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The Outer Edge

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

Minutes of August Board of Directors meeting

By John Weigle

jweigle@vcnet.com

The August 2010 meeting of the CIP-CUG board was held at the Camarillo Boys & Girls Club after the regular meeting. Present were President Rick Curry, Vice President Craig Ladd, Technical Adviser Toby Scott, Membership Chairman Ken Church and TOE Editor John Weigle.

Amplifier: David Minkin reported that two of the nine channels on the amplifier are not working, leaving three that are not being used available. Michael Shalkey said that he might be able to obtain a working amplifier from his other job because his employer is replacing some equipment and might be willing to make a donation.

Meeting CDs/DVDs: The idea raised at last month's board meeting to make and sell CDs or DVDs of the Beginners SIG and possibly parts of the regular Q&A was discussed, but no action was taken. Toby said DVDs would be better because they have a greater capacity. No

action was taken. There was a suggestion that the recordings could be placed on the Web site, but Toby said it's close to its space limit. He said it would be better to post such items on YouTube and put links to them on our website. Toby Scott and Rick Curry will gather some more information on what would be required to do that.

September meeting: Because the Boys & Girls Club plans to paint the meeting room on our September meeting date, next month's meeting will be held at the Camarillo United Methodist Church, 291 Anacapa Drive. More details and a map are printed elsewhere in TOE. Because of the move, there will not be a Beginners SIG in September, and there might not be a raffle because of church rules. We will have coffee and doughnuts. The board meeting will be held at Toby Scott's home because we're renting the church room from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Toby, Rick and Ken will make arrangements to pick up some of the equipment stored at the Boys & Girls Club, take it to

the church and bring it back to the Boys & Girls Club. Craig will get a check from Helen Long for \$200 to pay the church for the room.

Doughnuts: Ken reported that we lost \$5 this month on doughnuts, even though all were sold. He also said that the women providing the service have bought some supplies for us as a favor. The board expressed its appreciation for that but said the women should submit a bill and be reimbursed. The board also voted to raise the requested donation for doughnuts to 75 cents starting in September to cover the additional costs of the rising price of doughnuts. The requested donation for coffee and tea will remain at \$1.

Door prizes: Craig said we made money on this month's door prizes.

Treasurer's report: In the absence of Art Lewis, Rick distributed the treasurer's report, which was accepted as presented and which appears elsewhere in this issue.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

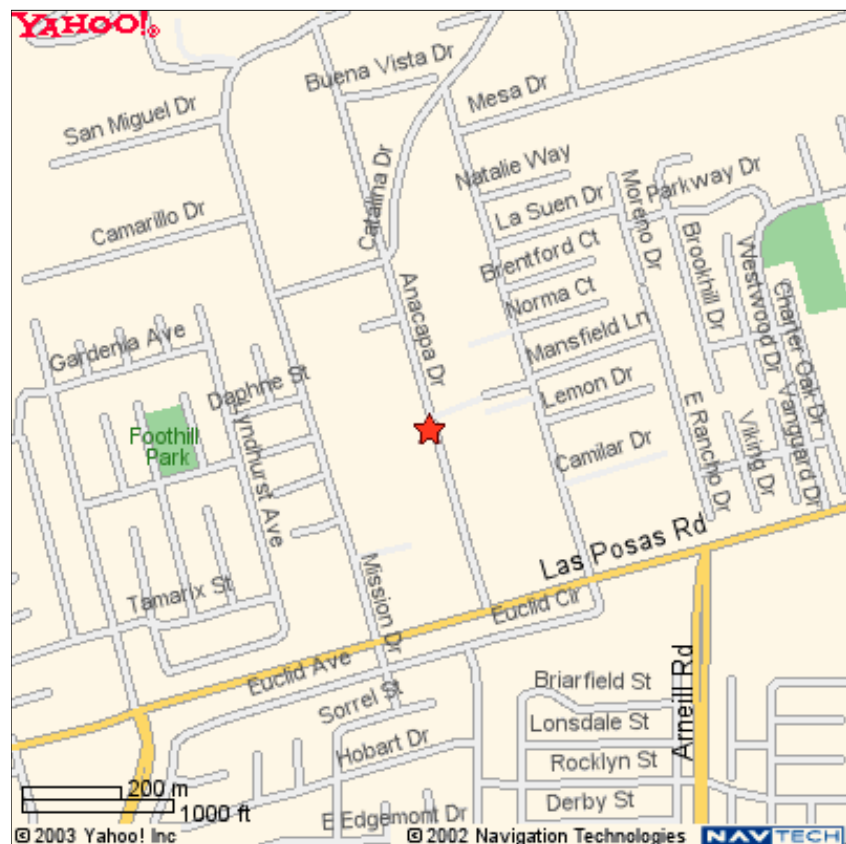
More on meeting location ...

(Continued from page 1)

Oaks area, get off at Lewis and turn left onto the frontage road. Turn right on Arneill Road and Arneill Road to Las Posas Road. Go left two blocks to Anacapa and then right to the church..

We will be in one large room, so there will not be a Beginners SIG in September. There is a large kitchen so we will have coffee/tea and doughnuts. As noted in the minutes of the board meeting elsewhere in this issue, the requested donation for doughnuts will increase to 75 cents; the coffee/tea donation won't change.

There might not be a raffle because of church rules.



Coming events

Iolo products will be topic at new location

Programs

Michael Simpson and/or Abbas Mehdhi of Iolo will discuss Search & Recover and Drive Scrubber at the Sept. 25 meeting.

