



# Department of Information & Communications Services

October 2005

**BITS & BYTES**


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*Bits & Bytes is distributed electronically on a monthly basis to all DSO, ADSO, SO, and FSO-IS and CS Officers.*

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## Mass migration is drawing near!

Final plans are under way for the migration of AUX unit websites from the old server to the new National LINUX server. Actual movement will begin in November! There will be two important tasks for all Auxiliary webmasters to do, if you have a free unit website currently hosted on the National server:

- 1) You **\*must\*** have your current website fully backed up on your home computer, and we would recommend on a CD as well! There will be **no** National backup available to you, so it's up to you to protect the hard work invested in your site.
- 2) You should check out  at: <http://csguide.auxservices.org/index.php> at **least weekly** for possible updates and further information. As soon as additional details of the move are available, it will be posted there.

With patience and cooperation we expect the move will go smoothly, with minimum disruptions in service.

Jeff Mahl, [DC-1](#)

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## Operation Life Ring



In the wake of the suffering caused by Hurricane Katrina, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is launching *Operation Life Ring*, a humanitarian effort to assist the citizens of the Gulf Coast region, and any others whose lives have been forever changed by this catastrophe.

When you click on the logo to the left, you will receive information in support of hurricane Katrina relief efforts. Webmasters are encouraged to include the active link logo (below) on your websites if possible.

Jeff Mahl, [DC-1](#)

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## Browsers and Their Caches

In the olden days hunters would wander out from the main camp for days and days and then come back. They cleverly dropped off a day's ration at the end of each day for the return trip instead of carrying the whole load along every day. The dropped off stuff was named their "stash" or "cache". In more recent times we tend to observe one another to find out how we work. It turns out statistically, that whatever you need to use next, or whatever you are looking for to use is among the things you just used. This seems to be true about 80% of the time. So, for example, if you need the hammer, chances are it is lying near you somewhere. Now, if you keep putting the hammer away in its normal storage every time, you have to make numerous unnecessary trips to retrieve it every time you need it. It would be much more efficient to temporarily store it near you among recently used items for the next time. That would be much quicker and more efficient.

Let's apply that thought to a web browser that mainly downloads a page at a time through your modem. That is slower than storing the same pages on your computer. So, cleverly, the Browser stores a copy of the pages it downloaded in a local place called a "cache." Then, when you ask for the next page, it first looks in its local cache and if it finds a copy there, the browser just uses that instead of downloading a new one.

Occasionally the page may have been altered by its originator on the website since the last time you viewed it and therefore your locally cached page will be out of date. In that case, the browser reads again the "new" page, and replaces the "old" one in its cache. Sometimes however, that doesn't work for some reason, and that could be a problem. We can work around this, because the browser has a button to force the browser to get a new page and replace the one in "cache". It often has the word "Refresh..." in its name. By using that button you can ensure that you are looking at the most up-to-date page.

*Herb Theisz*

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## Coast Guard Auxiliary Association (CGAuxA) Website Update

The Coast Guard Auxiliary Association (CGAuxA) is pleased to announce an all new and updated website at: [www.cgauxa.org](http://www.cgauxa.org). The website showcases the Association and its ongoing efforts to support the women and men of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Please visit the website for fresh details about the Association, for all new logo/links to the Auxiliary shopping mall portal: ShopAuxiliary. **Webmasters** are asked to update the old blue "Shop" button with the new blue/white logo button that can be found at: <http://shopauxiliary.com/linktous.htm>

*Martin Phillips, Executive Director, CGAuxA*

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## Email Netiquette

It is becoming an increasing problem for all of us when recipients of an email blindly forward the same email to others, thinking perhaps that they are helping in the distribution of its information. In reality, they are merely duplicating the information and thus the volume of email going out and being received.

To curb the unnecessary forwarding of information, we ask that *all* periodic email distributions emanating from Coast Guard Auxiliary sources (newsletters, reports, directories, etc) include in the header of the document a notice that elaborates who was included in the distribution.

The kind of emails we refer to here include AUXeNews, which is sent to all members with an email address in AUXDATA, or the I-CS Dept. monthly newsletter: Bits & Bytes which is sent to all DSO, ADSO, SO, and FSO-IS and CS Officers.

As an example, you will find a sample notice at the banner of this newsletter. Including the distribution notice at the top of such mailings makes it clear that for you to forward the publication is not necessary, unless you wish to send it to a specific individual whom you know is not included in the distribution list. We also generally recommend that for smaller distributions, the recipients not be shown in the CC: portion of your email header. You can do this by using the BCC: (blind carbon copy function).

Good judgment, and consideration of your fellow Member's email in-box capacity will help guide you in effectively getting the information exactly where it is needed \*once\*.

Jeff Mahl, [DC-I](#)

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## Two I-CS Dept. Staffers with FEMA

Two of our National Staffers have been assigned to FEMA relief efforts in Louisiana. Mary Gibbons BA-IWW and Gary Wruck BA-IRC will be working full time, directly with FEMA in the stricken area. Our best wishes go to all of those serving with FEMA as well as in Coast Guard support roles with this massive effort!

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## Using AUXINFO to Track Your Activities

There is a new "[How To](#)" (#29 AUXINFO-TrackYourActivity) available for you to track your personal activities. Follow the steps shown and when you get it on screen, save the URL in your browser's favorites. Then on a weekly or monthly basis, you can click there and see the report which will verify that your IS officer has entered all of the data which you have submitted.

Marilyn McBain, [DVC-IS](#)

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## Odd's 'n Ends

### Ever Wonder How Many Bytes a Gigabyte Really Is?...

...Especially after buying a 30 GB hard drive? Strictly speaking:

1 KB = 1024 Bytes  
1 MB = 1024 KB = 1,048,576 Bytes  
1 GB = 1024 MB = 1,073,741,824 Bytes

So 4.3 GB actually is 4,617,089,843 Bytes

Now there's a problem with all this. Hard drive manufacturers often don't adhere to a standard, quoting for example, 1,000,000,000 bytes as 1 GB (and 1,000,000 bytes as 1 MB, and so forth). The result is some of us feel short-changed when we see a 4.3 GB drive that really isn't. Well, then again, maybe it *is!*

### CD and DVD Data Access Speeds

1X ("one-speed"), 2X ("two speed"), 3X, 4X, etc., have different meanings depending upon whether we're referring to CDs (including CD-Rs, CD-RWs, and standard CD-ROM) or DVDs.

1X, in either case, represents a baseline speed for the type of drive being referred to. In the case of CDs, 1X represents a speed of 150 KBps (kilobytes per second). In the case of DVDs, 1X represents 1.38 MBps (megabytes per second) -- a little over nine times faster than CD. That's quite a difference in throughput.

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## Bits & Bytes

A resource of the Department of Information and Communication Services Ricardo Birmele, Editor, [bc-isn@cgaux.org](mailto:bc-isn@cgaux.org). If you have any complaints about the contents of this newsletter, please write them clearly in the box provided below.

