The Outer Edge

The Friendly Computer Club Helping Make Computers Friendly. On the Web at www.cipcug.org

---

How to contact us

The Outer Edge.........805-485-7121

General Info..............805-289-3960

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 51354, Oxnard, CA 93031-1354

On the Web: cipcug.org

On Facebook: Facebook.com/groups/cipcug

Officers and most board members can be contacted through the following aliases:

President…........president@cipcug.org

Vice President/Program Chairman
.…….....vicepresident@cipcug.org

Secretary..……..secretary@cipcug.org

Treasurer……..treasurer@cipcug.org

Web Page Editor
………......webmaster@cipcug.org

TOE editor...………editor@cipcug.org

Membership Chairman
………..…membership@cipcug.org

COMMAND.COM

By Sandy Tsutsui-Trujillo

I want to express our gratitude to the estate of Carl McMurray, Richard's father, for the $5,000 donation for equipment.

We appreciate everyone who purchases raffle tickets. It helps with our regular expenses such as payment for our meeting room and newsletter.

I apologize; I had to step out of the January meeting for a doctor's appointment and thought I took the name of the member who expressed an interest in the book evaluation, but I can't find it. The books available for evaluation are:

● "Beginning NFC"
● "PHP Cookbook"
● "Efficient Android Threading"

The newest books available from O'Reilly for review are:

● "Thinking with Data"
● "Ask, Measure, Learn"
● "Mobile Design Pattern Gallery"

If you are interested in reviewing one of the O'Reilly books. please contact the board, and we'll request the book for you.

Tsutsui-Trujillo

The following was sent by Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG). Unfortunately the APCUG Winter 2014 Virtual Technology Conference overlaps with our February meeting. The videos will be available after the conference at the link below.

"APCUG's FREE 2014 Winter Virtual Technology Conference (VTC) will be held on Saturday, Feb. 22, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern time (10 a.m-2 p.m. Pacific). The sessions are 50 minutes in length and offer attendees the opportunity to ask questions via a chat window. Videos from earlier conferences can be found on APCUG's YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/apcugvideos.

"To register for this VTC, please click on the below link:

"http://bit.ly/APCUG-2014-Winter-VTC-Registration

"Spread the word by forwarding this e-mail to your members. VTCs are a great way for your members to expand their technology experience and be introduced to new skills. Below are the sessions that are currently scheduled.

"http://bit.ly/APCUG-2014-Winter-VTC. This link is where you can view the presenter bios and, after the conference, you can download the handouts

Root Directory

AWARDS

2004 APCUG: Large groups first place for website.

2006 Southwest User Group Conference: second place in both the newsletter and Web site contests.

2011 APCUG first place in the newsletter contest (medium groups).

2012 APCUG first place in the newsletter contest (medium groups).
    .

Channel Islands
PC Users Group
CIPCUG mailing address:
P.O. Box 51354, Oxnard, CA
93031-1354

Executive Committee
(Elected members of Board of Directors)
President…….........Sandy Tsutsui-Trujillo
……………………….president@cipcug.org
Vice President/Program Chairman
……………….…...……………….Craig Ladd
…………………...vicepresident@cipcug.org
Secretary…….Diane Mortensen-Henderson
………………………...secretary@cipcug.org
Treasurer……….….…………......Art Lewis
………………………..treasurer@cipcug.org
Immediate Past President
………………………….......James Brown
...……………….....shapeshifterjpb@aol.com

(Appointed members
of Board of Directors)
Technical Adviser…………..Toby Scott
Web Page Editor…………...Andy Toth
………………...webmaster@cipcug.org
TOE editor…………………John Weigle
……………………...editor@cipcug.org
Membership Chairman…....Ken Church
……………….membership@cipcug.org

Ex-officio members of Board of Directors
CIPCUG ISP Signups………..Art Lewis
Sound Equipment Technician
……………………………….Curt Davison
Program Chairman…….…..…Craig Ladd
Publicity Chairman...………..…Rick Curry
SIG coordinator…..……....Larry Hudson

Past Presidents
Walt Yates…………………..….1987-1989
Lois Evans de Violini…….……...1989-1991
Terry Lee………………………...1991-1993
Jerry McLoud……………….…...1993-1995
Robert Provart……………….…...1995-1997
Toby Scott………………….…...1997-1999
George Lakes ………………….....1999-2001
Andy Toth……………………...2001-2003
David Harris…………………...2003-2005
Lois Evans de Violini 2005-2007
Paul Westefer……………………..2007-2009
Rick Curry…………………….…2009-2011
James Brown……………….….…2011-2013

(With the exception of the immediate past president, past presidents are not board members.)
Life members
Frank Segesman*
Toby Scott
Lois Evans de Violini
Art Lewis
Helen Long
*Deceased

CIPCUG NEWS AND EVENTS

More on Command.com

(Continued from page 1)

and get links to the videos.

"If you would like further information, send an email to virtualconferences@apcug.org

"TRACK 1

"So You've Got a New Computer. Now What?

"Bob Gostischa, Avast

"A new computer is a wonderful new tool but can also be a source of real frustration. Turning this new addition into your friend and something that will make your life easier is what this presentation is all about. This presentation focuses on normal computer users, rather than 'IT geeks,' and clearly explains the following topics:

"● Installing Avast! Free on your new computer so you're protected against virus, worms, Trojans, rootkits

"● Removing pre-installed unwanted/unneeded programs before you've ever used the computer

"● Setting up a backup routine to prevent a disaster — before it happens

"● Creating a bootable System Recovery USB thumb drive or CD / DVD

"● Computer safety tips

"● Other free software used to create layered protection

"● Features and benefits of Avast's free antivirus program

"● Android Smartphone and Tablet safety and protection recommendations

"Quick & Beautiful Web Pages

"Jim Evans, Director, APCUG

"Sometimes you just need a simple one-page Web page. You don't want to bother with messy HTML, your friend of a friend expert is too busy and those so-called easy website creation sites are a pain. Well, there are solutions and they are free. In this session, we will look at:

"● About.me — Remember business cards? Yeah, they are still around, but this is a web version. You can have your group's logo, a picture, contact information and even a description of you or your group.

"● Tackk.com — Remember the fliers you used to post on bulletin boards? Now there is Web version. Got a great meeting coming up and want to promote with information, directions, map and pictures? In just a few minutes you can have a professional looking flier that you can share on the web and via email.

"A Comparison of Windows 7, 8, and 8.1

"Francis Chao, Member, Tucson Computer Society, AZ

"At the present time, you have a choice between running Windows 7, 8, and 8.1. Your selection between these operating systems should depend on the differences in their various features. Francis will explore those features.

"User Group Session

"APCUG and Your $50

Program for February will be announced

Programs

No program had been confirmed in time for this issue, so watch cipcug.org for details when they're announced. The meeting will be on Feb. 22 meeting at the Camarillo Boys & Girls Club, 1500 Temple Ave. (Ponderosa Drive and Temple Avenue), Camarillo (see the map on the last page).

Barring unusual problems, the doors will open at 8 a.m. and the meeting will start at 8:45 a.m., with the pre-meeting SIGs on the Internet and connectivity and on Android devices and their apps. The business meeting will start at 9:30, followed by the Q&A session at 10 a.m., coffee break at 10:30 a.m. and the program at 11 a.m.

Dates of other coming meetings:

March 22
April 26
May 24
June 28
July 26
Aug. 23

Door prizes

We have two types of raffle tickets: one for prizes offered by the presenter and one for club-provided prizes. The tickets for the presenter's prizes are free and limited to one per member.

The tickets for the club-provided prizes are $1 each, $5 for six tickets, $10 for 13 tickets, $15 for 20 tickets and $20 for 27 tickets and are available to anyone. Those who can't stay until the drawing may sign their tickets and give the person selling the tickets a list of the prizes they would like in the order they'd pick them. Winners' prizes will be held until the next meeting.

Consignment table

A consignment table is set up at every meeting. Anyone can buy, but only members can sell.

The club gets 10 percent of the sales price. Sold items must be picked up at the end of the day's meeting.

Any items not picked up will become the property of CIPCUG and will be subject to disposal at the club's discretion.

CIPCUG is not responsible in any way for items bought or sold at the table. Each item is sold as-is unless otherwise stated.

Meeting, SIG notices

If you would like e-mail notices of regular meetings and SIGs, go to www.cipcug.org, where you'll find a link on the home page to sign up. The URL is cipcug.org/listserv.cfm.

You will need your membership number, which is on the back cover of TOE, to complete the sign-up.

