

## 10 Cool Things For USB Drive

Transporting data is probably the first thing that comes to mind when you think about what you can do with a USB flash drive. However, that's not all they are capable of doing. Here are 10 things that you can do with your USB other than move data.

**Run portable applications:** In addition to storing your data, you can run portable applications from a USB flash drive. For example, OpenOffice, which is a complete office suite, is available as a portable application. Mozilla Firefox and Thunderbird are also available as portable applications. When you combine the office suite with the ability to surf the Web and check email, you'll be able to take your most vital computing applica-

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## December Graduates are Certifiable

December graduates of the Computer Networking and Troubleshooting Technology program are graduating with a record number of certifications. Over the past five years students have graduated with an average of two certifications. This December's graduates have earned an average of four certifications recognized by the information technology industry.

Graduates of the Computer Networking and Troubleshooting Technology (CNTT) program are required to obtain one certification for graduation. Most graduates obtain entry level certifications such as CompTIA's A+ certification in computer maintenance or the Microsoft Certified Desktop Support Technician credential. This time around, however, graduates have earned certifications beyond those considered entry level. In fact two graduates have successfully earned

every certification covered while they earned their Associate of Applied Science degree in the CNTT program. Michael Elkins and Greg Shure have both earned 12 certifications.

While completing the requirements for the two-year CNTT degree students are exposed to the information they need to prepare for multiple exams from CompTIA, Microsoft, and Cisco. Elkins and Shure have earned each of these and more. When asked how he was able to achieve such a high certification rate Elkins replied, "I was determined to take advantage of all the opportunities to certify that I could while I was a student." Shure added, "I wanted to get certified before I graduated so that I could get better job offers." Elkins and Shure have secured jobs prior to graduating and look forward to additional opportunities.

## Texas Comptroller Awards Scholarship Funds to LIT

Promoting a program whose motto is "every chance for every Texan," Comptroller Susan Combs presented a scholarship check to Lamar Institute of Technology on Tuesday, Oct. 20.

The scholarship funds, totaling \$32,972, will be available to students who demonstrate financial need, who are Texas residents, and who are enrolled at LIT in one of 19 high-demand technology training programs identified in the grant.

The scholarship money is part of the Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) Program, which aims to meet work force needs training at community colleges. The Comptroller's Office administers the program.

The Comptroller's Office did a study titled "Texas Works 2008," found that 80 percent of jobs in the state did not require a four-year degree. Because there is a gap between funding for

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Texas Comptroller Susan Combs presents LIT President Dr. Paul Szuch with a check to support the JET scholarship program.

*Photo by Beth Miller*

# Networking Student Writes IT Comic Book

College students learn differently today. They are not content to sit in class and simply listen while the instructor lectures and clicks through an extended Power Point presentation. Computer Networking and Troubleshooting Technology (CNTT) student Jonathan Barabin and few of his classmates are doing something to change the way they study the concepts in their networking classes.

This semester Barabin started work on a comic book that will be centered on the characters Binary Man and Binary Boy. The concept of the book came to Barabin while studying for a test in Network Infrastructure class. "I was having trouble connecting all the different concepts together and was looking for a way to help bring it all together." He went on to say, "I knew that if I was having this much trouble then I was sure that my friends were too. I figured the best way to learn this stuff was to teach it to someone else." And thus the idea for the book was born.

