# SLO Bytes HardCopy

**A publication of the San Luis Obispo PC Users' Group**
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*Alan's March 4th, 2007 General Windows SIG* by Alan Raul

Listpic Visual Craigslist Browser http://slo.listpic.com/ can bring a new interface to viewing the http://slo.craigslist.org/ ads.

**Dr. Watson** for Windows XP is a program error debugger that gathers information about your computer when an error (or user-mode fault) occurs with a program. Dr. Watson is installed in your system folder when you set up Windows XP. You can access Dr. Watson by typing "**drwtsn32.exe**" in the run dialog box. More information can be found at the Microsoft Windows XP Professional Product Documentation web page.
http://snipurl.com/1c3yx
http://www.microsoft.com/resources/documentation/windows/xp/all/proddocs/en-us/drwatson_overview.mspx?mfr=true

**XP SysPad** is a FREE program can launch Dr. Watson and easily access hundreds of Windows XP operating system utilities and system monitoring information. You can also recover your Windows 2000/XP product key, get your IP address, execute web queries, monitor any running system process, launch any program, search files, and more. For convenience, it also can minimize itself to the system tray. XP SysPad has well over 250 functions in all!
http://www.xtort.net/xtort/xpsyspad.php

Dr. Watson, the system failure or "crash" analysis tool, has been replaced in **Windows Vista** with **Problem Reports and Solutions** which can easily be accessed from the Control Panel.

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*March 4th, 2007 Main Meeting Review* by *Ginny Monteen*

Detective **Ron Waltman** spoke to a full audience March 4 about the SLO Sheriff's Department Sexual Assault Unit and some of the pro-active methods they use to accomplish their goals, including tracking people using the Internet.

To illustrate just how much information can be gathered from the net, he brought a thick dossier on Kaye Raul, SLO Bytes Program Chair, sharing with us some of the more cogent details!

Digital database technology is used by law enforcement now to increase effectiveness. Waltman told stories how in LA they were able to apprehend suspects more quickly using data available on the net. From sources information such as property listings, criminal histories, public databases, even floor plans and satellite images, a search can be mounted quickly and effectively.

He told how a drawing of a suspect can be run through police system photos to produce a number of possible matches. These photos can be used in an electronic 'six-pack' (photos of six suspects grouped

and sent electronically) to speed up witness identification.

Access to information on sex offenders was helped by the passage of Megan's Law in 1996. That access changed dramatically with a new law, passed in 2004, that makes the information available on-line at http://www.meganslaw.ca.gov/. Waltman said that before being listed on the Internet, there had been one million calls for information in eight years. Once on Internet, there were 70 million hits within eight weeks.

From the California Megan's Law website:

"Megan's Law is named after seven-year-old Megan Kanka, a New Jersey girl who was raped and killed by a known child molester who had moved across the street from the family without their knowledge. In the wake of the tragedy, the Kankas' sought to have local communities warned about sex offenders in the area. All states now have a form of Megan's Law."

Back in 1947, California was the first state to require registration of sex offenders, Waltman said. However, it was the 44th state to get the information mounted on the Internet. SLO County has 475 sex offenders, he said, but not all offenders are listed on Internet. One-third are not listed because their crimes are less serious. In our county, 52 percent are not listed. The current law requires sex offenders to register once a year on their birthday, or when they move. Transients must register every 30 days.

Waltman also commented on the Amy Boyer Law which protects social security numbers. The law outlaws the display, sale or use of social security numbers in certain circumstances. The bill is named for Amy Boyer, the victim of an Internet stalker who obtained her address from an Internet information broker.

Some privacy protection advice from Waltman:

▪ Don't carry your checkbook or social security number with you.

▪  Be stingy about giving out personal information.

▪ Don't fill out warranty cards; they're just for marketing purposes.
In addition, Waltman handed out three pages of information:

▪  A humorous, and scary, article written by syndicated columnist Tom Purcell, detailing a hypothetical phone conversation where the caller knew way too much information about the person called.

▪ An article on identity theft from the Orange County Register, giving do's and don'ts.

▪  An article, Don Ray's 104 Privacy Tips.
An addition, Waltman mentioned a good website on skip tracing:
http://www.geocities.com/monaco90/skiptrace.html
(BTW, skip tracing is the process of locating a person's whereabouts for any number of purposes, such as debt collections, bail bond enforcement (bounty hunting), witness location, questioning, or almost any facet of an investigation.)