General SIG, Q&A

Android SIG discusses BlueStacks for Mac, PC

Pre-meeting SIG

We switched rooms for the two pre-meeting SIGs this month: Toby Scott moved to the small room, and Michael Shalkey presented an Android SIG in the large room. Scott suggested that we cover the Android SIG for TOE. — Editor

BlueStacks

People who want to run their Android apps on a PC, Mac or TV have a way to do so if the video card on the target machine will support the free program, Blue-Stacks (http://www.bluestacks.com). The new model will be to download software that is linked to a specific email address and that can be used on any machine — a phone, laptop, desktop or TV as the viewer. Users will probably be able to put it on a USB drive to make use even easier.

Many Android game developers are finding that they make more money by giving the game away but charging for advanced features, functionality and virtual goods, such as additional weapons or tools, depending on the game. The plan is similar to, but more subtle than, shareware software, which allows users to test software before buying it. Shareware can generally be used for a limited time and will shut down if no payment is made.

The system creates a meritocracy. A good game attracts many users, who spread the word about it and buy the so-called freemiums, thus "giving those who do it right money."

Although Google prefers that users obtain all their Android apps from The Google Play Store, apps are also available from other locations. Going to a different site is called sideloading. "This is where Android and Apple really separate themselves. … You can't load my application on your iPad from my website. Apple won't let you." The stated reason is that Apple has reviewed the software for malware and other issues, but some people believe that it's also a matter of money. Apple does not allow apps that perform the same functions that an Apple product does, Shalkey said, citing a camera app developed by Lisa Bettany because it used one of the same commands that the Apple product does. (The app was Camera +; apparently a different app has been created by a different person as Camera Plus. — Editor) Bettany made more than $2 million in three months (it sold at $7.99) before the app was pulled from the store.

Apps for Apple devices can be obtained only through the Apple Store, while Android apps can be obtained from many sites. One such site is the Amazon app store, which is similar to the Google Play Store. Jeff Bezos, the founder of Amazon, is one of the tech world good guys, offering goods and services that are helpful to the customers even if they don't result in immediate profits for his shareholders, and The Amazon Appstore for Android is a good example of that.

Apple takes 30 percent of every sale on iTunes: music, books, apps, all of it. That is one huge reason Apple wants to keep people from selling from their own websites. Although Google also takes 30 percent (Amazon takes 15 percent) Google does not stop you from selling from your own website.

Problems with apps

Q: I tried to download BlueStacks, and it wanted access to all my devices, contacts and the Internet.

More on coming events ...

Sept. 27
Oct. 25
Nov. 15 **(third Saturday)**
Dec. 20 **(third Saturday)**

SIGs

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are sponsored by CIPCUG and led by volunteer club members. The SIGs are free to CIPCUG members.

Other than those presented during or just after the regular meeting, the SIGs run from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Ventura County Computers, 2175 Goodyear Ave., Unit 117, Ventura; phone 289-3960. From the 101 Freeway, exit at Telephone, take Telephone south to McGrath, turn left and go one block. Turn right on Goodyear and right again into the second driveway. Unit 117 is the back, right corner of the building.

The pre-meeting SIGs are at 8:45 a.m. at the Boys & Girls Club.

The general schedule:
Fourth Tuesday: Linux.
Fourth Saturday (or the regular meeting day): Internet and Connectivity SIG (Toby Scott) and Apps for Tablets and Smartphones (Jessica Scott), 8:45 a.m.

The February and March schedules:
February
Saturday, Feb. 22: Pre-meeting SIGs on the Internet and Connectivity and Tablet and Smartphone Apps at 8:45 a.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 25: Linux SIG. Bill Wayson, moderator. We will try to answer any questions regarding Linux distributions and using Linux and other open source applications.

March
Saturday, March 22: Pre-meeting SIGs on Internet and Connectivity and Tablet and Smartphone apps at 8:45 a.m.

Tuesday, March 25: Linux SIG. Moderator Bill Wayson. The topic will be announced.

Be sure to check the calendar on cipcug.org for updates on event programs, dates and times.

CIPCUG NEWS AND EVENTS

A: I haven't run into some of those problems. There are obvious reasons for some of the things it asks for. The Internet is obvious; that's how you connect, and you need to be connected to use many of the apps because as you do more the app downloads more. Your location is used to gather demographics data.

Q: Don't some companies use the contact lists to send ads to the people on your contacts list?

A: Many do. Uninstall the app if you don't like that. When you're asked to log in with your Facebook account, "that immediately gives them access to all kinds of things," including any personal information you've included on the Facebook page and lists of contacts.

Navigation buttons

Navigation buttons are at the bottom left corner of the Blue Stacks screen, although Shalkey said that on his machine they usually appear in the middle of the bar rather than at the left. Three dots are becoming a standard icon for what is called a "hamburger menu" (bun, meat, bun), another indication that many developers are living on fast foods.

As Michael showed the Jessica Scott book during the SIG (see sidebar for more information on the writer), he said that Germany does not allow books to be sold at discount. If the United States had such a law, he said, many of the brick and mortar bookstores that have shut down, would still be around. It's impossible for the brick and mortar stores to offer the

---

> **This month's topics**
> **Android SIG**
> BlueStacks
> Problems with apps
> Navigation buttons
>
> **Q&A**
> Windows 8 upgrade
> Chromecast
> From Windows 8.1 to 8
> Windows Live account
> Windows 8 upgrade key
>
> NTuser.net files
> Thunderbird to Live Mail
> Stopping emails
> Restore points
> Junk mail
> Norton Anti-Virus
> Finding duplicate files
> Chrome bookmarks
> VLC
> Concord Supplies
> Documentation for laptop features
> Windows 8 and POP3 server

---

same kinds of discounts that Amazon can, he said. Michael said his wife, who has been a holdout for paper books, has fallen in love with a Kindle he gave her as a gift. Not only can she have many books at a time on the Kindle so she always has something to read, but she can also watch TV shows and movies, listen to music and read newspapers and magazines on it.

A member of the audience said that many newspapers don't include all the content of the paper editions in their electronic editions. Such things as the comics and weekend magazines are often not included, the speaker said. Others said that the Ventura County Star and Los Angeles Times include all the printed content in the electronic editions, and Shalkey said that newspapers will have to recognize reader desires or fail. Many people under 30, for example, don't subscribe to a print version of a newspaper. In another technology change, he said, many people of all ages no longer have a land line telephone at home, having

switched to cellphones for all uses.

It's only a matter of time until cable and satellite companies lose their customers to Internet service providers for television shows. "It's not here yet. It's very painful for those of you who like CBS. I understand that. It's very hard for people who like sports. I get that." People will go to over-the-air programs, which in many areas is not satisfactory, or Internet service.

That comment sparked a spirited debate with a member of the audience, who said that someone has to provide the Internet service. Once the networks and cable companies are gone, he said, the phone companies will have all the power.

Shalkey disagreed, saying that his Internet service provider is DSL Extreme. Verizon and AT&T don't like that, he said, and are trying to make deals with Google and Netflix to be paid for their content, which would be provided to customers without affecting customers' download limits. Companies that don't make such deals would still be able to send their data, but it would be charged against the data download limits. That's one reason the net neutrality fight is important to average Internet users.

The audience member replied that someone has to bring you the Internet, and you won't be able to do away with the provider.

Shalkey said that's true as long as we're locked into the cable and phone networks, but the Internet can bypass that with wireless signals.

A different audience member said she watches movies on her phone all the time

---

The other Jessica Scott

Early in the meeting, Shalkey was displaying a BlueStacks screen of books that included a romance novel by Jessica Scott. It's not Toby's daughter, Jessica, who was at the meeting, but she and everyone else got a lot of laughs out of it.

It turns out that the author Jessica Scott is an on-duty Army officer who writes romance novels, young adult material and nonfiction. Her romance novels include "I'll Be Home for Christmas," "Anything for You," "Because of You," "Until There Was You," "All for You," and "Back to You." Her nonfiction includes "To Iraq and Back," and "The Long Way Home," both of which involve her time in, and return from, Iraq. For more information, visit her Web page at http://www.jessicascott.net/Welcome.html.

CIPCUG NEWS AND EVENTS

(Continued from page 5)
without buffering problems. The movies stream easily, he said.

Shalkey summed by saying he can download BlueStacks for free, install Android apps and play the games on his TV in addition to a PC or Mac.

Asked what kind of tablet he recommends, Shalkey said it depends on what you want to do with one. He loves the Nexus brand and the Kindle Fire and stays away from Apple because of the tight controls the company keeps on things. He likes the unlimited part of the Android world. He said the operating system is more important than the brand name of the device and said users should have at least Android 4.1. Tablets before that version are very old and can't do as much as the newer ones.

