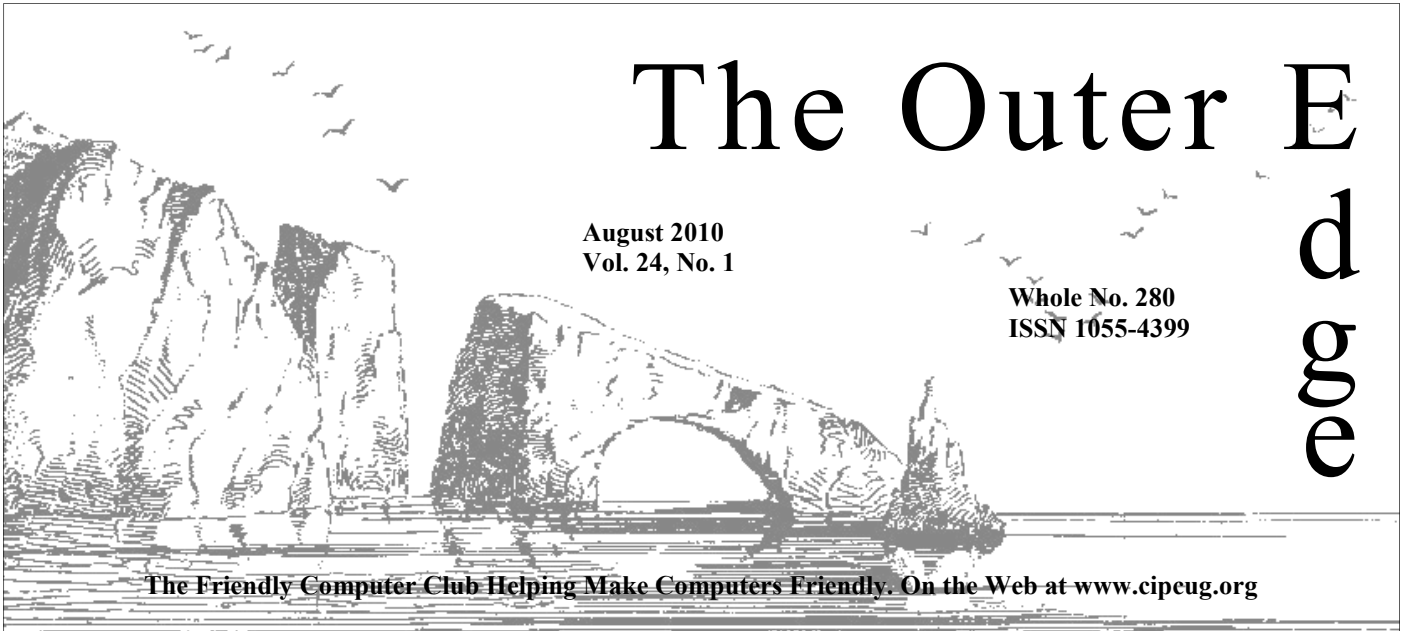


The Outer Edge

August 2010
Vol. 24, No. 1

Whole No. 280
ISSN 1055-4399



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

Attendance at the
July general meeting
72 members and guests

To Contact CIPCUG

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93031-1354

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COMMAND.COM

By Rick Curry, President

Thanks to Aaron Gaston of Infogrip (www.infogrip.com) for his demonstrations and presentations of some of the incredibly powerful modern assistive technology products. Infogrip also carries ergonomic products, such as the VerticalMouse.

Finicky Flash

I think that much of what I am about to say was covered in the Q&A session at the last meeting, but the problem is important enough that I want to make my own attempt to describe it.



Curry

Flash is a special sort of movie player program that runs inside your browser. It usually opens a rectangular window inside the browser. Often a video advertisement, a movie clip, television clip, or a flashing repetitive cadence of words will be in this rectangle. It can also be complex enough to play a video game.

Toby has shown us how to block Flash using the NoScript add-on to the Firefox browser because Flash can be a source of continuous nuisance in the form of distracting images and sounds as well as being powerful enough to serve as a way for malicious programs to get inside your computer.

Alas, with all of its faults, many useful websites will not run without Flash. There will almost certainly be times when you find yourself telling NoScript that it is OK at a particular website (like your bank). So we want to have Flash installed.

Much like Windows or other programs, Flash gets updated to fix problems and introduce new features. Fortunately, Flash is configured to automatically tell you when it needs to be updated. Unfortunately, the nether-world of Internet-based thieves has come up with ways to pop up a window that look just like Flash telling you to update.

So if a window pops up and tells you to update Flash, treat it like a phishing scam where someone is pretending to be your Bank and is sending you a false link. Do not do what it says to do. Close that window and ignore the instructions just the way you would ignore the email message that tells you:

HI! WE ARE YOUR BANK!

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

The Outer Edge

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QUARTER-PAGE (4½"H x 3½"W).....	\$20.00
BUSINESS CARD ad.....	\$15.00
Discounts for multiple issues (3, 6, 9 and 12 months)	
Ad copy deadline is the 5th of the month of publication.	
Make all checks payable to CIPCUG.	

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

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 (With the exception of the immediate past president, past presidents are not board members.)

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



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

Minutes of July Board of Directors meeting

By Diane Mortensen

secretary @cipcug.org

The CIPCUG Board of Directors held its monthly meeting on July 24, 2010. In attendance were President Rick Curry, Immediate Past Present Paul Westefer, Vice-President-Program Coordinator Craig Ladd, Treasurer Art Lewis, TOE Editor John Weigle, Helen Long, Membership Chairman Ken Church, Tech Adviser Toby Scoot, and Secretary Diane Mortensen.



Mortensen

Rick opened the meeting with a call for **old business** to be discussed. Ken advised the Board that June's Regular Q&A session was successfully transcribed with the new equipment. Diane asked the board what it wanted done with the old transcription equipment. It was decided that Diane should bring the old transcriber to the next meeting and put it on the seller's

table with proceeds going to CIPCUG.

Turning to **new business**, Craig announced the coming meeting presentations:

August will be a presentation by Toby Scott and Michael Shalkey.

September will be Iolo representatives; Michael Simpson and/or Abbas Mehdi will discuss Search & Recover and Drive Scrubber. Iolo corporation makes System Mechanic.

October's presentation will be Don Baker from Klassic Specialties, a vendor from the 2009-10 Southwest Computer Conference. Baker provides an interesting and informative talk on paper and printing needs.

November's meeting is expected to be Jim Glass with the topic Ins & Outs of Digital Photography. If Glass cannot appear, Craig will search for another speaker.

In December, Toby and Michael will be presenting a surprise topic.

Art presented the Treasurer's report for June 2010, which appears elsewhere in TOE. There was discussion of having another Computer Clinic and selling new Freeware flash drives to raise money for the club. Board members agreed, and Toby stated he would follow up with a good time for the Computer Clinic. Art passed out to all board members a copy of the annual report and read the report. Diane was asked to prepare an annual report for the election of officers. Art stated that he will be vacationing in Maine in August and has given Helen CIPCUG's checkbook to write any checks in his absence.

Rick proposed making CDs of CIPCUG's monthly meetings and the Q&A sessions for members to purchase. It was agreed that this topic needs additional review, and it will be discussed in more detail at a later date.

With no further matters to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned.

More on Command.com

(Continued from page 1)

>>>click here and see what happens <<<

We must not click on links to get our Flash updates. Type in the addresses by hand to check for new versions of Flash for now. It is a nuisance, but it is the best way to be safe for the time being.

Close all of your open browsers and any pop-up windows, like the one telling you to update Flash. I check with Task Manager at this point to make sure that all of the browsers have been closed, but that step is very rarely necessary and somewhat dangerous if you do not know what you are doing.

Next open a new copy of your browser and see if you actually need any updates from the official Flash website by typing in this address:

<http://www.adobe.com/software/flash/>

about

If you use NoScript, make sure you allow JavaScript on this page!

Your current Flash version will be displayed under the big rectangular picture. It is on the right under the heading "Version Information." Further down the page is a table listing the latest versions of Flash. If you are already running the latest version, you are done. If you want to get the latest version of Flash, you can get it here:

<http://www.adobe.com/support/flashplayer>.

