★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Attendance at the
April general meeting
57 members and guests
We welcome one new member

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

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: https://www.facebook.com/home.php?
sk=group_198359256868323&ap=1

Reminder: May's meeting is May 21, not May 28

Don't be a week late. The change comes because the Boys & Girls Club has a fundraiser planned on our regular meeting date.

CIPCUG is on Facebook

Channel Islands PC Users Group is now on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_198359256868323&ap=1.

This page is in addition to, not a replacement for, cipcug.org. Come join us for immediate news.

COMMAND.COM
By Rick Curry, President

Our next meeting is one week earlier than usual, on May 21, due to a scheduling conflict with the Boys & Girls Club. Thanks to Toby and Michael for their sudden ad-lib performance at our last meeting. Our scheduled speaker was unable to let us know he was not coming, so that presentation was off the cuff. Well done.

Terms for the pie in the sky offered by clouds remain nebulous

Naturally there are some surprises to be expected with new technology, and we should not be surprised that Yahoo recently hit a bump along the information superhighway and spilled its coffee with its new cloud implementation.

Curry

For those blissfully unaware of Yahoo's recent trouble (and perhaps unaware of "clouds" entirely), there is a push in the market to move some computer services off personal computers in front of a worker to high-powered machines across the Internet. The basic idea of a "service" to handle, for instance, the accounting at a company is an old one. The implementation is now different (there are no longer acoustic modems that you push your telephone handset into for one thing), but the idea of a company assuming another company's responsibility for a computing task is old.

The legal terms for this transfer of responsibility are also quite old and can seem quite harsh by today's standards. Some of this harshness is demanded by the legal requirements of payroll functions in a company. In any case, the penalties for a service company failing to perform payroll functions in a timely manner would typically be quite severe. Extrapolating these terms to the newer cloud model for implementing these services, one would expect harsh terms for failures in Cloud services.

The test failure just happened. Much of the northeast of the U.S. lost its Yahoo Cloud services recently. The failures spread across areas that should have been insulated from each other; the new technology failed to deliver a new feature — completely isolated virtual machines. The failure was severe, many were impacted, and terms of service were violated.

While it was unforeseen that the systems would fail in this particular way,

Root Directory

CIPCUG NEWS

GENERAL

ADVERTISEMENTS

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

Channel Islands PC Users Group

**CIPCUG mailing address:
P.O. Box 51354, Oxnard, CA
93031-1354**

Executive Committee
(Elected members of Board of Directors)

President .... Rick Curry
.... 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
.... Paul Westefer
.... pastpresident@yahoo.com

(Appointed members
of Board of Directors)

Technical Adviser .... Toby Scott
Web Page Editor .... Helen Long
.... webmaster@cipcug.org
TOE editor .... John Weigle
.... editor@cipcug.org
Membership Chairman ...... Ken Church
.... membership@cipcug.org

Ex-officio members of Board of Directors

Chief Protocol Officer ...... George Lakes
CIPCUG ISP Signups .... Art Lewis
Sound Equipment Technicians
.... Jim Burke and David Minkin
Marketing Director .... Ron Pinkerton
Program Chairman .... Craig Ladd
Publicity Chairman .... Paul Westefer
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
(With the exception of the immediate past president, past presidents are not board members.)

Life members

Frank Segesman*
Toby Scott
Lois Evans de Violini
Art Lewis
*Deceased

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.

Coming events

May meeting shifted to third Saturday

Programs

Ivan Randall of Topaz Labs is the scheduled program the May 21 meeting. This month's meeting will be a week earlier than usual because The Boys & Girls Club will have its annual major fundraiser on the regular meeting date. We'll meet as usual at 8:30 p.m. at the Camarillo Boys & Girls Club, 1500 Temple Ave. (Ponderosa Drive and Temple Avenue), Camarillo. (See the map on the last page.)

The doors open at 8:30 a.m. The Internet and Networking SIG and the Hands-On Training meeting (Computing 101) will start at 8:45 a.m. (The Computing 101 SIG might be replaced by a Social Media SIG.)

The Topaz Labs website is at http://www.topazlabs.com.

Other meeting dates this year are:

June 25: Kristen LaBonte from California State University at Channel Islands will discuss digital resources available at the CSUCI library.

July 23
Aug. 27

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.

Sept. 24
Oct. 33
Nov. 19 (third Saturday)
Dec. 17 (third Saturday

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.

Programs still being worked on, but without specific dates yet, are Orv Beach on Libre Office Suite and digital re-

Minutes of the April board meeting

By Diane Mortensen
Secretary

CIPCUG Board of Directors held its monthly meeting on April 23, 2011. In attendance were President Rick Curry, Vice-President Craig Ladd, TOE Editor John Weigle, Helen Long, Tech Advisor Toby Scott, Immediate Past President Paul Westefer and Secretary Diane Mortensen. Also present was David Minkin.

Mortensen

The meeting was called to order by Rick, who asked if there was any old business. There being none, the meeting was opened to new business.

In Art Lewis's absence, Rick read the March 2011 treasurer's report to board members in addition to presenting it in today's business meeting. A copy of the treasurer's report appears elsewhere in TOE.

John elected to prepare the April 2011 regular Q&A session. He also informed the board that due to May's meeting coming a week earlier, on the third Saturday, May 21, 2010, he will need all TOE submissions no later than Sunday, May 1, 2011.

Diane presented an update to the board on the possibility of using the Camarillo Public Library for future CIPCUG meetings. She spoke to Dean Wendel-Smith, library facilities coordinator, who provided additional information the board had requested. This included the cost, deposit, type of equipment available that CIPCUG would need, the minimum/maximum hours of use, the ability to continue offering coffee and donuts, insurance coverage, etc. Mr. Smith suggested that the head librarian, Barbara Wolfe, be approached as to CIPCUG's holding its meetings at the library. If the library sponsored CIPCUG's meetings, the club would be put on the library's regular calendar and have more access to the facilities and possible storage, etc. In addition, the library would promote the meetings with more publicity. This would result in a win-win situation for the club in that it would raise revenue through memberships and provide the public with first-rate computer knowledge and learning sessions. Diane will follow up in contacting the librarian and present her findings to the board at its May meeting.

Rick brought up the fact that his term as president will terminate soon. The board discussed the names of several members who might be interested in serving. Several board members will approach these individuals to determine if

More on coming events ...

sources at Cal Lutheran University library.

SIGs

Except for the Thousand Oaks PC Club Photo Group, the Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are sponsored by CIPCUG and led by volunteer club members.

Unless otherwise noted, the CIPCUG SIGs run from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Ventura County Computers, 2175 Goodyear Ave., Unit 117, Ventura; phone 289-3960. From the 101 Freeway, exit at Telephone, take Telephone south to McGrath, turn left and go one block. Turn right on Goodyear and right again into the second driveway. Unit 117 is the back, right corner of the building.

The pre-meeting SIGs are at 8:45 a.m. at the Boys & Girls Club. The after-meeting SIG is at 1:30 p.m. at The Star, 550 Camarillo Center Drive, Camarillo, although Michael does not plan to have any in May, June or July and might move them to the Camarillo Library when the SIGs resume.

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

Until further notice, the Photo Group is not accepting new members or guests because it is close to outgrowing its meeting room. The TOPCC Photo Group, which meets at 6:30 p.m. at the Thousand Oaks Library, 1401 E. Janss Road, charges $3 per meeting for those who are not members of the Thousand Oaks PC Club. The Web site is http://topcc.org/dnn/SIGsPrograms/PhotoGroup/tabid/65/Default.aspx.

The general schedule:

First Monday (except in months that have holidays on or near the first Monday): TOPCC Photo Group. **It is not taking new members or guests until further notice.**

Fourth Tuesday: Linux.

Fourth Saturday (or the regular meeting day): Hands-on Training (Jessica Scott and Mark Maidel) and Internet and connectivity SIG, 8:45 a.m. Michael Shalkey's after-meeting SIG at The Star, 550 Camarillo Center Drive, Camarillo. **Michael does not intend to have SIGs in May, June or July. The Star's meeting room will not be available in July and October.**

The May and June schedules :

May

Saturday, May 21: Regular meeting, pre-meeting Internet and connectivity SIG.

Tuesday, May 24: Linux SIG. Topic: Upgrading to the newest version of Ubuntu..

June

Saturday, June 25: Regular meeting and pre-meeting SIGs.

