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The Outer Edge

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

 ★ Attendance at the
 ★ February general meeting:
 ★ **55 members and guests.**
 ★ **We welcome one new member.**
 ★ *****

COMMAND.COM
By Sandy Tsutsui-Trujillo

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I encourage you to attend the Southwest Technology & Computer Conference (SWCC) June 27-29. Its website is being revamped, but the beta version is at www.theswcc.weebly.com. We've been going for several years, and I've volunteered the last two. The \$85 early bird registration fee covers all meals. After June 2, the fee becomes \$100. The special hotel rates are \$89, single; \$95, double; and \$109, quad.



Tsutsui-Trujillo

It used to be in San Diego. In my opinion, the new location is much better.

- 1. Shorter drive for us.
- 2. The rooms are cheaper and better.
- 3. The food is much better.

The presentations have always been of a professional caliber on great subjects. Most of the exhibitors offer significant discounts, and we usually make several purchases. We've made several friends and look forward to seeing them every year.

They have a variety of free door prizes and top notch raffle prizes. Some years we do well with the prizes, and some years we don't.

As long as one club member attends, any club member can participate in the photo contest. It is usually sponsored by Corel. Since I'm attending, our members can participate. The entry deadline is May 23. The categories and details are available at the link above.

Judy Taylour and her team of volunteers do an outstanding job.

CIPCUG NEWS AND EVENTS

It's easy, and sometimes rewarding, to be friendly

For as long as I've been a member, CIPCUG has called itself "The Friendly Computer Club Helping Make Computers Friendly." It appears that many of our members have worked over the years to make that more than just a statement on TOE's nameplate.

Because those members were friendly to Richard McMurray, who had Down Syndrome, CIPCUG received two gifts of \$5,000 each from Richard's trust and Carl McMurray's trust. As Judy Elens, the executor of the two trusts, writes in a letter that appears on page 10, "It would be impossible to relate the happiness and excitement Richard experienced every time there was a computer meeting. It was very, very important to his life.

"Sometimes people do incredibly good things for other people without realizing it. That is what the computer club did for my cousin, Richard."

Thank you to everyone who took the time to welcome and talk to Richard when he attended meetings. It is clear that following our motto can benefit our visitors, members and the group itself. And it's a good philosophy to practice in all our activities. Friendliness is always welcome.

* * *

Don't forget you can get hands-onhelp at this month's meeting if you're having a problem with your computer. Michael Shalkey and Rick Smith will be present to make simple fixes or recommend major ones for just \$15. You have to sign up on cipcug.org to be sure there's a slot available for you. See the story below for more details.

Tune ups are offered at March meeting

A sign-up form for this month's computer tune up should be available at cipcug.org by the time this issue arrives. The tune up will be held during the regular meeting.

The cost is \$15, but people who join CIPCUG between Feb. 23 and March 22 can get it for free.

Proceeds from the tune ups go to CIPCUG.

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

People bringing desktops need to bring only the desktops. Monitors and mice will be available at the meeting. Laptop owners should also bring their power adapter because of the large variety used.

Editor's corner



Weigle

Coming events

Program for March to be announced on Web

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 March 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:

- April 26
- May 24
- June 28
- July 26
- Aug. 23
- Sept. 27

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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.

CIPCUG NEWS AND EVENTS

General SIG, Q&A**Fixing Outlook .PST files, XP end-of-life issues**

Unless otherwise noted, questions are answered by Toby Scott in both the SIG and Q&A. Michael Shalkey handled the computer duties and answered some questions. — Editor

Internet and email SIG**Problems with Outlook .PST files**

Q: I'm using Windows 7 and Outlook 2010 and am getting regular notices of "failed to update headers." How do I fix it?

A: In Outlook 2010 if you get an error in its database, run the scanpst.exe program, which is found in different folders in different versions of Outlook. The following list of typical locations for the file is taken from <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/2534513>:

"The Inbox Repair tool is automatically installed with all English-language Microsoft Outlook installation options depending on your operating system.

"For Microsoft Windows NT and Microsoft Windows 2000: 'C:\Program Files\Common Files\System\Mapi\1033\NT

"For Microsoft Windows 95 and Microsoft Windows 98: C:\Program

Files\Common Files\System\Mapi\1033\95

"The Inbox Repair Tool installs automatically during Microsoft Outlook 2002 and Microsoft Office Outlook 2003 setup. Unlike the Microsoft Office 97 version of the tool, Microsoft Office 2000 does not place the Inbox Repair tool on a menu. To use the Inbox Repair tool, locate one of the folders by using Microsoft Windows Explorer, and then double-click the Scanpst.exe file.

"The Scanpst.exe file is typically located in one of the following folders:

"<disk drive>\Program Files\Common Files\System\Mapi\1033\

"<disk drive>\Program Files\Common Files\System\MSMAPN\1033

"The Scanpst.exe file for Outlook 2007 is typically located in the following folder: <disk drive>\Program Files\Microsoft Office\Office12

"The Scanpst.exe file for Outlook 2010 is typically located in the following folder: <disk drive>\Program Files\Microsoft Office\Office14

"The Scanpst.exe file for Outlook 2013 is typically located in the following folder: <disk drive>\Program Files\Microsoft Of-

ice\Office15

"The Scanpst.exe file for Outlook 2013 Click-To-Run is typically located in the following folder: <disk drive>\Program Files\Microsoft Office 15\root\office15"

If you can't find it easily do a search on your computer for "scanpst.exe," without the quotation marks.

After you open scanpst.exe, you'll have to navigate to your .PST file. To determine where it is, open Tools > Account Settings > Data Files in Outlook 2007. In Outlook 2010, open File > Account Settings. You will then have the full path to the .PST files. Close Outlook to run scanpst.exe.

It's a good idea to do this moderately often even if you aren't getting errors messages because if the database gets too scrambled, you might never find your messages.

Windows Live

Q: I'm using Windows Live. Last month, Michael suggested one way to fix a problem (reset the Internet options) and you offered a different way to get to the same place. Is using reset the only way to

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More on coming events ...

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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 March and April schedules:

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. We will try to answer any questions regarding Linux distributions and using Linux and other open source applications.

April

Tuesday, April 22: Linux SIG. Bill Wayson, moderator. Topic TBA.

Saturday, April 26: Pre-meeting SIGs on the Internet and Connectivity and Tablet and Smartphone Apps at 8:45 a.m.

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

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make Windows Live work? It keeps telling me I'm offline and asks if I want to work online. I say yes, but it won't let me.

A: If you're having trouble I'd uninstall the program, get the latest version and install it. SkyDrive has been changed to OneDrive, which has many added features, but the change messed up some users. My Windows 8 machine had no problems with the change, but my Windows 7 machine did. Your problem is probably related to the changeover. I expect Microsoft to issue a fix.

Google+ and storing photos

Q: I use Google+, and my phone is putting all my pictures on it as a backup. I don't want them so other people can see them.

A: Go to Google Drive and download them. If you delete the files from Google Drive online, they'll be wiped off your computer, too, so be sure to store them in a different folder on your computer and not in the Google Drive folder.

Michael Shalkey: You can determine who can see what's in your Google Drive. You determine whom to share files with. You can pick from several sharing settings — Private, Anyone with the link, or Public — for your files, folders and Google documents.

Right mouse click on the folder to download it to your computer.

Toby Scott: We'll discuss this further in the program, which will be on Microsoft's OneDrive, but the two are similar. It can be used to synchronize multiple devices. It's a hard drive in the cloud with mirror copies of each device at several locations.

Background windows lose color

Q: When you have more than one window open at the meetings, each one is in color. On my machine, all the windows except the one in front lose their color. If I want to clip and save part of a background window, the clip window is open and in color, but the background one is not. Can I disable this?