My children just told me that they are having Flash programs hang (stop and never resume) while displaying: "loading." They also told me that clearing the browser cache, closing all browsers, and then starting over seems to always be the fix. It will be interesting for me to

read the transcript of our last Q&A, because I recall Toby saying that he had heard the same thing from his family. I also recall Michael saying that updating Flash fixes this.

These strange problems reported in Flash are reason enough that most of us should check for updates to Flash. While writing this article, I started checking. The first two computers at my house needed to be updated, and I never saw any update notice for either machine. Just make sure to go to the real website for your Flash updates.

If you update Flash and the update notice keeps coming back every time you start your browser, you may have picked up a virus or Trojan horse. If you think this has happened, it is time to seek assistance from a professional.

Happy computing!

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

Coming events

Toby, Michael to make August presentation

Programs

Toby Scott and Michael Shalkey will present a program on a topic to be announced at the Aug. 28 meeting at the Camarillo Boys & Girls Club, 1500 Temple Ave. (southeast corner of Ponderosa Drive and Temple Avenue), Camarillo (see map on page 20).

The doors open at 8:30 a.m.. The Internet and Networking SIG and the Computing 101 SIG start at 8:45 a.m. If you can show up early to help set up, please do. The room seems to be different every month, and we have to move lots of tables and chairs around.

Other coming meetings:

Sept. 25: Iolo — Michael Simpson and/or Abbas Mehdi of Iolo will discuss Search & Recover and Drive Scrubber.

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

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

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

SIGs

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

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.

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

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

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

The general schedule

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

Fourth Tuesday: Linux.

Fourth Saturday (or the regular meeting day): Computing 101 SIG (Jessica Scott and Mark Maidel) and Internet and e-mail SIG, 8:45 a.m. Michael Shalkey's after-meeting SIG at The Star, 550 Camarillo Center Drive, Camarillo.

The schedules for the balance of July and all of August follow:

August

Tuesday, Aug. 24: Linux SIG. Bill Wayson will install a graphical browser on the CIPCUG computer.

Aug. 28: regular meeting and SIGs.

September

Saturday, Sept. 25: regular meeting and SIGs.

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

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

Members' classified ads

Classified ads are free to members. Each ad is limited to 105 characters, including spaces and to one ad per member per month. Copy has to be to John Weigle, editor of TOE (editor@cipcug.org), within the week after the regular meeting. Otherwise, the ad is

held to the following month.

Wanted

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

Other categories as needed

Q&A

Pictures in e-mail and Windows 7, .net files

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

Internet and networking SIG**Reported by John Weigle****Pictures in e-mail**

Q: My wife's Outlook e-mail looks fine on the screen when she sends it, but on mine is just text — there are no pictures included.

A: You are trying to send e-mail as plain text. Go to Format Text and use HTML. This will change it for the message you're writing. Purists prefer plain text e-mails for a couple of reasons: They take up less broadband width and there are fewer security problems with plain text than there are with HTML, but sometimes people need to use HTML versions. If you want to use HTML all the time, in Outlook 2010 go to File > Options > Mail > Change the Editing Settings for Messages. In Outlook 2003 and 2007, go to Tools > Options > Mail Settings.

Picture problems in Windows 7

Q: In Windows 7, some of the pictures have blue squares around them and two chevrons on them, but I can't do anything with them.

A: Windows Viewer and similar programs create thumb data files so they don't have to create the full version on the screen every time they draw the picture or graphic. You can delete them, but they'll be re-created every time you reopen the file.

Questioner notes the chevrons and doesn't think they're the usual thumbnails. Toby suggests the chevrons represent forward and back buttons for navigation.

Michael asks the questioner to send him a screen shot of the pictures, which he can do by opening the folder the pictures are in, hitting the Print Screen button and then opening his photo editing program and pasting the screen shot into it with the menu or Ctrl-V. That system will work with any version of Windows. Michael suggests that the problem is a

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

Pictures in e-mail
Picture problems in Windows 7
.net files
Flash updates
Update warnings
Failed updates
Windows 7 activation
Running multiple browsers
NoScript and Windows updates
Adobe Air
Ara video

Regular Q&A

Putting Windows XP on two computers
Installing Windows on a Mac (with several related questions)
Moving Microsoft Office
Computer won't read old CD-RWs
Dual boot with Windows 7, XP
Reinstalling Windows 7 upgrade
Laptop won't boot
Bootting to a DOS prompt
Norton's Safe Web Light
Windows 7 updates failures
Reporting back on DOS prompt

file type that there's no association for. To show the file extensions in Windows 7, go to Folder Options > View and uncheck Hide extensions for known file types. Take the screen shot after making file extensions visible.

Toby points out that in Windows Vista and Windows 7, it's easier to use the Snipping Tool (Start > All Programs > Accessories > Snipping Tool). Open the program and move your mouse to the upper left corner of the part of the screen you want to copy. Drag the mouse down and to the right to draw a box around what you want to copy. Save what you've marked and you can copy it into any program. Print Screen prints the entire screen, which might be too large to go through some e-mail programs, although it can be cropped in a photo-editing program. There is no command in the Snipping Tool. Once you complete the rectangle, the marked portion of the screen is automatically copied. Toby said he uses the tool to save copies of receipts for online purchases. He copies the invoice and stores it in a folder called Confirmations.

.net files

Q: I'm noticing .net1 and .net3 files that want to be installed. I don't want to install them. What do I do?

A: As the world becomes more Net-centric there are more and more attempts to make it possible to get all kinds of information off the Net into a form that can

be used easily. Often, the information on the screen is useful information but not in the format it's in on the screen. The .net files are the most common and least secure type of files for this purpose. The versions are .net1.1, 2, 3, 3.5 and 4.

If you've visited a page that needs the scripting, it will be downloaded along with numerous security updates.

Microsoft introduced .net at a conference with the example of a visitor to San Francisco being hit by a bicyclist and breaking his arm. With .net, he could get his medical records from his own doctor, find doctors in San Francisco who were available to set his arm on the weekend, make an appointment and have the arm set within a few hours, with each website using the data from the previous — no data was ever forwarded from one doctor to the other.

Security is a continuing problem, which explains why the updates are so fast and furious.

Sometimes .net updates don't work, and the problem is well-enough known that Microsoft offers free tech support to walk you through the fixes, if you make a reasonable attempt to fix them yourself. The common one that creates problems is the rollup for .net 2, 3, and 3.5. It might take a couple of hours, but they will get it fixed.

Flash updates

Q: Firefox sometimes tells me it's

(Continued on page 6)

More Q&A: Flash updates, failed Windows activation

(Continued from page 5)

time to update Flash. Should I do it?

A: Yes

Michael: Firefox is very good about letting you know that certain things, such as Flash and the browser itself, need to be updated. One way that ransomware gets on your computer is through infected websites. Ransomware is the type of program that pops up a warning that says your machine is infected with many viruses and other malware and if you send us \$79.95 we'll get them off for you. Definitely allow updates to your browser, Flash and other Adobe products and Java.

Toby: If you use Firefox and are concerned about security, install the NoScript add-on. It blocks all scripts on Web pages but gives you the option of allowing them to run once or to allow all scripts all the time at certain sites (like your bank, for example). NoScript blocks ads, video and animation. There will be an item in the lower right corner of the browser that shows the sites whose scripts have been blocked.

Michael: People think that when they visit a Web page they're visiting just that page, but that's not necessarily the case. The ads usually come from other sites. NoScript will let you block all scripts or just specific ones.

Toby: Lots of banks use scripting, and you'll have to enable the scripts from your bank to run. One nice thing is that if I get a phishing e-mail with a supposed link to my bank and I click the link without thinking, when I get to the phony site, its scripts won't work. Since I had to allow the scripts when I first visited the bank site, the fact that they're not running should alert me that I'm not really at my bank's site but at a phony one.

No-Script does not work on Internet Explorer or Safari. There might be an Opera version.

