The Outer Edge

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

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★
Attendance at the
April general meeting:
**57 members and guests.
We welcome 1 new member.**
★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

To Contact CIPCUG

The Outer Edge......................805-485-7121
General Information………...805-289-3960
Mailing Address...P.O. Box 51354, Oxnard, CA
93031-1354
On the Web: cipcug.org
On Facebook: Facebook.com/groups/cipcug

Doughnuts are up

The board raised the price of dough-nuts to $1 each at the April board meeting at the suggestion of a member who was concerned about the difficulty in making change for the long line.

The increase goes into effect at the May meeting.

Elections are coming

Elections are scheduled for the June meeting. Anyone interested in running for office should contact a board member or announce the intention at the next meeting. President Jim Brown has one more year of his two-year term to serve. The other elected officers, all with one-year terms, are vice president, secretary and treasurer.

COMMAND.COM

By Jim Brown, President
"Promoting the Harmony of Computer Education, and Camaraderie"

I was reviewing past issues of our TOE (seeking inspiration for this month's column) and realized how fortunate our computer group is to have talented people willing to give of their time, volunteering to be of service and thus keeping this group alive.

Brown

These volunteers go about their work like as part of a team, encompassing a large spectrum of duties that result in the presentation of our monthly meetings, our monthly reports, and the mailing of our monthly newsletter — The Outer Edge.

Our monthly newsletter is quite an undertaking. John Wei-gle does a great job in correcting, organizing, editing and mailing to our printer the final form that we receive monthly.

As I stated earlier, these volunteers are the backbone of this group, but I would like to offer a few of my suggestions where we might be of assistance to our computer group:

Place an advertisement in TOE. This is free to our members, but you may have a service or skill that may be of benefit to our members.

Consider placing your old electronic equipment on our consignment ta-ble. This benefits our club as well as it does you.

Bring a guest to our meetings, give them the latest issue of TOE (we al-ways have a few issues on hand), and introduce them and yourself to other members of the club.

Finally, let us know if you are interested in being a volunteer. If we have a need and it is something you have an interest in, the "fit" will benefit us all.

"GIVE YOUR COMPUTER A GIFT — BECOME A MEMBER OF CIP-CUG."

Happy Mother's Day.

Root Directory

UPDATE CIPCUG NEWS

GENERAL

ADVERTISEMENTS

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

Channel Islands PC Users Group

Advertising in The Outer Edge

CIPCUG NEWS AND EVENTS

From threats to laughs, a lot to read

This issue has a range of content — from how to protect ourselves against the dangers of the Internet to a review of a humorous book for the hopelessly plugged in. I hope you enjoy it. Unfortunately, it's not as early as last month's issue, but it should still arrive in time to alert you to the May meeting.

Editor's corner

Weigle

Let me remind you again that you can sign up on the front page of cipcug.org for notices of our Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and the regular meeting. At the moment, the only SIGs that we have outside the regular meeting are Bill Wayson's Linux SIG and Michael Shalkey's after-meeting SIG on days that he and Toby Scott don't have to present the program, so you're not going to be flooded with mail. Not only does that mean that we won't be filling up your mail box but also that the notices should stand out when they arrive.

In addition to the regular reports on the Q&A session and the program, we have a review of software for birdwatchers and a report on how some of that strange software you find on your computer gets there. You asked for it — but didn't realize what you were doing. Read the report on page 16. That and our speaker's warnings alerted me to some things that I didn't realize — and I'm sure I'm not the only one in that position.

Facebook page topics

Here are some topics covered on the CIPCUG Facebook page since the last issue (as usual, you have to go to the page for the links). Please join the members and share your thoughts. Those who post information always like to see reactions to it.

● New hires get inspirational note on their first day at Apple

● How to increase your Klout score (never heard of it? Neither had I.)

● John McAfee, antivirus pioneer, arrested by Belize police

● Jerry Crocker's photos of the last meeting (can you find yourself?)

● Microsoft to retire Windows Live Brand ahead of Windows 8 launch.

● How do I use my @facebook.com email address?

● Neat Net Tricks

● IOGEAR newsflash

● Facebook 'Likes' could get you fired, and legal options are a challenge

— John Weigle, editor

Coming events
Navigating technology is topic for May program

Programs

Abby Stokes, the author of "Is This Thing On?," is scheduled to discuss "How to Navigate the Ever Changing Landscape of Technology" at the May 26 meeting. The meeting starts at 8:45 a.m. in the Camarillo Boys & Girls Club, 1500 Temple Ave. (Ponderosa Drive and Temple Avenue), Camarillo. (See the map on the last page.)

The doors open at 8 a.m. The Internet and Networking SIG and the Social Media SIG start at 8:45 a.m.

For more information about Stokes, visit her Web page at http://abbyandme.com.

Other meeting dates for this year:

June 23
July 28
Aug. 25
Sept. 22
Oct. 27
Nov. 17 (**third Saturday**)
Dec. 15 (**third Saturday**)

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.

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<u>Internet SIG, Q&A</u>

Social Media SIG emphasizes value of Twitter

Reported by John Weigle
Social Media SIG

Twitter is "basically the virtual platform for the word of mouth" distribution of information, Jessica Scott said at the April meeting. "In this day and age, word of mouth takes too long," she said.

A former skeptic about Twitter, she said, "I'm taking back all of the bad things I've said about Twitter. I didn't realize how useful it was."

Jessica and Michael Shalkey shared the social media SIG presentation, and Michael added that major news is often reported first on Twitter by people who are there as it happens. As an example, he noted that there were many posts that morning about an earthquake in Devore, Calif., that occurred that morning. Tweets (posts on Twitter) can get news out before any other media because of the time needed to get information on radio and television shows, websites and newspapers, he said.

Tweets are limited to 140 characters, including spaces, so writers have to get to the point quickly, the two speakers said. Tweets get you to the core of the matter, Jessica said. "An email is to a 10-page letter as a postcard is to Twitter," Michael

added. Tweets can be posted from a desktop computer, smartphones or any other device that connects to the Internet and allows a form of typing.

One of the best things about Twitter, Jessica said, is that users don't need an account to follow the posts. (Users must have an account to post a tweet, however.) To find posts, go to http://twitter.com/search and type in the topic or name of a person you're searching for. (If this link doesn't work, go to your favorite search engine and type in "twitter search" without the quotation marks.) If, for instance, you want to find all of Toby Scott's tweets, search for tobywscott — or go to the home page of Ventura County Computers at http://www.vccomputers.com, where his tweets are also posted.

Twitter users can find all kinds of information through Twitter. For instance, people planning a trip can search for best places to see and eat. Sports followers can get immediate news about their teams and the progress of games as they are being played. Trends often become apparent on Twitter. The search page shows trends (at the meeting, Shalkey's page showed trends from the Los Angeles area; the homepage that

showed as this article was written showed worldwide trends.).

Hash tags (#) are used often in Twitter, Jessica said. One use is to specify a word to show up in searches — "I like #cats" marks "cats" as the search term.

Some Twitter accounts can be followed by RSS (really simple syndication), although none showed up during a quick search at the meeting.

Twitter can be used on mobile phones, but, as was shown during the meeting, the method varies from device to device. As Michael put it, to us a phone is a phone, but to Twitter, the phone's operating system is the key to using Twitter.

Google is a bit afraid of Twitter, Michael said, because it gets information online long before the websites that Google indexes do. Google has a Twitter search, however; to find it, search for "Google twitter search" without the quotation marks.

Michael established a CIPCUG Twitter account to follow certain computer-related posts, including those of Steve Gibson, creator of SpinRite and a computer security expert, and TWIT (Leo La

More on coming events ...