A: When you turn on the clipping tool, it's the active window, but when you mark what to copy it should get its colors back.

This month's topics

- Internet and email SIG
- Problems with Outlook .pst files
- Windows Live
- Google + and storing photos
- Background windows lose color
- Keeping items on clipboard
- PowerPoint viewer
- Printing
- Printing automatically
- Router password
- Gmail problem
- Address changes in email

- Spam in Outlook
- Apple security

Q&A

- Windows XP
- Dropbox and email
- Anti-virus in Windows 8
- Backing up to Amazon
- CryptoLocker and LAN
- Windows 8 versions
- Windows 7 or Windows 8?
- Barnes & Noble breach
- Small-business dangers

Q: On my desktop machine, it stays gray. And it's not just when I'm clipping; it happens to all the Windows. I don't know whether my video is on a separate card or the motherboard. (in response to a comment from Michael Shalkey). I'm on Windows 7.

A: Michael Shalkey: I think it's something specific to your computer, rather than a problem with the website(s) involved. I suggest you go to a friend's house and see if you can duplicate there what happens on your computer.

Toby Scott: I've never seen that problem, so I can't diagnose it. You might bring the computer to the tune up next month so we can see what happens.

Keeping items on clipboard

Q: I use Ctrl + C and Ctrl + V to copy and paste text and move it to a different spot or different document. I'd like to store several items on the clipboard and be able to pick which one to paste at any given time. Is this possible?

A: Do a Web search for Office clipboard, which will let you store up to 24 items, but you have to turn it on. It works with all the Office programs. A good source for information is <http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/word-help/copy-and-paste-multiple-items-by-using-the-office-clipboard-HA010163602.aspx>. Some third-party programs also expand clipboard capabilities.

PowerPoint viewer

Q: I got an email with a joke, but I can't open it (it's a PowerPoint presentation). You suggested downloading PowerPoint Viewer from Microsoft, which I did, but it doesn't open the file.

Toby Scott: My first thought is some kind of spyware.

Michael Shalkey: I think the Word program is an OEM (original equipment manufacturer) version, which doesn't work with the viewer.

Questioner: I bought it on Amazon. The computer had a starter version of Office. I bought Word separately.

Michael Shalkey: Uninstall the starter version of Office, and then reinstall Word.

Toby Scott: Often you can't open a PowerPoint presentation that is attached to an email until you download it (or save it to a new location if you download your email) so your anti-virus program can scan it. PowerPoint presentations used to be regular sources of viruses because you can embed anything in them — viruses, scripts, etc. — although that hasn't been as big a problem in recent years as it once was.

Printing

Q: Ctrl + P to print something doesn't always work.

A: Michael Shalkey: If you're trying to print from the Internet, it might be a setting on the Web page.

Toby Scott: Sites can block you from printing directly from the site.

Michael Shalkey: Try using Alt + F to open the File menu and see if print is an option there. Sometimes there are more options on the menu than with Ctrl + P.

Toby Scott: Also, check what you're trying to print to. If you change printers, Word remembers the last one you used.

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That printer might be off or removed, so Word can't use it. Look at the list of available printers to be sure you're using the right one. You can only check this from the Alt-F, Print menu, not the Print icon in the toolbar.

Printing automatically

Q: Can I print an entire document and then only the first few pages of the same document automatically?

A: No. You have to print the entire document and then, in a different job, the first three pages you wanted.

Router password

Q: I have a router with Wi-Fi output locked, and I've forgotten the password. Now I have an Android and can't get on it.

A: If you have a wired computer, open your browser and in the address bar type 192.168.1.1 (the last .1 might be a different number on some routers). That should bring up the information you need. If it doesn't, you can try some typical factory settings: admin as the username and password as the password or on some makes admin as both the user name and password. Open the Run command and type in ipconfig; for most of you it will be 192.168.1.1, as noted above.

If it's a router-modem combination, look for a sticker on the side or bottom that might contain the password and modem number.

Q: Could you have a modem that doesn't have a password so you could log in with just your name?

A: Most do not allow a blank field for the password. You might have an Admin account that can make changes and a User account that just lets you view the information. The Admin account would have to have a password. Some routers have a Guest account.

Q: What's the pushbutton on the modem for?

A: It's probably the power button, but it depends on the modem. The Motorola modems I know have it as the power switch.

Michael Shalkey: If it's about a year old that button is WPS (Wi-Fi Protected Setup). Don't touch it.

Audience comment: Be very careful

about touching the reset button, which can also create some problems.

Gmail problem

Q: Google changed its auto complete on my email address. I used to type HO, and it would fill in my name. Now I get a box with three choices: a green one that says "mask my email," a red one that says "use my email," and a third one that says "do not track me." If I use the second one, it comes up with someone else's name.

A: Highlight the entries you don't want and use Ctrl + Del to eliminate them, but I don't know what Google has done, and I don't know for certain that this will work.

Q: I'm using Firefox. For example, I want to order something from Sears. I get to Ho to put in my address and the new box pops up.

A: That's a Firefox issue.

Address changes in email

Q: I'm using Thunderbird and when I send email with my address it arrives with my name and someone else's email address. I set up some other people's accounts, so I have their information. It's a Gmail account, and I know some of my email isn't arriving. When I write the message, my email address is OK, but when I send a copy to myself, some are correct and some are not. Sometimes the address is wrong, sometimes it's right and sometimes I can't tell.

A: Michael Shalkey: If it doesn't happen when you write the message on the Web at the Gmail site but does in Thunderbird, it's a Thunderbird problem, not a Gmail problem.

Toby Scott: Go to Gmail and compose a message in Gmail. See what happens then. Send yourself several messages. You have to determine if it's Gmail or Thunderbird causing the problem. Or use Live Mail.

Michael Shalkey: Try uninstalling and reinstalling Thunderbird. If you have to use someone else's account, send it from Gmail, not through Thunderbird.

Toby Scott: If you do that, you have to uninstall the profile, too, and start from scratch.

Windows email can be used with any POP 3 account, so you can use it to get

your Gmail. It's about the only ongoing, developed email program for Windows that's available.

Spam in Outlook

Q: I use Outlook 2007 in Office 2007, and I'm getting lots of spam from the .eu and .us domains. My email address is an AOL (formerly America Online) address, but I also use Gmail. I tried to block mail from the two domains, but I can't find them on the list of options. Is there a better way to filter? I have several accounts.

A: I'm worried that you have a virus that's sending stuff out, and you're getting responses back. When you said AOL, I thought at first that it was pipelining — someone sending you many messages. There's a chance that it still could be that.

You can check accounts for details, but don't block the domains or addresses. Spammers send from many hacked computers, so the servers are different even if everything looks the same in the email addresses. You just end up slowing your computer to a crawl as it searches long lists of blocked addresses while downloading mail. If you subscribed to something you no longer want, you can safely use the unsubscribe option. Blocking is also difficult because the spammers will use characters from other alphabets that at a glance look like English letters but aren't. I bet that the messages are from different servers even though they appear to be from the same one. For instance, I can send emails that look like they're from President Obama, but that doesn't mean I'm President Obama.

Set your spam filters to high and be sure to update the definitions. Look at your junk mail settings.

Apple security

Michael Shalkey: If you haven't heard the news yet, Apple is suffering from a serious security problem and has advised everyone with an Apple product — phone, computer, tablet — to upgrade to the latest version of the operating system. For more information, go to <http://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/2014/02/23/iphones-security-flaw-patch-issued/5755177/> or do a search for "apple security issue."