As noted on page 1, September's meeting will be in Brooks Hall at the Camarillo United Methodist Church, 291 Anacapa Drive, Camarillo, because the Boys & Girls Club will be painting our regular meeting place.

The doors open at 8:30 a.m.. The Internet and Networking SIG will start at 8:45 a.m. There will not be a Computing 101 SIG at this meeting because there is no separate room to hold it.

Search and Recover is, as its name suggests, a program to find and get back accidentally deleted files. The Iolo website says, "Accidentally deleted photos, files, songs, e-mail or videos, lost even years ago, can be safely recovered with a single click."

Drive Scrubber, according to the website, lets users:

"Wipe the entire drive — prevent personal information from falling into the wrong hands by securely eliminating all existing data before selling, discarding, donating or reassigning your PC.

"Wipe just the free space, erasing all remnants of deleted data to maintain ongoing security, while keeping existing files and operating system intact.

"Clean and restore drives that have been infected or damaged by stubborn spyware or viruses. One wipe with DriveScrubber and your drives are as good as new."

The Iolo website is <http://iolo.com>.

Other coming meetings:

Oct. 23: Klassic Specialities, Don Baker (ink, paper and other printing needs).

Nov. 20, **Third Saturday**: Jim Glass, Ins & Outs of Digital Photography.

Dec. 18, **Third Saturday**: Toby Scott and Michael Shalkey on a topic to be announced.

SIGs

Except for the Thousand Oaks PC Club Photo Group, the Special Interest

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.

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 building.

The pre-meeting SIGs are at 8:45 a.m. at the Boys & Girls Club. The after-meeting SIG is at 1:30 p.m. at The Star, 550 Camarillo Center Drive, Camarillo.

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

Until further notice, the Photo Group is not accepting new members or guests because it is close to outgrowing its meeting room. 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

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.

Monday): TOPCC Photo Group. **It is not taking new members or guests until further notice.**

Fourth Tuesday: Linux.

Fourth Saturday (or the regular meeting day): Computing 101 SIG (Jessica Scott and Mark Maidel) 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 follow:

September

Saturday, Sept. 25: regular meeting and SIGs.

Tuesday, Sept. 28: Linux SIG. Topic TBA.

Michael Shalkey will not do an after-meeting SIG.

October

Saturday, Oct. 23: regular meeting and SIGs.

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

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

Q&A

IP addresses, uploading to YouTube

Unless otherwise noted, the questions are answered by Toby Scott, our technical adviser and a partner in Ventura County Computers. Michael Shalkey runs the computer. — Editor

Internet and networking SIG

Reported by John Weigle

Introduction

Toby Scott: If I seem a little distracted today, it's because we had major problems at the shop with our mail server. One of clients was infected with a virus, infected us and we became a server of spam, which I discovered when I found 18,000 spam messages in the queue. I got those cleaned out, blocked the client's account by changing the password and not telling him the new one until the offending machine was cleaned up.

We ended up on two blacklists, however, which meant that our outgoing mail was blocked by many ISPs. It was easy to get off one of them. I called, explained the situation, told them it had been fixed and they said fine. The second one, however, said it would take a month to be taken off the list unless we wanted to pay \$91 for faster service, which did not seem reasonable to me.

Yahoo blocked us and when I talked to them they said we were permanently temporarily deferred, meaning mail would be blocked for some period and then released as they watched what was happening.

I ended up changing the IP address for the e-mail server — we have several IP addresses — which solved the problem, but I've had about eight hours sleep in the past three days. As a result, we won't be updating the CIPCUG flash drives today.

(Craig Ladd announced later in the meeting that some 8 GB flash drives have been made and will be available at today's meeting and the September meeting for \$20.)

IP addresses

Q: What is an IP address, and can I assign them myself?

A: The answer is yes and no. On the Internet you can not assign an IP address. That function is handled by your Internet

This month's Q&A topics: Internet and e-networking SIG

Introduction
IP addresses
Uploading to YouTube
Security for public networks
Merging Gmail contacts
Broken.OpenCommand message

Next operating system
Support for Windows XP

Regular Q&A

The regular Q&A is not available this month. We'll report on it and the September Q&A in the next issue.

Service Provider. If you have a home network, however, you can assign the IP addresses behind your router so that, for instance, you networked printer is always at the same IP address.

An IP address looks like this: 216.27.61.137. Because computers talk to each other in binary form, that address becomes 11011000.00011011.00111101.10001001, so each set of numbers is called an octet (an 8 bit number). IP addresses are coordinated by the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (<http://www.iana.org>). The binary numbering system allows a total of 256 pieces of information per octet.

There are several classes of IP addresses:

Class A is an assignment of the first octet by IANA, and then the ISP can assign all the remaining octets.

Class B addresses are for medium-size networks. The first two octets are assigned by IANA and the ISP assigns the remaining two octets.

Class C addresses are for small to mid-size businesses. The first three octets are assigned to the end user and the last octet is handled internally.

Broadcast messages for all computers on a network use the IP address 255.255.255.255.

Assignments of IP addresses are geographically related. The Internet uses what is called "hot potato routing," which means each server that gets a message looks for a server that is closer to the ultimate destination and sends it on until it reaches the end of the line. It is able to do this because it knows where the IP address is located — if not precisely, it will know what ISP server to send it to and that server will know.

Users who have a need for a static — that is, never changing — IP address can obtain one from their ISP, for an additional fee. Most home users don't have static addresses, so their IP address changes each time they log in to the Internet and even during a session.