Tuesday, June 28: Linux SIG. Topic: TBA

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

More on Command.com ...

it is a normal part of bringing a new product to market, and failures in general were expected. So, how bad was the penalty for Yahoo going to be? Surely Yahoo would have left some room in its contract to avoid penalties while the new technology is still brand new.

Yes, Yahoo has left itself some breathing room in its contracts. It turns out that in the great "dirigibles with computers" model, Yahoo did not book itself a seat on the Hindenburg. Yahoo was only guaranteeing the pieces would be in place, not that the job would get done. Many companies lost their services, but Yahoo may have succeeded in avoiding the penalties.

Yahoo defined its responsibility to be network and computer availability. If the company's payroll software fails, it is not the fault of Yahoo, certainly. It makes sense that a cloud provider must insulate itself from responsibilities for things it has no control over. And thus the camel's nose begins to slip into the tent.

It turns out that Yahoo did a particularly good job of writing its contract, and the only time it is responsible is when its client has completely implemented a series of engineering changes that allow the jobs to be performed on any machine. So when you buy cloud services, you may or may not be actually using those services, depending on whether you have done your homework. And if you are not using the services, you get no assurance your payroll is getting done.

Yahoo has a reasonable position in that it has the need to limit its liability. And businesses want, and perhaps need, to be able to transfer their payroll and other legal liabilities to services with expertise in the field. Perhaps a new set of industries will bridge this liability gap, but for now the responsibility seems to have fallen into a legal abyss.

As this impacts business, it is a safe bet that it will be resolved. Does this mean that software will start coming with anything like a guarantee? I suppose we can always dream about a time when the long legal agreement we must click "I agree" to says something more than "you are on your own" as far as what you can reasonably expect from a program.

I can see a time when certain functions are guaranteed. If the service company puts its machine on your network, then it can start to guarantee some things about how its payroll (or other) service will work. And this can affect us in our home computing if we want certain guarantees; say for instance we want a reliable home banking terminal.

Happy computing!

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

Q&A

Social media SIG debuts at April meeting

Social Media SIG
Reported by John Weigle

(The Social Media SIG started at the April meeting in the regular meeting room, run by Jessica Scott and Mark Maidel. Toby Scott's Internet SIG moved to the small room where the Computing 101 SIG is normally held. It's not clear if this SIG will be every month or periodically throughout the year. — Editor)

The presentation of the SIG was complicated by the fact that the Boys & Girls Club blocks access to Facebook through its network. A workaround used a proxy server, but the connection was not stable, and all Jessica could show was her home page. Some parts of the discussion are illustrated with screen shots from John Weigle's Facebook page.

Jessica began by asking how many people at the meeting use Facebook, and when several members raised their hands, she asked, "Why?" That led to a general discussion and a comparison of older and younger users.

Older users tend to use Facebook to communicate with family members, especially those who don't live in the same community; to keep in touch, or get back in touch, with old friends and classmates; and for business networking or promotion. Younger users — Jessica's generation (she's 25) — are essentially plugged in 24/7, with chat being the primary means of communication, she said. (Unstated was that some parents are on Facebook to monitor the activities of their children's friends and insist that their children allow their parents to friend them so the parent can see postings.)

Facebook is good for promotion of events and activities because it's fast and reliable and makes it easy to organize groups and update pages, she said. Other people use it to let people know what they're doing all the time.

Mark Maidel said that the movie "The Social Network" shows that many people use Facebook and have many reasons for doing so. We learn what we want to learn and decide what to share with others, he said.

A member of the audience said Face-

| This month's Q&A topics:	
Social Media SIG	Epsilon
The format of the Social Media SIG was different than the Internet SIG, so questions are not broken out individually.	Changing text size in Firefox
	Gmail problems in Chrome
	Security Essentials and Safety Scanner
Regular Q&A	Recovering registration keys
PDF files	Malwarebytes scans
Changing video formats	Recovering passwords
Browsers	Outlook archives
	Computer slows down
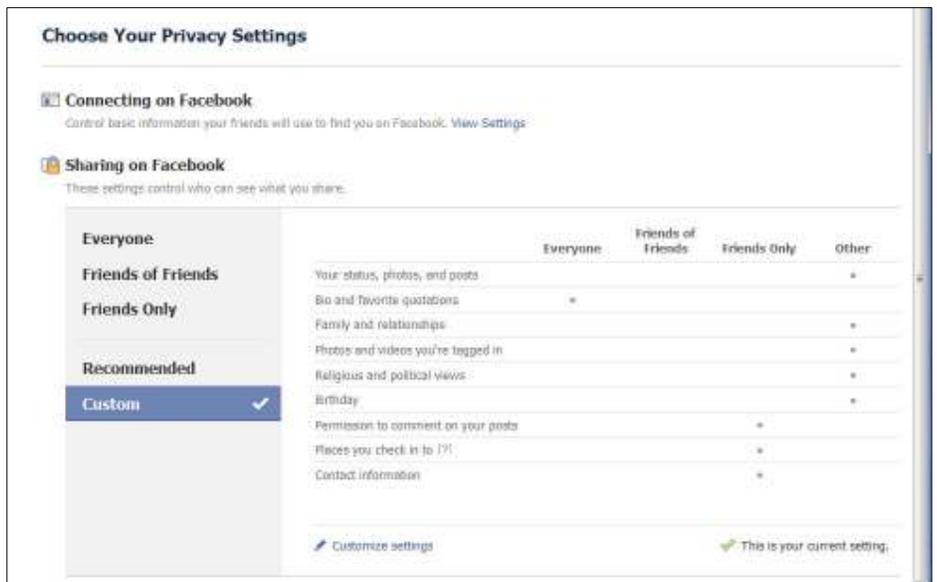
Figure 1: Facebook privacy settings are chosen on this page.

---

book has good and bad features. It's a networking tool and a way to contact many people who live out of state, but it's also dangerous because some people aren't careful about what they post and come home to find their homes burglarized after bragging about their coming two-week vacation in Hawaii.

Mark noted that users can give different levels of access to various visitors by going to their account settings (see Figure 1)

Jessica added that Facebook is good for family networking in addition to posting family pictures and updating activities

Users can also set locations for where they live and then set up groups for people in the same area with similar interests.

In answer to a question, she explained

that users can deactivate their accounts, which freezes them and makes them invisible to visitors. Here are the instructions to deactivate an account as they appear in the Facebook FAQs:

To deactivate your account:

"From your Account dropdown menu, select 'Account Settings.'

"1. At the bottom on your Settings page, click 'deactivate.'

"2. On the next page, take a minute to enter a reason and review settings for legacy content and settings.

"3. Click 'Confirm.'

"When you deactivate your account, your profile and all information associated with it disappears from the Facebook service immediately. Peo-

(Continued from page 5)

ple on Facebook will not be able to search for you or view any of your information.

"If you'd like to come back to Facebook anytime after you've deactivated your account, you can reactivate your account by logging in with your email and password. Your profile will be restored in its entirety (friends, photos, interests, etc.). Remember that you will need to have access to the login email address for your account in order to reactivate it."

When Facebook started, Jessica said, it hadn't clearly thought out its privacy polices, so they have undergone many changes. Users often post alerts when policies change, but it's a good idea to visit the Account Settings > Privacy Settings periodically to check for possible new settings and defaults. Different settings can be established for everyone, friends, friends of friends or other.

A member of the audience said she'd rather not be on Facebook but has to be because some companies she deals with are on it. Company pages are usually selective, Jessica said, so users usually need to have a Facebook account to see them, but that's not always the case.

Jessica said users can pick and choose what information they post about themselves in their profiles and who can see it. Some people lie about some things in their profiles, and some users have several accounts: One could be an account required by an employer; another might be only for friends.

Questions about security prompted Michael Shalkey to say that Facebook users must follow the same common-sense rules that all computer users should follow: Don't blindly click on links in Facebook messages.

Jessica said that some people have figured out ways to post items on a person's home page saying things like, "Text me your email address and I'll send you a free iPhone." She has received responses to such messages, and when frustrated people write and ask when they'll get their iPhones, she replies, "When you go to the store and buy one."

Users can go to the secure Facebook pages (https: rather than http :) by gong to My Account > Account Settings > Ac-

count Security and opting in to Secure Browsing.