**"I have seen a real change  
in the students..."**

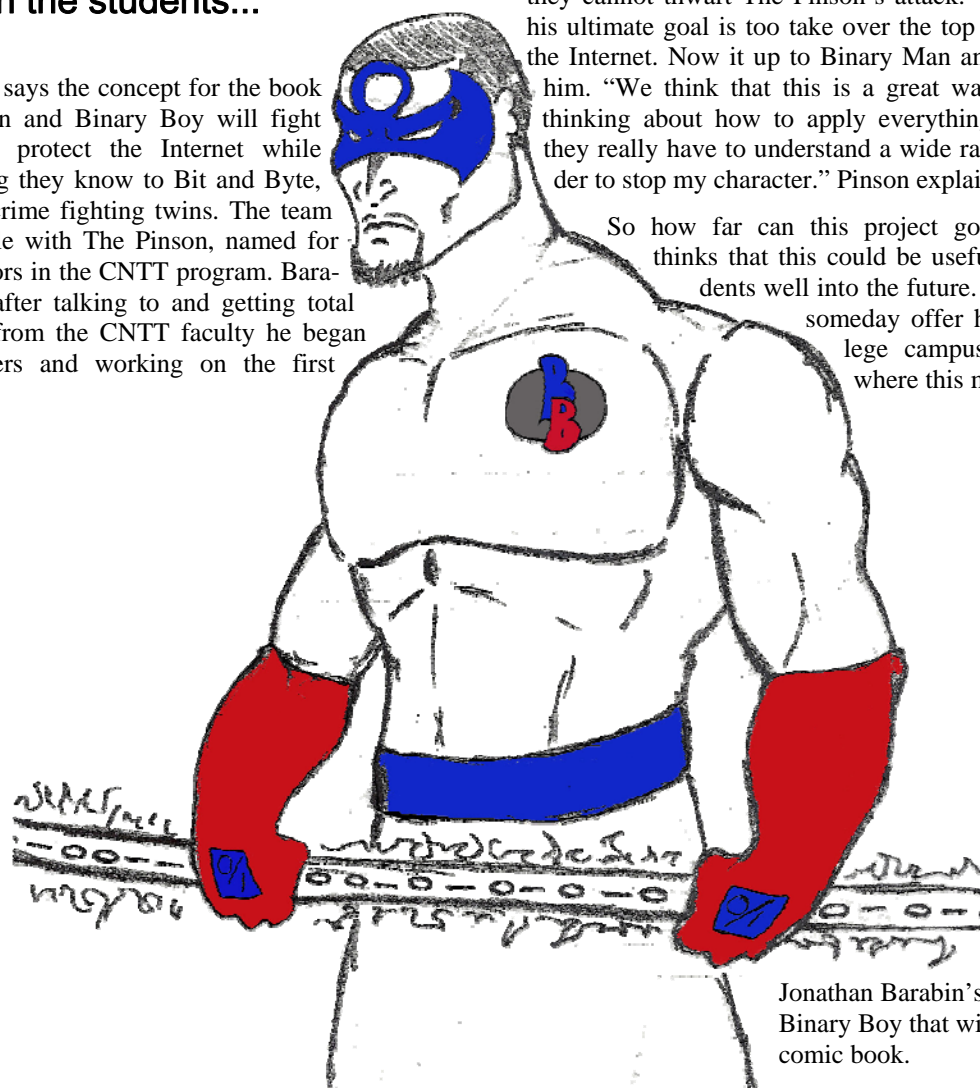
Barabin explains says the concept for the book is that Binary Man and Binary Boy will fight digital crime and protect the Internet while teaching everything they know to Bit and Byte, upcoming digital crime fighting twins. The team will be doing battle with The Pinson, named for one of the instructors in the CNTT program. Barabin explains that after talking to and getting total support from the CNTT faculty he began designing characters and working on the first

storyline. CNTT Program Director Lauri Arnold said, "We are excited about this project and believe that the students will learn a great deal while researching the scenario's and writing the different stories. I was thrilled when Jonathan approached me with this idea."

There are characters in the book for the other two CNTT faculty members as well. Tim Storbeck primarily teaches the computer maintenance courses in the CNTT program so his character is the gadget guy in the story. When the lead characters need a specific piece of hardware they will turn to Storbeck's character to help them get what they need. Barabin has not named this character as of yet. Master Admin is the working name of the character written with Lauri Arnold in mind. Barabin explained that this is the sage of the story. When the binary crime duo is stumped they will have this characters wisdom to rely on to keep them focused.