He told a questioner that BlueStacks isn't needed on the Kindle Fire, which is already an Android device.

On the Net:

The Mac App Store: http://www.apple.com/osx/apps/app-store.html

Google Play Store: https://play.google.com/store?hl=en

Amazon Appstore for Android: http://www.amazon.com/mobile-apps/b?node=2350149011

Discussion of alternate app stores and possible disadvantages: http://www.digitaltrends.com/mobile/android-app-stores/

Regular Q&A

Unless otherwise noted, questions are answered by Toby Scott. Michael Shalkey handed the computer duties and answered some questions.

Windows 8 upgrade

Q: I have Windows 7 on my desktop and bought the key code to upgrade to Windows 8. Should I upgrade and is the code still valid? I have a laptop with Windows 8.1.

A: Yes, the code is still good. Whether or not to upgrade is a personal choice, but if you decide to do so be sure you have a couple of hours. If you want to keep your apps and programs, you have to go from Windows 7 to Windows 8 and then from Windows 8 to Windows 8.1.Going directly from Windows 7 to 8.1 wipes out all the programs and data so be sure to back up to an external drive before you make any changes. Backups are not automatic; they must be configured.

Windows 8 accounts

Q: Michael mentioned recovering passwords during the business meeting. Say that I have a Hotmail account and a local account and forget the local account password.

A: Michael Shalkey: I could hack the questioner's local account. He did not have a Microsoft account.

Toby Scott: You can reset the Hotmail account password through Microsoft. When you do that, you can fire up your computer as long as it's connected to the Internet. If you're not on the Internet when you reboot, the computer will use cached credentials, which won't be the ones you changed.

Chromecast

Q: I got Chromecast for Christmas. It plugged into my TV, but all I can look at from the iPad or iPhone is YouTube and Netflix, if I subscribe to it. I can see everything from my laptop in a Google browser. Apple says I need an Apple TV tool. That wasn't clear to me in the original presentations on it.

A: Michael Shalkey: Google is expected to release its Android Package (APK) files, which allow the distribution and installation of software, for Chromecast fairly soon — sometime in March is the rumored date — which should solve a lot of the problems.

Q: I won a Chromecast and it was a nightmare to set up. I was kind of disappointed. I have Intel Wireless Display (WiDi) and there's no comparison. I also couldn't install the unit unless I had a Google account.

A: Michael Shalkey: The quality issue is understandable, but most people don't have WiDi on their computers.

Toby Scott: Today if you don't have Google and Hotmail or Windows Live accounts, you're missing out on half the Internet.

Michael Shalkey: And you need an Apple account if you buy anything on iTunes.

From Windows 8.1 to 8

Q: I gave my sister a laptop with Windows 8 on it. I told her about 8.1, and she upgraded to it but hates it. She called Microsoft, which sent her discs for Windows 8. Will she lose everything if she uses them to go back to Windows 8?

A: Yes. She has to back up everything she has.

Q: When I installed 8.1, Microsoft asked me for a lot of information and wanted me to create a Microsoft account. I didn't do it. Do I still have Windows 8.1?

A: Yes.

Michael Shalkey: But if you want to buy anything from the Microsoft store, you will need an account.

Windows Live account

Q: I have a Windows Live account, which I installed after one of the programs. Every time I go to it, it asks if I want to work online or offline. No matter what I do, it keeps asking the question.

A: Toby Scott: I've never run into that. Do a Google search.

Michael Shalkey: Start Internet Explorer, go the gear and open Internet Options > Advanced > Reset. This will delete your personal material in Internet Explorer, but that's not a problem for me because I don't use it that much. If you do, you might want to tread more lightly. A lot of your online life is hooked through Internet Explorer.

Toby Scott: You can also get to this through the Control Panel > Internet Options > Advanced and click on "Restore advanced settings." The issue is not with Internet Explorer but is more general and concerns the Internet connection options. The Internet Options is not part of Internet Explorer although IE has a link to it. If you go to connections, that's how you get to the Internet. Generally, don't mess with those settings.

Windows 8 upgrade key

Q: When I bought my machine I gave you $40 for the Windows 8 upgrade and didn't upgrade. I've lost the key. Is it gone forever?

A: You didn't give us (Ventura County Computers) the $40. You bought the

CIPCUG NEWS AND EVENTS

key from Microsoft. Throw yourself on the mercy of Microsoft, and explain the situation. It's usually pretty good about such problems. I'm sure you're not the only one who has lost the key.

I suggest that everyone who gets such a key code make a copy of it and put it somewhere that's backed up regularly so you can find it if the drive dies. I created an Installs folder for myself, but anything you'll remember will work.

NTuser.net files

Q: I have a lot of NTuser.net files on my machine.

A: Don't delete them. They have all your computer information and settings for booting, and removing them could turn your computer into a brick.

Q: I have tons of them on my Windows 7 machine.

A: Michael Shalkey: You shouldn't. I found two in the Public folder on this machine. A few minutes later, Shalkey said he also found lots of the files on the machine and said they're normally hidden so people don't delete them by mistake.

Thunderbird to Live Mail

Q: I'm looking at migrating to Windows Live Mail but can't find a way to import settings, mail and contacts from Thunderbird.

A: Toby Scott: I don't think there is one. You can export your contacts to a .csv file (comma separated variable) and nearly everything will import that. But accounts, email and the rest are a different story.

Michael Shalkey: I've had that problem with several customers and haven't found a solution.

Stopping emails

Q: In Outlook 2010, is it better to use Delete, Unsubscribe or Block Sender to control my emails?

A: Don't use "block sender." All that does is slow down your machine because even though the emails might look the same, they'll come from many addresses, so the program will be searching for addresses you'll never get another email from.

Q: So the best thing to do is just delete, delete, delete?

A: If you're trying to get rid of dupli-

cates, you can sort the messages by subject, highlight the first message, go to the end of the messages with the same subject, hold down the SHIFT key and click on the last message. Then hit DELETE to eliminate all of them.

Q: I understand that, but I'm talking about not getting any more mail from certain senders.

A: Just hit the delete key. Managing spam is difficult. I create rules to direct all known messages to certain folders. You can create a number of rules to send messages from senders you know to specific folders. I've done it because I get so much email, and now my Inbox is almost entirely junk mail. If I find something in it from someone I want to get mail from, I create a new rule for that sender. I always check the Inbox before I delete everything, but I seldom find anything I want in it.

Q: There's an unsubscribe link on many of the message, but I haven't used it.

A: Until a few years ago, that was the correct decision because it just confirmed active addresses, but the federal CAN-SPAM Act created stiff penalties for people who ignore the request or keep the address on lists they sell. The Department of Justice doesn't go after the small violators, but it does go after the mass spammers and has put some in jail.

Restore points

Q: I upgraded to Windows 8.1 but had trouble with it. I wanted to restore to before the upgrade but couldn't find any restore points in the window where they should have been.

A: You can't go back from 8.1. You have to do a new installation of Windows 8. You can go back in time in Windows 8.1 but not to downgrade to Windows 8.

Michael Shalkey: Search for system restore points, and you should find several. When you get to the System Restore windows, look for the "show more" message, and click on it.

Q: Are restore points made automatically?

A: They should be created automatically before Windows updates and other Microsoft changes.

Junk mail

Q: How do I stop junk mail in Windows Mail?

A: If you're using Outlook or Live Mail, go to the spam settings and change them to the most aggressive settings. Then check after a while to be sure it isn't blocking messages you want.

In Live Mail, go to Junk > Safety Options and chance the setting to High. If you do that, go through what's listed as junk for messages you want. If you find one you want, right click on it and add it to the "safe sender" list. This is much faster than getting all the junk in your inbox and sorting it there. Check the Junk mail folder regularly and delete the messages you don't want. If you sign up for something, the first message is likely to go to the junk mail folder.

Norton Anti-Virus

Q: I have Norton Anti-Virus installed on three machines, and late last month I got a message on my laptop that it was messed up and should be deleted and reinstalled. It seems to have happened after an update. I wondered if anyone else had the problem.

A: Probably the Internet connection went down in the middle of the install. Did they give you a link to the Norton uninstall program? (They sent discs.) Symantec by default puts its key codes in a file in the Symantec folder in My Documents. It's generally the Internet connection or a computer hiccup that makes the installations not work correctly.

Finding duplicate files

Q: Can you recommend a good duplicate file finder for Windows 8.1 that's easy to use and preferably free?

A: A check showed the CIPCUG flash drive doesn't have a duplicate file finder.

