

Carl Bulger presided.

PRESENTATION:

Bob Rapczynski demonstrated the use of Active@KillDisk to wipe, or erase, all content from a hard drive or floppy disk. He demonstrated what the free download version will do, which is to replace everything on the disk with zeroes (0's). It can be downloaded from <http://www.killdisk.com/> This is probably sufficient for a hard disk that does not contain critically sensitive information. If you want a version that is [DoD 5220.22 M compliant](#), you can upgrade to the paid version. The DoD standard allows for randomized 0's and 1's to be repeatedly copied to the disk. This would make it extremely difficult for someone to extract sensitive information from the disk.

KillDisk must be associated with a small, bootable operating system. Bob had loaded the small OS and KillDisk on a floppy. He then went into the computer's BIOS to make sure that the floppy drive was the first disk to be read during the boot process. The floppy wouldn't boot. Bob thinks that it may have been caused by the fact that he prepared the floppy on another computer. He says it usually works properly when it is prepared on the computer containing the disk that is to be wiped. Bob also had a CD containing KillDisk and a bootable OS. He again changed the BIOS so that it would boot from the CD drive, inserted the CD, and started the process of erasing the contents from the C: drive. It took about 18 minutes.

Listening to National Public Radio on WAMU-FM, Charlotte Melichar heard a story about free online noncredit university-level courses at Stanford University. Here is the URL for the story: <http://www.npr.org/blogs/alltechconsidered/2012/01/23/145645472/stanford-takes-online-schooling-to-the-next-academic-level>

Over 10,000 people from around the world signed up for the first course on Artificial Intelligence. Surprised by the response, the professors have now set up a special website for the courses: www.Udacity.com Current examples:

CS101: Building a Search Engine and CS 373: Programming a Robotic Car

Later in 2012, they plan to offer the following courses: Theory of Computation; Operating Systems; Computer Networks; Distributed Systems; Computer Security; Algorithms and Data Structures; Software Engineering Practices; Building Web Applications.

Eric Hein disassembled an old LCD monitor. Inside a closed metal housing within the black plastic exterior were two electronic circuit boards: one was the power supply and the other was the electronics for generating the image transmitted through the cable from the computer.

Ted Catterton attended a meeting of the Bowie Crofton Camera Club at City Hall recently where a lawyer and a photographer discussed copyrighting photographs. You can do it online with the Library of Congress. The fee is the same for 1 or 1000 photographs, provided all 1000 photographs are registered at the same time.

Dale Grant mentioned a Walmart advertisement for a computer tablet with the Android 2.0 (upgradeable to 2.2) operating system for only \$90.

http://www.walmart.com/browse/Computers/Tablet-PCs/_/N-97fj?ic=48_0&path=0%3A3944&ref=+429535&refineresult=true&tab_value=Online&waRef=125875.g1258

Velocity Micro Cruz Model T301 – 2GB 7” Capacitive Color Touchscreen Entertainment Tablet and eBook Reader with Google Android 2.0 OS (free upgrade to 2.2). It has 256MMB memory and 4GB storage with an SD card slot for an additional 32GB of storage.

COMPUTER PROBLEMS:

Earl Webb explained the problem he had with Zip (.zip) files. Eric Hein said the process of extracting the files should be done automatically when you double left-click on the file. When you do that, the folder opens, and files inside appear, nicely unzipped. They stay inside that folder unless you move them somewhere else. You can double-click on each of those to open them, or move them somewhere else. Charlotte Melichar suggested that if that doesn't happen, he might try right-clicking on it to

bring up a menu which includes the option to “Extract all files”. You usually have to specify the folder to where you want the files to be extracted to.

Dennis Evans wants to know if anyone knows how to divide a 300-digit integer by a 500-digit integer. He says the typical algorithm will only handle integers up to about 20 digits.