Update warnings

Q: How do I know which update warnings are valid? How do I avoid being forced to reboot when I don't want to?

A: Michael: Adobe, Java and Microsoft Windows are safe updates.

Toby: If phishing attempts use the Microsoft name, they can't hide behind

the legal protections afforded to them in the Ukraine because of international copyright sanctions. If they make the message look like Microsoft or suggest that it's from Microsoft without naming the company, they have some protections. They can do it, but there are practical reasons they probably won't.

Michael: Sometimes you're forced to reboot to make the changes take effect. Microsoft Windows normally installs when you shut down. Sometimes the next reboot will take a bit longer than usual because it's completing the update. Microsoft releases its patches routinely on the second Tuesday of each month, so you're likely to get updates then or the next day.

Toby: And critical updates can be issued at any time.

Failed updates

Q: Sometimes the same update keeps popping up.

A: That indicates an update has failed. Go to Windows Update and check the History list. If updates have failed you'll see "Failed" in the status column. Double click on the entry for more information about what to do. That will suggest Knowledge Base articles that are supposed to help solve the problem. Sometimes they work. If they all worked all the time, CIPCUG wouldn't be here because you wouldn't need us.

Windows 7 activation

Q: I bought Windows 7 online, activated it and now they're telling me it's not activated.

A: Right click on Computer and go to Properties. If it says it's not activated you'll be able to click on a button that will take you to Microsoft.

Michael: There will be a computer voice that will talk you through the process. I don't mind following that, but Rick punches his way through to a human being, which seems to me to take longer than the automated version.

Q: I get a message that the activation key has been blocked by Microsoft.

A: That's when you have to talk to a real human being. Explain what happened, and they'll work with you. There are very few of the failed authentications,

but there are some, and you will get support.

Michael: The phone number is 888-652-2342 for standard products.

A question about installing Windows XP on a new computer and running it on both the new and old computers was delayed to the regular Q&A.

Running multiple browsers

Q: Can I run Firefox and Safari at the same time?

A: If you have the processing power, yes. Both will be using the processor, both will be using bandwidth, and both might be downloading sound, which could be interesting if you're looking at "Top Gun" and "Love Story" at the same time.

A question and comments about Verizon FiOS and power failures was delayed to the regular Q&A.

NoScript and Windows updates

Q: Will NoScript block Windows Updates?

A: No. No-Script only runs on Firefox and Windows Updates are via Internet Explorer.

Adobe Air

Q: Adobe Air wants to be installed. How do I stop it because I don't want it?

A: Good question. We haven't been able to find a way either. Some sites want it, so the fact you're getting the message probably means you've visited one of those sites.

Audience comment: I think it's part of Flash.

Audience comment: What is Flash?

Toby: Flash lets you play videos and animated graphics. It's common on YouTube and similar sites.

(Adobe's website describes Air this way: "Adobe AIR lets developers use proven web technologies to build rich Internet applications that run outside the browser on multiple operating systems." — Editor)

Ara video

Q: I listen to KPLU on the Web. It uses Ara video, which isn't working on Firefox.

A: Michael: Try another browser to

(Continued on page 7)

More Q&A: XP on two computers, Windows on a Mac

(Continued from page 6)

see if it works there. If it does, you know it's a browser problem.

Toby: If you're using Firefox, open it in Safe mode in the Start menu (this is different than opening Windows in Safe Mode; it's a specific option for Firefox in the Start menu). This opens Firefox with add-ons disabled. If the video works then, you know that it's a problem with an add-on. You can then open Firefox in regular mode and start disabling add-ons until you find the problem one.

Michael likes Chrome as an alternate browser. Most Web page developers I know prefer Opera, which is even more standards-compliant than Firefox. Opera is a European browser and is used much more there than in the U.S. It's still the fastest browser to start up. Firefox is slower to start up if you've installed a number of add-ons, but once it's up and running it opens pages as fast as any other browser. Firefox is like a Swiss Army Knife of browsers because of all the add-ons. If you start it up in the morning and leave it running, you'll be fine.

Regular Q&A

Reported by Diane Mortensen

Putting Windows XP on two computers

Q: I have a friend who wants to install his old version of XP Home on the new computer he is purchasing. The question is can he retain two functioning copies simultaneously and does Microsoft know what he is doing? Can he transcribe or bring over from the old to the new PC the other programs he had running that were using XP operating system?

A: First, there are two modes of getting Microsoft licenses. There is one called OEM, which comes installed on a computer and is licensed with that computer and cannot be used on any other ever. OEM licenses are less expensive than a retail license which is about double the price. A retail license is for one computer and one only, but if you wipe out that computer and you do not use it anymore you can reinstall the license on another computer. OEM stands for Original Equipment Manufacturer, and it is tied to the computer as manufactured. If you get

another computer or make major changes to the computer you have, the license is no longer valid. Significant upgrades will not work either. What constitutes a significant upgrade? Microsoft is fairly strict about what it classifies as a major upgrade. If your motherboard dies, and you get a new motherboard and the rest of the items remain fairly the same then Microsoft does not really care.

Technically you may violate the license because so much of this stuff is now on the motherboards that come with different components. There are a network card, video, sound and so forth, all on the motherboard; therefore, you have technically replaced more pieces than the license will allow you to replace. If the motherboard dies and you have a license for it and you get another motherboard with approximately the same capacity and capability, Microsoft will at least look the other way and not come get you with the Net. Beyond that, they will, if they find you, disable your Windows. If you have an illegal copy of Windows XP, it will work, but will not upgrade automatically; manually you can upgrade, but you cannot do Windows updates. It will nag you periodically, but it will not shut you down. Vista and Windows 7 will shut you down if they think you are illegal. You will end up where you cannot boot up your computer. Generally speaking, if you are buying a new computer, you probably are going to end up with a new operating system.

Installing Windows on a Mac

Q: I have a Mac and want to install Windows on it. Can I?

A: Yes, it will install, but the key code you have should not be an OEM and whatever computer you took it off of that had a retail license, you should take it out of service in order to be compliant. Although this is not specific to your question, I believe it is generically for everyone: If you get Windows 7 Home, it does not come with a downgrade to XP. Windows 7 Ultimate's downgrade will expire in 2015. If you purchase Windows 7 Pro, it comes with a downgrade that will expire in 2020. Why the difference in expiration dates? I have no clue, but those are the numbers.

Often we have customers who are in a business and there is some small software company that develops a tool critical for the operation of their business that will not run on Vista or 7. You downgrade to XP until the small software company gets around to getting it upgraded correctly. Because of that alone, it is important to go with Windows 7 Pro. I tend to like Pro, which is a bit more expensive, but it will not leave you in a cannot-do-that state, which Home can do. Formerly, Home had a lot of multimedia stuff that Pro did not have, but that is no longer the case. Pro comes with all the things that the Home version come with. Those of you who are purchasing laptops, many are coming with Pro because corporations have to connect them to their work at the office, and you cannot connect Home to a Windows domain network.

Michael: As far as your program goes, the programs you have running on your old machine, it depends on the licensing for that company, each company does licensing individually. With Adobe, much like Microsoft, only one computer is allowed to run that software. If you want to run Photoshop on your Mac under your new version of XP, you must remove it and unlicense it from your desktop. As long as you have the disks for the old program, you can install them on the XP install on the Mac.

Q: A follow-up question: If you have an XP hard drive that crashes, you buy a new hard drive and put it in your system can you purchase the OEM version of Windows 7 for half the price?

A: If you have an existing computer and you buy an OEM version of Windows, any version, you cannot legally install that on a computer that was not built by you as a licensed manufacturer. Only the licensed manufacturers can do it. VCC can sell OEMs, but we are a Microsoft dealer, which authorizes us to build and create Microsoft computers with licensed media. Due to that, there are a lot of people out there who will sell you an OEM install, but it is not legal for you to do so. It will validate and run and the chances of getting caught are close to zero, but know that right there you have

(Continued on page 8)

More Q&A: Moving MS Office, old CD-RWs don't work

(Continued from page 7)

violated the license trying to be 100 percent legal, but you are not.

