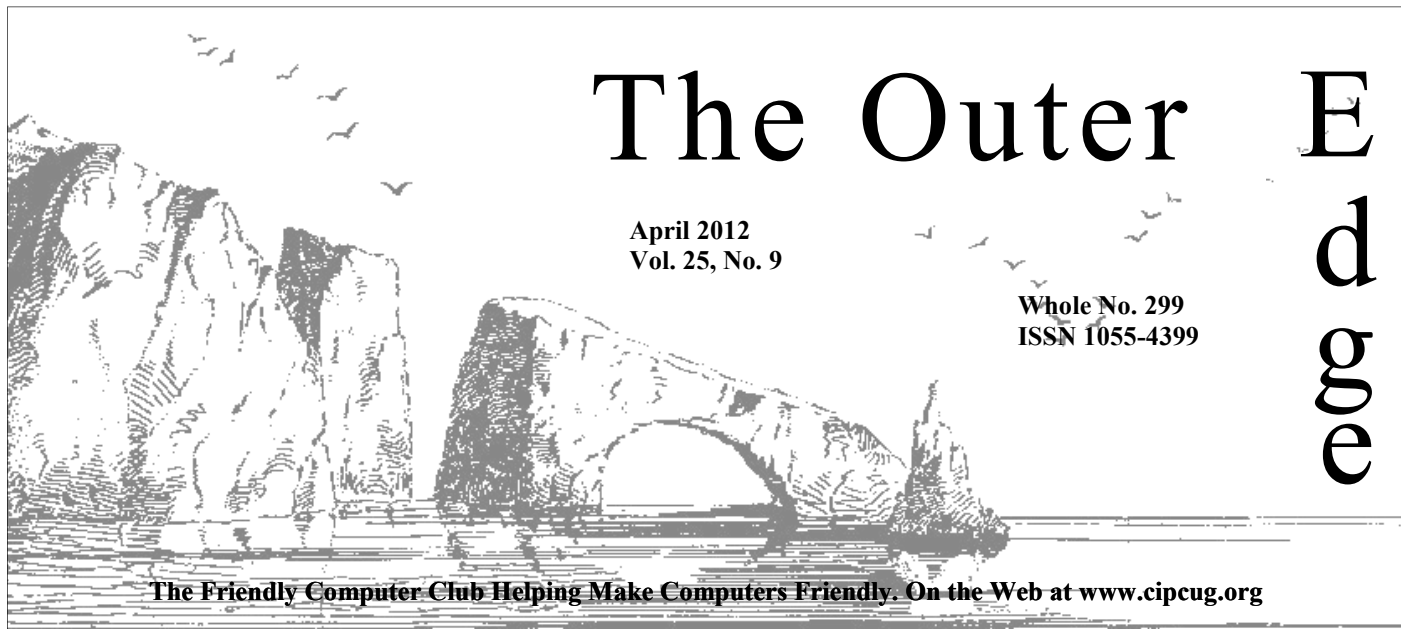


The Outer Edge

April 2012
Vol. 25, No. 9

Whole No. 299
ISSN 1055-4399



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

* Attendance at the
* March general meeting:
* **58 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
On the Web: cipcug.org
On Facebook: [Facebook.com/groups/cipcug](https://www.facebook.com/groups/cipcug)

If your TOE arrives late

CIPCUG has no control over the delivery of The Outer Edge after it enters the mail stream, usually at least 10 days before the meeting, but if you want meeting reminders, here are some ideas:

- Sign up on CIPCUG.org for email notices of SIGs and meetings.
- Join the CIPCUG Google group using the link on the home page.
- Join the CIPCUG Facebook page for notices of when TOE goes online and into the mail.
- Check the website periodically for information. The front page has a calendar of events for the next several months.

COMMAND.COM

By Jim Brown, President

“Promoting the Harmony of Computer Education, and Camaraderie”

I thought that for this month’s column I would write about an issue that may be a concern to many of us. This has to do with the installation by our power company of “Smart Meters,” which would replace the current electrical meter connected to the outside of your house. You should have received a letter from Southern California Edison giving you advance warning that it is going to replace your current electrical meter with a modern meter. This meter will send information about your electrical use many times during each hour. Edison says this gives the company real-time and more accurate information on your electricity use via Wi-Fi and you will have an easier way to see your usage and make adjustments as to when and what appliances you leave on in your home. The electrical company is doing this so that it will connect to the “Smart Grid.” I do not know if the federal government will give the electric company a monetary incentive, but I would not doubt it.



Brown

Eventually, every new appliance you purchase for your home will contain a chip that will send information to the meter describing an identification of the appliance — washer, toaster etc.

This information will allow the electric company to know your habits: Are you on vacation? What appliances are you using and when are they used? So there is a privacy issue.

In the northwestern states and western Canada, this installation process has preceded us in Southern California. But it is planned that the process will begin here within the next month. There have been reports of many people who have had the meter installed complaining of new health issues — headaches, vision problems, feelings of being foggy headed, and sinus problems where none existed before.

Compound this issue with the following: Once the meter is installed you will not be able to have it uninstalled. The cavalier attitude of the power companies want to charge you a tax (penalty) if you do not install. Southern California Edison wants to charge a onetime fee of \$75 and a monthly fee of \$10. Unknown to you, a law was passed in 2005 that allows you to decline the installation of the meter — in fact, the power company can install the

(Continued on page 4)

Root Directory

CIPCUG NEWS

A message from our new webmaster 13

Benefits 19

Bits & Bytes 10

Board of Directors minutes 12

Coming CIPCUG events 3

Contributors to TOE 10

Command.com 1

Editor's corner 3

Map, schedule 20

Membership report 11

Program: Online office suites 8

Q&A session 4

Treasurer's report 10

GENERAL

Character Map 17

Death threat is cruel scam 12

Penguin's Lair: PhotoRec 14

Review: PrintKey Pro 15

Rick's rant: Porn on the Net 15

ADVERTISEMENTS

Creative Technology 14

Members' classified ads 14

O'Reilly 14

Ventura County Computers 13

**Channel Islands
PC Users Group**
CIPCUG mailing address:
P.O. Box 51354, Oxnard, CA
93031-1354



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

The Outer Edge

Editor John Weigle
P.O. Box 6536, Ventura CA 93006
485-7121 jweigle@vcnet.com

The Outer Edge is published monthly by Channel Islands PC Users Group (CIPCUG), P.O. Box 51354, Oxnard, Calif. 93031-1354, an independent, nonprofit corporation. Contents of *The Outer Edge* copyright 2001 © by Channel Islands PC Users Group.

Permission for reproduction in whole or in part is granted to other computer user groups for internal nonprofit use provided credit is given to *The Outer Edge* and the authors of the reproduced material. All other reproduction is prohibited without prior written consent of Channel Islands PC Users Group.

Opinions expressed in this journal are solely those of the authors or contributors, and do not necessarily represent those of Channel Islands PC Users Group, its officers or membership as a whole. The information provided is believed to be correct and useful; however, no warranty, express or implied, is made by Channel Islands PC Users Group, its officers, editorial staff or contributors. This disclaimer extends to all losses, incidental or consequential, resulting from the use or application of the information provided.

Channel Islands PC Users Group does not endorse or recommend any specific hardware or software products, dealers, distributors or manufacturers. All trademarked or registered trademarked names are acknowledged to be the property of their respective owners, and are used for editorial purposes only.

Advertising in The Outer Edge

Advertising is accepted for computer-related materials, businesses and services only. Rates are for Camera-Ready copy (clear, clean black and white masters). Typesetting and graphics are available at an additional fee.

SIZE	Cost/Issue
FULL-PAGE (9½"H x 7¼"W).....	\$50.00
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.