"I have seen a real change in the students that are contributing to this project," Arnold says. "They are really working to understand the concepts in class because without that understanding they cannot thwart The Pinson's attack." Pinson has told them his ultimate goal is too take over the top level DNS servers on the Internet. Now it up to Binary Man and Binary Boy to stop him. "We think that this is a great way to get our students thinking about how to apply everything they know because they really have to understand a wide range of concepts in order to stop my character." Pinson explained.

So how far can this project go? Everyone involved thinks that this could be useful for networking students well into the future. Barabin would like to someday offer his book to other college campuses. No one knows where this may lead.



Jonathan Barabin's sketch of digital hero Binary Boy that will appear in IT based comic book.

# Really Cool Uses for Your USB Flash Drive

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tions with you wherever you go.

You can find other applications to install on your USB flash drive at PortableApps.com.

**Boot an Operating System:** You can boot either Windows or Linux from a USB flash drive. To learn how to boot Windows XP from a USB flash drive, see the article "Creating a bootable USB flash drive for Windows XP" at [www.techrepublic.com](http://www.techrepublic.com). To learn how to boot a version of Linux, see the article "Puppy Linux teaches an old dog new tricks."

**Connect to a wireless network:** You can use the Wireless Network Setup Wizard in Windows XP or the Windows Connect Now (WCN) feature built into Vista to save wireless network configuration information to a USB flash drive. This allows you to quickly and easily connect another device to your wireless network. Learn more about this feature in the Windows Help And Support Center.

**Create a password reset disk:** In Windows Vista, you can use USB flash drive rather than a floppy disk as a password reset disk. For details on how to do so, see the article "Create a Vista password reset disk using a USB flash drive" at the Tech Republic website.

**Boost performance:** If you're running Windows Vista, you can use a USB flash drive to speed up your system with the ReadyBoost technology. ReadyBoost can

use the storage space on a USB Flash drive as an additional memory cache to aid the memory cache on your hard disk which will significantly improve system responsiveness.

**Manage it:** If all you really want to do with your USB flash drive is transport data, and you're running Windows XP, you can do so more efficiently with the Microsoft USB Flash Drive Manager. Once you have installed this manager, you can easily copy files to and from your drive, back up and restore the entire flash drive to and from your hard disk, change the drive label, and even create an autorun.inf file to launch Drive Manager automatically when you plug in the drive.

**Use it as an MP3 player:** You can use a USB flash drive as an MP3 player along with Windows Media Player and a set of headphones. Just copy your MP3 files to your USB flash drive, plug it into your computer, and direct Windows Media Player to build a library of the songs on your drive. You can even use all of Windows Media Player's playback features.

**Password-protect it:** If you use a USB flash drive to transport sensitive data that you would prefer to protect from prying eyes, should you lose the drive, Rohos Mini Drive can safeguard that data. You can download (and read a review of) Rohos Mini Drive at [Download.com](http://Download.com).

**Run a Web site from it:** If

you are a Web developer, you may be interested to know that with Server2Go, you can easily run a Web server that supports Apache, PHP, MySQL, and Perl right from a USB flash drive. You can use Server2Go right out of the box without any installation. For more information about this package, visit the Server2Go site.

**Lock your PC:** You'll definitely want to investigate Predator. This little freeware utility will allow you to turn a USB flash drive into a key you can use to lock and unlock your computer.

While the USB flash drive is connected to your computer, everything works as it normally would. Once you remove the USB flash drive, your computer is locked down — the keyboard and mouse are disabled and the screen darkens. To learn more about Predator, visit / [www.montpellier-informatique.com](http://www.montpellier-informatique.com).

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*Photo from Google Images*



## JET Scholarship to Support Training in High-Demand Fields

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four-year educations and two-year degrees, the Comptroller's office sought to remedy that, and the result is the JET Program.

One-third of program serves to provide scholarship funds for students like those at LIT.

LIT will offer scholarships to both current students and new students in identified programs for the spring 2010 semester.