SIGs

The Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are sponsored by CIPCUG and led by volunteer club members. They 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 after-meeting SIG is at locations to be announced on the meeting day.

The general schedule:

Fourth Tuesday: Linux.

Fourth Saturday (or the regular meeting day): Social Media SIG (Jessica Scott and Mark Maidel) and Internet and connectivity SIG (Toby Scott), 8:45 a.m. The location of Michael Shalkey's after-meeting SIG, on days there is one, is announced at the meeting.

The May and June schedules:

May

Tuesday, May 22: Linux SIG. Topic: Installing Ubuntu 12.04.

Saturday, May 26: Regular meeting, pre-meeting Social Media and Internet SIGs.

June

Saturday, June 23: Regular meeting, pre-meeting Social Media and Internet, connectivity SIGs.

Tuesday, June 26: Linux SIG. Topic: TBA.

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

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(Continued from page 4)
Porte's posts).

Many companies have staff members who monitor Twitter for comments about the company, so one way to complain effectively is to have a Twitter account and post complaints there, he said. Such posts generally get a speedy reaction from the criticized business, he said, because "the world knows you're upset."

Michael reported the results of a survey that named the top 10 social media as (from 10 to 1): Tumblr, Mylife, myYearbook, Myspace, Google +, Tagged, Linkedin, Pinterest, Twitter and Facebook.

He also discussed Pinterest (pinterest.com), which is, in effect, an online bulletin board. Users can post information about anything they like, and he compared the site to clipping pictures from a catalog and putting them on a corkboard. It can be used as a gift registry for weddings, birthdays and anniversaries, he said, or just as a way to share information about anything you like. Users can search the site for topics or people whose postings they like.

Images posted on Pinterest are links to the site they came from so it's easy to find a place to buy something you like. Users can also re-pin items from other's pages to their own. As of this writing, those who want to sign up for Pinterest must request an invitation through a box on the home page.

On the Net:
For more information about hashtags, @username and retweeting, see http://www.contentandmotion.co.uk/blog/three-important-twitter-conventions-and-how-they-are-used/

Regular Q&A

Unless otherwise noted, questions were answered by Toby Scott. Michael Shalkey handled the computer duties.

This month's Q&A session was shorter than usual because our speaker, who had to catch a plane, spoke at the beginning of the meeting and ran longer than the usual time allotted. Parts of the Q&A were not recorded, so much of this report is purely from the editor's notes and Toby Scott's reconstruction. — Editor

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This month's Q&A topics:
Regular Q&A
Internet not shutting down
Sorting through open windows
Text message fraud
Website drop down menus

TV as a monitor
Replacing MSE with Avast
USB 3.0
Replacing Lookout on phone
Solid state drive; TV as monitor
I Heart Radio

```
C:\>ipconfig /all

Windows IP Configuration

        Host Name . . . . . . . . . . . . : John-PC
        Primary Dns Suffix  . . . . . . . :
        Node Type . . . . . . . . . . . . : Hybrid
        IP Routing Enabled. . . . . . . . : No
        WINS Proxy Enabled. . . . . . . . : No
        DNS Suffix Search List. . . . . . : dslextreme.com

Ethernet adapter Local Area Connection:

        Connection-specific DNS Suffix  . : dslextreme.com
        Description . . . . . . . . . . . : Intel(R) 82566DC-2 Gigabit Network Connec
tion
        Physical Address. . . . . . . . . : 00-1C-C0-93-CC-45
        DHCP Enabled. . . . . . . . . . . : Yes
        Autoconfiguration Enabled . . . . : Yes
        Link-local IPv6 Address . . . . . : fe80::35:220f:7419:ace%10(Preferred)
        IPv4 Address. . . . . . . . . . . : 208.127.119.224(Preferred)
        Subnet Mask . . . . . . . . . . . : 255.255.255.0
        Lease Obtained. . . . . . . . . . : Sunday, April 29, 2012 1:29:24 PM
        Lease Expires . . . . . . . . . . : Sunday, April 29, 2012 2:59:24 PM
        Default Gateway . . . . . . . . . : 208.127.119.1
        DHCP Server . . . . . . . . . . . : 208.127.119.1
        DHCPv6 IAID . . . . . . . . . . . : 234888384
        DHCPv6 Client DUID. . . . . . . . : 00-01-00-01-13-A1-8B-BC-00-1C-C0-93-CC-45

        DNS Servers . . . . . . . . . . . : 66.51.205.100
                                            156.154.71.16
        NetBIOS over Tcpip. . . . . . . . : Enabled
```

The screen shot shows a portion of the results of typing ipconfig /all at a command prompt. The third line from the bottom, DNS servers, is the matter of interest in this case.

Internet not shutting down

Toby Scot: Before we start the Q&A, I want to discuss the recent general news reports that the FBI is going to shut down the Internet in the next few months. That's not true. The real story is that some time ago, hackers distributed DNSChanger, malware that redirected infected computers created by the hackers to point users to rogue websites filled with more malware. The rogue sites looked like financial or shopping sites in an attempt to gather personal information. The FBI arrested a suspect, took over and corrected the Domain Name Servers and kept them running. It finally decided that running the servers is not a good use of tax dollars and decided to take them down. When those servers are no longer operating, infected computers will not reach any domain name server, and it will appear to those users that the Internet is broken.

Domain Name Servers translate a name like cipcug.org or Microsoft.com to a group of numbers that the computer uses to contact the appropriate site. This is comparable to using a telephone book to look up a business name to find its phone number.

Users can check to see if they're infected by typing cmd in the Run command of your Start menu. This will bring up a DOS box (command line prompt). Type ipconfig /all (note the space) at the DOS prompt. Look for the DNS Servers section (see screen shot above) and copy the numbers. If you don't recognize them, go to whatismyipaddress.com and type them in the search box. The results should give you a name you'll recognize, most likely the name of your Internet service provider. If that's not the case, go to Control Panel > Network Connections > Local Area Connection Properties, and double click on Internet Protocol Version 4. Then click on the radio button for Obtain

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an IPv4 address automatically.

Another approach to determine if you're infected with DNSChanger is to visit http://www.dns-ok.us.

If your computer is not infected — and most are not — you don't have anything to worry about when the FBI shuts down its servers.

Sorting through open windows

Q: How did you show all the open windows on the desktop and sort through them?

A: The Windows key + Tab combination arranges the windows so you can see a portion of each one. Alt + Tab presents a bar showing small versions of each open windows.

Text message fraud

Michael Shalkey: If you've received a text message on your phone that says you've won a Wal-Mart gift card, it's a fraud. It's illegal to send text message ads, and the ads should be reported to your carrier. If you use ATT, Sprint, T-Mobile or Verizon Wireless, forward the message to 7726 (SPAM). The company will probably ask you for the phone number the message came from, so send that too. For more information see http://preview.tinyurl.com/7zg8ywk.

Q: If try to call these numbers back, I get a voice mail or I'm blocked.

A: Toby: That's true. You forward the message to your phone service provider, who can determine who owns the number and who has the service. Don't try to deal with the criminals; deal with the people who can catch and stop them.

Website drop down menus

Q: I'm still having problem with some drop-down menus in Firefox.

A: It's probably a poorly designed site. Try Chrome and Internet Explorer.

Q: It didn't work on IE.

A: Many sites were written for the quirks of IE6, which even Microsoft says should not be used (see http://www.ie6countdown.com/. The site shown at the meeting, ie6nomore.com, was prepared by Weebly, which hosts free websites.)

Rick Curry: Sometimes NoScript can create such a problem.