Executive Committee

(Elected members of Board of Directors)

President.....Jim Brown
.....president@cipcug.org

Vice President/Program Chairman
.....Craig Ladd
.....vicepresident@cipcug.org

Secretary.....Diane Mortensen
.....secretary@cipcug.org

Treasurer.....Art Lewis
.....treasurer@cipcug.org

Immediate Past President
.....Rick Curry
.....trindflo@cipcug.org

(Appointed members of Board of Directors)

Technical Adviser.....Toby Scott

Web Page Editor.....Andy Toth
.....webmaster@cipcug.org

TOE editor.....John Weigle
.....editor@cipcug.org

Membership Chairman.....Ken Church
.....membership@cipcug.org

Ex-officio members of Board of Directors

CIPCUG ISP Signups.....Art Lewis

Sound Equipment Technicians
.....David Minkin and Curt Davison

Program Chairman.....Craig Ladd

Publicity Chairman.....Rick Curry

SIG coordinator.....Larry Hudson

Past Presidents

Walt Yates.....1987-1989

Lois Evans de Violini.....1989-1991

Terry Lee.....1991-1993

Jerry McLoud.....1993-1995

Robert Provart.....1995-1997

Toby Scott.....1997-1999

George Lakes.....1999-2001

Andy Toth.....2001-2003

David Harris.....2003-2005

Lois Evans de Violini.....2005-2007

Paul Westefer.....2007-2009

Rick Curry.....2009-2011

(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

Helen Long

*Deceased



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

CIPCUG NEWS AND EVENTS

A new look for TOE: What do you think?

Welcome to a revamped The Outer Edge. If you're reading this, you've already noticed that the Editor's corner is on page 3 rather than page 16. That's not because I think it's the most important item in this issue but because I'm trying to make TOE more reader-friendly. If you glance at the page header above this column, you'll see it says "CIPCUG news and events." As you work your way through this issue, you'll come across one that says "General news, commentary." You've probably guessed from the headers that I'm rearranging TOE. All the CIPCUG-related articles, including the coming events, Q&A, program report, membership report and treasurer's report, will be grouped in the front of each issue. The one exception is the Benefits page, which, because it includes a membership application, will remain as the inside back cover. That way, a person can clip out the application without losing any of the information in the issue. Other material, such as Rick's rant, The Penguin's Lair, Jim Thornton's software reviews and material reprinted from APCUG, will be grouped at the back of each issue.

I understand the changes might be jarring at first. When I worked at The Star, every change we made irritated someone. But I hope you'll get used to them and find them logical in an issue or two. If everyone hates them, however, and still does after the next issue, I can always change back. Please share your thoughts at a meeting or by email.

On a related matter, the Root directory (table of contents) on page 2 has divided items by CIPCUG news, General and Advertisements, with items in each section listed alphabetically rather than in page order. Does this work for you or would you prefer the items in page order?

Again, please let me know.

Facebook page topics

Here are some topics covered on the CIPCUG Facebook page since the last issue (as usual, you have to go to the page for the links). Please join and share your thoughts.

- The 101 Most Useful Websites
- An Invisibility Cloak For Heat : Discovery News
- Webcast: Manually Removing Viruses and Malware from Windows 7
- 1940 census records include 21 million still alive - MyVerizon.com
- Nuance Communications Wants a World of Voice Recognition

— John Weigle, editor

Coming events

Identity protection to be topic of April program

Programs

Norbert "Bob" Gostischa will discuss "Protecting Yourself and Your Identity" at the April 28 meeting, which starts at 8:45 a.m. in 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 a.m. The Internet and Networking SIG and the Social Media SIG start at 8:45 a.m.

In his release for the meeting, Gostischa said, "It's common wisdom that avoiding suspicious Web-based content and especially 'dodgy' websites will keep you safe on the Internet. Unfortunately, that sort of information is 'old and outdated technology.' Internet security (protecting both your computer and your identity online) can, however, be demystified. This presentation focuses on normal computer users, rather than 'IT geeks,' and clearly explains security myths, Internet dos and don'ts, the evolution of computer threats, and more."

Gostischa said he "simplifies, clarifies, and demystifies your computer, making your Internet experience a safe one and ex-

(Continued on page 4)

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.

CIPCUG NEWS AND EVENTS

Internet SIG, Q&A**UPS issues, backups discussed in two sessions****Reported by John Weigle****Internet, email, social media SIG****Uninterruptible power supplies**

Q: I have an APC battery backup that isn't backing up.

A: It's a good idea to periodically check an uninterruptible power supply by booting your computer to a blank desktop (no programs running) and unplugging the UPS from the wall while the computer is on. If the computer and monitor stay

on, you'll know that the UPS is working. If the computer and monitor don't stay on, the UPS isn't working.

UPS batteries are basically motorcycle batteries and wear out.

*(Continued on page 5)***More on Command.com***(Continued from page 1)*

meter only upon your request. Northern California power companies are charging a one-time fee of \$160 and \$25 a month extra. I find all of this very disturbing.

If you also are concerned, call your power company. Ask for the phone number to delay or opt out of the installation of the Smart Meter.

I understand that Ventura and Santa Barbara counties are petitioning the Pub-

lic Utilities Commission to eliminate the fees for those who do not want the "Smart Meter" installed. Visit the following web sites:

www.smartmeterhelp.com

www.stopsmartmeter.org

www.emfsafetynetwork.org

There is a site about a coming documentary which I don't have information about; I am including the link from a local paper and the letter that started me

looking into this:

http://www.vcreporter.com/cms/story/detail/say_no_to_smart_meters_and_yes_to_fre_e_energy/9637/#.T2ot6L7_c4o.email

My issue is safety and privacy.

Craig Ladd, our vice-president and program chairman, has an interesting program for our April meeting. Hope to see you there — and bring a guest.

More on coming events ...*(Continued from page 3)*

plaining why even AARP recommends Avast!"

Gostischa, after a successful career in banking, enjoys his retirement as an enthusiast IT security expert, most notably for Avast Software, the creator of Avast! antivirus software. The Avast! website has a discussion and help forum, where he has been helping with security-related issues since 2004, having contributed more than 17,000 forum interactions. Avast! is one of the most popular antivirus programs in the world, he said. Avast has been making security software for over 20 years and has more than 160 million users worldwide.

Other meeting dates for this year:

May 26: Abby Stokes, author of "Is This Thing On?"

June 23

July 28

Aug. 25

Sept. 22

Oct. 27

Nov. 17 (**third Saturday**)

Dec. 15 (**third Saturday**)

SIGs

The Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are sponsored by CIPCUG and led by volunteer club members. They are free to CIPCUG members.

Other than those presented during or just after the regular meeting, the 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 locations to be announced on the meeting day.

The general schedule:

Fourth Tuesday: Linux.

Fourth Saturday (or the regular meeting day): Social Media SIG (Jessica Scott and Mark Maidel) and Internet and connectivity SIG (Toby Scott), 8:45 a.m. The location of Michael Shalkey's after-meeting SIG, on days there is one, is announced at the meeting.

The April and May schedules:

April

Tuesday, April 24: Linux SIG. Topic: PhotoRec and TrestDisk.

Saturday, April 28: Regular meeting, pre-meeting Social Media and Internet, connectivity SIGs.

May

Tuesday, May 22: Linux SIG. Topic: Q&A session.

Saturday, May 28: Regular meeting, pre-meeting Social Media and Internet SIGs.

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

CIPCUG NEWS AND EVENTS

(Continued from page 4)

Most uninterruptible power supplies have two sets of plugs. One set protects only against power surges; the other protects against power surges and power failures. Generally, you want the computer, the monitor and possibly the router on the side that protects against both. Peripherals such as printers and scanners can be plugged into the surge-protection-only side. The more devices that are plugged into the power failure side, the faster the UPS will shut down because of the battery discharge. The plugs should be clearly labeled.

From the audience: Don't buy a Monster Cable UPS. I've found that Costco has the best prices for a UPS.

Q: What size should I buy to replace my failed UPS?

A: The size unit you need depends on the power supply of your computer. If your power supply is 450 watts, I'd get a 750 VA UPS, 350 or smaller could use a 500 VA. I'd stick with APC, Tripp Lite, and CyberPower models and stay away from Monster Cable power supplies and cables. If you have the choice of Costco or Fry's, take Costco. Fry's often rewraps returned items and puts them back on the floor with no indication the items were returned. Sometimes parts or manuals are missing. Fry's advertised specials are usually good, but the sales people will try to upsell you.

Email pop-up

Q: I was looking at my email, and the monitor went black and a page of free games came up. At the bottom was a picture of U.S. and Russian flags. I got out of it and ran Malwarebytes, but it didn't find anything.

A: Toby and Michael emphasized not to click on links in email or open attachments unless you're positive from the context of the message that they're from someone you know and trust. This one is almost certainly a virus or other malware. You need to get rid of it. And remember that the FBI and IRS will not send you an email asking for any personal information.

