



Dick Lash on Installing a Cable Router- Firewall

After attending a meeting at Stark Tech sponsored by Road Runner about Internet Security and October's ACPCUG meeting hosting a discussion by Bright Net and his comments about security, I finally decided to have a proactive attitude toward same. I discussed it with my corporate MIS network Guru and a family member in a similar position and the conclusion was that use of a Router was a good approach. It's my understanding that the very use of a Router acts as a Firewall because it stops the hacker right at that point. Further discussion led me to select Netgear's RT314 as a quality cost effective unit. I surfed the Net and with some shopping Bots chose Emscomputing.com @ \$149 plus about \$13 shipping. I placed my order on a Monday evening and received an E-Mail acknowledgement almost immediately with a hotlink

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Giving vs. Taking

by Don Singleton,
Director, APCUG
(Association of PC
Users Groups)

Membership in
your local User

Group offers a wonderful opportunity to learn more about computers. With practically no effort on your part, other than attending a meeting, you can sit and watch a very good program, presented by a knowledgeable speaker, and frequently you also get an opportunity to participate in a raffle or door prize drawing where you have a chance to win a nice program for your computer. Even if you don't want to come to meetings, membership gets you a copy of the monthly newsletter, which contains information about upcoming meeting programs, some of which you may decide you want to attend. It also contains technical articles, reviews, and other news to read at your leisure.

But your local User Group also offers an opportunity to get a lot more out of your membership than you can possibly get by being passive. It offers the opportunity for you to become an active participant, and give something of your self (time, effort, knowledge, etc.) to benefit others. The inner satisfaction and rewards one gets from helping others are truly amazing.

People frequently point to the 80/20 rule, which is found in many aspects of life; for example, 20% of the people in an organization will do 80% of the work, while the remaining 80% of the people collectively do 20% of the work. Well, there is a further application of the 80/20 rule: the active 20% doing the work, are getting 80% of the pleasure out of the club, and the passive 80% get only 20% of the pleasure.

I encourage you to think about this for just a few minutes. Is there something that you could do to help others, so that you can see whether or not I am right? You will

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November 6, 2000

Stark Technical College,

North Canton, Ohio

6 PM: Quicken.Com by Art McRowe;

6:45 Q&A

7:30 PM: Partion Magic

by Gerry Schaefer

Giving vs. Taking

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certainly see that the returns from investing that effort to help others far out-weighs the investment. Can you give just a little bit of your time, doing whatever you do best?

Perhaps that is:

- Making a few phone calls to try to arrange something we need (speakers for a SIG, a meeting place for a SIG, advertising for the newsletter, etc.)
- Trying out a new computer program, and then writing a review of it for the newsletter, sharing what you liked and did not like about the program, so that other members can benefit from your experiences.
- Spending a little time in a one-on-one basis with a new member who just got a computer, or who just got a new program for his computer, and who is completely lost trying to figure out how to make it work.
- Donating some of your time to help church workers, or workers in some charitable organization, who are having trouble getting the most out of their computers.
- Spending a few hours sitting in a booth at a computer show, telling people that stop by the booth what your local User Group has to offer.
- Presenting a program to your user group, or to another user group in town.
- Speaking to a class in the public school system, telling them how computers are used in real life, and possibly sparking that interest that encourages them to work harder to learn how to use computers, or speaking to a group of public school teachers, teaching them things they don't know about computers, to better enable them to teach their students.
- Leading, or helping to lead, a special interest group, enabling UG members interested in a particular subject or program, to get together and share their experiences with others that have that same interest.
- Joining us in the UG's Refurbishing Computers project, to help recondition old computers to be donated to some worthy non-profit agency, or other worthy recipient.
- Spending some time adapting computers to aid the handicapped, so that a quadriplegic confined to bed or a wheelchair, and totally dependent on others, gains some control over his own life, whether it is something as simple as

being able to turn the TV on and off without help from some-one else, or whether it is as powerful as being able to communicate his thoughts, wishes, and ideas, when previously he may have been unable to seriously communicate with the outside world.

The elected officers, and the Special Interest Group leaders are all wonderful people, since most of them are Givers, rather than Takers. It is a real pleasure interacting with this group of generous UG Members, and they do a number of things to help make UG successful for the rest of the membership. But they can only do so much. There are many things that could be done, but are not currently being done, and I would be willing to bet your UG's President cannot in good conscience ask these Givers to give even more.