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Q&A

Windows XP

A discussion of Windows XP's end of life began during the business meeting and extended into the Q&A session. Microsoft says it will stop general support for XP on April 8, although some support will continue for businesses that pay extra for it. Here is a general explanation of what the change means from <http://preview.tinyurl.com/n2z2r6e>. The site expands on the announcement this way:

"Microsoft has provided support for Windows XP for the past 12 years. But now the time has come for us, along with our hardware and software partners, to invest our resources toward supporting more recent technologies so that we can continue to deliver great new experiences.

"As a result, after April 8, 2014, technical assistance for Windows XP will no longer be available, including automatic updates that help protect your PC. Microsoft will also stop providing Microsoft Security Essentials for download on Windows XP on this date. (If you already have Microsoft Security Essentials installed, you will continue to receive anti-malware signature updates for a limited time, but this does not mean that your PC will be secure because Microsoft will no longer be providing security updates to help protect your PC.)

"If you continue to use Windows XP after support ends, your computer will still work but it might become more vulnerable to security risks and viruses. Also, as more software and hardware manufacturers continue to optimize for more recent versions of Windows, you can expect to encounter greater numbers of apps and devices that do not work with Windows XP."

Several options are available to people who are still using XP, but continuing to use it on the Internet after April 8 is not one of them, Toby Scott and Michael Shalkey — and almost all other techies — agree.

Those who don't want to buy a new version of Windows could switch to Linux, most versions of which would probably run on an XP machine, but they

would have a learning curve for the new operating system.

Those who want to stay with Windows could upgrade to Windows 7, which looks much like XP, or to Windows 8.1, which is basically the Service Pack 1 version of Windows 8, but that upgrade is likely to require some upgrades to the XP computer or a new computer. For those who have programs that run only in XP, XP can run in a virtual drive in Windows 7 and 8. The Microsoft versions of the virtual host (XP Mode for Windows 7 and Hyper-V for Windows 8) are available only for Pro/Business versions of Windows. If you have Home, try VMWare Player (<http://www.vmware.com/products/player/>).

If you switch to Linux or Mac, you will have to learn a new operating system, and replace most of your software, although many programs used in Windows are available in versions for Macs. Linux has similar programs, such as LibreOffice as an office suite, but they are not identical. There is a VMWare version for Linux, so you could run XP under Linux.

Those who monitor hacker boards report that hackers have been advised not to exploit any weaknesses they've discovered in XP until after the support ends. Weaknesses found before that date will be fixed in the final patch package for XP but won't be repaired after that.

XP computers should not be used on the Internet, which includes downloading email, after April 8. Users could continue to use the machine for games and other offline work only, especially if they set a static IP address for it. Instructions to do that can be found at http://www.hotcomm.com/FAQ/FAQ_staticIPXP.asp. Just leave the Gateway entry blank. If you enter a gateway, your computer will go to the Internet.

Users who ignore the warnings and continue to use XP machines on the Internet are likely to lose their data, Scott said, because of the likelihood of a CryptoLocker-type attack. CryptoLocker is a small program that can be installed on a computer in any number of ways. It encrypts all the data on everything that the computer being infected can see — other computers, including servers; flash drives; external hard drives; and other

such devices. When the encryption is completed, a message appears saying that the data has been encrypted and that the user has three days to pay for the key to unencrypt it. The key will be destroyed in three days, it adds, after which the key and the data can't be recovered. The payment is likely to be the first of many, Scott said, because distributors of the malware will be seeking out XP computers. Checks and credit cards, of course, are not accepted. Line-of-business computers that run on XP will have to be kept off the Internet, he said.

CryptoLocker is often distributed by email that purports to be from the USPS, UPS, Fed Ex and similar companies. Both Scott and Shalkey warned the audience not to open attachments on any such emails. An email from the Postal Service asking for your address should alert anyone to the likelihood of a scam, Shalkey said. How, he asked, could the Postal Service find your email address if it couldn't find your physical address?

The Swansea, Mass., Police Department paid a ransom of \$750 in November to recover data that had been encrypted by CryptoLocker. A law firm didn't respond in time and lost all the digital information it had.

The payment of choice is Bitcoin. In the first month of its release, CryptoLocker is reported to have brought in \$100 million. Now the payments are averaging \$50,000 per day, according to security experts. Most people end up paying because they want the data back. The hackers don't care if you find the program after it encrypts the data. They don't try to hide it but do install it in unusual places.

Mozy and Carbonite provide some protection from CryptoLocker because they're not attached to your computer, even if they're set to back up files regularly, Scott said. Backups that keep more than one version of files are essential. It takes about a day to encrypt all the data, so if you have regular backups you can, after deleting the CryptoLocker program, download the data from the day before CryptoLocker encrypted the data. Rotating backups on flash drives might work

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for some people, but, Scott said, they wouldn't work for him because the system requires daily backups on a different drive each day so unencrypted versions can be found in case of an attack. Such a system won't work for people who can't force themselves to perform the task every day.

CryptoPrevent, which provides additional protection from CryptoLocker by not allowing program files to be placed in several locations commonly used by CryptoLocker, is available at <http://www.foolshit.com/vb6-projects/cryptoprevent>. It's updated as new versions of CryptoLocker appear, Scott said. A paid version provides automatic updating as the program changes.

Dropbox and email

Q: What if I go only to Dropbox or only to my email inbox with an XP machine?

A: Email is an absolute no-no. You will get compromised. You probably would be safe if you went to Dropbox or Google Drive, but you're still in the realm of "you're probably OK." You want to plan for what to do if data is lost.

Whatever you do, if you keep the XP machine you should plan on the data going away sometime. The mean time on hard drive failures is five to seven years, depending on who you read and the drive involved. Your hard drive might fail before the virus gets you.

Anti-virus in Windows 8

Q: Microsoft says you don't need an anti-virus in Windows 8. Is that correct?

A: Michael Shalkey: What they're really saying is that an anti-virus program is built into Windows 8. The program is called Windows Defender, although it's built on the same engine as Security Essentials and looks like Security Essentials. Windows Defender works well with other anti-virus programs. If you install a third-party program, Windows Defender turns itself off to prevent conflicts. If you remove the third-party program, Windows Defender turns itself back on. Michael and Toby both use it, they said.

Toby Scott: Hackers want the maximum amount of money for the least effort, so they commonly write attacks on

Windows, which has about 80 percent of the total traffic. Androids make up about 10 percent and Macs make up about 2 percent. As the other systems gain in popularity, they will be likely to attract more virus writers.

So far, Linux, Mac and Android machines haven't been subjected to CryptoLocker attacks, but some fairly simple changes in the code could change that. At last year's Pwn2Own competition in Vancouver (<http://dvlabs.tippingpoint.com/>), the first computer gone — in seven seconds — was the Mac. Windows came behind two or three versions of Linux.

Michael Shalkey: Last year, the New York Times website, NYTimes.com, infected millions of computers because of an ad put on the site by an agency. If an advertising agency messes up and puts an infected ad on a website, and you visit that day, you're in trouble.

Toby Scott: After April 8, you can't responsibly do a Google search on an XP machine. It's like playing Russian roulette with a lot of bullets and few empty chambers. With a virtual XP you can make a backup copy of the installed system and then you can do versioning backups.

Michel Shalkey: If you're comfortable with VMware, get rid of XP, go to a new operating system and then run XP in it.

Toby Scott: When you shut VMware down, you get one big container file, which can be backed up. If you have a nice, working installation of a virtual drive, copy it to somewhere other than in the virtual drive folder so you can easily restore if you mess the installation up. And do the backups regularly. It takes 4-8 Gigs of memory to run a virtual drive, so it's unlikely you could run it on an XP machine. If you can't set it up yourself, hiring someone to do it costs about \$500, which is about the cost of a single CryptoLocker ransom payment.

