The Outer Edge

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

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★
Attendance at the
August general meeting
64 members and guests
We welcome two new members
★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

To Contact CIPCUG

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Long-time member dies

Just as this issue was being completed, we received word from Past President Paul Westefer that longtime member Dick Chaiclin died on Sunday, Sept. 6.

Funeral arrangements were not completed when we received the word, but services will no doubt have occurred by the time this issue arrives in the mail.

Dick was a CIPCUG member for many years, and his contributions and advice were welcome. He will be missed.

We extend our sympathy to his family.

COMMAND.COM

By Rick Curry, President

This September, the annual coastal cleanup day will coincide with Rosh Hashanah, and Talk Like a Pirate Day on the 19th. If you have a favorite Ventura County beach, this is an opportunity to contribute to the community commons.

Thanks to Orv Beach for his presentation of Linux. I have been using Linux as my preferred workstation for nearly three years, and there were still a few surprises for me in Orv's talk. I was certainly surprised to find out that Clam Antivirus for Linux exists exclusively to prevent Windows viruses from passing through a Linux machine. One of my favorite features that Orv did not have time to get to is multiple desktops: If you have too many open programs cluttering up your desktop, you can shift to a different desktop. Ubuntu Linux comes preset with four, and it is easily changed to provide more.

Curry

For those interested in learning more about "Cloud Computing & SaaS (Software as a Service)," we have posted a link on our club calendar to an IEEE lecture on how to do cloud computing correctly titled "No Silver Bullet III — Software Engineering for the Cloud." This lecture will probably have already happened by the time you get your newsletter. I post late-breaking items like this on our club calendar, and now also in our CIPCUG Google group.

And yes, that means that we are beginning our experimental use of a Google group for our club. You do not require a Google sign-in ID to use this group, but there are many more features available if you do have a Google ID. You can get this for free, similarly to the way you can get a Yahoo account. If you already have a Google e-mail address, that will work fine. Simply visit http://groups.google.com/group/cipcug and you will be given the option to sign in to Google groups, or to sign in and apply for membership. You only need to apply for membership the first time you visit. I will approve any CIPCUG member within 24 hours. This inconvenience is in order to prevent most spam from getting to our group.

If you choose to not get a Google ID, you can still join the group by

Root Directory

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

**Channel Islands
PC Users Group**
CIPCUG mailing address:
P.O. Box 51354, Oxnard, CA
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Jerry McLoud……………….…...1993-1995
Robert Provart…………………...1995-1997
Toby Scott………………………1997-1999
George Lakes…………………...1999-2001
 Andy Toth………………………2001-2003
David Harris……………………..2003-2005
Lois Evans de Violini .... ……..2005-2007
Paul Westefer……………………2007-2009
(With the exception of the immediate past
president, past presidents are not board members.)
Life members
Frank Segesman*
Toby Scott
Lois Evans de Violini
Art Lewis
*Deceased

Minutes of the August CIPCUG Board of Directors meeting

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

In attendance were President Rick Curry; Vice-President Craig Ladd; TOE Editor John Weigle; Web Page and ISP Co-coordinator Helen Long, and Secretary Diane Mortensen.

Mortensen

Rick Curry stated that because of hardware difficulties, the Computing 101 session today had to be canceled, but it would be back on schedule in September.

In the absence of Art Lewis, treasurer, Helen Long, Web page and ISP co-coordinator, read the treasurer's report, which appears elsewhere in this publication.

Secretary Diane Mortensen suggested that Michael Shalkey use a microphone during the Q&A sessions in order that the information he contributes can be picked up and transcribed. Discussion was had as to how many micro-phones the club has and the agreement was there are one clip-on and two hand-held microphones. The board agreed that another hand-held microphone could be used when questions are asked from the audience as well as for Michael's use. A price search will be made for the two types of microphones as well as receiving the opinion from Toby Scott, tech adviser, who was absent from the board meeting. The topic will be discussed further at the September board meeting.

Craig Ladd announced that he was unable to receive a confirmation from Don Baker of Klassic Specialties, who was tentatively scheduled for September's meeting. When Mr. Baker initially scheduled the date, he did not realize that CIPCUG's meetings were held on Saturdays. On the weekends, he goes to various computer conventions. However, Mr. Baker will be at the Thousand Oaks computer club, Thursday evening, Aug. 27, 2009, and everyone was invited.

There being no further matters to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned.

More on Command.com

sending an email to cip-cug+subscribe@googlegroups.com from the e-mail account that you would like to receive the group messages.

Either way, please make sure that your name appears in your request so that I know who is asking for membership.

I have created three discussions so far: "Announcements" (for club events), "Computer deals", and "Question and Answer suggestions."

If you have a message that you would like to add to one of these discussions, you "reply" to the discussion. There are a couple of ways to do this. You can use the Web page I listed above, or you can send an e-mail to cipcug@googlegroups.com with one of the three discussions I have created as the subject. I want this group to be as useful as possible for all participants, so I will be quite rigid about insisting that any posting be on-topic and be one of the three discussions listed.

By default, Google will send you an e-mail every time a message is posted to one of these discussions. By following the "For more options" link found at the bottom of every e-mail message the CIPCUG group sends, you can easily change this.

You can reply to one of these e-mail messages to add your own posting.

Happy computing!

Evaluating medical data on Web is September meeting topic

Programs

Dr. Garred Sexton will discuss "Evidence-Based Medicine" at the Sept. 26 meeting at the Camarillo Boys & Girls Club, 1500 Temple Ave. (southeast corner of Ponderosa Drive and Temple Avenue), Camarillo (see map on page 20).

Sexton graduated from University of Arkansas Medical School, spent 14 years in general practice, then 20 years with the Federal Aviation Administration as a regional flight surgeon. He retired to go to work as area medical director for American Airlines and then retired again to do part-time work in Occupational Health Clinic.

He has dual certification in Aerospace and Occupational Medicine.

He will cover "evidence-based medicine" on two points:

— How to read medical literature.

— How to use effectively information found in internet URLs.

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:

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

Nov. 21: Tentative: Debbie Jones, Anything is Possible — office trainers — workshop on Word Tips & Tricks

Dec. 19: TBA

More on coming events ...

(Continued from page 3)

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/SIGsPrograms/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 Tuesday: 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 (site subject to change).

