affect us all on a daily basis! They're written by Andy Rooney, a man who has the gift of saying so much with so few words. Enjoy.....

I've learned.... That the best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.

I've learned.... That when you're in love, it shows.

I've learned.... That just one person saying to me, "You've made my day!" makes my day.

I've learned.... That having a child fall asleep in your arms is one of the most peaceful feelings in the world.

I've learned.... That being kind is more important than being right.

I've learned.... That you should never say no to a gift from a child.

I've learned.... That I can always pray for someone when I don't have the strength to help him in some other way.

I've learned.... That no matter how serious your life requires you to be, everyone needs a friend to act goofy with.

I've learned.... That sometimes all a person needs is a hand to hold and a heart to understand.

I've learned.... That simple walks with my father around the block on summer nights when I was a child did wonders for me as an adult.

I've learned.... That life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.

I've learned.... That we should be glad God doesn't give us Everything we ask for.

I've learned.... That money doesn't buy class.

I've learned.... That it's those small daily happenings that make life so spectacular.

I've learned... That under everyone's hard shell is someone who wants to be appreciated and loved.

I've learned.... That the Lord didn't do it all in one day. What makes me think I can?

I've learned.... That when you plan to get even with someone, you are only letting that person continue to hurt you.

I've learned.... That love, not time, heals all wounds.

I've learned.... That the easiest way for me to grow as a person is to surround myself with people smarter than I am.

I've learned.... That everyone you meet deserves to be greeted with a smile.

I've learned.... That there's nothing sweeter than sleeping with your babies and feeling their breath on your cheeks.

I've learned.... That no one is perfect until you fall in love with them.

I've learned.... That life is tough, but I'm tougher.

I've learned.... That opportunities are never lost; someone will take the ones you miss.

I've learned.... That when you harbor bitterness, happiness will dock elsewhere.

I've learned.... That I wish I could have told my Dad that I love him one more time before he passed away.

I've learned.... That one should keep his words both soft and tender, because tomorrow he may have to eat them.

I've learned.... That a smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.

I've learned.... That I can't choose how I feel, but I can choose what I do about it.

I've learned.... That when your newly born grandchild holds your little finger in his little fist, that you're hooked for life.

I've learned.... That everyone wants to live on top of the mountain, but all the happiness and growth occurs while you're climbing it.

I've learned ... That it is best to give advice in only two circumstances; when it is requested and when it is a life threatening situation.

I've learned.... That the less time I have to work with, the more things I get done.

***Articles are needed for our newsletter!
We all have something to share. Please
make the effort and don't be shy.***

THE MID-CITIES PC USERS' GROUP

The Mid-Cities PC Users' Group is a not for-profit organization whose objectives are:

- * to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and experience,
- * education in the form of seminars and programs, and
- * community as pertains to the computer industry.

Annual membership is \$24.00 per family with one vote per membership. Members are encouraged to notify the Membership Chairperson of any change of address as soon as possible to continue receiving their monthly newsletter. Please address any notifications to: Mid-Cities PC Users' Group: Attn. Membership Chair, P.O. Box 54141, Hurst, TX 76054

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THE MID-CITIES PC USERS' GROUP NEWSLETTER

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CONTRIBUTING ARTICLES

Article Style: Type all copy flush left without justification; use word wrap feature for your paragraphs. This includes headings, by-lines, and the first line of each paragraph. Place a credit by-line (author's name) between the title and first paragraph. Leave no blank lines between paragraphs. Use only one space between sentences.

File Formats: MS Word or Word Perfect is preferred. If formatting is crucial and you do not have access to the above programs, send a hard copy to show the layout.

Submitting Articles: You may use one of two methods. Uploading the article to Nancy Hester at newsletter@mcpcug.org or you can hand them to her on diskette (3.5" preferred) during the general membership meetings.



Thanks a lot!

Deadline: The last Friday of the month prior to intended publication.

Advertising Rates:

7½ in. x 9 in.	Full Page	\$40.00
7½ in. x 4 in.	Half Page	\$20.00
3¼ in. x 4¼ in.	Quarter Page	\$12.50
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