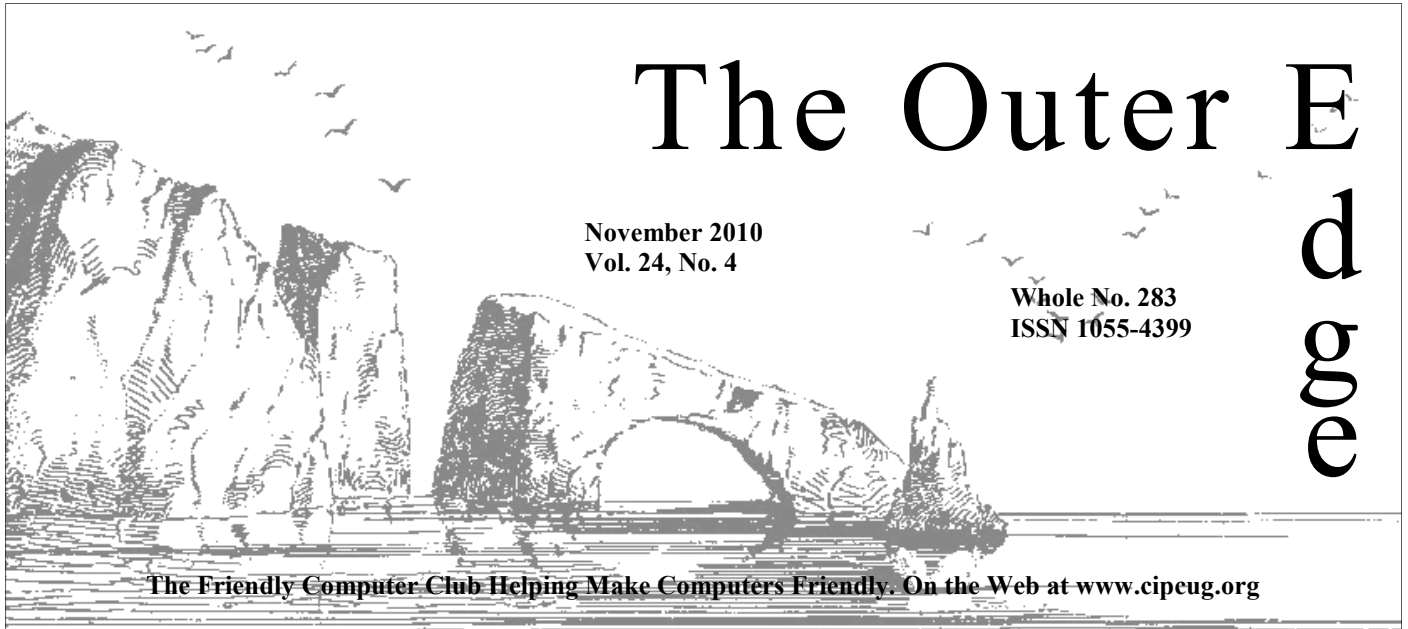


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The Friendly Computer Club Helping Make Computers Friendly. On the Web at www.cipcug.org

Attendance at the
October general meeting
61 members and guests

To Contact CIPCUG

The Outer Edge.....805-485-7121
General Information.....805-289-3960
Mailing Address...P.O. Box 51354, Oxnard, CA
93031-1354

Computer tuneup scheduled in January

The next computer tuneup will be at the January meeting. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the CIPCUG website. The tuneups cost \$15 per computer and consist of a quick check for possible problems.

If the problems can't be fixed in the available time, Rick Smith or Michael Shalkey will suggest solutions you can perform at home or tell you if the machine must be taken to a shop for more extensive analysis and work.

The tuneups are available only to CIPCUG members, but that includes anyone who joins the same day.

COMMAND.COM

By Rick Curry, President

Happy Halloween! Thanks to all of you who braved the weather to make the October meeting. The next two months our meetings are on the third Saturdays due to the holidays.

This month we got yet another trick (they certainly have not been treats) courtesy of Adobe Flash and Adobe PDF Reader programs. While the vulnerability exists in Windows, Linux, and Macintosh versions of the Adobe products, there are currently reported exploits only for Windows machines. As of Oct. 28, the known exploits attempt to install a virus named "Wisp" if you open the wrong PDF file.



Curry

The trick to avoiding problems is to make sure you know who you are getting PDF files from for the time being. There is a convoluted mechanism to temporarily disable this particular exploit (search for "Adobe" and "APSA10-05"), but being careful about where you get PDF files is the best defense for the foreseeable future.

Get PDFs directly from a reliable company — typically a manufacturer describing its products. Be wary of websites that want you to sign up with its services to access a library of PDFs.

Anyone trying to get you to install a "downloader" or some other piece of software should be setting off the warning klaxons for you. And yes, Adobe does attempt to get you to install a software downloader (maybe they are trying to tell us something?)

As Toby has mentioned, Adobe does not seem at all disposed to stop installing these "extensions" (a less kind person might call them "backdoors") into the Adobe software, so don't be surprised to find that bad things are attempting to climb into the castle through the Adobe plumbing in the coming weeks and months.

I found out about this at The Register:

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/10/28/adobe_reader_critical_vuln/

Destroying privacy as a business model

You can easily argue that if a business is in the business of supplying personal information, processes that eliminate privacy work to the advantage

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**CIPCUG is a member of APCUG,
 The Association of PC Users Groups**

The Outer Edge

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SIZE	Cost/Issue
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HALF-PAGE (4½”H x 7¼”W) or (9½”H x 3½”W).....	\$30.00
THIRD-PAGE (3”H x 7¼” W).....	\$25.00
QUARTER-PAGE (4½”H x 3½”W).....	\$20.00
BUSINESS CARD ad.....	\$15.00
Discounts for multiple issues (3, 6, 9 and 12 months)	
Ad copy deadline is the 5th of the month of publication.	
Make all checks payable to CIPCUG.	

Members' classified ads are free but are limited to 105 characters, including spaces.

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 Jerry McLoud.....1993-1995
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 Toby Scott.....1997-1999
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 (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



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

Coming events

'Browser Wars' topic for November program

Programs

"Browser Wars" will be the topic of our November program as Toby Scott and Michael Shalkey discuss the latest versions — some of which will be betas — of Internet Explorer, Firefox, Chrome and Opera. Don't forget that the November and December meetings are on the **third Saturday** of the month because of the holidays, making the November meeting date Nov. 20 at the Camarillo Boys & Girls Club, 1500 Temple Ave. (Ponderosa Drive and Temple Avenue), Camarillo. (See the map on the last page.)

The doors open at 8:30 a.m. The Internet and Networking SIG and the Computing 101 SIG will start at 8:45 a.m.

Other coming meetings:

Dec. 18, **Third Saturday**: Toby Scott and Michael Shalkey, tentatively on Christmas gifts.

No programs set yet for meetings in 2011.

Door prizes

We have two types of raffle tickets: one for prizes offered by the presenter and one for club-provided prizes. The tickets for the presenter's prizes are free and limited to one per member.

The tickets for the club-provided prizes are \$1 each, \$5 for six tickets, \$10 for 13 tickets, \$15 for 20 tickets and \$20 for 27 tickets and are available to anyone. Those who can't stay until the drawing may sign their tickets and give the person selling the tickets a list of the prizes they would like in the order they'd pick them. Winners' prizes will be held until the next meeting.

Consignment table

A consignment table is set up at every meeting. Anyone can buy, but only members can sell.

The club gets 10 percent of the sales price. Sold items must be picked up at the end of the day's meeting. Any items not picked up will become the property of CIPCUG and will be subject to disposal at the club's discretion.

CIPCUG is not responsible in any way for items bought or sold at the table. Each item is sold as-is unless otherwise stated.

Meeting, SIG notices

If you would like e-mail notices of regular meetings and SIGs, go to www.cipcug.org, where you'll find a link on the home page to sign up. The URL is cipcug.org/listserv.cfm.

You will need your membership number, which is on the back cover of TOE, to complete the sign-up.