Pictures can be posted on Facebook by synchronizing Picasa and other photo album sites with Facebook or by dragging and dropping individual pictures from your hard drive to Facebook. A Share Photo tab appears at the top of the Home page. Jessica suggested searching for "Facebook integration" on photo album pages that you want to share on Facebook to find more information about each application's instructions. A member of the audience said Picasa gives users code to past into Facebook.

Applications that users have accepted show up on the left hand side of the Home page. Many of these link to pages outside Facebook and are probably one of the reasons the Boys & Girls Club blocks access to Facebook. The apps can suck up your life, Jessica said. (The possibility of stalkers and cyberbullies are other possible reasons.)

Michael Shalkey called Facebook a new computer, a new universe, not just a Web page, because it offers programs in addition to the ability to post comments, photos and links.

Asked about requests to be friends, Jessica said such requests don't have to be accepted. If you don't recognize a person's name, you can check the person's profile for more information. Some people block their profiles until you friend them, however. If you don't want to friend someone, simply ignore the request.

She also said users can defriend people, which formerly could be done without notifying the defriended person. Now, however, an application has been developed to notify people when they're defriended, which can make the process a bit more complicated if the person defriended takes offense.

Regular Q&A
Reported by John Weigle

Unless otherwise noted, the following questions were answered by Toby School of Ventura County Computers. Michael Shalkey handled the computer duties and helped answer the qustions. — Editor

PDF files

Toby Scott: We had two questions

during the Internet SIG that we wanted to cover in the regular Q&A so they'd be in TOE.

One concerns PDF files. We've warned you many times during meetings that you need to change the default settings in the Adobe Reader to close gaping security holes. When I downloaded version 10 of Reader, I discovered that Adobe not only still has the holes, but it also resets your preferences to open them up again. You want to turn off JavaScript and uncheck "Allow opening of non-PDF file attachments with external applications."

To turn off JavaScript, go to Edit > Preferences > Java Script and uncheck "Enable Acrobat JavaScript" (see Figure 1 next page). Then go to Trust Manager and under "PDF File Attachments" uncheck "Allow opening of non-PDF file attachments with external applications (see Figure 2, next page).

Adobe has passed Microsoft as the No. 1 purveyor of viruses because of its refusal to change such default settings.

Browsers

The other issue that came up in the Internet SIG is that some Web pages don't display well in newer browsers, especially Opera and Internet Explorer 9. The explanation is that many pages designed for Internet Explorer 5 and 6 were written to use quirks in those browsers that did not comply with Web standards. At the time, it didn't matter much because Microsoft had 90 percent of the browser market. But as other browsers — and now Internet Explorer — have become more compliant, many of those old pages don't display well.

Microsoft is strongly encouraging users to upgrade to at least version 7 of Internet Explorer and even has its own Web site calling for the death of version 6 (www.ie6death.com). Some reviewers say that version 9 is the most standards-complaint of all browsers, but that designation might change regularly as other browsers are updated.

IE 6 is so outdated that now any halfway competent hacker can load it up with viruses if you just visit an infected site with it. Microsoft is dead serious about trying to get people to upgrade to a later
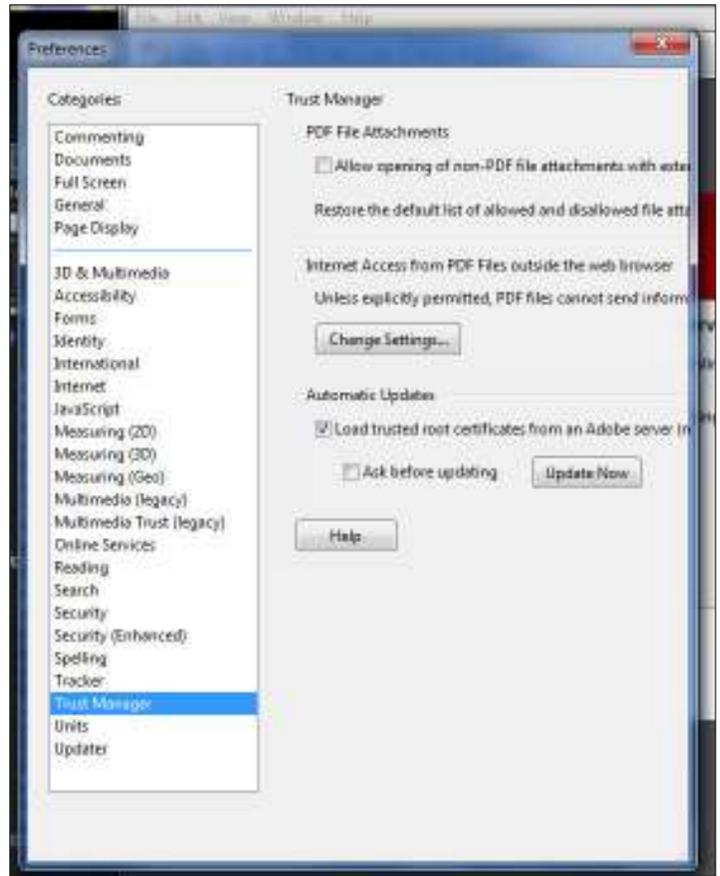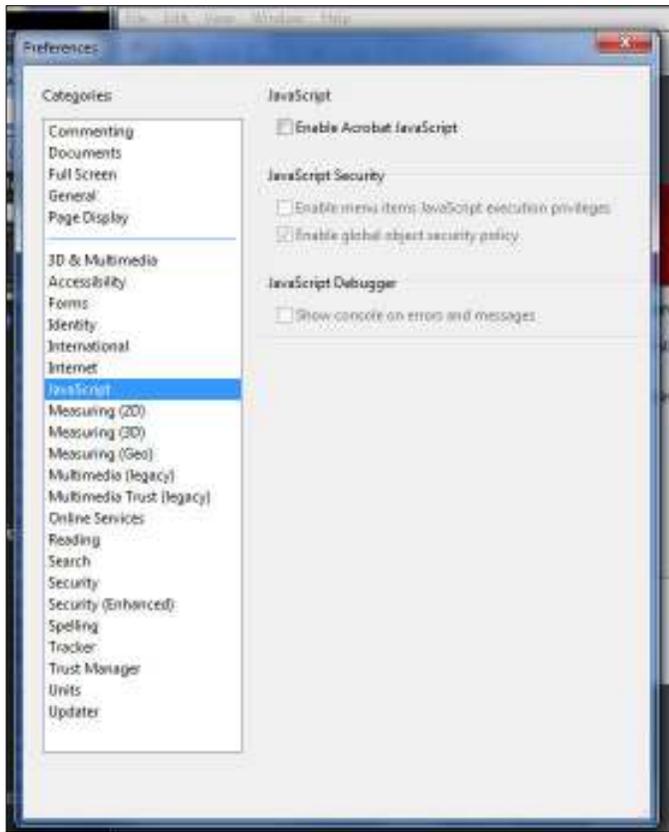
Figure 1 (above): Turn off Java Script here. Figure 2 (right): Stop other files from opening here.

(Continued from page 6)
version, preferably 8 or 9.

Changing video formats

Q: I want to change the format of some videos I have. How can I do it?

A: Michael Shalkey: There are several programs available at download.com. Search for "video converter." Some are free; some are free to try.

Rick Curry said a lot of the programs operate as a shell for a more complex piece of software, but Michael said most people don't suffer problems because of that.

Epsilon

Michael Shalkey: This month's scare story is that Epsilon, a Texas company that handles e-mail messages for more than 2,500 clients, suffered a massive breach of email databases. Companies served by Epsilon include JP MorganChase, Citi, Walgreens, Capitol One, TiVo, Barclays Bank of Delaware, McKinsey & Co., Marriott Rewards, Ritz-Carlton Rewards, New York & Co., Brookstone, L.L. Bean, Ameriprise Fi-

nancial, The College Board, The Home Shopping Network, Lacoste, Disney Destinations, Ralphs, Food 4 Less, Fred Meyer, Fry's, King Soopers, U.S. Bank and City Market.

Although no financial information was obtained, customers' names and e-mail addresses were taken, which means that those customers are likely to get a flood of phishing emails asking them to visit the company's website (a clever fake, of course) and log in so the hackers can collect logins and passwords. There's even a phony Epsilon website established to take advantage of the breach (http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/42622882/ns/technology_and_science-security/42622882).

Beware of emails that appear to be from companies that might have been hacked that ask you to log in to their website. Don't click on the link in any such email. If you want to check with the bank or other company, use the link in your bookmarks or do a Google search for the company and use the link there. The

phony pages will all look very legitimate because the hackers are careful to copy logos and other graphics on to the phony pages.