All of them are slow. I use Duplicate Files Finder on Source Forge (http://doubles.sourceforge.net/). SourceForge programs are reviewed for malware and other nefarious things before they're posted.

Chrome bookmarks

Q: How can I organize bookmarks in Chrome?

A: Click on the three-bar logo at the top right and go to Bookmarks > Book-

Program: Ventura County Grand Jury

2 members describe public watchdog agency

By John Weigle
jweigle@vcnet.com

Two members of the Ventura County Grand Jury explained what they do and encouraged CIPCUG members to consider applying for next year's panel.

"People usually think 'Law and Order,' " when they hear about the Grand Jury, said Ann Reeves, who presented the program with fellow grand juror Joy Todd, but the civil grand jury that they described has nothing to do with criminal activities. The jurors serve for 12 months as public watchdogs over county government, 10 cities, special districts and school districts.

The "grand" in grand jury does not indicate it's better than any other jury, she said. It comes from the French word for "large." The Ventura County Grand Jury has 19 members, but that number varies from county to county. The term "petit jury" — the 12 member groups that consider civil and criminal cases and determines guilt in criminal cases — comes from the French word for "small." The grand juries that make criminal indictments are chosen as needed throughout the year and disband after a single case, she explained.

The civil grand jury "investigates whether local government is serving the best interest of citizens, applying the law fairly and using our resources wisely." Any criminal matters it finds are referred to the District Attorney's Office.

A slide in the PowerPoint presentation explains what the Grand Jury can do:

"The Grand Jury is authorized to:

"Inspect and audit books, records and financial expenditures of local governments.

"Inspect conditions of detention centers and jails.

"Inquire into complaints of government mismanagement.

"Inquire into charges of any misconduct by public officials or emlpoyees."

If that sounds like a big job, it is. Grand Jurors must be 18 or older, residents of the county for at least a year immediately before serving, be of average intelligence and good character and have a sufficient knowledge of English. They serve one-year terms, which begin on July 1, and *may* serve up to 35 hours a week Monday through Friday, although that isn't true of every week. On Mondays and Fridays, the jurors generally visit agencies or facilities they oversee. They generally meet in committees on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and as a whole on Thursdays. Service on the Grand Jury is not recommended for people with 40-hour-a-week day jobs, Reeves said.

More on Q&A...

mark manager. You can display the bookmarks bar by holding down CTRL + SHIFT + B.

VLC

Q: I updated the VLC media player and it crashed lots of files and the computer itself. I uninstalled it and reinstalled an older version, which solved the problems.

A: Michael Shalkey: Welcome to the wonderful world of new is not always better.

Concord Supplies

I'd like to give a plug to concordsupplies.com. I've bought toner cartridges from them and had no problem at all. I ordered one cartridge on a Friday night and had it on Saturday afternoon.

Documentation for laptop features

Q: I have an Acer laptop that has a lot of fancy, but undocumented, features. I can't find any information about them.

A: Usually you can find that kind of information with creative Google searches. Figure out what the manufacturer calls the program and come up with some other key words and see if that helps.

Michael Shalkey: For you and a few others here, you will probably want to go to the BIOS to change the function keys so they're the old setup. Lots of people don't use the function keys (the ones on the top of the keyboard from F1 to F12), but many who do don't like the changes.

Q: Could we get an article in TOE about how to do that? Many of the AARP tax preparers have the same problem.

A: We'll have the basic idea in the Q&A, but different manufacturers use different keys to get into the BIOS, and the menus differ for each manufacturer. It would be an impossible article to write. Some of the common keys used to enter the BIOS are F2, DELETE, F10 and ESC. Entering the BIOS is done while the computer is booting and before Windows opens.

Windows 8 and POP3 server

Q: I have Windows 8 and my own POP3 mail server. How do I get the two to work together?

A: When you go to the Windows Mail setup, it will try to find your email accounts and pick up the settings from them. Since your private POP3 server won't be known by Microsoft, you'll need to check the "Manual Configuration" box in the lower left corner. Windows 8 Mail is not the same as Live Mail.

In Windows 8, there are enough different apps and programs for some things that it can be difficult to work with them. The Internet Explorer app doesn't look much like the IE program, nor does the Skype app look like the Skype program. It can get confusing having two different programs with the same name that do essentially the same thing.

CIPCUG NEWS AND EVENTS

Up to 10 members of the Grand Jury can be held over for a second year if they want to be, which provides some continuity. At the end of the year, the Grand Jury submits a report to the presiding judge of the Superior Court that describes its work during the year, makes recommendations and might or might not praise agencies or programs it finds especially laudable. All agencies mentioned in the report must submit responses, but they are not required to follow the Grand Jury recommendations.

Grand jurors receive a stipend of $25 per day and mileage of 56 cents per mile (the rate established by the Internal Revenue Service).

Most Grand Jury investigations start with a complaint from the public on such things as possible misconduct, inefficiencies, unfair treatment and public safety issues. A complaint form is available at http://grandjury.countyofventura.org. The form requires a brief summary of the problem, including names and dates. The complaints must be signed and dated, but the names of submitters are not released to the public. The complaints may be mailed, faxed or delivered in person. Complaints may also be submitted as a simple letter, which must contain the same information.

"We're not a 'gotcha' agency," Reeves said.

"The civil Grand Jury does not conduct criminal investigations," one of the slides emphasizes. "If criminal activity is suspected, an investigation is turned over the District Attorney."

The grand jurors are split into investigative committess and support committees. The investigative committees are

---

Important Grand Jury dates

January-April 15: The civil Grand Jury accepts applications for the following year and conducts an open house. This year's open house was from 3 to 6 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 5, on the third floor of 646 County Square Drive, Ventura (across from the Government Center).

May-June: Applications are reviewed and 30 possible juros are invited for two interviews: with current jurors and presiding judges.

June: Up to 10 holdovers members may be considered for a second year's service. A mandatory orientation program is conducted for the 30 people of the proposed jury.

The past year's final investigative reports are issued and posted by June 30.

July 1: A random drawing is conducted from the list of prospective jurors. The new members are sworn in and start the same day.

---

audit, finance and county administration; cities and joint powers; county services and special districts; health, education and welfare; and law, justices and public safety. The support committees are community relations; complaint review; editorial review; grand jury review; executive; and social committee.

The Grand Jury has no staff, but it does have a budget. The 2012-2013 budget included $316,358 for the Civil Grand Jury.

Both women said the Grand Jury is a tremendous learning experience, even for people who have been active in the community. Todd said she was especially impressed by the cooperation and coordination of the Ventura County Fire Department, which is a special district that does not include the entire county, and the Ventura County Sheriff's Office, which is headed by the sheriff, who is elected by a countywide vote, as opposed to county supervisors, who are elected from districts. "These agencies getting along is critical to you," she said.

Asked about complaints that the

Grand Jury is ineffective because it can't compel agencies to follow its recommendations, both speakers said the complaints aren't correct. The press reports on recommendations and follows up if agencies don't follow them, they said. One example cited was changes Thousand Oaks made to its policy on destroying trees after a Grand Jury report. The city required the general public to have reports from two arborists saying that a tree should be removed, but the city could remove trees on its own authority. The Grand Jury also recommended changes in the county's permitting process, and jurors have been told by members of the public that the system has imporved.

"Some cities blow off the Grand Jury," Todd said, but added that reflects more on the council members involved than it does on the Grand Jury.

Grand jurors must sign confidentiality agreeements during their service and cannot discuss their work with anyone. "The Grand Jury speaks as one," Todd said, and even its news releases don't quote anyone by name.

Flash drive update, computer tune up are planned

Updates for the CIPCUG flash drive should be available at the February meeting, and a computer tune up is scheduled for the March meeting.

The flash drive updates will be performed during the February meeting for $2 per drive.

The tune ups will be $15 each, with the money going to CIPCUG. It's possible that it will be offered free to new members who join before or at the March meeting.

A tune up sign-up sheet will be posted on cipcug.org. Reservations are need-

ed because of the limited time available during the meeting.

Rick Smith and Michael Shalkey of Ventura County Computers will examine computers, make simple changes and, if more difficult repairs are needed they will make recommendations.

Minutes of December and January board meetings

December 2013

The CIPCUG Board of Directors held its monthly meeting on Dec. 21, 2013. Members in attendance were John Weigle, Sandy Tsutsui-Trujillo, Helen Long, Craig Ladd, Art Lewis, and Toby Scott. Absent were Jim Brown and Andy Toth.

Art Lewis presented the board with a copy of the treasurer's report for November 2013. As was announced in today's business meeting, CIPCUG was given a $5,000 endowment from the estate of Richard McMurrary, a long-time club member. Art stated that most of the endowment will go for equipment purchases for the club. Some discussion was made on what type of equipment could be purchased.