SIGs

Except for the Thousand Oaks PC

Club Photo Group, the Special Interest

(Continued on page 4)

Minutes of the October board meeting

By Diane Mortensen

dialmorten@aol.com

The CIPCUG Board of Directors held its monthly meeting on Oct. 23, 2010, following the regular meeting. In attendance were President Rick Curry, Immediate Past President Paul Westefer, Vice-President Craig Ladd, TOE Editor John Weigle, Tech Adviser Toby Scott, Treasurer Art Lewis, Helen Long, Membership Chairman Ken Church, and Secretary Diane Mortensen.

The meeting was called to order by Rick, who asked if there was any old business and/or updates. Having none, the board discussed the following matters:

John stressed the importance of TOE's deadlines for November and December 2010. The two monthly meetings are scheduled for the third Saturdays. The completed TOE needs to be sent to Creative Technology in Sarasota, Fla., as soon as possible.



Mortensen

There was a discussion of the cost for TOE subscriptions only. Nonmembers can pay \$20 per year for a TOE subscription mailed to anywhere a subscriber receives mail. The board agreed this was the case but noted that the price was only for U.S. addresses.

Craig announced that November's meeting will be a presentation by Michael and Toby entitled "Browser Wars." For December's meeting, Craig stated that, as yet, there was nothing planned. The board considered possibly having some type of item that the club could sell for Christmas gifts. In December 2008, Toby and Michael put together an excellent group of freeware programs and copied them onto a 2GB flash drive. In December 2008, out of 65 members in attendance, 45 bought the attractive and useful flash drives for \$20. It was a very successful project. The remaining freeware flash drives were sold during 2009. The freeware has been updated and members have the option of updating their flash drives for \$1. A similar project could possibly be done this

year although the board agreed that because of the late date, it would be a hard push to get done before the December meeting.

The board also discussed offering for a fee 15-minute computer tuneup certificates. The board tabled this matter until next meeting.

Art presented the treasurer's report for September 2010, which appears elsewhere in TOE.

Art also reported that John had sent an e-mail to Rick and him regarding correcting the club's P.O. Box number from 5025, Oxnard, which is currently shown on the Post Office records, to P.O. Box 51354. Art sent a letter on the club's stationery to the Oxnard Post Office requesting the change of CIPCUG's box numbers under permit 1785. Copies of both the e-mail request and the letter were given to the Secretary, Diane, for the records.

With no further matters to discuss, it was moved, seconded, and approved to adjourn the meeting.

Q&A

Adobe Reader on cell phone, firewalls

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

Adobe Reader on cell phone

Q: I'm using Adobe Reader on my cell phone. How safe is it?

A: It's no more secure on the phone than it is on your computer. There will be many viruses for cell phones once hackers figure out how to get them on the phones. As we've said before, security is a compromise between ease of use and amount of protection. If the security programs are too difficult or time-consuming to use, they won't be used. At this point, I'd leave Reader on the phone, but as soon as you hear of any Reader virus for cell phones, uninstall it pronto.

Michael: If it's the same version as the one on your desktop, you should be

This month's Q&A topics:

Internet and e-networking SIG

Adobe Reader on cell phone
Norton firewall
Firewall not on
Microsoft Security Essentials
Wireless standards
Flashing router lights
DSL problems
Uninterruptible Power Supply
Lightning
Cable modems
Verizon router
USB 3
AOL contacts
E-mail address spoofing

E-mail accounts
Outlook fills in wrong address

Regular Q&A

Cloud computing
If you lose Internet connection
Privacy issues
Information on Mobileme
System Mechanic updates
Gmail and NoScript
Offsite backups
External hard drives
Outlook hides newly opened messages
Links don't work in Outlook
Microsoft Security Essentials

able to edit preferences as we suggested last month. It's probably a Linux version.

Norton firewall

Q: Does Norton AntiVirus include a firewall?

A: No. There are three Norton security products: Antivirus, which uses the Windows firewall; Internet Security,

which has its own firewall; and Norton 360, which has its own firewall and a lot of other stuff that few people need.

Firewall not on

Q: When I turn on my computer, I get a message that says the firewall isn't

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More on coming events ...

(Continued from page 3)

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 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

November and all of December:

November

Saturday, Nov. 20: Regular meeting and SIGs. Michael's after-meeting SIG will cover Digital Photography Work Flow.

Tuesday, Nov. 23: Linux SIG. Bill Wayson will install Ubuntu 10.10 on the CIPCUG computer, which wasn't available last month. While the installation runs, the group will discuss digiKam and take general questions.

December

Saturday, Dec. 18: regular meeting and SIGs. Michael Shalkey's after-meeting SIG will cover What To Ask For This Christmas and What Can Wait

Tuesday, Dec. 28: Linux SIG. Topic Installing latest version of Ubuntu.

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

More Q&A: Wireless standards, lightning, USB3

(Continued from page 4)
turned on.

A: To turn it on, go to Control Panel > System and Security > Windows Firewall and turn it on. Sometimes you'll get the message when you boot the computer, but when you get to the firewall it is turned on. This is probably because you have a lot of programs loading at bootup.

Microsoft Security Essentials

Q: What do you think of Microsoft Security Essential?

A: I think it'll put most of the anti-virus companies out of business. It's free (<http://www.microsoft.com/security/products/mse.aspx>), and people who have been testing it say they've had as good an experience with it as with anything else they've tested.

Q: Does it work with Windows XP?

A: Yes.

Wireless standards

Q: For wireless, does it really matter on speed if I have the B, G or N standard?

A: If you're not doing home networking or file sharing at home, it doesn't matter much. You want to use WPA2 for security, and they all support that. If, however, you take your laptop very far away with B you're likely to lose the connection. G is better and N is best. They broadcast on multiple channels on different frequencies so they bounce differently as they come to barriers like walls. I'd probably get G now unless I really needed the strength.

Flashing router lights

Q: My router and computer lights sometimes start flashing when I'm not doing anything. How can I tell what's causing it? Is there a program I can install?

A: In almost all cases, it's your anti-virus program updating in the background. Other possibilities are Windows Update, Java Update, Adobe Reader or other programs updating.

DSL problems

Q: My DSL connection died, and when I called they started telling me that the cable from the phone to the modem was too long. I later reset the modem, and everything worked fine.

A: When you can't get to the Internet,

turn off the modem and router — sometimes they're combined in one unit — and wait two minutes. Plug in the modem only, and the light labeled DSL, WAN or Internet should start flashing, slowly at first and then faster. When it makes a connection it will turn solid green, or sometimes amber. Then turn the router on. If it's a combined unit, it takes care of the order that the items come back on.

Uninterruptible Power Supply

Q: Everyone should have a UPS and plug the modem and router into it, along with the computer and monitor.

A: If you get a battery backup with extra power, you can do that. When the power fails, turn the computer and monitor off. The UPS will keep power going to the modem and router.

A couple of years ago, we had a power pole knocked down in Ventura near Ventura College, and we got lots of fried computers in the shop. Some people also lost refrigerators and other appliances. With the power grid as frail as it is, it's a good idea to have all computers on Uninterruptible Power Supplies.

Lightning

Q: What about lightning strikes? Should I unplug everything from the wall?

A: If you're concerned about lightning strikes, unplug everything from the wall. Lightning can travel up wires and go through the small gaps that are in switches. At some point, however, even that might not help. I have a friend in North Carolina whose home was struck by lightning that hit the back of the house, went under the house and out the front, blowing the front porch some 50 feet away and knocking the home off its foundation. They were lucky to be alive. That's an unusual event, and you improve your chances by unplugging things from the wall.

Cable modems

Q: When I have cable TV problems, they recommend unplugging the modem for 30 seconds or so and then plugging it back in to reset it.

A: Those reset in about 30 seconds. The DSL routers can take up to two minutes to reset.

Verizon router

Q: I have a wired Verizon router but it's only 10/100, not 10/100/1000. What's up?