Audience member: I got one of those emails that appeared to be from the Bank of America and called the bank to check it because I was suspicious. The bank official said no bank would ever send an email asking customers to provide their login and password.

Toby Scott: *No bank will ask you to go to its website and plug in your information.* Such requests are a sure indication of a scam. People can hijack sites and can still get domains with common misspellings of company names (such as Microsfot for Microsoft), although that has become more difficult in recent years.

Email has more and more become a read and delete item, not something that you want to use as a source of links to click. And any email that offers a big free prize, like a car or an iPhone, is a certain fake.

Changing text size in Firefox

Q: I upgraded Firefox and don't know how to change the size of text.

A: The answer is the same for most browsers. Hold down the CTRL key and click the + key on the numerical keypad to make the text bigger; hold down the CTRL key and click the – key on the numerical keypad to make it smaller.

Gmail problems in Chrome

Q: I'm having trouble getting to my Gmail in Chrome.

A: I'd run a spyware and virus scan. If you run into something that should work properly and has worked properly and then doesn't work properly, stop what you're doing and run a scan. If that comes up clean, try uninstalling and reinstalling Chrome. One would think that the Google browser would be optimized for the Google mail.

Michael Shalkey: Microsoft has released new software, Microsoft Safety Scanner (http://www.microsoft.com/security/scanner/en-us/default.aspx), which can be run from a flash drive to use if you know or suspect your anti-virus program has been disabled. It's good for only 10 days at a time because of updates, and it should be downloaded on a computer you don't suspect is infected.

This is not the same as Microsoft Security Essentials, which is installed on your computer and can be updated without downloading the entire program again.

Toby: If you're running AVG because it's a free anti-virus program, replace it with Security Essentials. Michael offered the same advice for users of Avast. Customers running both programs have brought their infected computers into Ventura County Computers, the two said.

Security Essentials and Safety Scanner

Q: So let me get this straight. Security Essentials will run a scan. I don't need the Safety Scanner if I have Security Essentials, right?

A: Don't confuse the two. If you think you might have something that your anti-virus and anti-spyware programs couldn't find, then download the scanner and run it for a second opinion. It's self-contained and so is harder for malware to disable. Run it from a flash drive.

Also, if Spybot finds a bunch of stuff the Safety Scanner can help find it. It's a tool to use if you still think you have something even if other scans say no.

Recovering registration keys

Q: Is it possible to recover registration keys for software from the registry?

A: Yes, but most anti-virus program will block programs that do it because they're considered hacker tools, which they are. See me after the meeting for some ideas, but we're not going to put them in print.

Q: Is a product key the same as a Windows validation?

A: No, but they're related. The Windows validation is a done as a checksum of the key code. If you get a message that your Windows is invalid, you need to call the 800 number and work through the system. When you get the message that your version of Windows is invalid, you'll get an 800 number — 866-530-6599 — to call to rectify the problem. The Windows Genuine Advantage Team can assist you in getting your copy validated.

Michael Shalkey: It's a false positive. You try to validate and get a long code to read to the 800 number. It will then give you a new number to type in to solve the problem.

From the audience: I've had that problem a couple of times, and a reboot solved it,

Malwarebytes scans

Q: I ran a Malwarebytes quick scan. Is that sufficient?

A: Generally, yes. The full scan checks every file on the computer. The quick scan scans every location where spyware has ever been found. If you do regular Malwarebytes scans, you're probably OK. If you get an infection, I'd remove it and then run a full scan. Alternate Malwarebytes and Spybot scans until they both come up clean. Then reboot the computer and run full scans again.

As far as I know, the only difference between the free and paid versions of Malwarebytes is that the paid version runs a continuing real-time scan, which can slow your computer to a crawl. I don't like real-time spyware scans.

Recovering passwords

Q: Is there a program to recover pass-words?

A: Facebook and similar sites have a "forget password?" button to click on to get a new password sent to the email address on record for the site. If it's a password for a program or a file, you're pretty much out of luck. It behooves you to keep passwords in a safe place. I keep mine in OneNote.

Outlook archives

Q: I'm using Outlook 2010 and archived a lot of messages. Now I can't find them in Outlook although I can see them in Windows Explorer.

A: Outlook should recognize any .PST file if you point it to the right folder. You can then open it with Outlook.

Q: I can see it in Explorer but not in Outlook.

A: Check to be sure you didn't mistype a name or add a space to it. Also, Outlook now tries to save files in the My Documents folder, so it is possible that one set of files is in My Documents and the other is in your AppData folder.

Computer slows down

Q: My computer was running slow, and a website said to uncheck everything in MSConfig. I didn't do it because I was suspicious.

A: That was a good decision. Don't ever turn off everything in MSConfig or you'll make your computer unbootable.

Q: I was told to download Power something, and it offered to repair all the problems it found in the registry.

A: Toby and Michael: Uninstall it. Understand that every time you install or uninstall a program the registry is changed. When programs are uninstalled, .DLL files, which are often designed to work with several programs, are often left behind because the uninstaller doesn't know if other programs use the files. Registry cleaners will do one of two things: fix some problems or make your computer not run.

Despite what you hear in commercials, cleaning the registry is not going to fix everything that is slowing a computer down. The only way to make an old computer as fast as it was when it was new is to wipe the drive clean and start all over again, reinstalling Windows and your other software.

Program: Computer news

An Amazon problem and a success discussed

By John Weigle
jweigle@vcnet.com

The announced speaker for April's meeting didn't appear because of a family emergency, so Toby Scott and Michael Shalkey filled in with discussions of news that broke since the last meeting and a continuation of the Q&A session.

Topics covered included an Amazon cloud computing crash, the company's incursion into the music business, PDF files and the future of computing.

Amazon Web Services

Toby said the problems with Amazon's cloud services prompted discussions that cloud computing might need some more work before everyone jumps into it.

Problems began the morning of April 21 with its Elastic Compute Cloud (EC2) operation. Amazon offers several Web services — EC2, which lets users rent virtual computers to run their own applications, including databases that run websites; Elastic Block Storage (EBS), which offers storage space for EC2-related work; and Amazon Simple Storage Service (3S), which provides online storage for anyone. More information about all the services is available at http://aws.amazon.com.

Amazon Web Services has redundant protection — that is, the material is backed up on several servers — but the affected data center in northern Virginia is all at the same site although in several buildings. As of April 24, as this was written, Amazon said it was investigating latency and connective issues. Whatever the cause, EC2 servers in northern Virginia were taken out of commission, knocking out websites for many vendors, including Quora, Reddit, Foursquare and HootSuite, among many others.

Not surprisingly, the problems created lots of talk on blogs and comments on published stories about potential problems with cloud computing and urging everyone who uses it to carefully consider potential pitfalls and possible loss of data.

Many East Coast companies were effectively out of business until the sys-tem was restored, Scott said, and the problems are likely to hurt Amazon's bottom line this quarter. But, he added, Amazon was upfront and about the problems and acted responsibly.

The Amazon issue emphasizes what has been said many times before about individuals and businesses that rely only on online storage for backups of their data.

Carbonite, Mozy and other online backups are valuable, Scott said, but if there is only one backup of data, there is really no backup, he said.

Computer users should have one backup on site (an external drive, DVDs or CDs, depending on the amount of data being protected), and one offsite in case of natural disaster or theft. Microsoft offers online storage via its Windows Live SkyDrive, and other online solutions are available.

"Understand we're in an arena where somebody is inventing it new every month," he said.

"Start thinking about where's your data, how are you backing it up?" he said. "And the cloud is not an automatic backup. Just because they've got servers in 15 locations doesn't mean it's backed up because if the pipe to the locations goes down, you can't get to your data, and it may as well not be backed up. … S3 is an object lesson. It's not backed up unless you have it locally as well as in the cloud, period."

Amazon music

Michael Shalkey said iTunes is the world's largest music seller, having taken the industry over from vinyl records, tapes and CDs. But, he said, it's about to get knocked off by Amazon, the world's largest retailer.

Amazon founder Jeff Bezos has just announced the Amazon Cloud Player (h t t p : / / w w w . a m a z o n . c o m / b ? ie=UTF8&node=2658409011).