The schedules for the balance of September and all of October:

September

Thursday, Sept. 22 NOTE NEW DATE: Thousand Oaks Personal Computer Club, Klassic Specialities presented by Don Baker, 6–9 p.m., Goebel Senior Center, 1385 E Janss Road, Thousand Oaks. Topic: "Demystifying Inkjet Printing". Klassic Specialities is offering a 10 percent discount on most printer cartridges if you specify "topcc" on your order before Sept. 21.

Sept. 24: Linux SIG. Setting up printing on our Ubuntu PC.

Saturday, Sept. 26: 8:45 a.m.: Computing 101 beginner SIG and Internet and e-mail SIG. 9:30: Regular meeting, "Evidence-Based Medicine." 1:30 p.m.: Michael Shalkey's after meeting SIG. Topic and location TBA.

October

Monday, Oct. 5: Digital Photo SIG sponsored by Thousand Oaks Personal Computer Club, 6 p.m., Thousand Oaks Library, 1401 E. Janss Road, Thousand Oaks.

Thursday, Oct. 8: HTML/CSS Beginning HTML Creating a Web Page.

Tuesday, Oct. 20: Linux SIG. Topic TBA.

Saturday, Oct. 24: 8:45 a.m. Computing 101 and Internet, e-mail SIGS. 9:30 a.m.: Regular meeting, Windows 7 presented by Toby Scott and Michael Shalkey. 1:30 p.m.: Michael Shalkey's after meeting SIG. Topic, location TBA.

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

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.

Important Q&A reminder: Please ait 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.

Q&A

MagicJack, Skype router, Linksys wireless

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 issue includes the second part of the July Q&A and all of the August Q&A.

Internet and e-mail SIG
Reported by John Weigle

CIPCUG flash drives

We're updating the CIPCUG flash drives today, although we had a series of good news, bad news events to be able to do so.

MagicJack

Q: I've been getting ads for magicJack that say I can make free calls throughout the United States and Canada. Do you know anything about it?

A: It's neat if you have an Internet connection and a cell phone. It piggybacks on your Internet connection to make a phone connection. It works pretty well if you have a fast Internet connection and a computer that you always leave on.

It costs $39.95 plus shipping and handling. If you make a lot of long distance calls, it can pay for itself fairly quickly.

The voice quality depends on your Internet connection. It won't be as good as a landline.

If you plan to use it as your primary phone, I'd use a laptop that doesn't use much electricity.

USB VCR player

Q: I bought a USB VCR player that says it needs a 1.8 GB processor. I have 1.6. Will it work?

A: I'd try it. Companies usually fudge requirements up when they list hardware requirements to avoid problems.

Skype router

Q: Is there a device with Skype that

> **This month's Q&A topics:**
> **Internet and e-mail SIG**
> CIPCUG flash drives
> MagicJack
> USB VCR player
> Skype router
> Leaving computers on
> Linksys wireless
> Using neighbor's connection
> Wireless interference
> Verizon security
> Desktop wireless cards
> Cordless phone
>
> **Regular Q&A**
> **(Continuation of July Q&A)**
> Home servers and NAS devices
> Server and XP Professional
>
> Announcement from the audience
> Windows updates
> List of corrupted files on Google
> **(August Q&A)**
> Remote assistance
> Upgrading to Windows 7
> Photoshop problems and memory
> Emptying recycle bin
> Tweaking virtual memory
> Yahoo, HotMail issues
> Maintaining computers
> AT&T wireless access password
> Vista and Outlook Express
> Firefox doesn't remember password
> Setting up first password
> Versions of Windows
> Versions of Windows 7

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works with a router?

A: I wouldn't get too wrapped up in non-Bell phone things because there's not much difference in the technology right now. The winner will be the company that has the most muscle and best ad campaigns. Vonage, Skype, magicJack and Ooma are among the companies that are offering the service.

MagicJack could pay for itself in two years. Many people are getting rid of landlines and using cell phones as their only phone connections.

Keeping computers on

Q: I read an article that said it's better for green computing not to leave computers on all the time but to put them in sleep mode. What do you think?

A: It's true that to be green it's not a good idea to leave the computer on 24/7, although it's better for most of the electronic components because they don't have to handle continuing temperature changes. The hard drives, which have moving parts, will wear out a little sooner, but the sleep mode turns off the hard drive.

Hibernate turns off most of the electrical use. When you reboot, the computer goes back to where you were when it went into hibernate — the same programs are open along with documents you were working on. But all Windows

systems need to be rebooted periodically or they get flaky. Hibernate is good if you're working on a critical project.

I don't know if magicJack works in hibernate. I have a laptop at home that a customer gave me because he didn't want to pay to repair a screen that wasn't working. I hooked it up to a monitor and I'd use that.

Linksys wireless

Q: I have a Linksys wireless router that connects to my main router and noticed that the Cisco logo was orange after some houseguests left. I thought it was supposed to be white. I didn't lose any functions. I have both wireless and wired equipment.

Toby: Daisy chaining routers is not the best solution.

Question continues: I talked to the Cisco people and found that an orange logo means your security system is shut down.

A: The first router serves as a firewall. If the wireless router is behind the wired one, you're OK.

Questioner: I had to put back in wireless security settings.

A: I hope you're using WPA and a long password.

Someone probably went in and re-

More on Q&A: Wireless interference, servers

moved your wireless security settings while using your computer.

Using neighbor's connection

Q: I live part time up north and borrow a neighbor's Internet connection. He's about 380 feet away. I get about a 4 percent connection. Can I get a booster, and where should it go?

A: You should replace his router with a new wireless router.

Q: He just changed to AT&T. Didn't they change things?

A: Not necessarily. Sometimes companies replace just the modem, not the router. Sometimes they'll put in a new modem/router but usually only in metropolitan areas, not rural ones.

If he has an old modem, you'd be better off to get him a new one with two sending units for about $80.

If you have a lot of equipment in your house, get a Belkin, which can be set up as an access point. If you daisy chain routers, you get a segmented network. People attached to one router can see everything else attached to that router, but nothing attached to the other router and vice versa. Belkin lets everyone see everyone else. Buffalo is also a good brand choice for this.

Wireless interference

Q: Does the FCC have anything to do with standards for wireless equipment, especially the radiation of signals?

A: They do, but the strength is so small it's not a problem. The original standards were set long ago, and everything today is way below the standards.

Verizon security

Q: Verizon FiOS provides a router that uses only WEP. What can I do? WEP is required for the television service.

A: Get a Buffalo or Belkin access point and restrict the WEP production to only the television service.

Desktop wireless cards

Q: What can you tell me about antennas for desktop wireless units?

