



# SoftTalk

The Official Newsletter of the Roanoke Valley Personal Computer Club

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Serving the Roanoke Valley

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## Wireless connections expand downtown in Roanoke city

Roanoke's Wireless Revolution continues as the WiFi Zone has been expanded to a greater portion of the downtown district.

The WiFi Zone provides free public wireless Internet service to mobile users. The zone is centered within the Market Square and ex-

tends for several blocks in all directions.

Behind the scenes, partners in Roanoke's WiFi have been positioning new directional antennas, purchasing and installing public-access kiosks, and creating informational materials to inform wireless users how best to benefit from the WiFi.

Go to [www.roanokewifi.com](http://www.roanokewifi.com) and follow the logon instructions to gain access and begin surfing.

You have public access computers in the Market Building (32 Market Square, mezzanine level), at the Roanoke Valley Visitors Center (101 Shenandoah Avenue) and at Roanoke's Main Public Library (706 South Jefferson Street). Access is available 24/7, although, except at the Library, each account is limited to 120 minutes a day.

Signal strength will vary indoors due to building design and construction.

Initially created in the summer of 2003, WiFi is a collaboration of the City of Roanoke, the New Century Technology Council (NCTC) and Downtown Roanoke Inc.

Roanoke's Main Library is serving as the WiFiZone help desk, and also will offer free classes on how to use the WiFi. The Roanoke Higher Education Center was selected to build and host the network, and Cisco Systems helped to provide resources for the network.

Roanoke County libraries also have free wireless connections, including in the parking lot areas of the main and branch facilities.



## Club welcomes new member

*Photo by Sandra Kelly*

**Bruce Miller gestures as he asks a question at the September meeting where he was introduced as a new member. He is retired from the federal government.**

**(Meets 2nd Saturday  
of Month)  
Next Meeting  
Sat., Oct. 9**

**Place:** Arnold R. Burton  
Technology Center, Room  
105, 1760 Roanoke  
Boulevard, Salem, Va.  
24153

**Time:** 9:15 a.m. - noon

**Program:**

Spyware Removal  
and Protection

**Coming in November:**  
Enhancing Digital Photos

*This newsletter is  
published by the RVPCC.*

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**Help your newsletter**

You are invited to share favorite websites, reviews of software or just general computer experiences. If you don't want to write the article, just send your notes to editor at rvpcc.org.

**The President's Desk**

Lionel Melancon [president@rvpcc.org](mailto:president@rvpcc.org)

If some of you have been a little confused about the various download programs some of our more knowledgeable members have been demonstrating during previous meetings, don't feel alone. So have I, until I downloaded and tried some of the things mentioned.



If you're like me, you know there are things in your computer that shouldn't be, but you don't know what to do about it. I downloaded two programs, which are amazing. In your favorite search engine, type <ad aware>, I found the third one down under Lavasoft. I understand there are various sources some charge, this one didn't, but you are encouraged to donate.

My next search was for <spybot> and resulted in a program that along with your virus protection program will clean your computer like new – I believe.

First of all, I scanned with McAfee, then did an Ad Aware scan, which found 112 questionable “data miners” and other things. The neat

part of this program is it lets you know who the author is and what the questionable program is. I was able to make, what I believe to be, knowledgeable decisions. If an entry was from Microsoft or McAfee, I kept it and got rid of everything that was described as a “data miner” and a few other things like cookies that I didn't want.

Then, I ran Spybot, and it uncovered some different kind of entries that Ad Aware had overlooked. Both programs permit you to quarantine the questionable entries, and I guess if something doesn't work right, you can un-quarantine whatever you need to.

If you download a version you don't like, uninstall and try another. I had to do that with the first Spybot, which wanted to give me a special deal of \$49.95. Not me.

I've found that just being connected to cable and my computer on, without going to any web page, “data miners” can sneak in. so I plan to run the programs often.

**Lionel**



## Secretary's Report

### September 2004 minutes:

The meeting was called to order by the President, who pointed out that both the treasurer, Azella Tingler, and secretary, Margaret Hoag, were unable to attend. Vice President Ernie Arnett gave the treasurer's report, noting that the organization is solvent with some \$1,300 in the bank.

