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The Outer Edge

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Minutes of the July Board of Directors meeting

The CIPCUG Board of Directors held its monthly meeting on July 25, 2009, after the regular meeting at the Boys & Girls Club of Camarillo.

In attendance were President Rick Curry; Vice-President Craig Ladd; Treasurer Art Lewis; TOE Editor John Weigle; Tech Adviser Toby Scott; Web Page and ISP Co-coordinator Helen Long; and Secretary Diane Mortensen.



Mortensen

Rick Curry suggested that the club look into some type of group software. He commented that Yahoo and Google both support groups. A group collaboration could also be accomplished with Web logs (blogs) and forum software, similar to a mini-UseNet. He asked for board members' opinions, and it was suggested that Rick take the idea to the membership at large.

Rick presented the topic of paying mileage to meeting speakers. A motion was made that the program chairman, with discretion, be authorized to offer up to \$40 as mileage allowance for a speaker who was traveling from a

distance. Further, that if a speaker will be selling his or his company's product, no mileage would be offered. It was unanimously agreed and passed that said motion be adopted.

Rick announced that Lee Cole, who runs Ventura County Linux Users Group (<http://vclug.org>) made special arrangements to come to our Linux user group. Normally, he would be unable to do so. Lee could be an asset to the group in that he has many contacts. It was suggested changing the Linux SIG to Tuesday evening, and this was agreeable with Toby Scott. Putting this change into effect would need to come from those in the SIG and from Bill Wayson.

Art Lewis presented the treasurer's report for July 2009 that appears elsewhere in this newsletter. He passed out copies of the annual report for the fiscal year 2008-09, which had previously been read to the members and accepted without discussion. Said report will be printed in the August edition of TOE. In addition, the proposed budget for FY 2009-10 was presented by the treasurer. After review and discussion of the amount specified for possible purchase of additional

equipment, the board unanimously approved the budget as submitted: Budgeted Income, \$6,300; Budgeted Expense, \$8,300. The board recognized that sufficient funds are in the bank account to cover the negative cash flow. Copies of these reports were given to the secretary for filing.

Toby announced that (a) Michael and he would be willing to give a presentation at a regular meeting when a speaker is not available; and (b) that new freeware flash drives loaded with a variety of programs, possibly including some for Linux users, and similar to those the club sold at the end of last year, could be produced again in time for the holidays. Last year's flash drive sales netted \$500 after payment of sales tax. The board discussed ordering another set and this time with an 8 GB capacity.

Craig Ladd announced that he had confirmed Orville Beach to speak on Linux at the August regular meeting. Craig stated that he is working diligently in lining up programs and is awaiting confirmations from future speakers.

With no further matters to be discussed, the meeting adjourned.

More on Command.com ...

(Continued from page 1)

intosh visit my annotated calendar page at <http://www.cipcug.org/trindflocipcug-calendar.html>.

Finally, I am considering a group or collaboration framework for the club. I'm thinking of a place where club members can post their thoughts, experiences, and insights on a variety of club-related topics. One thing that is certain is that any forum would need a moderator who could ruthlessly reject posts that stray from the topic.

Examples of collaboration frameworks include:

Weblogs or Blogs (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blog>)

Forums (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet_forum)

Groups (<http://groups.google.com>)

If you would be interested in volunteering to serve as forum moderator, or if you have experiences you can share to make groupware work with a small volunteer staff, please send me an email at president@cipcug.org.

Coming CIPCUG events

Linux is topic for August

Programs

Orville Beach will discuss some aspect of Linux at the Aug. 22 meeting at the Camarillo Boys & Girls Club, 1500 Temple Ave. (southeast corner of Ponderosa Drive and Temple Avenue), Camarillo (see map on page 20). The exact topic was not known at the deadline for TOE, so check the Web page closer to the meeting for more details.

The doors open at 8:30 a.m., and the E-mail and Internet SIG and the Computing 101 SIG start at 8:45 a.m.

If you can show up early to help set up, please do. The room seems to be different every month, and we have to move lots of tables and chairs around.

Other coming meetings:

Sept. 26: Don Baker, Classic Specialties

Oct. 24: Toby Scott and Michael Shalkey, Windows 7

Nov. 21: Tentative: Debbie Jones, Anything is Possible — of-

(Continued on page 4)

Q&A

Meaning of G and N router standards

Unless otherwise noted, questions at the Internet and e-mail SIG and the regular Q&A are answered by Toby Scott, our technical adviser. Michael Shalkey handles the computer duties for both sessions.

This month's regular Q&A could not be fully transcribed before the TOE deadline. The remaining questions will be in next month's issue.

Internet and e-mail SIG Reported by John Weigle

G and N router standards

Q: Can you explain the difference between the G and N standards for wireless routers?

A: G has a maximum speed of 54 megabits per second and N has a maximum speed of 108 or more megabits per

second. The more expensive routers have two units, thus doubling the speed. If you're just going to the Internet, router speed isn't going to make much difference to you as plain G transmits at 54 mobs while the fastest Internet connection is 15 mobs and lots are under 1 mobs.

The N standard was promulgated
(Continued on page 5)

More on coming events ...

(Continued from page 3)

fice trainers — workshop on Word Tips & Tricks

Dec. 19: TBA

SIGs

Except for the Thousand Oaks PC Club Photo Group, the Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are sponsored by CIPCUG and led by volunteer club members.

Unless otherwise noted, the CIPCUG 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 industrial building.

The pre-meeting SIGs are at 8:45 a.m. at the Boys & Girls Club in Camarillo. The after-meeting SIG is at 2 p.m. at The Star, 550 Camarillo Center Drive, Camarillo. This might change soon; Michael Shalkey is seeking a site that has Internet access.

There is no charge for members to attend the CIPCUG SIGs.

The TOPCC Photo Group, which meets at 6:30 p.m. at the Thousand Oaks Library, 1401 E. Janss Road, charges \$3 per meeting for those who are not members of the Thousand Oaks PC Club. The Web site is <http://topcc.org/dnn/>

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.

[SIGs/Programs/PhotoGroup/tabid/65/Default.aspx](#).

The general schedule

First Monday (except in months that have holidays on or near the first Monday): TOPCC Photo Group.

Second Thursday: HTML and CSS (Toby Scott).

Fourth Thursday: Linux.

Fourth Saturday (or the regular meeting day): Computing 101 SIG and Internet and e-mail SIG, 8:45 a.m. Michael Shalkey's after-meeting SIG at The Star, 550 Camarillo Center Drive, Camarillo.

The schedules for the balance of August and all of September

August:

Aug. 13: HTML/CSS

Aug. 24: Pre-meeting Internet and e-mail and Computing 101. After-meeting SIG by Michael Shalkey.

Aug. 27: Linux

September

Sept. 7: TOPCC Photo Group

Sept. 10: HTML and CSS

Sept. 24: Linux

Sept. 26: Internet and E-mail pre-meeting SIGs. After-meeting SIG by Michael Shalkey.

