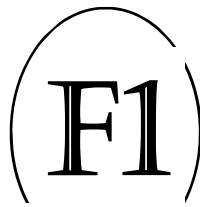


Beginners to Intermediate Users
Learning keeps the brain active



Friends Helping Friends
Expertise comes Incrementally



Helen Long
Editor

INFORMER



An informal, helpful newsletter of the
Ventura PC Users Group
Web: www.cipcug.org/vbpcug email: vbpcug@yahoo.com

Volume 14 No. 6

June 11, 2009
Tyler Hanawalt
The Mysteries of Craig's List



Cathy Villa

President's Message

Summer is here at last. I don't have any have any summer trips planned so I don't know why I am so excited but I like summer. Hopefully, some of you will be taking a vacation somewhere. What ever your plans are I know you will have a great time.

It looks like we will have a good line up for programs this summer. This month we will learn about how to use Craig's List. This is a site that is like the want ads in the newspaper. My husband sold his car in April to someone from Ohio. My next door neighbor just bought a very nice TV cabinet listed on Craig's List. I have no idea how to use it and would like to look for things and maybe sell something as well.

Last month Susan Vinson gave us a really good lesson on computer short cuts. Her handout was fabulous. It is always nice to have the handout so when you get home you can figure out how to do things on your own. I have found I need all the help I can get.

Don't forget our Workshop starts at 9:15 before the meeting. This month Doris is going to lead it.

May Q & A

Q: I don't have e-mail. How can I get the Informer?

A: You can get it on the web. Go to www.cipcug.org/vbpcug. Once you have done that, add it to your Favorites.

Q: What is Acrobat?

A: It is a program that allows you to read things on the computer. You should already have it on your computer. If you don't, or need to update it, you can click on the link in our May Informer. 9.1 is the newest version.

Q: How do you activate Adobe Acrobat Reader?

A: It will do it automatically. There are two kinds of Adobe. With the expensive one you will be able to create .pdf files. Most have the free version, which allows you to read.

Q: Every time I turn the computer off I get a Windows Update message.

A: If you get the message every time and have a question on whether it does the update or not, you can go to Start, Programs, Tools, Windows Update and click on Check Update History.

Q: How do I do a manual Microsoft update?

A: On that same Update page, click Express to download any priority updates. Then, if you wish, you can click on Microsoft Update Home, Custom. If you have Firefox you can't do it.

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Q: What is AVG?

A: It is a free virus program. You need to have a virus program, either free or paid, like Norton. Avast is now recommended over AVG for a free program.

Q: Can you have two virus programs?

A: No, not at the same time. Uninstall the one you have if you wish to change.

Q: I sometimes get a message saying that Firefox has crashed and has to shut down.

Then Firefox asks two questions: "Would you like to start a new session?" and "Would you like to restore your previous session?" Which is better?

A: I always choose restoring the previous session, since I usually have multiple windows open from working with several different web sites. This allows me to go back to all the windows that I had open without having to go to my favorites (or worse yet, trying to find the same site if it was not bookmarked!) and then reopening each web-site again. By choosing the restore option, all the sites are opened again.

Q: I need a tutorial on burning DVDs.

A: It depends on what program you want to burn it on. If you have Microsoft, ask them. You can do a Google search on DVD burning, or see if there is a Help tab.

Q: I'm having trouble getting sound on videos e-mailed to my PC.

A: It should open when you click on it. First, make sure your speakers are on! You might also try saving it to your desktop.

by Marcie

FINALLY, ERROR MESSAGES THAT I ACTUALLY UNDERSTAND



Marcie sent me a dozen of these things and I'll use one a month. Enjoy! Thanks Marcie!

Free Spam Filter for Outlook Express and Thunderbird

SPAMfighter has partnered up with Microsoft to build the strongest, safest, and most effective anti spam filter on the market. If you use Outlook, Outlook Express, Windows Mail or Thunderbird and you want to get rid of spam, just install SPAMfighter. And if you use it at home, it's 100% free.

Whenever new mail arrives, it will automatically be tested by SPAMfighter, and if it's spam, it will be moved to your spam folder. If you receive a spam mail that is not detected, click a single button, and the spam mail is removed from the rest of the 6,233,338 SPAMfighters in 224 countries/areas in seconds.