Photo sorting

Q: In Windows 7, when I downloaded photos from my camera they all used to

<p>This month's Q&A topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internet SIG Uninterruptible power supplies Email pop-up Photo sorting Listing of drives Missing pieces of Web pages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wireless keyboard, mouse <p>Regular Q&A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> College computers Backups Chrome backups
--	---

go into a single folder. Now they're going into multiple photos with different dates (apparently the dates the pictures were taken rather than the date they were downloaded to the computer).

A: It sounds like a setting in the camera got changed. Usually, the photos go into a folder with the date of the day they were downloaded. The Windows wizard just copies what's on the camera. You were probably changing some other setting and changed this one by mistake.

Q: It worked fine until recently.

A: That's what makes me think a setting in the camera changed. There's nothing I know of in Windows that would make it change.

Michael: As a general hint, I recommend re-reading manuals for devices and programs periodically. The first time, you'll find lots of things you don't understand. Six months later, you'll understand a lot more and catch things you didn't notice before — features, how to do things, etc.

Toby: I urge all of you to copy manuals from CDs or DVDs to a folder called Manuals on your hard drive so you'll always be able to find them. If you can't find the CD, go to the manufacturer's website and download the manual before it disappears as newer models or versions are released. If you do this it will save your bacon at least twice in the next couple of years.

Q: Can she explore the camera through Windows?

A: If it's a USB device, just use Windows Explorer.

Michael: You can look at the camera and turn on thumbnails in Windows Explorer.

Member Jerry Crocker noted that a search on his smartphone found several sites that indicated the problem is a known bug with Canon cameras. Later in

the meeting, a search for "canon bug folders" was suggested.

Later in the meeting when the search was conducted, Toby discussed general tips for troubleshooting. For hardware, the usual method is to move the hardware in question to a different computer or attach a different piece of hardware to the problem computer. If a monitor, for instance, works on one computer, but not another, it's a sign the monitor is not the problem. That leaves the most likely problems as a video card or a cable. Software troubleshooting often involves disabling the most recently installed software until the problem disappears or, if the problem is with the newest software, trying to find conflicts, which can be quite difficult for the inexperienced.

Q: Can the folders be merged into a single folder?

A: The only way I know is to drag and drop.

Listing of drives

Q: My computer brings up all the drives and other external items, including SD cards. Is there any way to hide the cards I'm not using? It seems like the computer reassigns letters when I put on a new external drive.

A: The cards should all have their own drive letters. You can disable drives you don't use in Computer Management > Storage > Disk Management. Type "computer management" in the Start menu search box to get there quickly. You want to be careful doing this because you don't want to disable a drive you're using; you're looking for the card reader listings.

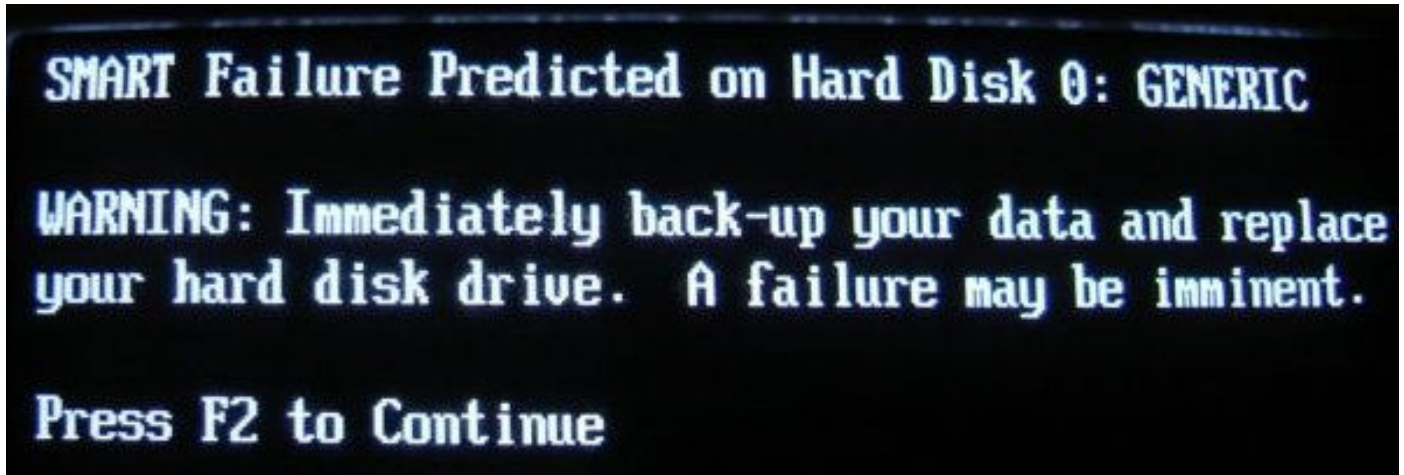
Using Spanish on computer

Q: Is there a program that allows the use of Spanish on the computer?

A: You can change the language in

(Continued on page 6)

CIPCUG NEWS AND EVENTS



Do not ignore this message if it appears on your computer. Details are below.

(Continued from page 5)

Control Panel > Region and Language > Keyboards and Languages. Instructions to install a new language pack are at <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/972813>.

Missing pieces of Web pages

Q: I'm not seeing all the words on Yahoo and some other pages, including a coupon site. This happens on both Firefox and Internet Explorer. (As the discussion continued, it developed that the missing words are names of fields that must be completed and that the computer is several years old.)

A: Toby's first suggestion was a bug of some kind. He suggested running Spybot (the questioner said Malwarebytes didn't find anything) and Microsoft Security Essentials, but when the age of the computer came up, he and Michael suggested the problem might be that the hard drive is failing. They suggested an immediate backup and running CHKDSK (Check Disk). On the Start menu select Run, type cmd (for Command) and when the DOS prompt appears, type `chkdsk /r` (note the space before the /). When the message comes up asking if you want to run the program the next time you reboot, type Y (for yes). Quit the command box and reboot. Another method is to go to Computer on the Start menu, right click on the C: drive and on the Tools tab, click Check now under Error checking. The /r option will take some time because the program is looking for disk errors and attempting to repair any it finds.

Toby again emphasized the need for

backups, especially if there is any sign of a hard drive problem but preferably regularly. Good shops will try to make an image of a problem drive to recover whatever data they can, but Toby, Michael and Rick have seen people cry when they're told that data cannot be recovered from a crashed drive.

A member of the audience reported having had a similar problem in Windows 7 but only in Internet Explorer. He discovered that somehow file associations for image files had been changed. Toby said that doesn't sound like the solution to this problem but said it's worth checking the file associations for JPEG/JPG, GIF and PNG files. File associations can be checked at Control Panel\All Control Panel Items \Default Programs\Set Associations. Image files should be shown in any browser, however.

Michael showed a picture of a computer message that begins with "SMART Failure Predicted on Hard Drive" (SMART stands for Self-Monitoring Analysis and Reporting Technology) and said to *never* ignore it (see picture above). He and Toby said to get the computer to a shop quickly if the message appears because it's a sign the drive could die at any moment.

Wireless keyboard, mouse

Q: I have Windows 7 and a wireless keyboard and mouse. When the machine comes out of Hibernate or Sleep, I usually have to unplug the dongle for the keyboard and mouse to get them work again.

A: Michael: It's a known, common

problem. I don't know of a solution.

Toby: You can look for updated drivers for the keyboard and mouse, which might fix it, but there are no guarantees. It's about a 50-50 chance.

Regular Q&A

Unless otherwise noted, questions were answered by Toby Scott. Michael Shalkey handled the computer duties.

There were a number of questions about backups this month. They've been grouped together in this report so the information is in one place rather than spread through the questions. – Editor

Smart Computing magazine

Q: I'm disappointed by a number of changes in Smart Computing magazine in the past several months. Its review pages look more and more like ads with manufacturers' logos added to them. There's also more coverage of Apple products.

A: Michael Shalkey: I can't speak for the magazine, but I think one issue might be the future of computing. Many people are saying that the desktop era is over. The idea is that if a device gets you to the Internet, be it a tablet, a smartphone or something else, the type of device doesn't matter.

Toby Scott: This club started in 1986, and at the time operating systems included CPM, DOS, the Apple II and the Radio Shack TRS 80. There were many specialized magazines for the various systems. The name The Outer Edge comes

(Continued on page 7)

CIPCUG NEWS AND EVENTS

(Continued from page 6)

from the fact that the members were using Leading Edge computers. Over time, we morphed into a general PC users group, not covering Apple products.