Not that they would not accept the responsibility; they probably would, but he/she would run the risk of burning them out. What your President needs is a few more people to become Givers.

If you would be interested in helping your local User Group in any particular way, please let your President know. Things get pretty hectic at a meeting, so just mentioning your interest runs a risk that he/she may forget it when someone after you brings up something else entirely. But if you would write down your name, phone number, and the particular skills you have which you think your local User Group might be able to use, and perhaps an indication of the amount of time you would be able to devote each month, and either bring this to a meeting, or mail it to your President, he/she will do everything possible to match you up with a job you can handle, and you can start reaping the rewards of being a Giver.

And if your UG President can't find enough to keep you busy, contact www.president~apcug.org, and I bet Dan can find some committee in APCUG that could really use your help.

Your ACPCUG needs volunteers and officers!

List of jobs (not offices necessarily) include:

Meeting Chairperson

Web site manager

E-mail reminders

Software evaluation coordinator

Community contact liaison

Recycling hardware

Publicity Membership promotion

ACPCUG liaison, CCS liaison, SIGS leaders

Dick Lash on Cable Router

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to their site and an order number which the next day led me to a UPS tracking number with a hotlink to UPS which told me my order was shipped and should be arriving Thursday. Sure enough, it arrived as indicated. The real delight was reading the foldout installation guide equal to about 16 pages. It was straightforward, and pictorial where possible. I believe the whole process took me less than a half hour, and it worked straight out of the box. That's a rarity for me. Seems like I'm always getting involved in new technology that with my limited knowledge usually doesn't quite work the way I expected (hoped). This was an extremely pleasant experience.

Some of the Netgear RT314 specs are:

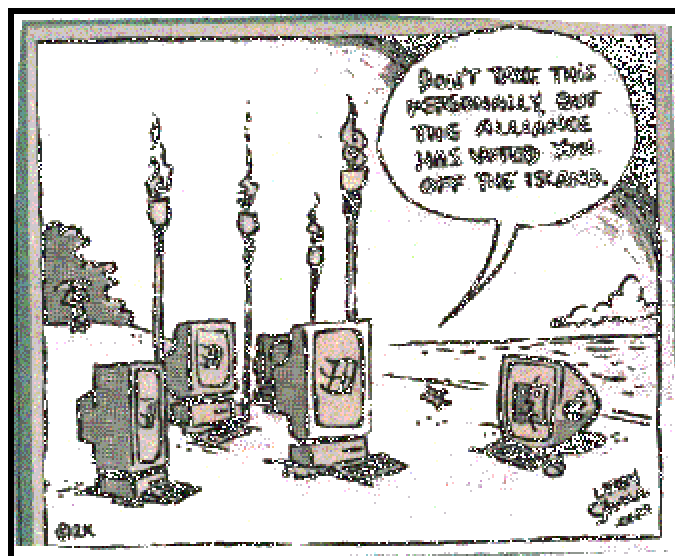
- Integrated 4 port 10/100 mbps switch
- Network address translation adds security to your network
- Software provided offers option to increase Firewall security
- Simple web browser-based set-up
- Connect to DSL or cable modem
- Shares one Internet subscription from your ISP
- PPPoE and PPTP support
- Free 24/7 support

After successfully hooking this up to my home network in place of the hub I had used before, my Wife and I each got on separate PC's and surfed the Net with no knowledge or interference from each other. This is the culmination of a 20 month quest for my wife and I to use our Road Runner service whenever we wished from separate PC's. We also



picked up speed between our PC's on our Intranet because we are now operating at 100mbps instead of just 10.

PS I still turn off my computer when I'm not using it for extended periods of time.



The Deals Guy, Bob Click

Greater Orlando Computer Users Group A Tough Education

I was out of town at the deadline last month and needed a last minute correction. I write the column in MS Word at home and all the URLs and e-mail addresses are in hypertext, but I have only Word Perfect and SmartSuite on my new laptop. I opened my MS Word file in WP to make a one-line correction and noticed I could save it as a .doc file (MS Word format). Great, I thought, and quickly sent it out to the editors.