A user can upload an entire music collection — whether ripped from your own CDs, tapes and records or the digital music you've bought — to the cloud and then play it on any computer in the world. Users of iTunes can use their music on only five devices (computers, cellphones, for instance) after which they must buy the music again.

Amazon offers users 5 gigabytes of storage, but if they buy a new album each year, they get 20 additional gigabytes of storage for as long as they want it. The Amazon music will work on all the pads and on many cellphones. "This is going to change the world and eat Apple's lunch," Shalkey said.

Google planned to launch a music service but might decide not to now that Amazon has beaten them to the punch, he said.

"The physical copy of the music is not moving," Shalkey said. "This is crucial. You are listening to a copy of yours that you uploaded. You are not listening to someone else's copy."

The player is the crucial part of the Amazon operation because it plays your music streaming from the cloud, Shalkey said.

This may stop lawsuits that would otherwise surely arise from the music industry, which wants you to buy the same music over and over in different formats.

Scott said he has never bought from iTunes and has music that has been in the family since the 1930s that he converted to MP3s and can play anywhere anytime.

"Apple is not happy," Shalkey said.

"But the right one to do it is Amazon," Scott added.

Amazon has servers all over the world, Scott commented.

Radio shows

Q: Can radio shows be stored?

A: Michael Shalkey: Yes, but there's a difference between radio shows that are MP3s and live shows that are streaming. Streaming shows can't be placed on the cloud, but can be listened to through other means, such as Iheartradio, for example, which allows you to listen to more than 750 radio stations live on your iPhone, Android or Blackberry device.

Toby Scott: Lots of music stations don't stream their broadcasts because

(Continued from page 9)

they must pay six times as much per listener over the Internet as they do for over-the-air listeners. "That's the recording industry. They don't want streaming Internet music," he said.

Michael Shalkey: If I want just music, I'd go to Pandora, which I can listen to on many devices.

Toby Scott: Pandora offers pre-selected genres, but after you register you can create your own "radio station." As you listen to music you can click on "thumbs down," and it eliminates that song and music like it. If you press "thumbs up," it programs more of that kind of music. After a short time, it will offer a nicely targeted private radio station.

Pandora has a free version and a paid version.

Michael: It now inserts 15-30 seconds of commercials after six or seven songs, "a lot less commercials than you're going to get on regular stations — and, of course, no pledge drives."

Compression

Q: How is the quality on the MP3s?

A: MP3 is a lossy compression algorithm, which lowers the quality of the music a bit. You can't tell the difference on cellphones, MP3 players and ear buds, but you can in a nicely tuned room with a home theater and top-of-the-line speakers or headphones.

Beginning of Amazon

Toby Scott: When Amazon began, there were about five book distributors in the country. Companies would order from them, and companies that had branch offices could order and have the book sent directly to a store. Amazon's Jeff Bezos wondered what would happen if the final customer was the "bookstore." Amazon would have a shopping cart and take payments and order the books to be sent to the customers.

Bezos approached the publishers, all of whom ultimately agreed. Amazon hired programmers to develop the shopping cart system, spending more than $1 billion for programming to beat the rest of the market by about six months.

That ties in to the decision for the music player. Amazon has the servers, the software, and everything else needed to do what it wants to do. It's had a couple

of missteps, Scott said, but the rest has been pretty much on the mark. It will lock people into buying music from Amazon to keep the online storage.

PDF printer files

A member of the audience said he got a 1,400-page manual in PDF form and wanted to print just the English-language portion of the manual. He couldn't delete the pages he didn't want but used a PDF printer and told Acrobat to print the pages he wanted to a new PDF.

Then he printed the pages from the new PDF. The print driver shows up when you hit the Print command in any program.

Scott agreed, saying, a PDF printer drive "is really, really handy."

One such program, PDFCreator, is on the CIPCUG flash drive, although a later version is available at sourceforge.net. These PDF files are not editable, but that's normally fine for most users, Scott said.

Future of computing

A questioner said he's seeing a need to learn new languages and details about many more devices than just computers to get along in today's digital world.

Scott said the key to changes is the need for a more powerful processor than we have on all but the newest desktops because everything is going to move to voice recognition.

With usable voice recognition, a person can use a cellphone as a computer, he said. Everything else is stopgap, he said.

Michael Shalkey: We used to discuss just computers in this club, but today many other things use chips. I don't think the desktop computer will go away in the next 20 years, however.

One member suggested listening to Leo La Porte on KFI radio from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays to learn about many of the other items discussed.

Scott said it's not necessary to learn about everything else. When you see us getting close to a big change, home in on it. But if you have no reason to go on
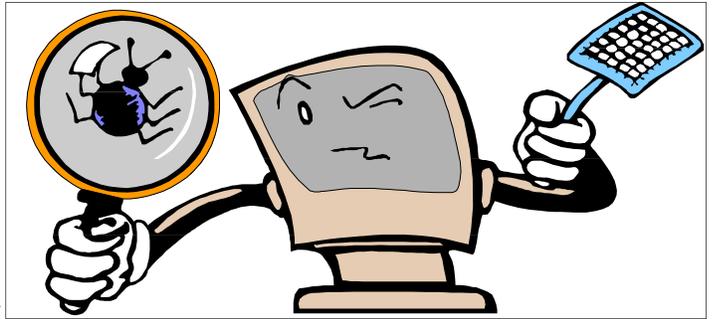
Facebook, for instance, don't worry about it.

Companies and geeks will still want desktop computers, he said, but home work station sales are going down every year and will probably continue to do so. Jessica Scott, for example, hasn't turned her desktop on for months. She does everything on the cellphone, he said. We'll have to reach the point where data is in at least two locations, he added.

The same questioner noted that cellphones can be tracked almost all the time, and department stores can beam ads at him as walks by displays. He's found that his grandchildren don't even use phones but use Twitter instead.

Toby said he believes most of the people in the room don't do texting. He tells people who want to contact him to send an email or use the telephone. Users can set up texting on their computers, but kids who text expect an answer within 30 seconds, he commented.

Michael said he would have a SIG on Twitter after the meeting at the Camarillo Library. He called Twitter a way to get almost instant response from companies that are criticized in a Tweet. Companies watch for messages that include their names and respond quickly to criticisms, he said.

(After the meeting, he reported: The afternoon SIG at the Library went well. Their "Group study" rooms have a NO RESERVATION policy but are first come, first served. There is also a policy that if you are alone in a room and two or more people come, you must leave and give the room to the group. This worked perfectly. Perhaps we can hold more SIGS here in the future.

(Of course there will be a limit of five attendees to the SIG, but that is about average for Michael's afternoon SIGS.)

Rick's rant

Smith

LizaMoon attack: This was not an April fool's Joke, or maybe it was….

By Rick Smith
rants@vcmail.net

Liza Moon sounds benign — maybe a female singer or a movie star, but don't be fooled. It's the name attached to a cyberattack that, according to PC World Magazine, compromised more than 1 million websites starting March 29.

PC World, attributing the information to Websense, said the attack was discovered at the website lizamoon.com, hence its name. PC World said some experts called the attack "one of the biggest mass-injection attacks we've ever seen," wrote Sarah Jacobsson Purewall.

The attack adds an infected script to a website to direct visitors to a rouge AV site. The rouge site "tries to get people to install a fake antivirus program called Windows Stability Center," the magazine said.

"The attack continues to rampage across the Internet, and currently doesn't show any signs of slowing down," the magazine reported April 1. So don't install any web-based antivirus software that claims your computer is full of bugs."

In a follow-up blog later in the day, blogger Tony Bradley quoted Websense as saying the attack does not indicate a weakness in Microsoft SQL Server. "Everything points to [the likelihood] that this is a vulnerability in a web application. We don't know which one(s) yet but SQL Injection attacks work by issuing SQL commands in un-sanitized input to the server. That doesn't mean it's a vulnerability in the SQL Server itself, it means that the Web application isn't filtering input from the user correctly," a Websense FAQ said.

Bradley said the attack should not be a danger to careful computer users. When visitors reach the rogue AV site, they get a pop-up warning that the PC is infected. Users who click OK start a fake scan that results in a message that many malware threats have been detected. If users click on "Remove All" to get rid of the supposed threats, they download the rouge AV software.

"There is no reason that any user should ever fall for a rogue AV scam," Bradley writes. "You should know whether or not you have AV software installed. If you do, you should be familiar enough with it to recognize what the alert messages and system scan look like. More importantly, when the malware gets to the point where it requires payment to download the full version of the rogue AV alarm bells should be going off in your head."