Q: You have to build the computer with all the parts?

A: If you have a computer and it is running, for example, XP and the hard drive dies, there is no question but that you can use the old XP license on a new install on that computer. You can buy a new hard drive put it in and get the install disk and use the key code off of the sticker on your computer and you can install that. This is because it is only one component.

Microsoft has this thing about a certain number of components constitutes a new computer. That was my comment about motherboards, the problem for modern computers is that everything is on the motherboard so you end up violating the license if you have to get another motherboard because you are replacing too many components.

The hard drive is only one component, and there is no question but that you can reinstall the same key code on the same computer with a new hard drive if the hard drive dies on any program — XP, Vista, 7, Windows 2008 server, it does not make any difference. You have the key code on the computer you have purchased. If the key code works you have the right operating system it will run, you are fine.

If you had a computer that you bought with Windows 7 and then downgraded and use the Windows 7 Pro downgrade to XP and the hard drive dies and you decide you only want to use the Windows 7 and have the Windows 7 sticker you are fine.

Moving Microsoft Office

Q: If my laptop dies and I have Microsoft Office and I buy a new laptop with a retail copy of Office, can I move it to the new laptop?

A: If you have an OEM Office and it came pre-installed on the computer and not a separate license, when your computer dies, your Office dies, you cannot legally install it again.

Computer won't read old CD-RWs

Q: I have a number of old CD-RWs

and my Windows Explorer cannot read them. I am trying to reformat with Nero, and I cannot do it. What can I do?

A: Throw them away. You basically answered your own question. CD-RWs were never designed to last forever. You read them, you write to them, over and over again, and now you cannot use them. Throw them away because they are at the end of their life. If you want to keep using them, this is up to you, but I believe the days of plastic are over. Forget CD-RWs and use flash drives. Flash drives are so cheap now that you can get a lot more information on them than you can on any CD-RW and they have a longer life span. CD-RWs have always been prone to not read properly and never perfected the technology. CD-Rs are a different story, they work fine and for permanent storage and you can back up family pictures, put them on a spindle in a closet and if you ever needed a picture again, you can get it out. CD-Rs are great for that. Make several copies and put them in a safe place. CD-RWs are only for temporary storage, and they are superseded by flash drives. Economically you are better off with using flash drives.

Dual boot with Windows 7, XP

Q: Back on the Windows 7 and XP, can you put a dual boot on the same machine and have those go back and forth?

A: Yes.

Reinstalling Windows 7 upgrades

Q: If you buy a Windows 7 upgrade and install over XP, and you change the hard drive, how do you upgrade now that the drive is dead?

A: You can install the upgrade without the XP, but at some point it will ask you for a copy of the drive. It is a trick that Microsoft told manufacturers when the upgrade for Vista came out, and it still works on 7. If you take a blank hard drive, never been formatted, stick it into your computer, then put in your upgrade of Windows 7, you load Windows 7 without any key code at all, it will ask for one and you say no, it will load all the way and it ejects the DVD. Shut the computer down, then turn it on and put the DVD back in, and it will start the upgrade process, upgrading your version of Windows

and that will work. Yes, Win 7 will upgrade Win 7.

You do the install to a trial version, then upgrade the trial version to install with no key code and then upgrade the trial version to the full version and you never have to put in the XP disk in. It takes a little longer, but it is legal and works doing it twice. If you buy the upgrade you will end up with a DVD but not an XP CD. That was the issue that Microsoft was trying to figure out, and they just allow you to do it. That means you can buy an upgrade and never have had a previous version. Reality in the U.S.: How many people never had a previous version of Windows? There are three of them, and they have not figured out the trick yet.

Laptop won't boot

Q: I have a question. I gave my daughter an HP laptop and she was hooking up the mouse that was in there when she got up north, and now it will not boot up or anything.

A: Well, there is not really a lot of information for me to say. You take a computer up north and it may have been vibrated or shocked or something and some piece of the electronics came apart or is broken. There are many possibilities when you start moving a computer. If it will not come on, there is not a lot to go on, and I do not know what to tell you.

Booting to a DOS prompt

Q: My computer boots only to a black DOS prompt.

A: It goes to DOS, is it a black screen and gives you a C: prompt? If it does go into DOS you need to take it into someone and have them look at it. I have not seen a computer go to the C: prompt in a long time. I really would like to see that and even pay admission. If the hard drive dies you can end up where the computer goes into what they call CMOS Setup when you reboot it, and frequently it is a black screen, has text and sort of looks like a DOS prompt. It will say something like "no hard drive found," but there is no C: prompt just that message.

Depending on the version of your BIOS, it could be a black or blue screen.

(Continued on page 9)

Program: Infogrip

Many assistive technology products available

By John Weigle*jweigle@vcnet.com*

Some people wear glasses, some people use hearing aids and some people use special grips on pens and pencils.

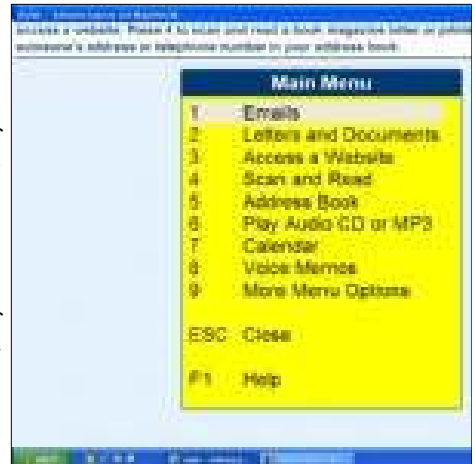
Other people need far more expensive examples of what is called assistive technologies, many of which were shown to us at the July meeting by Aaron Gaston, part owner of infogrip, which has expanded considerably since the last time he spoke to us, and owner of Your Low Vision Store. Both are in Ventura.

Infogrip sells everything from ergonomic furniture and workstations to computer hardware and software to help people with a variety of disabilities have access to computers. The hardware ranges from such things as keyboards with larger keys to extra large trackballs for children and senior citizens losing their fine motor

skills to software that magnifies and reads computer screens. Another piece of hardware will scan and read documents to users in moments.

He passed around several pieces of hardware so members could see how they were built and demonstrated software called Dolphin Guide, which, one of its fliers say, "is designed to take away all these fears and frustrations by offering a simple menu system that sits on top of Windows, letting you achieve all your computing goals."

Guide can read instructions and files, magnify the type for those with vision problems and make the most common computer uses as simple as typing a single number. Its menu includes e-mails, letters and documents, access a website, scan and read, address book, play audio CD or MP3, calendar, and voice memos, calculator, dictionary, picture handwriting

**From Infogrip.com**

This is the Guide main menu.

magnifier, photocopier and Internet news reader, podcast player, Internet radio player, create CD, Skype, and my fi-

(Continued on page 10)

More on Q&A: Safe Web Light, update failures

(Continued from page 8)

If it is really a C: prompt you can actually type things like CHKDSK or DIR and hit the Enter key, and it actually shows you something.

If it is not a C: prompt where you can type a command, your hard drive died.

Norton's Safe Web Light

Q: Norton wants me to add Safe Web Light. Is that a good or bad thing?

A: Basically it is a tool bar, but it is another product that they want you to sign up for. It is free and you can use it. Do it and them come back and tell us how it works.

Windows 7 updates failures

Q: I have Windows 7 Pro and have on automatic updates, although I find myself having to update many of the securities and that kind of thing. Is that universal? I have had to do it five or six times. When I go into the update history, I find that several have failed. I go to the downloads and manually download them and they succeed.

A: There is something in your updates

that is not correct. One of the issues with updates is that if you get an update that installs and it reports it has installed correctly, but it has an error in it, anything that cascades or depends on that can fail. So a lot of times what Microsoft will tell you when you go out to the website on a failure, it will tell you, OK, go look at the previous update, like .net3 framework and you have four successfully installed updates, but the fifth one is failing, try uninstalling the fourth, third, and so forth. Then reinstall those, and frequently that will break it loose and you will get all the updates.