I say that because we're entering an era when Windows isn't the dominant platform, a time that will be reminiscent of the late 1970s and early 1980s with everything starting to Balkanize. You'll need support for narrower and narrower slices. Earlier computers didn't have much horsepower or help, but the new devices have lots of power and help. Many of them will operate well right out of the box. PCs won't go away, but sales will continue to nosedive. Lots of people are already doing everything off smartphones and small tablets. If you enter lots of information at work, you probably won't want to do it on a smartphone, which is why desktops will remain.

Craig Ladd: Google has announced glasses that will provide heads-up displays.

Toby: Smartphones and other devices will probably be primarily voice-activated. Heads-up displays will be voice-activated by Siri but on steroids. Cars already have heads-up displays on the windshield and fighter pilots also have them, so the displays aren't necessarily distractions.

College computers

Q: What computer would you recommend for a person just starting college?

A: Many colleges have a "platform religion" — that is, the tech support people work only on PCs or Macs and professors want documents in specific formats. The best thing to do is check with the college the student will attend for its requirements and preferences before buying anything. I think that an iPad would be suitable for the Apple platform and a laptop or Android tablet for the Windows platform.

Q: Can printers be attached to all those?

A: In most cases, yes.

Backups

Q: If we make backups, how do we know they're working?

A: Most programs will let you restore

a single file. Move a file from its original location to a temporary folder. Then restore that file from your backup to the original location and compare them to be sure they're the same and the backup is working. Acronis, which has been presented here several times, will run from a bootable CD. If you boot from a CD and Acronis sees the backup, you should be safe in case of a crash. You should periodically do a test restore and have a backup system that will work on more than one OS if possible.

Michael: Have different types of backups, too. Are all your photos on the SD cards? If they're on the cloud, are they at full resolution or compressed. You need more than one backup, possibly in different formats (cloud, CDs, DVDs, external hard drive, etc.).

Audience: Shutterfly.com is a free site for photos, but it will try to sell you lots of things. You can see your photos from any computer.

Toby Scott: Windows Live Mesh offers 25 Gig plus another 5 for free. There are several such sites.

Audience: Google offers 20 Gig for \$5 per year.

USB backups

Q: It took eight hours to do a backup using USB 2. Is 3.0 faster?

A: Yes.

Michael: But in that case, you want an eSATA external drive, which uses little processing power and can be booted from.

Q: Does 3.0 work on 32-bit Windows?

A: Yes.

Q: If I copy a file to someplace else, is it a backup?

A: Yes. That's basically what backup programs do.

There are two main types of backups, image and data.

An image backup is an entire drive and includes the operating system, programs, settings and preferences and all data. If something happens to your hard drive, you can replace it, restore the image to the new drive and be back in business.

A data backup is, as the name suggests, just your data. You can store it on

many types of media, including a flash drive, CD, DVD and external hard drive. Unless you have lots of data, your OS and software usually take up more space than your data. Many of you could probably back up your data on a flash drive, although if you do, I'd recommend doing it on more than one flash drive.

Settings and preferences are OS-specific, so if you change operating systems, your backup of them won't be of much value. Going from one installation of an OS to a clean installation of the same system, you can use the Windows File Setting Transfer Wizard to move them. If you are using the same programs on the new computer, this works well, but you have to use the version of the Transfer Wizard that applies to the NEW computer and not use the one that came with the old computer. All the versions are available from Microsoft Download.

Michael: If you have QuickBooks or Quicken, be sure to back the data up from within the programs.

Tablets

Q: Is the iPad a tablet?

A: Yes.

Q: Why would I want a tablet?

A: Tablets are smaller than laptops. The keyboard is primitive at best. The mouse isn't as good for graphics as a laptop mouse. Tablets are battery powered. Their connections to Wi-Fi are good. If you're just browsing the Web, a tablet is good. Typing URLs is more difficult because of the lack of a full-size keyboard. Tablets are good for movies, TV shows and books, but if all you want is an e-reader, I'd pick the Nook or the old Kindle. The reviews I've seen said if all you want to do is read books, the old Kindle is the best choice.

Audience: The original Kindle needs Wi-Fi. We bought the new Kindle with 3G, so we could download without an Internet connection.

Q: Other than the size of the screen, can't you read emails and other documents on a smartphone?

A: Yes, but I don't want to wear my glasses all the time.

Michael: The choice of devices de-

(Continued on page 8)

CIPCUG NEWS AND EVENTS

Program

Two online office suites are compared

By John Weigle*jweigle@vcnet.com*

Two online office suites — Google Docs and Windows Live Suite — were demonstrated and compared by Michael Shalkey and Toby Scott at our March meeting.

As might be expected, the two suites are similar, with each offering programs for word processing, presentations, and spreadsheets. Neither offers a database program, although the Windows Live Suite includes OneNote, which lets users create notebooks that are searchable and which can be shared.

In fact, at the end of his presentation, Scott said that the choice of which program, if either, to use is a personal choice. Users who have no Microsoft Office suite on their computers would probably pick Google Docs, while those who have Microsoft Office on their computers would probably pick the Microsoft Live Suite. While both suites can save documents in several formats, he said, the Microsoft Live Suite handles Microsoft formats best as files are worked on by several people, if they download the file to work on and then upload it again.

Shalkey suggested adding the following comments after reviewing the report on the program: “As near as I can figure out, Microsoft does NOT allow you to save in anything other than DOCX (for Word) or XLSX (for Excel)

“This means that nobody else can read your document unless they have Office 2007 or 2010 (or a converter).

“If you are never planning to let anyone else open a document of your creation, then Microsoft may be fine, but the SAVE AS option in Google is much more helpful if you have people who don’t own a recent version of Microsoft Office — particularly the Save As PDF so anyone can read it, but not change it.”

Google Docs

Shalkey started the comparison by opening Google.com and pointing out the black bar at the top of the page. The bar is a fairly recent addition to the site and offers access to many Google features. The Documents tab takes you to your documents.

Both suites require users to have an account of some type. A Gmail account works for Google Docs, but users can establish a separate account and don’t have to use Gmail.

More than 10,000 templates for documents are available from Google Docs. Users can make the screens easier to read in both suites by using Ctrl + (hold down the Ctrl key and strike the + key until the type is the size you want it). To make the type smaller, use Ctrl -. Use Ctrl 0 to restore the default size.

Documents can be created, stored, edited and shared in both suites. Google Docs works with Microsoft Office documents, Shalkey said.

Google Docs users can create online polls and analyze data with Google spreadsheets. Both suites can be used on any computer that can reach the Internet.

Google Docs allows collaboration, and document creators can set limits on what others can do with a file and require users to sign in to use documents.

The suite offers automatic saves to protect documents, but they can get in the way if a user has a slow Internet connection, Shalkey said. Documents can also be edited offline.

Android apps allow editing of documents on smartphones, he said. The suite can be used on a tablet that has USB connections for a keyboard and mouse. Scott

(Continued on page 9)

More on Q&A ...

(Continued from page 7)

depends on your lifestyle, desires and needs.

Audience: We travel a lot, and tablets are great because of their size. There’s an app called Log Me In that will let users log in to their desktop computers.

Michael: Some people don’t want to be in front of a screen when they’re not working because they have to use one all day at work.

Be careful about using iPhones in public because there are more and more reports of people being mugged so the phones can be stolen. AT&T and Verizon are not willing to disable them if they’re reported stolen even though it’s possible

to do so.

Craig: I’ve read that people are more likely to get tired and suffer from eye-strain if they’re using tablets at a distance of 12 inches or closer.

Michael: The retinal display on the iPad 3 and screen resolution might change that.

Toby: Focal length is the issue.

Audience: If you buy an Apple tablet go to the training sessions the stores offer. You’ll learn of things that aren’t in books.

Chrome backups

Q: Is there something similar to

MozBackup for Chrome?

A: A Web search found no software for preferences, although there is at least one for some older versions. To export bookmarks, Chrome’s Help file says:

“Click the spanner icon on the browser toolbar.

“Select **Bookmark manager**.

“Click the **Organize** menu in the manager.

“Select **Export bookmarks**.

“Choose a location in which you want your exported file to be saved, then click **Save**.

“Google Chrome will export your bookmarks as a HTML file.”

CIPCUG NEWS AND EVENTS

(Continued from page 8)

noted that some tablets have Bluetooth capability, too, but that it uses more power than the USB connection.