Download SPAMfighter

* SPAMfighter Standard is 100% free for home users

- * Award winning spam filter technology
- * Protects against "phishing", identity theft, and other email fraud
- * Free automatic updates
- * Used by more than 6 million happy users around the World
- * Protects all the email accounts on your PC
- * Unique language filtering tool that empowers you to stop emails written in specific languages
- * Unique picture filter that can recognize spam which is sent as a picture
- * Automatic "real mail" protection - means no lost business mails!
- * Blacklist domains and emails
- * Spam Abuse Reporting with one click
- * Automatic Whitelist management
- * Privacy Guaranteed - we don't see any of your email
- * Does not filter based on simple phrases or "trigger" words. Allows any content .
- * Language support: English, German, Spanish, Chinese, French, Italian, Greek, Dutch, Swedish, Norwegian, Suomi, Russian, Bulgarian, Portuguese, Japanese, Czech, Thai, Vietnamese, Turkish and Danish

http://www.spamfighter.com/Product_Info.asp

by George Koerlin

Today's Presenter is Tyler Hanawalt

He's a Channel Islands Univ. student studying math toward a career teaching math. His computer knowledge began at age 8 and he's still learning about computers.

Tyler's topic is Craig's list free for selling and buying, making announcements and getting various information that can be targeted to Ventura County.
by Sinclair Wall

SMART COMPUTING 6/09

Q: Windows keeps warning me that I don't have much space left on my hard drive. I ran the utility to clean up the hard drive, but I'm still getting the warning message.

Q: A low hard drive space warning is a good opportunity to sort through Windows XP's Add or Remove any applications you no longer use. The built in Disk Cleanup Utility is another good place to turn when you need to clean some space. Get started on Win XP clicking **Start, Control Panel, Performance And Maintenance, and Free Up Space On Your Hard Drive**. In Vista type disk cleanup in the **Start Search Box**. If cleaning out the standard temporary files doesn't free up much space, click the **More Options** tab in the **Disk Cleanup Window**. The last option will delete all but the most recent System Restore points that are taking up space on your PC. Don't try this unless your computer is running well and it's been a while since you've installed any new programs or made any major system changes.

In some instances you may need to do a little manual cleaning. Win XP users can try cleaning out the contents of the Temporary Internet Files

C:\Documents and Settings\\LOCAL SETTINGS\Temp (where USERNAME is your Windows user name.)

Vista users should look in

C:\<USERNAME>APPDATA\LOCAL\Temp for

the same directories. You may need to click **Folder Options** in the Tools Menu, select the View tab, and select **Show Hidden Files And Folders**. To accomplish this in Vista. Select **Start, Control Panel, and Folder Options** (in classic view) and choose **Show Hidden Files And Folders** on the View tab.

Finally, in extreme circumstances, you can make some system changes. If you're trying to free up more space on a notebook, disabling the Hibernate function will free space reserved for this feature. In WinXP open the Control Panel, double click Power Options in Classic view, click the Hibernate tab, and remove the check next to enable Hibernation. (Vista doesn't allow you to disable hibernation from the Control Panel.)

Q: I have a special Email button on my keyboard but when I push the button, it opens Outlook Express instead of Thunderbird.

A: There are two potential problems here. Start by checking whether Thunderbird is your default email client in Windows. To check WinXP, double-click **Internet Options** in the **Control Panel (Classic view)** and select the **Programs** tab. In the Email drop-down list, select **Mozilla Thunderbird**. In Vista, click **Start, Default Programs, and Set Program Access And Computer Defaults**. Next, select the **Custom** radio button, **expand the list**, and choose **Mozilla Thunderbird** in the **Choose A Default E-mail Program** section.

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**PRACTICE SAFE COMPUTING
BACK UP, BACK UP, AND BACK UP AGAIN
THEN TEST THE BACK-UP TO BE SURE IT WORKS!**

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If Thunderbird is currently your default email program, you'll need to check the software that came with your key board, Generally, keyboards with special applications keys include programs that allow you to set these keys to open specific applications. Make sure the email button is set to open Thunderbird and not specifically set to open Outlook Express. The exact process will differ depending on the Keyboard and the keyboard software you're using.

Downloading, Uploading and Installing

Q: What is the difference between Downloading, Uploading and Installing?

Here's a blow by blow:

Downloading

- This is moving a file that's on the Internet (or over a network) onto your computer. For most of us, downloading is just a matter of clicking a download link on a web site and saving the file to disk. If you want more info on downloading, be sure to check out our download guide at .