The problem you are having now is that you have something that is barely failing and it is causing the automatic updates to fail and manual updates are succeeding. I do not offhand know how to debug that.

Rick Curry: One of things that I have found that has broken Windows updates for me was the Windows Java caching. To clear the Java cache, go to Control Panel > Java > Clear Java cache, and it has worked for me.

Reporting back on DOS prompt boot

Q: If the gentlemen brings in the computer that boots to a DOS prompt, I would be interested in a follow up on that if you could report next meeting how that happened and so forth.

A: That comment comes from Robert Provart, who is one of our past presidents and was here at a time when we all did use DOS. Robert continued to use DOS well into the XP years.

I believe he still has DOS boot so if any of you have a DOS question, we actually have an authority in the club and probably the last one on Earth. Do take advantage of Robert's knowledge, which is voluminous.

Flash drives in laundry

Comment from audience: I have never washed a CD in the laundry as I have a flash drive. The fellow with the CD-RWs, if he is having a problem with more than one, it is likely that it is a problem with the drive rather than a lot of CD-RWs failing all at once. That is something to check with another CD player.

More on assistive technology ...

(Continued from page 9)

nance. That's about 90 percent of what people do on a computer, he said.

Gaston said the product is just what he's been trying to find for 15 years. It was developed in England four years ago and "is a game changer for people that really just wanted the basics," he said. Infogrip has the distribution rights for the Western U.S.

It's an excellent tool for people with brain injuries and memory loss, he said, because it's so simple to use and can repeat the instructions every time it opens if that's needed. The program is available in English and Spanish in the United States and in other languages elsewhere, he said.

Guide uses its built in programs — you can't change them to personal favorites — and will work with any version of Windows with little drain on system resources. Some people have trouble learning how to use an e-mail program, he commented, but "I promise you within five minutes of using Guide, they'll be able to send and receive e-mail."

It works on any version of Windows with minimal system requirements, he said.

The program costs \$795, which sounds expensive, but it eliminates the need for many other programs, such as a text magnifier and optical character reading software.

Financial assistance for Guide and other hardware and software is available from the state Department of Rehabilitation, he said. Many people think the department serves only people who are being retrained for their old job or trained for a new one, but that's not the case. Its services are available for heads of households, too.

Guide sits on top of Windows but does not replace it, so it can be used by one person on a computer and other users can use the normal Windows interface.

Gaston also showed the ZoomEx, a portable scanner, camera, reader and magnifier. ZoomTwix has a second camera used for distance viewing.

The camera sits on a stand so it's always the right distance from the document and the stand serves as a guide so the document to be read is always in the



From Infogrip.com

The Bat keyboard, above, allows one-handed keyboarding. The BIG-track trackball is at right. Both were shown at the July meeting.



right place. It includes an instant book-to-speech tool and can scan 20 pages per minute.

Gaston showed a variety of keyboards, including the BAT Keyboard for one-handed typists (both left- and right-hand versions are available), extra large keyboards with larger keys and bigger letters and numbers, and an extra small (low profile) keyboard, which is good for people who have a limited reach or type with one hand. One keyboard has large keys and a key guard for people with cerebral palsy or other problems that cause tremors.

Gaston and others invented the BAT Keyboard, he said, based on NASA technology. "Two of our clients lost their arms to shark bites," he said, and the one-handed keyboard is perfect for them.

Keyboard accessories include skins and large-print key labels.

The BIGtrack trackball is "the product that probably keeps us in business today," he said. It has a 3-inch trackball, the largest available, and is good for anyone with poor motor control, for children and for people with arthritis. Microsoft used to make a similar item but didn't sell enough so stopped producing it, he said.

Many assistive technology products are sold to schools, which are required by law to provide assistive technology for students with disabilities. The law, however, often isn't followed "and it really only happen if the parents are a real pain in the ass," he said.

For people with extreme motion problems, such as advanced ASL, hardware

exists that can track eye movements allowing people to use an onscreen keyboard. The value of such a product was shown in a video featuring a woman in France who is confined to her bed and uses an onscreen keyboard and a switch activated by cheek movements to communicate.

"Without a computer, I would be little more than a vegetable," she said by typing the message on the keyboard and having it read aloud by the computer.

Gaston said the Camarillo Library has many of his products in its computer area so people can see them being used.

For more information:

Web sites: [infogrip.com](http://www.infogrip.com)

<http://www.infogrip.com/it/ventura-computer-repair.asp>

<http://www.infogrip.com/office/>

http://www.infogrip.com/subcategory_view.asp?option=ergonomic

<http://myseniorcomputer.com/>

Ventura store address: 1899 E. Main St., Ventura

Phone: 800-397-0921

Divisions: Your Low Vision Store, infogrip AT (assistive technology), infogrip ERGO (ergonomics), infogrip Office and infogrip IT.

Important Q&A reminder: Please wait for the microphone to ask, answer or comment on a question. Although we have several microphones during the Q&A sessions, they do not pick up sounds from far away. While this eliminates the general background noise from the tape, it also means that useful information offered without a microphone is not recorded and, therefore, can not be transcribed for TOE.

Security

End of an era arrives for XP, Service Pack 2

By Bob de Violini
rjddev@gmail.com

The end of an era has come for Windows XP, Service Pack 2, and it bears noting. One survey found that over one-third of the PCs in the firms surveyed were running Windows XP SP2. I'm sure that quite a few of you reading this are also running XP SP2 as well, and this warning is for you. As of July 14, the day after Microsoft's Patch Tuesday, there will be no more security updates offered to anyone running XP SP2. However Microsoft will still offer phone, chat and e-mail support for those running obsolete Service Packs, but for a fee of \$49 for chat and e-mail or \$59 for phone support. These fees are on a per incident basis, unless you've already purchased another type of support contract. The latest Service Pack can be downloaded from the following Microsoft site for free: <http://tinyurl.com/4qvth5>. I shortened the actual URL to save space. You will want a broadband connection, and a higher speed one at that. The file is the complete installation (over 300 Megs in size), and by Microsoft's estimation it would still take nearly an hour to download on a 768k DSL connection. As an alternative, you can go to the Windows Update site, which will download a much smaller file initially. That file will then scan your system and download and install only the updates you actually need in order to bring your installation up to the full XP

SP3. Support for XP SP3 will go until April 2014. As a reminder to those running Windows Vista, if you don't have any Service Pack installed, your support ran out back on April 13 of this year, so you need to grab a copy of SP1 for Vista and install it. There are a few updates (2 or 3 depending on your individual situation) that you must install before you can successfully install SP1 on Vista. Send me an e-mail at the address at the top of this article for more info and a link to a page Microsoft has especially for those trying to get Vista SP1.

Lots of patches in June

Although I haven't seen it labeled as such anywhere yet, June could be informally called "Patch Month," with Microsoft releasing myriad patches (I counted 21 on each of my XP SP3 machines with MS Office 2003 on one and 2007 on the other, and a number well into the teens for my laptop, which has Vista SP2 and Office 2007) as well as Adobe and Mozilla releasing their own patches.

Adobe patched its Flash plugin, bringing the version number up to 10.1.53.64, and Acrobat and Acrobat Reader versions 8 and 9, bringing them up to versions 8.2.3 and 9.3.3 respectively. The bugs in Flash, Acrobat and Acrobat Reader have been well publicized, so an update is in order. The update for Flash was released June 10, and the update for Acrobat and Acrobat Reader was released June 29. They are

available here for Flash: <http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>; for those who can't run version 10 of the Flash player, Adobe developed a patch for version 9, bringing it up to version 9.0.277.0, and it can be found here: <http://www.adobe.com/go/kb406791>. The update for Acrobat and Acrobat Reader can be found here: <http://www.adobe.com/support/downloads/product.jsp?product=10&platform=Windows>. The updates are available by scrolling down just below the "Full Download" listing to the appropriate area of the "Updates/Programs" listing. Once there, select the version from under its heading and click on the link. These patches for Flash, Adobe Acrobat and Acrobat Reader take the place of the normally scheduled July patches, so don't expect any during that timeframe.