After 30 years with the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, Waltman was persuaded to join the SLO

Department. He is a member of the newly formed Department of Justice SAFE Team (Sexual Assault Felony Enforcement), whose goals include enhancing sex offender registration compliance rates, apprehending and prosecuting those registrants who are in violation, and educating the public. The unit was recently awarded a grant of $675,000 to further its effectiveness.

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January 2007 article by Tom Purcell.
**For Anyone Who Still Thinks There's Privacy**

Privacy? What privacy?
Ring. Ring.
"Hello, this is Tom."
*"Happy birthday to you, Tom."*
"Who is this? How did you know it was my birthday?"
*"Your birth date is public information – it's listed on your voter registration card. But that's not important. What is important is that I'm here to help you."*

"Help me?"
*"We feel it's time for you to upgrade your computer, Tom. It's taking you forever to surf through the web sites you visit."*
"You know which web sites I visit?"
*"Of course. Not long ago, America On-line got into trouble for releasing such information. We had a good laugh when we learned your favorite search terms are: 'Madonna, bikini, before she turned 40."*

"This, sir, is an outrage."
*"We're just trying to help. Incidentally, that 27-year-old flight attendant you met in the on-line chat room?"*
"What of her?"
*"She's 64 and married."*
"You have no right to . . ."
*"Don't get excited, Tom. According to the free blood pressure clinic you visited – you remember filling out that card, don't you – your blood pressure is awfully high."*

"You know my blood pressure?"
*"Of course. There are lots of ways to get that information now. Didn't you know that security cameras and other devices mounted in public places are now able to check vital signs?"*

"My vital signs!"
*"Absolutely. Some surveillance systems can identify you by how you walk. And special programs can track your eye movements. Retailers use them to get a better idea of what shoppers are looking for."*

"You can't be serious."
*"Serious as a heart attack, Tom. Which is why you ought to cut back on those corn chips. Do you really need to eat three bags a week?"*

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*Kaye Raul's Featured Speaker Programming Schedule*

**Microsoft Windows Vista will be the main topic at the April 1st** meeting of the SLO Bytes PC Users Group presented by **Alan Raul.** Windows Vista is the latest release of Microsoft Windows, an operating system used on personal computers (PC's), including home and business desktops, notebook computers, Tablet PC's and media centers. On January 30, 2007, it was released worldwide to the general public.

Windows Vista contains hundreds of new features; some of the most significant include an updated graphical user interface (GUI) and visual style dubbed Windows Aero, improved searching features, new multimedia creation tools such as Windows DVD Maker and completely redesigned networking, audio, print, and display sub-systems. Vista also aims to increase the level of communication between machines on  a home network using peer-to-peer technology, making it easier to share files and digital media between computers and devices.

Microsoft's primary stated objective with Vista, however, has been to improve the state of security in the Windows operating system.

Microsoft Office 2007, the most recent version of Microsoft's productivity suite will also be demonstrated. Office 2007 contains a number of new features, the most notable of which is the entirely new graphical user interface called the Ribbon. The traditional menus and toolbars have been replaced by the Ribbon - a new device that presents commands organized into a set of tabs. The tabs on the Ribbon display the commands that are most relevant for each of the task areas in the applications, replacing the menus and toolbars that have been the cornerstone of Office since its inception.

**Prior to the main presentation:**
**Alan Raul** will moderate his Q & A session from **12:45 PM to 2:00 PM**
Additionally, a second **SIG for beginners** will run concurrently in another room, offering advice and answering questions on Windows operating systems. This is a small group environment specially suited for the novice user.

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*Digital Photography SIG Review* by *Lou Pera*

Dave Coronel a SLO Bytes member who is a professional photographer http://davecoronelphotography.com/ spoke to us about many things, including  the importance of choosing the proper type of photo printing paper.  He stressed the need to know and use the *print profile* of the particular paper you are using.  Unless the proper *print profile* of the paper is installed on your computer it will be difficult or impossible to end up with really true colors.  These *print profiles* are available on the Internet by Googling the paper manufacturer, then searching for your brand of printer.

Dave showed us much of the amazingly beautiful work he had done on his professional quality printers. These printers not only render beautiful fidelity but are capable of making poster sized prints as well.  He also advised us that Costco's brand, Kirkland, is a good quality paper available at reasonable prices.