A: There are two types: one on a card and one on a USB device. If you're in an office and don't move the computer around much, the one on the card is fine. If you're using it for a laptop that gets carried around a lot, the antennas can be broken easily.

Signals degrade with distance and things (such as walls and furniture). Generally, you'll get better reception if you can put the router higher up because most furniture is down low. But you can't put your desktop computer on the top of the bookcase, so that isn't always possible.

USB devices lose the signal more often than the network cards. There are combination units, too.

Q: We're in a two-story house, and my son has a computer upstairs that is part of the network.

A: If you're going to another story, it may not be better not to have the router as high up. It has to go through the floor and if you get close to the ceiling, you can end up sending the signal through a lot of wood before it gets to the next floor. Ideally, you'd like to go straight up.

Rick Curry: I periodically see problems with wireless in offices when people with cell phones in the 900MHz range use them and knock the wireless off the air.

A: You can adjust wireless devices to a broadband channel to try to fix that. When the FCC set the bandwidths, they didn't anticipate all the wireless devices we have today.

Cordless phone

Q: I have a problem with my cordless phone at home. When I take it into the back yard, I lose signal.

From the audience: New devices use spread system technology rather than the specific frequency that used to be common. That can be a problem.

Toby: I'd use a piece of PVC pipe and run an extension to the back yard through it and hook an old phone up to the wire. I'm a big fan of wires. When we bought our house, which was being built in 1987, I got permission to run lots of wire throughout. When you have a wireless problem, think of where you can run wires.

Regular Q&A
Reported by Diane Mortensen

This is part two of the July Q&A session. — Editor

Home servers and NAS devices

Q: If you are using Windows server mainly to connect an NAS device and back up your files from the network workstation, will that work?

A: No. You need to decide between purchasing an NAS device or a home server because you would not want to have both. They are both essentially backup devices.

Server and XP Professional

Q: If you have a Windows server, why not have Windows XP Professional on a hard drive and back it up?

A: You can. There is nothing to prevent you from doing that; however, the home server is designed to — How many of you set up a home network and had trouble with file sharing? — It is not always easy because XP and particularly Vista want to protect their file systems. Getting permission to put files on a computer can be difficult. In addition, when it goes into hibernation or sleep mode by default, you will not be able to back up files to it if it has gone into sleep mode even it is still on technically. File servers have Wake on LAN built in and have other things so you can let it go to sleep and back up to it. It will take 10 to 15 extra seconds while it gets up to speed, but it will be fine and it will take the files, back them up and you are good to go. It is a 24-hour-on server and you do not have to worry who is on, not on. Another thing, if you have the XP box, I guarantee you someone will go on the Internet with it, you'll get the corruption, you'll introduce the corruption, and now your backup files are corrupted, or

More on Q&A: Windows updates, corrupted files

potentially can be. One of the things about a server or NAS device is, you put it out there, it is isolated, and the material that goes on it has been screened by good anti-virus program and you should be safe. Additionally, you can back up all your files to a home server, you can have it back up to an external hard drive (USB). The software that is built into the server will accommodate that very nicely.

Q: If you already have an XP Pro at a workstation, it will do about the same thing rather than spending more money.

A: Yes. If you have an old '98 machine, you can get that working as a file server, as long as you can virus-check everything that goes on it. Take the viruses off, it is a minimal operating system and let it rip. Works fine; just do not take it out on the Internet. In fact, do not do anything with it except use it as a file server. File serving is relatively low activity for home users. If you have a hundred computers trying to hang on a server, that is a different story.

Announcement from the audience

I am cleaning out things at home. I have 10 power supplies in the trunk of my car, the kind of power supplies anywhere between 200-300 watt power supplies. These are not the UPS type but the kind that go on a desktop computer. Anyone who would like one or want a spare, I will be out at my car during the coffee break. There is no charge, and what is left over will go to the club.

Windows updates

Q: I am having trouble with Windows updates. When I go to add or remove programs and see what is installed, it does not indicate or show the updates. What is the problem?

A: The reason for that is that there is a checkbox. In XP it is the checkbox at the bottom. Go to Add/Remove programs and check "Show Updates." That is how you see the updates. Vista's checkbox is at the top. If you have some that are not working right, that is where you can uninstall them. If Windows up-

dates are corrupted, does Microsoft send out repair updates? No, you just uninstall and then reinstall. Do not use any of the advertised free repair downloads. Almost none of Windows updates are corrupted. What happens, though, is that if you have an update and it is corrupted, many times, it will say it was installed correctly, but it wasn't. The updates that come after that, that work in the same arena, will all be corrupted, and that is when you get into real trouble. You have to go back and find the parent, even 6-9 months back, uninstall a whole lot of installed updates, then go back and install them again. I would do it in small batches.

List of corrupted files on Google

Q: On Google, they have a list of corrupted files on my computer.

A: How do you know they are corrupted. If, like you say, you have a list of corrupted files found by Google, how is it possible that I do not have the same list on my computer? My computer is completely up to date, I have everything on there, and it is all installed perfectly. Now how it is that Google knows that your files are corrupted and mine are OK? What I am suspecting is that you did some type of search and probably installed spyware on your computer and it was the spyware, click on add-on that you had on the right side of the Google search that was one of those registry checkers.

If you have an issue and you do a search on the issue or you get an error message and ask what is this error message and you do a Google search on it, Google will have a listing at the top or the second hit, which someone has paid to be in that lineup, when you enter those search parameters. Repeatedly when you click on those, you end up on someone's site where they are trying to sell you something. Unfortunately, too many times, those sites have attached spyware or viruses. If you go to Google, search and you believe you have found the right thing, what you might end up doing is installing spyware or viruses on

your computer. Next thing you know, you have pop-up windows indicating you have this and that virus, 142 of these, pay us $50 and we will get rid of them. Usually, it is nothing but a fraud. The virus is what you are seeing, not what was on your computer to begin with. You installed the virus by clicking on the Google search. We talked about this before. Do not click on any registry optimizer, Windows update optimizer, search optimizer or any of those that you get on a Google search or a Yahoo search, or any other search. Do not click them on. It is a horrible gamble.

The August Q&A starts here. — Editor

Remote assistance

Q: Is there a way that you can easily explain or we could have a demonstration of the program that would enable one person to assist another person on his or her computer at a different location? Like remote assistance or whatever it is called.