Mozilla *finally* released updates to versions 3.5 and 3.6 of Firefox, and it updated Thunderbird as well, but in early June as opposed to nearly the end of the month for Firefox. The latest Firefox versions are 3.5.11 and 3.6.8 and Thunderbird now sits at 3.1.1. However, Firefox went from 3.6.3 to 3.6.6 in a matter of four days, skipping version number 3.6.5 entirely. The thing that made folks most anticipate version 3.6.4 of Firefox is a new feature it has that allows a plug-in to crash but not take the browser down with it. This applies only

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More on security ...

(Continued from page 11)

to the Flash Player, QuickTime (from Apple) and Silverlight (from Microsoft) plug-ins for now, but it might involve others in future versions of the browser. Mozilla has no plans to incorporate this feature into the 3.5 series of Firefox, however. As for the security updates, they plugged a variety of holes found in late May and early June in the browser. One in particular involved its JavaScript engine in both versions 3.5 and 3.6. The only significant difference I could find between 3.6.4 and 3.6.6 of Firefox was a statement on the Release Notes page for Firefox 3.6.6 stating that 3.6.6 waits a longer period of time before ending a plug-in that has crashed. Firefox version 3.6.6 was released June 26, but at the end of July, Firefox was quickly updated twice in one week with the release of version 3.6.7 on July 20 and the release of version 3.6.8 on July 23. Version 3.6.7 was regularly scheduled and patched many privately reported bugs, but

introduced another critical bug that garnered quite a bit of attention in the security community because of a coming hackers' convention during the last week of July. That bug was squashed in version 3.6.8, the current version.

On the Thunderbird side of things, the release at the beginning of June, 3.0.5, had some usability improvements and four security bug fixes in it. Some of those bug fixes were in versions 3.5.10, 3.6.3 and 3.6.4 of Firefox. Thunderbird version 3.1 is focused on new features and usability improvements. It has a new toolbar that lets you sort your messages by search terms, tags, message age, by whether or not it has an attachment, and more. It also boasts faster searching and better handling of passwords, as well as having many preconfigured settings for the most popular e-mail providers, making setup that much easier. The latest version, 3.1.1, fixed the same variety of vulnerabilities that were patched in versions 3.6.7 and 3.5.11 of Firefox.

Microsoft emergency patch

On a final note, on Aug. 2, Microsoft was scheduled to release an out-of-band or emergency patch for a widely publicized vulnerability in the way Windows processes the little files that make up the shortcuts to programs and files that show up on your desktop and in the Start Menu in all versions of Windows currently in use, from Windows 2000 to Windows 7. A variety of attacks have already successfully been carried out, some aimed at computers that control industrial systems in the manufacturing sector.

Many infections have been against systems at small businesses and home users, simply carried out with the use of USB thumb drives left out in the open for folks to pick up and take home or back to their businesses. All that's needed to get infected is to view the USB drive's contents with Windows Explorer, the default for Windows. Microsoft

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Helen Long is back on her feet

By Helen Long

Helen@cipcug.org

It has taken me a long time to move from the hospital bed to the wheelchair to the walker, and now the cane. I waddle around the house without the cane but not outdoors yet. The doctor says it will take longer to get along without it. At least it has some redeeming value: It's good for sympathy and protection. It will get you a seat on the bus or a place ahead in the line. But at least, I am no longer in pain and I am mobile. I'm thinking about giv-

Bits & Bytes



Long

ing up driving because I am too close to 80 years old to be driving. Reaction times are not what they used to be. You just hear too many stories about accidents caused by people who should no longer be driving. I refuse to be one of them! Enough about me!

At the board meeting we decided to look into ordering Russ Walter's "Secret Guide To Computers" for Christmas time. Art Lewis is going to check to see if he has an upgraded version yet.

Future programs: August: Toby and Michael demonstrate creating programs; September, Iolo (System Mechanic) speeding up your computer; October, Classic Specialties; November and December, TBA.

CIPCUG has decided to give up the

club's ISP dial-up connection for club members. It was a hard decision to come by, but we were down to fewer than a dozen members. There just weren't many options available for high-speed connection at a low enough price to make it work. Toby is still providing the cipcug.org e-mail service for \$15 annually to those interested; however you have to provide your own Internet connection.

It was enlightening to find out that the 11 years of Internet dial-up connection was an excellent opportunity for the club at the time we offered it. It helped us to build up our treasury reserve. Art Lewis said the club made \$7,745 in the 11 years of service.

HAVE YOU RUN YOUR ANTI-SPYWARE PROGRAMS LATELY?

The new calculator in Windows 7

By Jeff Levy

This lesson is copyright by Jeff Levy and reprinted with permission. All of his more than 400 lessons for both the PC and the Mac can be found on his Web site, jefflevy.com.

The calculator built in to Windows 7 is amazing, and the best Windows calculator yet. It does so many useful things, like figuring out gas mileage, hourly wages, mortgage payments, leases, and so much more.

For example, you can calculate the amount of time between two periods, as in Jan. 5 to Oct. 9. You can calculate the difference in days, months and even years. You can also add or subtract a period of time from a given date.

Learning with Levy



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With wage calculations, you enter the hourly rate, the number of hours worked, and the tax rate to calculate the amount due. And the mortgage calculator takes the purchase price, the down payment, the interest rate and the term in number of years to

then calculate the monthly payment.

The calculator has three separate modes — standard, statistics and programmer mode — so it should have broad appeal to a wide audience.

"Jeff Levy on Computers" can be heard from 5 to 6 p.m. every Saturday on KABC, 790 AM. Jeff's notes for every

show are at www.jefflevy.com. Click on Show Notes on the opening page to access a wealth of information.

Jeff has added an additional project to his list of tasks: Snapshot Talk Radio, Your Eye on the World of Photography. The Web site is <http://www.snapshottalkradio.com>. Jeff co-hosts the program with Timothy E. Goodwin, The Photo Professor. The website's pages are Home, About the Hosts, Tim's Gallery, How to, Ask Jeff & Tim, Cameras, Printers, Accessories, Show Notes, Pod Casts and Show Information. The website says the show is on the following stations: Los Angeles (KABC – AM), San Francisco (KNEW – AM), Seattle (KVI – AM) and Salt Lake City (Freedom 570 – AM).

More on security ..

(Continued from page 12)

developed a workaround, or temporary fix, but it left your desktop with a bunch of white spots where your icons were. Because of the number of folks affected by this bug, including high-profile clients, Microsoft decided to release this patch

earlier than the regularly scheduled date for the month of August.

If you have Automatic Updating enabled for Windows, you should have gotten it shortly after 10 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 2.

However, this patch is not available to

those running Windows 2000 nor to those running Windows XP Service Pack 2, both of which were retired from any and all support for security patches on July 14.

That's all for this time. Until next time, Safe and Happy Computing to all!

Ubuntu Unity

An innovation in user experience development

By Bill Wayson

bwayson@gmail.com

An application menu button, a hierarchical series of nested menus, application icons underneath it all with more sprinkled on the desktop, and a few more application icons pinned in easy-to-get-to places like a panel at the screen border. This is the computer user interface — the user experience — presented to almost all

Penguin's Lair



Wayson

users no matter what their computer runs. This interface has been with us for decades, from the original UNIX X Windows and Macintosh through Windows 95 and into the latest Linux, Windows, and Mac desktops. It is easily learned, easily navigated, and works well as long as the ratio of the number of installed applications to screen area is relatively low, and screens are relatively large.

Over the past few years, however, there has been increasing adoption of smaller, more portable computing devices, such as netbooks, netpads, and smart phones. On these devices, the usability of the traditional desktop interface breaks down. The screens are just too small. Many think this paradigm has outlived its usefulness even on the desktop PC. Several projects have sprung up to resolve this problem, to rethink the user experience of a computer. One such project that has recently been unveiled to the public is Ubuntu Unity (<http://www.ubuntu.com/news/unity-ubuntu-light-instant-web>). We'll explore the issues identified by the project and the solutions offered by the initial release of Unity, which is available at <https://edge.launchpad.net/~canonical-dx-team/+archive/une>.