Minutes later, I received e-mail from Don Singleton showing me that only the brackets remained for URLs (apparently Word Perfect had stripped all my hypertext during the conversion). Since I had stupidly saved it back to the original file, I e-mailed all the editors about the problem saying I would send it again when I returned home. Later that day I remembered I had uploaded the column to the editor's private page on my Web site so I downloaded it and resent it in tact to everybody. So much for editing a Word file in WP.

I've been holding back a few items that I felt would have limited interest and decided to run them before they got too old. When checking the URLs before sending it to my proofreader, three of the vendors were missing. There was no sign of them and I was unable to track them down. Even the phones were disconnected. Good thing I didn't use them before. Imagine my last minute haste!

Still Good

Ken Winograd's games are all still good. The Pinnacle user group program is ongoing. NetSonic's Pro deal should still be good, but you actually need to go into the ordering process to see the \$29.95 price when you use that long URL. It should show that price on your order form. The Enfish software is still free. Be aware that there are URLs built into the software, but you don't see them unless you want to.

I also read an uncomplimentary article about freedsl.com in a magazine.

Now for the deals and last minute additions that I hope will catch your interest.

Check Out Your Smarts And Make Money

ItPaysToLearn.com is "said to be" a site where visitors can go to take a quiz while getting PAID, even if your answer is WRONG. Supposedly you're paid 1/10th cent for each WRONG answer, and 2/10th cent for a CORRECT answer. They also encourage what might appear to be a "pyramid scheme." You recommend more people who might then recommend additional people, all on your be-

half, and that small change actually can translate to a right smart amount of money, according to them. Perhaps it could be used to help your user group's treasury.

I don't mean to be skeptical, just suspicious. However, it doesn't hurt to take a look at [<http://www.ItPaysToLearn.com>] for yourself where you will be asked to "sign-in." On their Web site there's even a choice for groups and you can graduate to other events. I suggest you have your firewall in place. I wonder if it is an "open-book" test! You will also be asked to take surveys and I assume that produces income for them. Good luck!

Help For AOL Mail

You can look into this at [<http://www.enetbot.com>]. I have not tried it, even though I do also use AOL. Check carefully, since it is not part of AOL and I really didn't understand what I saw, but had no time to investigate further at this writing. It looked like it offers some good features. You can download a 30-day trial version and if you like it, the cost is \$19.95.

Another Internet Phone Service -
("Hello Again Mom, Its Your Cheapskate Son")

I assume you are all aware of Dialpad.com and the following may be a similar service. It offers "free" PC-to-phone calling to US, Canada, UK, Ireland and Germany right now. They plan service to other countries at a later date so sign up for the newsletter. Look it over for yourself at [<http://www.go2call.com>].

This company was written up as a recommended "buy" in Financial Sentinel NASDAQ symbol NTOP) and they spoke glowingly about its "voice technology." The article said they charge "a penny" for long distance calls within the US, but I didn't see that on their Web site. However, I haven't bought any of their stock yet.

How About a Free Voicemail Box For Life

EchoBuzz by Blue Diamond Software Inc. was supposedly the first free voicemail service to be launched. EchoBuzz will be completely toll-free to users nationwide using speech recognition technology. It is ad supported and targets 12-24-year-olds that don't have their own phone line. EchoBuzz members can pre-register for their private voicemail box by logging onto [www.echobuzz.com] and completing a brief personal profile, after registration. This allows the service to personalize three-

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The Deals Guy, Bob Click

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to-ten-second ads to the specific interests of the caller. Members will hear approximately one to three ads per call, depending on the number of options they choose.

It's FREE, it's private and it's easy to use according to the CEO of Blue Diamond Software. "It's also the first voicemail service made available to consumers outside the business community without the barriers of separate phone lines and access or usage fees, and should be useful to the younger set."

To use EchoBuzz, callers dial a toll-free number, 1-877-EchoBuzz (1-877-324-6289), to send and retrieve messages. That number always seems to be busy, so it needs work. Besides the traditional method of menu-driven touch-tones, EchoBuzz will employ speech-recognition technology, permitting hands-free navigation of the voicemail system. EchoBuzz, now used in Southern California, begins nationwide in September, just in time for students heading back to school. Let's hope this helps free up your phone line if you have kids.