A: Not long ago, all you could get for home use was a 10/100 router. Now, gigabit is getting into the range of fairly affluent household budgets — \$250 to \$300 and more. The standard four-port 10/100 name routers cost about \$60. You're paying quite a premium for the gigabit. To use it, you also need a gigabit network card. For the consumer market, gigabit isn't quite here yet. It's too pricey and they're not selling enough to get the prices down. When you see the routers down to \$150 or so, that's when prices will come down. I expect that sometime next year.

Q: Who needs that?

A: If you're moving or copying lots of files at home (backing up one computer to another), it would be helpful, but it's not required for anyone. We'll get to the point where you won't be able to find a wired router; it's already difficult because they're not selling well.

We've discussed pricing before. The price is based on the number of units being sold. As the number of units sold increases, the price comes down. New products always cost more than older ones because of that. No one is buying nonwireless routers any more, so even though they are simpler to make, they cost a lot more.

USB 3

Q: When you sell a new computer, does it come with USB 3?

A: Not as a standard yet. You have to have a motherboard to support it, and most of them don't yet. And there also aren't many devices that use USB 3. The boards are selling at high prices because few are being sold. The first boards will be buggy so there will be more engineering costs involved. A few hard drive enclosures do USB 3, and they're not too much more than USB 2, but not many motherboards are doing it yet.

Michael: Probably less than 5 percent of the motherboards handle USB 3. I had to build a high-end machine for a client

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More Q&A: E-mail address spoofs, cloud computing

(Continued from page 5)

not long ago, and he needed USB 3. None of the plugs on the front can handle USB 3, but the ones on the back from the motherboard do.

Right now, there's not a lot you can do with it if you have it. An eSATA external hard drive is faster than USB anyway.

Toby: ESATA is available on most of today's motherboards. You'll get faster than USB 3 speeds. Hard drives are the main use for USB 3 right now.

AOL contacts

Q: I'm using AOL but want to leave it. How do I get my contacts (address book) off it to a machine?

A: Michael: Cutting and pasting is really your only option. AOL makes it almost impossible. You might find some hacker programs on the Internet that cost \$50-60 for something you'll do only once. AOL tech support offers no assistance on this.

(There are some suggestions for getting contacts from AOL to Gmail at <http://www.nicholasroussos.com/favorites/how-to-export-contacts-from-aol-to-gmail/comment-page-1/#comment-3056>. A video on how to export AOL contacts in CSV file can be found at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EK13_wgCGII. — Editor)

Toby: We've railed on AOL for years, saying it's a virus, and there are lots of well-publicized viruses you'd rather have. It's a problem without a solution, other than to turn it off and go cold turkey.

E-mail address spoofing

Q: Can someone with your e-mail address see your mail?

A: No, but if you start getting lots of bounced messages from your e-mail address that you didn't send, it means someone is sending e-mail out using your e-mail address to cover their tracks. It's not especially hard to spoof the "from" address in e-mail. Spammers hijack computers and send out e-mail with legitimate addresses. They're sending from a legitimate e-mail address, but the server is not the one related to that address.

Q: So if I do that why can't I get their mail?

A: Passwords. I can send out e-mail with your name, or anyone else's, but I can't see their mail, nor can I send out mail using your real e-mail account. The header will always show the real IP address of the sending server.

E-mail accounts

Q: I set up an account at work and now get my e-mail there. How secure is that?

A: There are lots of hackers out there who will try every name they can think of on Hotmail, Gmail and Yahoo accounts and do dictionary attacks of most major languages to get passwords. If they hit one, the first thing they do is change the password so you can't get into the account. I have a friend who seemingly sent a message saying she'd been mugged in Scotland and would I please send \$2,000 to help her. I knew her well enough to try calling her at home and ask if she was really in Scotland, and she said no. I explained what happened, and she contacted tech support at her account — AOL or Yahoo, I don't remember which — and, after asking the security questions to be sure she was the account holder, they blocked the account from sending any more mail and sent an explanatory message to everyone in her contacts list.

Outlook fills in wrong address

Q: How do I purge a bad address in Outlook? A friend changed his e-mail address, and now whenever I try to send him an e-mail, Outlook fills in the old address.

A: See if you can turn off the type ahead feature. A search for "clear outlook type ahead" led to the Virtual Dave site at <http://wiki.xdroop.com/space/Windows/Outlook/Cleaning+Type-ahead+Memory>, where several possible methods are listed. He also recommends searching the Outlook help file for "AutoComplete" without the quotes.

Regular Q&A

Reported by Diane Mortensen

and John Weigle

Cloud computing

Q: Can you talk about cloud, what it is, and whether or not it has a future?

A: A simple definition of cloud computing is that your data and probably your program will be hosted on the Internet. It will be hosted on some company server and you no longer have to worry about backup or viruses. All the stuff that messes us up in our daily use will go away. Let's say you are doing Word and it is on Microsoft server and you are saving the data on Microsoft Live on a Microsoft server. They take care of making sure there are no viruses in Word or as an attachment to your document. Then they do the backup on 15 computers throughout the United States, or however, so that your data and computing are safe and everything is wonderful. That is the cloud computing and it is coming as an option. Some people are saying that is well and good, but what happens if I decide I do not want to have all my data on Microsoft? How easy is it to get off and move it to Google? Microsoft does not like Google, which is a different question. The other one is can someone from Microsoft get into my data? If I am a doctor and I have HIPPA requirements, how well am I protected? What if someone at Microsoft hacks the data? Am I going to be sued because Microsoft did not do a good job of protecting the data? It is no longer in my care, custody, and control and I am no longer in a position to guarantee the safety, but I am in a position to be sued if the safety is compromised. That makes people feel uncomfortable. Can the CIA, FBI or Homeland Security get into the thing? There may be ways around that. The cloud computing is not finalized yet. For instance, if it were RIM that was handling the cloud computing, the answer would be no. The company is in Canada, and it can't read its own data. It stores it, but you have the encryption key. That is the big fight they had with the government of Saudi Arabia and some others. They have been forced to put servers in Saudi Arabia and India and other places that have backdoors in them so that the government can read the data in order to continue to sell Blackberries (manufactured by RIM). Right now, in the U.S., there is no backdoor. Therefore, your data on Blackberry is secure.

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More Q&A: Cloud computing issues and uses

(Continued from page 6)

Now how this will all work out depends on which expert you read. The marketplace is a strange and quirky place in trying to predict what people are going to like or want in future. It is very difficult. I can tell you that Google, Microsoft, Yahoo, and a bunch of other big companies are spending an inordinate amount of money trying to get their cloud infrastructure in place. Actually, Amazon has a cloud thing called S3, and it will sell space in S3 to anyone who wants it. In addition, if you write a little program and put your data up in S3, you can do your own encryption, do your own stuff, they will back up all the data. All you have to do is take care of getting it up there. However, they do not provide you much in the way of tools. It is up to you to write the tools. Many of the developers are writing S3 front ends and then they use an Amazon cloud as their storage unit and actually there is a lot of business up there.

Certainly, the cloud applications like Mozy, Carbonite and the like are going to proliferate into the future. Lots, and lots of people, even if they keep primary data on their own computer because it's fast, are going to want to put the data out someplace on the cloud where it is safe. That is not quite the same as cloud computing when you see the term.

If you lose Internet connection

Q: Once you lose your Internet connection you have lost all your programs and data.

A: Yes, but increasingly if you do not have an Internet connection basically your computer is useless. Anymore I can't even write without an Internet connection, because you are used to it — you are writing along, “Oh is that right? Oh wait, I do not have an Internet connection. Oh, darn I will leave ‘xxxxx’ in the middle of my writing, go on, and check it later.” That is a pain in the neck. Then you come back two days later and see the “xxxxx” you go, “What the heck was that question?”

Privacy issues

Q: Say in an environment like a doctor's where you have local access to the database and attorney files, they would

totally lose access to the database of those other files.