If you don't have AV software installed, you should be asking yourself where the warning is coming from, he continues. Further, he says, when the malware asks you to pay for software to fix the infection, "you should ask yourself, 'if my PC has software that was able to detect the threat, then scan for and identify the malware on my system, why do I now have to pay to download something else to fix it?' "

It has since been determined that the hacker has been tracked down to 91.220.35.151 (now PLEASE don't go punching that IP address into your Web browser). Sheesh, I had to say that just in case. OK, his registered name is Rusnak Vasil Victorvich in the Ukraine. I'm beginning to think that these people are making so much money right now that they can afford to hire some of the good talent that's out there. These guys are continually thinking up new ways to get around your good old antivirus program. I wonder about the timing of this on April 1. It seems these criminals aren't lacking a sense of humor.

Let me share with you a real-life scenario. Someone I know got infected with a real nasty version of this kind of software. The person completely deleted everything on the PC and started over.

I got the website info that my client visited and went to it to see what would happen. It was bad! My first clue was that Norton Antivirus said I was being attacked. Next thing a pop-up showed up saying I was infected. I immediately tried to execute Windows Task Manager to identify the process and stop it, but when I hit CTRL-ATL-DEL to open the prompt to launch it, it was gone. The other prompts were there: Lock the Computer, Switch User, Log Off, Change a Password. The next choice should have been Task Manager, but it just wasn't there. When I canceled and went to my desktop, it was gone, too.

I disconnected from the Net and checked my personalization, and the control to change my wallpaper was gone also. I then clicked on my Start menu, and it reverted to Windows Classics Style, and all my program groups and Icons were gone. I right clicked on the only thing I had left, which was the Start Button and selected Explore. I clicked on my "C," drive and it was empty.

My Lord, in one fell swoop my entire PC was rendered useless and inoperative. At this point I decided to reboot to see what would happen! It took a long time after the initial Windows startup icon, and then it just rebooted. Ooops, this isn't good, I thought. Did this thing actually delete most of my hard drive? Can I ever recover from this?

I started it up again, and this time it did boot. No wallpaper, no programs, no icons and no Task Manager. Hmmm! I restarted in safe mode and found the process that was running and deleted it. I

Ubuntu 11.04 – Natty Narwhal

By Bill Wayson

bwayson@gmail.com

It is April, and spring is in the air. Well, maybe. But for many, April means a new version of the Ubuntu operating system. This year, Ubuntu 11.04, nicknamed Natty Narwhal, was released on April 28. As this is being written, Ubuntu users all around the globe are upgrading their PCs over the Internet. While all those PCs chug away downloading and installing Natty, we'll take a look at what's new and improved in this latest incarnation of Ubuntu.

Penguin's Lair

Wayson

As with new versions of all software, Ubuntu 11.04 includes all the obligatory new versions of the Linux kernel and applications. I will highlight some of the important upgrades in a bit, but first we will touch on Unity. Without doubt, the centerpiece feature of 11.04 is the new user interface called Unity.

Unless the PC's hardware just won't support it, Unity becomes the new default graphical environment for Ubuntu. If the classic Gnome interface is preferred, it can easily be chosen at login. But Mark Shuttleworth and Canonical, the founder and company behind Ubuntu, have made clear their intention of moving to Unity as the default user interface for Ubuntu and have declared that it will be the only option under 11.10, the next version of Ubuntu. This is a significant break with the Gnome community, which heretofore has developed the Ubuntu user interface, and the decision raised many hackles from the community beginning at the time of the announcement. Many are anxious to see if Ubuntu users actually prefer Unity over classic Gnome. By the time the LINUX SIG meets in May, we may know the answer to this question.

I discussed Unity in an earlier column, and it appears to have evolved and matured in the intervening months. Unity clearly illustrates a belief that personal computing devices will become more portable, and that your interaction with them will increasingly occur through touching a screen. However, Unity remains quite usable with a keyboard and mouse. Unity sports a new vertical application launcher bar, called the Launcher, parked on the left side of the screen. The launcher displays icons for the most commonly used applications, like the browser and word processor. If there are more icons than can be displayed at once, it will scroll up and down as you move your mouse cursor to the lower and upper extremes of the panel.

The hierarchical menu of application groups and applications that usually appears when you press a Start-like button is replaced by a dialog window called Dash. Dash displays common groups of applications as folders, which you can navigate and select, or you can use the search field at the top. Start typing in the field, and, as you type, results that begin with the text you've typed appear in the lower part of the window, very much like using Web search engines such as Google.

More Rick's rant ...

was able to edit the registry and find the key and remove it also.

I restarted and the bug was gone, but my system was devastated. I hooked back up to the Internet and got Internet Explorer to start and went to work on my poor pitiful PC. I first went to the registry and to:

HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Policies and set disable task manager Hexadecimal value from a 1 to 0. Ahhh, now I have Task manager.

Next, I went to; HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Policies\System and fixed the wallpaper problem. Ahhh, my beautiful wallpaper was back.

Finally, I went to Windows Explorer and told it to show hidden files and, lo and behold, there were my files. They were dimmed out but now accessible.

On the Web:

The Websense FAQ is at community.websense.com/blogs/securitylabs/archive/2011/03/31/update-on-lizamoon-mass-injection.aspx?cmpid=sltw.

The PC World blogs are at:
www.pcworld.com/article/223995/millions_of_sites_hit_with_massinjection_cyberattack.html
and
www.pcworld.com/businesscenter/article/224125/lizamoon_attack_what_you_need_to_know.html.

A YouTube video showing the rogue program at work is at:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=wKI5dg1cs74&feature=player_detailpage

I clicked on each folder, selected Properties and saw they were marked Hidden. I unselected that and applied it to all subfolders.

Slowly but surely as I went from folder to folder revealing my files my PC started acting Like HAL being reactivated in "2010: Odyssey Two."

Finally, my PC was restored. What an ordeal! I will probably never attempt this again, at least not with my own PC. Maybe yours though.

At least I know that I have passed the test. I have passed through the fire and not been burned. My skills are complete.

Maybe I should take some hallucinogenic drugs and wait for a vision. I could write a book and do a tour. Become a highly paid speaker and travel the world as some sort of prophet for profit. Start my own reality show …

(Editor's note: At this point I feel it's wise to cut Rick off — and to add the usual warning: Don't try this at home. Editing the registry can be dangerous if you don't know what you're doing.)

(Continued from page 12)

Linux has for years supported multiple workspaces, which you can think of as multiple separate virtual screens, each with its own set of running applications and personalization. Unity provides a workplace switcher that, unlike the switchers in other distributions, shows all of your workspaces along with the windows of applications running and open documents in each one. You can more easily choose a workspace to switch to, plus you can drag applications and documents from one workspace to another.

Unity is a major change in the way users interact with their computers, and it is a young piece of software. It will take some time and learning to become comfortable with it. The Ubuntu project remains committed to Unity, but it has already become a source of controversy and consternation for Ubuntu users. This is not so surprising since computer users often are quite opinionated and resistant to change. It will be interesting to watch this issue resolve itself.

Unity is not the only thing new in 11.04, but I do find it interesting how low key and, well, minimal these new and

> "Unity is a major change in the way users interact with their computers, and it is a young piece of software. It will take some time and learning to become comfortable with it."

upgraded features are. There is a new kernel, of course, along with new versions of Gnome (which runs underneath Unity), Firefox (4.x), and other applications. As promised, LibreOffice replaces Open Office as the office application suite. There's a new default media player, Banshee, but that little affects most users. Other than these changes, there's not much to trumpet. Even the artwork — window decorations, wallpapers, and the like — are pretty much the same as those in Ubuntu 10.10, so it looks very similar to the previous version. Given its front and center position in Natty Narwhal, it is not a stretch to characterize 11.04 as the Unity Release of Ubuntu. That's not to say there is no reason for Ubuntu users to

upgrade. The new kernel alone provides sufficient reason, and it won't cost anything to do so.

The Ubuntu 11.04 release is one that will stand out for Linux users for some time to come. Whether its significance becomes one of notoriety or celebration is still being worked out. If nothing else, the process will provide a showpiece illustration of the community nature of free and open source software projects because the collective judgment of the Ubuntu community will be the one that prevails.

If you have questions or would like to learn more about Linux and FOSS, come to the May Linux SIG meeting on Tuesday, the 24th. at 6:30 p.m. at Ventura County Computers in Ventura.