A: Yes. We did that as a part of a program; however, the Internet died. We spent long hours preparing for the demonstration, and then it flopped. It is not anything I can show you in four or five minutes. We will be covering that topic and do Crossloop, Go to My PC, and several others. But Crossloop is probably the best for that. Crossloop is the name of the program that will work well and you can explore with it.

Upgrading to Windows 7

Q: I went on the Internet and checked out upgrade adviser for Microsoft, and everything seems to check out except one thing. It said graphics adaptor can't support Windows Arrow user interface, but that an upgrade is possible. Otherwise, it appears to be all right.

A: Do not worry about it. If any of you have a computer you can play with that has a 1G of RAM and some kind of reasonable processor, we have a stack of Windows 7 Release Candidate CDs we will give out. Some are 32-bit and some,

More on Q&A: Photoshop problems, memory

64-bit. Be aware that the Release Candidate will start to nag you in April 2010, and in June, it will start shutting down. From what we know, there is no good way to upgrade this to the production version. Do not install on your production machine — the one you use every day that is critical, if it went down you would lose everything, you would blow up. I am warning you ahead of time, do not do it. Put it on a machine you have that you can play with. Yes, they are downloadable.

Photoshop problems and memory

Q: I have Photoshop running on Vista with 1G RAM and it was shutting down so I upgraded with a 2G and it still shuts down. Should I go ahead and put 3G on it because there are two slots, one for 1G and another for 2G?

A: Go back and uninstall, then reinstall. It may be that you had a RAM issue when you tried to do the initial install, so it may not have been installed correctly. Depending on what kind of processor you have, you might do 2G and 2G. The days of the 32-bit operating systems are numbered. The first limitation of 32-bit is you cannot address more than 4G of RAM directly — that is the maximum. Even at that, if you install 4G on your 32-bit VISTA you will only get a net of approximately 3.3GB because it has to share the RAM space with your video. Whatever the video is using, it steals from your gross of 4G so you are down to 3.3GB. If you are running dual core processors, it is not recommended to run mismatched RAM. You probably will want to run two identical sticks because the synchronization between the two with the two processors will run more efficiently because if one processor runs off a 1G stick and the other off a 2G stick. That is a bad technical explanation, and I am not going to make it any better.

Size of 'waste basket'

Q: I read somewhere that the "waste basket" will take up to 10 percent of an external hard drive. If I have a terabyte will the waste basket put aside 100 GB of the drive that I cannot use, or is it used only for stuff I am going to get rid of?

A: The standard is 10 percent, but it is configurable; that is the default. Let us talk about disk space. First, try never to get less than 30 percent free; otherwise, your hard disk performance will go way down. If you get to 80-90 percent full and you only have 10-20 percent free, your computer will get very slow. You should have plenty of extra hard drive space. Many people do huge dumps of music or photos in one go, and they will try to make the recycle bin very large, the idea being that when you are done, you have everything and all is working fine, you empty the recycle bin and reclaim the space. The recycle bin is supposed to be used for giving yourself a second chance that if you had deleted something by mistake you could retrieve it from the recycle bin. Again, the recycle bin is a temporary safety spot so you make sure that what you deleted was OK and, if so, empty the bin, and you get your space back. You should be running with quite a lot of empty space anyway, so it should not be an issue.

Emptying recycle bin

Q: Do you have to empty the recycle bin? I thought it emptied itself.

A: No, you have to right mouse click on "empty recycle bin." If you get into the disk tools, you can right mouse on the "C" drive and go to Tasks.

From the audience: It also applies to your trash in your e-mail. As you keep emptying stuff out of your e-mails, it goes into the trash, and that needs to be emptied periodically.

Toby: It depends on the language for the e-mail program, but you want to compact your e-mails occasionally. When you delete e-mails when they come in, all it does is mark it for deletion and leaves it on your hard drive. You probably will want to do this every few months. If you ever get what they call cross-linked indexes, you get pointers to stuff that does not exist or stuff that has been deleted but your program thinks it has not been deleted, and you can end up with all kinds of funny things in your e-mail box. The more junk you have marked for deletion, but have not removed, the more likely you are to get cross-link problems. Therefore, you should go in periodically and compact your e-mail boxes. I believe most e-mail programs call it "compact" or "compress." If they do not, it will indicate something else that states it will re-index and compress.

Tweaking virtual memory

Q: Is there a way to tweak the virtual memory to increase the performance of the computer?

A: Yes, you can do that. If you go to your Control Panel, System, Advance System Settings, Performance, Advance, Virtual Memory Change, you can change stuff to your heart's content. You will have to reboot after you do it, but you can change your settings. One of the things to pay attention to is it will tell you what is recommended; like 1,531.

Yahoo, HotMail issues

Q: If I am using Yahoo or HotMail, all my old messages are not sitting on my computer, is that true, is it elsewhere?

A: Depends on how you use them. Both HotMail and Yahoo mail not only have the ability to download the mail onto your computer; but also the ability to use it in what they call web mail where you log on and use their server. So, it all depends on what mode you are in. If you are downloading them onto your computer, then they are on your computer and you will need to compress them. If they are still on Yahoo or HotMail server, then you do not.

Maintaining computers

Q: I regularly maintain my computer so that I know Microsoft gives me what it wants me to have and occasionally defrag and I run my malware programs. Is there something else I should be do-

More on Q&A: Check disk, wireless passwords

ing? Formerly, there was something called scan disk that I do not see as an option.

A: Actually, there is a big brother to scan disk, which is check disk which is shown as CHKDSK. In Vista and XP, you get to it the same way: Start, Run, and enter cmd (in Vista you have to have elevated administrator privileges.) As Administrator, Continue, Run as Administrator, now go Continue and then type in "CHKDSK C" (if you have only one hard drive; type in other hard drive locations if more than one) if you only run check disk that is all it will do, it does not change anything. It will tell you what is wrong with it, but will not change anything. If you run "CHKDSK / f," it will fix all of the file issues it can find. If you run "CHKDSK /r," not only will it check the file issues, but it will also go through and look at all of the sectors on your hard drive and see if there are any hardware issues. If there are any, it will lock out the bad sectors and let you use the rest. This is what you should do every six months or so. If you start having any issues with your computer or your electricity died and your computer went off several times, you ought to run a CHKDSK because that is when you usually leave things open, and get cross-linked files.

Q: When I ran check disk it said at C it cannot get …

A: When you run check disk on C drive, it cannot check the disk while Windows is running and will give an error message — "ChkDsk cannot run on the volume now would you like to schedule the volume to be checked the next time the system is restarted?" You can type "Y" or "N." If type Y it will run and N it will not; then you will need to reboot your computer. You do not have to do it right away.