Home users with a router usually have their IP address dynamically assigned by the router, but they can, for instance, set up a printer so it always uses the same internal IP. Most routers are set up to use the subnet of 192.168.1.x where each computer or device on the network receives a different last octet. Every computer has to have a unique IP address. Most routers will assign themselves the IP address of 192.168.1.1 and assign IP addresses from 192.168.1.100 to 192.168.1.200. If you have a printer or home server you wish to have an assigned IP address, you should assign it one of the values between 192.168.1.2 and 192.168.1.99 (assuming your router conforms to "normal" above).

(For more information about IP addresses, check the article at <http://computer.howstuffworks.com/internet/basics/question549.htm>)

Uploading to YouTube

Q: How do you upload to YouTube?

A: Michael: Create an account and upload the file.

Toby: Create your account and follow the instructions. It must be less than 15 minutes, smaller than 2 GB and in an acceptable format. Click the Upload link at the top of any YouTube page and follow the directions. Information on file formats can be found at <http://www.google.com/support/youtube/bin/>

(Continued on page 6)

More Q&A: Broken.OpenCommand message

(Continued from page 5)

[answer.py?answer=55744](http://www.google.com/support/answer.py?answer=55744). General information on uploading can be found at <http://www.google.com/support/answer.py?hl=en&answer=57924>.

Security for public networks

Q: What security precautions should I take when using a computer in a public setting? When I'm travelling I create a new e-mail address just for that trip.

A: Using a disposable address is exactly what you should do. You can use Gmail, Hotmail or Yahoo for such an address. At <http://www.guerrillamail.com>, you can get an address that will be valid for 60 minutes.

You can also use your regular e-mail account on a trip by changing the password before you leave, using the account on the trip and changing the password again when you return home. Do this carefully so it's not easy to guess your password from the temporary password. For instance, don't make the temporary password password2 if your regular password is password (which, of course, is one of the most insecure passwords you can pick). Don't do any variation of your original password.

Michael: Be sure to turn file sharing off, too.

Toby: Good point. That's especially important in Windows XP. Vista and Windows 7 will ask if you're on a public or private network when you sign on and automatically turn off file sharing if you say public network.

Michael: XP will be dead in a few years anyway.

Toby: Not necessarily. Windows 7 Pro gives you downgrade rights to XP, which expire in 2020. There won't be security patches for it by then, but Microsoft does it that way because some U.S. security agencies require hack-proof installs on certain things. For example, we have a client who makes black boxes for airplanes and they're allowed to use only Windows 2000 for those. It takes the government a long time to approve new operating systems for embedded systems like that.

Merging Gmail contacts

Q: When I open Gmail it shows Con-

tacts and More contacts. How do I merge them so they're all together?

A: Open the Contacts list, go to More actions > Merge contacts. Click the box on the ones you want to merge (or the box at the top of the list if you want to merge all) and follow the prompts.

Broken.OpenCommand message

Q: I'm getting an antivirus warning on both computers about Broken.OpenCommand.

A: This could be a rootkit, a program that executes before or as Windows boots and installs itself underneath the level of the operating system and passes through information and commands to the operating system.

Michael and Toby look at the printout of the message and see it's trying to open Notepad. Michael searches on the Web while Toby continues the rootkit discussion.

Toby: About the only way to get rid of a rootkit, which reinstalls itself each time Windows boots, is to put the hard drive in another computer, and scan with that computer's antivirus so Windows is not running on the drive being scanned. Another approach is to use a bootable CD or flash drive.

Michael finds a posting from MalwareBytes that says it changed the program and the way it edited the registry. A one-time fix was made that should have solved the problem.

Toby: But be very careful if you do get that the same file removed on a virus or spyware scan consistently because that would be a sign of a rootkit.

Next operating system

Q: What will the next operating system be?

A: No one knows for sure, but for the moment it's being called Windows 8. That might be a code name or the actual name used when it's released.

Generally, Microsoft needs a new operating system about every three years to sustain its revenue. We're in the first year of Windows 7. Microsoft won't announce a date this early because they could run into problems and don't want to get locked in. The release might be delayed because Microsoft worked a lot of

security features in Vista and 7 and is less than happy with the results. It might take Microsoft a little longer to roll out the next one.

Michael: There's a tentative date of 2011, but that's a "soft deadline." I expect Microsoft to release a beta of the next version because of the success of the "Windows 7 was my idea" ad campaign. Many people were using the beta of Windows 7, but how many people have ever used a beta of a Mac OS? None.

Toby: Many people used the beta of Windows 7 as their main operating system. In fact, one of the big critics of Vista said that the beta of Windows 7 was the best operating system Microsoft ever produced. That's quite a statement.

Michael and I were having no problems with the beta version, which we used consistently. Rick didn't install the beta because he's more interested in hardware than software. That's one of the continuing discussions in our office. I'll ask Rick what hardware I need and he tells me, but he doesn't care about the software and I don't care that much about the hardware.

Support for Windows XP

Q: What's the situation on support for XP?

A: Michael: Support has ended for Windows 2000.

Toby: You can't go on the Internet with Windows 2000 any more. Without security patches, it is just too dangerous. Support has ended for Windows XP Service Packs 1 and 2.

Service Pack 3 is still being supported, with no firm end-of-life date announced.

The dates can change often. Windows 98 was extended three times and Windows 2000 was extended four or five times. If you believe the published dates you'd believe in the tooth fairy.

Regular Q&A

A combination of computer glitches and other problems made it impossible to get the regular Q&A transcribed before the deadline for this issue. We'll double up in the next issue. — Editor

Program: 3 in 1**Video training, backing up e-mail, photo batch work**

By John Weigle

jweigle@vcnet.com

September's program was a mix of how-to information presented by Michael Shalkey. Items covered were how to make "a movie of what's going on on your computer" for training or archive purposes, how to back up e-mail and how to rename batches of photos at once.