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

More Q&A: Router security, secure sites

(Continued from page 4)

fairly recently. There a lot of pseudo N routers out there, and they don't talk to each other. N will talk backward to G and B devices. The higher-end Ns with more than one sending unit go around angles and other barriers and are more robust to bounce signals and go through walls. For a home network in a small area, I wouldn't pay much more for an N-standard deice. If your network is spread around a large house with lots of walls, you'd want a higher-end N device.

Router security

Q: What about security?

A: You want to use WPA, not WEP, which isn't very secure. Some routers will list several Was. Use TKIP (Temporal Key Integrity Protocol). Don't go to WPA2 unless all your wireless devices are quite recent. It's a new standard, and devices more than a couple of years old won't be able to connect.

A brute force attack to break the encryption in WEP takes less than 10 minutes. An attack on WPA with a 21-character password takes more than 4×10^{20} years and even longer than that for WPA2 (for more information, go to <http://compudent.blogspot.com/2006/09/wireless-wep-vs-wpa-vs-wpa2.html>).

For common encryption, the key is the length of the password. If you were in a third-grade play and remember one of your lines, use that. If you can't think of that, pick a line from a nursery rhyme (except "Mary had a little lamb," which is used a lot; "its fleece was white as snow" would be better). Then you can substitute numbers for some letters ("3 blind mice") and use some capitals, spaces and special characters to make cracking more difficult. If you get to 20 characters, you're home free.

There's a program on the CIPCUG flash drive called Keeps that will let you store long, complex passwords for many locations. Of course, you need a strong password to open the program, but that's the only one you have to remember. You can keep Keeps on a flash drive, but be

This month's Q&A topics:

Internet and e-mail SIG

- G and N router standards
- Router security
- Secure site warnings
- Green bar on secure site
- Preview pane
- AVG issues
- Avast vs. Avira antivirus programs
- Firefox updates
- Norton Antivirus

Regular Q&A

- Verizon billing issues
- Mailwasher software
- 'Application failed to initiate'
- Home servers
- NAS appears in My Network Places
- Does it show as a hard drive?
- Windows 7 and servers
- Norton Ghost
- Differences between server, NAS

sure you have a strong password if you do that because flash drives are easy to misplace. We've found several here after meetings. Back up the program and its data in case you lose the flash drive. Also the enter key and "password" are not good passwords, even if you use "pa\$\$word."

Secure site warnings

Q: I have a Schwab online account, and we can get quarterly statements but we have to ask for them. I got an e-mail recently saying the statement was ready, but when I went to the page Google put up a warning that it couldn't guarantee the site was really a Schwab site. The e-mail said your quarterly report is ready, click here to get it.

A: If it's the first time it has happened, I'd call Schwab to be sure you were really directed to a Schwab site, not a phishing site. Did you type in your log-in name or password? (The answer was no.) I'd be very wary of this if it's the first time it happened. You want to be very careful about giving your log-in and password. The safe way to check this is to open your browser and then select your financial institution from your Bookmarks or Favorites and log in that way. Don't use the link embedded in the e-mail. That way you know you are at the real site. If your statement was ready, then it was probably an OK e-mail.

Bank of America has a two-step log-in. In the first page you type just your log-in. That takes you to a second page, which has a picture that you picked when you signed up. If it's the right picture, you type in your password. If it's

the wrong picture, you don't.

Be real careful if you get that notice when you get to the site.

If you've saved earlier messages from the institution, try clicking on the link in them and see what happens. Schwab might have made a mistake in setting up the page, or the latest e-mail might have been a blanket mailing to known or possible Schwab customers to collect log-ins and passwords.

Green bar on secure site

Q: What is the green bar you're talking about and what does it mean?

A: It means the site has been verified by VeriSign or another similar company as actually being what it says it is. The bar should be on all financial sites, but some other sites also use it. Most of the sites should be https: not just http:.

Michael Shalkey: Any sites you buy and sell on should be verified sites. Companies that want to be verified by VeriSign must pay \$1,000 per year and jump through several hoops to prove they're who they say they are. You can read the certificates.

Craig Ladd: You might use the method the FBI agent who spoke to us suggested. Do a Google search for the site you want and click on that link.

Q: I just came in. Where is this message?

A: It's before the URL (Uniform Resource Locator) in the browser's address bar. It includes the name of the site, is in green (or in some cases a different color) and is followed by the URL it's referring to.

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More on Q&A: Verizon billing, Mailwasher

(Continued from page 5)

Preview pane

Q: In MSN online in the preview pane I used to be able to highlight a message and get a preview in the preview pane. Now, I just get links.

A: Preview panes don't work well for animated items. They don't embed well in browsers. You'll have to open those separately. JPEGs should open in the preview pane.

If your e-mail won't let you open an item directly and makes you save it to the hard drive, it's often a security measure. The file type might be one that is subject to having malware attached, and downloading it forces a scan by your antivirus program.

I think MSN is a crummy browser. Internet Explorer is better, and Firefox, Opera and Chrome are even better.

The file extension determines what program will try to open the file, which could be a picture, a program or some other document from a program such as Word or PowerPoint.

If we get a computer at the shop with the MSN browser, and there's not evidence of heavy use we just delete it. All the other browsers will take you anywhere you can go with MSN.

AVG issues

Q: Firefox updated itself and said it's not compatible with AVG.

A: AVG used to be among the best antivirus programs, but something has happened. About two years ago we started getting lots of computers in the shop that had up-to-date definitions for AVG but had virus infestations. There were other reports of lots other problems. I suggest trying one of the other free antivirus programs.

Art Lewis: The IRS recently sent an update for the tax program we use, and AVG found viruses in it. It turned out there weren't any.

Avast vs. Avira antivirus programs

Q: What's the difference between the Avast and Avira antivirus programs?

A: Michael Shalkey: They're both

good. Avira has a splash screen asking if I want to buy the professional version every time it updates, but I can live with that. Avast can startle you with a voice message that it's been updated if your speakers are on. I'm testing the coming Microsoft free antivirus program, and it's working well. It depends on what annoys you.

Toby Scott: Avira scores highest or second highest on detections on a lot of the tests I've seen. Both can be downloaded at <http://download.cnet.com/windows>.

Firefox updates

Q: Firefox updated to one version and then asked me immediately if I wanted to update to a later version. Why didn't it just do that first?

A: It's a sequential path. You have to have the previous version(s) before you can do the latest one.

Norton Antivirus

Q: I can't say enough good things about Norton 2009.

A: You're right. And I haven't always said that. The 2006 program was an abomination, and the later versions weren't much better, but the program was completely rewritten for 2009.

Q: It's also easy to use.

Regular Q&A

Reported by Diane Mortensen

Verizon billing issues

Q: Last month, several people complained that Verizon had pumped their bill up without their permission. Time Warner also signs you up for special 12-month rates, but once the year is up, the prices shoot up. Can you comment?

A: Yes, Time Warner will jack up the prices after a year, but if you call they'll offer you another special for a year. It's an annoyance for sure. Verizon claimed that the people whose bill went from \$60 to \$99 had voluntarily signed up for a year's worth of "security," and they wouldn't let them off. I'd classify Time Warner's policy as an annoyance.