Scott said that Web pages can be saved via some websites (instructions for saving with the Save or Save as command are at http://www.steve.maurer.net/tutorials/software_tutorials/save_website.htm and at <http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/save-complete-webpage-offline-reading/>. They can also be saved as PDF files with the Save as command.

PDF files can be created to allow or prohibit editing and to block highlighting and copying material in the file.

Shalkey said that many users might never use either online suite but said it's good to know about them because they can be used on any device that will reach the Internet and might be useful for those away from their home or business computers.

Microsoft Live Suite

Many of the things Shalkey said about Google Docs also apply to the Windows Live Suite, he and Scott said. The Windows Live Suite is designed primarily for people who have some version of Microsoft Office on their home or business computers, but local installations of Office are not required, Scott said.

The Windows Live Suite requires users to have an account with Microsoft. Hotmail, Messenger and Xbox users already have Windows Live accounts. Users who don't have any of those accounts can establish one for free at <https://signup.live.com/signup.aspx?lic=1>.

Both suites offer synchronization, and Scott emphasized its importance so all users will be working on the same version of a file. Users can make files private or open to certain people. Windows Live Mesh figures out the most recent version of a file and synchronizes it with all users as they're available online.

The versions of Word, Excel, PowerPoint and OneNote are slimmed down versions of those in Microsoft Office versions but contain the most-used features of each, Scott said. As a side note, Scott said that anyone who has a version

Feature	Google Docs	Windows Live Suite
Website	https://docs.google.com/#home	http://explore.live.com/windows-live-essentials-other-programs?T1=t1 (to download programs)
Online help	https://support.google.com/docs/?hl=en&p=doclist_help_home	http://windows.microsoft.com/en-US/windows-live/essentials-other-programs
Programs included	Word processing, presentation, spreadsheet, form, drawing, and table	Word, Excel, PowerPoint, OneNote, Windows Live Writer (for blogs), Windows Live Mail, and Family Safety
Storage space	1GB free; additional storage for 25 cents per GB	5 GB for Sync and 25 Gig for storage, all free
Sharing	Yes	Yes
Collaboration	Yes	Yes
Account needed	Yes	Yes
Cost	Free	Free
Uploading documents OK	Yes	Yes
Downloading documents OK	Yes	Yes
Translations	Yes	Not listed on website

of Office that includes OneNote and isn't using the program has rocks in his head.

Users can send invitations to files to other people by email so you can share just the files you want to.

Suite users who use Outlook can import their contacts and calendars into their email profile in the Windows Live Suite. "Once you have this (Windows Live Mail) you almost don't need Outlook anymore," he added.

Windows Live Essentials includes Family Safety, which lets users set up accounts and all kinds of rules on the use of the Internet for the account holders. As the name suggests, administrators can block sites and limit the number of hours and the times Internet use is allowed.

Windows Live Writer, part of the suite, allows the preparation of blogs for

WordPress.com (see, for example Scott's blog, listed below, which includes his notes for the presentation).

As the number of devices that connect to the Internet grows, online office suites like these are probably the way everyone will be working on many documents, Scott said.

On the Net:

Toby Scott's blog with his notes for the presentation can be viewed at this site: tobywscott.wordpress.com

Be sure to keep your anti-malware programs up to date and run regular scans.

CIPCUG NEWS AND EVENTS

Treasurer's report for February 2012

By Art Lewis

treasurer@cipcug.org

2-1-2012 through
2-29-2012

Category Description INFLOWS

Coffee income	-8.00
Donation	3.00
ISP income	140.00
Membership Income	
Renewals	505.00
Total membership inc.	505.00
Publication sales	60.00
Raffle	92.00

TOTAL INFLOWS 792.00

OUTFLOWS

Raffle prizes	91.32
Rent Paid	150.00
TOE	268.11
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	509.43

OVERALL TOTAL 282.57

Unrestricted Funds	5,118.69
Restricted Funds	0.00
Bank Balance 2-29-12	5,118.69
Year to Date Income	6,111.75
Year to Date Expense	6,780.39
Net Year to Date	-668.64

2012 contributors to The Outer Edge

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

CIPCUG MEMBERS

Ken Church
Art Lewis
Helen Long
Diane Mortensen
Toby Scott
Michael Shalkey
Rick Smith

Andy Toth
Jim Thornton
Bill Wayson
John Weigle

OTHERS

Rick Eblaw, vice president,
Southern Tier Personal Computing
Club, N.Y. (APCUG)



Lewis

Outside speakers are set for April and May

By Helen Long

The program for April will be Avast Free Antivirus for ordinary Internet users, and Avast7 Internet Security renowned antivirus spyware for safe social networking, identity protection from hackers, with spam and phishing filters, plus more.

Bits & Bytes



Long

For May, the program will be Abby Stokes. She is the author of "Is This Thing On? A Computer Handbook for Late Bloomers, Technophobes, and the Kicking & Screaming." She lectures on computer-related topics across the country and has made television and radio appearances on the same. "Pre-computer instruction and writing, I was an improviser, shoe model and puppeteer," she says. "To me the cup is always half full and has the potential to runneth over."

Art Lewis still has some "Secret Guide to Computers" if you haven't been jaded by our problem with the book. The book is one of the best computer aids out there, but for some reason or another Russ added "Tricky Living" to the book this year. "Tricky Living" has absolutely nothing to do with computers, and it has met with a bit of controversy. Some people were offended by it and some were not. If you can ignore that section, you will have a great assistant to help you with the many computer problems that we come up against in our day-to-day computing.

I finally decided to install my Tech Soup disc from CIPCUG. It is the complete Microsoft Office suite. My program of choice has been Word Perfect and I plan to dump it eventually and just use the MS suite. Most of the people I communicate with use MS, and sometimes I have a problem with their attachments. My main problem is with Publisher. I have version 2002 and I kept getting the nagging notices "It's time to upgrade." I HATE upgrades. Why do I have to upgrade when everything is working so well? So I bit the bullet and installed it. WOW! Publisher now looks like something from Mars. I can't even find out how to enlarge the page so I can read the text. I can't even write anything in colored ink (I don't do that much, but because I can't find out how to do it, it becomes a major problem. Guess I will have to go for "Publisher for Dummies" to move on. I will love this MS Office Suite; I know I will!

Three days later — Wow! Font & Font size are visible in the menu bar, and now the left, center, right justification is visible. It seems like every day I get a new insight to where things are in the menu bar. There is still hope!

HAVE YOU RUN YOUR ANTI-SPYWARE PROGRAMS LATELY?

CIPCUG NEWS AND EVENTS

Membership report:

Is it time to renew?

By Ken Church

email address: membership@cipcug.org



CHURCH

Welcome –
New members: Needed; bring a co-worker.

Attendance at the March 2012 general meeting:
58 members and guests

Total membership: 186

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 at the April 28, 2012, meeting.

February 2012 renewals payment due:

Mbr#	Last Name	First Name	Pd to Dt
1116	Hazeltine	John	201202
1218	Panczel	Marika	201202
1232	Riggan	Lee	201202
1140	Wayson	Bill	201202
0130	Whelchel	Claude	201202

March 2012 renewals payment due:

Mbr#	Last Name	First Name	Pd to Dt
0544	Beardshear	Paul	201203
1227A	Chapman	Bob	201203
1227B	Chapman	Louise	201203
0138	Lakes	Arline	201203
0137	Lakes	George	201203
0425	Ledner, MD	Bob	201203
0571	Swingle	Phil	201203
0771	Zuromski	Alexandra	201203

April 2012 renewals payment due:

Mbr#	Last Name	First Name	Pd to Dt
1238	Allmen	Bill	201204
0688	Arriola	Kirby	201204
0776	Darnielle	Jack	201204
0916	Jensen	Ted	201204
0830	Kiceniuk	Taras	201204
0965	Kreitzer	Shlomo	201204
1084	Martinez	Sam	201204
0768	Nifong	Bob	201204
0142	Peck	Darrell	201204
0919	Sundberg	Ralph	201204
0216	Thompson	Bob	201204
0777	Williams	Shirley	201204
0966	Wright	Margaret	201204
0967	Wright	Ward	201204

Don't panic: This death threat is cruel scam

By Toby Scott

(This article original appeared on the Ventura County Computers website and is reprinted with permission. — Editor

I just received an Internet spam, which as an Internet professional I could instantly recognize as a scam. However, I wonder how the average person would react.