Video training

Sooner or later, everyone seems to get a "how do I do ..." question from another computer user. Sometimes you can answer the question over the phone by just talking someone through a problem, but other times the person really needs to see what you're doing.

One way to do this is to use the free CamStudio (<http://Camstudio.org>) program, with which you can record everything that happens on our screen. If you want to add sound so you can speak while showing what you're doing, you will need a microphone to connect to the computer. CamStudio is a free, open source program that lets you record what happens on the screen, record audio and annotate the screen shots.

You can record the entire screen or just part of it. The Region menu gives you the choices of Region, Fixed Region or Full Screen. If you have clicked on Fixed Region, when you click on File > Record, you'll be able to draw a box around the screen area you want to record.

The Options menu gives choices of Do not record audio, Record audio from microphone and Record audio from speakers, along with options for several other functions.

After picking the options for region and audio, click on File > Record and proceed with whatever you want to show. When you're finished, click on File > Pause or File > Stop, depending on which you want to do.

Michael suggested using the Use MS Video (.avi) option when picking the format to record in.

The Snipping Tool in Windows Vista and 7 provides a similar function but is a



The opening screen of CamStudio is at left. The File menu, showing the Record, Stop, Pause and Exit options is at right.

still picture of one point in time. CamStudio provides a continuing video of every step you take.

CamStudio is a good way for people to provide a program for a group (such as CIPCUG), to record conversations using a webcam so you can see them again or to record the contents of Web pages. It will record a YouTube video although the quality drops off.

You can edit video in CamStudio to cut the time down to an acceptable one for YouTube uploads. YouTube also has "how to" videos for its options.

Backing up e-mail

E-mail programs store information in a variety of ways, so the instructions for each program vary a bit. For his demonstration, Michael used Windows Live Mail, part of Windows Live Essentials, which can be downloaded at <http://explore.live.com/windows-live-essentials?os=other>.

(To find out where mail is stored in Windows Mail, Windows Live Mail and Outlook Express, go to http://email.about.com/od/livemailedesktoptips/qt/Identify_Your_Windows_Mail_Live_Mail_or_OE_Store_Folder.htm?rd=1. Outlook stores all its data in .pst files. Other programs vary, so start with the program's own help files or look for an export menu item. If neither of those works, search for the program with your favorite search tool.)

No matter what program you use, Michael said, you'll want to back up e-mail messages, e-mail account information and contacts/address books.

The account information is important, he said, because he's had clients set their e-mail programs to automatically open and download messages by remembering their password, and then forgetting the password because they never have to type it in. That can be a big problem if you have to reinstall a program or get a new computer or hard drive and have to start over.

Windows Live Mail (and even Outlook Express) provides ways to back up all of those.

For messages, you want to export the messages to an external hard drive, flash drive, CD or DVD. Your choice depends on how much information you're saving. Backing the information up the same drive it's already on is of no value if the drive fails. To bring the mail back to a new installation of the program you use the import function.

The contacts list (address book in some programs) is usually exported to a .csv (comma separated values) file, which can be read by most programs.

To export and import account settings go to the Tools menu for the two options.

(Later, Michael determined that what he showed for e-mail backup works for

(Continued on page 8)

More on resizing, renaming pictures

(Continued from page 7)

Outlook Express as well — at least the export mail settings and Address book.

(The Windows Live Mail 2010 Beta does not move the password, found out, adding, “I am so sad.”)

Resizing, renaming photos

As digital camera users quickly discover, photo names are something like IMG0329.jpg, which gives you little useful information about the picture. Michael showed a way to resize and rename many pictures at a time using the free IrfanView (IrfanView <http://www.irfanview.com>).

To do this, you’re going to use the File > Batch Conversion/Rename function.

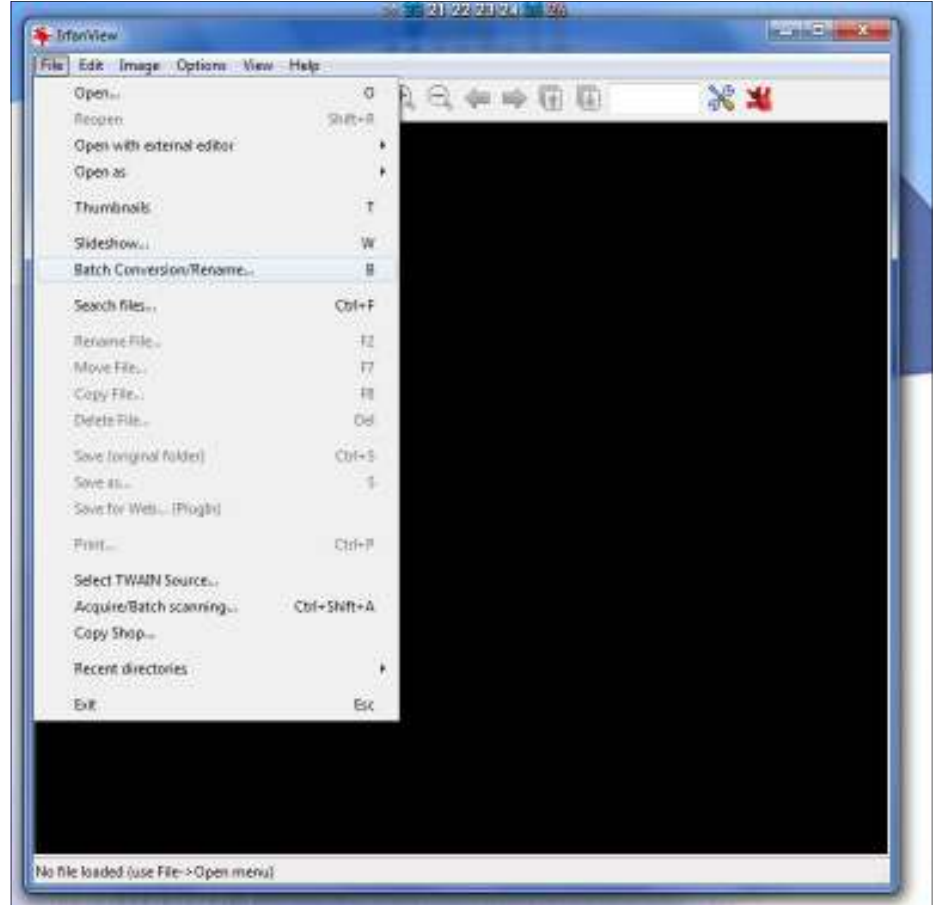
To rename the pictures, select the ones with similar subjects (summer visit to Aunt Sally’s, Trip to Disneyland, Johnny’s birthday party, etc.). You have to do this one subject at a time. If you sort the pictures by date in whatever folder you’ve stored them, it should be fairly easy to find all the related ones close together. If they’re separated, use Ctrl + Click to pick them. If they’re all together, click on the first one, hold down the Shift key, scroll to the last one and click on it to pick all pictures between the first and last.