But Verizon's is beyond that — at least in my opinion.

Mailwasher software

Comment from audience: A plug for Mailwasher, an excellent program for pre-screening your e-mail. Over the past five years of using the program, I probably have eliminated thousands of gigs that would have come through, big multi-gig files of pictures and things. It is good for screening mail and spam. You can go online and get a free version that works pretty well for an average user. It will show you all your mail and you click the ones you do not want to download into your computer. It saves a lot of downloading time and space plus gets rid of the junk.

Toby: Mailwasher and several similar programs are good, but I'd rather have a program that downloads all the e-mail and then moves the junk out so I do not have to click on a thousand e-mail messages in the morning before I download. I do not want to review a thousand titles on an e-mail message. You have to analyze what your pattern, what your use is, and what you want to do will determine what the right path is to get there. If you do not have many e-mail messages, then Mailwasher and other similar programs would work and are excellent. If you have many e-mails, like doing e-mails for a company, and you have info from bigcompany.com, Mailwasher may not be the right program.

'Application failed to initiate'

Q: I am getting an error message that says "application failed to initiate" on XP when I go into the Picasa program, which I use a lot. What could the message mean?

A: If you are in Picasa and you click on the picture icon and it says the application failed, you probably need to go to another photo program like IrfanView. Go through the same steps as you did in Picasa and see if you get any results. If it

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More on Q&A: Home servers and their uses

(Continued from page 6)

works on that program, then you know the problem is with Picasa. There are two main possibilities why you are having this difficulty. One may be that you have some JPEG or graphic files that were mangled when they were uploaded. It may be that Picasa is doing the right thing in not loading. Open it up in IrfanView and see if the same thing happens. If the photos come up in IrfanView, then you know there is a problem with Picasa.

Detecting computer problems usually involves the same procedure. You keep narrowing down the problem by performing similar procedures in another program to see if you encounter the same problems. As an example, you turn on your computer, and there's no picture. Is it the video card in the computer or did your monitor die? If you have another monitor in the house, swap it to see if you get a picture. If you still do not get a picture, then it is the video card in your computer (or the cable — which you can check in the same way). You can carry out simple troubleshooting issues by taking the components and swapping them. I hope that this narrows down the problem you are experiencing.

Home servers

Q: I have a question about a home server. I have a lot of photos and am getting more photos all the time. I am considering buying a home server and saw one I like. I do not understand the difference between an external hard drive and, like say, redundant external hard drive, home server and a computer. Do I need software for it and can I use my antivirus on my computer for the server?

A: This is a very timely thing because we are getting in the area where home users have many choices. Microsoft has, in addition to its regular server line for businesses, another choice called home server. You can get a computer with something like Vista, but the operating system is home server. You can install it

and then your home computer can attach to it. It is very friendly, not having all the stuff business computers have in terms of security, which also makes them difficult to attach. It is quite easy to use and load your files to. You get a big hard drive on it and so can load all your data from your home computer onto the home server. You can share files out on the home server and not have to worry about doing file and network sharing on your computer, spouse, kids, and grandkids' computer. Everyone can log into the home server, have their own, password-protected area, as well as folders that the whole family can share. It is really nice and easy, and it is a full-fledged operating system. They recommend that you do not go out to the Internet with it, you do not use as a workstation because the idea behind this is that servers should never be used as browsers or e-mail downloaders. The reason for that is you do not want to do anything that might put viruses on your server.

When you have a home server, do not do any of the things that might get you viruses on it. Put your virus-risk activities on your workstations. This way, you should not be putting anything with a virus up on the server. You can get antivirus programs to run on the server. If I were doing it, I would get Computer Associates because its workstation antivirus will also work on servers and it has better hand-off back and forth when you are moving stuff in a network. You want service-class antivirus. I would think if you were going to do it, I recommend Computer Associates. I believe it is a subscription for two or three computers and is like \$50 and it is a good program; however, if you are very careful about antivirus on all the workstation and you do not use the server to go online and you do not let kids use it because they do everything without a safety net you should be safe. Everyone says modern kids all know how to use computers, but they do not know how to use them safely. Again, if you are comfortable you will not be go-

ing online, you do not have to put an antivirus on the home server. If you do put an antivirus on the server, it is perfectly OK to use something like ClamWin which is a free antivirus, but it does no real-time checking; it only does scans for viruses when you tell or schedule it. For a server, that is actually the preferred method because when you are just exchanging information on a network, the virus scanning slows stuff down considerably, particularly if there is a lot of back and forth of packets. For servers, there are a lot of installations that use only periodic scans, usually when people are not up and running.

That is how a server works, but there are many choices that you can do that are very similar to servers and might serve your needs better. The second choice could be a NAS (Network Access Storage) device. I would recommend one with two mirrored hard drives. You plug it into the network, just plug it into your router, just as you would with a computer. All of the computers in your network can talk to it. It has built-in computer functionality, but it is so limited that the viruses cannot eat at it. You do not have to worry about antivirus on it, you have permissions on it, and everyone can back up data on it. The disadvantage to it is that it does not have much intelligence. The advantage to it is that it has real good mirroring for less money. Just to revisit for you, mirroring is when you take two hard drives, and all of the data that comes in is written simultaneously to two hard drives. If one dies, you can get data off the other hard drive. Therefore, it is protection against a hard drive dying. Yes, you could have a power event with both hard drives fried at once. Several years ago, there was a power event that took out refrigerators, TVs, air conditioners and a whole bunch of electronics, including every hard drive that was hooked up without good UPS protection. You want to put it on an uninterruptible power supply, not surge suppression. If you do that you should be pretty safe.

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More on Q&A: Backing up on home servers

(Continued from page 7)

The third choice would be attached backup hard drives, USB or FireWire that usually come single drive only. There are a couple that have mirrors in them but are more expensive and not as common. If you are selecting a mirror device, I believe you are much better off going with a NAS device. For under \$100, you can get a hard drive and a USB enclosure, plug it into a drive, and perform your backups. If you want it accessible to another computer, you can either share the hard drive (E or F or whatever drive it is) on your computer and other people on other computers can write to it. You can unplug it and plug it into their computer and they can write to it. It is a little more hands-on; it does not have the redundancy of mirror backup drive, but if you back up data from your computer to the USB drive you will actually have two copies, one backup and one regular. The only time that would fail is if your computer gets to be too full and you start moving files off your computer onto a USB drive. Now you have only one copy and are in a problem area.

For pictures, you want to have one copy burned to a DVD or CD (I actually make two copies and have one at work and one at home). Pictures can then be removed from your computer, but left on the NAS or USB drive. People run out of space on their computers and panic; they delete many pictures they do not need and then find out, like one of our customers who deleted the wedding pictures that were the only copy, that they made a horrible mistake. They were in

his recycle bin because he was trying to make space on his hard drive.

NAS appears in My Network Places

Q: When you are at your computer you will see that networked NAS or home server as an external computer, right?