Arnett also asked the group to be thinking about the upcoming nominations and elections of new officers. He said he understood a couple of the current officers would not be running again, and new people would need to step up to lead.

During the general session, a member asked for the donation of laptops that could run Windows XP for the Tax Aide program in which tax returns are checked for senior citizens and citizens in low income areas.

Webmaster Tim Johnson and Program Chairman Bill Scott presented a program on networking computers via both wireless and cable connections. They pointed out that MS XP Home will not allow sharing of files easily. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

-Sandra Kelly, substituting for

## Clipomatic cache program expands storage; can be downloaded for free

A review  
by DEL KIRSCHNER

Most computer users are aware of the clipboard function that is included in all versions of Windows, where a selected (highlighted) portion of text can be copied and pasted into another location.

For example, it is easy to create a Word document that contains excerpts from various Internet sites by Blocking a section of text Pressing Ctrl-C to copy the selected text to the clipboard Navigating to the Word document where the text is to be inserted, and Pressing Ctrl-V (or Shift-Insert) to paste the text.

Unfortunately, only one item can be stored in the clipboard at a time, since each new item erases the previous item. Thus copying a group of selections requires many switches between the source and the destination.

Clipomatic, published by Mike Lin, is a free clipboard cache program - it remembers what was copied to the clipboard even after new data is copied, and allows you to retrieve the old data.

Up to 10 selections can be stored at a time, although this can be changed to as many as 64 selections. Selections are stored by pressing Ctrl-C.

The latest released version of Clipomatic is **2.01**. The program works with all modern versions of Windows (95 and up) and can be downloaded from

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

**Who is Mike Lin?**  
**Mike Lin was born August 23, 1983, and is a freshman at MIT and a part-time programmer for IBM.**

**See his page at [www.mlin.net](http://www.mlin.net)**

[/program.asp?program\\_id=96](/program.asp?program_id=96)

Using Clipomatic is simple. All you have to do is start it up, and it will start monitoring the clipboard and recording entries.

When you want to paste an old item, you just put the cursor where you would like to paste and press Ctrl-Alt-V instead of Ctrl-V.

A menu pops up with your clips - you can select one with the mouse or with a single keystroke. The menu then disappears, and the item is pasted with no further work on your part.

You can define clip sets that allow you to save the cache to a file or load other caches. This allows you to switch the entire cache as needed.

Moreover, you can optionally store a set of permanent clips (Name, address, password, etc.) that will always be displayed along with the current clips, and will be read-



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## Will thumb be the 'latest' in passwords?

By **LIONEL MELANÇON**

If you're like me you have a password to let you into your password file. There are passwords for anything you belong to online, your credit card, ATM, and what not.

I even have a password to let me into my garage if I don't have the pushbutton opener. Ahhhhhhhh! There's got to be something better.

Guess what, according to an article in the October 2004 issue of Discover magazine, Digital Persona has designed hardware and software that will do away with passwords. You can protect your identity with something you carry with you all the time, something that's been used for identification for a long time—your fingerprint.

The system for home PC users, is called Password Manager. It consists of a postage stamp size standalone pad, which when you need to identify yourself, you just scan your thumb on and, Zingo!

According to Digital Persona, your minutia points—about 50 to 70 locations where fingerprint ridges begin and end are stored and only about 20 or 30 of them are needed to identify you.

So if you cut your finger peeling potatoes, or somehow disfigure your print, fear not, you can still be identified, but you must take the Band-Aid off first.

The company has a foothold south of the border with a Mexican bank called Azteca, which has about 4 million users of ATMs, many of whom have no other means of identification.

They see the technology doing away with keys, like the pocket full we carry to get into our homes, start our cars, open padlocks, or any number of reasons we now carry keys.

Azteca reports a 97 percent success of identification on the first scan, and if not, you're asked to rescan.

The only problem I see, is remembering which finger to use.

## Computer tips

From **John T. Yeatts:**

Sometimes when you install an updated program and/or install a new operating system, some programs behave badly. Just go to the site below and install an older version.

Most older versions use less resources than the newer version. Some users don't require all the bells and whistles that are associated with the newer versions.

<http://www.oldversion.com/>

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