

The

Computer Link

December 2010

The Newsletter of the Northern Neck Computer Users' Group

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Send newsletter
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→**DEADLINE**←
for **NEXT ISSUE**,
One week after meeting

Cards to Computers - Electronic Medical Records

Doctor Sterling Ransone, Jr. gave a very detailed and interesting look at the **impact of computers** in the medical field and **Electronic Medical Records (EMRs)**. Dr. Ransone practices family medicine in Deltaville, VA, and serves on Virginia medical technical committees.

To illustrate the changes in medical record keeping, Dr.

Ransone said he recalled medical records being kept on a 3 x 5 inch file card for each patient which contained a one-line summary of the date, the illness of the patient, and what the doctor did.

Perhaps jokingly, Dr. Ransone indicated that EMRs came about because no one could read a doctor's handwriting. In addition, the Federal government started to re-

quire more detailed information to support payment for services to Medicare patients. Also, there is a legal standard that if a doctor does not write down a procedure that was performed, he or she did not perform the procedure, and therefore cannot charge for it. Another factor promoting EMRs is that doctors see them as a self-defense mechanism in case of audits of

their activities and billing charges.

Dr. Ransone carries a laptop computer with him at all times whether with patients, while traveling, or in an on-call status. Patient records entered into his laptop are transferred to and maintained in the servers of his affiliated medical practice (Riverside) in Newport News.

Patients' EMRs can be pulled up at any time from his laptop, and can be provided to patients in the form of thumb drives, small compact disks, or transferred to devices such as i-Pads and i-Phones. The majority of current EMR systems are based on the Windows operating system. Dr. Ransone noted that the amount of information sent requires high speed data transmission such as that

provided by a T1 line.

A clear **benefit of EMRs is that patient information can be shared more rapidly with other practitioners** than is possible with more traditional means such as telephone inquiries or faxing.

However, **a major challenge of**
Continued on Page 3



Dr. Sterling Ransone

Photo by Alan Christensen

LiberKey - Hundreds of Free Programs Run From a Flash Drive

By Ira Wilsker

This article was obtained from APCUG with the author's permission for publication by APCUG member groups.

WEBSITES:

<http://www.liberkey.com>
<http://www.liberkey.com/en/suites/liberkey-ultimate.html>
<http://www.liberkey.com/en/catalog/browse.html>

I had previously written about the USB flash drive that I always carry with me as it is attached to my car keychain. That 2 GB flash drive contains my frequently updated, malware scanners (Malwarebytes, SUPERAntispyware, and others), as well as my emergency contact and medical information. I have also used it many times when I had the need to save or transport files. Now, I may be copying all of those files to a new, much smaller size but higher capacity 8 GB flash drive, as I now have a lot more files to carry with me. That is because I recently found out about a new free flash drive utility LiberKey (www.liberkey.com) that is a freeware competitor to U3 and other flash drive utilities that acts as a graphical front end and manager for portable utilities.

Not being sure how much space I would eventually need on a USB flash drive to install all of my present files and the LiberKey files, I decided to use a newly purchased, small sized, 8 GB flash drive. Now that the price of flash drives has come down significantly over the past year, many local and online sellers are offering larger capacity, name brand flash drives at reasonable prices; I paid under \$15 for this 8 GB drive (recently on sale again for \$11), as well as purchased several 16 GB drives for less than \$25. That is quite a plunge in price as I paid over \$40 for a 256 MB USB flash drive just

a few years ago. With prices like these, more people will be carrying flash drives with them on a regular basis, and LiberKey would be a wise choice to enable the use of programs on the flash drive, rather than just using the drive for pure storage.

I started this process by downloading the LiberKey installer, a 3.82 MB executable, and installing it to the root of the flash drive. This utility provides the front end, or graphical user interface (GUI), and other functions that enables the LiberKey to function. The GUI can display a menu of the installed applications sorted by type either in a tabular format or as large icons, the choice being selected by clicking on the tiny icon in the top right corner of the menu window. Once the front end has been installed on the flash drive, the user can either download manually any or all of the 302 free portable programs currently listed on the LiberKey website, or he can download one of the integrated bundles. The three bundles available, all of which contain a wide variety of programs which will automatically be catalogued and indexed by the LiberKey software are the Basic bundle, the Standard bundle, or the Ultimate bundle. The Basic bundle consists of a dozen free programs, which are a 37 MB download, and uses 113 MB of space when installed. The Basic bundle includes an audio player, CD burner, compression utility, photo editor, browser (Firefox portable), several office utilities, a password manager, and a video player. For those who want more than the Basic bundle, LiberKey offers a Standard bundle, which is much larger than the Basic, and includes 89 applications, which is a 176 MB download, and uses 468 MB of flash drive space when all are installed. The Standard bundle has everything

