



First Issue!

Finally! I've mentioned to many students my intent to start an adult newsletter, and here (at long last) is the first issue! Why did I call this newsletter **ping**?

Submariners may use a ping (a burst of supersonic sound) to determine the range from the sub to a target. The sound will echo off the target and return. The time until the echo returns is measured and provides the range to the target.

In the computer world, a ping is not exactly the same but serves a similar purpose. You

may remember from class discussion that Ping is a command we can issue from a computer to discover whether another device on the network can be reached. Basically, we want to know "are you there?" We can use it when we aren't sure if our internet connection is working properly. Isn't that kind of what this newsletter's about: Are you there?

The author of the Ping program, Mike Muuss, who wrote the program in December 1983, named it for the sounds made by a submarine sonar.

So, just as a sub sonar operator can learn things from a ping, I hope to learn about newsletter readers from my Ping. Are you enjoying it? Can you suggest an improvement? Are you passing it along to other people? Is Ping giving you good information?

Oh, and if you want to read about the original Ping in the author's own words, visit here:

<http://ftp.arl.army.mil/~mike/ping.html>



Please don't hesitate to call 401.935.1802 or email with questions: robin@ri-computerlearningservices.com

New Classes

Don't have the time or patience to go through numerous weeks of class? Now adult students have a second option: 3-hour Saturday morning workshops (see the schedule on the back page).

- You can still get a buddy prize if you convince another student to enroll
- All workshops run 9:00 am to noon, and include coffee/tea

Is It Worth the Upgrade?

Windows 7 is being released this month, new PCs are being sold with a free upgrade from Vista to Windows 7, and there's been a lot of hype about it. Folks are wondering if it's worth paying extra to upgrade their existing system. Here's some food for thought:

- Any system can boot slowly or can be made to boot more quickly. If you don't have a lot of RAM (the short-term memory), or if you have a lot of programs starting during system boot-up, your system will be slow.
- It's true that Windows 7 has a less obtrusive User Access Control (the part that asks you if you want to continue when you tell the system you want to do something). This is a plus for Windows 7.
- Windows 7 doesn't really run any faster than Vista, according to benchmark tests. Many testers reported that it *feels* faster. There are things you can disable in Vista to help it run faster: check out this article http://www.pcworld.com/article/150079/vista_bloat.html

There are some features in Windows 7 that are eagerly anticipated. Only you can decide if you want to spend the money on an upgrade.

and a little something to enjoy with it.

- Students can bring their own laptops if they wish, or use the equipment provided.
- There's always a lower tuition for early sign-ups. All workshops are the same tuition: \$70 early bird, \$85 full price.
- Enjoy small informal classes, hands-on experience, and hand-out materials.
- Discount to military families and Chamber of Commerce members

Gleanings

Gleanings are things that are acquired bit by bit, just like this section of the newsletter. Here is a place where helpful information that has been gathered from the corners of the field (or various sources) can be shared with everyone reading the newsletter.

If you're wondering whether now's the time to change your security software, here's an article you might want to read:

http://www.pcworld.com/reviews/collection/1599/top_internet_security_suites.html



The fastest growing demographic on Facebook is now women over 50. But don't forget—when you decide to take an online quiz on Facebook, or if you use any other Facebook application, you're automatically granting access to your profile to the developer. This is valuable information to marketers, and includes even the more intimate stuff, so think twice about accepting every invitation you receive. If you don't use the games or extra stuff, you're fine.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

SCHEDULED AT THE VFW IN MIDDLETOWN

Basic Computer Skills Intermediate: Customizing your computer, software, menus & toolbars, maintenance & backups, more	10/03	Early Bird \$70.00 \$85.00 after 9/23
Basic Computer Skills Advanced: Internet safety, basic networking for multi-computer homes, installing & using email, more	10/31	Early Bird \$70.00 \$85.00 after 10/21
Introduction to Digital Camera (Also called "I just got this darn thing – now what do I do with it?") – Installing camera software, uploading photos, basic photo editing, sharing photos by email and online, printing photos. Students should come prepared with their cameras, including all package contents. In addition, students may wish to bring their own computer for this workshop.	11/07	Early Bird \$70.00 \$85.00 after 10/28
MS Word Getting Started: Creating documents, using the Formatting Tools, changing existing documents, getting help, free Office stuff, more	11/14	Early Bird \$70.00 \$85.00 after 11/04
MS Word Beyond the Basics: Controlling page layout, find/replace, inserting and changing graphics, tables, customizing, more	11/21	Early Bird \$70.00 \$85.00 after 11/11
MS Word Power Tools: Styles, merges, forms, references, collaborating, fields & properties, more	12/5/	Early Bird \$70.00 \$85.00 after 11/25
Basic Computer Skills Beginner: Basic terminology, files & file types, file management tools, windows (not Windows!), Help , more	12/19	Early Bird \$70.00 \$85.00 after 12/09

Current Class Locations:

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 4487, Captain Kenneth L. Gilbert Post, at 52 Underwood Ln in Middletown, RI (between the Getty station and the Coddington Brewery)

Lil Angels Learning Center School Age Center, at 2800 Post Rd, Warwick, RI (behind the CVS)

Phone : 401.935.1802

Fax: 866.298.7280

email: robin@ri-computerlearningservices.com

web: www.ri-computerlearningservices.com

RI COMPUTER LEARNING SERVICES, LLC



RI COMPUTER LEARNING SERVICES, LLC

THE RI HOME OF
CompuChild[®]
Technology Education

Where technology education is more than child's play!
for children & adults

P.O. BOX 4015

MIDDLETOWN, RI 02842

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.ri-computerlearningservices.com