Backing up to Amazon

Q: Could I back up to the Amazon cloud?

A: There are several front ends for the S3 cloud. Some keep only the current version. You have to have versioning. You have to be able to restore the data from yesterday or the day before. Ama-

zon licenses its program out, so not all Amazon storage would be suitable. We have several clients using different front ends to Amazon.

CryptoLocker and LAN

Q: Can CryptoLocker encrypt a LAN (Local Area Network)?

A: Yes. CryptoLocker takes everything it can see and write to — Dropbox, SkyDrive, OneDrive, Google Docs, Copy.com and so on. What CryptoLocker can see it will encrypt.

Michael Shalkey: Since the initial report, the Target infection has apparently been tracked to a secretary in an air conditioning company who opened an infected email and got infected. The company got infected and Target got infected, giving the hacker access to point-of-sale data. The air conditioning company had access to Target's XP computer system so it could control the temperature in the stores. One person just opened an infected email, and the rest is history. For more information, visit <https://krebsonsecurity.com/2014/02/email-attack-on-vendor-set-up-breach-at-target>.

Windows 8 versions

Q: What are the pros and cons of Windows 8 vs. 8.1?

A: There aren't any. Windows 8.1 is basically a service pack update. Most of you probably know that a lot of companies won't touch a version of Windows until the first service pack is released.

Windows 7 or Windows 8?

Q: What about Windows 7 vs. Windows 8?

A: It's a personal choice. I like 8 a lot. Rick hates 8, although he's spent only about 20 minutes on it. There is a sharp learning curve, however.

Michael Shalkey: If you're into power desk, control panel and in-depth options, you'll love 8.1. All the keyboard shortcuts you know are still there, including Alt + F4, my favorite way to shut down a computer.

Toby Scott: If you want an easy transition from XP, go to Windows 7, which is very similar to XP. If you want a safer, more easily morphed into what you want to use when it's set up system, go to 8.

(Continued on page 9)

CIPCUG NEWS AND EVENTS

Program: OneDrive

Microsoft program keeps devices synchronized

By John Weigle*jweigle@vcnet.com*

Microsoft's OneDrive, a cloud storage site, was described by Toby Scott at our February meeting as both a backup site and a way to synchronize such devices as desktop and laptop computers, smartphones and tablets.

OneDrive is the new name, effective Feb. 19, of SkyDrive, which Microsoft renamed because of a trademark dispute with BSKyB, a British pay-TV provider. The new name covers the website, the mobile apps and the desktop apps.

OneDrive and Google Drive are comparable, Scott said, noting that he prefers OneDrive and Michael Shalkey prefers Google Drive. "If you use Google Drive you're going to want to use the Google Docs, You are probably a Gmail user. You probably have an Android phone although the phones don't really make any difference anymore ... If you're married to (Microsoft) Office like I am, particularly OneNote" you'll probably want OneDrive.

OneDrive includes OneNote, "the greatest piece of software ever written," Scott said. OneDrive includes the online versions of Word, Excel, PowerPoint,

Outlook, OneNote and the Windows 8 apps People and Calendar.

Users can create a PowerPoint presentation with the online version and present it from OneDrive. This is the perfect solution for people who don't make many such presentations and don't want, or need, to buy the full version of PowerPoint.

OneNote saves all types of material, and having it on OneDrive makes all that information available to Scott wherever he is and whatever device he's using at the time. OneNote users can create as many tabs, the equivalent of manila file folders, as they need to store and organize information, and all the information can be searched.

OneDrive requires an email address when registering it, but it does not have to be a Microsoft account.

The program shows a list of computers available to synchronize, and if you see a strange one, you know you've been hacked, he said. But that's difficult to do because Microsoft does not allow a login from a new computer until you verify the account with a number it sends to your log-in email address.

You decide who, if anyone, can share the files in OneDrive, which can be used

on Microsoft, iOS and Android devices.

A changed OneDrive document will be synchronized with other devices as the users log in. Synchronization is fast, but not immediate, Scott said. The online programs are updated automatically as Microsoft releases patches or updates.

OneDrive automatically updates every few minutes, Scott said, and if he's going from work to his home, the synchronization will be finished before he gets home.

"This is why you don't use remote desktop, and you'd rather use OneDrive," he added.

A listener asked if OneDrive could be used on a Linux box that had Windows XP on it. Scott said OneDrive is available on Ubuntu and he believes it's available for other versions of Linux because Microsoft wants it to work on everything. The company says it considers itself a provider of solutions, not necessarily a seller of software. "They want the maximum number of people using their ecosystem as they can."

Asked if he likes Office 365, Scott said, "It's not bad." It's a combination of stuff on your computer to make it run much faster and then it's on the Web and

(Continued on page 10)

More on Q&A ...

(Continued from page 8)

You have to spend some time setting it up, but once you do that, it's easier to use and much faster. It's the set-up time and stuff that will kill you and that has been the source of many of the complaints about Windows 8.

Barnes & Noble breach

Q: Are you aware of the Barnes & Noble problem about a year ago with a corrupted system? In Ventura, it was only in the cafeteria and the first register in the bookstore. They took all the card swipe machines and now swipe only in the register.

A: You can have different tools that look the same but that have different software. Devices might look alike and have the same manufacturer, but they aren't the same because they have different software. The Target point-of-sale machines that were hacked were all running embedded XP, even though embedded Windows 7 has been available for years from the same vendor in an identical-looking enclosure.

Small-business dangers

Q: How do we know any of the independent businesses — hairdressers, etc. — are safe?

A: We can't, but small companies are not likely to be attacked. Would you go after Target and Neiman Marcus or a local hairdresser? Hackers will go after the biggest targets.

Complete security in a computer is impossible. There's no such thing as a secure computer unless it's sealed in concrete and buried in your backyard with no power connection or Internet connection. But that computer is not useable. There's always the tradeoff of security and usability. Making security too tight and complex makes it difficult to use the computer.

CIPCUG NEWS AND EVENTS

(Continued from page 9)

automatically synchronizes things. Microsoft and Google make multiple copies of users' data to keep it safe, but they don't do versioning of files, he said. Other than a hack of DropBox four or five years ago, he doesn't know of any large scale hacking of any of the cloud storage sites.

A member asked if Office 2013 will be the last version of Office that's placed on users' hard drives. That's the story, Scott said, and most people believe all the office suites will ultimately be online. "Nobody is going to have one copy of Office that could install on all these devices," he said.

The only way to keep all devices synchronized is to have data in the cloud, he said, and eventually, people will probably have to rent cloud systems. The easiest way to synchronize, he said, is to have the desktop computer collect everything from all the other devices and put it on the cloud from there. Programs such as CryptoLocker should make all of us rethink how to make backups, he said.

Technical people should have recognized the advantages of cloud storage and versioning copies of files — that is, having several copies made as a document is prepared instead of just the most recent one. The advantage of versioning is that users have access to several versions. That's especially important if the latest version was somehow corrupted or encrypted by CryptoLocker.

Q: Does the synchronizing put everything on every device? I have limited space on my cellphone, for example.

OneDrive storage plans

Storage plans	Annual price
7 GB	Free
Add 50 GB	\$ 25
Add 100 GB	\$ 50
Add 200 GB	\$100

— From <https://onedrive.live.com/about/en-us/plans/>

Storage options

	OneDrive	Apple iCloud	Google Drive	Dropbox
Free storage	7 GB	5 GB*	15 GB	2 GB
Add 50 GB	\$25	\$100		
Add 100 GB	\$50		\$ 60	\$ 99
Add 200 GB	\$100		\$119	\$199

*iCloud lets you store only specific types of files like photos for free. To store iWork documents in the cloud, you need to buy iWork apps separately.