A: That is correct. Let's back up for a second; let's suppose you are a doctor's office and you have four or five doctors and a bunch of nurses, maybe 15, 20 people in there so you have one server with all your data on it because basically nobody can afford the infrastructure to have rotating servers. You are talking about an investment that no small doctor's office can afford. Let's suppose that something happens to the servers and the motherboard fries and you are down for a day or two. What are the risks of your server being down versus the risk of your Internet being down? How long are you going to be down, how often are they going to go out, what is the relative risk when you weigh the two? I can have three routers in the closet for \$150. In addition, if a router goes down I can put one up in about 10 minutes; that is child's play. And the other thing is, for those of us who have been around in the Internet, the Internet is a lot tamer and a lot more reliable today than it was five or 10 years ago. My Roadrunner connection in 2002 I had probably four or five days of outage the first year I had it. I have not had a day of outage for two to three years. I have not had it out for a day; I had maybe five, 10 minutes where I had a little glitch, but I don't know if it was Roadrunner or my own router. It's getting pretty reliable. It is not quite telephone reliable, but it is getting close.

Michael: I have one comment about cloud computing. You are hearing about it and it is not going to take over anything, it is adding to it. If somebody worked at Point Mugu and in the place where they work, employees are not even allowed to put a flash drive into that machine. At night, the hard drive comes out and goes into a safe. It is certainly not on the Internet, and that will not change. However, we have people here who actually have a phone in their pocket that is on the Internet. So she has a laptop, she has a desktop, she has Internet on her phone, and she is taking pictures of her kids, nephews, whatever birthday party. The photos are on Picasa, it is on Flickr and now she goes to somebody's house

and says, “Want to see a picture of my kids, here it is” or whatever. She does not have to bring her laptop with her; her Internet is available through her phone, through her laptop, because of the cloud and the Internet. That is only her application; if you never use any of that stuff, OK, but she can and many other people can. Especially the new smart phones — that is a great brag box — you want to see this, here is the soccer champion, here is this, here is that. I do not have to have my camera with me; I just have to have the Internet to the website where I load my stuff up. That is one of the applications of cloud computing, and again you can download it to whatever computer you're running at the time as an Excel spreadsheet, as of this, as of that. There are ways to do it, but, again, one of the things that Microsoft wanted for many, many, many years is instead of buying software once and you keep that same piece of software for 10 years, how about a micro payment of renting the software? It would be using Microsoft Office live online where you pay a \$1 a month or something. Microsoft receives your money every month, and you get the latest version every time they come out with a new one. That is coming, but it is not going to replace certain applications such as in doctors' offices with security. Some programs/applications will always be what we did, but like voice phone and that sort of thing that I am going to talk about this afternoon, there are other things coming to add to it.

Toby: Mostly I agree with what he said but disagree about replacing the doctor's office software because we have already have seen this. We have a client at a security firm and they have a company that they lease their security access through and they do not keep client records in their office at all. All of them are on the cloud and all the security is handled by a third party. Now it is a small security firm, but I also know some doctors' offices that are doing that with some records — not all of them yet — but that will change, too. Some people will feel more comfortable having Microsoft, or some other large company, take care of

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More Q&A: Mobilme, Gmail and NoScript

(Continued from page 7)

their security as opposed to them having some high school kid that they do not know or trust running their server after school. This is typical for that sort of environment. For them, what is the greater risk? Chances are they are going to feel a lot more comfortable with a big company and if they are sued, they have a place to hang their hat. They can say I trusted Microsoft, which was a reasonable business decision, I am not guilty if they blew it. You might or might not win that argument, but it gives the other people a chance to sue Microsoft instead of you. Therefore, there are some advantages to cloud for highly secure things, particularly if you are not doing something remotely close to illegal. Probably the doctors' offices that are overcharging Medicare will not put it up in the cloud where it would be easier for investigators to access. But there will be some who do and those who will not. The question is what will be the dominating model five or so years from now, and the answer is, nobody knows yet. Human nature is going to determine this thing. How many people want to own and control their data and have it on their computers and they will take their own chances with viruses and the like? How many people will go "I do not want to mess with that, just get rid of the problem, and let someone else take care of it"? Those are the two paradigms, and there will be some people on one side and others on the opposite side. Which side wins, I have no clue. It will be some kind of a hybrid, but whether 80 percent of the people put their data on the cloud and only 20 percent hold on to it or whether it is the reverse of that, I do not know.

Information on Mobileme

Q: I want to ask another question on the cloud subject. I am working for a company that does not allow me to buy an iPhone yet, which I am writing letters in protest about. In the interim, I do want to buy and as an employee, I am allowed to purchase, a thing called Mobileme, which is software that Apple sells. What happened to me yesterday was that Mobileme upgraded me. For calendars and contact lists it is marvelous, but all my

contacts and calendars are now in the cloud through Mobileme. There is also a place called i-Disk with 10 GB of data for no charge, up to probably more, I guess, but I am not there yet. What happened yesterday — up until the last upgradeable Mobileme, they supported Outlook 2002, but with the upgrade they are using 2007 and 2010. Luckily I have my 2010 and will load it on my home computer. Thank you, Toby. The point is that you have to realize, if you are dealing with a cloud and it is supporting the software on your PC there are consequences. When they changed what they support, you may be in the business of purchasing new software. It is not all bad necessarily because it does force us into the 21st century.

Toby: It is always an issue, but it becomes an even greater issue when you are trying to coordinate the programs on your desk with someone manipulating those programs remotely. I kind of suspect, and I do not know this for sure, that when cloud computing becomes somewhat mature, that you will no longer be running Outlook or programs like that on your local computer. It will be a browser interface, you will go out to the cloud and run your Outlook on that, and it will look the same as the Outlook you have now and Microsoft can make changes to Outlook and you will notice one day you have a new version.

System Mechanic updates

From the audience: The speaker from Iolo Technologies said, for \$19 you can purchase a copy of the System Mechanic 9.0 and receive free upgrades for a year and that version is intended to be out shortly and we would receive a free upgrade to 10 also. What I discovered was the CD that I purchased for \$19 was 8.6.5., not 9 and further if you get to 10 it will cost another \$14.95 to upgrade to 10. Is this true or has anybody else in the club encountered the issue with Systems Mechanic and that someone at his shop put in the package of old software to give us?

Toby: How many of you purchased Iolo version 9? How many received version 8?

From the audience: After his last appearance, I went on to the website and I still had two months before my renewal.

What it did was I clicked the button, it charged me the \$14.95 or something like that. It added 12 months to my service and it gave me the thing to download version 10. It cost me the annual renewal fee and it gave me version 10; therefore, I got 12 months more of usage, which I would have been doing anyhow, but I got version 10 at no charge.

Another from the audience: The deal was when you bought version 10 without having another year of the wonderful service, which is what I purchased for \$19. That was what we were told as well as the fact that I have two computers, my laptop and my home computer. If I pay \$14 to download my home computer, do I have \$14 again to download to my home computer because I do not have a CD for that.

Toby: So, some of you got the 8 version and some got 9 version. Craig said he would be following up on it because no one should have gotten version 8.

Gmail and NoScript

Q: I am now using Gmail with NoScript and when I am in the program there is a little box that comes up to allow scripts or not. I am having a problem because Time Warner sends its bills every month and unfortunately that little box does not come up for that and it is telling me that I have to turn on Java Script and I have it turned on and no idea why it is asking that. What I have to do is go out and disable NoScript and go back in and I can pay the bill, no problem, and then I go back in and put NoScript on again. How do I get that little box down there to come on? When I get an e-mail bill from them, I go to the website and pay, but there is no option box.

From the audience: For one instance I would probably use Internet Explore just to avoid the issue.

Toby: There's a NoScript button (a round letter 'S') in the extreme lower right corner of Firefox. Click on "Allow all from [site domain]" and you should be able to see the bill every month without having to enable/disable NoScript.

From the audience: On that same topic, if you go to IE tab use no disable at

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More Q&A: Offsite backups, letters for external drives

(Continued from page 8)

that juncture. This is only for that site.

Toby: Yes. If you are going out to pay your Roadrunner bill you are not really too worried about getting a virus via scripts. The idea behind NoScript is to prevent rogue stuff from installing on your computer.

Offsite backups

Q: Offsite backup. I did some research and there was a review of cloud backup companies, and the ones I found that had unlimited were Mozy and Carbonite. The difference was that on Carbonite you could not back up an external USB hard drive, you can only back up your local. If you have an 80GB and you get an unlimited, that does not make sense. I believe that Mozy allows you to back up and I did an online with tech support, but I wanted to hear what you think.