Mortensen-Henderson

Craig said he is in the process of having representatives from the Grand Jury speak at CIPCUG's January 2014 meeting.

A computer tune up session is set for March 2014 and will be announced in TOE as well as at two coming meetings. Tune up cost to members will be $15.

There being no further information to discuss, the board meeting adjourned.

January 2014

CIPCUG Board of Directors held its monthly meeting on Jan. 25, 2014. Members in attendance were John Weigle, Sandy Tsutsui-Trujillo, Helen Long, Craig Ladd, Art Lewis, Ken Church, Toby Scott, Jim Brown, Andy Toth and Diane Mortensen-Henderson.

President Sandy Tsutsui-Trujillo opened the meeting by asking if there was any old business. There being none, the meeting was open to new business.

Art Lewis presented the board with a copy of the treasurer's report. In its review, there was discussion on CIPCUG declining membership, which is the main contributor to CIPCUG's income, and, preparation and mailing of TOE, the largest expenditure for the club. With the rise in postage cost, there is even more of an incentive to make a decision whether or not to put TOE as an electronic-only publication. Pros and cons were discussed.

Art told the board that he renewed the club's business owner's insurance policy. The policy was given to the secretary for filing. The $5,000 endowment provided by the estate of Richard McMurrary is planned to be used mostly for replacing equipment for the club. Toby is gathering estimates for a new projector.

Craig announced that he has yet to establish a speaker for February's meeting. Toby said if Craig could not find a speaker, he would be willing to make a presentation, possibly on running XP in a virtual machine on a Windows 7, 8 or 8.1 machine. Orv Beach might make a presentation on putting Linux on older XP machines. Some board members thought that there were probably few XP users among CIPCUG's members. Toby indicated that he and Michael were working on various presentations they could make.

The city is asking organizations and clubs to participate in the City of Camarillo's celebrating its 50th anniversary on Saturday, Oct. 18. He suggested CIPCUG should have a booth. It would be a great PR opportunity.

A computer tune-up session is set for March 2014 and will be announced in the TOE as well as at February's meeting. Tune-up costs to members will be $15.

Andy offered to do a flash drive update for members next month. The cost will be $2.

There being no further information to discuss the board meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Recent headlines from our Facebook page

Here are some recent headlines from our Facebook page: (https://www.facebook.com/groups/cipcug)

Content Insider #323 — The Office Online — Google Drive

3D Printer World Exo 2014

From Windows XP to Linux? You'd have to be mad!

Evil versions of opular open source software on the loose

Facebook privacy settings

HP brings back Windows 7 'by popular demand'

Google Glass to be covered by vision care insurer VSP

Disruptions: The holodeck begins to take shape

Why I use Snapchat: It's fast, ugly and ephemeral

Tech's diversity problem is apparent as early as high school

The Photoshop transformation in this music video will shock you

A few security lessons from the Target breach

Beware of messages purportedly from your bank, PayPal or other financial sites asking for personal information, such as your login name, password or Social Security number. They are almost certainly from scammers. If in doubt, go to the site of the institution <u>by typing in a known URL, not by clicking on the email link,</u> and look for messages there.

CIPCUG NEWS AND EVENTS

CIPCUG receives second $5,000 donation from family

CIPCUG has received a second $5,000 donation from the family of Richard McMurray, Trasurer Art Lewis announced at the January meeting.

This bequest came from the estate of Carl McMurray, Richard's father. As before, the bequest comes with the request that the funds be used for equipment that will further the club's mission.

Lewis has sent thank you letters to Judith Elens, the executor of both Carl's and Richard's estates.

Richard McMurray, a long-time member of CIPCUG, died Oct. 27.

Membership Chairman Ken Church, who was a friend of Richard's, said that the speedy thank you letter for the first bequest and the fact that Richard's complete obituary appeared in TOE might have contributed to the second bequest.

McMurray was born in 1948 and died after a long illness. He grew up in Oxnard and graduated from Oxnard High School. In the late '70s he moved to Camarillo while working at Power-One as a test technician.

He enjoyed his CIPCUG membership and learning and playing computer programs.

More on Command.com

(Continued from page 3)

"Judy Taylour, President, SCV Computer Club; Chair, APCUG Board of Advisors

"Your user group has rejoined APCUG for another year, but is it using all of the benefits that are offered to member groups? This presentation will show you about those benefits; maybe you will find some that you aren't using and your members will find worthwhile.

"TRACK 2

"Manage your Passwords with RoboForm Pro

"Dave Gerber, Director, APCUG

"We're always told to use a different password for each account. and sometimes we feel that our brains are full and can't remember one more. If you need to manage your passwords, RoboForm remembers them so you don't have to. RoboForm has been around since 1999 and has millions of users worldwide. The RoboForm Identities feature lets you securely store your name, address, email, credit cards, and all other personal information which makes it super simple to fill in forms. RoboForm runs on Windows, Mac, Linux, and Windows USB drives.

"They also have apps for most popular mobile phones including the iPhone, Android, and Blackberry. Dave has arranged with RoboForm to give away five copies of their Pro

Treasurer's report for December 2013

By Art Lewis
treasurer@cipcug.org

12-1-13 through 12-31-13

Lewis

Category Description

INFLOWS

Coffee Income	10.00
Donation	5,000.00
Membership Income	
Renewals 510.00	
TOTAL Membership Income	510.00
Raffle	123.00
TOTAL INFLOWS	**5,643.00**
OUTFLOWS	
Corporate expense	18.35
Raffle prizes	116.12
Rent Paid	200.00
TOE	205.44
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	**539.91**
OVERALL TOTAL	**5,103.09**
Unrestricted Funds	8,546.85
Restricted Funds	0.00
Bank Balance 12-31-13	**8,546.85**
Year to Date Income	8,116.15
Year to Date Expense	3,950.65
Net Year to Date	4,165.50

2014 contributors to The Outer Edge

Your name can appear here, too. Share your knowledge with other members by sending an article, a letter or a computer tip to editor@cipcug.org.

CIPCUG MEMBERS
Ken Church
Art Lewis
Helen Long

Toby Scott
Michael Shalkey
Jim Thornton
Sandy Tsutsui-Trujillo
John Weigle

APCUG
Sandy Berger
Steve Costello
Linda Gonse

CIPCUG NEWS AND EVENTS

Membership report:

Is it time to renew?

By Ken Church
email address: *membership@cipcug.org*

CHURCH

Welcome New Member: Judy Spector

Attendance at the January 2014 general meeting: 55 members and guests (who signed in)

Total membership: 173

MEMBER RENEWAL INFORMATION
$30 for single membership,
$35 for two or more family membership.

NEW MEMBER INFORMATION
$40 first year for single membership,
$55 first year for two or more family membership in same household.

Please send your payment to:

CIPCUG MEMBERSHIP
P.O. BOX 51354
OXNARD, CA 93031-1354

Or bring your payment to the sign-in table at the Feb 22, 2014, meeting.

December 2013 renewals payment due:

Mbr#	Last Name	First Name	Pd to
0037T	Hosford	Victor	201312
0993	Ladd	Craig	201312
1079	Schrum	Jerry	201312
1237	Wishon	Bill	201312

Jan 2014 renewals payment due:

Mbr#	Last Name	First Name	Pd to
0835	Brown	George	201401
0834	Oxman	Howard	201401
0950	Skultety	Tony	201401
0836	Willett	Dr. Nancy	201401

February 2014 renewals payment due:

Mbr#	Last Name	First Name	Pd to
0959	Church	Ken	201402
0926	Curry	Rick	201402
1129	Escobedo	Ray	201402
1063	Field	Dwayne	201402
1063A	Field	Sharon	201402
0412	Guess	John	201402
1219	Hernandez	Rafael	201402
0566	Meeker	Kirsten	201402
0565	Meeker	Mary	201402
0656T	Mori	Ken	201402
1184	Murray	Tom	201402
1183	Norbutas	John	201402
1218	Panczel	Marika	201402
1082	Perry	Jim	201402
1135	Sherbrooke	Rosalie	201402
1169	Smith	Donald	201402
1140	Wayson	Bill	201402

Obituary

Norma Maidel

This is the full obituary of Norma Maidel as it appeared in the Ventura County Star. — Editor

We celebrate the life, love and friendship of Norma Jo Maidel.

Born on Oct. 13, 1938, Norma was the only child of local artist Minalee White, and successful businessman, Charles W. White. Growing up in Ventura, Norma went to St. Catherine's, graduated from Ventura High School, and from Pomona College, where she met and married Mark Maidel, her soul mate of 53 years. She received her teaching vredential from the University of Washington, a Master's in teading instruction from the University of California at Los Angeles, and a Master's in educational administration from California Lutheran University.