— From <https://onedrive.live.com/about/en-us/compare/>

A: You control what comes down from the cloud. The mean time of theft of cell phones is two years. If you're not backing it up, you won't have your data. I have an app on my phone that automatically puts copies of all my photos in the Photo folder in the cloud. I don't edit photos on the phone.

Q: The question is what comes to my phone?

A: Phone apps will ask you where to put your photos. I tell it to put them in the cloud. Not everything comes down to your phone because there's not as much room on the phone. One problem with DropBox is that the free version gives you just 2 Gigs. It's expensive to buy more. SkyDrive gives you 7 Gigs, and you can buy up to 50 Gigs for \$20 or \$30 per year, and they periodically offer ways

to get more space by encouraging other people to sign up or completing some other activity.

Q: Is OneNote suitable for scanned material?

A: Yes. OneNote has an excellent optical character reader built in. It allows you to search scans. It's best to save them as JPEG or PNG. PDFs are a little harder, and I'm not sure they can be searched.

Q: Wasn't there an Adobe/Microsoft issue over PDFs?

A: Yes, Adobe and Microsoft have had all kinds of problems, but Adobe has had problems with everyone.

Q: What tile on my Windows laptop takes me to OneDrive?

A: When you install the OneDrive app it will add a little cloud. It will say SkyDrive, but click on it to upgrade.

Letter

To Channel Islands PC Users Group:

It has been a very rewarding experience to learn how much my cousin's and my uncle's gifts were appreciated by the computer club.

It would be impossible to relate the happiness and excitement Richard experi-

enced every time there was a computer meeting. It was very, very important to his life.

Sometimes people do incredibly good things for other people without realizing it. That is what the computer club did for my cousin, Richard.

Thank you all.

Judy Elens,

Executor, the Richard McMurray and the Carl McMurray trusts

For those who missed the two earlier announcements, CIPCUG received a \$5,000 bequest from each of the trusts with the request that the funds be used to meet any needs for new equipment. —

Editor

CIPCUG NEWS AND EVENTS

Minutes of February board of directors meeting

By Diane Mortensen-Henderson

CIPCUG Board of Directors held its monthly meeting on Feb. 22, 2014. Members in attendance were John Weigle, Helen Long, Craig Ladd, Art Lewis, Ken Church, Jim Brown and Diane Mortensen-Henderson. Toby Scott attended the first part of the meeting. Not present: Sandy Tsutsui-Trujillo and Andy Toth.



Mortensen-Henderson

In the absence of the president, Vice-President Craig Ladd opened the meeting.

Craig announced that the organizers of the Southwest Computer Conference to be held in Pomona in June are requesting photos for the conference's digital contest from all computer users groups. There were suggestions of several members who might be interested in submitting photos. CIPCUG members who are interested in attending one or two days at the conference could carpool in that Pomona is approximately an hour or more from Camarillo.

As of yet, Craig has not been able to find a speaker for CIPCUG's March meeting. There was discussion on what types of presentations would be popular to stir members and the public's interest. A broad range of new technology has been introduced along with continuous upgrades where PCs are no longer a "must have item." Many tech companies do not send representatives to train and sell their products as in the past. This presents a problem in obtaining speakers for CIPCUG's meetings.

Art Lewis presented the board with a copy of the treasurer's report. There was conversation on how CIPCUG can increase its membership by gathering information and ideas from other PC users groups. CIPCUG grand prize raffle events generate extra income. The first offered was at CIPCUG's 25th anniversary in September 2013, where raffle ticket sales were very successful. The second grand prize raffle did not produce as much revenue. Unless the board can come up with something new and enticing to generate high ticket sales, it was decided to hold off on another grand raffle prize for a while.

Art shared with the board that there was a second \$5,000 endowment provided by the estate of Richard McMurray. Richard's niece, Julie Elens, executrix of McMurray's estate, was so impressed with Art's thank you letter that she decided to grant another \$5,000 to CIPCUG from the trust of Carl McMurray. Before the meeting, Toby had provided the cost of a new projector, approximately \$2,000, and the board voted in favor that Toby make the purchase.

Craig stated that perhaps CIPCUG could have a booth at the City of Camarillo's 50th anniversary event this year. It would be good public relations for the club and, optimistically,

(Continued on page 12)

Treasurer's report for January 2014

By Art Lewis
treasurer@cipcug.org



Lewis

1-1-14 through
1-31-14

Category Description

INFLOWS	
CIPCUG email income	40.00
Coffee Income	8.00
Donation	5,000.00
Membership Income	
Renewals \$350.00	
TOTAL Membership Income	350.00
Raffle	129.00
TOTAL INFLOWS	5,532.00
OUTFLOWS	
Raffle prizes	93.18
Rent Paid	200.00
TOE	463.09
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	756.27
OVERALL TOTAL	4,775.73
Unrestricted Funds	13,322.58
Restricted Funds	0.00
Bank Balance 1-31-14	13,322.58
Year to Date Income	13,648.15
Year to Date Expense	4,706.92
Net Year to Date	8,941.23

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.

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

- APCUG**
- Sandy Berger
 - Steve Costello
 - Linda Gonse

- CIPCUG MEMBERS**
- Ken Church
 - Art Lewis
 - Helen Long
 - Toby Scott

- OTHER**
- Judy Elens

CIPCUG NEWS AND EVENTS

Membership report:

Is it time to renew?

By Ken Church

email address: membership@cipcug.org



CHURCH

Welcome new member: Dave Ware

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

Total membership: 169

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 for the March 22, 2014, meeting.

Jan 2014 renewals payment due:

Mbr#	Last Name	First Name	Pd to
0835	Brown	George	201401
0836	Willett	Dr. Nancy	201401

February 2014 renewals payment due:

Mbr#	Last Name	First Name	Pd to
0959	Church	Ken	201402
1129	Escobedo	Ray	201402
1219	Hernandez	Rafael	201402
0566	Meeker	Kirsten	201402
0565	Meeker	Mary	201402
0656T	Mori	Ken	201402
1218	Panczel	Marika	201402
1082	Perry	Jim	201402
1135	Sherbrooke	Rosalie	201402
1169	Smith	Donald	201402

March 2014 renewals payment due:

Mbr#	Last Name	First Name	Pd to
1060	Bailey	Carl	201403
0544	Beardshear	Paul	201403
0054T	Erickson	Elden	201403
0917	Johnson	Barbara	201403
1220	Johnson	Vic	201403
0425	Ledner, MD	Bob	201403
1050	Wennerholm	Ernest	201403
0771	Zuromski	Alexandra	201403

**More on
minutes ...**

(Continued from page 11)

new members. Jim Brown will be in touch with the city for additional information. It was thought that before any other event, CIPCUG's brochure be re-

vised. Ken volunteered to work with the brochure to see how he could enhance the piece before it goes to print.

The meeting closed at approximately 1:20 pm

GENERAL NEWS AND COMMENTARY

You may be a user of Linux

By Bill Wayson
bwayson@gmail.com

Most of you use Windows PCs. If not, then you probably use a Macintosh. The same can be said of most, maybe all, of the people you know. You don't use Linux, you see no reason to use Linux, and you can't fathom why you would use Linux. Linux just does not touch your world. Really? You may be surprised to discover some of the interesting places where Linux shows up and that you just may be a user of Linux. As you will see, Linux is more than just a PC operating system.

This one you may already be familiar with. If your smartphone or tablet runs on Android, then you use Linux. Android is an operating environment built upon Linux. Android alone makes millions of people worldwide users of Linux. With car makers soon introducing automobiles with in-car Android-powered systems, the reach of Linux will increase even more.