TV as a monitor

Q: Can I use an HDTV as a monitor for my computer?

A: Yes, assuming your computer and TV allow the connection of HDMI cables.

Replacing MSE with Avast

Q: Based on today' program, should I replace Microsoft Security Essential with Avast?

A: I don't think so. Avast is a decent program, but if you're happy with Microsoft Security Essentials, I wouldn't replace it. I noticed that the chart the speaker showed compared Avast with Symantec's Endpoint Protection, which is designed for corporate situations and has a much larger footprint than Norton Antivirus.

I've suggested several times at these meetings that you shouldn't use a program that replaces the Windows Vista or Windows 7 firewall. If you have more than one computer in your home, replacing the Windows firewall in one of them is likely to make communicating between them difficult because the firewalls create different rules. I've also said that the easiest way to back up home computers is to back them up to another computer in the house, but the computers have to be able to communicate to do that.

Michael Shalkey: It was also ironic that he was demonstrating the product on Windows 8, which has a built-in anti-virus and firewall that he had to disable.

Q: Is it called MSE?

A: Michael Shalkey: No, it's called Defender, with the MSE engine but also a general malware detector.

Toby Scott: And it will be more beefy than it is now.

USB 3.0

Q: I have XP with Service Pack 3. Will I have any problems putting a PCI adapter on it for USB 3.0?

A: You shouldn't. Your adapter should be able to handle all or most of the additional speed.

Replacing Lookout on a phone

Q: I have a paid version of Lookout on my phone, but the presentation on Avast indicated it has more features. Should I switch to it?

A: A problem with checkboxes and

lists is that they don't tell you how well a program performs the functions listed. I probably wouldn't change. The problem is you can Google a program today and get one answer and then, because of competition, get a different answer on your next search. Rankings keep changing.

Q: On a related matter, I'm using Google Docs and started having problems. I had installed Kaspersky. I'm wondering if its firewall might have caused the new problems.

A: Possibly. Kaspersky might have set some rules that created the problem. You can tunnel through the rules, or turn off the Kaspersky firewall and restart the Windows firewall. The problem is likely to be in the NetBios Filters rules. They usually say Allow All, Allow Only on Subnet, or Prohibit. You want to allow on Subnet, which is your local network. But don't open the firewall to everything on the Internet. If that doesn't work, I'd spend the money for a new antivirus program. I like Norton, which has a much smaller footprint than it did when the speaker dumped it. Changing the rules is complex, but there's an Enable Firewall entry in Kaspersky. Just uncheck that to turn the firewall off.

Solid state drive; TV as monitor

Q: Last week, you (Ventura County Computers) installed an SSD (solid state drive) in my office computer. It's great, and the speed is great.

A: Thanks for the recommendation. His office computer's power supply died and blew out the motherboard. We put the SSD in an older computer he wasn't using to get him up and running, and it screams with the SSD.

Q: Going back to the TV as a monitor question, I just bought a 65-inch plasma TV. It has a dongle on it. Can I use it as a monitor for my computer (not the one discussed above) with a wireless keyboard and mouse? The TV sees the computer but not as a screen. Do I need to call Samsung or is it something else. ?

Michael: The "TV sees the computer" as another computer on the network and can read the files on that computer, but that is NOT the same as having your TV remote desktop into your computer and

Program: Avast and security

Speaker discusses computer dangers, solutions

By John Weigle
jweigle@vcnet.com

There's only one way to keep a computer perfectly safe, our April speaker said: Never use the Internet and never insert a CD, DVD or USB drive.

"If you do those two things, you're pretty safe. You don't need protection," said Bob Gostischa. "As far as I'm concerned, you won't need a computer, either."

Gostischa, who serves on the support forums for Avast software and travels the country speaking on Avast and computer security in general, said that 85 percent of computer infections come from Internet use, and 15 percent come from removable media, instant messages, person-to-person file sharing and email.

Because there's no way to know just by looking at a website if it's infected, it's vital to have a software firewall and an anti-virus program, he said. He also recommended three other programs that he has on his computer: Malwarebytes Anti-Malware, CCleaner and WinPatrol.

Gostischa said he has been using Avast since 2003, when he replaced Norton, and "Avast has made a vast difference on my computer." Because Avast

Photo by Jerry Crocker

An anti-virus program, firewall and caution are essential tools to protect ourselves against technology schemes, speaker Bob Gosticha said at April's meeting.

impressed him, he became involved in the support forums, which have some 17,000 posts containing questions about Avast,

viruses, general computer topics, and some general issues.

Because no program can catch every new virus immediately and because hard drives crash, it's also essential to create periodic image backups, he said. Gostischa creates one image backup a week to an external hard drive, he said, and has five image backups available at any given time. The sixth one he makes replaces the earliest backup on the list.

Don't run more than one anti-virus program at the same time because they might conflict, he said, adding, "More is not better."

Even computer users who have a router with a firewall need a software firewall, however, he said. He uses the Windows 8 firewall, but the Avast Security Suite, a paid version, includes a firewall. Again, however, running two software firewalls at a time is not a good move.

Users who decide to change anti-virus programs should be sure to remove all traces of the program they're replacing, he said, and the standard add-remove programs function doesn't always do that. Anti-virus makers have their own removal tools, and links to all of them are at a site listed in the On the Net list with this report.

More on Q&A ...

control it, move the mouse, click and run programs, etc. For that, you probably want to use the TV as a monitor (which means either move the computer to next to the TV and connect it, or use a wireless keyboard, wireless mouse and wireless MONITOR connections).

Generally you have to wire it. There are wireless HDMI and even wireless DVI devices, but I have not used them, and the reviews I've seen have been mixed.

Toby: You can play Netflix that way, but not use the TV as a monitor. If there's

DVI it might work. Use HDMI for the cable connection.

The length of the cable does matter, but I'm not sure what the maximum distance is. I'm pretty sure 30 feet would work; I'm not sure about 40 feet. If they sell a readymade DVI cable, male at both ends, it will work. The wireless stuff is going to work sometime, but not right now. Belkin HDMI might work; it generally has pretty good products.

Audience: If you do any of this and get into the VGA, be sure to read the manuals carefully because you can create a mess

on the screen. And DVIs are not all created equally. You might get picture but no sound.

I Heart Radio

Q: I'm using I Heart Radio and leave it on at night because it eliminates the periodic problems in this area with AM reception. I used to run from the radio station, but it would drop out regularly. I Heart Radio didn't used to do that, but for the past six to eight weeks, it's been dropping out several times a day. Is anyone else having that problem?

No one reported using I Heart Radio.

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(Continued from page 7)

The world has 2.1 billion Internet users — the U.S. has 272 million — and while there many benefits to the Internet, there are also dangers to any device that can connect to it — desktop computers, laptops, tablets and smart phones, for example. Anyplace you need to click to get more information or to visit another location can be a spot that hides malware, he said. And today's malware writers don't want to just play a joke on you by popping up an annoying message. Cyber-criminals are "after only one thing — your money, nothing else," Gostischa said.

Forms of malware include phishing, an attempt to get your personal information by making you think that an email seeking the information is from a financial institution or company you do business with; pharming, or redirecting you to a website that looks like the one you intended to visit but which is really infected. Six of every 10 websites are infected, and most of those are legitimate sites that have been hacked, he said. CNN's website has 152 scripts that give instructions to your computer and which are common sources of infections.

Many domain names show the countries sites come from (a list of top domain names is at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Internet_top-level_domains).

Some companies complain to the Avast forums that the software blocks users from visiting the companies' websites, he said. That's because Avast has determined the sites are infected, even if the owners don't realize it, he explained. Just visiting such a site starts the download of a program that infects your computer.