Open the Batch Conversion/Rename function. Pick a directory to put the renamed pictures in. This can be the current directory or, if you don’t want to change the originals, a new directory so you’ll have copies of the original pictures with the new names.

Sort the pictures by date.

Start the process, at which point you’ll pick the overall name, i.e., Johnny’sBirthdayParty. You’ll end up with photos with the name and a number: Johnny’sBirthdayParty01, etc.)

To resize photos for easier sending in



The Batch Conversion/Rename function in IrfanView is in the File menu.

e-mail, use the Batch Converter/Rename function, select the photos and pick a new directory so you don’t change the originals. This is important because you want to keep the originals at their original sizes so you can use them for larger prints later if you want to.

Pick a size. Michael said he likes 640 x 480. Toby Scott suggested using 640 for the larger dimension. In either case, be sure to check the Preserve aspect ratio box so you don’t distort the picture.

General information

Windows Media Player and most

other players can play .avi files, which is the standard for most players.

Windows Live Movie Maker lets you prepare movies that you can send to an individual or a site. It’s free and can be downloaded at the Windows Live Essential site noted above.

On the Net:

Michael has posted the recordings on You Tube.

Backing up e-mail: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ttax120Z0Is>

Batch re-sizing, renaming photos: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S_jlyI38MX8

Important Q&A reminder: Please wait for the microphone to ask, answer or comment on a question. Although we have several microphones during the Q&A 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.

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.

Wanted

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

Other categories as needed

Smart Computing tips and fun facts

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Unavailable websites: Occasionally, you may be unable to access a website that you visited previously without any troubles. This can happen if the website's ISP (Internet service provider) temporarily disabled the site, if the administrator failed to renew the Web registry data, or if too many people try accessing the site at the same time. Often when a site you access is unavailable, you will receive the "HTTP 404 Not Found" error message. One way to know if a site is temporarily down is to check another commercial site to see if your Internet connection is active. If you can access some sites but not one particular site, you may simply need to try accessing the site at a later time. You can also try deleting your Internet temporary files. To do this in Internet Explorer 8, for instance, open the Tools menu and select Internet Options. Next, click the Delete button under the Browsing History section, make sure to select Temporary Internet Files, and click Delete again. When you delete these temporary files, IE can access Web sites instead of using possibly outdated local files on your computer for a particular site.

E-readers offer digital convenience: E-readers can bring you books, blogs, and the Web wherever and whenever you need them. New electronic ink displays are easy on the eyes and provide a natural and familiar reading experience. And on models with Wi-Fi or 3G capabilities, you can shop right on the device: Select and pay for your purchase, and you can be reading your new book or magazine within a minute or two.

Upload photos and videos to a digital frame: The process of uploading photos and videos to a digital frame depends on what type of frame you have. Traditional frames require you to save photos on a USB flash drive or memory card and connect it to the frame. Wireless digital frames can stream pictures from your computer or online sharing sites over your wireless home network.

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Open a file with a specific program

By Jeff Levy

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.

Sometimes you might want to open a file with a specific program, but you don't necessarily want to have to open that program every time. So what do you do? That's easy. Here's the shortcut.

Click on Start and then on All programs. Now right-click on the program you'd like to use for limited file viewing and click on "pin to taskbar."

This will put what is essentially a quick launch-like icon on your task bar. Now, locate a file you'd like to open, hold shift down, and then drag the file to the icon you pinned to your taskbar.

Learning with Levy



LEVY

That opens the file in the program you pinned to your task bar.

This trick also works in Windows Vista, although you won't need to pin anything to the taskbar. Just make sure the program you want to use to open files with is in the Quicklaunch section of your Taskbar, located next to the start button, and then follow the same steps. If your Vista computer doesn't have a Quicklaunch section, right-click on a blank space on the taskbar, select toolbars, and then click on Quicklaunch.

"Jeff Levy on Computers" can be heard from 3 to 44 p.m. every Saturday AM, on KABC, 790 AM. Sports events often force a time change in the show, so check

his website regularly for the current week's scheduled. Jeff's notes for every show are at www.jefflevy.com. Click on Show Notes on the opening page to access a wealth of information.