If you get one of the soon to be released Crock-Pot Smart Slow Cookers featuring WeMo-enabled technology, you will be a user of Linux. Linux running a crock pot? Really! By using Linux in the

cooker, you'll be able to use your smart device, like a smart phone or tablet, to control the cooking temperature, time, and more. From anywhere, anytime. And it looks like the same Linux-based WeMo remote control technology will soon be used in other household appliances like coffee makers, heaters, and humidifiers.

You probably don't own or play with a computer engineer Barbie. But maybe your daughter, granddaughter, or great-granddaughter does. Look closely at this Barbie's computer workspace, and you will see a penguin — Tux, the Linux mascot — on one of the shelves. It looks like even Barbie believes in free and open computing.

Have you ever used an in-flight entertainment system while cruising in a jet? These are the devices with the screen in the seat back in front of you. Chances are very good that it was using Linux. If you pay close attention the next time you are on a flight with one of these systems, you may even see the penguin as it starts up.

Have you or anyone you know enjoyed a Tim Hortons doughnut or coffee while in Canada? The shops, which are widespread throughout the country, use digital displays for their menus. Each of these displays runs Linux.

I'm sure that you, like me, get annoyed by the "show" displayed while you are filling up on the advertising screen built into the gas pump. For better or worse, some of these systems are pow-

ered by Linux.

Few, if any, of you have been a guest on the International Space Station. But you are aware it is up there, and maybe you follow its explorations. The station itself runs Linux. In fact, the station was converted to Linux after its previous Windows-based systems became infected with a virus and malware through a USB thumb drive.

OK, this affects maybe one person in the world. But one Linux aficionado with, perhaps, too much free time on his hands, built a Linux system based on an 8-bit micro controller. While it is a cool demonstration that Linux can be made to run on almost anything, its usefulness is somewhat limited. The effectively 6.5 kilohertz computer takes two hours (!) to boot to a usable command prompt, and four more to get to an Ubuntu graphical login screen. The proof is in a posted, full-length YouTube video.

One company, Liquid Robotics, has built and deployed four solar powered floating robots, which look like surf boards, that will propel themselves across the ocean for about 10 months collecting and relaying ocean data. Essentially floating and moving computers, they are expected to cover a combined 34,000 nautical miles once their missions are completed. Yep, they all run Linux.

If you are not allergic to it or related products, you probably enjoy cow's milk

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Penguin's Lair



Wayson

Computer tune up coming in March

By Helen Long

This month we have the computer tune up. If you are having problems with your computer bring it in, and Rick and Michael will have a quick look at it. Just bring in your computer, no cords or mouse, but for laptops, they need the power adapter. The charge is \$15, and the money goes to CIPCUG. Toby will have

the sign-up sheet on the webpage by the next week.

Bits & Bytes



Long

We are not doing so well with cartridge recycling. I am not getting very many ink cartridges. Guess we have to wait for the IRS deadline to get any of the toner cartridges. Do let me know, Art, because

we were able to turn in about 20 of them last year. But get those ink cartridges in, please!

Toby shared his favorite program "One Note," indicating it is a fantastic program for storage of your data for easy recovery.

Someone left a "USC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION" notebook at the registration table. I will have it for you at the March meeting.

GENERAL NEWS AND COMMENTARY

(Continued from page 13)

once in a while. The milk you enjoy may have been extracted from the cow by a DeLaval VMS cow milking system. This exactly-what-it-sounds-like system automatically milks a cow. It is unknown if the cow feels better knowing that these systems run Linux.

Do you own a digital television, such as a Sony Bravia Internet TV, Panasonic Viera Series, or some Samsungs? If so, it likely runs Linux and, at least, some open source software.

This one is not necessarily weird, but it is notable. Linux continues to dominate in the supercomputer realm. A report

released in mid-2013 showed that whether measured by the number of computers or the aggregate performance, roughly 95 percent of the supercomputing done in the world is done running on Linux, including all of the top 10 supercomputers.

The Year of the Linux Desktop may be taking years to arrive, but in other areas like smart devices, embedded systems, and supercomputers, Linux is thriving if not dominant. I attribute this to the free and open availability of the source code which, through its open source licensing, can be freely modified to suit any purpose imaginable. Some of these examples may seem a bit "April Fools-ish," but

they are not. They all are real examples of uses of Linux that may directly or indirectly touch your life. One of them may make you a Linux user.

If you have questions or would like to learn more about Linux and FOSS, come to the March Linux SIG meeting on Tuesday, the 25th, 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

Recent headlines from our Facebook page

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

Think Microsoft is bad for stopping support of XP? Apple stops support on Snow Leopard OS 10.6 that only came out in 2009.

Microsoft experimenting with free version of Windows 8.1

Handset Makers Go Big on Smartphones

First contagious WiFi computer virus goes airborne, spreads like the common cold

Apple Is Expected To Retire The iPad 2 — AppAdvice

Samsung Takes a More Focused Approach With New Smartphone and Smart Watch

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Windows 8

Please come in for a demo of Windows 8.1. Let me show you fifty reasons not to buy it.

Remember, let the force be with you. Open your mind and touch the Windows key and any other key and the force will be with you.

I am getting sick and tired of Rick Smith trying to impeach Windows 8. I'll have the final say and Windows 8 is here to stay and if you have 2 hours I'll explain why.

Ventura County Computers
Rick Smith, MCP
Toby Scott, MCP
www.vccomputers.com

Ventura County Computers
Fast Friendly Humorous Service... Most of the time

GENERAL NEWS AND COMMENTARY



I'm back and I still dislike Win 8

Jack Nicholson ad-libbed the line "Here's Johnny!" in imitation of announcer Ed McMahon's famous introduction of Johnny Carson on U.S. network NBC-TV's long-running late night television program "The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson." Stanley Kubrick, who had been living in England since before Carson took over "The Tonight Show," had no clue what "Here's Johnny!" meant. Carson once used the clip of Nicholson as the introduction to one of his annual anniversary specials.

Rick's rant



Smith

I'm back in the saddle once again opining for TOE. In case you haven't noticed I dropped out for a few issues, but the volume of mail encouraging me to come back was overwhelming to say the least. Overwhelmingly bad. It seems not one person cared that I stopped writing for TOE. Well, maybe one. At least editor John Weigle would inquire on a monthly basis. Nonetheless, I have picked up my shattered ego and am prepared to enter the fray once again and share a familiar theme of how really bad Windows 8 was, is and will forever be. Where shall I start?

Let's bypass Windows 8 and go straight to Windows 8.1. I, like so many others, waited in anticipation of the release of 8.1 nicknamed windows Blue. But, as was said in a CIPCUG meeting, Code Blue was more like it. Windows 8 is terminally flawed, and all 8.1 did was put it on life support while the Dr. Frankensteins in Redmond try to create something not so monstrous. So let's take a look at what's wrong with windows 8.1.

The Start button: I guess somebody at Microsoft figured the presence of a Start button would mollify the 1.4 billion people who click on Start and expect to see a Start menu. The returned Start button definitely is not the Start menu that people really miss. First of all, unless you go to the desktop, you have no start button in the Metro half of windows 8.1. Once you figure out a way to navigate to the desktop, you see a pathetic little Windows icon. You still can't just click on it and expect anything useful to happen. You must right-click it to see a context menu popup that Microsoft calls QUICK ACCESS. Here are included items that Microsoft thinks you might want to have access to. Oh, really! Nice of you to be so thoughtful as to allow us easy access to many of the features that we really want to access. Like maybe shut down our PC. Or get to the control

(Continued on page 16)

Members' classified ads

Wanted

For sale

I have the following For Sale (contribution to CIPCUG): 1 each Microsoft Optical Mouse, \$2 each Video Selector Switch (5 inputs/2 outputs), \$5 — David Minkin, dddave@cipcug.org

Other categories as needed

Contact Richard Quint, rquint@rain.org

- 1. Canon LiDE 30 scanner. USB supplies data and power. \$10
2. D-Link ADSL2+ modem unused, in opened box with all accessories. \$20.
3. D-Link DIR-655 "XTREME N GIGABIT ROUTER" still in shrink-wrapped box. \$30..