Here's the email:

You have been betrayed!!! It's a pity that this how your life is going to come to an end as your death had already been paid for by someone who is very close to you from all investigations.

I have ordered 3 (three) of my men to monitor every move of you and make sure you are not out of sight till the date of your assassination.

According to the report I gets, you seem to be innocent about what you have been accuse but I have no business with that, so that's why am contacting you to know if truly you are innocent and how much you value your life.

Get back to me if you sure want to

live on, ignore this mail only if you feel it's a joke or just a threat.

Don't forget your days on earth are numbered, so you have the chance to live if only you will comply with me.

WARNING: Tell no one about this mail to you because he or she might just be the person who wants you dead, and if that happens, I will be aware and am going to make sure you DIE instantly.

I will give you every detail of where to be and how to take any actions be it legal or illegal, that's only when I read from you.

You need to stay calm and act unaware of this situation and follow instructions because any move you make that is suspicious; you will DIE as your days are numbered.

Even knowing the message was a fake it bothered me. I can only imagine the reaction of someone who doesn't understand how spam works.

I went out to the **IP Tracker site** to find out from where the message was sent. Here is their analysis:

[quote="ipTRACKERonline.com"]
[b]Header Analysis Quick Report

IP: 125.215.236.210
Originating ISP: Pccw Business Internet Access

City: Tsim Sha Tsui

Country of Origin: Hong Kong

Add up the clues: It came from Hong Kong, it wasn't addressed to anyone, the To line in the header was blank and most importantly, I am so lovable that no one would really want to do me in. It's clearly a scam, but a dangerous one for the unsophisticated. So, I immediately tried to fill out the form at the **FBI Internet Complaint Center** (<http://www.ic3.gov/default.aspx>), but they want to know the person or company that defrauded me and how much I lost. Halfway through filling out the complaint, I gave up. So, I tried calling my local police department. They weren't interested. The sent me to the local FBI office. I spent way too much time wandering around in their answering machine's phone tree and eventually was hung up on.

Not knowing how to get my message across to those who are paid to protect us, I took to the avenue I know best — the Internet. I plan on making this as public as possible. Hopefully, victims of this kind of threat/extortion will be forewarned and not panic when they see it.

Minutes of the March board of directors meeting

By Diane Mortensen

The CIPCUG board of directors held its monthly meeting on March 24, 2012. In attendance were Art Lewis, Helen Long, Craig Ladd, John Weigle, Toby Scott, Diane Mortensen, Andy Toth and Bob de Violini. Absent, President James Brown. The meeting was called to order by Immediate Past President Rick Curry.



Mortensen

Art presented the February 2012 treasurer's report reflecting coffee income in February was minus \$8 and a bank balance of \$5,118.69. The treasurer's report appears elsewhere in TOE.

The board approved the February 2012 treasurer's report.

John inquired where CIPCUG's bank debit card, which the bank requires to eliminate some new charges, will be kept. He shared with the board that he knew of another organization whose debit card was stolen and in one month the organization's bank account was wiped out with ATM withdrawals and purchases. The organization is small and may not survive such a loss. Art stated that CIPCUG's debit card will be placed in a safety deposit box.

John asked the board if it wanted to consider mailing copies of TOE by first-class mail to members who live in Ventura County but outside the 930xx ZIP code

area and charging more for the service. It was suggested that TOE could be sent electronically or members could again be encouraged to sign up for other notifications of SIGs and regular meetings the group offers. The matter will be discussed at the next board meeting in May.

An inquiry was made regarding who has the originals of CIPCUG's membership applications. Toby said he has it at his office and, if reminded, he will run off copies. Diane will send Toby an e-mail reminder before the next board meeting.

Craig said that as of yet he did not have a confirmed presenter for April's meeting.

In May, Craig has lined up Abby

(Continued on page 13)

CIPCUG NEWS AND EVENTS

A message from our new webmaster

By Andy Toth
atoth@teledyne-si.com

Hi, I'm Andy Toth, and I will be taking over the day-to-day upkeep of the CIPCUG website. I have been a club

member since 1997(?) and president for a few years in there. The site was very well maintained, and that makes it easy to carry on. Thank you, Helen. There are links at the bottom of each web page to contact

me. Please do so. The "Revisions" section on the CIPCUG homepage will show any changes to the site. The CIPCUG homepage makes an excellent home page. Remember, it is your website.

More on minutes ...

(Continued from page 12)

Stokes, author of "Is This Thing On?" Abby was a presenter at the 2011 computer conference in San Diego.

She was well received, and many attendees bought her book. Diane will be in charge of publicity for the event as well

as April's meeting.

Bob de Violini said that, if possible, he would like to represent the club at the June 2012 computer conference in San Diego. He lives in San Diego; therefore, the club would not have to pay for his lodging.

Craig also would like to attend the conference and he, too, has lodging.

The board agreed that Bob and Craig's registration fees will be paid by the club.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Ventura County Computers
Fast, Friendly, Humorous Service... Most of the time

(805) 289-3960
2175 Goodyear Ave. #117 Ventura 93003

We just want to thank everyone for your patronage. VCC has decided to enter 2012 with no gimmicks, no fancy sales pitches, no high pressure ads, just good old fashioned, full price, high markup items and expensive service rates for repairs.

Since no one buys our sale items or believes our outlandish sales pitches we've decided to give up and just say "Full price every day is our way" So come on in to the store where you pay more.

WALDEN
Rick Smith, MCP
Toby Scott, MCP
www.vcccomputers.com

Ventura County Computers
Fast Friendly Humorous Service... Most of the time

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 almost certainly from scammers. If in doubt, go to the site of the institution by typing in a known URL, not by clicking on the email link, and look for messages there.

GENERAL NEWS, COMMENTARY

PhotoRec recovers deleted pictures

By Bill Wayson

bwayson@gmail.com

Owners of digital cameras know that transferring pictures between memory cards and a PC while keeping a photo collection organized and keeping track of multiple memory cards can be a tedious task with significant opportunity for error. Say you want to archive some raw photos off of your PC onto a large memory card, and then format another card for reuse in your camera. The pictures are very large — some are over the 2 GB size limit imposed by FAT file systems. OK, just pop the archive card into your card reader. Now reformat it with an NTFS file system, then start moving pictures over to it. Enjoy some tea while it completes. All done — now put in the other card and reformat it — FAT 32 will be fine. Let's see — What's that? Your wife wants something. Give her a hand; we'll wait. — You're back. Format card. OK, that won't take long. Huh? Why is your other card there on the desk, and where's...? Oh [golly], your pictures!

PhotoRec can get your pictures back. It does this by ignoring the file system and looking directly at the underlying data, so it will work even if the media's file system has been severely damaged or reformatted. In the above scenario, here is how to get those pictures back. PhotoRec is open source software that can be downloaded from www.cgsecurity.org/wiki/TestDisk_Download. Executables are available for just about every popular operating system around, including Windows from 95 to 7, Linux, MAC OS X, and others. It is also included on many live CDs and DVDs. Obtain the proper version and install it. Now, attach the memory card so that your PC can read it. PhotoRec is a text application, so use a "Run" option or get to a command line to start it with the command "photorec." Up comes the first menu: a list of all media connected to your PC, which PhotoRec treats as read-only. Use your up and down arrow keys to select the memory card, ensure that "Proceed" is highlighted, and press <Enter>. Now you will need to indicate the type of partition table — the highlighted choice is usually correct — and press <Enter>. Because the memory card of our poor user has only one partition on it, he can simply press <Enter> at the next menu to start a search for lost files, as indicated at the bottom of the screen. This will bring up a menu asking what the type of the file system was where the lost pictures were stored. In the above scenario, "Other" should be highlighted before pressing <Enter>. Next, you can choose whether PhotoRec should scan

Penguin's Lair



Wayson

(Continued on page 15)

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

Other categories as needed

Free

For sale

The Outer Edge is printed and prepared for mailing by:

Bob Weisensee
Production Supervisor



CREATIVE TECHNOLOGY
of Sarasota, Inc.