A: I have had issues with Mozy regarding pricing before because of the way they did the tier pricing, but if they got rid of that, it is fine. If it is doing a flat rate, all you can eat, do it. It is \$5 per month or \$60 a year and \$5 more than Carbonite. It is probably worth that because I think the Mozy interface is a bit nicer.

Comment: Another thing I was looking for was to be able to restore to another computer, and I believe Carbonite allows you to do that at no charge and at Mozy there is an additional charge.

Toby: With Mozy, if you do a restore to another computer you need another license? I would check further on that. One of the purposes for doing the backup is in case of your computer dies, so that would be a surprise. Mozy has a very nice interface and its pricing mechanism has been arcane. Even if you had to buy a new license, if your computer dies you should be able to transfer your subscription to the new computer.

Comment: Let's say it does not die and you are traveling and you want to download a file, there is a problem.

Toby: That is a possibility. I can understand that, but it still gets to be a little expensive to have access on a laptop

Michael: Sometime in the future, maybe for Christmas when I buy one, I am going to do a SIG on Pogoplug. This

is a device you plug into your Ethernet at home and your router. Now, at home you have an Internet connections always on. You plug an external hard drive into the Pogoplug's USB socket, it gives it an IP address. Then from anywhere in the world you can access that external hard drive in your physical house. Now, that is called the Pogoplug and this may be one of the things that may solve your problem. If you have a fire at your house, you are not backed up.

Comment: You could install one at a friend's house and do your backups there and he could backup to you.

Michael: Exactly. You buy a Pogoplug, you send it to New York, and you basically give it to your cousin or whatever. He plugs it in and gives you the IP address and you log into your external hard drive. You pay one price, there is no monthly fee and it is a cool product, very cool product. Unfortunately, it is pink, which is the only problem, and other than that you have the Ethernet here, power there and then the USB external hard drive, which could be any kind of external hard drive, a terabyte external hard drive or whatever. That may be your solution.

External hard drives

Q: I have five external hard drives. When I turn off my computer and plug one in that has been unplugged, does the computer assign a different drive letter?

A: Generally, yes. The problem is if you unplug a drive, the remaining ones go down one letter. That is, if you have external drives E, F and G (assuming you have hard drive C and CD/DVD drive D) and unplug F, when you reboot, the G drive becomes the F drive. When you plug the old F drive back in, it will become the G drive.

This can cause a problem if you're using Windows backup (or other programs that you've directed to the old G drive) and have told it to put the backup on the G drive because that drive that has the previous backup on it, it is no longer the one the computer sees as the G drive. You can assign drive letters by going to Control Panel > Administrative Tools > Computer Management > Disk Manage-

ment and right click on the drive you want to change the drive letter on. This will also be found under System and Security depending on how you display the Control Panel. But assign drive letters further down — like K or Q — so Windows won't assign that to a new drive when the one you want is unplugged.

Outlook hides newly opened messages

Q: When I open a message in Outlook, the message opens behind the main Outlook display and I can't see it. What can I do?

A: Use Alt + Tab to cycle from window to window. In Windows 7, the task bar will show you a thumbnail of each window open by hovering over the icon for the program.

Links don't work in Outlook

Q: When I get an e-mail from UPS that says check the tracking number, when I go to the site, Outlook gives me a message that says the operation is restricted due to transactions on this computer. I can copy the link and paste it into the browser, and it works, or if I send it to my Gmail address it works.

A: Is it the message in your Inbox?

Q: Yes. Or rather it is in another folder I have.

A: A Google search for "this operation has been canceled due to restrictions," turned up suggestions the questioner had already tried.

Toby said the links in his Outlook don't work in the Spam box or Junk Mail box, but they work if he moves them to a different folder. The security settings are set so the links don't work there, and there's a good reason. What if the last thing I did was empty my spam box and the screen has since gone blank? When I come back I bring the screen back by clicking on it. What if the spam box has filled up again and I click on a link that takes me to a site I didn't want to go to?

Microsoft Security Essentials

Q: Is Microsoft Security Essentials — the anti-virus program — any good?

A: Yes. It does not come with Windows, but it can be downloaded for free at http://www.microsoft.com/security_essentials.

Program: Klasic Specialties

Speaker shares printing, reproduction secrets

By John Weigle
jweigle@vcnet.com

The first step in getting a good print of a picture is to have a high-quality picture, our October speaker said.

Don Baker of Klasic Specialties, which sells quality imaging products, said good prints require several things: a good camera, a good picture, a good printer, good ink, and good paper. Baker has been a popular presenter at the annual computer convention and at other groups discussing what his company has learned about various products. The company sells inkjet cartridges, continuous ink

systems, inkjet media and laser cartridges.

The principles

The image comes first, of course. "You need to start out with the best quality," he said.

The media – the paper – affects the picture because it determines how the ink will flow and how it will dry. People will spend lots of money for a camera and a printer and then buy cheap paper to print on, he said.

The printer must properly control the placement of the media and the distribution of the ink, he said, adding, "That's not rocket science. It's very, very easy."

The ink must be cost-effective, vivid and reliable, he said.

Printers and paper

There are two types of inkjet printers — thermal bubble or bubble jet (HP, Canon and Lexmark) and piezoelectric (Epson only), Baker said. When buying paper you need to know which type of printer you have and check the paper label to be sure that the paper is suitable for the type of printer you have.

Photo glossy paper is most commonly used for pictures, and it comes in three types: cast coated, microporous and

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More Command.com ...

(Continued from page 1)

of the business. Not all business owners would be comfortable with working toward this end, but corporations, by law, must keep the profits of the corporation foremost in their consideration. So you are not going to find Facebook or Google campaigning for tighter security to prevent accidental leaking of personal information if it would increase their costs or diminish the appeal of their products. This is argued by John Leyden in his article "Facebook is 'killing privacy for commercial gain'" (also from The Reg).

But the theory that information brokers are not intensely motivated to keep their promises about maintaining our privacy sounds a lot more passive than the recent remarks by Google's CEO Eric Schmidt:

Regarding the fleet of vehicles (some under robotic control as part of a quiet experiment it turns out) that Google has combing neighborhoods and taking pictures of people's homes to be used in the Street View feature:

"Street View, we drive exactly once ..." [ed. And if you are concerned about the image] "so you can just move, right?"

(Remarks in a broadcast first aired at cnn.com on 10/22)

Earlier in October, he claimed

Google's policy is "to get right up to the creepy line and not cross it".

Oct 1 at the Washington Ideas Forum: "We know where you are. We know where you've been. We can more or less know what you're thinking about."

In a Wall Street interview published Aug. 14, he said he expected that in the near future young people would receive an official change of identity (something like the federal witness protection program) upon becoming adults so that they may escape the indestructible proof that they were once callow.

Last December, the remark of the day was "If you have something that you don't want anyone to know, maybe you shouldn't be doing it in the first place."

Now in being fair to the record of Mr. Schmidt going to Washington, he is not rubbing his hands together or stroking a white Persian cat as he says these things. In some instances, he has been talking about the reality of rules that he argues are put in place by lobbyists in the beltway (retaining records that various national security agencies can demand at any time, for example). In other cases he has been pointing out just how long the cat has been out of bag with regard to privacy.

But is this what it has come to? Has

the information superhighway become the railroad of our time and acquired a right-of-way that demands we yield or suffer all liability if we get ourselves run over by it?

<< BOOH! >>

My guess is that personal information on the Internet will acquire the fantasy reputation that some "grocery store" magazines have (the ones that advertise UFO babies and Elvis sightings). As accusations and denials are passed back and forth, most of what is only available as a typed message relating an incident has to be seen as rumor. Pictures can be harder to dispute, but altering photographs has become an art known as "Photoshopping." It takes more skill and better computers to alter video, but that can be done as well.