The Outer Edge is printed and prepared for mailing by:

Advertisement for Creative Technology of Sarasota, Inc. featuring a logo with a 'T' in a circle, contact information for Bob Weisensee (Production Supervisor), address (5959 Palmer Boulevard), phone numbers, and email addresses.

Advertisement for O'Reilly featuring a large illustration of a raccoon wearing glasses, the text 'User group members SAVE 40% off print and 50% off ebooks', the discount code 'DSUG', and the O'Reilly logo with the tagline 'Spreading the knowledge of innovators'.

GENERAL NEWS AND COMMENTARY

(Continued from page 15)

panel. Get real! Not all of us are as stupid as the average Mac PC user, but I guess the dumbing down of America is having a trickle down effect to the PC industry. What is also included is things we use every day like Power Shell, Power Shell (admin), Power Options, Computer & Disk Management. Who but me needs to access this stuff?

The Metro interface: Where do I begin? This has got to be the great cluster-mess Microsoft's mad scientists have come up with in decades. Oh, yeah, what I really wanted was to have my PC have a bunch of stupid squares constantly popping off with visual input that I find completely irritating and useless. I'm always teasing Toby Scott to put more "blinking objects" in his Web design pages as he mutters something about my intelligence level. But then he turns around and likes the stupid Metro doing the same thing. Go figure. Bottom line, if you have two monitors, one could even be an expensive touch screen. A mouse and a large track pad, and it's almost impossible to do anything useful with the interface. So far, I haven't seen PCs factory equipped with the necessary hardware to utilize this fantastic piece of crap! Big square blocks look good on your phone, I guess, but I want better for my PC. I still can't fathom why Microsoft is pushing a touch-based user interface onto systems that people are going to be driving with a keyboard and mouse, which will make up at least 90 percent, if not more, of Windows 8 users over the lifespan of the operating system. Why didn't Microsoft just offer the Metro interface as an option for touch-based systems? I am always feeling the conflict of the two operating systems competing with each other. I love trying to tell my customers that "no," your favorite solitaire game is an APP, not a program, and you cannot put a shortcut on your desktop. I like icons and see no reason to give them up. I also grow numb trying to explain why APPS like Internet Explorer and Mail are not the same as their desktop counterparts. I don't want my PC to be like my phone. I hate my Windows phone Toby forced me to buy, but that's another rant. Finally, I'm just not that convinced that Metro works that

well on larger-screen systems. The larger the screen, the greater amount of wasted screen real estate there is. I cannot see how anything I do on my PC will be done easier or better with Metro. Bottom line, METRO MUST GO!

Charms: I am not charmed by charms. The Charm Bar is a universal toolbar in Windows 8 that can be accessed from anywhere no matter what you are doing or what application you are running. Microsoft included five key elements for Windows 8 in the Charm Bar: Search, Share, Start, Devices and Settings. As stated previously this is only useful when you are using APPS and not programs. I wish I had a dollar for every time I moved my mouse to the bottom right corner and nothing happened. There are too many hidden and invisible user interface elements in Windows 8. Take your mouse to the bottom left of the screen, and you get poor replacement for the Start Menu. Take the cursor to the top left, and you get tiles showing apps that are open. Take the cursor to the right of the screen, and a charms ribbon pops out if you are lucky. I get frustrated when I move my mouse and nothing happens. As Michael Shalkey says, "Learn the keyboard shortcuts or die." I guess learning Windows key + C may not be such a bad thing after all. The biggest problem isn't that Microsoft has moved where stuff is and added a whole raft of new user interface elements, it's that there's nothing that gives the user any clue that these features exist, and unless they are somehow shown, the only way they are going to figure it out is through trial and error. And in my case it's mostly error. All I have to do is demonstrate Windows 8 to a potential client and they go running to the hills. I have pretty much killed selling Windows 8 to everyone except one CIP-CUG member who has been calling us with questions ever since he got home with it. I just want to say I told you so!

APPS vs. Programs: Nothing shows what's wrong with APPS instead of programs on the PC better than the calculator APP. On a tablet, it works fine and does calculator stuff, but on my demo machine with two 23-inch monitors, it is ridiculous. You launch it and it takes a while to open, and then it's there, bloody huge,

filling my screen with buttons the size of business cards. It offers a selection of calculator types — standard, scientific and converter — and each mode looks like it's been designed to be viewed from outer space. To calculate a sum, I have to stop what I'm doing, open up this monstrosity, tap in my calculation, then close the app down. It's an exercise in time wasting. So why doesn't the Calculator APP detect my large screen and use the space more intelligently? Why, instead of opening full screen, doesn't it just appear in a strip down the side? Why does every app in the OS have to run full screen unless manually resized? Because Windows 8.1 treats every APP as if it's being opened and used on a tablet with at most a 10-inch screen. Why couldn't Microsoft write it to adapt intelligently to the different devices it's on. Instead of offering the same features to all, how about if Windows detects its environment and removes the features you don't or can't use? Oh, wait a minute, then they wouldn't be able to make me feel stupid for still using a mouse. Microsoft's one size fits all approach sounds better than it actually works. Why could you not have a Wizard to select features you want or don't?

Back-Up: Windows 8 contains a completely revamped backup system. Windows 8's File History replaces Windows 7's Windows Backup — if you use Windows Backup and update to Windows 8, you'll find quite a few differences.

Microsoft redesigned Windows backup features because less than 5 percent of PCs used Windows Backup. The new File History system is designed to be simple to set up and work automatically in the background.

With Windows 7, you can back up any files on your computer — not only personal files, but program files, system files, and anything else. You can also create full system images that can be used to restore your computer to its current state in the future.

There's been a major philosophical change in Windows 8. You can no longer create full system images, nor can you back up everything on your hard drive. Instead, you can back up only files in your libraries, files on your desktop, your

(Continued on page 17)

GENERAL NEWS AND COMMENTARY

Southwest Technology & Computer Conference set

The 21st Southwest Technology & Computer Conference (SW 2014) is set for June 27-29 at the Kellogg-West Conference Center & Hotel at Cal Poly Pomona. The conference is on the same weekend as the June CIPCUG meeting.

Presentations, seminars, vendor expo, and door prizes are all part of the event, which, its organizers say, always brings new and innovative technology to the attendees.

There will be something for everyone, regardless of the platform preferred or the level of expertise. Those attending will have many networking opportunities with PC, Mac and Linux attendees, all of whom share common interests in computers, tablets and smartphones.

Attendees also share solutions to challenges facing user groups and computer club. This is the place to talk one on one with others who might be experiencing the same challenges.

Parking is free and free Wi-Fi is available in the Conference Center and hotel



rooms.

A free shuttle from Ontario International Airport is available.

Registration

The early bird registration fee is \$85 through June 2. After that date, the fee is \$100. Conference hotel rates are \$89, single; \$95, double; and \$109, quad. Call the hotel at 1-800-593-7876 and mention

Southwest Conference to make reservations. Let them know if you have any ADA requirements.

Digital photo contest

The 2014 digital photo contest is open to all attendees, who may submit one 8x10 photo of a subject of their choice. There will be best of show and first-, second- and third-place awards voted on by the attendees.

The conference will also be home to the 2014 APCUG Photo Contest. Attendees will have the opportunity to vote for APCUG's Best of Show photo.