Q: Another thing with check disk is it will run its course, but then you have about 5 seconds to see the final report. Is there another way to view the report?

A: Yes. Control Panel, Administra-tive Tools, Event Log, and in XP I be-lieve you get three and in Vista four or five logs. If you go in and check the event log fairly soon after you ran check disk, it will have some of the boot items that came up and you may have to scroll down, but in the event log you will see your check disk items. If there is a prob-lem, it will have a red mark next to the item. Then again, you may have yellow warnings on some of those; it depends on the severity of the problem on the disk. You might have a yellow warning or a red x. You can look up each event, and it will provide all the information. It is not a bad idea to look in your Event Log every so often to see if you are get-ting any errors. Many times things will go wrong with your computer and the computer knows about it, but you do not see any manifestations until it is late in the cycle. Occasionally, if you go in and look at the event log as someone was having trouble with Photoshop, you could go into Applications and see why it shut down, or at least why Windows made it shut down. Frequently the appli-cation log is not so useful, but there are times it can provide you information.

AT&T wireless access password

Q: If I change my AT&T wireless access password, what else is it affect-ing? I changed it and can no longer get e-mail.

A: When you change your wireless password, your e-mail password will not change. If you have your own router, nothing else will change, although you will have to enter the new password in your computer to give to your router.

Vista and Outlook Express

Q: I have an XP and want to know if Vista also has Outlook Express? The problem on the XP machine I have is there are Microsoft Outlook and Outlook Express. Can you have both co-exist on the same desktop? On Outlook Express, I am getting e-mails twice.

A: Are you trying to get the same e-mail on both programs? If you are, this is generally not recommended. If you are doing this, make sure you leave one copy of the e-mail on one of the e-mail programs and delete the other. You do that by going to your accounts, click on the account, Properties, go to Advanced, check "leave a copy on the server and remove from server after ??? (put in whatever length of time you want). Only delete it on the main program that you use. Incidentally, that works if any of you want to get your mail at home and at work or husband and wife have their own computers, but they share an e-mail account and you both want to get to it, you do it this way. It is important to go back and delete your e-mails after about 14 days. It will mitigate huge long fail-ures.

Firefox doesn't remember password

Q: I run Firefox and when I estab-lished a password with a new company I want to deal with, most times Firefox asks, "Do you want this computer to remember this password?" but it does not do it all the time. Are those pass-words relatively secured?

A: They are very secure if nobody gets to your computer. If they get to your computer, no, they are not secure at all. You are essentially taking your pass-words and putting them all in one place that if someone can get to that place, they are accessible. Firefox passwords are beatable even if you use a master password, although now they are diffi-cult to beat as Firefox improved the pro-gram, I believe in the 3.5 version. If you use a master password, then you have to know what that master password is. You only have to remember one, and now you can have memorized all your passwords for all you bank records and everything. In order to get to it, you will have to one time enter your master pass-word. As long as you do not reveal your master password, then no one can get into the memorized password. On the other hand, you have the annoyance of being prompted to enter. On the CIP-CUG flash drives; there is the Keypass

More on Q&A: Windows' names, versions

program, which works quite well. It is a freeware password memorizer. It will do one where you have a master password and then when you need a password, it generates some huge long, incomprehensible string that no one can remember. It will give that to you as a password, and then it will remember it for that particular site. The problem with that is you are then locked into using Keypass because there is never any way you will be able to remember all your passwords. It is a two-edged sword. As we have learned, all security is a matter of comprise between how secure it is versus how easy it is to use. If you want to really get a computer that is extremely secure, cover it in lead, bury it in backyard in a concrete crypt and make sure no electricity gets near it and you will be quite safe with that procedure. It is not usable, but it is safe. Everything you do less than that to make it safe increases the utility and decreases the security. It is all a compromise where you have to plot a course as to how secure you want to be and how much you want to fuss with it.

Setting up first password

Q: How do you set up the computer where, when you first turn it on, it asks you for a password to get in.

A: Simple, just give it a password. Go to Control Panel, Users Account, Change/Create Password. This is similar in XP and Windows 7.

Press Any Key
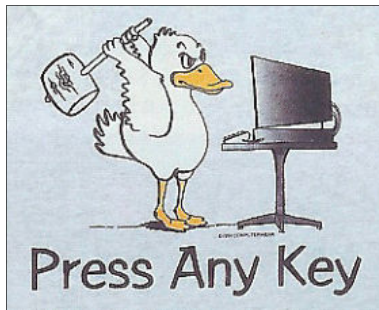
Versions of Windows

Toby: My partner, sometimes enemy, Rick Smith wanted someone to tell him how in the world we got to calling it Windows, Windows 7. We only were able to get one answer, and it was wrong. The clue is NT4 because that was Windows 4. Before that, we had Windows 1, 2 and 3. After NT4 came NT5, which was renamed Windows 2000 because Microsoft lost a trademark lawsuit to Northern Telecom. Windows XP was really just a minor tweak to Windows 2000 — there was no rewrite of the core. Vista, then, was Windows 6. Of course, Windows 7 is just a tweak to Vista — there's no rewrite to the core, so it is really Windows 6.5 or similar. But they are calling it Windows 7 anyway.

Versions of Windows 7

Q: Is Windows 7 for home or business and what is the difference?

A: Windows 1, 2, and initially 3 were all the only Windows. Home/ Business — Microsoft did not care. In

Windows 3 they forked it. There was 3.1, the consumer version, and then there was NT 3.1 which updated to NT 3.5. Then they updated 3.1 to Windows 95 and had two completely separate cores at this point. Windows 95 and Windows NT were completely separate cores. They had a consumer core and a business core. NT moved forward to Windows 2000, Windows 95 moved to 98 and Windows ME.

There should have never been an ME. Microsoft thought it was too expensive to have two cores. The goal was to consolidate the home and business core in Windows 2000 or as it was at the time, NT 5. Microsoft could not get it out the door in time so at the last minute they pulled the thing apart, bolted the home stuff on top of Windows 98, and came out with ME. ME did not have nearly enough beta testing and it was regarded by even the Microsoft insiders as (a) a colossal mistake; and (b) the worst operating system Microsoft had ever produced. That was because they could not get the code consolidated in Windows 2000, and that is why they came out with XP in 2001. That is the product Windows 2000 would have been because that was the unified code and Windows XP came with Home and Professional or Business versions. Now you have Vista Home and Business and they have Home Basic and Home Premium and Business, then Ultimate. Vista has the same thing and now Windows 7 will be the same, too.