The permanent nature of a practical joke made on the Internet would be enough motivation for some to make mischief, and there are a lot of personal and monetary motivations that almost guarantee fictitious incidents get created and posted on YouTube. So I think that the reputation of the personal information on the Internet will become no better than that of "chain letters." The monster devours itself.

Happy computing!

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

Wanted for AARP Free Income Tax program: Laptops running XP or XP Pro 500+ MB memory, 20+GB hard drive. — *Art Lewis*

Other categories as needed

More on Klassic Specialties ...

(Continued from page 10)

nanoporous. Pictures on cast coated paper should last four to six years, he said. Pictures on microporous paper should last 12 years, and pictures on nonoporous paper last the longest. But such figures are just estimates because how pictures are stored and the environment they're kept in both affect longevity.

The brightness of paper is a measure of light reflectivity, but the measuring standards are inconsistent, so the percentage figures offered might not be comparable for different papers. The key thing to know, Baker said, is that a paper with a brightness rating higher than 90 percent will fade out pastel colors. "Too much of a good thing isn't always best," he said.

Photo bond paper is an alternative to photo glossy paper for albums and frames, he said. "You don't need to have photo glossy paper to get a high-quality image," he emphasized.

Gloss and paper thickness don't improve image resolution, he said, but photo glossy paper is the kind to use if you're presenting a picture to someone.

Ink

Thermal printers must have ink that's designed for them to avoid residue problems on the printer head. "You have to be real careful when you're refilling your cartridges," he added. For instance, HP has 14 black inks, which vary by the printer.

Almost everyone has had the experience of buying an inexpensive printer only to discover that the first ink refill costs more than the printer did, he said. People have tried several things to overcome that: recycled and refurbished cartridges; refilling kits; compatible cartridges; and continuous ink systems. The compatible cartridges are no longer available in the United States, he said. The continuous ink systems consist of ink tanks outside the computer that refill the cartridges in the computer as ink is needed.

The systems are available for Brother, Canon, Epson and HP printers, most of which require no modification and which are ecologically cleaner because the cartridges can be used longer.

"This is the dirtiest industry I've ever seen," he said of the printer-ink-cartridges industry because of the tricks pulled on customers. For instance, he said, cartridges in a new printer contain less ink than those in refill cartridges to force the buyer to get ink soon.

He also said that printers have no idea how much ink is left in a cartridge when they pop up "low on ink" warnings. The printer tracks the number of times the print head fires and bases its estimates on that, he said.

Baker advised the audience to look for acrylic reservoirs when buying cartridges because they last longer than the usual plastic ones.

He also noted the importance of telling the printer what kind of paper you're using so it adjusts the ink flows properly.

Baker's website includes information on printers and the costs of ink and cartridges. "Know what it's going to cost to feed that printer" before buying it, he advised.

He agreed with a questioner that using a laser printer for

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Smart Computing tips and fun facts

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Hard-to-read Web pages: Some Web sites and e-mail messages are really hard to read. Whoever designed them may not have realized that some users

More on program ...

(Continued from page 11)

black and white printing and an inkjet printer for color printing is often a good choice.

The continuous ink system ink has a shelf life of 2½ to 3 years, he said.

Asked about head adjustments on printers, he said that HP printers should be adjusted every time a cartridge is changed.

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have a hard time reading dark text on colored backgrounds. Here's a trick that can help. Select the text with a click and drag of your mouse. This usually highlights it in white on a blue background. If the text is still hard to read this way, copy and paste it into Notepad or some other black-on-white text editor.

Customize the Win7 Start button: Shutting down Windows 7 is a simple matter of clicking Start and Shut Down. If you find yourself logging off or putting your computer to sleep more often than you shut it down, you may want to customize the Shut Down button. Right-click the Start button and choose Properties. Then, on the Start Menu tab, click the Power Button Action drop-down menu and make a selection. Click OK. Now when you click Start, you'll see the chosen action instead of Shut Down. It's an easy way to make your computing a little simpler.

IE 8 tabs: Did you just close Internet Explorer 8 when you meant only to close

a tab? Oops. Tabbed browsing can be a hazard if the wrong settings are in place. First, don't despair. As soon as you recognize the error, restart IE and, in the Tools menu, click Reopen Last Browser Session. In many cases, this will save your set of open tabs on the last IE window you had open. To keep this from happening again, use the Tools menu to access Internet Options. In the Tabs section on the General tab, click Settings. Checkmark the Warn Me When Closing Multiple Tabs box.

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DigiKam, the all-purpose image manager

By Bill Wayson

bwayson@gmail.com

You're happy with your Linux system. You can surf the Internet, read your e-mail, chat with friends, write letters, and play with your spreadsheets, all while listening to your music collection. But you've got all those cryptically named picture files — maybe hundreds or thousands — laying around your hard drive in randomly named folders. How can you tame the mess and manage your photo collection? Users of Free and Open Source Software have several choices here. Gnome aficionados have F-Spot and Shotwell. KDE users have the digiKam photo management application, which we will touch on

Penguin's Lair



Wayson

this month and explore some of its capabilities to organize and manage a collection of images, photographic or otherwise.

Most current distributions of Linux include digiKam and install it if you choose KDE as your desktop environment. Otherwise check your installation media or software repositories.

Once it's installed, you should find a digiKam icon under your applications menu. When you first start digiKam, you will be asked where you wish to store your albums (more about albums later). Don't worry about accepting the defaults, and there is no need to choose the current location of your pictures, although you can do so. DigiKam just wants to know where it should keep its own picture information, and it can be changed later. If the chosen folder does not exist, digiKam will create it for you.

Starting digiKam opens up its file manager-like window. The left pane initially displays a folder named My Albums with one album folder — for the folder added during the first-start wizard — underneath it.

DigiKam stores all of its images in albums, and you can create as many as

you want. The right pane will display thumbnails of the images in an album once you have added them.

At this point, you may wish to configure your digital camera if you have one. Do this by connecting your camera to your PC and turning it on. KDE will probably detect the camera and offer to automatically run digiKam whenever it is connected to the PC. If auto-detection fails, then choose Import > Cameras > Add Camera Manually. Press the Auto-Detect button first to give digiKam an opportunity to recognize the camera. Camera not detected? Press the Add button and browse the list for your model. Can't find your camera in the list? Try an older model from the same manufacturer or use the "Mounted Camera" in the list. Confirm with OK. If none of this works satisfactorily, you will be able to use your camera with digiKam if it appears as a storage device when you connect it to your computer. Just enter the path of your mounted camera in the Camera Mount Path field. DigiKam can import images from any folder or device you have access to.

Which points out the fact that digiKam is useful for managing any collection of images on your computer even if you do not use a digital camera. To import images, select the Import menu, then Add Images. Browse to your folder and press OK. If this folder has folders in it, digiKam will create an additional album for each one. Once digiKam has a collection of images, you can start to create additional albums, rename them, and copy and move pictures among them. Hover your mouse cursor over an image for some information about it. Much more information may be available by right-clicking it and choosing Properties in the toolbar.

DigiKam provides additional tools to manage large numbers of diverse images.

One is Tags. A tag is an informational phrase, such as Family, Nature, or Vacation, that you can assign to any number of images. Each image can have multiple tags assigned to it. So, even though they are stored in different albums, once tags are assigned, you can find all your family

pictures, all your vacation pictures, and so forth. You can create as many tags as you like using the Tag menu, and you can assign them to pictures by right-clicking the picture and selecting Assign Tag.

Now that it is easier to find your images, you might want to do some fun things with them.

Look under the Tools menu to see some of what you can do. Search for duplicate images that you can delete. Create a calendar that shows off your image mastery. Start up a slide show that runs on your PC. Or explore Image Effects for ways to spruce up your picture.

You might need to fix some flaw in an image or enhance it in some way.

Right-click the thumbnail and choose Edit to open up in the digiKam Image Editor. Here you can manipulate the picture in many ways, as you can see by the menu names. The Enhance menu is where you can blur or sharpen an image and reduce red eye. The Transform menu is where you rotate and flip an image, resize it, and crop it. The Decorate menu allows you to apply different enhancements, such as text, borders and textures. Use the Filters menu to overlay effects on your picture, like raindrops, or turn it into an oil painting.