A: If you open My Network Places (or Network in Vista), it will be there and like any other network device you can map it as the Z drive or something else so that you can manage it just like you can any other network device. To map a network drive, click on the network device, select the shared folder inside the computer (or NAS device) and copy the contents of the address bar at the top. It will look something like “\\SharedComputerName\SharedFolder Name.” Click on Tools > Map Network Drive, select an unused drive letter (usually Z is the default) and paste the drive location into the Folder box. That’s it.

Does it show as a hard drive?

Q: The home server she and you are talking about, will I see the same as this network hard drive (“Z”) and you are talking about — will I see a hard drive.

A: No. You will see it as an external device on your network. You will not see it as a hard drive until you map it as a drive.

Windows 7 and servers

Q: As a follow-up to that, I am looking into getting a network hard drive, and looking to go into Windows 7.

If you have Vista Home Premium and you upgrade to Windows 7 Home

Premium, you will not be able to back up to a network hard drive. You would have to go to Windows 7 Professional, is that right?

A: At present, the built-in Windows Backup won’t work with an external drive (it probably will after Service Pack 1), but on the freeware flash drive there is SyncBack, and you can back up everything.

Norton Ghost

Q: Will Norton Ghost work?

A: That will work. EMC Retrospect will also work. Symantec Backup Exec, Acronis, any of those will work.

Difference between server, NAS

Q: It sounded to me like there was a question between what a server does and what an attached network storage device does.

A: The difference between network attached storage (NAS) and a full-fledged server is that the server has an operating system, it has the ability to get information on its own.

The backup device is a passive device; you only push information onto it, and it does not get anything on its own. You can have viruses that affect the server, but not on network attached storage. Whoever is pushing the data to it has to do the antivirus checking.

The server is a complete functioning computer, and as long as you are careful about how you make it function, it is a more complete solution.

If you are not a careful user the NAS device will cause fewer problems, but if you are a careful user you may get more utility out of the home server.

Important Q&A reminder: Please wait for the microphone to ask, answer or comment on a question. Although we have three microphones during the sessions, they do not pick up sounds from far away. While this eliminates the general background noise from the tape, it also means that useful information offered without a microphone is not recorded and, therefore, can not be transcribed for TOE.

Program: Software as a Service**Cloud computing could be future for businesses****By John Weigle***jweigle@vcnet.com*

The advantages of cloud computing and SaaS (Software as a Service) were described at the July meeting by Kim Terry, CEO of Terrosa Technologies, an SaaS consulting company of Thousand Oaks.

Cloud computing has several definitions, Terry said, but as he uses the term, it means that users don't need any software on their computers except an operating system and a Web browser. Instead of buying the other software, the user — in his case, usually a business rather than a home user — pays a monthly fee for access to the necessary software, technical support, back-up services and other hardware, such as servers. All services are provided over the Internet.

Using cloud computing, Terry said, means a company and its information technology staff can concentrate on the company's business rather than the software and hardware needed to do it. There's no need to buy and update software, provide antivirus programs and so on.

"The way I use cloud or cloud computing is that that's the umbrella term for these virtualized services that are delivered over the Internet," he said. "Underneath that, you've got things like the software as a service where it's a completed application that you're renting.

"These don't have to be application-oriented things. ... As a service, you can get intrusion detection. There are companies that will that will put a probe on your internal IT infrastructure, monitor the servers and then report back to a service that is looking at the logs and detecting any sort of vulnerabilities."

He predicted cloud computing will be the business model for new companies and will mean they won't have to worry about legacy costs that older competitors must face.

Terry compared the advantages of



Photo by Jerry Crocker

Kim Terry, CEO of Terrosa Technologies, discusses Software as a Service at the July meeting.

cloud computing to those of having a public utility that produces electrical power rather than having a generator in every business. The utility supplies the power, and the consumer uses it without having to worry about buying a lot of other equipment. The same is true of SaaS, he said. The company that provides the service must keep the software up to date, back up customers' data, provide security against malware and keep all the servers running. Production costs are shared by many users rather than being borne by just one.

SaaS is still new enough that it must be explained to both software developers and final users. Developers need to understand that they won't make a lot of money at once by selling the software but that they'll have a steady stream of income over a period of time as monthly fees are paid. Another advantage for developers is that they don't have to continue to support older versions of software because all users always have the latest version. Users must understand that there are cost savings but that they must perform the usual due diligence before signing a contract with an SaaS provider, he said. For instance,

customers can have clauses in their contracts that specify none of their work will be performed or stored outside the United States, he said. They can also demand that companies have more than one access point so their information will be available by several routes if one goes down.

He also noted that if a company loses electrical power or Internet connections, it can send its employees home to work from their home computers or provide laptops and send them to the nearest Starbucks to connect and continue working.

Although they might not realize it, people who use online banking are using SaaS, he said. They don't have special software on their computers. They log in through a Web site and use software on the bank's servers to perform whatever work they want to do.

With SaaS, he said, "Companies can spend more time doing whatever they do — whatever they build, whatever they provide as a service — they can focus more on their business ... and the president doesn't have somebody coming into their office talking about disc space and CPUs and so forth because that's done by the provider."

Why do we do SaaS? Terry asked. "Because we can ... and because we have to" to reduce carbon footprints and conserve resources.

Financial benefits of SaaS, he said include the savings in equipment and knowing in advance what some costs will be. Companies can sign a three- or four-year contract and "they know exactly what their costs are going to be." There's also a faster return on investment, he said, and when a customer signs a contract, he knows the system is already up and running; there's no need to wait for equipment to be bought, built, installed and configured.

SaaS also means that programs are easily extensible to vendors, suppliers and customers and can facilitate mergers

(Continued on page 10)

Computing 101: Some tips for beginners

By John Weigle

jweigle@vcnet.com

BACKING UP: Everyone who backs up has a favorite backup system and software, but key to backing up is making it simple enough for yourself that you'll do it.

Some people are disciplined enough to back up data every time they turn their computer off (or on) with no further prompting. Others want the task at least somewhat automated.

Some people want multiple backups, at least one of them offsite. Others risk simply backing up to an external hard drive, DVDs or CDs and keeping everything at home.

One program that I've found helpful is similar to the old PowerQuest

DataKeeper program, which I used regularly to back up data as the files changed.

Second Copy by Centered Systems is not free, although you can download a trial version at <http://www.secondcopy.com>. It watches your files as you work and backs them up to whatever destination you choose. It offers a variety of options.

I use it in conjunction with Acronis True Image, and it has saved me a couple of times from crashes and stupid user errors.

The CIPCUG flash drive includes SyncBack, which is highly recommended by Toby Scott.

Again, the key is to back up your data somehow. Sooner or later, every

hard drive will die.

HOW MUCH SOFTWARE DO YOU NEED? No one answer fits everyone. Many people can get by with just the operating system, a Web browser, an e-mail program, an antivirus program and a word processor. With the exception of the OS — unless you're a Linux user — free versions of all those things are available on the Web. Other people need more than one office suite because they must be able to open and save documents in many formats, a photo editing program, a desktop publishing program, utilities and more. Other people like to test software, which means they're often adding and deleting programs. This is a decision that truly depends on the person involved.