Mark Shuttleworth's announcement of Unity at (<http://www.markshuttleworth.com/archives/383>) listed three issues driving the initial design of Unity. Most computer

users they studied have three to 10 easily accessible favorite application launchers. Presumably, they point to the programs that are used most often on their PCs. Next, the screens of computing devices are becoming wider, leaving more real estate to use horizontally and less vertically. Last, especially with small portable computing devices, touch is becoming the input method of choice.

These restraints and discoveries led to specific design choices in Unity. The bottom panel of an Ubuntu screen (normally there are two panels, at the top and bottom of the screen) has been moved to the left. It now serves as an application launcher for your favorite apps, an application switcher, and status indicator. Additionally, the left side panel is wider to allow for larger, finger-friendly icons. Triangular arrow indicators next to icons show if the application is running (an arrow to the left is displayed) and if it is the active — top — application (an arrow to the right). The order of the icons can be changed to suit your taste by dragging and dropping them on the panel where you want them.

The top screen panel will become more integrated with the active application. The current intent is to display in the top panel the title bar, menus, and window controls of whichever application is active, rather than the current practice of giving each application window its own title and menu bar. This will further increase the available vertical screen area for displaying content. To see an example of what Unity currently looks like, see <http://www.markshuttleworth.com/wp-content/archives/date/2010/05>.

The current plans are to adopt the Unity interface in the next iteration of the OEM version of Ubuntu for netbooks, which had been dubbed Ubuntu Light, to be released in October. Ubuntu Light will be specifically available to and customized for netbook vendors, optimized for their hardware, and sold preinstalled on their netbook.

If you want to download an installable version of Unity, it is slated to appear in the Ubuntu Netbook Edition, again by

October. Further down the road, ideas and designs developed by the Unity project will be integrated into the desktop editions of Ubuntu.

The issue present for netbook and desktop computer users that is currently getting the most attention is how the user will run more applications than the 10 or so available in the left panel, and how to provide them file management capabilities.

Shuttleworth's announcement shows a possible solution for these issues called Dash. Dash, though, is described as a starting point for discussion and design rather than a finished application.

A redesign of the computer user interface is deemed an urgent requirement by some, while others do not see the need. One has only to look at the success of Apple's iPhone and iPad to realize that many users welcome a new user experience. Ubuntu's Unity project should at least yield some interesting results simply given the prominence of Ubuntu in the open source world and netbook market. But take Ubuntu's prominence and add in the fact that they've attracted some very creative designers and developers who've generated some thoughtful ideas, and following the Unity Project or, better yet, becoming involved (perhaps you are or know of a graphic designer or programmer — the project would probably welcome participation) could mean that you might see the development of the next PC desktop interface revolution.

If you have questions or would like to learn more about Linux and FOSS, come to the Linux SIG meeting on Aug. 24 at 6:30 p.m. at Ventura County Computers in Ventura. We will install a graphical browser for the CIPCUG computer's hardware, talk about all things Ubuntu, Linux, and open source, and try to answer any questions and resolve any problems that are raised. 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.

Computing 101: Some tips for beginners

By John Weigle

jweigle@vcnet.com

Search engines are a boon for users of the Internet, but many of their features aren't used to the extent they might be. Let's look at some of them.

According to Internet Tutorials (<http://www.internettutorials.net/boolean.asp>), this form of search is named after George Boole, a mathematician born in Britain. It uses three terms — called logical operators — to set up searches: or, and, not.

For “I would like information about college,” a search for “college or university” will show results for sites with the word “college,” the word “university” and both words. Adding terms brings more results, such as “college or university or campus.”

For “I'm interested in the relationship between poverty and crime,” a search for “poverty and crime” brings up sites that contain both “poverty” and “crime.” Add-

ing terms to this search brings fewer results.

For “I want information about cats, but I don't want to see anything about dogs,” the search would be for “cats not dogs,” which eliminates sites that mention both cats and dogs.

You can combine queries for such things as “I want information about the behavior of cats, with this search: “behavior and (cats or felines).” If this looks vaguely familiar, it's because it's similar to a format used in mathematics.

Most search engines provide an ad-

vanced search for those of us who can't remember the Boolean methods.

In Google, click on Advanced search, where you'll find the form shown above. It asks to complete these items:

“Find web pages that have: all these words: _____

this exact wording or phrase: _____
one or more of these words: _____ OR _____
OR _____

“But don't show pages that have any of these unwanted words: _____.”

The same page allows searches of just a specific site (last choice).

Smart Computing tips and fun facts

Reprinted with permission from Smart Computing. Visit <http://www.SmartComputing.com/Groups> to learn what Smart Computing can do for you and your user group.

Selective startup In Windows 7: Windows bogs down over time, burdened with all of those background programs that load during startup. Some of those you need, but some just take up unnecessary boot seconds and are never used during an average Windows session. To disable unnecessary items, type msconfig in the Start Search field, select msconfig, and go to the System Configuration window's Startup tab. Uncheck anything that isn't useful or necessary. Some entries are pretty cryptic and require Web searching to figure out.

Invest in an outdoor GPS: If you're

going to be taking advantage of the great outdoors this summer, let a GPS (global positioning system) help you out. Special GPS devices are designed for boating, fishing, and golfing, so you can be sure you know where the most fish are or how far your golf ball needs to go to ensure you get a hole in one. Fitness GPSes are perfect to use while you're working out at your local park or making the difficult mountain climb. And if you're training for a triathlon and want to use your GPS on your bike, check out your local CE retailer for a special bike mount.

Use your special effects: If your camera has special effects modes, be sure to go out on a sunny day and snap away. These special effects will change the colors of your photos to black and white or even orange, or they will enhance your

photos in other ways. Once you've mastered the art, add a unique touch to your family or vacation photos.

*To ensure CIPCUG receives credit for new subscriptions and renewals, always subscribe and renew using the **Subscribe or Renew Today!** feature available within the User Group portion of the Smart Computing Web site. From here, select us from the drop-down list provided to ensure we received credit for the subscription order.*

You can also call 800-733-3809 to subscribe or renew and give us credit by telling the representative you want us to receive credit for the order.

Following these instructions will ensure that we get as many free subscriptions as we possibly can.

Annual report FY 2009-10

ASSETS	2008-09	2009-10
Cash	\$ 8,342.48	\$ 7,105.26
Equipment (depreciated value)	\$ 2,010.00	\$ 1,942.00
Total Assets	\$10,352.48	\$ 9,047.26
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	None	None
Contracts	None	None
Total Revenue	\$10,934.12	\$10,204.64
Total Disbursements	\$ 9,793.61	\$11,441.86

Cash Assets decreased \$1,237.22 and. Total Revenue was less than Total Disbursements by the same amount, a planned expenditure of accumulated funds. The net change from FY 2008-09 was a negative \$2,377.73. Several major items of equipment were purchased in FY 2009-10. Equipment expense of \$1,459.27 included an Acer Aspire laptop computer, audio recording and transcription equipment, a new Lavelier microphone, and several smaller items. The total cost of these purchases was offset by funds from an insurance claim, resulting in a net expenditure of \$88.92 for the year. Equipment (depreciated value) decreased \$68.00, and Total Assets decreased \$1,305.22 during the year. CIPCUG has no long-term liabilities and no long-term contracts. CIPCUG ISP ended June 30, 2010.

This report has been prepared without audit from the books and records of the corporation, and is believed to fairly represent its financial condition as of June 30, 2010. CIPCUG books are available for inspection by members on written request to the Treasurer. CIPCUG records are audited biennially, and an audit of FY 2008-09 was completed 12/18/09.