More information may be obtained from Judy Tylour at judytaylor@theswcc.org. The website has just been completely redone but isn't quite ready to be published as theswcc.org. The beta version can be seen at www.theswcc.weebly.com. Feel free to complete the fillable registration form and send it to Judy (address on form). You may pay via check or credit card with PayPal.

More on Rick's rant ...

(Continued from page 16)

contacts, and your browser favorites. Windows 8's File History feature is designed to protect users' personal files, which are generally irreplaceable. In contrast, there's less need to back up system files because operating systems and applications can be reinstalled from elsewhere. I, of course, really like the Windows 7 approach. We get 100 percent of our clients to use it. The reason no one else uses it is Microsoft did such a poor job promoting it. I think I may understand why as backing up a PC while you are using it

is a huge and complicated task, and I think they may have regretted taking it on for free. It can have glitches, but once you get it working it does the job with a few caveats, but for free it's fully worth it.

You can image in Windows 8, but it is difficult to find and has to be manually run. I don't know about you, but getting my PC up to date and set up the way I like it takes some work, and I really don't like throwing away all that effort.

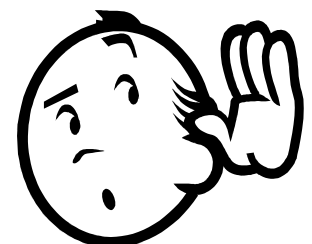
Finally, licensing: Many Windows 8 devices do not come with a COA number. I think you're going to see some backlash

as these devices crash and you have no number to install the OS.

Unlike Windows 7, Windows 8 does not allow you to install without a COA. I expect the crap to fly as people find themselves in future pickles. If you don't believe me, try to find one on a Windows 8 PC or notebook.

Well, that's all for now. I have lots more, but TOE does have its limits. I'll try to write more in 2014. That's the score, and there ain't no more, and I'm really sore being a bore, but I'm out the door.

Q&A reminder: Please wait for the microphone to ask, answer or comment on a question so the information can be recorded for use in TOE. When you get the microphone, hold it close to your mouth all the time you're talking.



GENERAL NEWS AND COMMENTARY

Norton 360 helps computers stay in shape

By Jim Thornton

jasthorn@gmail.com

I started using my computers over 49 years ago in my telephone engineering office and my home, and in both places, I protected the computers against viruses and unauthorized users and backed up my files, etc., by using the kinds of programs that are now bundled in Norton 360, a Symantec product.

This program protects your computer when you're Web browsing or using your e-mail, secures your online shopping and banking activities, stores your computer files on an off-site location, and keeps your computer tuned-up and working at its highest speed. The current version of Norton 360 is 12, which was released on Sept. 4, 2013, and here is a description of its usual and new features. When you open Norton 360, there are four choices of services, which are described below:

(1) Security and its five choices are View Details, Run Scans, Run Live Update, Manage Firewall, and Run Norton Insight. This protects your computer from viruses by doing a continuous virus scan, identifies newly downloaded files, including applications before you install or run them, as safe or as a potential danger. It prevents unauthorized users from accessing your wireless network and scans your incoming and outgoing e-mail attachments for protection against viruses, spyware, and other threats. You can view the

details of your current and recent security history anytime. You can manage your firewall and run Norton Insight, which is part of Norton 360, to determine where recent files and applications came from and whether they are safe. Monthly status reports show how many security threats were detected, how many intrusions were blocked, how many safe websites were identified, how many online and local files were backed up, and how many unnecessary files and registry keys were removed. Norton 360 blocks websites from stealing your identity and stops other persons from hacking into your computer and stealing your personal information.

(2) Identity and its four choices are View Details, Manage Identify Protection, Login to Identify Safe, and Identify Safe Online. Identity Protection identifies websites as either safe for surfing, shopping, and banking or as dangerous websites. Protects your identity when you are surfing.

(3) Backup and its five choices are View Details, Manage Backup Sets, Run Backup New, Restore Files, and Buy More Storage. Files are automatically backed up when you're not using your computer so it doesn't interfere with your work. You can retrieve and download backed up files from anywhere by using the Internet, but the files are accessible and available only to you. The size of the offsite storage capacity is 2 GB. You can

buy more capacity. Norton 360 backs up files to local or online storage, which is helpful if you have a hard drive failure. The online backup is large enough to store hundreds of photos, songs, and other files.

(4) Tuneup and its five choices are View Details, Run Disk Optimization, Run File Cleanup, Run Diagnostic Report, and Run Startup Manage. Tuneup optimizes your hard drive, removes unnecessary clutter and provides a status report of your CPU, memory, and disk activities. In addition, Norton 360 does a good job of finding and fixing problem that slow down your computer and removes outdated system files.

Pricing: The price varies — at Norton's website its price is \$49.99, at Amazon it's \$34.27, and many other websites show prices from \$24.99 to \$49.99. These prices are for the version for use on a single computer. The prices vary more for versions with a license for more than one computer: for three computers it's \$89.99; on five, it's \$129.99; on 10, it's \$239.99, etc. If you are an existing Norton 360 customer, you can update to its latest version at a lower price by going to <http://updatecenter.norton.com> and selecting update me now.

Symantec provides free e-mail, chat, and phone support for one year from initial installation of the product, and I have found the support to be good and fast.

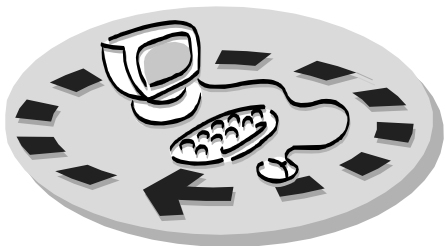
Web help sites

(Verified 8-7-13)

DSL reports: www.dslreports.com
 Steve Gibson: www.grc.com
 Kim Komando: www.komando.com
 Leo Laporte: www.leoville.com; techguylabs.com/ (among others)
 Jeff Levy: www.jefflevy.com
 Linux distributions: www.DistroWatch.com
 Microsoft: www.microsoft.com
 OnGuard Online: www.onguardonline.gov
 PCMag: www.pcmag.com
 PC Pitstop: www.pcpitstop.com

PC World: www.pcworld.com
 Recalled products: www.recalls.gov
 SANS Institute — Computer Security Education and Information Security Training: www.sans.org
 Spyware Warrior: www.spywarewarrior.com
 User Group Relations (Gene Barlow): www.ugr.com
 Ventura County Computers (Rick and Toby's shop): www.vccomputers.com
 Virus Bulletin: www.virusbtn.com/index
 Windows Secrets: www.windowssecrets.com
 Windows The Official Magazine (UK): www.officialwindowsmagazine.com/

If you have a favorite help site on the Web, please forward it, so we can expand the section. If you find a link that doesn't work, please tell us that, too.



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 # _____

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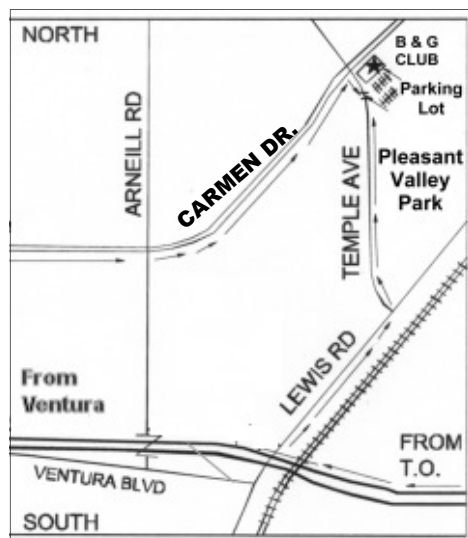
DATED MATERIAL
Please Do Not Delay

DUES REMINDER

If the code above your name is 2014 MARCH, your dues are payable this month.

March 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, March 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