The CIPCUG Ubuntu PC will be upgraded — come see how well we do with that. While that is occurring, we will try to answer questions about Ubuntu, Linux, and FOSS. See the CIPCUG website for more information.

If you have a question or topic you would like the Lair or Linux SIG to cover, drop me a line at bwayson@gmail.com. Until next month, happy computing.

Members' classified ads

For sale

Wanted

Other categories as needed

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.

The Outer Edge is printed and prepared for mailing by:

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

Desktop Gadgets in Windows 7

By Lee Reynolds
Contributing Editor, Boca Raton Computer Society, FL
April 2011 issue, Boca Bits
www.brcs.org
leetutor (at) exploringwindows.com

Introduction

Windows Vista introduced a new feature called the Sidebar, which was a narrow section of your Desktop where you could have small applications running called Gadgets. These Gadgets could be moved out of the Sidebar and anchored somewhere else on your Desktop, if you wished, but still the Sidebar application had to be running.

More on minutes ...

they would be interested in being president for the two-year term.

Craig stated that he had heard from Roy Morris from IT Security, the speaker scheduled for today's meeting. Evidently, there was a family emergency making it impossible for him to come, but he would be willing to come at a date to be decided. Other speakers Craig has lined up are Ivan Randall from Topaz Labs and in June, Kristen Labonte from the Cal State Channel Islands library.

Craig read a letter from Arline and George Lakes, CIPCUG founding members. Apparently, both are not able to attend meetings because of poor health. The board unanimously agreed that the club would arrange to have a bouquet of flowers delivered to the Lakes with a card letting them know that their long-time services for CIPCUG have been most appreciated. Paul stated that he would arrange to have flowers and a card delivered to the Lakes.

Craig also brought up the fact that the Southwest Computer Conference this year will be held in San Diego on the weekend of June 3-5 and that early registration is due in before May 16. The board discussed possible individuals who might be interested in attending this year's conference. Craig indicated he was interested in going and Diane asked John if he would be interested in attending. If John and no other persons want to attend, Diane would be pleased to represent CIPCUG at the conference. In that the registration due date comes before the May meeting, a decision needs to be made before that time.

Toby announced that it would be a good idea for CIPCUG to have Facebook and Twitter pages. This would not replace CIPCUG's website. The Board agreed and Toby will create CIPCUG accounts for Facebook and Twitter.

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

Meeting will be early this month on May 21

Don't forget we meet on the third Saturday instead of the fourth Saturday this month. The Boys & Girls Club has its annual fundraiser on our regular meeting date this month. Make sure your calender has you scheduled for Saturday, May 21.

A very important questions came up about Adobe Reader and viruses. Be sure to pay attention to it. It has to do with giving Adobe and/or Java Script authority to open attachments to your PDF files. This is an open door for viruses. Look for

Bits & Bytes

Long

it in this month's Q&A. I'm sure that Toby tells you step by step in this issue of TOE. He pointed this out in complete detail how to block this in the December 2010 TOE on page10. If you can't find your newsletter, they are all on the website.

Toby also recommended that those of you who insist on using IE should be sure

you are using version 7, 8 or 9. Older versions are security nightmares. which can create all sorts of problems.

He also stressed the importance of keeping accurate records when you are in a site that requires various and sundry details as well as a password. He mentioned MS OneNote is an excellent password keeper.

HAVE YOU RUN YOUR ANTI-SPYWARE PROGRAM LATELY?

More on Desktop Gadgets ...

(Continued from page 14)

In Windows 7, there is no longer any Sidebar, but Desktop Gadgets are still present, and you set them up in a new Control Panel applet of the same name. (In Windows Vista, the Sidebar was on by default, whereas in Windows 7 there is no Sidebar, and any Gadgets you want must be configured in Control Panel.)

Windows 7 Gadgets

The Gadgets present in Windows 7 are the same as those provided by Vista, with an additional one that is connected to Windows Media Center. These Gadgets are mini-applications designed to use web technology so as to provide real-time

access to information of one type or another available through the internet. The built-in Gadgets are these:

A calendar application, which shows the month, day, year, and day of week. If you click it, you will see the entire month.

A clock, which can be configured to show one of eight clock faces and any time zone.

A CPU meter, which shows two analog style dials measuring current memory usage and CPU utilization.

A currency converter.

A headline feed of RSS feeds that you are subscribed to via Internet Explorer/

A Media Center gadget that shows a

revolving set of links to various parts of Windows Media Center.

A weather gadget, which can be configured for any location in the world.

A stocks gadget for tracking stocks.

A picture puzzle, where you slide tiles around against a timer.

A slide show gadget for showing the photos you configure for it.

There are many other gadgets that can be downloaded from the internet and installed, if you so desire.

Windows 7 Gadget Options

If you click on the Show Desktop area

Programmer Karen Kenworthy dies

Users of Karen's Power Tools, small free programs by Karen Kenworthy, received this e-mail from her brother this month announcing her death. — Editor

Dear Friends, I suspect that many of you have noticed that the last issue of Karen's Power Tools Newsletter was dated March 17, 2010, and you may have been anxiously awaiting another.

It is with great sadness that I write to tell you of Karen's death on April 12, 2011, after a long struggle with several debilitations, including diabetes. I know that Karen touched many of you with her kindness, wit, creativity and encouragement. She was a loving daughter, sister, aunt and friend. And she was a pretty

darned good programmer, too. We are deeply grieving her loss.

For now, Karen's server is still running, the programs she has written can still be downloaded, and donations can still be made through the website. We are also working to fill all CD orders that have been submitted or mailed.

It is difficult to make business decisions while grieving. So, at this point, I cannot say what will be the future of KarenWare.com, except to say that we will certainly continue Karen's commitment to safeguard your privacy as shown at the privacy link of KarenWare.com.

Many of you have already written many kind words of condolence and com-

fort. Please know that we greatly appreciate you. If you care to make a contribution in her honor, she was a long-time supporter of The Dohnavur Fellowship, a special children's ministry in southern India. You can learn more about them at www.DohnavurFellowship.org.

All we ask is that you remember her whenever you take the case off of your computer, contemplate removing entries from your Windows Registry, listen to Bob Wills or Riders in the Sky, or wave and say "Hi!" to anyone on the Net.

May God richly bless you, as He has all those who knew Karen.

**Bill Kenworthy,
Karen's brother**

We all know better than to do these things, right?

In theory, most members of CIPCUG or any other computer users group should never end up with malware on their computers unless they purposely put it there. All of us in CIPCUG have been warned time and time again that, just for a start, it's *not* a good idea to:

● Blindly click on links in emails.

● Blindly click on links on social media pages.

● Never worry about where we go on the Web because we're the good guys, and, besides, we don't have any information anyone would want.

Editor's corner

Weigle

● Rush to answer what appears to be a message from our financial institutions to log in to what is supposed to be their website and supply our user name and login password.

● Ignore updates to our operating system, our antivirus program, and our other malware-detection programs.

● Open email attachments, especially if they concern a package from us that couldn't be delivered when we haven't set any packages recently.

● Use old, insecure browers while surfing the Web.

● Download material from questionable file-sharing sites or because an unsinged, or phony message, says we'd really love this software or photo or video.

But I'd be willing to bet that almost every member has, at one time or another, done at least one of those things without thinking or because we weren't paying attention to an error message or something else on the screen or because we were really curious about a specific link in a specific message. With luck, we didn't get an infection, although we might have gotten a shock from something that showed up on the screen.

Although operating a computer isn't the same as driving a 16-wheeler on a crowded highway, it still requires a certain amount of thought and paying attention to what you're doing. I once deleted — or almost deleted; it was a long time ago — the files in my DOS directory with the "del *.*" command. For those of you who never used DOS, that translates to delete every file in this directory. As I said, it was a long time ago, and I don't remember if I realized what I was doing just before hitting ENTER or if I had to reinstall DOS. Either way, it was not a good idea.

— **John Weigle, editor**

2011 contributors to The Outer Edge

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

Ken Church, Rick Curry, Bob de Violini, Bill Kenworthy, Jeff Levy, Art Lewis, Helen Long, Dick Maybach (APCUG), Diane Mortensen, Sr.