Jeff has added an additional project to his list of tasks: Snapshot Talk Radio, Your Eye on the World of Photography. The Web site is <http://www.snapshottalkradio.com>. Jeff co-hosts the program with Timothy E. Goodwin, The Photo Professor. The website's pages are Home, About the Hosts, Tim's Gallery, How to, Ask Jeff & Tim, Cameras, Printers, Accessories, Show Notes, Pod Casts and Show Information.

The website says the show is on the following stations: Los Angeles (KABC – AM), San Francisco (KNEW – AM), Seattle (KVI – AM) and Salt Lake City (Freedom 570 – AM).



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You know you want one. Don't wait. Do your part to stimulate the economy now! We're waiting.

CIPCUG can copy your floppy drives

By Helen Long
helen@cipcug.org

A new addition to CIPCUG service to its members: How many of you still have data stored on 3½" floppy or 5¼" floppy? We can now transfer this data to a flash drive for \$5 per floppy; you provide the flash drive. So, now your data is available, so you can go ahead and get that new computer without floppy drives. Isn't that cool?

New meeting place: Sept. 25 meeting

only. The Boys & Girls Club auditorium is being painted this weekend. Our meeting will be in Brooks Hall to the left of United Methodist Church of Camarillo at 291 Anacapa Drive. Iolo, makers of System Mechanic, will be our presenter. Check elsewhere in this newsletter for a map. There is also a map on the front page of cipcug.org.

Bits & Bytes



Long

We have a small supply of 8 GB flash drives with only about 2½ GB of free-Ware on it, which gives you a whole bunch of free space. And don't forget, you can get the freeware data updated for only \$1.

I sold three of these last month and only have six left to sell at \$20 each.

We lost \$5 in coffee money last month. Come on people. Drink up!

HAVE YOU RUN YOUR ANTI-SPYWARE PROGRAMS LATELY?

Word tip: slowing down a mouse selection

Have you ever noticed that there are times that text scrolls way too fast on your screen when you are trying to select it using the mouse? There are many ways you can attempt to slow down the speed at which text scrolls when you are using the mouse to select text. Perhaps the easiest is to use the keyboard in conjunction with the mouse. You do this by clicking the insertion point at the position where you want the selection to start, and then hold down the **SHIFT** key while you click where you want the selection to end.

However, if you don't want to use the keyboard, and only rely on the mouse, your options are a bit more limited. Perhaps the best idea is to get a mouse that

has a scrolling wheel between the two buttons. Using the wheel you can scroll through a document at the speed you want.

Those who have used Word for a while know that there are actually two mouse-scrolling speeds in Word. To use the slower speed when selecting text, move the mouse down to the horizontal scrollbar area. This scrolls downward at a relatively moderate speed. Moving the mouse below the horizontal scrollbar sends the scrolling into full-speed mode. The "moderate speed" zone for scrolling upward is the ruler bar. The actual differences between these scroll speeds depends on the speed of your computer and how many other tasks your system is run-

ning.

The final option to try is to slow down the mouse speed using Windows itself. Display the Control Panel, and then open the Mouse applet. (How you access both the Control Panel and the Mouse applet will vary, depending on your version of Windows.) Within the Mouse applet, make sure the Motion tab is displayed. You can adjust the Pointer Speed setting on this tab so it is more toward the Slow side. When you close the applet by clicking on OK, you should notice that your mouse speed is a bit more manageable.

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More on Command.com ..

(Continued from page 1)

lenging for hackers to locate the vulnerable parts of Windows.

Search google for EMET 2.0 and look for the Microsoft download link.

Patch your Linux kernels: Although there is no known virus that takes advantage of it, there is a recent vulnerability that has been fixed in the Linux kernel. All Linux users should accept the recent (guard page) update/patch to the Linux

kernel.

Light bulbs – no CFL night lights: Use night lights for night lights, not the compact fluorescent bulbs. We recently had an "incident" at our house where a compact fluorescent (CFL) lamp burned out right above our bunny house-pet. We were awake and removed the small animal immediately, but realized the story could have a sad ending if we were all asleep when the CFL suffered its melt-

down.

I strongly recommend people not use CFLs as night-lights, especially located near sleeping people or pets that cannot escape the area.

Modern psychology — beware of cursing CEOs: A recent study indicates that when CEOs are cursing or if they are not freely talking about themselves, they are more likely to be lying.

Happy computing!

**Practice safe computing: Back up, back up, back up
(And then test the backup to be sure it worked)**

Another view on operating system security

By Bill Wayson

bwayson@gmail.com

Q. Can Linux get a virus? This question was recently asked in the TOE Q&A session column. The response to the question was correct. Yes, viruses can make their way into a Linux system. But the response continued on, claiming that Windows 7 and Vista are “architecturally safer” than Mac or Linux, and that a

Penguin's Lair



Wayson

hacker broke into a Linux system faster than a Windows 7 system was compromised. Windows systems, it was explained, bore more numerous attacks than the other two OSes because there are so many more Windows systems. Since I have a passing interest in computer security, this month I am going to delve a bit deeper into the subject.