Uploading

- This is the opposite of downloading. With uploading, you take a file from your computer and send it to a computer on the internet (or a computer / server on a network). Usually this is done with an client, but some web sites you'll come across will allow you to send files to them with your web browser.

Installing

- This is often confused with downloading, but it's a different animal. When you install something, you basically "put" the program on your computer so you can use it. Normally this is done via a setup program or "wizard" to make installation easy. Once you're finished installing a program, you can usually run it from your Start Menu, Programs area.

Cathy Villa

What does "IP" stand for?

Outside the computer world, IP sometimes stands for Intellectual Property.

In computer lingo, stands for "Internet Protocol". You'll often see it paired with , "Transmission Control Protocol." Together, allow two different computers to talk back and forth over the internet.

Every computer and server (email servers, IP hosts) has an IP address. The IP address acts like a return postal address stamped on packets of data that your computer sends through the internet.

IP addresses are made of four 4 sets of numbers separated by periods, for example, 69.44.18.176. This stamp on data sent through the net tells receiving computers what country, service provider, host, and computer sent the info.

Some routers and software can make you anonymous over the internet by masking your IP address. In addition, less scrupulous computer masters can take control of a remote computer and thus have that computer's IP (return address) stamped on their evil doings.

See the following for more info:

Cathy Villa

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Welcome to VBPCUG, We look forward to having you join us.

Contributors to Newsletter 2008/2009

This is a new addition to the newsletter. I really appreciate the people who take the time to send me information. It's a big plate full when you expect one person to come up with all the articles. This is a good start, it is your newsletter, please contribute.

Cathy seems to be the only person contributing interesting articles. Surely some of you have had the pleasure of an "aha" so that's the way you do it. Please share those moments. Maybe it will help someone else with the same problem.

Audrey Barnden
Joann Briggs
Doris Chaison
George Koerlin

Cathy Villa
Marcie Malony
Sinclair Wall

INK CARTRIDGES

Don't forget, we are still collecting ink cartridges, so don't throw those empty cartridges out. Bring them in so we can earn some money from them. They help to provide those munchies at break time.

**Financial Statement
4/20/09 – 5/20/09**

Balance 4/20/09	647.18
Income:	
Refreshments	+ 8.00
Expenses:	
Juno	- 12.94
Refreshments	<u>5.00</u>
Balance 5/20/09	637.24

HAVE YOU RUN YOUR ANTI-SPYWARE PROGRAM LATELY ?

Editors Comments

This newsletter is a collaboration of the efforts of many people. We welcome any articles pertaining to the computer world. Your input might help some body solve a problem, so please feel free to submit articles or experiences. Please just E-mail them to me at **helen@cipcug.org**, and because I don't always recognize everyone's name in our club, please show the **subject VBPCUG**

Many of our club members have received help from www.smartcomputing.com-sign up for assistance.

**VBPCUG Mailing Address
217 Tulip Court, Ventura, CA 93004
Membership Information**

Membership dues are \$15.00 single, \$18.00 per year family. Membership terms are from January 1st. Dues will be prorated at the rate of @1.25 per month.

F1 The Informer, is published monthly by Ventura's Beginner's PC User's Group.

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VBPCUG does not endorse or recommend any specific hardware or software products or manufactures.

The Ventura Beginner's PC User's Group meets on the 2nd Saturday of each month at the Buena Ventura Mobile Home Estates Clubhouse at 11405 Darling Road, Ventura, CA from 10:00 A.M. until Noon. All are Welcome.//



Don't shoot your computer! Bring your computer problems to our meetings and maybe we can help you find a solution. ..

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Need HELP? PRESS F1 for HELP or call those who have offered to help.

- | | |
|---------------------|-------|
| (1) Word processing | JB |
| (2) Microsoft Word | JB |
| (3) Windows | JB |
| (4) Spread Sheet | WL JB |
| (5) General Help | WL JB |
| (6) Internet/Fax | JB |
| (7) Scanner | |

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**VBPCUG MEMBERSHIP
NEW & RE-NEW 2008-2009**

Amount Enclosed: _____

Please Print the following information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____, State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Single \$15.00 Family \$18.00

WE DO NOT SHARE OUR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION WITH ANY OTHER CLUB OR ORGANIZATION.

Yes, I do want to re-new

No, I do not want to re-new

Yes, I am a new User

Phone (Home): _____)
(Work): _____

E-Mail address: _____

User level: Novice _____
Intermediate: _____
Advanced: _____

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