"There's nothing like 'safe surfing' anymore," he said, because even large corporate sites can be infected. Warez sites and download sites should always be considered potentially dangerous, especially if they're selling commercial software at low prices. Almost anything downloaded from such sites contains a dangerous payload, he warned.

Search engines can lead you to infected sites, he said, but if you're content with the information shown in the search engine's preview and don't go to the site

On the Net

Gostischa can be reached at bob3160@gmail.com

The Avast website is http://www.avast.com

For a 40 percent discount on the paid versions, go to https://docs.google.com/document/d/1lfstzvqIVLkeN-I5O9jCIX-t5RjqYJ66OfQIomVudzU/edit?hl=en_US

Download the free Avast anti-virus at http://www.avast.com/download-thank-you.php?src=http%3A%2F%2Ffiles.avast.com%2Fiavs5x%2Fsetup_av_free.exe&product=FA-AVAST&page=download-software&locale=en-ww&avast=0

The Avast Rescue CD can be downloaded at http://goo.gl/qd1CQ, along with instructions for its use.

Register the free Avast program is at http://www.avast.com/registration-free-anti-virus.php

The Avast forum is at forum.avast.com.

The Avast blog is at https://blog.avast.com.

The removal tool for Avast Anti-virus can be downloaded at http://www.avast.com/uninstall-utility)

Links for uninstall instructions and tools for other anti-virus products are at http://singularlabs.com/uninstallers/security-software/

Malware Bytes Anti Malware (MBAM) can be downloaded at http://www.malwarebytes.org/mbam.php

CCleaner can be downloaded at: http://www.piriform.com/ccleaner/

CCEnhancer can be downloaded at http://www.techspot.com/downloads/5014-ccleaner-enhancer-ccenhancer.html

WinPatrol can be downloaded at http://www.winpatrol.com/download.html

The text of the letter that the speaker promised to send CIPCUG is at https://docs.google.com/document/d/1l60ts8bR8cSy7qPskxWhp1a0xnMPyalBrLH_DWH7gjg/edit?pli=1.

Photos from his California tour are at https://skydrive.live.com/?cid=994C4775D200B11A&id=994C4775D200B11A!

itself, you're safe.

Fraudulent anti-virus programs are a continuing problem he continued. While you're surfing, a warning might pop up that says some program has discovered viruses on your computer and asks you to let it remove the viruses. If you do that, you're actually downloading a virus. No matter where you click on such warnings, it stars a download, so the only safe move is to get off the Internet, even if you have to press the power button or unplug your Internet connection. Such programs often disable the Alt + F4 method of closing an open window, he said.

If you have run a full scan of your computer with an anti-virus program and found out it takes hours, you should be cautions of any long list of viruses that pops up after just seconds, he warned.

Methods of detecting viruses include seeking virus signatures; heuristics or watching for virus-like behavior; behavioral (watching every action by every program as it's installed) and cloud,

which is always using the software's most recent version and definitions. Avast also has what it calls Community IQ. Users are asked to join the program so it can gather information about new viruses to help the developers update the program quickly.

Gostischa said 50,000 virus signatures are added every day through the Avast community, and 1 billion cumulative virus reports are received by industry-wide anti-virus makers every month. "There aren't enough cops in the world to stop everybody from doing what they're making their living at," he added.

He disputed a statement by the president of Symantec that free anti-virus programs don't perform as well as paid ones. He said studies show that Avast performs better than Norton Anti-virus and uses fewer resources. He cited two cases in which Avast and AVG flagged infected sites that Norton and McAfee called safe. He added, however, that results could be

CIPCUG NEWS AND EVENTS

Minutes of the April board of directors meeting

By Diane Mortensen

CIPCUG board of directors held its monthly meeting on April 28, 2012. Members in attendance were Art Lewis, Helen Long, Craig Ladd, Rick Curry, John Weigle, Toby Scott, Diane Mortensen, Andy Toth, and Bob de Violini. Members not in attendance, President James Brown. The meeting was called to order by Immediate Past President Rick Curry.

Art presented the March 2012 treasurer's report showing a negative coffee income of $9.95. The banks balance as of March 31 was $4,949.11. The full report appears on page 10. Art announced that he will be gone the month of June 2012, and Helen volunteered to keep the checkbook while he's gone.

Mortensen

The board discussed the coffee income, which has been running a negative. A motion was made to increase the price of doughnuts to $1 each. The motion was seconded and carried. Art will prepare a sign to post at next month's meeting indicating the new price.

John stated that there are 203 people and groups on TOE's mailing list. He said the idea discussed briefly in March of asking east county members if they would be willing to pay extra for first-class mailing of their copies of TOE was not feasible because it would be likely to take the mailing below the 200 copies needed to keep the bulk mail permit. In

More on Avast, security ...

reversed in other cases.

The free version of Avast, which can be used only by home users, not businesses, has the same protection that the paid version offers. The paid version offers such add-ons as a firewall, dedicated browser for shopping and banking totally isolated from your system, and selectable sandboxing for software. Some people, however, don't want to use a free version of a program so they'll buy the paid version.

Avast streams updates as they're ready, not just once a day, he said.

Discussing social media, such as Facebook, he said users should use strong, different passwords for each site they visit; keep their anti-virus program up to date; install updates in a timely manner, especially for browsers and any other software that connects to the Internet; manage privacy tools on each site carefully; and avoid suspicious third-part applications on Facebook. After creating a strong password, he said, write it down and put it on your refrigerator because a hacker can get to your computer but isn't likely to get to your refrigerator. He said that most program updates don't add features but patch security breaches, so they should be installed.

Default settings on social media sites are set to let the companies make as much money as they can by sharing your information, he said, so it's wise to check them regularly to be sure they're what you want.

Check settings on Facebook posts and chats twice "before you send it out to share it with the entire world because anything that you post will be there forever. And if it's not something you want somebody to find out about, it's too late once you hit that send button."

Before installing a new program, create a system restore point, he advised, and always select the custom installation option so you can avoid the unexpected installation of such add-ons as browser toolbars. Always uncheck third-party add-ons, he said. At the moment, everyone is pushing the Ask toolbar, he said, but when you use it you give away a lot more information than you give to Google or to Microsoft when you use Bing.

Similarly, he said, always pick the restart later option after an installation so you can see any windows that pop up to install an additional program.

Gostischa showed examples of phishing emails and emphasized that legitimate companies will not ask for such personal information as log-in names, passwords, Social Security numbers, credit card numbers and similar information in emails.

As a courtesy to others and to avoid distributing other people's email addresses, he said anyone forwarding a message should copy and paste it into a new email, delete all the old addresses, address the email to yourself list all the addresses you're sending to with the BCC option.

If your email account is hacked, don't just change the password, he said. Get a new account with a new, strong password and send a message to your contacts that your account was hacked and to use your new address (again, put the contacts in the BCC list and be sure to check the list for strange names because some hackers add their email address to your contacts list so they'll get such notifications. This action will alert your friends to ignore email requests that appear to be from you to send money because you're stranded in a foreign country.

Avast offers free and paid versions of its anti-virus program for Apple products, which have become more subject to attacks as the number of users grow, he said.

It also has a free Mobile Security program, which includes an anti-virus program, for Android phones and an anti-theft feature that you can rename to something innocuous. If your phone is stolen, you can contact the program from a computer, remove information from the phone and kill the phone, he explained.

CIPCUG NEWS AND EVENTS

Price of doughnuts to increase to $1

By Helen Long

Our price for doughnuts is being increased to $1 effective at the next meeting. Coffee, tea and hot chocolate prices remain at $1. The price change makes it easier to handle the money with no coinage needed to make change. Most of the other computer clubs are pricing their refreshments at $2. It's either that or not having any refreshments, and our meetings are too long not have a break.