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Program: Linux and Open Source Software
Price — free— a major advantage of Linux

Photo by Jerry Crocker

Orv Beach prepares for his presentation on Linux and Open Source Software at the August meeting.

By John Weigle

jweigle@vcnet.com

The values of Linux and open source software were emphasized at the August meeting by Orv Beach, who discussed "Linux and Open Source Software: An Update."

One of the major advantages of Linux and open source software, he said, is that both are free. And there are now hundreds, if not thousands, of open source programs, which are updated regularly and far more often than commercial software.

As a start, Beach described the cost of a computer: $580 for the hardware, he said, plus at least $80 for the operating system if it's included as part of the purchase. That's called "the Microsoft tax"

in the Linux world, he said.

But those two costs don't let you do much with your computer other than play a few games and do some simple word processing with the built-in Windows program. If you're going to do some serious work — perhaps for a business operated from your home — you'll need such software as the Microsoft Office Suite ($409), Visio ($399), Project ($450) and Photoshop ($6309) for a total software cost of $1,978 without any malware protection or other utilities included.

"That's kind of upside-down from the way it was early on," he said.

Open source software

The answer to the cost of the OS is some distribution of Linux, and the an-

More on Linux ...

swer to the other software costs is the free open source software, including Open Office and Gimp, an image processor.

He also noted that programs for many other kinds of work are available, including Firefox (browser), Thunderbird (e-mail), Serbius DTP (desktop publishing), 7Zip (file compression) and Audacity (audio editor). Many of these are also available to operate under Windows. Video editing and genealogy programs are also available, Beach said.

The code for open source software is open, meaning that anyone who wants to read it to search for bugs, back doors and other security weaknesses or to improve it can do so. Users who don't program can report bugs and suggest changes to the software or write help files in their native tongues, which means open source software can have help files for countries that Microsoft and other companies would not be willing to support because of the small number of likely sales, Beach said.

"The best code wins" with open source software, he said. Because the software is a community effort, he said, there are no sales goals and no release deadlines, so there's no need for the "ship it even if it's got bugs" philosophy. This means that users can always be using a cutting edge version of the software that's still being worked on or can stick with the most recent fully developed version. It's possible for a person to use a bug-free development version of a program for a year or more with no problems even though it's still in the development process, he said. Version numbers don't mean as much in the open source software world as they do in the commercial software world, he added.

Open source software is not freeware or shareware, he said. It's licensed under the General Public License, which allows copying and further distribution of the software, he said.

The software can be downloaded for

For more information on Linux

To download Linux, go to:
http://ubuntu.com
http://Kubuntu.org
http://openSUSE.org
http://www.linuxmint.com

For specialized distributions (firewalls, rescue CDs, etc.):
http://distrowatch.com

For troubleshooting and general information:
http://linux.org
http://linux.com
http://linuxquestions.org
http://sclug.org (mailing list and

meeting information)
http://vclug.org (mailing list and meeting information)

Information on specific Linux distributions:

http://ubuntuforums.org (information on Ubuntu)
http://kubuntuforums.net (information on Kubuntu)
http://forums.opensuse.org (information on openSUSE
http://forums.linuxmint.com (information on Mint Linux)

free, but paid support is available for those who need it, especially large companies. There are also numerous free sources of support, some of which are listed in the accompanying list of Internet resources.

Upgrades are also free with the exception of some commercial high-end server world software.

Bugs are usually fixed quickly, and suggestions for new features are also handled well, Beach said.

Firefox, an open source browser, for instance, is up to version 3.5.2, and version 3.5 came out only a few months ago. "Generally, commercial software can't react that quickly," he said.

A security expert found a vulnerability in the kernel of Linux that has existed since 2001. "It wasn't a bug in the code," Beach said. "It was a bug in the way the compiler assembled the code and allowed the vulnerability. Forty-eight hours later the patch was available and all the distros (distributions) are pushing out the patch now."

The vulnerability could be exploited only by someone who was sitting at the computer's keyboard, he said.

Linux code is being improved continually, he said, and so far there is no adware, spyware, malware or viruses for

the software. Linux programs are not automatically executable, he said, which adds further protection. To install software, he said, a user must save it to the hard disk, change the permissions to make it executable and then run it, he said. "And if it were malicious, the worst it could do would be to trash all the files in your home directory, which you deserve for doing something stupid," he said.

"To really do damage, you'd have to run it as root, and that's five stupid things in a row, and you really deserve what you get," he added.

Antivirus software is available, but it's meant to run on mail servers and block viruses aimed at Windows machines, he added.

Linux

Linux is an operating system, a replacement for Windows, Beach said, and it's legal (some people have told him they didn't think it was legal to replace Windows), free and stable. He has a Linux machine at work that has run for 65 days without having to be rebooted. "The only time a Linux box goes down is when you reboot it," he said.

It's immune to viruses and spyware,

Smart Computing tips and fun facts

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Get home quickly: Whether you're searching a Web page, halfway through a long Word document, or checking out the latest numbers in an Excel sheet, in order to get to the very beginning of the information you're looking at, you can press CTRL-HOME. This will instantly return you to the start of any page without you scrolling your mouse or pressing an arrow key until you get to where you need to be.

Faster than wireless: When you purchase a wireless router, be sure it has extra Ethernet ports that support Gigabit Ethernet, which is the fastest Ethernet standard available. Wired Gigabit Ethernet speeds are even greater than the fastest wireless standard, 802.11 Draft N. Having multiple Ethernet ports will allow you to make a wired connection to devices in addition to wireless connections. If you want to connect a wired network device (one that doesn't include built-in wireless capabilities) to your home network, an Ethernet port and an Ethernet cable will ensure you can still integrate it into your network.

Avoid evil twins: Free municipal and college Wi-Fi hotspots are popping up everywhere, and data thieves are taking advantage of them to lift your information. Hackers establish open networks with official-sounding names, such as SeattleFreeWiFi, and then monitor those networks and access users' information at will. Beware a public network unless you can confirm its SSID (Service Set Identifier; its public name) or you are at a reputable business with Wi-Fi access and only that network is within range.

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More on Linux ...

he said, and doesn't need the latest and greatest hardware to work well. Linux can run on a 1.5 GHz chip with 768 Meg of RAM. "You'll never run out of RAM with a gig," he added. As a result, computers last longer because people don't have to continually upgrade them for new operating system requirements.