Dorothy Robinson (Editor, Olympia Microcomputer Users Group, WA), SANS Institute, Sharon Parq Associates Inc., Toby Scott, Michael Shalkey, Rick Smith, Smart Computing magazine, US-CERT, Bill Wayson, John Weigle, Jonathan Wylie, Worldstart computer tips,

Treasurer's report for March 2011

By Art Lewis
treasurer@cipcug.org

Lewis

3-1-2011 through 3-31-2011

Category Description

INFLOWS		
Coffee income		26.50
Donation		16.00
ISP income		15.00
Membership Income		
Renewals	380.00	
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP		380.00
Raffle		10.71
TOTAL INFLOWS		**448.21**
OUTFLOWS		
Corporate expense		20.00
Membership expense		5.45
Rent Paid		150.00
TOE		210.62
TOTAL OUTFLOWS		**386.07**
OVERALL TOTAL		**62.14**
Unrestricted Funds		6,467.46
Restricted Funds		0.00
Bank Balance 3-31-11		**6,467.46**
Year to Date Income		4,347.55
Year to Date Expense		4,985.35
Net Year to Date		-637.80

More on Gadgets ...

of the Taskbar in Windows 7 (a narrow rectangular area on the extreme right end), then you will see the Desktop with its gadgets (if any.) In Windows Vista, when you clicked on the Show Desktop icon of the Quick Launch Bar, the Gadgets were not visible.

Gadgets can be shown on your Desktop in Windows 7 even if you are not on line with an Internet connection, but they will in this case feature a time stamp, which shows how out of date the associated data is. Some of the Gadgets, e.g., the Calendar, can be toggled between various sizes. Some of them have touch capabilities for those users who have a touch screen attached to their PC.

Membership report:

Is it time to renew?

By Ken Church
email address: *membership@cipcug.org*

CHURCH

Welcome to new member Howard Gaberson

Attendance at the April 2011 general meeting: 57 members and guests

Total membership: 196

MEMBER RENEWAL INFORMATION
$30 for single membership,
$35 for two or more family membership.

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

Please send your payment to:

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

Or bring your payment to the sign-in table for the May 21, 2011, meeting.

March 2011 renewals payment due:

Mbr#	Last Name	First Name	Pd to Dt
0544	Beardshear	Paul	201103
1233A	Cadinha	Frank	201103
1233B	Cadinha	Marilyn	201103
1003	Casey	Richard	201103
1227A	Chapman	Bob	201103
1227B	Chapman	Louise	201103
1171	Corser	Caroline	201103
1196T	Smith	Chuck	201103
1050	Wennerholm	Ernest	201103
1051	Wennerholm	Naomi	201103

April 2011 renewals payment due:

Mbr#	Last Name	First Name	Pd to Dt
0776	Darnielle	Jack	201104
1174A	de Violini	Karen	201104
1174	de Violini	Robert	201104
0964	Faue	Warren	201104
0830	Kiceniuk	Taras	201104
0965	Kreitzer	Shlomo	201104
0757	MacArthur	James	201104
1084	Martinez	Sam	201104
0768	Nifong	Bob	201104
0142	Peck	Darrell	201104
0452T	Simon	Hal	201104
0216	Thompson	Bob	201104
0966	Wright	Margaret	201104
0967	Wright	Ward	201104

May 2011 renewals payment due:

Mbr#	Last Name	First Name	Pd to Dt
0207	Birkenshaw	JJ	201105
0691	Harmon	Richard	201105
0774	Hoffman	LaVern	201105
0335	Hudson	Larry	201105
1228	Hynes	Bob	201105
0943	Kiess	Jerry	201105
0692	Maidel	Mark	201105
0692A	Maidel	Norma	201105
1175	Makuch	Michael	201105
1175A	Makuch	Suzanne	201105
1065	Nicholes	Mike	201105
0454	Provenza	Richard	201105
1234	Saal	Fred	201105
0211	Weigle	John	201105
0697	Widney	Fred	201105

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

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

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

F1—Your Help Key
(Revised Sept. 7, 2008)

COMMUNICATIONS/INTERNET (GENERAL)
World Wide Web   DM

DATABASES
Access   BR

DOS   RP

E-MAIL
Outlook   MS
Outlook Express   BR, DM
Thunderbird   MS

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

SPREADSHEETS
Microsoft Excel   DM

WORD PROCESSING
Microsoft Word   DM
WordPerfect   DM

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

· ·

WEB HELP SITES (Updated 4-5-11)
   Annoyances Central blog (from authors of the O'Reilly Annoyances series, including Steve Bass): www.annoyancescentral.com
   Steve Bass TechBite Newsletter registration page: www.techbite.com
   DSL reports: www.dslreports.com
   Steve Gibson: www.grc.com
   Kim Komando: www.komando.com
   Leo Laporte: www.leoville.com
   Jeff Levy: www.jefflevy.com
   Linux distributions: www.DistroWatch.com
   Microsoft: www.microsoft.com
   OnhGuard Online: http://www.onguardonline.gov
   Online safety tips: www.OnGuardOnline.gov
   PC Pitstop: www.pcpitstop.com
   PC World: www.pcworld.com
   Recalled products: www.recalls.gov
   SANS Institute — Computer Security Education and Information Security Training: www.sans.org
   Smart Computing: www.smartcomputing.com
   Spyware Warrior: www.spywarewarrior.com
   User Group Relations (Gene Barlow): www.ugr.com
   Ventura County Computers (Rick and Toby's shop): www.vccomputers.com
   Virus Bulletin: www.virusbtn.com/index
   Windows Secrets: www.windowssecrets.com
   Windows The Official Magazine (UK): www.officialwindowsmagazine.com/

If you have a favorite help site on the Web, please forward it, so we can expand the section. If you find a link that doesn't work, please tell us that, too.
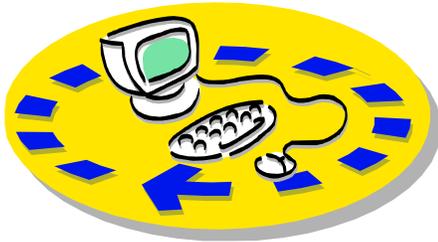
Why join Channel Islands PC Users Group (CIPCUG)?

Every month, members of the Channel Islands PC Users Group have access to:

♦ The Outer Edge newsletter, which includes a list of members willing to help other members.

♦ The general meeting, featuring a question-and-answer session and program on new software or hardware.

♦ Special Interest Groups — special meetings held several times a month.

♦ Door prizes at the regular meeting. Other benefits include:

♦ Special user group discounts on books and software.

♦ A flash drive containing many useful freeware programs.

♦ A chance to make friends with people who have similar interests.

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

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

Please make checks payable to CIPCUG.

Dues for new members

Individual member, $40.

Family membership (same address), $55.

Renewals are $30 and $35 per year respectively.

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

CIPCUG E-MAIL ADDRESS

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

CIPCUG MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Amount enclosed: _____

Please Print the following information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____, State:_____

ZIP Code: _____

Phone (Home): _____(Work): _____

E-mail address: _____

User level: Novice _____; Intermediate _____;

Advanced _____

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

Date _____ Member # _____

Channel Islands PC Users Group Inc.

P.O.Box 51354
Oxnard, CA: 93031

DATED MATERIAL
Please Do Not Delay

DUES REMINDER

If the number above your name is 2011MAY, your membership dues are payable in May 2011.

MAY 2011 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.
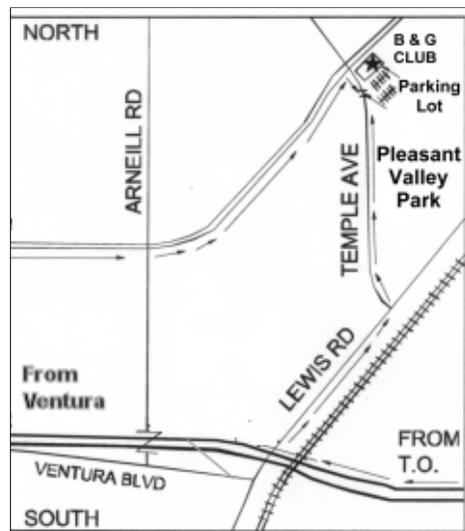
Saturday morning, May 21, at the Boys & Girls Club, 1500 Temple Ave. (Ponderosa Drive and Temple Avenue), Camarillo.

Meeting Schedule:
8:30 a.m.	Doors open
8:45-9:30	Internet and networking SIG, Hands-on Training
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 — Topaz Labs
	Drawing