Norma was an educator and the epitome of a life-long learner. She taught for three years in Seattle, Wash.; eight years at Lincoln Middle School in Santa Monica, Calif.; three 3 years at Malibu Junior High in Malibu, Calif.; and 12 years at Somis School in Somis, Calif. Norma then became a trainer for the Lion's Club Quest, Skills for Growing and Adolescence in 1985, then continued her work as a prevention consultant for Ventura County Office of Education. Norma retired from public schools and became an education-

GENERAL NEWS AND COMMENTARY

Choosing a Linux distribution

By Bill Wayson
bwayson@gmail.com

Recently I was asked the question asked by most users of Linux, usually at the beginning of their exploration: What is the best Linux distribution to use? Answering this question may appear daunting. There are so many distributions to choose from, and yet none of them make themselves known in the usual place — that is, in advertisements — where people are pitched the advantages of one product over another. Since the interest in Linux is there, especially among those seeking an alternative to Microsoft Windows 8.x, I will give some advice on how to choose a Linux distribution.

The first thing to realize is that the question, "which is best," is, as it stands, the wrong question to ask. There is no "best" Linux distribution any more than there is one best automobile. Each of us chooses an automobile based on balancing our personal transportation needs. One person will choose a truck, another a minivan, and a third a sports car. Each vehicle is best for each of them while none is best for all of them. The same consideration needs to be made when choosing any operating system: Which one will best suit your personal computing needs? Identifying and prioritizing what you want to do on a computer, how you like to interact with the computer, and whatever else about a computer is important to you will go a very long way toward narrowing down the list of distributions to consider.

The second thing to realize is that the quality of your experience with using Linux will be greatly enhanced if you view the choice not as one of a Linux distribution but one of a community that surrounds a Linux distribution. This is important for various reasons. Foremost among them, this community will be your help desk, and the help will be best if it is given by people using the same distribution and doing the same things on their PC as you are. Someone in that community will likely have already encountered and resolved the same issues and problems that you will come up against, so your requests for assistance will more likely be answered quickly and correctly. Another reason is that the size and vitality of the community is a reflection of the vitality of the distribution. The more there are people and activities on the distribution's forums, responses from developers

More on Norma Maidel obituary ...

al consultant working with teachers, administrators and groups of teams including California School Leadership Academy.

She dedicated her life to philanthropy and education well into her retirement.

Norma held a host of community titles which included, but were certainly not limited to: vice chairwoman for the Ventura County World Affairs Council, Steering Committee member for the Unification of Schools in Camarillo, president of the Camarillo Chapter of the American Association of University Women, member of Money Investment Club in Camarillo, member of Ventura County Women's Political Council, member of National Women's Political Caucus of Ventura County, founder of Camarillo Tutoring Project, member of League of Women Voters of Ventura County, Advisory Committee member for the Center for International Affairs at California State University Channel Islands,

board member of CSUCI Foundation, friend of Soroptimist of Camarillo, Oversight Committee member of Measure H Bond for Oxnard Union High School District, Foundation board member of the Business Institute of Pennsylvania, founder of Unitrust supporting Pomona College, and was honored as 2005 Volunteer of the Year for the Camarillo Chamber of Commerce.

Norma and Mark have been world travelers visiting places like Iran, Bhutan, Tanzania, Madagascar, India, Taiwan, Morocco and Antarctica. Through their travels, Norma remained committed to learning about others' cultures, advancing human rights and the education of women and girls, which she graciously shared with us at home.

Norma is survived by her loving husband and best friend, Mark, "son" Terry Walby and wife Jennifer, and "grandsons" Mac and Ross; sister-in-law Joan Neuhaus; nieces: Suzanne Neuhaus and spouse Chris Hillman, grandniece

Katelyn; Catherine Hansen and husband Dennis, grandniece Ashley and grandnephew Jonathan; Caroline Neuhaus Wesley and husband Mike and grandnephew Gavin.

Norma was preceded in death by her parents, her cousins Wanda and Jack Pantel, and nephew Ched Neuhaus. Norma had innumerable friends and colleagues whom she valued and celebrated.

A Celebration of Life was held at the Serra Center, adjacent to Padre Serra Church, at 5205 Upland Road, Camarillo, 93012 on Jan. 7, 2014, at 1 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Norma Maidel Scholarship Fund for CSUCI in care of AAUW Camarillo, P.O. Box 862, Camarillo, 93010 .

Norma will be missed greatly by her family, friends and community. In the words of Kahlil Gibran, "You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give."

General news and commentary

(Continued from page 13)

and maintainers, and releases of easily available updates and fixes to applications, accompanied by a predictable cycle of new versions of the distribution, the less likely it is that the distribution will disappear, leaving you back at square one.

Once you've adopted these two attitudes, searching the Internet is a good place to go. You can start with some specific searches related to your specific situation, but if you want to get just a feel for the variety of different distributions, you cannot beat the Linux Distrowatch site at distrowatch.com. This is the go-to site for the latest news about Linux distributions, and the "Page Hit Ranking" panel in the right hand column is a proxy for the popularity ranking of the "top 100" distributions. Note that the panel shows the number of hits on each distribution's home page, not the number of people actively using each distribution. Despite this, it provides a decent first-cut ranking of popularity. At this point, I can throw in some specific advice. Probably most people reading this use PCs in a general way, just surfing the Internet, managing email, doing a bit of word processing and spreadsheets, organizing pictures, and other similar tasks. You are looking for a general purpose operating system, and your choices can be narrowed down considerably. The mainstream distributions in this category, such as Linux Mint, Ubuntu, Fedora, and openSUSE, have been around for a good while, offer very similar suites of applications out of the box, and all can be considered as good distributions. If this describes your search, you'd be forgiven if you limit your choices to these four distributions. Next your decision narrows down to how you prefer to use your computer.

How you interact with your PC is a somewhat broad and ambiguous concept, so I will explain what I mean by it. Using Microsoft Windows as an example, what the PC user interface looks like, how one finds and starts a specific application, and how one interacts with a running application changed fundamentally and significantly between Windows 2000/XP and Windows 8. (Similar changes have occurred among the popular general purpose Linux distributions.) Needless to say, many Windows users are upset about this change. Based on my experience and discussions with Windows users, most of those dissatisfied with this change wish for a return to a Windows XP user interface, namely the Desktop Start Button and cascading menu paradigm of finding and launching applications. If so, then consider Linux Mint with Mate. This distribution exists to satisfy a similarly dissatisfied group of Linux users. If you are more amenable to trying different takes on PC user interfaces, then you can consider Linux Mint with Cinnamon or any of the other distributions mentioned above. Some of them provide live CD or DVD images which allow you to run and test them completely from the optical media with no changes made to your existing software. And each has active user

General news and commentary

Microsoft Office suite has variety of programs

By Jim Thornton
jasthorn@gmail.com

Microsoft Office is a popular computer program used in homes as well as in businesses, colleges, and universities. Office was first introduced on Aug. 1, 1989, and included many of the still popular programs, Access, Excel, Outlook, and Word.

Access has several good features to create tables to store your data in; designing forms that your data can be easily entered into; creating files that you can find your data in whenever you want to work with it; and generate reports that you can print your data into. A couple of examples of uses are cataloging your CD collection; creating a mailing list for your letters; maintaining a list of the products that you purchased; providing a list of what gifts you have given, etc.

Excel provides a spreadsheet that lets you analyze, chart, format, and manage data. Excel's features import data into cells and rows and help you create summary reports. Excel is a spreadsheet program that originally competed with the dominant IBM's Lotus 1-2-3, but eventually outsold it. It is available for both Windows and Mac platforms. Microsoft released the first version of Excel for the Mac in 1985, and the first Windows version a few years later in November 1987.

Outlook (not to be confused with Outlook Express) is e-

More on Penguin's Lair ...

forums, so you have plenty of opportunity to see which ones you find more comfortable and welcoming.

There are plenty of other considerations you could weigh when choosing a Linux distribution, particularly if your computing needs are more specialized. But these suggestions ought to get you started in dissecting the task into discreet decisions which, when made, should quickly narrow down your choices to a manageable few. Before you know it, you'll be asking how you can install your chosen Linux alongside your existing Windows setup. When you do, you'll be on your way.