5959 Palmer Boulevard
Sarasota, FL 34232-2841

bob@ctimls.com
newsletters@ctimls.com

(941) 371-2743

Fax: (941) 379-2933

(800) 533-1031

User group members
SAVE 40% off print
and **50% off ebooks**

ENTER DISCOUNT
CODE: DSUG

O'REILLY



Spreading the knowledge of innovators

oreilly.com

GENERAL NEWS, COMMENTARY

Review: PrintKey Pro

Program offers screen shots on steroids

By **Jim Thornton**
jasthorn@gmail.com

PrintKey Pro is a small program that allows you to easily save all or any selected part of anything being displayed on your computer screen. When using Internet Explorer, I find it every useful in selecting only the text and/or pictures being shown and in excluding all the advertisements and all the other items that I'm not interested in. For example, when I'm reviewing my medical statements on my medical insurance company's website, it is very easy to select only the actual medical statement and not include any of the other information not related to the statement. Another example is when I'm on the Microsoft website and saving instructions on how to correct a Window's problem, it is easy to select the instructions only and exclude all of the other non-related items on the screen. With the selected area, you

can print it, copy it to be added in another program like your e-mail program, Word, etc., or save it as a picture.

On my computer, I have my Printkey Pro icon in the lower right hand corner of the screen in an area called the System Tray so it is always accessible regardless of what is being displayed. When I have the screen displaying an item that I want to print, for example, I next open PrintKey Pro, and with its special cursor being displayed I depress my mouse's left button and draw a rectangle around the item, next release the mouse's depressed left button, and click on the PrintKey Pro's print icon on its toolbar, and the desired item is printed.

Once the image is captured, you can adjust its brightness, contrast, and color balance. Images can be edited by using the built-in image editor, which provides a whole series of options such as color options and grayscale, and you can even

invert the colors. The editing features include: choice of colors ranging from the two basic colors of black and white to starting at 16 and more multiple colors. There are other choices ranging from grayscale colors to red, green, blue, and shades of colors.

You can choose to save the image in a rectangular or a circular area, and you can adjust the size. The standard editor provides a series of options such as horizontal/vertical mirror effects, embossed effect, or 90 degree turned. The five size choices are 640 x 480, 768 x 576, 800 x 600, 1024 x 768, and 1280 x 1024, and you can even type in your choice of width and height. A menu will pop up, and you can choose the mode that fits your needs best. Whenever you activate one of the modes, your screenshot will be taken and opened in a built-in image editor, where you can touch it up a bit. Although the

(Continued on page 16)

More on PhotoRec ...

(Continued from page 14)

the whole partition or just space not already allocated to files. Choose "Free" to recover just deleted files and press <Enter>. PhotoRec now wants to know where to save the recovered files it finds. PhotoRec will not change the media it scans in case further recovery actions are taken on it. Use your up and down arrow keys to navigate to a suitable location and press <Enter>. PhotoRec starts scanning the media looking for deleted files. It does this by searching raw data blocks looking at the first few bytes of each block and comparing their contents with a database of known file signatures. As the files are found, they are saved, with cryptic file names, to a directory called "recup_dir.x," where "x" is some number, in the location you indicated earlier. Do not be surprised to find more than you expected in this directory, especially if the memory card has been reused.

Finding the specific files you are looking for will take some investigation and time. It will help a lot to be able to see thumbnail views of the contents of recup_dir. And do not be surprised if non-image files are recovered, especially if the card has been used for more than just picture storage. PhotoRec recognizes a very large number of file types, more than 390 file extensions, according to the website.

Once you find your pictures in recup_dir, you can copy or move them to a safe place and try your operation again, this time being more careful.

PhotoRec was originally created to restore lost photos. But it has grown to a full-featured file recovery utility, useful on almost any storage media, that can get you out of jams caused not only by deleting files but by reformatting or media corruption.

Coupled with its companion recovery

utility, TestDisk, which can perform such magic as searching for and recovering lost partitioning, this suite is now a very powerful tool that can save you from some seemingly hopeless situations (and underscores the need to use utilities such as Darik's Boot and Nuke to really, really, really erase storage media). Explore the www.cgsecurity.org website to see why you might want to add PhotoRec and TestDisk to your tool box.

If you have questions or would like to learn more about Linux and FOSS, come to the April CIPCUG Linux SIG meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday the 24th at Ventura County Computers in Ventura. We'll take a look at PhotoRec and TestDisk as well as field any question you ask. We will do our best to give you an accurate answer. 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.

GENERAL NEWS, COMMENTARY

Delving into the Internet's cesspool

By Rick Smith
rant@vcmail.net

Why I like rich dirty old men.

How's that for a gotcha title? I wanted to include a little ditty to start my rant like I always do, but my Google search of "clean dirty jokes" was a bit of an oxymoron to start with. Everything I found was lewd, crude, rude or all of the above. So, in an effort to show a modicum of decorum, I will refrain from repeating anything off-color and just get to ranting.

Don't get me wrong. It's not that I have a personal attraction to people with a desire to pursue sinful habits; it's just that they make my best customers for repeat business. It's like walking around a bad neighborhood wearing a hoodie. Even if your reasons for doing so are legit and you're not a criminal or gangster, you assume the appearance of one. It makes you a target. In the newspaper this month there were two police sketch drawings of men wanted for felonies committed, and

both of them were pictured with hoodies. So not only does this increase your chances of being noticed by law enforcement, but it also brings you more attention by gangsters looking to increase their street cred by messing with you. So what does all of this have to do with computers, you ask? Surfing the Internet by going to inappropriate websites is in itself inherently dangerous, but doing so without protection will almost certainly make you a customer of mine. I have many clients who seem to have a penchant for looking at naked people. As a man, I can sympathize with them as I believe that woman was God's greatest handiwork, but for personal reasons I have decided to limit myself to just desiring one. And let me tell you I have my hands full with just one. But not everyone feels the way I do, and it has made an online industry of porn. Here are some interesting statistics. These are from 2007, but you'll get the idea.

- Every second, \$3,075.64 is being spent on pornography.
- Every second, 28,258 Internet users are viewing pornography.
- Every second, 372 Internet users are typing adult search terms into search en-

gines.

- Every 39 minutes, a new pornographic video is being created in the United States.
- 89 percent of porn is created in the U.S.
- \$2.84 billion in revenue was generated from U.S. porn sites in 2006.
- 260 new porn sites go online daily.
- 72 percent of porn viewers are men.

X-rated content aside, are online porn sites safe to visit? A study conducted by International Secure System Lab — one of the first to examine the security risks of browsing porn websites — suggests that "shady" practices and malware are common on many porn sites, which could potentially make visitors the targets of cybercriminals. The researchers analyzed some 269,000 free and pay adult websites on 35,000 domains. Their findings? More than a third of free porn sites had "some type of activity that sought to mislead or misdirect visitors," MacWorld explains. "One technique is including a JavaScript 'catcher' that hijacks a Web browser, making it difficult for a visitor to exit a particular website." Just over 3 percent of the adult websites they analyzed were

(Continued on page 17)

More on Printkey ...

(Continued from page 15)

editor is very basic, there are about 20 additional operations that you can easily carry out, like changing resolution, modifying the sharpness, saturation, zooming in and rotating, etc. You can use the left button of your mouse to highlight and scroll through pages.

You can save your image and select the type of file. For example, multiple image formats include BMP, GIF, ICO, JPG, JP2, PCX, PDF, PNG, and TIF.

While this program has many options as previously mentioned regarding color and size, I only use this easy program to print the area that I selected. And whenever you depress the Print Screen key on

your keyboard, Printkey Pro will be prepared to capture all or any part of the image on your monitor screen.

The current version of PrintKey Pro is 1.05, which was introduced on March 30, 2008, and can be used with Windows XP, 2000, 2003, Vista, and 7. You can have a free 30-day trial of the program, which costs \$19.95. It can be downloaded from www.warecentral.com. At that same website, there is a 50-page PDF file providing the instructions, features, and history of PrintKey-Pro and it's titled Printkey-Pro-v105-Help.pdf.

Should you be more interested in just using the basic features of Printkey Pro without needing to pay the \$19.95 regis-

tration fee per computer, you can download an earlier version of PrintKey Pro titled PrintKey 2000 version 5.10, which was released Sept. 22, 1999. The vendor no longer supports this earlier version, but it does a good job of copying your computer screen to your computer's clipboard, where you can paste it into one of your graphics programs for configuring, editing, etc., before printing it, etc. Google says numerous websites provide this older version of PrintKey, but based on my attempt to identify a working one, none of them appears to be easy to get a download from. I can't seem to locate a website where you can easily and quickly download the earlier version.