More on SaaS ...

(Continued from page 9)

and acquisitions and be available wherever it's needed.

People ask if SaaS is slow and secure, but, Terry said, "SaaS is just an acronym," not a thing. Potential buyers must investigate the companies they're considering and be sure they can meet all necessary requirements. He said SaaS operations are audited regularly by every company that considers using them. Companies often send in their own security teams to test the protection provided.

And SaaS providers know they must concentrate on customer service and quality operations because poor quality is a risk to the entire business operation.

Terry said he expects to see improved Internet infrastructure and more "anywhere" applications, such as those that can be used on cell phone, he said.

Asked about the target audience for SaaS, Terry said it could be any little company starting up today.

There's really no reason to install a server for a business because of the availability of cloud computing and

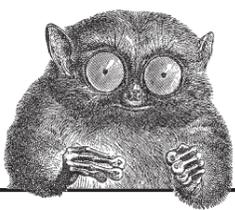
SaaS, he said.

And some large companies that say they'd never outsource operations forget that they may have already outsourced payroll and banking services, he said.

State and local governments are looking into SaaS because of the current budget crunch, he said. And the next version of Microsoft Office will be offered as a cloud versions, he said.

On the Net:

The Terrosa Technologies Web site is at <http://www.terrosatech.com/web>.



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The Penguin's Lair

Linux and FOSS groups and events in our area

By Bill Wayson

bwayson@gmail.com

We were happy to have Lee Cole attend our July Linux SIG meeting. Lee is quite involved in the Southern California Linux and Free and Open Source Software scene, attending the meetings of several groups, participating in events they sponsor, and organizing a local Linux user group. Since some of these groups and events are new to me, I will look into them and pass back to you what I learn. Thank you, Lee, for letting us know of these groups and events.

Lee organized the Ventura County Linux Users Group in April of this year. The group meets every other Saturday starting at 3 p.m. in the cafe at the Fry's store in Oxnard. Some meetings have a

special speaker or topic, while others are general question-answer and assistance sessions. Sometimes the meeting will end with participants heading off to a local restaurant. You can get more info about VCLUG, see what they've been up to, and get on their mailing list by visiting its Web site at <http://www.vclug.org>. This is a great resource for local Linux enthusiasts.

Ventura County is home to one of the oldest and most active Linux users group in the country, the Simi Conejo Linux Users Group, which started in 1998. Its mission is to promote the use of Open Source software and provide education and assistance to new Linux users. It is not required that you be an active user of Linux — the group welcomes anyone at the meetings, even the curious. Meetings are held every other Saturday — the next meeting should be

Aug. 29 from 2 p.m. until around 5:30 p.m. The location is the Simi Valley YMCA, 3200 Cochran Ave., Simi Valley. See its Web site at <http://www.sclug.org> for meeting details, maps, to get on their mailing list, and other news.

Only a little further south is the San Fernando Valley Linux Users Group. Its meetings, held roughly every two weeks, on Saturday once a month, and a Monday or Tuesday once a month, at various locations, provide a venue to socialize with other Linux users, share knowledge, and talk about technology issues. They also welcome everyone, especially beginners and the curious. It looks like they are currently in a summer lull, so keep an eye on the Web site at <http://www.sfvlug.org> to find out

(Continued on page 12)



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Cash for Clunkers

In keeping with change you can believe in,
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Help needed to maintain Web calendar

By Helen Long

helen@cipcug.org

I would like to repeat the information about our calendar on the Web site which is just chock full of information. Rick Curry has been maintaining it, but he would like to have some help with maintaining it. I have tried, but I get too frustrated when things don't go right and at my age, I have earned the privilege of not doing things

Bits & Bytes



Long

Windows 7 for the club. I'm sure many

that frustrate me. If anyone else could please help Rick with updating the calendar, I am sure he would appreciate the help. His plate is pretty full.

Be sure to put Oct. 24 on your calendar. Toby and Michael will be doing a demo of

of you have been curious about it. It sounds like it has a lot of "plus" factors to it, and it doesn't seem to be as bloated as Vista is.

Error messages that make sense. What a novel idea.

Someone sent me a whole flock of these error messages, and I just have to share a few of them with you from time to time. Some of them are priceless.

HAVE YOU RUN YOUR SPYWARE PROGRAMS LATELY?

More on Penguin's Lair ...

(Continued from page 11)

when and where the next meeting will be.

A bit further south, near the 118 and Balboa Boulevard, is TUGNET, The Users' Group Network. They are a general PC users group that covers a variety of topics at its meetings, not unlike CIPCUG. The weekly general meetings are held every Tuesday at 7 p.m. You can view its Web site at <http://www.tugnet.org> to see coming meeting topics, find the meeting location, and see what they are up to. They do have their own Linux SIG that meets on the fourth Thursday of every month. If the CIPCUG Linux SIG meeting is inconvenient for you, you may wish to consider attending this one. See <http://www.supercalendar.com/view.html?id=1249070081tugnet161213491> to see all the meetings of the various TUGNET interest groups.

Southern California hosts an annual conference for the FOSS community, known as SCALE (for Southern California Linux Expo) that is one of the biggest and best in our country and attracts attention from around the world. This multi-day conference brings in a variety of people from every aspect of FOSS communities, from developers, project leaders to major corporations. They speak and lead sessions on topics of interest to everyone from Linux users to technology managers to product devel-

opers. Each SCALE conference is bigger and more varied than the previous. SCALE7x was held Feb. 20-22 at the Westin Hotel right outside of LAX airport. SCALE8x will return to the same venue Feb. 19-21, 2010. See its Web site at <http://www.socallinuxexpo.com> for more details of past and coming SCALE conferences and to register for SCALE8x. This is a one-stop opportunity to see and learn about the full breadth of the FOSS movement.

Each year a worldwide event, Software Freedom Day, is held by local groups to educate the worldwide public about the benefits of using high quality FOSS in education, in government, at home, and in business and to explain the philosophy underpinning software freedom. This year's Software Freedom Day will occur on Saturday, Sept. 19. Anyone and any group can become involved and receive support from the international organizer, Software Freedom International, by visiting <http://softwarefreedomday.org>. As this is written, groups near Santa Ana and Santa Cruz are registered and plan to hold SFD events. Check out the interactive map link on its Web site for more information and to see other registered teams from around the world.

CIPCUG is great, and it is a pleasure to have such an active group right in our county. If you have interests and curiosities that aren't covered by CIPCUG and

would like to find out more about them, these additional active groups and events, which are nearly as close, may be able to fill you in and engage you. I am sure they will welcome anyone who wishes to attend.

If you have questions or would like to learn more about Linux and FOSS, come to the Linux SIG meeting on Thursday, Aug. 27 at 6:30 p.m. at Ventura County Computers in Ventura. If you have questions about open source software, feel free to bring them to the meeting. Any and all questions about open source and Linux will be taken. Please note that the September meeting of the Linux SIG will likely be moved to the third Thursday of the month, Sept. 17. See the CIPCUG Web site 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.

