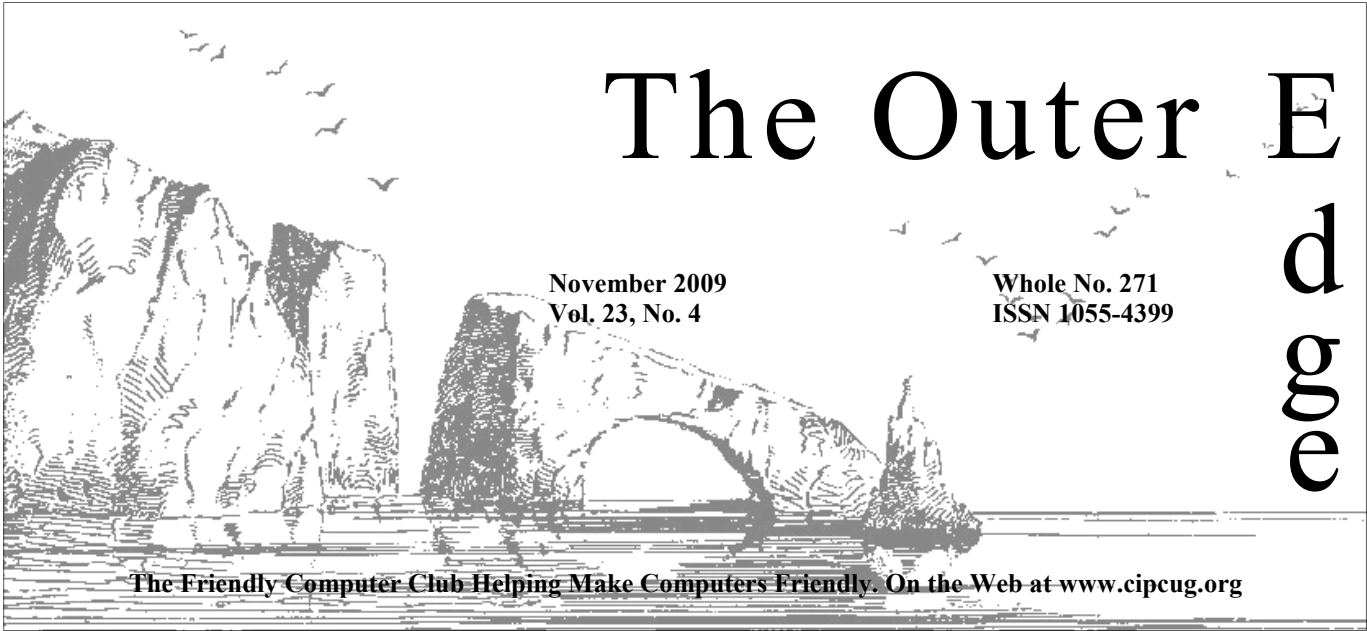


The Outer E

d
e
e

November 2009
Vol. 23, No. 4

Whole No. 271
ISSN 1055-4399



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

Attendance at the
October general meeting
82 members and guests

To Contact CIPCUG

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

Word and Excel tips

Sharon Parq Associates Inc. is offering user groups a monthly series of Word and Excel tips, the first of which appear this issue. Thousands of Microsoft Excel tips can be found at <http://excel.tips.net>. The Word tips are at <http://word.tips.net>. — Page 17

They're here (Rick Smith's Halloween story).

— Page 13

New version of Ubuntu released.

— Page 15

Acronis releases True Image Home 2010.

— Page 18

COMMAND.COM

By Rick Curry, President

We all know about the big events coming up shortly. Be sure to drive safely when you are out visiting family and friends and cook your turkeys thoroughly. I added a note on our calendar about the yearly Dia de los Meurtos celebration at the Ventura museum. Sometimes I know that I will not have a chance to tell you at the meeting about an event, so the calendar is my best bet for letting you know what is happening in and around our city. I'll mention a couple of December events early: the Parade of Lights in Oxnard is going to be celebrated on Dec. 12, and the Ventura Harbor Parade of Lights will be Dec. 18 and 19.

We had a very full meeting in October. It ran a little bit into overtime, it was very interesting, and we all learned a lot about Windows 7. It turns out there is a good reason that talk went as well as it did. Toby and Michael worked into the wee hours on Saturday morning making certain that they were hitting all of the most important highlights that could possibly fit into one meeting. We are all very fortunate to have them donating their time to our club.



Curry

Next meeting we will have more on Windows 7 as Gene Barlow shows us how we can keep our Windows XP while trying out Windows 7 through dual boot.