If you have questions or would like to learn more about Linux and FOSS (free and open source software), come to the Linux SIG meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 25, at 6:30 p.m., at Ventura County Computers in Ventura. We will try to answer any questions regarding Linux distributions and using Linux and other open source applications. See the CIPCUG website for more information. If you have a question or topic you would like the Lair or Linux SIG to cover, drop me a line at bwayson@gmail.com. Until next month, happy computing.

Members' classified ads

For sale
I have the following Free/For Sale (contribution to CIPCUG):
 I have the following For Sale (contribution to CIPCUG):
2 each Microsoft Mouse, $2 each
Internet Scrolling Mouse (COMP USA), $2
Video Selector Switch (5 inputs/2 outputs), $5 — David Minkin

—

Contact Richard Quint, rquint@rain.org
1. Canon LiDE 30 scanner. USB supplies data and power. $10
2. Canon PIXMA iP1600 printer, still sealed in box, plus extra black ink cartridge (PG-40). $20.
3. NETGEAR DG8346 DSL Modem/Wireless G router combination with all accessories. $10
4. D-Link ADSL2+ modem unused, in opened box with all accessories. $20.
5. D-Link DIR-655 "XTREMEN GIGABIT ROUTER" still in shrink-wrapped box. $30..

Wanted

Other categories as needed

Many sources offer computer information

By Jim Thornton
jasthorn@gmail.com

Radio

Kim Komando has a very popular three-hour weekly live radio program (7-10 a.m.) that is heard on over 470 radio stations in the U.S. and two stations in Canada. The local radio station in Santa Barbara is KTMS (990 AM) on Saturdays and Sundays (2-5 p.m.), and in Ventura is KVTA (1590 AM) on the same days but at a different time (4-7 p.m.). Also, there is a Los Angeles radio station KABC

(790 AM) on Saturdays for one hour (6 a.m.). In addition, her one-minute Digital Minutes are aired on more than 100 U.S. stations five days a week (Monday through Friday) and on the local stations of KTMS (990 AM) in Santa Barbara at 1 p.m. and KVTA (1590 AM) in Ventura at 9:55 a.m. In addition, her program provides information on the popularity of personal computers, the use of the Internet, and the complexities of consumer electronics. In addition, she has a syndicated columns that appears in USA Today and other newspapers. She publishes

her free e-mail newsletters that include the Tip of the Day, the Cool Site of the Day, the Download of the Day, and the News of the Day. On Saturday, she presents a larger weekly newsletter. Her website shows that you can subscribe to these e-mail newsletters and listen to her. In addition, she has written 12 books on computers and technology. Her website is http://www.komando.com. (Radio stations regularly revamp their line-ups and shift programs to new times, so times listed in this article are subject to change.

More on Microsoft Office ...

mail communication software. It's the replacement for Microsoft Mail, Schedule, and Windows Messaging starting in Office 1997. Outlook provides an address book, calendar, e-mail client, and task manager. Outlook features include managing your calendar, contacts, documents, e-mail, files, tasks, and to-do lists.

Word is a word processor and is considered the main program in Office. Its format is standard, although Word 2007 can also use a new Office-optimized format, which has been standardized. Word was also originally available in some earlier editions of Microsoft Works. It is available for the Windows and Mac platforms. The first version of Word, released in the autumn of 1983, was in the Microsoft DOS operating system and had the distinction of introducing the mouse. Word 1.0 could be purchased with a mouse. Word for Mac was released in 1985 and was a popular tool. Word for Mac was the first graphical version of Microsoft Word. Word is a nice, full-featured program that includes automatic formatting, easy-to-create tables, and the ability to create graphics.

Also in Office are several less popular programs: Front Page, Photo Draw, PowerPoint, and Publisher.

Front Page is a program designed to improve the appearance of your websites.

(Microsoft no longer produces Front Page. — Editor)

Photo Draw is a graphics program that has the features of a photo editing program that allow impressive pictures you can include in these Microsoft programs, for example Outlet, PowerPoint, Publisher, and Word.

PowerPoint is a complete presentation package that lets you create fully formatted presentations or slides in only minutes. PowerPoint provides everything you need to produce professional presentations, including drawing, formatting, graphing, and outlining. PowerPoint is a popular presentation program for Windows and Mac. It is used to create slideshows composed of text, graphics, movies, and other objects, which can be displayed on-screen and navigated through by the presenter or printed out on slides or transparencies. It's a complete presentation graphics package that lets you create fully formatted presentations or slides in only minutes. PowerPoint provides everything you need to produce professional presentations, including drawing, graphing, outlining, and text formatting.

Publisher is a complete desktop publishing product that makes it easy to publish from your desktop printer, commercial printing services, copy shops, or on the World Wide Web.

The version of Office that I use is version 2000. The reason is that I telephoned a question about Microsoft Office into a live radio computer program back then, and I received from Microsoft its Office 2000 Premium, which included Access, Excel, Front Page, Outlook, PowerPoint, Publisher, Shared Clip Art, Small Business Tools, and Word. I installed and use only two of programs: Excel which I use daily for tracking my family's medical expenses and tracking the performances of our stocks, and Word, which I use daily for writing articles for the club's monthly TOE newsletters, writing letters, and creating other projects, lists, calendar, etc. It is a nice feature that you can install only the programs that you want to use. Also, I have installed and tried a more current version of Word, for example, but didn't like its changes to the toolbars of Office version 2010 compared to Office version 2000.

There are currently four versions of Office 2013 available. The features and costs of these versions are: Home Premium for $99.99; Office, Home, and Student for $139.99; Office, Home, and Business for $219.99; and Office Professional for $399.99. All versions contain Excel, One Note, PowerPoint, and Word. In addition, Home Premium, Office Home & Business, and Office Professional include e-mail, calendar, and tasks.

General news and commentary

Get Plain Text simplifies copying Web pages

By Linda Gonse
Editor & Webmaster, Orange County PC Users' Group, CA
October 2013 issue, Nibbles & Bits
www.orcopug.org
editor (at) orcopug.org

It's probably safe to say that everyone has copied text from a Webpage at some time and pasted it into an email or into a Word-like program. So, of course, you can relate to my dismay of pasting the type complete with its formatting riding piggyback on it.

I always have to stop what I'm doing and unformat and reformat the type so it blends in with what I'm working on.

I can hear "oldtimers" yelling, "Notepad! Use Notepad!"

That's true. And, it's a good option. I'm using Windows XP (still), so I have a shortcut to Notepad on my Start menu. It's very easy to click on Start while I have my browser open and click to open Notepad to paste the Web text, then re-copy it from Notepad, and repaste the text into a document.

But I found a simpler method.

Really. There is no learning curve.

I only have to click once after copying from a Web page and then I can immediately paste unformatted text into anything anywhere!

With our typical complicated programs to work with, this just doesn't seem possible. Or maybe alchemy might

More on computer information sources ...

— Editor)

Leo Laporte's weekly radio program covers items ranging from computers, the Internet, iPods, and cell phones to camcorders, digital cameras, gaming systems, and home theaters. Laporte's popular Saturday and Sunday radio program, where he is called the Tech Guy, is on from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on radio stations KFI (640 AM) in Los Angeles and KTMS (990 AM) in Santa Barbara and airs in over 170 cities in the U.S. and Canada. On the website at http://www.forums.techguy.org are listed numerous articles including Security and Hardware Removal (two items), Software & Hardware (eight items), Operating Systems (nine items), Internet and Networking (three items), General Technology (three items), and Community (seven items). The site www.techguylabs.com has podcasts of many of his shows and much other material. His other website is http://www.leoville.com.

Jeff Levy previously had a very popular weekly radio program and published on his website are his instructions on how to fix computer problems. Currently there are available 11 Windows 7 lessons, and where you can search for other lessons on Windows Vista, Windows XP, and Mac OS, and you can even view his old radio show notes from May to October 2011. He was even a guest speaker at our computer club meeting of September 2011. His website is http://www.jefflevy.com. (Levy and Gordon Meyer have a weekly online show, The Tech Twins, Fridays at 7 p.m. on http://www.latalkradio.com/Tech.php. — Editor)

Digital Village is a one-hour radio program is on Saturdays at 10 a.m. on the Los Angeles radio station KPFK (98.7 FM) about computers and the Internet. The website is http://www.digitalvillage.org.

Newspapers

The **Los Angeles Times** doesn't have a regular computer problem articles but does publish articles on computer problems. For example, the newspaper has recently published articles on computer problems cause delays for United Airlines, California Senate leader calls hearing on computer problems, Fidelity fined over computer problems. Computer problems foul up stock options tables, Computer problems, weather delay Endeavour launch, The Amex said it solved its computer problems, Computer problems plague opening-day betting at Saratoga, Computer problems hit Schwab again, etc.