Bits & Bytes

Long

For May the program will be Abby Stokes. She is the author of "Is This Thing On?: A Computer Handbook for Late Bloomers, Technophobes, and the Kicking & Screaming." She lectures on computer-related topics across the country and has made television and radio appearances on the same. "Precomputer instruction and writing," she says, "I was an improviser, shoe model, and puppeteer. To me the cup is always half full and has the potential to runneth over."

Art Lewis still has some "Secret Guide to Computers" if you haven't been jaded by our problem with the book. Overlooking the problem with the author's decision to save money by combining two different books, "The Secret Guide to Computers" is still one of the best and most informative books on computers. This updated version includes Windows 7, iPad, Office 2010, Internet Explorer 9, Firefox, Chrome, Gmail, Yahoo Mail, Java 6 and Visual Studio 2010.

It is still a bargain at $20.

HAVE YOU RUN YOUR

Treasurer's report for March 2012

By Art Lewis
treasurer@cipcug.org

Lewis

3-1-2012 through
3-31-2012

Category Description	
INFLOWS	
Coffee income	-9.95
Donation	6.00
ISP income	20.00
Memberhip Income	210.00
Publication sales	20.00
Raffle	102.00
TOTAL INFLOWS	**348.05**
OUTFLOWS	
Corporate Expenses	3.50
Raffle prizes	99.24
Rent Paid	150.00
TOE	264.89
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	**517. 63**
OVERALL TOTAL	**-169.58**
Unrestricted Funds	4,949.11
Restricted Funds	0.00
Bank Balance 3-31-12	**4,949.11**
Year to Date Income	6,459.80
Year to Date Expense	7,298.02
Net Year to Date	-838.22

More on board minutes ...

fact, if we lose many members we'd have to mail additional copies to board members or others or consider going to an electronic-only newsletter.

CIPCUG's regular meeting announcements have been combined with the SIG meeting announcements that Larry Hudson sends out every month.

Helen asked Toby if he had brought CIPCUG's membership application. Toby stated that he has it at his office and, if reminded, he will run off copies. Helen and Diane will send Toby an e-mail reminder before the next board

meeting. Andy Toth volunteered to help with the applications.

Craig said that Abby Stokes, author of "Is This Thing On?," will be CIPCUG's presenter at May's regular meeting. Craig received an e-mail inquiry from one of Kim Komando's assistants requesting information about CIPCUG. There is a possibility that Kim would speak at a regular meeting or at the twenty-fifth anniversary event.

The matter of purchasing flash drives to place updated freeware on and sell to members was brought up as a good fundraiser for the club.

Toby said he's watching prices and that he could get 8 GB and 16 GB drives for a good price.

Bob de Violini stated that he has sent in the registration fee for the June 2012 computer conference in San Diego. Art will reimburse Bob and Craig for their conference registration fees.

A compliment was paid to John for his revisions made in March 2012 TOE.

An announcement was made that election of officers will take place at the June 2012 meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:46 p.m.

CIPCUG NEWS AND EVENTS

Membership report:

Is it time to renew?

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

CHURCH

Welcome –
New member: Veronika Nidever.

Attendance at the April 2012 general meeting:
57 members and guests.

Total membership: 185

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 member-
ship 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 May 26, 2012, meeting.

March 2012 renewals payment due:

Mbr#	Last Name	First Name	Pd to Dt
1227 A	Chapman	Bob	201203
1227 B	Chapman	Louise	201203
0571	Swingle	Phil	201203
0771	Zuromski	Alexandra	201203

April 2012 renewals payment due:

Mbr#	Last Name	First Name	Pd to Dt
1238	Allmen	Bill	201204
0776	Darnielle	Jack	201204
0916	Jensen	Ted	201204
0830	Kiceniuk	Taras	201204
0965	Kreitzer	Shlomo	201204
1084	Martinez	Sam	201204
0768	Nifong	Bob	201204
0216	Thompson	Bob	201204
0966	Wright	Margaret	201204
0967	Wright	Ward	201204

May 2012 renewals payment due:

Mbr#	Last Name	First Name	Pd to Dt
0207	Birkenshaw	JJ	201205
0691	Harmon	Richard	201205
0774	Hoffman	LaVern	201205
0335	Hudson	Larry	201205
1228	Hynes	Bob	201205
0943	Kiess	Jerry	201205
0692	Maidel	Mark	201205
0692 A	Maidel	Norma	201205
0454	Provenza	Richard	201205
1234	Saal	Fred	201205
0211	Weigle	John	201205
0697	Widney	Fred	201205

2012 contributors to The Outer Edge

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

CIPCUG MEMBERS
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Andy Toth
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Bill Wayson
John Weigle

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Rick Eblaw, vice president, Southern Tier Personal Computing Club, N.Y. (APCUG)
Leo Notenboom (APCUG)
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Latest release of Ubuntu is Precise Pangolin

By Bill Wayson
bwayson@gmail.com

Penguin's Lair

Wayson

A Pangolin is one of eight species of scaly mammals that live in Africa and Asia. It is also the code name used for the latest release of the Ubuntu Linux distribution, which became available in April. Precise Pangolin, or Ubuntu 12.04, is a "Long Term Support" (LTS) release of Ubuntu, meaning it is designed to be more stable than standard releases and will be supported by the Ubuntu project for five years. Ubuntu users who prefer that their computer just work without constant upgrading should consider upgrading to 12.04.

Because of the primacy of stability, 12.04 is more of an incremental improvement over 11.10, the previous Ubuntu release, than an introduction of new functions. It includes very few new features, but they are there. Unity, Ubuntu's next-generation desktop environment, has received bug fixes and improved functionality. Notably, support for multiple monitors has improved greatly — which is most welcomed. Unity's application launcher side panel, application tool tips, and the Dash application search dialog integrate in a more pleasing way with the chosen desktop theme and colors, as does the default login screen. Unfortunately, changing the size of the panel by changing the size of the application icons still needs work. The size slider is available only under the standard 3D version of Unity, and even then, it did not work for me.

Probably the most radical feature introduced in 12.04 is "HUD," or Head-Up Display. HUD demonstrates Ubuntu's commitment to its Unity interface by bringing the application search functionality of Dash to searching an application's menu tree. With an application running in the active window, giving the Alt key a short tap brings up a Dash-like search dialog (which is itself similar to Google's Live search). As you type, results are displayed, the results being items in the application's menu tree that match or nearly match the entered search terms. After typing only a few letters, you may be able to arrow down to the item you are searching for and press the <Enter> key to select it. Like the rest of Unity, change for the user won't come easily.

As with almost everything else in the new environment, this is a radical departure from a PC desktop metaphor that has

General news, commentary
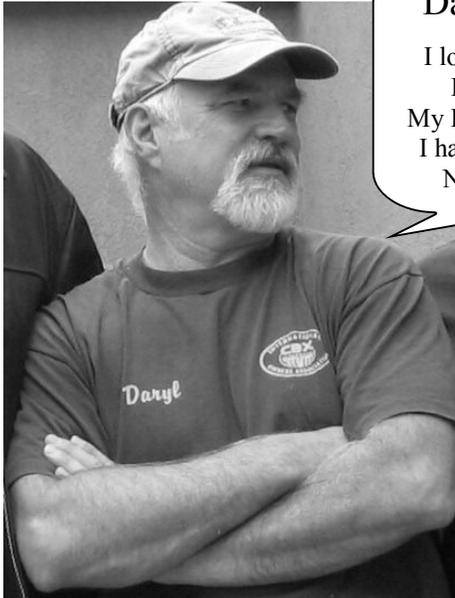
existed for ages. Whether you like it or not will depend on whether or not you have the patience to learn it. On the plus side, it does allow application menus to be used without leaving the keyboard.

