



▶ Summer Cyber Camps.....2

O VOL 34 | O FEBRUARY | O 2011



▶ Area science competitions.....2



▶ ION Mini-Urban Challenge.....2

The Cyber *perspective*

SUPPORTING COLLABORATION...
INDUSTRY, ACADEMIA & GOVERNMENT

Cyber Updates from the Desk of Craig Spohn



Dear Friends,

My theme this month is protection and what you can do to shield your business and personal life against cyber threats. A good starting point is to examine what you are doing to safeguard yourself. Is your information stored on one computer? Is it backed up offsite? With redundancy capabilities? Most businesses and individuals are aware of threats like computer viruses, but are not as diligent as they need to be to protect themselves and may not realize they are at risk. It's important to make sure that you have up-to-date anti-virus software; it does no good, otherwise. You should also make sure that your anti-virus software has anti-spyware protection, as this will help you protect against known dangers.

Be careful using Wi-Fi hot spots. Individuals should never connect to unsecure wireless networks. Connect only with networks you trust or you could be connecting to one set up by hackers and designed to steal any information you share across the Internet.

When opening emails, always look for red flags. If you don't know the sender, see "weird" text in the subject line, or notice suspicious links, don't open it. You must also be on the look-

out for uncommon behavior from known sources. For example, hackers will send emails pretending to be your bank. They will ask you to update your information by visiting a link embedded in the message. Be careful! Once you click on that link, you could be taken to a fake website (that looks just like the real thing) designed to steal your information.

While there are many sophisticated threats that deal with complex technologies, many are simple scams designed to socially engineer your behavior. They trick you into giving away your personal information, like a user name and password. Be careful about how much information you give away. For example, don't post when you'll be on vacation or specifics about where you'll be. There are now even apps that track your every location. This type of behavior makes it very easy to become a target or cyber stalked.

Social networking sites such as Facebook® and LinkedIn® are connecting people and businesses in ways that no one could have imagined 10 years ago. However, it has also opened up businesses and individuals to more cyber threats. Do your employees really need Facebook® or access to all these social network sites? Many companies are blocking access to such sites for security reasons.

Our February Member Luncheon will focus on data growth. We are honored to have Brian Vandegrift, Venyu's Vice President of Marketing and Sales, as our guest speaker. Brian is known as a problem solver. With over 15 years in technology consulting, he has helped architect data protection, disaster recovery, and hosting solutions for just about every challenging scenario a business could face. He holds certifications from Microsoft®, Citrix® and VMware® and has been with Venyu™ since 2000. Brian's innate ability to identify a client's underlying issue and deliver a cost-effective, meaningful solution has made him one of the top leaders in the data protection and recovery industry.

Brian will discuss the data boom and why he believes data growth is the number one challenge for IT managers globally. According to Brian, we as a society and business community are producing data at a rate of 60%+ expected growth every year. He will discuss how data growth will impact your business and how Venyu's new Bossier City datacenter fits into the mix.

Sincerely,
Craig Spohn



2011 Summer Residential Cyber Camps

The **Cyber Discovery Camp** held at Louisiana Tech University from May 30-June 4 will focus on cyber security through a robotics platform. Each team will be provided a Parallax Boe-Bot® and necessary supplies. The camp will feature discussion sessions, hands-on labs, a cryptographic treasure hunt/cyber-crime race, evening cyber-related film sessions, and final day cyber-challenges.

At the **Cyber Animation & Visual Effects Camp** held at LSU-S from June 13-18 teams will compete in a one-week water-powered soda bottle rocket-designed challenge. Materials kits will be provided; design and theory will be taught and demonstrated. Points and daily evaluations will allow additional bonus kits to be secured. Computer-aided design, rapid 3D prototyping, and high-speed photographic analysis will be used in the rocketry competition to teach STEM skills. The camp will include launch and systems demonstrations, physics lectures, and guest lecturers.

During the **Cyber Forensics Camp** at Northwestern State University from July 11-15 teams will compete against one another to solve a mystery. Students' problem solving, critical thinking, and creative writing skills will be challenged as they explore the world of cyber forensics analysis and cyber crime investigation.

The deadline for registration is Friday, February 18th.

[Click here for a link to the registration form.](#)

Regional Science Competitions

On Friday, March 4, Bossier Parish Community College will co-sponsor Louisiana's **Region 1 Science and Engineering Fair** at the Bossier Civic Center. Winners from local elementary, middle, and high schools will compete in 17 fields. CIC Vice President G.B Cazes will be one of the judges. The event is for contestants only and is not open to the public.

Louisiana Tech University will host a regional **Science Olympiad** tournament for middle and high school students on Saturday, March 26. Area teams will participate in one of the premiere science competitions in the nation, which provides rigorous, standards-based challenges to nearly 6,000 teams in 49 states. Science Olympiad's ever-changing lineup of events in all STEM disciplines provides a variety of career choices and exposure to practicing scientists and mentors. [For more information about Science Olympiad, please click here.](#)

In conjunction with the Cyber Innovation Center, Benton Middle School will host the **Regional Autonomous Robotics Competition** on Saturday, May 7. Middle and high school teams are coming from across Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas,

and Mississippi. Each team is given a set of guidelines from which they must program an autonomous robot to complete a series of challenges. These challenges will require speed, precision, and agility. Students will learn programming skills, problem solving, analytical thinking skills, and creativity. This event is open to the public. Please join us for this exciting day!

ION's Mini-Urban Challenge

Don't forget! On Saturday, February 19, high school students from across the region will converge on the Bossier Civic Center and prove that playing with LEGO®s can be both educational and competitive at the 2nd Annual Regional Competition of the Mini-Urban Challenge. The challenge requires high school students to design and operate a robotic car to autonomously navigate a LEGO® city. Students will exercise their skills in STEM fields and articulate their understanding of STEM skills and robotics during an oral presentation. Sixteen teams from Bossier, Caddo, Lincoln, Natchitoches, Ouachita, and Webster parishes will participate in the competition.

Upcoming Events

February 16

Monthly Member Luncheon
Harrah's Louisiana Downs
Sky Room

11:30 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.

Speaker: Brian Vandegrift
VP, Sales and Marketing, Venyu

February 19

ION's Regional Mini-Urban Challenge
Bossier Civic Center
8:00 a.m. — 8:30 p.m.

March 16

Monthly Member Luncheon
Harrah's Louisiana Downs
Sky Room

11:30 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.

Please contact JoAnn Marshall at 866-380-2746
or at joann.marshall@cyberinnovationcenter.org
for more information about these events.