**Back up, back up,
back up ... and
then test the
backup to be sure
it worked.**

Security

Hackers break into e-commerce servers

By Bob de Violini*rjddev@gmail.com*

Just when you'd thought you'd heard it all, along comes a new wrinkle on an old con. This time, however, it's no con at all but the real thing. From March 12 to June 8 of this year, Network Solutions noticed that many of its servers used by independent merchants for e-commerce (Internet-based) transactions had some code on them that might have allowed an outsider to gather and transfer data on some or all of the transactions to servers outside the merchants' and Network Solutions. This basically represents a breach of security that involves a credit card's use on a Web site. So far, Network Solutions doesn't believe any of the potentially compromised information has been used fraudulently. Anyone who conducted business directly with Network Solutions via NetworkSolutions.com was not affected, however. To help potentially affected customers, it has enlisted the help of TransUnion to help monitor folks' credit reports for any fraudulent activity that may arise out of the breach. The breach involved a little over 4,300 e-commerce merchants who use Network Solutions to support their Web sites. For a little perspective, Network Solutions has over 10,000 such merchants that they support. For further specifics, they estimate that just over 573,900 individuals may have been affected during the period mentioned above.

So why do I mention a ruse in the opening sentence? Because if you're one of the folks affected by this breach, you should be getting a letter in the mail from TransUnion on behalf of the affected merchant and Network Solutions. Since neither of these establishments is a bank, some folks may think that it's a new scam making the rounds. Well, it's *not*, at least in this case! The letters were scheduled to go out beginning in late July, so you may have already gotten

one. If not, it should be arriving shortly if you were potentially affected. The letter from TransUnion will have a code on it that will allow you to use its credit monitoring service for free for a year, compliments of Network Solutions.

If you do notice any fraudulent transactions on your credit card statements, it's an extremely good practice to notify the card issuer the moment you notice them. Most credit card companies won't hold you liable for such transactions that are promptly reported. A good FAQ about this situation in plain English can be found here: <http://www.careandprotect.com/customer-info/index.html>.

Batches of patches

Patch Season! The last days of June and most of July turned out to be laden with patches to a few popular programs, notably from Mozilla and Adobe. This is aside from the usual monthly patches from Microsoft on the second Tuesday of the month.

For most home users, July started as a fairly easy month with only four or five releases from the folks in Redmond and, in many cases, they didn't require you to reboot the computer to take effect.

Mozilla and Adobe made up for it, though: Adobe patched its Flash player twice and Shockwave player once, and Mozilla released and then patched Firefox 3.5, bringing the version number up to 3.5.1. Because of Firefox 3.5's release, all support for any version lower than 3.5 will be discontinued around New Year's Eve Day, per Mozilla's policy of only supporting the release immediately prior to the newest one only for a period of six months.

Adobe kept patch season going with a patch for Acrobat 9 (all versions from 9 to 9.1.2) and Acrobat Reader 9 (all versions from 9 to 9.1.2) coming out the last week of July.

Not to be left out of the party, Microsoft released a pair of rare out-of-band (not on the second Tuesday of the

month) patches on July 28, one for Internet Explorer (all versions from 5.01 to 8) and one for certain versions of Visual Studio (.NET 2003, 2005 and 2008) and Visual C++ 2005 and Visual C++ 2008. Visual Studio and Visual C++ are classified by Microsoft as developer tools, so not everyone will have them installed on their computers.

Personal Software Inspector

I'd like to point out that patch cycles like July's make a very good case for having a program such as Secunia's Personal Software Inspector handy on your computer. It makes it very easy to check for the latest versions of all (or the vast majority) of your installed software. The alternatives are either setting the software to automatically check for updates on its own servers, or manually performing the task yourself within each program (can be a pain).

Many folks fall victim to malware because they have a small, not often used, piece of software on their computer that has a vulnerability the bad guys have known about for a while and can take advantage of. Keeping your software updated to the latest version is the single best way to stay a step ahead of *this* type of malware. One such example is a Trojan that reared its ugly head around the end of July, and is known as the Clampi Trojan. It has infected anywhere from 100,000 to 1 million PCs worldwide. Some were infected a year ago or more, but the bug lay dormant until it was awakened by its authors earlier in July. One thing that makes this a nasty bug is its ability to encrypt parts of itself to help it hide from anti-malware programs, so some such programs may not spot it when scanning. To help guard against this, it's a good idea to scan with two different anti-malware scanning programs that have been fully updated just prior to scanning your computer. By the way, the bug spreads by infecting a PC that visits an infected Web site or

(Continued on page 14)

Here we go again: A look at Windows 7

By Rick Smith

rants@vemail.net

Justification, Redemption, Acquittal, Vindication, Deliverance, Rescue or Divine Ordination, call it whatever you will but you have been proven right. You have resisted the temptation to upgrade to Windows Vista, not willing to settle for what you see as a second-rate OS. But instead you held out for better. Still holding on to your functioning friend, Windows XP, you waited out the storm to arrive at the Promised Land, Windows 7. You have arrived at the destination you were waiting for, and you will be rewarded. Not only do you feel good about not settling for a second-rate product, but you are also receiving a substantial improvement over your current bride, Windows XP. You will soon be married to one of the slickest, most improved and usable computer operating systems ever created by the genius of man. Don't you feel good!

Now that I've petted your ego a bit, what about the rest of us who are using

Rick's rant



Smith

Windows Vista. I hope I haven't deflated your egos too much with all this praise given to resolute holdouts for something better. Remember the Alamo, I can hear them cry. We are all sitting here scratching our heads wondering why we ever in our lives thought it was a good thing to trust Microsoft or a computer salesperson for that matter. When has Microsoft, our benevolent benefactor, ever really cared about anyone except its stockholders. Ahhhh, Capitalism at its best. You trusted Microsoft to leave your old friend XP to try what they said would be good for you. Take your medicine and you'll feel better in the morning. Well, it's morning and we're not feeling better. We just got ripped off for a second-rate product while those who waited are smiling happily as they venture into a new bonding with Windows 7.

Now some might say that Windows 7 would not be possible without Vista preceding it. True, Microsoft invested a lot of resources redesigning XP into something better, totally scrapping most of its old code to rewrite the OS into something more secure. But basically it was CYA over all the spyware, adware, malware, extortionware and viruses that affected its OS to drive up cost of own-

ership which helps give birth to reinvigorated Apple and Linux aficionados, which increased their market share and, of course, diminished Microsoft's. Even with Vista, gone are the glory days of hordes of people lined up at Office Depot waiting for the stores to open with Microsoft's newest product on the shelves. I don't know of anyone who went out and bought a Vista upgrade except me with hopes of someone buying it. But much to Microsoft's credit it did not go and hide in some forgotten cave to lick its wounds but in good company tradition it came out swinging with a real good new product.

