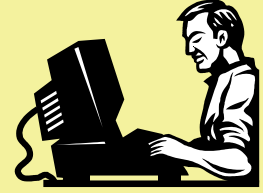




# Kokomo PC Users Group



A great Users Group is the most important accessory you can have for your computer !

## Remember

### NO Group Meeting in July

We will all take a well  
deserved rest.  
(Don't want the  
computers to overheat.)

#### Presidents Message

By: Mark Pendergast - Da Prez

I am not having a good June. The hard drive in my laptop at work crashed. It is a real pain to get everything set back up again. At least I will be working from a clean setup. Just a reminder to you at home: make sure you are backed up. After the crash is too late.

If you have a computer passion you would like to share with the Group, we would love to have you present it at one of our regular meetings. Some of our best presentations come from our own Group members talking about the programs and hardware they love. Just let one of the officers know that you would like to present and what topic you will be presenting.

If you feel that you would like to become involved in the leadership of the Group, please volunteer to be an officer. We are looking for warm bodies ... I mean visionary leaders to participate in the leadership of the Group.

We continue to offer warm hospitality and engaging meetings. Please take a moment to invite a friend to one of our regular meetings. We offer first class presentations, good fellowship and an informative question and answer period. If they join our group they will also receive our wonderful newsletter, mailed directly to their home or office.

If you have any tips or tricks for improving our enjoyment of our PCs, please write them up in a short article for the newsletter. We would love to hear how clever you are and would like to learn your secrets. You can also earn User Bux for each full page of original text.

## Kokomo PC Users Group



### Recovering from disaster

By Mark Pendergast

As I mentioned in my President's message, I had a hard drive crash at work. It was a pain to recover all my lost settings and although I have very little data on my C drive, I miss what was there.

When the computer repair guy returned my laptop with the new hard drive it looked like a working PC, but it was not 'MY' PC.

The first thing I did was fire up all my applications. Most of them were loaded correctly. Though quite a few had me go through the first time user setup. I had to tell it not to show the startup pane when it loaded the application.

I had to get my start menu back in shape. I like the new Windows XP format, with small icons. I also had to pin my favorite programs back to the top of the start menu.

The default for folders was the icon view. I had to change it to the detail view. I also had to set other preferences like show me the file extensions and show me hidden files. Then I had to remember how to make this the default for all folders.

I lost all my IE bookmarks so I had to go back to all the sites I remembered and create new bookmarks. I am still missing a ton, but I add them as I need them.

I had to change MS Word so it would not do all the auto-correction of my typing. It especially drives me crazy when it creates bulleted lists when I use a dash to show an indent. (I had to do this in Excel as well.)

I had to tell Word, Excel and PowerPoint to show full menus all the time. I hate the 'show the most recently used' option on the drop down menus. I just can't work that way.

I have lost my 'Corporate' templates for PowerPoint. Now I have to copy an old presentation and strip out all the slides to get the correct format to start the new presentation. (I suppose some day I will find the templates again.)

I had to load java in order to get some of my web applications to work correctly. I was able to load it from the internal company mirror site, rather than going to sun.com.

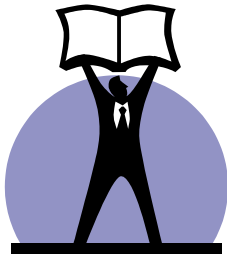
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Recovering from  
disaster  
(continued)

I also had to reload my printer/ scanner manager software and my PALM pilot synchronization software. There are non-corporate 'extras' that I have running to make my life easier.

I normally have the Perl programming language loaded on my PC, but that will have to wait until I have more spare time - both to load it and to use it.

I am sure there were a million other tweaks that I had to perform to get back to something resembling normal. Hopefully I can go another five years or so before I have another crash.



### **Get the right word every time**      By Mark Pendergast

Many times when I am writing I feel like I need to find the perfect word to say what I mean. Other times it seems like I am using the same word over and over. On these occasions I hunt through my den for my handy Thesaurus - and sometimes it is quite a hunt.