I have a smattering of technical topics I wanted to touch on this month.

We do have machines to update club flash drives. Toby and Michael have been so busy with preparing for Windows 7 that they have not been able to simultaneously produce a shareware update for the drives. Bring your drives to the next meeting and we will try to have some new software for you.

If you have purchased one of the great new LCD video monitors, treat it with care! They do not tolerate being poked at anything like the old glass monitors, and keep ammonia based cleaners away from them. Tepid water, a little mild soap, and a soft cloth are the ticket for cleaning them. Elbow

(Continued on page 3)

Root Directory

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



CIPCUG NEWS

Benefits23
 Board minutes3
 Coming CIPCUG events4
 Contributors to TOE20
 Command.com1
 Editor's corner20
 F1 — Your Help Key22
 Helen's Bits and Bytes17
 Map, schedule24
 Membership report21
 Program: Windows 711
 Q&A session5
 Treasurer's reports20

GENERAL

Computing 101: Printing19
 Excel and Word tips17
 Penguin's Lair: New version of
 Ubuntu released15
 Rick's rant: They're here14
 Smart Computing tips and fun
 facts15

ADVERTISEMENTS

Creative Technology10
 Members' classified ads21
 O'Reilly10
 Ventura County Computers11



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

Executive Committee
(Elected members of Board of Directors)
 PresidentRick Curry
 trindflo@cipcug.org
 Vice President/Program Chairman
 Craig Ladd
 vicepresident@cipcug.org
 SecretaryDiane Mortensen
 secretary@cipcug.org
 TreasurerArt Lewis
 treasurer@cipcug.org
 Immediate Past President
 Paul Westefter
 pwestefter@yahoo.com

(Appointed members of Board of Directors)
 Technical AdviserToby Scott
 Web Page EditorHelen Long
 webmaster@cipcug.org
 TOE editorJohn Weigle
 editor@cipcug.org
 Membership ChairmanKen Church
 membership@cipcug.org

Ex-officio members of Board of Directors
 Chief Protocol OfficerGeorge Lakes
 CIPCUG ISP SignupsHelen Long
 Sound Equipment Technicians
 Jim Burke and David Minkin
 Marketing Director Ron Pinkerton
 Program ChairmanCraig Ladd
 Publicity ChairmanPaul Westefter
 SIG coordinatorLarry Hudson

Past Presidents
 Walt Yates1987-1989
 Lois Evans de Violini1989-1991
 Terry Lee1991-1993
 Jerry McLoud1993-1995
 Robert Provart1995-1997
 Toby Scott1997-1999
 George Lakes1999-2001
 Andy Toth2001-2003
 David Harris2003-2005
 Lois Evans de Violini2005-2007
 Paul Westefter2007-2009
 (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

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

The Outer Edge

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

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

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

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

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

Advertising in The Outer Edge

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

SIZE	Cost/Issue
FULL-PAGE (9½”H x 7¼”W).....	\$50.00
HALF-PAGE (4½”H x 7¼”W) or (9½”H x 3½”W).....	\$30.00
THIRD-PAGE (3”H x 7¼” W).....	\$25.00
QUARTER-PAGE (4½”H x 3½”W).....	\$20.00
BUSINESS CARD ad.....	\$15.00
Discounts for multiple issues (3, 6, 9 and 12 months)	
Ad copy deadline is the 5th of the month of publication.	
Make all checks payable to CIPCUG.	

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

Minutes of October Board of Directors meeting

The CIPCUG Board of Directors held its monthly meeting on Oct. 24, 2009, following the regular meeting at the Boys & Girls Club of Camarillo.

In attendance were President Rick Curry; Vice-President Craig Ladd; Treasurer Art Lewis; TOE Editor John Weigle; Toby Scott, tech adviser; Web Page and ISP Co-coordinator Helen Long; and Secretary Diane Mortensen.

The meeting opened with a discussion regarding the revenue of raffle tickets versus what is spent on door prizes. Art Lewis, treasurer, stated that the difference between the revenue from raffle tickets and the cost of door prizes usually comes out even. Last month, there



Mortensen

was a difference of \$21 less received than spent. This could have been that there were only 61 members in attendance at September's meeting. Art informed the board that the required raffle registration had been renewed for another year.

Craig Ladd inquired if the budget for door prizes could be increased. There are times when it is difficult to buy door prizes that inspire an increase in ticket sales. In addition, he asked if a larger door prize such as a printer, a popular software program, computer gadgets, etc. could be offered.