Now don't expect me to give you a lot of detail as I have not used the product yet. As I commented before, we've had it in our office, but Michael Shalkey "The Cat in the Hat," has used it extensively, and he swears it's the "Cat's Meow," as much as Michael swears.

I'm still trying to get over the confusion of Microsoft's product naming structure. First it switched from a descriptive product name to a yearly model number. They it switched to some kind of automobile model branding with XP — it sounds like a car. They it followed, of course, by some obscure pun on Win-

(Continued on page 15)

More on security ...

(Continued from page 13)

opens a malicious email attachment with unpatched software on their computer. Once active, Clampi harvests log-in information for over 4,000 Web sites, including financial sites and many other types of sites that deal with money and/or personal information about you and sends the collected data on to its controllers or authors for their malicious use. One such victim is an auto parts store in the South, whose owner lost in the vicinity of \$75,000.

As I've pointed out above, the bad guys are getting craftier and faster with their bag of tricks, and there's now a

very widely used term within the computer security community that didn't even exist maybe three years ago. That term is "Zero-Day (or 0Day) vulnerability," which describes a software bug that's exploitable by malware because a patch for the software doesn't exist but the malware to exploit the bug already does.

Many security experts mention that keeping your anti-malware background programs updated with the latest definitions and running your anti-malware scanner(s) of choice on a very regular schedule is one of the best ways you can protect your computer against these

Zero-Day vulnerabilities.

That's because software companies realize that sometimes it may take quite some time to develop and test a patch that will fix the vulnerability and not cause another. In these cases, they give the anti-malware software makers (Symantec, AVG, Avast, etc.) all the information they have about the malware that's exploiting this vulnerability and those programs are then updated to be able to recognize the new malware and stop it or greatly reduce the amount of damage it causes.

Well, that's all for now. Happy and Safe Surfing everyone!

Using the F4 key in Vista

By Jeff Levy

The f4 key, located on the top row of keys on your keyboard, can do several useful things. Here are some of them.

You can use the f4 key to close any open program. Just make sure the program you want to close is selected, now press and hold the alt key and then press the f4 key. That will close the open window automatically.

If you are using one single program that has many different documents open within it, programs like word or excel, just press and hold the CTRL (control) key, located in the lower-left section of your keyboard, and then press the f4

Learning
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key.

This will close all of the open documents and then close the program.

You can also use f4 to shut to start the process used to turn off your computer. Make sure any open programs are closed, and then press and hold the alt key and press the f4 key. That will bring up the "turn off computer" box and you can proceed with the normal shut down. Pressing alt + f4 keys has the same action is pressing the start button and then clicking on turn off computer.

This lesson is copyright by Jeff Levy and reprinted with permission. All of his more than 400 lessons for both the PC and the Mac can be found on his Web site, jefflevy.com.

Jeff Levy on Computers" can be heard from 1 to 2 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday on KRLA, 870 AM. Jeff's show notes for every show are also at www.jefflevy.com. Click on the Show Notes picture on the opening page to access a wealth of information. And you can send Jeff questions for the show through the Web site at askjefflevy.com.

More on Rick's rant ...

(Continued from page 14)

dows with the Spanish word for view. I still think it was pandering to the growing Latino buying public. Spanish words are very in vogue now as immortalized by our very own governor. I'll end my rant with it! Now it is just giving it a single digit number that neither Toby nor I can fathom.

Toby thinks he has it figured out, but it makes no sense to me. Try asking him at the next meeting and see if you can understand. In fact, I'll give a \$5 gift

certificate to In-N-Out Burger for the best explanation.

With all that being said, we will probably be having an Introduction to Windows 7 SIG highlighting the features and general use of the new OS.

Until then try not to be too disappointed on your purchase of a lame duck OS. Computers are a tool, and if you have a job to do you need the tools to get it done.

Besides, I think of it as a sales opportunity. Everyone I talked into buying

Windows Vista will get a personal apology and a discount to trade their old PC with our new "Cash for Clunkers" sales promotion. Bring in your old Vista PC, and we'll work a deal to put you into a new Windows 7 operating system today — err, I mean, in October when it's "officially" released.

It's time for me to go now as I'm off to sell some Snake Oil to an unsuspecting victim of my snake charming ways. Until then,

Hasta la vista, baby ...

Quicken Home and Business errant program conclusion

By Lois Evans de Violini

For those who missed the original article in TOE, the problem was as follows:

Everything was OK when I brought up my new Quicken Home and Business 2009 in Vista Ultimate and used it. The problem occurred when I closed the program. At close, a process with the file name "qw.exe" (Quicken Launcher) dated 3/5/09, version 18.1.6.25, stayed in memory and started itself into an endless loop ... using up more and more memory until it used up all the RAM

and shut everything down. I was able to stay up long enough to bring up Task Manager and watch the qw.exe process away at my RAM. It could be stopped in Task Manager by highlighting qw.exe and clicking on End Process before it brought the machine to its knees. But this was not the way I wanted to close a program.

For several weeks, communication with Intuit continued with no solution. The problem wasn't solved or explained. Technicians wanted me try the same stuff over and over again and download

another download of the same version. Nothing helped! Intuit seemed to have no answers about why the program would not close properly. The technicians were always polite and tried to be helpful, but nothing helped. Finally they would said that, "This is a known issue and is being worked on."

Several weeks more went by. Then one evening when I was closing down my computer, I noticed that my automatic update with Microsoft was working and several Vista updates were in-

(Continued on page 16)

Annual report FY 2008-09

	2007-08	2008-09
ASSETS		
Cash	\$7,201.97	\$ 8,342.48
Equipment (depreciated value)	\$2,723.00	\$ 2,010.00
Total Assets	\$9,924.97	\$10,352.48
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	none	none
Contracts	none	none
Total Revenue	\$13,670.53	\$10,934.12
Total Disbursements	\$11,235.13	\$ 9,793.61

Cash Assets increased \$1,140.51 and Total Revenue exceeded Total Disbursements by the same amount, due to careful fiscal management. No major items of equipment were purchased in FY 08-09. Equipment expense of \$126 included a multi-meter, a laptop remote control and a network adapter. Equipment (depreciated value) decreased \$713, and Total Assets increased \$427.51 during the year.

CIPCUG has no long-term liabilities and no long-term contracts.

This report has been prepared without audit from the books and records of the corporation, and is believed to fairly represent its financial conditions as of June 30, 2009. CIPCUG books are available for inspection by members on written request to the Treasurer.

Arthur V. Lewis,
Treasurer
July 25, 2009

More on Quicken ...

(Continued from page 15)

stalled on my machine. Guess what! The next day when I used Quicken, it closed properly ... magic! I've had no problem whosoever with Quicken from that date on.

Apparently the problem was with the Quicken interface with Vista, and it needed Microsoft to change something, not Intuit.

I still don't understand why the "help" people working for Intuit didn't know this and tell me instead of putting me through hours and hours of frustrating useless work.