We've quickly scratched the capabilities of digiKam. Spend some time looking through its menus to discover support for scanners, additional plug-ins, and exporting images to CDs and DVDs, HTML pages, and photo and social websites such as Flickr and Facebook.

If you have questions or would like to learn more about Linux and FOSS, come to the November CIPCUG Linux SIG meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday the 23rd at Ventura County Computers in Ventura.

Because it was AWOL at our October meeting, the upgrade of the CIPCUG computer to Ubuntu 10.10 will occur during the November meeting.

While that is running, we can discuss digiKam and try to answer all of your questions. If there is something you would like the Lair or Linux SIG to cover, drop me a line at bwayson@gmail.com.

Until next month, happy computing.

We meet on the third Saturday this month

By Helen Long

helen@cipcug.org

Don't forget, we meet on Nov. 20, the third Saturday this month;

Our program in November will be Browser Wars with Toby and Michael presenting differences in the most frequently used browsers: IE9 beta, Firefox 4 beta, Chrome and Opera.

You may want to change your browser when you see the differences offered.

The price has been raised for those wanting the newsletter only; the new price is \$20 annually. Our award-winning newsletter is packed with useful information. The Q&A alone is worth the \$1.67

We have decided to have another computer tune-up in January. The price is \$15, and Rick and Michael will check your computer to see if

Bits & Bytes



Long

there are things you can do to speed it up, or let you know if you any serious viruses. If they are unable to repair the problem due to time constraints, they will give you the \$15 as a discount when you bring your computer in to their office.

I am working on another box of ink cartridges, but I have a long way to go yet. The Ink Dot does not accept the HP 02 cartridges, apparently there is more demand for the larger cartridges.

HAVE YOU RUN YOUR ANTI-SPYWARE PROGRAMS LATELY?

Make a Windows 7 repair disk

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.

Today's Windows 7 computers typically don't ship with a system repair disk, and that's a major problem if that computer suffers a crash. If you don't have a system repair disk, you're literally up the creek without a paddle.

The lesson here? Make your own system recovery disk — and do it right now. Here's how.

Place a writable CD or DVD drive in your CD or DVD writable drive, and from within Windows 7, click on Start, type repair, and then select create a system repair disk. From there, just follow the instructions, remove and label the disk when you are finished, and then put it in a safe place.

If you ever need to use it, place that disk in your CD or DVD drive. Then restart your computer and watch the screen. Notice which key is suggested in order to

get into the setup and then press that key. Once in setup, look for the order in which your computer boots up (finds and runs Windows) and change the current settings so that your computer first looks for Windows on your CD or DVD drive. Press the F10 key to save and exit, and your computer will boot up from that disk.

Now you'll have several recovery and diagnostic calls to choose from. You'll also be able use a system restore point when your computer was working.

"Jeff Levy on Computers" can be heard at 5 p.m. every Saturday 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).

Learning with Levy



LEVY



Beware of messages purportedly from your bank, PayPal or other financial sites asking for personal information, such as your login name, password or Social Security number.

They are likely to be from scammers who hope to empty your bank account. If in doubt, go to the site of the institution by typing in a known URL, not by clicking on the e-mail link, and look for messages there.

Security

Adobe pushes out new batch of patches

By Bob de Violini
rjddev@gmail.com

Well, apparently Adobe didn't get enough with last month's patches, and it was going through another patch cycle in late October and the first half of November as well. At the end of October, it slipped out a patch for its Shockwave media player that brings the latest version up to 11.5.9.615. This patch corrected 11 separate vulnerabilities, all of which could allow an attacker to run code of their choosing on your system without your knowledge, thereby compromising it. Two of the vulnerabilities that were patched involve overflows that allow the malicious code to run, while the remaining nine involve memory corruption that allows malicious code to run on your machine. The patch can be had at the following link: <http://get.adobe.com/shockwave>. Once you're at the page, just choose your browser and OS in the drop down boxes. Beware of the subsequent check boxes that can be located on the page after you select your browser and OS, as they are checked by default and will allow other toolbars or other utilities to be installed on your system along with Shockwave. Once you've downloaded the new version, just double click the installer to run the installation, but beware, again, of a check box that *might* come up during the installation that will allow other toolbars or utilities to be installed on your system. When I ran the installer, it came up on my Windows 7 machine and I unchecked it, which didn't allow anything besides Shockwave to be installed.

For the month of November, Adobe is scheduled to release two separate patches one week apart from each other. They both involve Adobe's Flash Media format. The first patch, to be released on Nov. 9, is for the Flash Media Player by itself when used to play media on a Web page within a browser. All versions of the Flash Player are affected, from 10.1.85.3 on down to earlier versions. You can get a copy of the latest version of Flash

Player for Firefox and most other browsers here: http://fpdownload.adobe.com/get/flashplayer/current/install_flash_player.exe. The link for Flash Player for Internet Explorer is here: http://fpdownload.adobe.com/get/flashplayer/current/install_flash_player_ax.exe. These links are good for any newer version of player that might be released, or until Adobe changes the links to the pages. By the way, the two links have underscores between the words "install flash player.exe" and "install flash player ax.exe". You can also just click the Get Adobe Flash Player link on Adobe's homepage to download it, but that method involves downloading and installing a download assistant, which has failed to install properly on all my computers, which have Windows XP, Vista and Windows 7. I came across the links above while using Adobe's site to troubleshoot the installation problems I encountered with the download assistant and have used them since. The second patch, to be released around Nov. 15, involves Flash Media when it's included within a PDF file and, therefore, will be actually targeted at Adobe Acrobat and Adobe Reader versions above 9.X. Anyone still running version 8 of Acrobat and Adobe Reader is unaffected by this latest bug, so give yourselves a small pat on the back for being a little behind the times! The links to get the latest Adobe Reader and Acrobat patches haven't been released as of this writing, but I was able to get the last round of patches issued in October by using the "Check for Updates" choice under the Help menu within Adobe Reader, so you may have similar luck. If you have enabled Automatic Updating within Acrobat or Adobe Reader, it will update itself almost seamlessly for you. The only thing you may need to do is to reboot your computer when the update's done installing itself.

Mozilla has patches, too

From the "Me, Too" Department comes an update from Mozilla affecting both Firefox and Thunderbird. Apparently someone planted malware on the

site for the Nobel Peace Prize, which then infected those who visited the site with versions 3.5 and 3.6 (and all sub-versions) of Firefox. This piece of malware is also known as a Trojan horse going by the name of Belmoo, which allows the bad guys to gain total control of your machine. Initially it was thought that only version 3.6.X of Firefox was affected on Windows XP boxes. Upon further investigation of the bug by the folks at Mozilla, it was found that all sub-versions of 3.5 and 3.6 on all operating systems (even Linux!) were affected. Because of this, Mozilla worked to rush a patch out to their users as quickly as possible. This latest patch brings version 3.5 up to 3.5.15 and version 3.6 up to 3.6.12. For those still using version 3.5 of Firefox, you're on borrowed time, as Mozilla was supposed to officially drop support for version 3.5 in August. As I noted above, this bug also affects Thunderbird, versions 3.0.9 and earlier and 3.1.5 and earlier. Although this bug can't normally be exploited by just reading email, under certain circumstances it *is* exploitable within Thunderbird, so Mozilla decided to patch it anyway.

Microsoft fix comes, goes

Finally this month, Microsoft introduced a vanishing update at the end of October. It was available for just a couple of days, and then it completely disappeared from Windows Update and other servers for updates. It came with very little explanation of exactly what it was and what it fixed. It also had no associated Knowledgebase article, which almost always accompanies any update that Microsoft issues. This led some folks to speculate that Microsoft's update servers had been hacked and that the update was a complete fake designed to infect a computer instead of fix it. Truth be told, it *was* a real update, but it was released quite prematurely. The update was for Windows 7 and Windows Server 2008 R2 machines to enable them to apply a coming Service Pack in the next few months. It will be re-released just prior to the next

(Continued on page 16)

What's the problem with Adobe products?