Rick's
 rant



Smith

GENERAL NEWS, COMMENTARY

More on Rick's rant ...

(Continued from page 16)

“booby-trapped,” hosting some combination of viruses, spyware, and other malware. Many sites (10.9 percent of pay sites and 26.2 percent of free sites) also used “blind links” that “re-direct visitors so when they click on a link they do not see the video or image they were expecting but are passed to an affiliate site,” the BBC explains. The researchers created two free-content porn sites of their own, and then paid \$160 to direct traffic to the sites. The researchers checked to see whether visitors to the dummy sites were using updated versions of Adobe Flash Player, among other plugins, as hackers frequently target out-of-date programs like Flash Player, which is common on porn sites. They found that nearly half their 49,000 visitors were at risk for infection or exploitation. More than 20,000 visitors “had a least one vulnerable component installed and more than 5,700 visitors had multiple vulnerable components,” the International Secure System Lab’s study found.

What does all this mean to me, your not so humble PC repair guy? Constant revenue streams. When users frequent these “free” sites they pick up what I used to call “COOTIES” as a boy. This was a term all the boys used for anything that was feminine. Using “free” porn sites will

cost you more in PC repair than if you pay for view. Let me give you an example. One of my clients is 82 years old and is what I would call wealthy. I sold him a new PC last year, and every month I get a phone call that something is wrong with his PC. I use our VNC (Virtual Network Computing) application to remotely access his PC to fix the problems he gets into by frequenting these types of web-sites. As I clean up his PC, I always find something I’d rather not see or know about. But it does bring in money to pay my ever-increasing energy bills. So it is some sort of annuity for the company, but it does have some awful downsides. Here are some sobering statistics.

Internet Pornography Statistics

The amount of pornography on the Internet can be difficult to fathom. A total of 4.2 million websites contain pornography. That is 12 percent of the total number of websites. There are 100,000 websites that offer pornography, and 1 in 7 youths report being solicited for sex on the Internet. *(Because of problems in resizing the tables, this information and the table for the next section are on the next page. The F1 Your Help Key page will return next month. — Editor)*

Children Internet Pornography Stats

Access to pornography is available

from early on. The average age of a child’s first exposure to pornography is 11. A total of 90 percent of children ages 8-16 have viewed pornography online. Pornographers use many character names that appeal to children such as “Pokémon.” *(As noted above, the table is on the next page.— Editor)*

This kind of stuff is not funny. I have a 7-year-old son who is now using the Internet to go to PBSKIDS.ORG, GOLD-FISHFUN.ORG and LEGO.COM. He opened up a Web browser the other day trying to get to the Goldfish site. We usually put a link on the desktop for him but had not done so for that site. I told my wife we are going to set up some Internet filtering quickly. I do not want my son to become one of the statistics listed above. I want him to be a child as long as possible.

So what is all of this doing to us as a society? It’s warping our sense of right and wrong. By exposing ourselves to this material, we are robbing ourselves of our innocence. The stuff you can find in a couple of clicks of a mouse used to take a lifetime of perversion to acquire a taste for, and it’s just sitting out there waiting for you. The moral and financial drain on our nation and society is unfathomable and seemingly unstoppable. The future doesn’t seem so bright anymore.

Character Map adds versatility for writers

The Windows Character Map, left, gives you a way to use characters in a document that aren’t available on the keyboard.

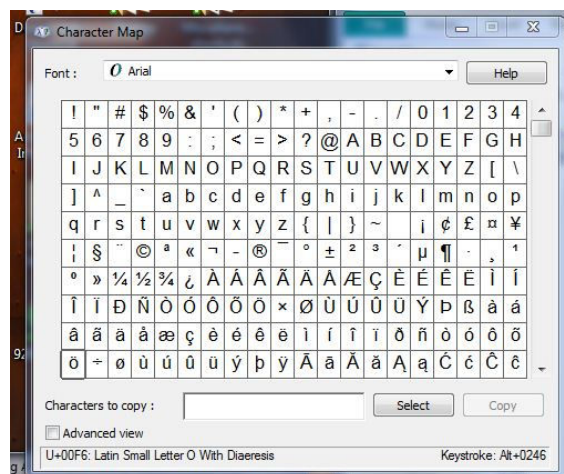
To open the Character Map, go to Start > All Programs > Accessories > System Tools, and click on Character Map or go to the Start Menu, type “character map” without the quotation marks in the search box.

Pick the font you’re using and search for the character(s) you want. When you click on a character, it appears in the “Characters to copy”

box. Click on Select and then click on Copy them. Go to the point in your document where you want the character, Click on the Edit menu and select Paste. Some programs allow dragging the character to the document. To do so, click on the character you want and drag the enlarged version to the document. Available characters differ by font.

All the details on the Character Map can be found at:

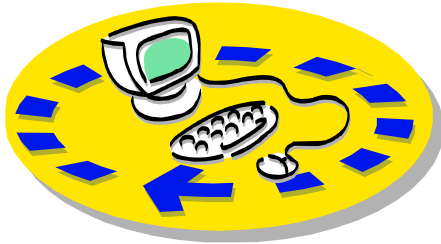
<http://windows.microsoft.com/en-US/windows7/Using-special-characters-Character-Map->



GENERAL NEWS, COMMENTARY

Internet Pornography Statistics	
Pornographic websites	4.2 million (12% of total websites)
Pornographic pages	420 million
Daily pornographic search engine requests	68 million (25% of total search engine requests)
Daily pornographic emails	2.5 billion (8% of total emails)
Internet users who view porn	42.7%
Received unwanted exposure to sexual material	34%
Average daily pornographic emails/user	4.5 per Internet user
Monthly Pornographic downloads (Peer-to-peer)	1.5 billion (35% of all downloads)
Daily Gnutella "child pornography" requests	116,000
Websites offering illegal child pornography	100,000
Sexual solicitations of youth made in chat rooms	89%
Youths who received sexual solicitation	1 in 7 (down from 2003 stat of 1 in 3)
Worldwide visitors to pornographic web sites	72 million visitors to pornography: Monthly
Internet Pornography Sales	\$4.9 billion

Children Internet Pornography Statistics	
Average age of first Internet exposure to pornography	11 years old
Largest consumer of Internet pornography	35 - 49 age group
15-17-year-olds having multiple hard-core exposures	80 percent
8-16-year-olds having viewed porn online	90 percent (most while doing homework)
7-17-year-olds who would freely give out home address	29 percent
7-17-year-olds who would freely give out email address	14 percent
Children's character names linked to thousands of porn links	26 (Including Pokémon and Action Man)



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 email address through CIPCUG in the form of YourName@cipcug.org may obtain one for \$20 per year.

CIPCUG MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Amount enclosed: _____

Please Print the following information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____, State: _____

ZIP Code: _____

Phone (Home): _____ (Work): _____

E-mail address: _____

User level: Novice ____; Intermediate ____;

Advanced ____

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

Date _____ Member # _____

Channel Islands PC Users Group Inc.

P.O.Box 51354
Oxnard, CA: 93031

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

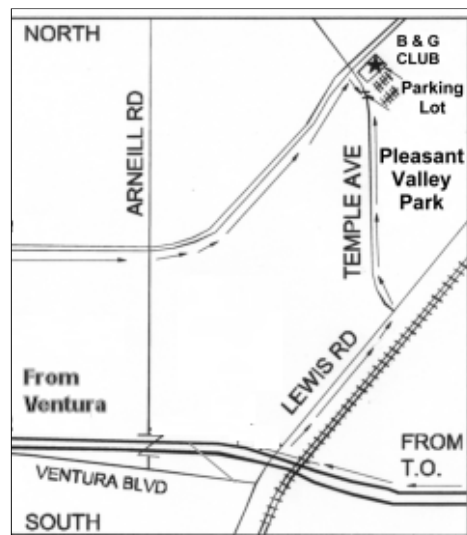
DATED MATERIAL
Please Do Not Delay

DUES REMINDER

If the number above your name is 2012 APRIL, your membership dues are payable in April 2012.

APRIL 2012 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, April 28, at the Boys & Girls Club, 1500 Temple Ave. (Ponderosa Drive and Temple Avenue), Camarillo.

Meeting Schedule:

8:00 a.m.	Doors open
8:45-9:30	Internet and networking SIG, Social Media 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 — Norbert “Bob” Gostischa on “Protecting Yourself and Your Identity” Drawing