If you have this problem, help is on the way. Microsoft Office offers an on-line Thesaurus. It is available in most Office applications under the "Tools > Language > Thesaurus..." menu choice.

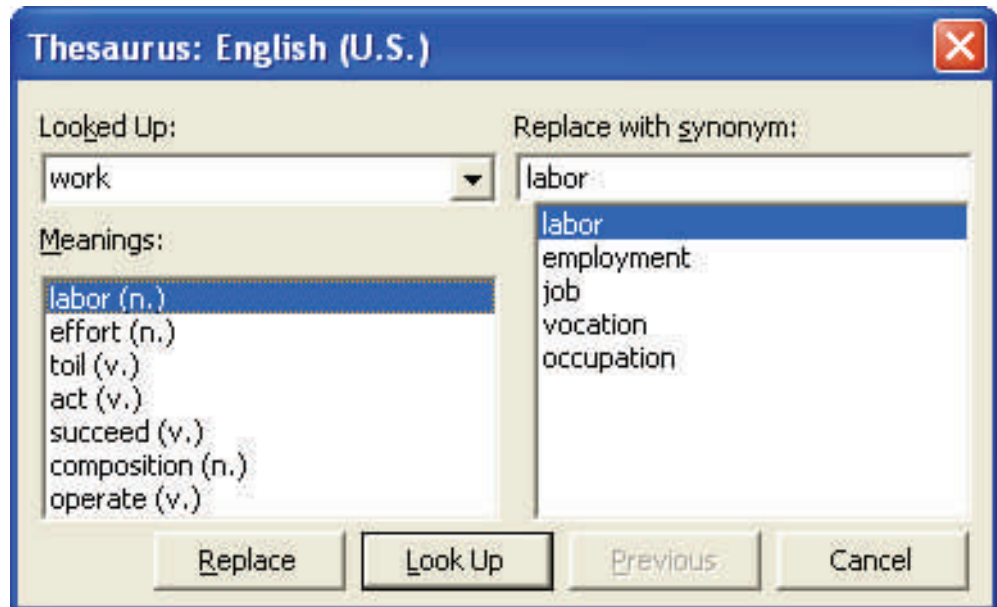
Just select a word in your document. I have selected the word "work". Use the menu to launch the thesaurus. (See the Thesaurus dialog box below.)

The various meanings of the word are available on the left. Select the meaning that you want from the list. The synonyms with the same meaning are listed on the right. If you find one you like, just select it and it will appear at the top on the right. Press the 'Replace' key to make the change.

If you don't see exactly what you want you can select one of the

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Get the right  
word every time  
(continued)



meanings on the left and press the 'Look Up' key to make it the new target word.

This is usually faster than finding your Thesaurus and looking up your word and the ability to shift through meanings is very powerful.



### Fill'er Back Up:

By Jay Eitelman

One of our Members had a problem with his Computer and he called me. As he described the problem, he was getting many errors about a BIOS problem and the computer wouldn't run. He had tried several things and the Computer was now hung up in a recovery mode and he didn't want to proceed.

I Brought his PC home with me and started working on it. I couldn't get the recovery process to abort, and was afraid that if I proceeded, it would erase any Personal data. So, I mounted his HD

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Fill'er back up  
(continued)

in my computer, as a Second HD, and browsed it for personal data. I couldn't find any. Wanting to get going quickly, I told My Acronis True Image recovery program to make a recovery image of his HD and put the file in my External Hard drive.

This way, I can always mount his Hard Drive Recovery Image as a "Virtual Drive" and extract any Data later. I reinstalled his HD in his computer, and continued with the recovery Process. Even after the system recovery, it still had some funny problems. Rather than chase the funny problems, I put in his recovery CDs and made it brand new again ... which was a little over a year old. Recovering XP from the DVDs alone, took about a hour.

Now, On with the several hours of removing the Garbage that came with it, Installing about 50 Windows critical updates (since SP2), Removing and updating obsolete programs, Installing some new stuff, and all the resulting clean up work. I had his computer working for several more hours.