Later, Don Jones led us through some of the tricks he has learned in the making of background effects with the use of the multiple layers options in PhotoShop Elements.  Active audience participation was enthusiastic.  As always good coffee and cookies topped off a pleasant, informative meeting.

*President's Message*

**At our 1 April, 2007 meeting:**
**At 12:45 PM, Alan** will be moderating the Question and Answer session
**At 12:45 PM,** Bill Avery, Ben Hansen, Eugene Rheingans and Fred Cook will run the Windows SIG for Beginners in the dining room
**At 2:30 PM,** Our speaker, Alan Raul, will give his presentation

Go to http://www.slobytes.org/newsletter/push/0407/index.html to see the 14 great **PUSH Articles for April 2007.** They came to me from **Judy Taylour of APCUG,** Editorial PUSH Committee Chair. Our Webmaster, Ralph Sutter uploaded these articles to our website. The PUSH Archive articles can be found at http://www.slobytes.org/newsletter/push/index.html

Take advantage of the four **learning CD's** "Learn Windows XP, Excel, Word & Power Point" available for our members to check out (at the Treasurer's table).

We also have **Adobe PhotoShop 7, learning CD's** to check out (at the Treasurer's table). These 5 CD's cover, in depth, the various program features in lesson format.

Continue to bring any **used ink-jet printer or toner cartridges** to our meeting. We collect them (at the Treasurer's table) and turn them over to "Make A-Wish Foundation" who generate much needed funds for their organization by refurbishing and selling them.

*--Ray Miklas*

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*Treasurer's Report for March 2007*
**Income**
   Renewing members        $175.00
   New members             25.00
   Refreshment sales        46.06
**Expenses**
   Hall rent                 75.00
**Bank accounts @ 02/28/07**
   CD #116            1,201.32
   CD #116.1          3,283.73
   Saving acct bal       53.66
   Checking acct bal    2,125.29
   Interest -- year to date   38.87

**New member:** Jean Durbano
**Renewing members**: Robert Mellema, Nancy Winkenbach, Ralph Allison, Mark Hornickel, Celina Penalba, James Middlemist, and Don Jones.

**Robert Mires**, Treasurer

*Club Information and Meeting Times*

**SLO Bytes,** a PC Users Group dedicated to educate its members in the use of personal computers, digital devices and software, meets on the first Sunday of each month at the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) Hall at 520 Dana Street, San Luis Obispo. All meetings are open to the public at no cost. Special interest groups meet from 12:45 PM to 2:00 PM and guest speaker presentations begin at 2:30 PM. Contact Kaye Raul (473-9139, kmraul@sbcglobal.net) or visit www.slobytes.org for additional information about SLO Bytes and the scheduled presentation.

**HardCopy** is a monthly publication of SLO Bytes PC Users' Group located in San Luis Obispo, California. Information in this Newsletter is derived from both our own membership and other PC User Group Newsletters. The purpose of this publication is to inform our members of meetings and provide information related to the use of PCs and various Operating Systems.

**Membership Dues** are $25 per year. Full membership entitles you to our monthly newsletter via e-mail, technical assistance, raffle gift drawing at the end of the meetings, a voice in the affairs of the club, and comradeships.

**Article Submission** Deadline for submission of articles is the 20th of each month. Articles should be E-mailed to the editor (rmiklas@bigfoot.com).

*Outside Special Interest Groups (SIGs)*

**HTML/Internet SIG** normally meets at 6:30 PM on the Monday (following our Sunday's General Meeting) at Ralph Sutter's home in Arroyo Grande. Call Ralph at 489-8678 for directions.

**Linux SIG** normally meets at 6:30 PM on Thursday (following our Sunday's General Meeting) at KCBXnet [a.k.a. SLONET] Training Center, 4100 Vachell Lane, SLO.

**Photography SIG** normally meets at 7 PM on a third Monday of each month at Don Jones's home in Pismo Beach. Call Don at 773-5526 for directions.

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*SLO Bytes Officers/Volunteers*
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Ben Hansen (Beginners SIG)
Eugene Rheingans (Beginners SIG)
Fred Cook (Beginners SIG)
Don Jones (Photography SIG)
Lou Pera (Contributing Columnist/Photo SIG)
Ginny Monteen (Contributing Columnist/Main Meeting Review)
Nancy Vrooman (Refreshments)

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Peter Stonehewer (Refreshments)
Ken Stilts (Set-up/Clean-up)
John Enos (Set-up/Clean-up)
Bill Palmerston (Set-up/Clean-up

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