Linux can get a virus, but the damage it can do is limited. For our purpose here, I will call any software with ill intent a virus. When comparing different operating systems and the risk of damage once a virus is contracted, more examination is required. The risk that a virus presents is the same risk you present when using your PC. The virus can do anything on your PC that you can do, but no more. Here, there is a distinction between Linux (and probably OS X) and Windows. User accounts on Linux are unprivileged accounts. Where a Linux user can write to the hard drive, what files they can modify, erase, and even read, is very limited and confined to their own home folder and the files they create in the temporary file folder. All of the system areas are, at most, read-only, with very sensitive information such as passwords being completely hidden. Thus, a virus contracted through the user cannot compromise the system. They'd have a hard time turning the Linux PC into a zombie. They could, however, peruse the user's area to cull interesting information. Windows, on the other hand, at least through XP, has made

it hard to keep user accounts at an unprivileged level. Too much day-to-day activity requires administrative rights, so user accounts are generally created as administrator-equivalent. I have heard that much work has been done in Vista and Windows 7 to make unprivileged user accounts more usable. If this work is successful, the result should be a huge boon to Windows and Internet users alike.

As for the relative security of Windows, Linux, and OS X, that is a lively subject of discussion. I did search quite a bit for articles comparing later versions of Windows with Linux and OS X. I was unable to locate information on the white hat hacker conference, but I don't doubt that the statements made in TOE are correct on their face. I did find, with the help of the Linux SIG, an article comparing one measure of the security of Windows Vista, some Linux distributions, and Mac OS X. This article led to a cascade of derivative articles claiming that Windows Vista may be the most secure OS there is, and at least one pronounced that Windows 7 would be the most secure OS simply because it is the next version of Vista, inheriting its superior security. The original article, a blog posted at http://blogs.csoonline.com/windows_vista_6_month_vulnerability_report, and the report it is based on (http://www.csoonline.com/pdf/6_Month_Vista_Vuln_Report.pdf), were written by a Microsoft security researcher. The metrics that were studied were the number of security vulnerabilities reported by the vendors, and the number of unfixed vulnerabilities remaining at the end of the study period. These numbers may not present a true apples-to-apples comparison. Commercial vendors have an incentive to underreport the number of issues with their products. Conversely, the open source software communities have an incentive to quickly report issues to assure they are fixed as quickly as possible. Additionally, third parties discover flaws in closed-source software only when they recognize the effects of the flaws. With open-source

software, third parties have the additional advantage of being able to see the program code to directly discover flaws.

What I found interesting was the discussion of the articles and how nuanced the subject of security could be. It helps to understand what “security” is being compared. How were the test systems built: out-of-the-box, hardened by security experts with deep knowledge of the PC and OS, or some other way? I was most persuaded that, for comparisons that would be used by regular PC users, “real life” setups — PCs that an “average” user would build and maintain — should be tested. Is the security of each entire installation being compared or just that of the operating systems (and what constitutes the “operating system” anyway)? Linux installations include a lot of applications that are not included in Windows. However, many add-on applications, such as Office, Adobe Reader, and a Flash player, exist on just about every PC running Windows.

I have not done justice to this subject. Those interested in more can quickly find it with a little Web searching. The bottom line is that, no matter what computer system you use, help yourself and all users of the Internet by keeping all your software patched and up-to-date, become an informed PC user and read a bit about computer security, be skeptical when surfing the Web or reading e-mail, and click only what you know you must.

If you have questions or would like to learn more about Linux and FOSS, come to the Sept. 28 Linux SIG meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Ventura County Computers in Ventura. We will talk about an interesting discussion I heard recently about Web surfing, tracking, and saving cookies in the Adobe Flash player. Beyond that, we talk about all things Ubuntu, Linux, and open source, try to answer any questions, and resolve any problems that are raised. 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.

Gremlins join hands to block Q&A report

An unfortunate combination of Diane Mortensen's computer problems and time problems for Toby Scott made it impossible to get the regular Q&A prepared in time for this issue, but we'll catch up next month. The change in meeting location meant we wanted to be sure this issue goes in the mail in plenty of time for everyone to get the notice.

For those of you who don't know, Diane transcribes the session and Toby edits that to make sure the recording was clear and that he said what he meant to say before it goes to print (something like a member of Congress extending and revising remarks for the Congressional Record.

This issue is 16 pages rather than the usual 20 to 24 to make up for some of the 24-page issues I've done this year. There didn't seem to be any reason to scrounge up four additional pages of material, especially now that APCUG, the Association of PC User Groups, is sending fewer articles to share.

Editor's corner



Weigle

Carbonite is working
 In fairness to Carbonite, I must update my report in the July issue about how poorly the program worked when I upgraded to Windows 7. (I had to reinstall it every time I wanted to use

it.)
 On Aug. 22, I received a notice that Carbonite had released a new version of its software. The message didn't say that problems with Windows 7 had been fixed — I am still convinced that the problems I had were a result of the Carbonite software rather than something on my machine — but I decided to download the new version and see what would happen.

The software installed with no problems and has worked perfectly ever since. I am again a happy user and again feel confident about recommending the program as a way to have an offsite backup in case the worst happens and your computer and any local backups are stolen or destroyed by a disaster.

If you don't want to use Carbonite or some other offsite storage, at least consider backing up your data on DVDs, flash drives or an external hard drive that you keep at a workplace or somewhere far enough from your home that a fire or other disaster is unlikely to destroy both locations.

Retirement is further away
 Scripps' plans to move design and editing functions for The Star to Corpus Christi have been delayed again because of computer issues. We were recently told that the move, originally scheduled for Aug. 16, is now more likely early next year. That's fine with me for a variety of reasons, including the tax effects of getting a severance package at the end of year.