the Basic bundle has, as well as dozens of additional applications that can provide much increased functionality, all of which can be run from the USB flash drive. Being one who typically wants everything, I downloaded the Ultimate bundle, a comprehensive collection of 164 free portable utilities. This was a large download of 233 MB, and occupied 619 MB of space on the flash drive. These 164 applications can be used for almost all tasks for which someone would use a computer. With a fast Internet connection, and a fast computer, it took about 30 minutes to download the Ultimate bundle and install all of the applications to the flash drive.

While the Ultimate bundle is very comprehensive, the bundle only comprises slightly more than half of the free applications available on the LiberKey website. Some of the additional portable applications that can be downloaded and installed on a flash drive with LiberKey include several of my desktop favorites, including IrfanView, VLC media player, OpenOffice, FoxIt PDF reader, Opera browser, Google's Chrome browser, some educational software, CCleaner, and many others. To download these portable versions, and automatically install them to the flash drive, open LiberKey from the flash drive, and then click on "LiberKey Tools" at the bottom right of the window. Choose "Browse the Applications Catalog", and a browser window will open that is synchronized with the utilities that are already installed on the flash drive while displaying a menu of all of the currently available applications, sorted by genre'. To make this quick and easy for the user, the synchronized web page uses a series of icons to

Continued on Page 3

Liberkey

From Page 2

guide the user. A "red +" indicates a category that includes new applications, while a "yellow up-arrow" indicates that within a category, there are updates available for programs already installed on the flash drive. Once a category is open, a "green check" indicates that an installed program is up-to-date, a "yellow up-arrow" indicates a program that has an available update newer than what is installed on the flash drive, and a "white +" in a red circle indicates a program not currently installed on the flash drive that is available for download and installation.

Upon selecting a new or updated application by clicking on it, a window opens with a detailed description of the program with an install link near the bottom of the window. That opens a "Launch Application" window where "LiberKey Creator" should be selected. This then opens "LiberKey Creator" which will automatically download and install the application to the flash drive, and update the LiberKey interface and directory. Multiple programs can be selected for installation before clicking "Install Selected Applications", which will also display the download and install process, as well as available space on the flash drive. One cute feature of this install utility is that if it displays a "green asterisk", the installer will check for an update before the download and installation. By my choice, between the installer, the Ul-

imate bundle, and the few dozen additional programs that I selected for LiberKey to download and install, I still have over 5 GB free on my drive.

With over 200 applications now installed on my flash drive, it is inevitable that many of them will frequently have updates available. Rather than having to manually check for updates, clicking on "LiberKey Tools" and then "Check Updates" will do just that, and display if any updates are available for the LiberKeys software or any of the installed software titles; if any are available, one click will automatically download and install the updates. Another button on the update window displays the number of additional applications that are available, and can directly open the LiberKey applications' web page where additional applications can be selected.

Now that I have about 200 applications installed on my new 8 GB flash drive, and I will always have that drive with me, it is unlikely that I will come across a computer where I cannot do whatever I would want to do. I can now open, play, repair, convert, edit, or other wise use or manipulate any type of file with only what is on my flash drive, with no need to install anything on the computer. This is the epitome of convenience in that it would be unnecessary to install any software on any computer that I use, because I have it all. That is an enormous convenience.

In the short time that I have used it, LiberKeys is a most

convenient and comprehensive free utility that everyone should use.

EMRs

From Page 1

EMRs is cost. Such a system costs from \$48,000 to \$66,000 per office. In Virginia, only about 40 % of doctors are using EMRs. Another major challenge is the lack of any national interoperability standards for EMRs. For example, he noted that his practice uses one software system, his local ER uses another, and the local hospital uses a third one.

Another issue is privacy. There are stringent record keeping requirements and very stiff penalties for violation of patient privacy protections. However, there is no uniformity in how states implement these requirements. Some states require patients to "opt-out" of sharing medical information while others require the patient to "opt-in", which causes difficulties in sharing information.