Another interesting new feature is the ability to set privacy settings for your desktop. To understand this requires a little background. A project called Zeitgeist exists under the Gnome umbrella. The goal of Zeitgeist is to create a database engine that will record enough detailed history about how you use your computer so that other programs can read it and use it to tailor their user experience toward how you use your computer, a personalized desktop if you will. The idea is sure to be interesting to some computer users, but others will be wary of a master database of the history of their computer use and how the information may be misused or unintentionally used. Ubuntu 12.04 now includes a configuration dialog that allows you to control what history is recorded, for how long it is saved, and disable collecting usage data all together.

More applications support an existing Unity feature called "quicklists." A quicklist, accessed by right-clicking an icon in the application launcher panel, is a list of the options, such as menu items or bookmarks, that you commonly use in that application. So, if you often navigate to your personal Music folder, just right-click your home folder icon, select Music, and you'll be taken directly there in a file browser.

Unity supports an advanced search shortcut called a "lens," which is a preconfigured search on steroids. Not only can specific types of locally stored items be found, but those available through a network, such as on Internet sites, can also be found by a lens. 12.04 includes a new Video Lens, which can find video content on your PC and on sites such as YouTube, Vimeo, and TED Talks.

Other enhancements in 12.04 include personalized software recommendations and a redesigned Ubuntu One, Ubuntu's cloud storage service. Personalized software recommendations can be enabled through the Ubuntu Software Center (which is, itself, becoming the primary software manager in Ubuntu) if you don't mind your list of installed software being periodically sent to the Ubuntu project. The Ubuntu One interface has been rethought and rewritten using a different graphics library.

The rest of the changes in 12.04 are mostly the expected version upgrades of the kernel and software and the occasional new feature that results from them. So, all in all, 12.04 is not a revolutionary new release by any means. But that is by design. Being the latest LTS release, the emphasis was on taking Ubuntu 11.10, making the supported software as stable as possible, dropping support for any software with stability issues, while upgrading everything to more recent stable versions. All of this because the project team promises to support 12.04 until April 2017. Many PC users like that longevity, so they will plan on staying with 12.04 for the next five years. If you want your PC to just work without a lot of fuss, you may consider becoming one of these users.

The Outer Edge is printed and prepared for mailing by:

General news, commentary

The usual suspects provide no satisfaction

By Rick Smith
rants@vcmail.net

I'm calling this the Dell Support song:
I can't get no satisfaction,
I can't get no satisfaction.
'Cause I try and I try and I try and I try.
I can't get no, I can't get no.

When I'm drivin' in my car
and that man comes on the radio
and he's tellin' me buy more and more
about some useless software
supposed to fire my imagination.
I can't get no, oh no, no, no.
Hey, hey, hey, that's what I say.

I can't get no satisfaction,
I can't get no satisfaction.
'Cause I try and I try and I try and I try.
I can't get no, I can't get no.

When I'm watchin' my TV
and that man comes on to tell me
how fast my PC can be.
Well he can't be as fast 'cause he doesn't have
the same SSD as me.
I can't get no, oh no, no, no.
Hey, hey, hey, that's what I say.

I can't get no satisfaction,
I can't get no girl with action.
'Cause I try and I try and I try and I try.
I can't get no, I can't get no.

When I'm surfing 'round the Net
and I'm doin' this and I'm signing that
and I'm tryin' to make some girl
who tells me baby better send money next week
'cause you see I'm on losing streak.
I can't get no, oh no, no, no.
Hey. Hey. hey, that's what I say.
I can't get no, I can't get no,
I can't get no satisfaction,
no satisfaction, no satisfaction, no satisfaction.

Rick's rant

Smith

I recommend you read that while listening to the Rolling Stones.

Last week, I went to a new client who had purchased a notebook and printer from Dell and had some problems. I went out to help, and she was a very sweet grandma living with her daughter and grandkids. Her Dell All-in-one unit had stopped working. These printers are usually offered at a very low price when you purchase a PC or notebook as a value added sale. Dell for years had rebranded Lexmark printers with the Dell label. Lexmark printer's closest service center, last time I checked, was in Santa Monica. I gave up selling Lexmark years ago because of poor-quality issues, and the one I met last week was no exception. One of the tests for buying a printer is to pick it up. If you can easily lift it, if it is light and mostly plastic you're probably getting a cheap printer. I've always said the heavier the better. Most consumer printers these days are built to last only through the warranty period and are not worth repairing. It's our philosophy of let's not build things to last anymore and make every store in America a $1 store and let's just throw everything away and buy new even more cheaply made stuff philosophy. I'm thinking the landfill business is probably a good career choice right now as we throw more away than we repair. Now granted, If you spend the money and buy a workgroup printer you will start to move up to the level of quality that made HP printers of old famous. Now back to my story.

The printer had stopped working so she tried calling Dell support and had an unpleasant time talking to the support technician. So after inspecting the unit I decided we needed to call support and warranty the unit. She really didn't want to call, but I explained that since I was installing Windows 7 SP1 I had to wait to finish the process, and I might as well attempt it. We called, and I identified myself as her since she had a name that goes both ways. They knew who I was because the phone number was in their system. I got right to the point and said the unit jams on a status page and you cannot get inside as it has no serviceable access points to clear paper jams (yet another mark of a cheap printer). I was polite and asked for a replacement. This tech started having us go through a few tests, and I tried to make it go as fast a possible. He then said push the black button on the side on the unit. "There is no black button," I replied. "Oh, yes there is," he said again. This went on and on as my client and I were dumbfounded trying

More on Penguin's Lair ...

If you have questions or would like to learn more about Linux and FOSS, come to the May Linux SIG meeting on Tuesday, the 22nd, at 6:30 p.m. at Ventura County Computers in Ventura.

We will upgrade the CIPCUG PC to Ubuntu 12.04 and try to answer all questions posed during that time. 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.
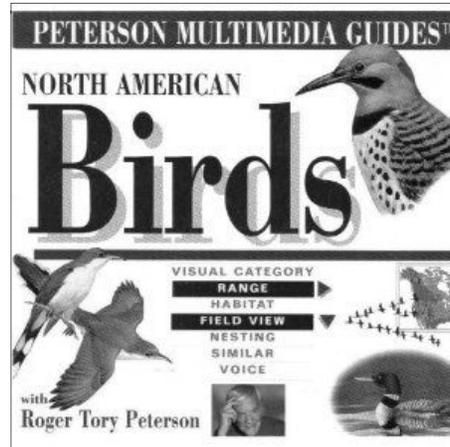
Review: North American Birds

Program a vital tool to ID our feathered friends

By Jim Thornton
jasthorn@gmail.com

North American Birds is a popular computer software program that provides more than 1,000 photographs of birds in addition to providing information on their habitat, what they like to feed on, where their nests are, where they are located, what their songs sound like, and what their status is. It was developed by Roger Tory Peterson, one of the world's greatest naturalists, who spent his life studying, painting, and photographing birds. His identification system has been called the greatest invention since binoculars. The visual category guide presents eight bird groups to choose from, including perching, non-perching, fowl-like, birds of prey, aerialists, swimmers, long-legged waders, and smaller waders.

With very good photographs, Peterson's famous illustrations, audio files for over 700 birdcalls, video clips, and more, you'll have the essential information every birder needs for a comprehensive and

fascinating study. According to the wikipedia.org/wiki/Birdwatching website, there are over 61 million people in the United States who do birding, and that is 20 percent of the total population.