Treasurer's report for June 2009

By Art Lewis

treasurer@cipcug.org

**6-1-2009 through
6-30-2009**

Category Description

INFLOWS

Coffee income	2.60
Donation	138.00
ISP Income	45.00
Membership Income	
Renewals	525.00
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	525.00
Raffle	-33.06

TOTAL INFLOWS 677.54

OUTFLOWS

ISP Expense	131.00
Rent Paid	150.00
TOE	231.82
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	512.82
OVERALL TOTAL	164.72

Unrestricted Funds	6,342.48
Restricted Funds	2,000.00
Bank Balance 6-30-09	8,342.48
Year to Date Income	10,934.12
Year to Date Expense	-9,793.61



Lewis

Members' classified ads

Classified ads are free to members. Each ad is limited to 105 characters, including spaces and to one ad per member per month. Copy has to be to John Weigle, editor of TOE (editor@cipcug.org), within the week after the regular meeting. Otherwise, the ad is held to the following month.

For sale

- 1) PC Tower, Intel Pentium MMX-CPU, 233MHz. 2.0 GB HDD, 24X CD-ROM, 1.44 MB 3.5" HD, Win 98SE, Monitor \$20/OBO
 - 2) D-Link Wireless Print server DPR-1260 \$10/OBO
 - 3) Microsoft Keyboard, ergonomic \$10/OBO
 - 4) Microsoft Serial Mouse \$5/OBO
 - 5) One HP 22 Tri-color inkjet cartridge (recycled-refilled), \$6
 - 6) Two HP 27 black inkjet cartridge (recycled-refilled), \$6 each
- David Minkin, ddave@cipcug.org

(Continued on page 17)

Membership report:

Is it time to renew?

By Ken Church

e-mail address: membership@cipcug.org



CHURCH

New Members: Wanted

Attendance at the July 2009 general meeting:
57 members and guests

Total membership: 226

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 renewal payment to:

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

Or bring your payment to the sign-in table at the Aug. 22, 2009, meeting.

June 2009 renewals payment due:

Mbr#	Last Name	First Name	Pd to Dt
1192	Altman	Harry	200906
0593	Shalkey	Mike	200906

July 2009 renewals payment due:

Mbr#	Last Name	First Name	Pd to Dt
1028	Burke	Jim	200907
1138Y	Burke	Tanner	200907
0357	Chaiclin	Dick	200907
0350	Colter	Don	200907
0354	Ferro	Joe	200907
1132	Hales	Clifford	200907
0873	Pass	Jim	200907
0812	White	Norm	200907
0601	Wymore	Bob	200907

August 2009 renewals payment due:

Mbr#	Last Name	First Name	Pd to Dt
1193	Abbate	Mannie	200908
0985	Bartels	Pat	200908
1186	Harrison	Brian	200908
0806	Hurme	Seppo	200908
0986	Kennedy, Jr.	Robert	200908
0368	Long	Helen	200908
0867	Pryor	Dorothy	200908
0474	Pryor	John	200908
1222	Quint	Richard	200908
1223	Reed	Dan	200908
1125	Robinson	Bill	200908
0498	Ruzella	Paddy	200908
0722	Smith	Gary	200908
1111	Sperske	Dineane	200908
0244	Zilm	Charles	200908

Many thanks to Curtis Davison Jr. for sitting in for David Minkin on audio, and to Roy Allen for sitting in on the membership table while I was helping Curtis set up the audio equipment. And we are all thankful David is there for most of the meetings.

More member ads ...

(Continued from page 16)

Symantec's Norton Ghost V. 14. In original, sealed manufacturer's packaging and manual. \$10.

Epson Stylus C66 printer. Rarely used with all three color cartridges needing replacement and a brand new black cartridge. \$30.00

— Hal Simon, Member # 452, 805-482-0344

HP DeskJet D 4360 Printer. New. Original box unopened. \$25.

— Jerry Kiess, jerry105@dslextreme.com, 805-985-5636

Wanted

Have a small flash drive that you don't use? I could make good use of any 128 MB Lexar flash drives you care to donate for next year's volunteer income tax program. — Art Lewis

Other categories as needed



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

GRAPHICS 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

<u>Initials</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>(805)</u>
BDV	Bob de Violini	rjddev@gmail.com

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

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WEB HELP SITES

Annoyances Central blog (from authors of the O'Reilly Annoyances series, including Steve Bass):
www.annoyancescentral.com/

Steve Bass TechBite Newsletter: 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/

Microsoft Windows XP The Official Magazine (UK):
www.windowsexpmagazine.co.uk/

Microsoft Windows Vista The Official Magazine (UK): /www.windowsvistamagazine.com/US/

Online safety tips: www.OnGuardOnline.gov

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/

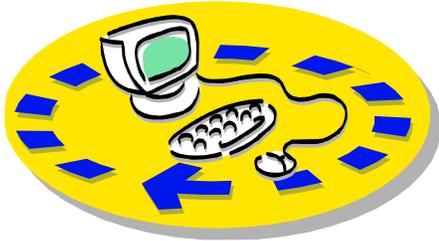
Ventura County Computers (Rick and Toby's shop):
www.vccomputers.com

Virus Bulletin: www.virus-bulletin.com/

Windows Secrets: ww.windowssecrets.com/

ZD Net spyware blog: www.blogs.zdnet.com/Spyware

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.

- ◆ An Internet service provider at a large discount (see next column).

- ◆ 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.

CIPCUG members are eligible to sign up for the group's Internet service provider (ISP) at the low price of only \$15 per month plus a \$15 processing fee.

To sign up, contact one of the club's techies (see next column). Call one of them you may know or one in your area, and they will be glad to provide you with the details necessary for signing up. Checks should be made payable to CIPCUG and sent to Treasurer, c/o CIPCUG, P.O. Box 51354, Oxnard CA 93031. Don't forget to include the \$15 set-up fee in your first sign-up check.

You may make payments in three-month, six-month or annual increments. We also give a 12-month subscription if prepaid in advance at the 11-month price of \$165. Many of our club members are electing to do this to keep Helen from nagging them for money. Renewals can also be mailed to Treasurer; just be sure to mention the dates that your check is to cover.

There is no program to install; you will use programs that are already on your computer. It's simple to talk you through the set-up, but if you're the least bit timid about setting up your computer, a club member will come to your house and make the necessary arrangements. Our agreement will also give you a 5 MB Web page allowance.

CIPCUG INTERNET SERVICE TECH TEAM

Helen Long, 642-6521

helen@cipcug.org

David Minkin, 469-6970 (cell), 484-2974 (home)

dddave@cipcug.org

Bob Thompson, 647-2287

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

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
OXNARD, CA
PERMIT NO. 1785

DATED MATERIAL
Please Do Not Delay

DUES REMINDER

If the number above your name is 200908, your membership dues are payable in August 2009.

AUGUST 2009 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, Aug. 22,
at the Boys & Girls Club,
Ponderosa Drive and Temple
Avenue, Camarillo, Calif.**

Meeting Schedule:

- 8:30 A.m. Doors open
- 8:45-9:30 Internet 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 (Orville Beach on some aspect of Linux)
- Drawing
- 1:30 After-meeting SIG by Michael Shalkey (might be moved or cancelled)