Luckily, he had the HP Personal Media Storage unit, which is just a fancy USB External Hard Drive. As near as I can tell, all his personal data was stored in it. Since his Personal Data was stored elsewhere, outside of the system partition, it really made the system recovery easy .... (as easy as a difficult recovery process can be)

I'm not sure if he had caught a virus, or if Windows just got corrupted. Either way, the end result is the same. My new computer is a little over a year old now, and I've had to replace the Windows operating system 3 times now, just because Bill Gates got confused. I call this the M\$ BG Virus.

My personal Data is also stored elsewhere, so I only have to replace my operating system with an Acronis Recovery Image, which takes about 10 minutes for Acronis to rewrite my Operating System ... fill'er backup.

If he ever catches the M\$ BG virus again, I can always put his computer back to the way I have it configured (as of 5.19.06) in about 10 minutes with the computer doing all the work.

If he finds and deletes the 8gig Acronis Recovery Image I hid in his computer .... That's OK - I kept a copy.

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### Google Tricks:

By Mark Pendergast

We have all had the experience of ‘Googling’ some information and finding interesting pages that upon closer inspection turn out to be so old that they were probably created on TRS-80s.

A neat trick is to invoke the Google Advanced Search operator ‘date:’. The ‘date:’ operator limits the results to pages updated in the last 3, 6 or 12 months.

So to get really recent information on the Colts you could type in a search of Colts Football date:3. This would give you only pages that were updated in the past three months.

This feature can also be accessed from the Advanced Search screen. (Just click the Advanced Search link next to the search window.)

Hope this trick makes your searching easier. The advanced search capabilities can really cut down on the number of bad pages returned.

This Month's User Bucks M. Pendergast \$2,  
J. Eitelman \$1

**MEETINGS: Second Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM at IVY Tech**, 1815 East Morgan Street. Look for a notice of the room assignment as you come in the main East entrance. If the meeting location is changed, it will be announced on Page 1 of the newsletter. If a meeting is canceled due to inclement weather, radio stations WIOU and WWKI will be notified by 5:00 PM on the day of the meeting.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Annual membership fee is \$10. Checks should be made payable to the Kokomo -PC Users Group and mailed to: Rodney Malkoff, 3209 Janice Dr., Kokomo, IN 46902 (or pay at the meeting). Persons interested in joining the Group may receive two free issues of the newsletter. Contact the editor at the return address of this newsletter.

**BENEFITS:**

1. A one year subscription to the Group newsletter.
2. Great presentations on interesting topics at each meeting.
3. Question and Answer session at each meeting.
4. HELP from other Group members who have been down the road before, and with whom you can share your experiences.

President	Mark Pendergast, 455-2229
Vice-President	Jay Eitelman, 455-2916
Vice-President	TBD
Treasurer	Rodney Malkoff - acting
Membership Services	Rodney Malkoff, 453-1159
Newsletter Editor	Mark Pendergast, 455-2229
Newsletter Distribution	Jane Ober, 455-1583
Group WWW site	<a href="http://www.geocities.com/roood/pcusers">http://www.geocities.com/roood/pcusers</a>

**NEWSLETTER ARTICLES:** Articles may be submitted on diskette or in hard copy to the return address of this newsletter or dropped off at the monthly meeting. Please submit articles two weeks before the meeting.

**June 11th**

**Wander in Word**

We will take a wander though the wide world of Word. This is probably the most used of the MS Office applications.

Every time we start out into what seems like familiar territory we seem to find new stuff, so we will stay with our successful formula.

Hope to see you there.

**NO JULY MEETING!!!**

Join us on the 2nd  
Thursday of each month  
at Ivy Tech at 7:00 pm

Computer News & Reviews  
Questions and Answers  
Great Presentations  
Fun and Fellowship  
Monthly Newsletter

More details about the users group are published inside the back cover of this newsletter.

Or on the web at [www.geocities.com/roood/pcusers](http://www.geocities.com/roood/pcusers)