Linux doesn't run Windows software, but "there are more and more desktop programs for Linux" and some Windows programs can be run with the addition of emulator software such as Wine.

Another difference, he said, is that Windows is monolithic, while Linux has a kernel, drivers, utilities, X-Windows Windowing, a desktop environment and applications.

Two of the most popular desktops are GNOME and KDE, he said. GNOME tends to make many default choices for users, he said, while KDE has many menus users can right-click to personalize the desktop and make their own choices.

Care and feeding of a Linux computer

Beach said new Linux distributions are issued every six to nine months, depending on the distribution. The updates include security patches, bug fixes and enhancements.

Software can be added and removed from the desktop, he said.

Linux includes Bash to do simple programming. Beach called it "batch on steroids," referring back to the days of DOS and batch files.

Support is available through forums, FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions), Wikis, IRC channels, clubs and lugs (Linux Users Groups) and commercial sources, including many books.

Some goals that have been set for Linux, Beach said, follow: sub-20-second boot times, gorgeous graphics for any card that runs 3D and thousands of applications,

Users can start using Linux by downloading it and installing it as the only operating system on a machine, setting up a dual boot with Windows or buying it installed on computers made by Dell, HP, System 76, ASUS, Linux Certified laptops and ZaReason. Linux can also be run from a USB drive or directly from many of the CDs it's distributed on, although that is much slower than running from a hard drive, and there won't be any way to save documents, he said.

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

Group to promote open source software to government

By Bill Wayson

bwayson@gmail.com

Before I begin, an announcement: The meeting date for the Linux SIG has been moved to the fourth Tuesday of each month. This will take effect with the September meeting, which will be held on the 22nd. See below and the CIPCUG SIG page for more information.

Penguin's Lair

Wayson

Free and open source software (FOSS) has had some difficulty being considered equally with commercial software by government agencies when they procure software and applications. While FOSS is used in government, primarily as part of the infrastructure such as web servers and networking, it is less frequently seen supporting the core business of government agencies. Perhaps seeing an opportunity in the current economic downturn and the very real increase in pressure to get government to do more with less, a group of more than 70 companies, academic institutions, communities, advocacy groups and individuals joined together in July to create Open Source for America (OSfA) to serve as a unified voice for the promotion of open source software within the U.S. federal government. To learn more about this coalition, visit www.opensourceforamerica.org.

The OSfA stresses that its goal is not to argue for the use of any technology, including FOSS, instead of any other. Rather, they wish to educate those in the U.S. government, particularly those with purchase decision-making power, about the benefits open source software, open technology solutions, and participation in FOSS communities can provide. As stated in the news release announcing its formation, "[t]he mission of Open Source for America is to serve as a centralized advocate and to encourage broader U.S. federal government support of and participation in free and open source software. Specifically, Open Source for America will: help effect change in policies and practices to allow the federal government to better utilize these technologies; help coordinate these communities to collaborate with the federal government on technology requirements; and raise awareness and create understanding among federal government leaders about the values and implications of open source software." The OSfA asks "that government agencies consider open source software on an equal basis with proprietary software when choosing technology solutions."

The membership includes many in the top echelons of the technology industry and the FOSS communities, such as Advanced Micro Devices Inc., aka AMD; Canonical, the sponsor of the Ubuntu communities; Electronic Frontier Foundation; Novell; Red Hat; Google; and many others. The OSfA's Board of Advisors is a who's who of those involved in and advocating for FOSS.

The work of the OSfA will be two-way: It also will help the FOSS communities to better understand what they must do to foster the federal government's participation. As a director with a company that provides consulting services for government contracts recently indicated, it is important for open source developers and companies to learn how the government contract procurement and bidding processes work. A knowledge gap still exists, particularly among independent developers and small vendors with few or no government contacts.

The task that the OSfA is undertaking may be made easier by the fact that parts of the federal government already participate in FOSS communities. SELinux (Security Enhanced Linux), possibly the most widely used system for really, really locking down and securing a Linux computer, grew out of software developed and released as open source by the National Security Agency.

Highlight several files with just one hand

By Jeff Levy

Learning with Levy

LEVY

Before Vista, highlighting several files that were not located adjacent to each other was a job that took two hands. You would have to hold down the Ctrl key while clicking on each of the files to be highlighted. In Vista, you don't have to do that. Here's the fix that lets you do this with just your mouse hand.

Open a Windows Explorer window by clicking on start, typing explore and pressing the enter key. Now click on the organize button near the top-left side of your screen, and then click on folder and search options. Finally, click to open the view tab.

Under advanced settings, scroll down and click to place a check mark next to "Use check boxes to select items." Now click OK and close out.

From now on, whenever you hover your mouse over a file or folder, a check box appears. Click in that check box to select it. When you are done selecting you can cut, copy or whatever you want to do the group of files you selected.

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.jefflelevy.com. Click on the Show Notes picture on the opening page to access a wealth of information.

Revised bylaws now available on Web site

Bits & Bytes

Long

We finally have the 2005 revised copy of the club's bylaws posted on the Web Site. When Toby gave the CIPCUG.org Web page a fresh new look, somehow the bylaws page got left out. Frankly, I think I am to blame because I do not ever remember having to update the old page. No one noticed it until we needed to refer to it, and then we discovered it wasn't anywhere to be found. Paul Westefer is the one who was able to run it down. We now have it posted and it can be viewed at www.cipcug.org/Bylaws3.cfm.

The Computer 101 class for beginners, was missing in action again. This time they forgot either the computer or the projector. Hopefully by next month, we will have all our ducks in a row to have the early morning beginners' class.

We did, however, have the updates for the freeware flash drive for those of you who have not been able to update

More on Penguin's lair ...

After initial skepticism, SELinux has been embraced by almost all Linux distributors as a standard option, and its use is widespread.

Another successful open source government project is Sunlight Labs' Apps for America. Their initial work has focused on displaying how open source government efforts increases accountability and collective solutions. Some of the results include projects like a Call Congress Firefox plug-in and a site that tracks filibustering. The work of Apps for America has led to the recognition of the director of Sunlight Labs, Clay Johnson, as an important open source innovator.

Getting the federal government, or any level of any government, to embrace open software and open technologies is a natural proposition to many and an unproven unknown to others. To make this a reality, the decisionmakers who develop specifications for applications and choose the solutions need to be made aware of open options. Their questions and concerns must be met with hard facts, case studies, and considered explanation.