When you open the program, there are six choices: Welcome, Visual Category Guide, Options, Life List, Bird Finder, and Skill Builder. Welcome provides a video welcoming introduction to the program by Peterson. Visual Category Guide provides six silhouettes of birds to help you identify the birds. The silhouettes include aerialists, birds of prey, fowl-like birds, long-legged waders, non-passerine land birds, passerine (perching) birds, small waders, and swimmers, and clicking on one of these silhouettes brings up a new photograph of a dozen or more birds with their names to help you identify the

More on Rick's rant ...

to find the mysterious "black button." At this point the man was getting agitated at our obvious stupidity and kept putting us on hold. Finally after I'd held in silence for 10 minutes the phone disconnected. Nobody called back, and my client said, "See, I told you so." Undaunted, I called back and asked for U.S. tech support. The person in India was very agreeable and said he would connect me.

Lo and behold, a very pleasant and CLEAR sounding man picked up and said, "May I help you, sir." His accent was still Indian! I politely asked for U.S. support, and we went back and forth until he finally replied "U.S. support is for a fee basis." I finally relented and explained the rudeness of the previous technician and my politeness and good manners during the whole process. He was EXTREMELY polite and agreed with whatever I said. He imme-

diately processed our request and asked if someone could call when we got our new unit to see if it was working correctly. He then asked if I would talk to his manager, and I agreed. They apologized and said the responsible party would be dealt with in a manner according to their laws and customs. Do they still have public floggings in India? Anyway, we awaited the receipt of the new product.

Three days later a refurbished printer arrived at her doorstep. She hooked it up and guess what? NO JOY! She called me, said she had had it with Dell and wanted to buy a new printer from me. I replied that Office Depot had a special going for "EARTH WEEK" and would give her $50 for her old printer as a trade-in. Since that was about what she paid for the Dell, it seemed like a great idea. I got out their ad and picked out a good one and gave her a $15 coupon I had and sent her off to Office De-

pot and haven't heard from her since.

What we finally figured out was when I asked for U.S. support It triggered a red flag and they lied to me about transferring my call to the U.S. and sent me to their "A-Team." The guys spoke better English and their job was to keep everything under wraps so it would not get back to Dell that they misrepresented their company. It seems there are so many of these support center around now that a company can actually shop around, and they don't want to lose a client. It all seems logical now.

People get so frustrated with the current system they just give up. I don't blame them. This is why you come to us so you can deal with a "real" person in a "real" way. I always tell my clients that when you purchase from us you get a "real" person to yell at when you're unhappy. You can come down and do it in person if you want. Now that's customer satisfaction!

Say no thank you to new toolbar; opt out

By Leo Notenboom
Ask Leo
Article Source: http://articlesbyleo.com/

Have you ever had a new toolbar suddenly "appear" in your browser? Although it might not seem like you agreed to install it, the likelihood is that you did.

One of the most frustrating strategies companies use to deploy more toolbars relies on your not paying close attention when installing software or other programs on your computer.

For example, let's say you're installing an update to the popular Java runtime, which is software used by some websites to provide rich functionality

Notenboom

beyond just displaying static pages.

The update consists of the normal installation program, and then proceeds to ask you the normal installation things, including agreeing to the software license. Then another screen comes up and without reading it you're about to click Next.

Wait!

In doing so you would have been asking to have the Yahoo! toolbar installed.

Nothing against Yahoo, Java or Sun here, but this can be very annoying. It's

not that the Yahoo toolbar is bad. It's actually a fine toolbar. The annoying part is this:

• The offer appears during an update — you'd already made your selection when you initially installed the program; there's no need to ask again.

• It defaults to "Yes." Anything optional, particularly anything totally unrelated to what is being installed, should default to off.

• They're "sneaking it in." OK, this is really subjective, but you can't help but feel like this might be an attempt to sneak the installation in, during a process where people are usually just hitting Next repeatedly to get the install over with.

This installation is not the only case.

More on North American Birds ...

bird. Options provides birding resources, credits, glossary, help, and user settings. Life List provides a list of birds that you have seen and identified, including the species, location, and date. Plus you can make separate copies of the list. Bird Finder provides alphabetic list of birds by either their common names or Latin (scientific) for you to select, or by rare or visual category, etc. Skill Builder helps you identify the bird by its silhouette or family. In addition, Skill Builder helps to improve your bird identification skills by including two self-testing games — Silhouette Spotter and Bird Identifier. Silhouette Spotter starts by showing a silhouette of a bird with a list of birds, and Bird Spotter starts by showing a photograph of a bird with a list of similar birds. If you select the correct identification you will hear an American robin sing and see on the screen that you made a correct choice. Should you make an incorrect choice, you will hear a common raven sound and see on the screen that you made an incorrect choice. Your total scores are maintained and displayed as well.

Once you have selected a bird by using the Bird Finder's alphabetic list, a new list will appear providing several photographs of the bird, including it in flight. Eight other items provide more information, including range, habitat, feeding, nesting, status, field marks, voice, and field view. Range shows what part of North America is the bird's range. Habitat shows what type of area the bird likes, for example, trees, utility poles, mountains, roadside, etc. Feeding includes diet and behavior. Nesting includes how many eggs, how long they take to hatch, and how many days before the birds can fly and leave the nest. Status shows if the bird is common and widespread or rare. Field marks identifies all the colors and shape of wings, tail, bill, etc., and identifies several similar looking birds. Voice plays sounds of the bird's voice. Field view provides a large view of the bird with the choice of listening to its voice again.

Another choice is Peterson's Perspective, a series of video clips by Peterson that include regular and rare, size and shape, field marks, behaviors, flight, feeding, songs and calls, region and

range, season, habitat, migration, breeding and nesting, conversation, hotspots, and attracting birds.

The program comes with a 46-page user guide. The program was originally released in 1995 and designed to work with the original version of Windows, which was Windows 3.1. The program works with Windows 95 and XP without any problems. I have it currently working in two of my Windows 7 computers without any problems and before Windows 7, I had it working with Windows XP and Vista. The only difference is that I needed to permanently copy the CD onto my hard drive in addition to doing a regular installation.

The Amazon website at http://www.amazon.com/Peterson-Multimedia-Guides-North-American/dp/0395848431, offers Peterson Multimedia Guides: North American Birds (CD-ROM) with Roger Tory Peterson Institute (Author) on new CDs for $118.96 and used CDs for $63.38. Customers who have purchased the program from Amazon have given the program a five-star rating. I've seen lower prices on other websites including ebay.com.

General news, commentary

And now, a parody for hopelessly plugged in

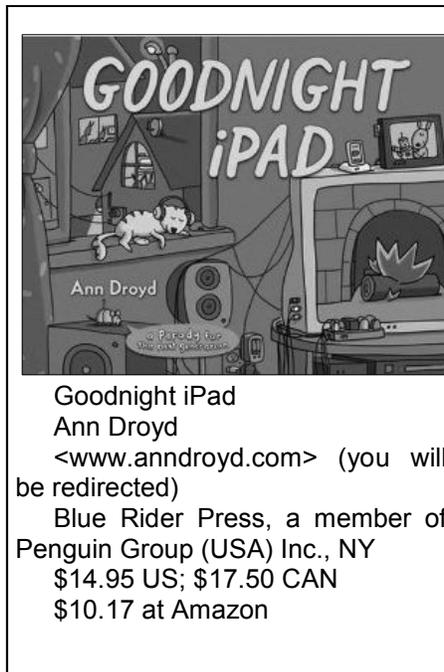**Reviewed by Judy Taylour**
President, SCV Computer Club, CA
www.scvpcg.org
scvjudy (at) gmail.com

I imagine many of you read "Goodnight Moon" by Margaret Wise Brown to your children as well as your grandchildren … over and over again.