Finally, Dr Ransone gave the group a demonstration of the Centrix EMR system. Notwithstanding its advantages, **Dr Ransone finds that sitting in an examining room trying to enter data into a laptop interferes with patient communication and observation needed to making a good diagnosis.**

We all appreciated Dr. Ransone's presentation on EMRs from the file card to the computerization of our medical records. **Thank you!**

Ed.

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Finding Military Service for War of 1812 Veterans

The Computer Genealogy Group recently hosted Mike Lyman as its speaker. Mike is the Past President of the War of 1812 Society in the Commonwealth of Virginia. His topic was *Suggestions for Finding Military Service for 1812 Veterans – Some Do's & Don'ts*.

Military service is not where most genealogists start their research, but it quickly became clear this is a very important resource.

Most people start their 1812 research with the Library of Virginia website. Unfortunately it lacks about 15,000-20,000 veterans. Some Counties are missing entirely, while others are simply incomplete. To determine 1812 service though, one must also go to the County library and online subscription sources such as *Ancestry.com* and *Genealogy.com*.

Incomplete research has produced many errors with Veteran Administration grave-stones, due to common names leading to the incorrect Regiment number. Researchers should first consult the following out-of-print book that is available at the Mary Ball Washington Library: Butler, Stuart. *A Guide to Virginia Militia Units in the War of 1812*. Borgo Press, August 1988.

Those who served from some counties, such as Fauquier, appear in the service records at the National Archives, as they were paid by the federal Government. Soldiers from other counties were paid by the Virginia Government and records for these may be found in the *Virginia Muster and Payrolls* on the Library of Virginia website.

It is important to know the events and encounters that took place during the War in order to avoid erroneous conclusions. For a chronology of events one should refer to

the following book: Lyman, Myron E. and Hankins, William W. *Encounters with the British in Virginia During the War of 1812*. The Society of the War of 1812 in the Commonwealth of Virginia. 2008.

There are two CD's that are helpful in researching Virginia Muster and Payrolls: (1) *Virginia Military Records: Colonial Wars, Revolutionary War, War of 1812*. Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., and (2) *Military Records: War of 1812 Muster Rolls*. Ancestry.com. The first CD is particularly helpful with variations in spelling of names and includes suffixes. It is still necessary though to go to Butler's book to obtain regiment numbers. The second CD contains the service records held by the National Archives. The CD lists 580,000 men on index cards. Included is rank and unit and in some cases muster rolls can be created using this CD. These individuals were paid by the federal Government. Again, it is important to use Butler's guide to avoid mistakes.

Another important area for research is pensions or Bounty Land Warrants for the War of 1812. Many men qualified, but did not submit applications or the applications were rejected. Check for names in this book: Wardell, Patrick G. *War of 1812: Virginia Bounty Land & Pension Applicants, A Quick Guide to ancestors having War of 1812 service who served, lived, died or married in Virginia or West Virginia*. Heritage Books, 2009.

Prologue, the magazine of the National Archives contains a good article by Butler on researching 1812 military records. A copy is available at: <http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/1991/winter/war-of-1812.html>

Mike ended his presentation

with insights on what the Commonwealth will do to celebrate the Bicentennial of the War of 1812. Amongst things in the plans are 25 historical road markers. We are most grateful to Mike Lyman for this very informative presentation. The PowerPoint slides used for the presentation may be found at: <http://www.dwightlyman.com/1812/?p=748> Allow a little time for the download to complete.

Ann Thompson

Gadgets and Software

NNCUG members will demonstrate their favorite (also neat) computer gadgets and a number of small or free software programs that would make excellent holiday gifts at the **December 18 General Meeting** to be held at R W-C at 10:00 a.m.

Chris Christensen

Google Family History

Ann Thompson will give a presentation on using Google to obtain family story information to the **Genealogy SIG on January 13** at 1:00 p.m., at R W-C.

Ann Thompson

Computer Link Distribution

Please **"opt-in"** if you wish to continue to receive your copy of the **Computer Link by US Postal Service mail**. Otherwise, you will receive it by e-mail!!

To **"opt-in"**, respond to the new NNCUG e-mail address at: geocadjr@verison.net

This **cost saving change** to e-mail will occur in the first quarter of 2011.

Ed.

November 20 Meeting Notes

MEMBERS ATTENDING: 35.

TREASURER'S REPORT:
106 active members.

President Chris Christensen reminded members that they would be receiving an e-mail message asking if they want to receive the COMPUTER Link newsletter electronically or by mail. Members who do not "opt-in" to receive a paper copy will receive e-mailed editions of the Computer Link which has the advantage of being in color.