A Tune-up For Your Windows by iolo technologies (no caps is correct)

The following is their words: "Keep your PC running faster, cleaner and error-free. Even speed-up your Internet connection by as much as 300% with 'System Mechanic's' full suite of 15 powerful tools! These powerful tools allow you to find and fix problems with your system, ensure reliability and speed, and properly maintain your PC so problems don't occur.

(NEW!) Tweak and customize almost 100 undocumented settings in Windows.

Clean and optimize your system registry. Hunt down and remove junk and obsolete files. Maintain privacy and security by eliminating tracks left behind while using your computer or surfing the Web. *Properly* remove such items as browser cache, cookies and other history files. Find, fix, or remove broken Windows shortcuts. Find and remove invalid uninstaller information. Find and remove duplicate files. Securely delete files and folders.

"Manage the programs that start when Windows does. Track and report on changes made to your system when installing programs. (NEW!) Consolidate critical system maintenance into one easy step. (NEW!) Automatically keep System Mechanic up-to-date with its self-healing WebUpdate feature. Log statistical information and quantify

benefits of all above tools. A fully functional 30-day trial version of System Mechanic is available from iolo technologies Web site [<http://www.iolo.com>]."

Special arrangements were made to obtain a discount for readers of this column. Purchase System Mechanic directly from their secure order form [<http://http://www.iolo.com/order/>] ONLY between November 1st and December 31st 2000 using the Coupon Code "DealsGuy" and get a \$10 discount off the

\$59.95 retail price. Alternatively, you can call their toll-free sales number 1-877-239-4656 and quote the same coupon code. I have not tried this product yet.

ClickBook Is Back (Thanks to Cathy Grammar Margolin for passing this on).

ClickBook 2000, (Prints Double Sided Booklets) offers 20+ new features. It is a powerful yet easy-to-use printing utility that automatically rotates, reduces, and realigns files to print double- or single-sided books, business cards, day planner pages, wallet booklets, brochures, greeting cards, catalogs, microfiche, and more!

User Group members will receive 20% off - \$39.95 (retail \$49.95) at:

[<http://www.bluesquirrel.com/scripts/orderpage.asp?skey=cb2000&ASCID=633>].

Due to it's length, the ordering URL is supposed to be changed to:

[<http://www.bluesquirrel.com/usergroup>] At this writing the new URL didn't take you to the discounted price yet, so check them both. For more product information, go to [<http://www.clickbook.com>].

That's it for this month. Meet me here again next month if your editor permits. This column is written to make user group members aware of special offers I have found or arranged, and my comments should not be interpreted to encourage, or discourage, the purchase of products, no matter how enthused I might sound. Bob (The Cheapskate) Click [dealsguy@mindspring.com]. Visit my Web site at [<http://www.dealsguy.com>]

Your ACPCUG Treasury

Checking account	\$1,327.52
Savings account	\$1,090.65

TOTAL Cash Assets \$2,418.17

Akron-Canton PC Users Group
 PO Box 2151
 Akron Oh 44309-2151

Next Meeting - Nov. 6th
 Stark State Technical
 College
 Main Auditorium

First Class Mail

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**December 4, 1999 Meeting,
 Taylor Memorial Library, Cuyahoga Falls
 Swap Meet—Bring old (legit) software and hardware for Sale and Donation**

**All SIGs at 200 Charlotte Street (East Entrance) Annex #8 Reservations Required
 Call 330-499-5623**
INTUIT SIG - Reservation Required.
E-MAIL SIG - Reservation Required.
INTERNET SIG - Reservation Required.
WINDOWS SIG - Reservation Required.
3COM SIG - Reservation Required

Month of November: School system using classrooms

Contact Gerry at 330-499-5623 for SIG availability

Club Officers			
President	Frank Ramsey	699-4711	aframsey@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Rick Lubinski (1999)	928-7179	lubinski@bright.net
VP			
Secretary	Walt Ruthenburg (2000)	283-7867	wruthenburg@usa.net
Program Chairman	Murray Davis (2000)	440-248-0021	murray5050@yahoo.com
Newsletter Editor	Arthur W. McRowe	666-3189	amcrowe@bright.net
Software Librarian	Gerry Schaefer	499-5623	schaefer@bright.net

Future Events	
Sun., Nov. 19th, 2000	Peter Trapp Computer Show at Tadmor Temple, Akron, OH