You will want to get a copy of Goodnight iPad to renew the pleasure you had in reading the original book, but this one is a hoot.

The book begins with a Blue Rider Press License Agreement that covers all of the copyright information, etc. There's a notation that says, "Don't bother reading this. No one does. Just scroll down to the bottom of the page and click." You have the choice to click on *I have read the License Agreement Terms and Conditions — I AGREE* or *I have not read the License Agreement Terms and Conditions – I AGREE anyway.* Don't most of us just click on the EULA without reading to the bottom and finding we have just agreed to having our e-mail addresses given to third-party partners and everyone else in the whole free world.

Goodnight iPad
Ann Droyd
<www.anndroyd.com> (you will be redirected)
Blue Rider Press, a member of Penguin Group (USA) Inc., NY
$14.95 US; $17.50 CAN
$10.17 at Amazon

This book is for the hopelessly plugged in.

iPads, Doom, eReaders, Angry Birds, a huge LCD Wi-Fi HDTV, Facebook, e-mails, tweets and more are all going on, and a grumpy Grammy is trying to sleep.

You remember how the original book goes: Goodnight room, red balloon, etc. as they go through the nighttime ritual of going to sleep. Much to her family's dismay, this is what happens in this book until only one member of the family is not asleep but listening to Grammy read Goodnight Moon.

The book will make you smile, and the illustrations are classic. I asked my 14- and 12-year old grandsons (hopelessly plugged in) if they remembered the original Goodnight Moon — they both did. The book made them smile too, but, of course, they didn't want things to be unplugged since they can't imagine life without their Xbox, headsets and games.

Ann Droyd is the pseudonym for an IRA/Children's Choices winner who has written and illustrated more than 25 books for young readers. She has been trying to unplug for at least 15 years. "In Goodnight iPad," she says, "I sing the praises of powering down, at least for one night, in hopes I might convince myself to do the same."

Perhaps we could power down for one night, too.

More on toolbars …

During installation of many software packages — both initial installs and updates — the option to install a toolbar will often be selected by default. You have to click a box to opt out. This choice typically comes during the middle of the process when you're conditioned to hitting "next" just get it over with. If you're not paying attention once you're done suddenly a new toolbar will "appear" — a toolbar you didn't realize you had actually agreed to.

Typically, installers include this option to earn profit. It's a way for those offering free software to recoup some of the cost. But this habit certainly shows up in paid for software as well.

This tactic is a perfect example of why it is important to pay attention during installations and updates. Read each step before clicking next or you might find you're about to "ask" for something you didn't really want at all.

Get more free tech help and advice from Leo Notenboom by visiting http:// ask-leo.com With over 30 years of industry experience, including an 18-year career as a software engineer with Mi-crosoft, Leo gives real answers to real questions from ordinary computer users at Ask Leo!

Subscribe to Leo's weekly newsletter now and receive a free ebook: "Internet Safety — Keeping Your Computer Safe on the Internet," a collection of steps, tools and concepts you need to know to keep your computer and your information safe.

The source of this article is http:// EzineArticles.com/? expert=Leo_Notenboom.

It was distributed by the Association of PC User Groups (APCUG).

**Be sure to keep your anti-malware programs up to date
and run regular scans.**

CIPCUG NEWS AND EVENTS / GENERAL NEWS, COMMENTARY

F1—Your Help Key
(Revised Sept. 7, 2008)

COMMUNICATIONS/INTERNET (GENERAL)
World Wide Web   DM

DATABASES
Access   BR

DOS   RP

E-MAIL
Outlook   MS
Outlook Express   BR, DM
Thunderbird   MS

GRAHICS PROGRAMS
IrfanView   MS
Paint Shop Pro   DM
Photo Shop Elements   BR
Print Shop   BR

SPREADSHEETS
Microsoft Excel   DM

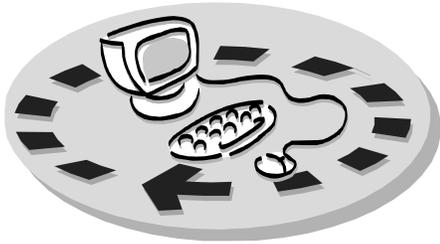**WORD PROCESSING**
Microsoft Word   DM
WordPerfect   DM

WINDOWS
Windows 98, 95   DM, MS (98)
Windows 2000   BDV
Windows XP   DM

Initials	Name	(805)
BDV	Bob de Violini	rjddev@gmail.com
BR	Bill Robinson	389-2997 (b) bill@bzus.com
DM	David Minkin	469-6970 (cell); 484-2974 (home); dddave@cipcug.org
MS	Michael Shalkey	mshalkey@cipcug.org
RP	Robert Provart	498-8477 (b)

Phone: (d) = days; (e) = evenings; (b) = both

If you would like to volunteer to help others, please send your contact information and programs you're willing to help on to editor@cipcug.org.

. . . .

WEB HELP SITES (Updated 2-7-12)
Steve Bass TechBite Newsletter registration page: www.techbite.com
DSL reports: www.dslreports.com
Steve Gibson: www.grc.com
Kim Komando: www.komando.com
Leo Laporte: www.leoville.com
Jeff Levy: www.jefflevy.com
Linux distributions: www.DistroWatch.com
Microsoft: www.microsoft.com
OnGuard Online: http://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
Smart Computing: www.smartcomputing.com
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, which includes a list of members willing to help other members.

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

♦ Special Interest Groups — special meetings held several times a month.

♦ Door prizes 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

Amount enclosed: _____

Please Print the following information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____, State:_____

ZIP Code: _____

Phone (Home): _____(Work): _____

E-mail address: _____

User level: Novice _____; Intermediate _____;

Advanced _____

Can you help the club as a volunteer? If so, what would you be interested in working on?

Date _____ Member # _____

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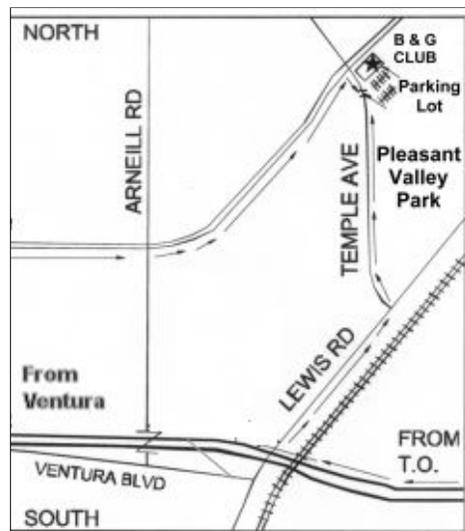
P.O.Box 51354
Oxnard, CA: 93031

DATED MATERIAL
Please Do Not Delay

DUES REMINDER

If the number above your name is 2012 MAY, your membership dues are payable in May 2012.

May 2012 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, May 26, at the Boys & Girls Club, 1500 Temple Ave. (Ponderosa Drive and Temple Avenue), Camarillo.

Meeting Schedule:
8:00 a.m.	Doors open
8:45-9:30	Internet and networking SIG, Social Media SIG
9:30-10:30	Business meeting, Q&A
10:30-11:00	Break — Please contribute requested amounts for coffee and doughnuts
11:00-12:00	Program — Abby Stokes, author of "Is This Thing On?," to discuss "How to Navigate the Ever Changing Landscape of Technology" Drawing