I think it is particularly important that government agencies understand that participation in a FOSS community gives them the ability to guide the development of the capabilities and features that are necessary to achieve their own missions.

OSfA has a lot of work to do, but it could be an important step in moving governments towards considering open source software and technology when deciding how to spend the public's money.

If you have questions or would like to learn more about Linux and FOSS, come to the September Linux SIG meeting on its new date, Tuesday, the 22nd, at 6:30 p.m., at Ventura County Computers in Ventura. This month we will set up printing on our Ubuntu PC. 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.

An interesting several weeks in computing

I t's been an interesting several week in the computing world: Apple released its new operating system, Google's e-mail died for a couple of hours and the distribution date for Windows 7 is moving ever closer — not to mention that in the rest of the world, we've celebrated Labor Day, which means that Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas can't be far behind.

Editor's corner

Weigle

    I was interested to hear Leo Laporte urge his listeners to hold off on Apple's new Snow Leopard operating system. It doesn't have enough new features to justify rushing into it and facing the possibility of being among the minority of users who will have major problems with an OS upgrade. He said words to the effect, "Snow Leopard, no; snow job, yes" (and that's very close to an exact quote if it isn't right on.

    The Google e-mail failure didn't create problems for me, but it's not my main e-mail service, either. Having lost e-mail service a few times for various reasons, I can understand why businesses were especially unhappy about the down time. On the other hand, I don't understand why a business would make Gmail its primary mail program, but I know at least one that does.

    A couple of reminders if you decide to upgrade to Windows 7 and don't buy a new computer to do it: Be sure to back up your data, including your e-mail messages, address book and settings; have all your program CDs at hand; have your ISP settings, passwords and serial numbers written down where you can find them, and figure that it's going to take some time to install the OS and programs. Don't start the job on a day you have an important project to finish. Invariably, Murphy's Law will kick in as soon as you take that approach.

                    — John Weigle, editor

More on Bits and Bytes ...

the flash drive for a couple of months. Hopefully, they will have time to update it again in September so we can put Rick Curry to work updating the flash drives. He did about seven of them at the August meeting.

    Be sure to put Oct. 24 on your calendar. Toby and Michael will be doing a demo of Windows 7 for the club. I'm sure many 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.

<div align="center">

HAVE YOU RUN YOUR
SPYWARE PROGRAMS LATELY?

</div>

Treasurer's report for July 2009

By Art Lewis

treasurer@cipcug.org

Lewis

7-1-2009 through 7-31-2009

Category Description	
INFLOWS	
Coffee income	-9.06
Donation	1.00
ISP Income	105.00
Membership Income	
New Members 40.00	
Renewals 700.00	
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	740.00
Raffle	63.70
TOTAL INFLOWS	**900.62**
OUTFLOWS	
ISP Expense	131.00
Rent Paid	150.00
Tax	140.00
TOE	296.19
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	**717.19**
OVERALL TOTAL	**183.43**
Unrestricted Funds	6,525.91
Restricted Funds	2,000.00
Bank Balance 7-31-09	**8,525.91**
Year to Date Income	10,934.12
Year to Date Expense	-9,793.61

2009 contributors to The Outer Edge

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

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Helen Long
Diane Mortensen
Toby Scott
Michael Shalkey
Smart Computing magazine
Bill Wayson
John Weigle
Paul Westefer
Ira Wilsker (APCUG)
Albert Wolfkiel (IEEE)

Membership report:

Is it time to renew?

By Ken Church

email address: *membership@cipcug.org*

CHURCH

New Members: John & Mary Tolian

Attendance at the August 2009 general meeting: 64 members and guests

Total membership: 219

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 renewal payment to:

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

Or bring your payment to the sign-in table for the Sept. 26, 2009, meeting.

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
0368	Long	Helen	200908
1222	Quint	Richard	200908
0722	Smith	Gary	200908
1111	Sperske	Dineane	200908
0244	Zilm	Charles	200908

September 2009 renewals payment due:

Mbr#	Last Name	First Name	Pd to Dt
1207	Anderson	William	200909
0714	Bryan	Bob	200909
0006T	Burnett	Bob	200909
0613	Green	Gunnar	200909
1161	Greene	William	200909
0249	Greenway	Frank	200909
0373	Houle	Robert	200909
0773	Lang	Nita	200909
0145	Lee	Bill	200909
1037	Lerner	Robert	200909
0372	Pizza	Tony	200909
1208	Sheffield	Craig	200909
1036	Smith	Howard	200909
1181	Toscano	Matthew	200909

July 2009 renewals payment due:

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

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

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

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.windowsxpmagazine.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.
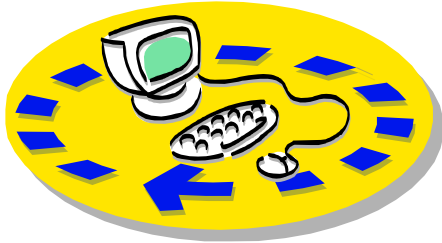
Why join Channel Islands PC Users Group (CIPCUG)?

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

ISP = $15 Monthly
Sign up now!

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

DATED MATERIAL
Please Do Not Delay

DUES REMINDER

If the number above your name is 200900, your membership dues are payable in September 2009.

September 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.
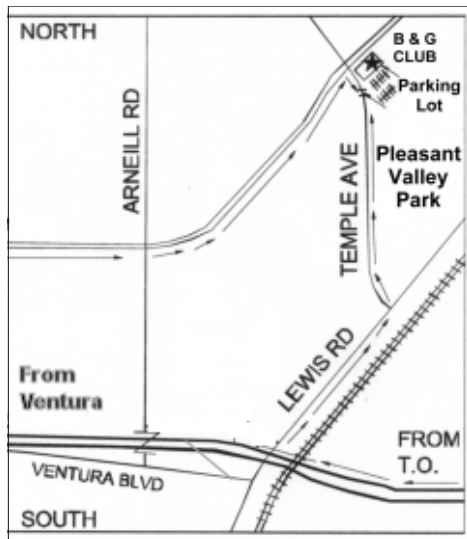
Saturday morning, Sept. 26, at the Boys & Girls Club, Ponderosa Drive and Temple Avenue, Camarillo, Calif.

Meeting Schedule:

Time	Event
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 ("Evidence-Based Medicine")
	Drawing
1:30	After-meeting SIG by Michael Shalkey (might be moved or cancelled)