Arthur V. Lewis, Jr.
Treasurer
July 24, 2010

Treasurer's report for June 2010

By Art Lewis
treasurer@cipcug.org
6-1-2010 through
6-30-2010



Lewis

Category Description INFLOWS

Coffee income	-6.90
Donation	27.00
ISP income	112.50
Membership Income Renewals 440.00	
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	440.00
Raffle	49.52
TOTAL INFLOWS	622.12

OUTFLOWS

Equipment	250.56
ISP Expense	192.50
Membership Expense	30.00
Rent Paid	150.00
TOE	256.03
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	879.09

OVERALL TOTAL -256.97

Unrestricted Funds	7,105.26
Restricted Funds	0.00
Bank Balance 6-30-10	7,105.26
Year to Date Income	7,608.34
Year to Date Expense	-8,845.56

2010 contributors to The Outer Edge

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

Ken Church
Jerry Crocker
Rick Curry
Bob de Violini
Jeff Levy
Art Lewis

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

Membership report:

Is it time to renew?

By Ken Church

email address: membership@cipcug.org

Welcome -
New Members: Needed

Attendance at the July 2010 general meeting:
72 Members & Guests

Total membership: 204

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 Aug. 28, 2010, meeting.



CHURCH

August 2010 renewals payment due:

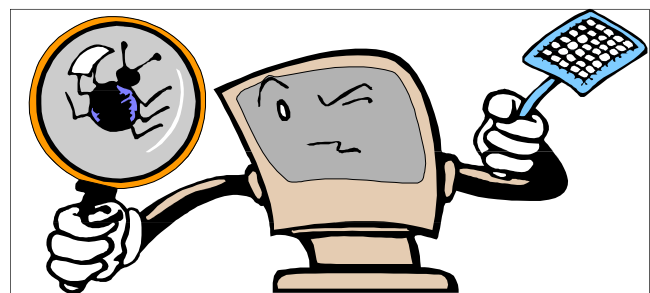
Mbr#	Last Name	First Name	Pd to Dt
1193	Abbate	Mannie	201008
0985	Bartels	Pat	201008
0028	Fiedler	Art	201008
0806	Hurme	Seppo	201008
0986	Kennedy, Jr.	Robert	201008
0867	Pryor	Dorothy	201008
0474	Pryor	John	201008
1222	Quint	Richard	201008
1223	Reed	Dan	201008
1125	Robinson	Bill	201008
0722	Smith	Gary	201008
1111	Sperske	Dineane	201008

June 2010 renewals payment due:

Mbr#	Last Name	First Name	Pd to Dt
0878	Garner	Bill	201006
1221	Harris	Jack	201006
0342	Page	John	201006

July 2010 renewals payment due:

Mbr#	Last Name	First Name	Pd to Dt
1028	Burke	Jim	201007
1229	Kirschke	Randy	201007
1149	Little	Robert	201007
0873	Pass	Jim	201007





F1—Your Help Key

(Revised Sept. 7, 2008)

COMMUNICATIONS/INTERNET (GENERAL)

World Wide Web DM

DATABASES

Access BR

DOS

RP

E-MAIL

Outlook MS
 Outlook Express BR, DM
 Thunderbird MS

GRAPHICS PROGRAMS

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

SPREADSHEETS

Microsoft Excel DM

WORD PROCESSING

Microsoft Word DM
 WordPerfect DM

WINDOWS

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

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

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

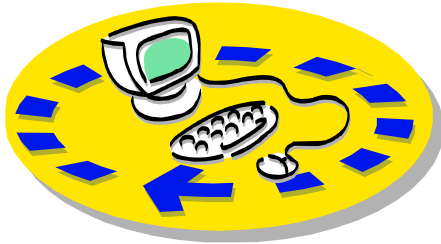
If you would like to volunteer to help others, please send your contact information and programs you're willing to help on to editor@cipcug.org.

.....

WEB HELP SITES

Annoyances Central blog (from authors of the O'Reilly Annoyances series, including Steve Bass):
www.annoyancescentral.com/
 Steve Bass TechBite Newsletter: www.techbite.com/
 DSL reports: www.dslreports.com
 Steve Gibson: www.grc.com/
 Kim Komando: www.komando.com
 Leo Laporte: www.leoville.com/
 Jeff Levy: www.jefflevy.com
 Linux distributions: www.DistroWatch.com
 Microsoft: www.microsoft.com/
 Microsoft Windows XP The Official Magazine (UK):
www.windowsxpmagazine.co.uk/
 Microsoft Windows Vista The Official Magazine (UK):
www.windowsvistamagazine.com/US/
 Online safety tips: www.OnGuardOnline.gov
 PC Pitstop: www.pcpitstop.com/
 PC World: www.pcworld.com/
 Recalled products: www.recalls.gov
 SANS Institute — Computer Security Education and Information Security Training: www.sans.org/
 Smart Computing: www.smartcomputing.com/
 Spyware Warrior: www.spywarewarrior.com/
 User Group Relations (Gene Barlow): www.ugr.com/
 Ventura County Computers (Rick and Toby's shop):
www.vccomputers.com
 Virus Bulletin: www.virus-bulletin.com/
 Windows Secrets: ww.windowssecrets.com/
 ZD Net spyware blog: www.blogs.zdnet.com/Spyware

If you have a favorite help site on the Web, please forward it, so we can expand the section. If you find a link that doesn't work, please tell us that, too.



Why join Channel Islands PC Users Group (CIPCUG)?

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

- ◆ The Outer Edge newsletter, which includes a list of members willing to help other members.
- ◆ The general meeting, featuring a question-and-answer session and program on new software or hardware.
- ◆ Special Interest Groups — special meetings held several times a month.
- ◆ Door prizes at the regular meeting.
- ◆ Other benefits include:
 - ◆ Special user group discounts on books and software.
 - ◆ An Internet service provider at a large discount (see next column).
 - ◆ A flash drive containing many

useful freeware programs.

- ◆ A chance to make friends with people who have similar interests.
- ◆ The ability to put your knowledge to good use by helping other members. The whole concept of user groups is members helping members.

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

Please make checks payable to CIPCUG.

Dues for new members
Individual member, \$40.
Family membership (same

address), \$55.

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

CIPCUG E-MAIL ADDRESS

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

CIPCUG INTERNET SERVICE TECH TEAM

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

dddave@cipcug.org
Bob Thompson, 647-2287

CIPCUG MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Amount enclosed: _____

Please Print the following information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____, State: _____

ZIP Code: _____

Phone (Home): _____ (Work): _____

E-mail address: _____

User level: Novice ____; Intermediate ____; Advanced ____

Date _____ Member # _____

Channel Islands PC Users Group Inc.

P.O.Box 51354
Oxnard, CA: 93031

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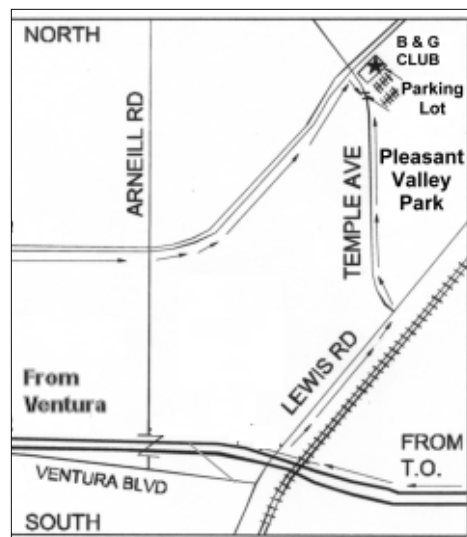
DATED MATERIAL
Please Do Not Delay

DUES REMINDER

If the number above your name is 201008, your membership dues are payable in August 2010.

AUGUST 2010 MEETING OF THE CHANNEL ISLANDS PC USERS GROUP

The map shows the easiest route to the Boys & Girls Club, but if you prefer, you can take the Carmen Drive offramp to Ponderosa Drive, which leads to Temple Avenue.



**Saturday morning, Aug. 28, at the
Boys & Girls Club, Ponderosa Drive
and Temple Avenue, Camarillo, Calif.**

Meeting Schedule:

8:30 a.m.	Doors open
8:45-9:30	Internet and networking SIG, Computing 101 SIG
9:30-10:30	Business meeting, Q&A
10:30-11:00	Break — Please contribute requested amounts for coffee and doughnuts
11:00-12:00	Program (TBA)
1:30	Drawing After-meeting SIG by Michael Shalkey