It appears that the number of tickets sold is based on the door prizes offered. There was quite an interest in today's meeting door prize of one-half hour of technical support offered by Ventura County Computers.

Toby Scott stated that his company, upon consulting with Rick Smith, could offer a similar prize for future raffles. If so and it was advertised ahead of time in TOE, it could increase the sales of raffle tickets.

Toby Scott made the suggestion of putting the popular freeware programs on an 8GB flash drive to be offered at the December meeting for personal use and Christmas gifts. Last year's December meeting flash drive sales generated excellent revenue for the club. Toby will research the costs of 8GB flash drives and if too high, the cost of 4GB flash drives and report his findings at the November board meeting.

Art Lewis presented the treasurer's report, which appears elsewhere in this newsletter. The report was approved as

(Continued on page 4)

More on Command.com

(Continued from page 1)

grease is definitely a bad idea. One of the best bets is to do your eating in a different room.

There were some questions about video editing, and since I have a bully pulpit, I'll throw in my two cents worth. I like to use a really simple program to get the video from my camera onto my computer. Sonic.com has a product called MyDVD that does very little with your camera beyond burn the video to a DVD. I don't use their package to make DVDs, but I like to use their transfer software to get the movies from the camera to the computer because it is not capable of doing anything beyond the transfer.

Some software packages want to reformat your video as it is imported, and every time you reformat your video you lose quality. Other packages want to put markers in your camera, then only pull in the part of the video they are working with at the moment; this wears out your camera. Give me the simple downloader.

Most of the video packages you will

encounter do their best work in producing video clips. This is a single piece of an event that you have recorded: the presentation of the birthday cake and blowing out the candles; the wedding ceremony; one of the school performances. I am not recommending any particular package for this; there are a lot of good ones. But these clips will usually not fill a DVD, so you will want to put several of them together, and use some sort of packaging software to produce menus that let you play these individual clips. This is called "authoring," and I like to use DVD-lab Pro from media-chance.com for this step.

And there will be times that you get home movies on a DVD from someone else and would like to take clips from it and repackage them along with your clips into a new DVD. I like to use VideoReDo (VideoReDo.com) to grab the clips from an existing (unencrypted!) DVD, because VideoReDo does not reformat the video in the process. That means it works quickly, and you have no loss in quality because of an unnecessary reformat.

When I talked last month about video cards I forgot to mention something. I did talk about the number of pipelines (the equivalent of multiple processors). There used to be a trick you could do with some of the cards. To save cost, manufacturers would use the same chips on all of their cards, then use software to turn off some or most of the pipelines on a card. That way they could sell a number of products to different customers with different priorities. For the technically savvy, there were tricks we could do to turn those pipelines back on.

I found during my misadventures that this trick is not very likely to work any longer. The manufacturers have gotten more adept at disabling features in a permanent way when they manufacture a card that they want to sell for less without undercutting their more expensive cards. If you have read instructions online describing ways to dramatically improve the performance of an inexpensive card, don't count on that trick working any longer.

Until next month, Happy computing!

Coming events

Migrating from XP to Windows 7 is November topic

Programs

Gene Barlow will conduct a webinar on migrating from Windows XP to Windows 7 at the Nov. 21 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., and the E-mail and Internet 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.

Barlow provided the following information on the presentation:

“Windows 7 has generated a lot of interest the past few months. While many users stayed with Windows XP and avoided going to Windows Vista, these same users are now excited to move to Windows 7. Windows 7 has cleaned up many of the problems users had with Windows Vista and has added some new and exciting features not found in Windows XP. This presentation is not a description of these new features or even a demonstration of Windows 7, but will focus on how you can get from your Windows XP or Vista system to the new Windows 7 operating system on your computer. Microsoft has led you to believe that moving to Windows 7 from XP will be almost impossible to do.

“That is simply not the case. There are many great ways to move to Windows 7 from Windows XP.

“One of the first things users of Windows should do on their computers is to

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.

separate their data files from their program files. This basic change to your hard drive will better protect your important data files from viruses and Windows crashes and also give you a better way to back up your main hard drive. It also makes moving to a new operating system much easier to do. So, this is a first step in getting to Windows 7. Normally, doing such a change to your computer would require a major reinstall of everything on your computer. But we will tell you how to do it easily and will even demonstrate this function for you so you can see how easy it can be with the right tools.

“Once you have separated your data files from your program files, you can turn your attention to installing Windows 7 on your computer. There are

many ways to do this. We will look at all of the options you have available and recommend the best approach possible for you to get to Windows 7 on your computer. We will then cover the approach to installing Windows 7 on your computer in some detail. We will even demonstrate how to do this so that you can see how easy it is to accomplish. To protect you, our plan includes leaving your stable older operating system on your computer also. That lets you start to use Windows 7 at your own pace and not be forced into it immediately like the Microsoft approach.