In **The Ventura County Star,** Bill Husted has a weekly article every Sunday in the Business section. Recent articles were on Internet problems, frequent Internet outages or very slow service, technology, keyboard problems, how to save printer ink, educational toys, forgotten passwords, laptop problems, computer problems, computer security, and free anti-virus programs. (Husted writes for the Palm Beach Post and a collection of his columns is available at http://www.palmbeachpost.com/staff/bill-husted/stories/. The Star also posts his columns on www.vcstar.com. — Editor)

The **Camarillo Acorn** doesn't have regular computer problem articles.

Magazines

PC World was a very popular computer magazine for many years, but it recently stopped printing the magazine and instead now offers it to subscribers over the Internet on the PC World home page at http://www.pcworld.com/.

Smart Computing helped users improve their PC productivity level by providing easy-to-follow tutorials that cover hardware, software, Internet, troubleshooting, product reviews, and much more, all in a plain English writing style. The magazine is no longer available in its former format, but free copies of a slimmed-down version aimed at home and small businesses are available at Staples stores. The magazine's website and forums are gone. Digital editions of its former companion magazines — PC Today and Computer Power User (CPU) — are available at http://www.sandhills.com/pubs-trade.aspx. Sandhills was the publisher of Smart Computing.

Interesting Internet finds

By Steve Costello
President / Editor, Boca Raton Computer Society
October 2013 issue, Boca Bits
http://sefcug.com/
president (at) brcs.org

In the course of going through the more than 200 news feeds, I often run across things that I think might be of interest to other user group members.

The following are some items I found interesting during the month of October 2013.

● How risky will it be to keep running Windows XP?
http://askleo.com/how-risky-will-it-be-to-keep-running-windows-xp/

● POP vs. IMAP: What Do They Mean and Which One Should You Use?
http://www.ilovefreesoftware.com/31/windows/pop-vs-imap.html

● Talk to your Navigating Device: Android or iPhone
http://geeksontour.tv/2013/08/talk-to-your-navigating-device-android-or-iphone/

● Can You Really Be Anonymous Online?
http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/can-you-really-be-anonymous-online/

● Why You Don't Need an Outbound Firewall On Your Laptop or Desktop PC
http://www.howtogeek.com/172349/why-you-dont-need-an-outbound-firewall-on-your-laptop-or-desktop-pc/

● How To Use the New Google+ Photo Editing Tools
http://www.groovypost.com/howto/google-plus-photo-editing-tools/

● Where to Donate Your Used Tech
http://www.wonderoftech.com/where-to-donate-your-used-tech/

● How to Keep Your Internet Usage Private [INFOGRAPHIC]
http://socialmediatoday.com/socialbarrel/1765451/online-privacy-how-keep-your-internet-usage-private-infographic

● How to View and Work on Google Drive Files When You're Offline
http://www.guidingtech.com/24186/google-drive-offline/

Most Fridays, more interesting finds will be posted on the Computers, Technology, and User Groups Blog: http://ctublog.sefcug.com/

More on Get Plain Text ...

be involved!

The short of it is that this is true, no hocus pocus. It is possible with a tiny program called Get Plain Text.

It's only 70 Kb. and it doesn't add an icon to your system tray or grab any memory when you use it.

It works in less than a second to remove text formatting, including fonts, sizes, colors, and embedded images. It just leaves plain text.

Download the program from the developer's webpage (clipdiary.com) at http://bit.ly/1bzFuea or a secondary download site at http://www.softpedia.com/get/PORTABLE-SOFTWARE/Office/Clipboard/Portable-Get-Plain-Text.shtml. Save it to your preferred disk location. Click on the program to run it.

Add the icon that launches Get Plain Text to your Quick Launch bar or favorite program launcher.

I keep it on my Quick Launch bar. As soon as I copy something to the clipboard, I click on the Get Plain Text icon. Then, I paste the text anywhere I desire. That's it.

When I use Get Plain Text, no window opens. There are no dialog boxes or preferences to select. There are no flags, bells, or whistles to tell me it is finished. It simply works fast, silently, and unobtrusively.

What else? Oh, yeah. It's free!

More on Command.com ...

program. All presentation attendees are asked to sign-in with their name and user group to be eligible for the drawing.

"What do I do now with my old XP Computer?

"Stew Botoff, Linux SIG Leader, Tampa Bay Computer Society

"This April Windows XP goes away. Has your computer has become slow and slower? Should you buy a new comput-

er?

"Give your legacy hardware new life by installing Linux on it. Make a silk purse out of a sow's ear. The conversion is simple and most Windows tasks are duplicated using free open source applications.
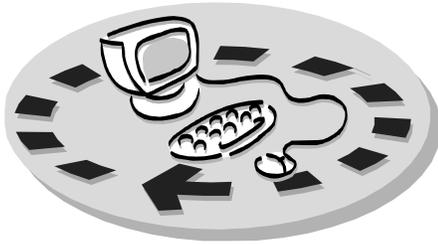
"Stew will show you how simple it is for a Windows person to switch: walking you through a full conversion is less than an hour. You'll gain a more secure con-

nection on the Internet that no longer requires antivirus solutions. Plus, the conversion is free of cost except an hour of your time.

"iPad in the Classroom, How We Can Learn More on the iPad

"Greg West, APCUG Advisor, Regions 6 and International; Chair, Marketing Committee

"Virtual Technical Conference Committee."

Why join Channel Islands PC Users Group (CIPCUG)?

Every month, members of the Channel Islands PC Users Group have access to:

♦ The Outer Edge newsletter.

♦ The general meeting, featuring a question-and-answer session and program on software or hardware.

♦ Special Interest Groups (special meetings held each month). The alternative devices SIG (tablets, smartphones, etc.) is held before the regular meeting. The Linux SIG meets on a different day.

♦ Door prizes and raffle at the regular meeting.

Other benefits include:

♦ Special user group discounts on books and software.

♦ A flash drive containing many useful freeware programs.

♦ A chance to make friends with people who have similar interests.

♦ The ability to put your knowledge to good use by helping other members. The whole concept of user groups is members helping members.

Please clip the coupon below and send with payment to CIPCUG-Membership, P.O. Box 51354, Oxnard, CA 93031-1354.

Please make checks payable to CIPCUG.

Dues for new members

Individual member, $40.

Family membership (same address), $55.

Renewals are $30 and $35 per year respectively.

TOE subscription only (in the U.S.), $20.

CIPCUG E-MAIL ADDRESS

Members who would like to have an email address through CIPCUG in the form of YourName@cipcug.org may obtain one for $20 per year.

CIPCUG MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Can you help the club as a volunteer? If so, what would you be interested in working on? Please list below or on a separate sheet if necessary.

Amount enclosed: _____

Please Print the following information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____,

State:_____ ZIP Code: _____

Phone (Home): _____(Work): _____

E-mail address: _____

User level: Novice ____; Intermediate _____;

Advanced _____

For CIPCUG use:

Date _____

Member # _____

Channel Islands PC Users Group Inc.
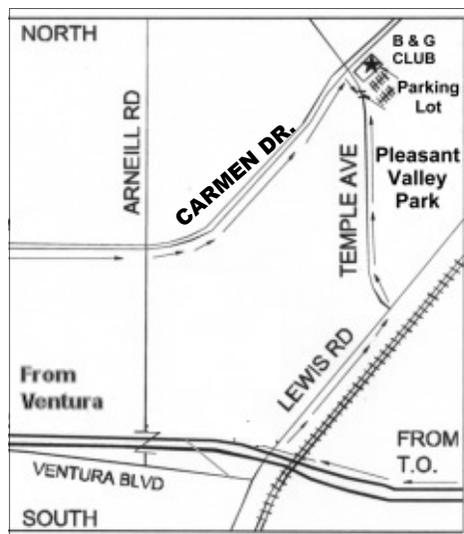
P.O.Box 51354
Oxnard, CA: 93031

DATED MATERIAL
Please Do Not Delay

DUES REMINDER
If the code above your name is 2014 FEBRU-ARY, your dues are payable this month.

February 2014 meeting
of the Channel Islands PC Users Group

The map shows the easiest route to the Boys & Girls Club, but if you prefer, you can take the Carmen Drive offramp to Ponderosa Drive, which leads to Temple Avenue.

Saturday morning, Feb. 22, at the Boys & Girls Club, 1500 Temple Ave. (Ponderosa Drive and Temple Avenue), Camarillo.

Meeting schedule:
8:00 a.m.	Doors open
8:45	SIGs (Internet and connectivity; Tablet and phone apps)
9:30	Business meeting
10:00	Q&A session
10:30	Break
11:00	Program: TBA
	Drawing