— John Weigle, editor

Treasurer's report for July 2010

By Art Lewis
treasurer@cipcug.org
 7-1-2010 through 7-31-2010



Lewis

Category	Description	
INFLOWS		
Coffee income		-3.50
Donation		7.00
Membership Income		
Renewals	535.00	
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP		535.00
Raffle		67.57
TOTAL INFLOWS		606.07
OUTFLOWS		
Corporate Expenses		5.75
Rent Paid		150.00
TOE		306.31
TOTAL OUTFLOWS		462.06
OVERALL TOTAL		144.01
Unrestricted Funds		7,249.27
Restricted Funds		0.00
Bank Balance 7-31-10		7,249.27
Year to Date Income		606.07
Year to Date Expense		462.06
Net Year to Date		144.01

2010 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.

Ken Church	Helen Long
Jerry Crocker	Diane Mortensen
Rick Curry	Sharon Parq Associates Inc.
Bob de Violini	Toby Scott
Jeff Levy	Michael Shalkey
Art Lewis	Phil Sorrentino (APCUG)
	Rick Smith
	Smart Computing magazine
	Bill Wayson
	John Weigle

Membership report:

Is it time to renew?

By Ken Church

email address: membership@cipcug.org



CHURCH

Welcome -

New Member: Wayne Shaw

Attendance at the August 2010 general meeting:
67 members and guests

Total membership: 203

MEMBER RENEWAL INFORMATION

\$30 for single membership,
\$35 for two or more family membership.

NEW MEMBER INFORMATION

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

Please send your payment to:

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Or bring your payment to the sign in table for the Sept. 25, 2010, meeting.

September 2010 renewals payment due:

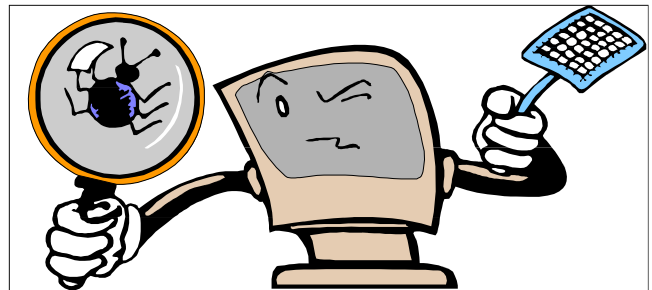
Mbr#	Last Name	First Name	Pd to Dt
1207	Anderson	Andy	201009
0714	Bryan	Bob	201009
0006 T	Burnett	Bob	201009
0613	Green	Gunnar	201009
1161	Greene	William	201009
0249	Greenway	Frank	201009
0373	Houle	Robert	201009
0773	Lang	Nita	201009
1037	Lerner	Robert	201009
0372	Pizza	Tony	201009
1208	Sheffield	Craig	201009
1036	Smith	Howard	201009
1150	Thomas	Ray	201009
1230 A	Tolian	John	201009
1230 B	Tolian	Mary	201009
1181	Toscano	Matthew	201009

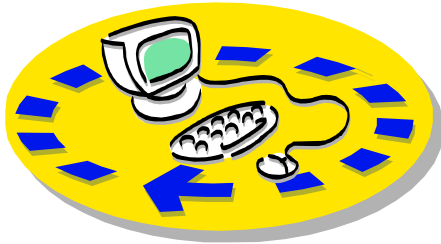
July 2010 renewals payment due:

Mbr#	Last Name	First Name	Pd to Dt
1229	Kirschke	Randy	201007
1149	Little	Robert	201007
0873	Pass	Jim	201007

August 2010 renewals payment due:

Mbr#	Last Name	First Name	Pd to Dt
1193	Abbate	Mannie	201008
0985	Bartels	Pat	201008
0028	Fiedler	Art	201008
0806	Hurme	Seppo	201008
1111	Sperske	Dineane	201008





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 E-MAIL ADDRESS

Members who would like to have an e-mail address through CIPCUG in the form of YourName@cipcug.org may obtain one for \$15 per year.

CIPCUG INTERNET SERVICE TECH TEAM

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

dddave@cipcug.org
Bob Thompson, 647-2287

CIPCUG MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

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E-mail address: _____

User level: Novice ____; Intermediate ____; Advanced ____

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Oxnard, CA: 93031

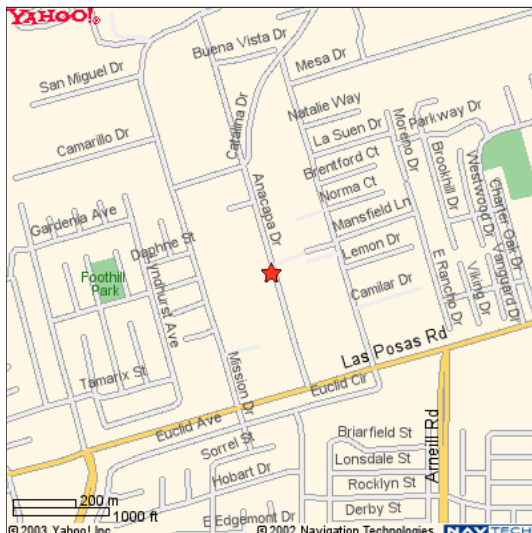
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DUES REMINDER

If the number above your name is 201010, your membership dues are payable in October 2010.

SEPTEMBER 2010 MEETING OF THE CHANNEL ISLANDS PC USERS GROUP



Saturday morning, Sept. 25, at Brooks Hall at the Camarillo United Methodist Church, 291 Anacapa Drive, Camarillo, Calif.

Meeting Schedule:

8:30 a.m.	Doors open
8:45-9:30	Internet and networking SIG, No Computing 101 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 (Iolo)
1:30	Drawing (might be cancelled) After-meeting SIG by Michael Shalkey