Identified programs are Business and Computer Information Systems, Commercial Construction, Computer Drafting Technology, Computer Networking/Troubleshooting, Heating, Venti-

lation and Air Conditioning, Instrumentation Technology, Occupational Safety and Health, Process Operating Technology, Utility Line Technology, Industrial Mechanics, Advanced Engine Technology, Welding, Dental Hygiene, Respiratory Care, Medical Radiologic Technology, Cardiovascular Sonography, Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Emergency Medical Technology and Health Information Technology.

To qualify for the scholarship, students must be Texas residents, demonstrate financial need by completion of the FAFSA, and major in one of the identified programs.

*Article reprinted from [www.LIT.edu](http://www.LIT.edu)*





## CRA Fundraising Pays Off

The Computer Resource Association sold links and drinks as its Fall fundraiser on October 28 to support certification efforts of club members. The Spring fundraiser is already drawing attention and support beyond the campus.

Thanks to great support from the entire campus and creative sales techniques, record sales were achieved. CRA treasurer Adrian Moses reported at the club meeting that over \$700 in profit was made at the event. Moses thanked all those that participated in the fundraiser. Special recognition was given to member Crystal Falcon for her "door-to-door" lunch sales. Falcon collected orders early in the morning on the day of the event and then delivered hot links and cold drinks in time for lunch to all those that placed an order.

Club members had voted to hold the event with a special goal in mind, to reimburse members for the cost of successful certifications. The CRA club president, Micah Shirley, estimates that 12 to 15 members will be able to take advantage of the money this semester. Plans are already underway for next semester's

fundraiser so that the practice can be continued.

Members are planning a LAN party as the Spring fundraiser. Final decisions still need to be made before formal announcements are made and members already have the support of a local computer company. Kevin Grinnell of Grinnell computers has pledged support of the gaming tournament that is being planned. Grinnell and his staff will assist in the setup and management of the CRA LAN party. Of course, they will also play along and against club members. "My staff and I are really looking forward to helping get everything setup and then we are looking forward to hunting them down," said Grinnell. Vance Green, the CRA member serving as chairman for the event, said that he is really excited about putting this all together. "It will be like no fundraiser LIT has seen before," Green said.

Look for more announcements in the coming months about this and other events planned for the Spring in the December CNTT newsletter.

## Club Events Calendar

November:

13th 1:00pm to 3:00pm  
Campus Computer Lab Clean-up Day

17th 1:30pm  
CRA Club Meeting

18th 2:00pm  
LAN Party Committee Meeting

25th Thanksgiving Holiday

26th Thanksgiving Holiday

27th Thanksgiving Holiday

December:

1st 1:30  
CRA Club Meeting

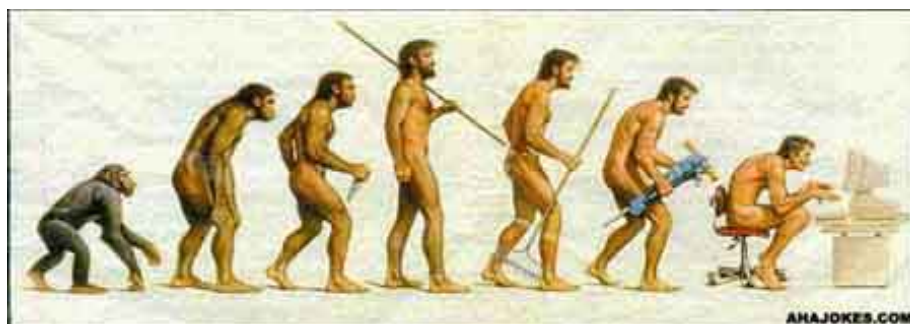
10th Final Exams Begin

18th CRA End of Semester Party

## Reminder

Online Study Groups are hosted nightly at [www.Stickam.com](http://www.Stickam.com).

Check out the club Wiki for details:  
<http://litcra.wikispaces.com/>



## Bits and Bytes

Lauri Arnold  
[lauri.arnold@lit.edu](mailto:lauri.arnold@lit.edu)  
409-839-2050

EDLD 5366  
ET-8012

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