He indicated that the Association of Personal Computer Users Groups (APCUG) to which most user groups belong (including NNCUG) have some software discounts. **NNCUG web site shows available discounts in the "Members Only" page. Contact Betty Lehman, Web Master at "admin@nncug.org" for access to this page. Betty will ask you to provide an e-mail address and password that you want to use for access to**

the page.

President Christensen also noted that the APCUG was holding elections for Boards of Directors and Advisors, and indicated that each User Group had one vote to cast in the election. **The Board will cast the NNCUG vote after meeting.**

SIG REPORTS:

PHOTO SIG: Jim Sapione encouraged all who are interested to attend. The group meets on the **second Tuesday of the month at 09:30 at the Lancaster County library** in Kilmarnock. Bring a laptop and share in an interactive learning experience. The project for the December meeting is to make a photograph appear to be a pencil sketch using Photoshop Elements.

GENEALOGY SIG: **Will meet on January 13, 2011, at R-WC. Ann Thompson will speak on how to Google Your Family History. Mike Lyman gave a very detailed and complete presentation on how to determine War of 1812 Service at the November meeting. If you would like more informa-**

tion, contact Ann Thompson at athompson@kaballero.com.

Q AND A TIME: Question: The member is getting e-mail from vendors and the e-mail client asks if one wants to authorize downloading of photographs. Is it OK to do this? Answer: If one does authorize this, one exposes their e-mail address; if one wants to down load, select the 'show images" selection in the e-mail client.

Question: A new computer came with Internet Explorer (IE), but the member prefers Firefox. Can Internet Explorer be safely deleted? Answer: Use Firefox without deleting IE; the latter is tightly linked to the operating system and may cause "issues" if it is deleted.

Question: Member is trying to reformat "C" drives in order to donate computers to a computer recycler by using Win XP to wipe the drive, can't do so. He is getting a message that there is a program that is running. Answer: Reboot the machine, use the F8 function key before Windows starts, and run

in command (DOS) mode to try and reformat the hard drive. Alternatively, choose trustworthy recyclers who will wipe/reformat the hard drive before disposal or resale. Finally, remove the hard drive from the machine and personally retain or destroy it.

SPEAKER: The speaker was **Dr. Sterling Ransone, Jr.** who discussed the use of computers in the medical profession with an emphasis on **Electronic Medical Records**, and what may be forthcoming in the future.

RAFFLE WINNERS: Mal Brown – Optical Mouse; John Helm – Office 2007 and Word 2007 Manuals; and Chris Young – 3 4GB Flash Drives.

Ed.

Membership Report - November 2010

WELCOME - *Emilie King and Chris Young*

RENEW *December 2010 - Bob Butts, Peter Kane, Barbara Rennie, Mary Stewart*

RENEW *November 2010 - Lou Dietrich, Joe Moeller, John Parr*

Membership dues are \$20 annually. Please send to:
George Cadmus, Treasurer, NNCUG, 150 Pine Drive,
White Stone VA 22578

The Computer Link

Northern Neck
Computer
Users' Group
150 Pine Drive
White Stone, VA 22578

NNCUG Meeting Dates

NNCUG GENERAL MEETING
Third Saturday, 10:00 a.m.

Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury Meeting Room

BEGINNERS SIG

*Meets three times a year. Those interested, contact
B.J. McMillan at 580-8666*

GENEALOGY SIG

*Meets bi-monthly, 2nd Thursday, 1:00 p.m.—RW-C
Contact Ann Thompson at athompson@kaballero.com
to get on the mail list for announcements.*

PHOTOSHOP SIG

*Second Tuesday, every month, 9:30 a.m.
Lancaster Community Library, Kilmarnock
For more information, Call Jim Sapione, 804-462-5831
or message Bird@kaballero.com*

For a photo treat visit
www.rapptapp.homestead.com

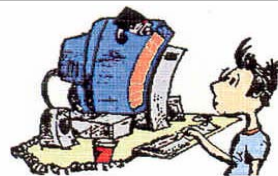


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Software Lessons

chris@emxry.com

Computer Help available by appointment. Call Betty Lehman 435-2011 or B.J. McMillan 580-8666

Coming Attractions

*Membership - Dec. 18, 10:00 am, Computer Gadgets
Genealogy - Jan. 13, 1:00 pm Google Your Family History
Photo SIG - Dec. 14, 09:30 am, Kilmarnock Library*