After you read this issue's Command.com by President Rick Curry and the security report by Bob de Violini, you can't help but wonder what's going on with Adobe. It seems like every month, the company is issuing patches to repair flaws that will let the computer bandits take over our machines to to perform any number of malicious activities.

Granted that PDF readers and media players end up on almost every computer in the world and that such programs become likely targets for hackers, it still seems that a company producing them would put more emphasis on making them secure before putting them on the market. Certainly, Microsoft issues its share of patches — some would say far more than its share, considering it makes an operating system — but most of us tend to think that an OS, by its very nature, is more likely to be attacked and are more careful to keep it updated.

I've found that the Adobe Reader seems to get more and more bloated and, although I'll download the newest versions as they come out, just in case, I much prefer the Foxit Reader. The reader is free, but you can also buy a PDF creator, as you can with Adobe, if you need one with more options than the several free PDF-makers available. I use Primo PDF, but OpenOffice.org can create PDFs for all its file formats, and other free programs are available. Search for PDF creator in Google or, to limit the search more, at sourceforge.net.

— John Weigle, editor

More on security ...

(Continued from page 15)

Service Pack for Windows Server 2008 R2 and Windows 7. For Windows 7, that will be the first Service Pack for the OS. As Microsoft did with Windows Vista, it is releasing an update for the OS before the first Service Pack to enable the OS to better deal with the newer files and updates contained with the Service Pack. If you don't have the update installed, you won't be offered the Service Pack. Microsoft has said that anyone who has already installed it won't be asked to uninstall it, as it won't cause any problems even though it was released before it should have been. So, if you're offered an update with the KB number of 976902, feel free to download and install it, as it's needed for proper installation of the forthcoming Service Pack early next year.

Well, that's all for now. Here's hoping everyone has a Very Happy Thanksgiving. I hope to see many of you next month, as I'm hoping to be at the Dec. 18 meeting. Until then, Safe and Happy Computing to All!

Treasurer's report for September 2010

By Art Lewis
treasurer@cipcug.org

9-1-2010 through
9-30-2010

Category Description INFLOWS

Coffee income	-33.00
Donation	4.00
Membership Income	
New members	40.00
Renewals	500.00
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	540.00
Raffle	149.00
Software sales	60.00
TOTAL INFLOWS	720.00

OUTFLOWS

Rent Paid	200.00
TOE	235.19
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	435.19

OVERALL TOTAL **248.81**

Unrestricted Funds	7,665.95
Restricted Funds	0.00
Bank Balance 9-30-10	7,665.95
Year to Date Income	1,719.97
Year to Date Expense	1,174.28
Net Year to Date	545.69



Lewis

Editor's corner



Weigle

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
Jerry Crocker
Rick Curry
Bob de Violini
Jeff Levy
Art Lewis
Helen Long

Diane Mortensen
Sharon Parq Associates Inc.
Toby Scott
Michael Shalkey
Phil Sorrentino (APCUG)
Rick Smith
Smart Computing magazine
Bill Wayson
John Weigle
US-CERT

Membership report:

Is it time to renew?

By Ken Church

email address: membership@cipcug.org



CHURCH

Welcome -
New Members: Wanted

Attendance at the September 2010 general meeting:
61 members and guests

Total membership: 197

MEMBER RENEWAL INFORMATION

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

NEW MEMBER INFORMATION

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

Please send your payment to:

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

Or bring your payment to the sign in table for the Nov. 20, 2010 Meeting.

October 2010 renewals payment due:

Mbr#	Last Name	First Name	Pd to Dt
1224	Alexander	Doug	201010
0034	Campbell	Gordon	201010
1107 T	Carlson	Gordy	201010
1049	Duncan	Gerald	201010
0990	Mehr	Steve	201010
0942	Mickey	Barbara	201010
0901	Shelton	Charles	201010
1165	Taggesell	Bernice	201010

November 2010 renewals payment due:

Mbr#	Last Name	First Name	Pd to Dt
0388	Armstrong	Bob	201011
1074	Chaison	Doris	201011
1061	Churchyard	Martha	201011
0915	Clayton	Phil	201011
0944	Coon	Donn	201011
0635	Godwin	John	201011
0945	Gorelik	Donn	201011
1212	Hollander	Gary	201011
0905	Knauer	Hedy	201011
0789	Knauer	Wolfgang	201011
0145	Lee	Bill	201011
0272	Provar	Robert	201011
0542	Salisbury	Wayne	201011
1194	Tsutsui - Trujillo	Sandy	201011
0863	Zapf, D.P.M.	Michael	201011

September 2010 renewals payment due:

Mbr#	Last Name	First Name	Pd to Dt
0006 T	Burnett	Bob	201009
0613	Green	Gunnar	201009
0373	Houle	Robert	201009
0773	Lang	Nita	201009
1208	Sheffield	Craig	201009



F1—Your Help Key

(Revised Sept. 7, 2008)

COMMUNICATIONS/INTERNET (GENERAL)

World Wide Web DM

DATABASES

Access BR

DOS

RP

E-MAIL

Outlook MS
 Outlook Express BR, DM
 Thunderbird MS

GRAPHICS PROGRAMS

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

SPREADSHEETS

Microsoft Excel DM

WORD PROCESSING

Microsoft Word DM
 WordPerfect DM

WINDOWS

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

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

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

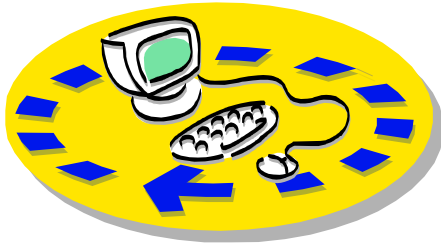
If you would like to volunteer to help others, please send your contact information and programs you're willing to help on to editor@cipcug.org.

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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.

◆ A flash drive containing many useful freeware programs.

◆ A chance to make friends with

people who have similar interests.

◆ The ability to put your knowledge to good use by helping other members. The whole concept of user groups is members helping members.

Please clip the coupon below and send with payment to CIPCUG-Membership, P.O. Box 51354, Oxnard, CA 93031-1354.

Please make checks payable to CIPCUG.

Dues for new members

Individual member, \$40.
Family membership (same address), \$55.

Renewals are \$30 and \$35 per year respectively.

TOE subscription only (in the U.S.), \$20.

CIPCUG E-MAIL ADDRESS

Members who would like to have an 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?

Amount enclosed: _____

Please Print the following information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____, State: _____

Date _____ Member # _____

ZIP Code: _____

Phone (Home): _____ (Work): _____

E-mail address: _____

User level: Novice ____; Intermediate ____; Advanced ____

Channel Islands PC Users Group Inc.

P.O.Box 51354
Oxnard, CA: 93031

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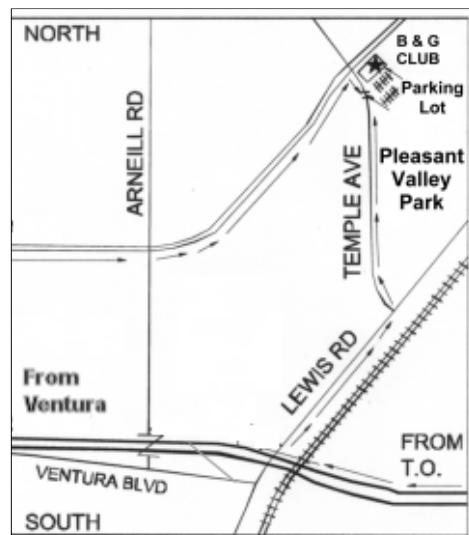
DATED MATERIAL
Please Do Not Delay

DUES REMINDER

If the number above your name is 201011, your membership dues are payable in November 2010.

NOVEMBER 2010 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, Nov. 20, at the
Boys & Girls Club, 1500 Temple Ave.
(Ponderosa Drive and Temple
Avenue), Camarillo.**

Meeting Schedule:

8:30 a.m.	Doors open
8:45-9:30	Internet and networking SIG, 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 — Browser Wars Drawing
1:30	After-meeting SIG by Michael Shalkey on Digital Photography Workflow