“This topic gets down to the heart and soul of your computer's hard drive. It is one that all serious users of personal

(Continued on page 5)

More on minutes ...

(Continued from page 3)
received.

An inquiry was made as to the lost/missing computer equipment reported by Michael Shalkey at September's meeting and Toby reported that it appears to have been stolen. Art asked

Rick if he had the equipment insurance policy, possibly given to him by Past President Paul Westefer. Rick will look through the immense amount of information passed to him by Paul and report back at the next board meeting.

John Weigle announced that the

deadline for TOE is no later than the following Sunday, Nov. 1. This is because November's meeting is on the third Saturday instead of the usual fourth Saturday of the month.

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

Q&A

Facebook blocked; e-mails don't arrive

Unless otherwise noted, questions at the Internet and e-mail SIG and the Question-and-Answer session are answered by Toby Scott, our technical adviser. Michael Shalkey, handles the computer duties.

Internet and e-mail SIG Reported by John Weigle

Facebook blocked

Q: A friend couldn't open a Facebook link in an e-mail. It was blocked by a firewall.

A: Facebook is blocked by some companies and schools and on some home computers with parental controls (as an example, it is blocked at our venue, the Boys & Girls Club of Camarillo). It's something on the recipient's

This month's Q&A topics:

Internet and e-mail SIG
Facebook blocked
E-mail not arriving
Changing e-mail programs
Multiple copies of messages
Microsoft Essentials
Internet Explorer 8
Removing malware tools
Program not recognized message
Norton scans
.Net problems

Regular Q&A

Miscellaneous Windows 7 questions
Install Windows 7 now or wait?
Upgrading XP
Transferring Verizon address book
Video editing programs
Backup issues
Calligraphy font
Governing domain names
Understanding connection speeds
Flash drives

computer or network. You can save and/or copy and paste the link or picture and send that with your e-mail. There's no way for you to determine why the link won't work on someone else's com-

puter.

E-mail not arriving

Q: I have friends who get e-mail

(Continued on page 6)

More on coming events ...

(Continued from page 4)

computers needs to understand."

Other coming meetings:

Reminder: The November and December meetings are on the third Saturday of the month, not the fourth, because of the holidays.

Dec. 19: TBA

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 industrial building.

The pre-meeting SIGs are at 8:45 a.m. at the Boys & Girls Club in Camarillo. The after-meeting SIG is at 2 p.m. at The Star, 550 Camarillo Center Drive, Camarillo.

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

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.

Fourth Tuesday: Linux.

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

The schedules for the balance of

November and all of December.:

November

Saturday, Nov. 21: 8:45 a.m. Computing 101 and Internet, e-mail SIGS. 9:30 a.m.: Regular meeting, Gene Barlow webinar on dual booting with Acronis products. 1:30 p.m.: Michael Shalkey's after meeting SIG at The Star. Topic: Zune, a great alternative to iTunes — even without the Zune player.

Tuesday, Nov. 24: Linux SIG. Topic New version of Ubuntu.

December

Monday, Dec. 7: TOPCC Photo Group.

Saturday, Dec. 19: Computing 101 SIG and Internet and e-mail SIG, 8:45 a.m. Michael Shalkey's after-meeting SIG at The Star, 550 Camarillo Center Drive, Camarillo.

Tuesday, Dec. 22: Linux. Topic: TBA. Watch the Web site for possible change in date because of the holidays.

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

More on Q&A: e-mail issues; installing IE 8

(Continued from page 5)

from different people, but when they reply, the replies don't always arrive.

A: A lot of e-mail problems stem from the rising amount of spam because all Internet Service Providers try to block obvious spam, but no two do exactly the same things. ISPs might block all mail from certain domains, such as AOL and Gmail, while others look at content. Four or five months ago, people figured out how to get multiple Gmail accounts and use them to send spam. Lots of spam lists started listing Gmail until they fixed the problem. The CIPCUG server subscribes to one of the services and until I did a manual override, our server was blocking Gmail, too.

Smaller providers, such as CIPCUG and Ventura County Computers might be blocked because the larger companies aren't familiar with them or because they don't have the bells and whistles that the other companies use to authenticate. I periodically have to contact ISPs that have blocked us to get unblocked. I support several small companies that run Exchange Server and I'm always putting out fires for them. To start to fix the problems, we have to know the sending server and the receiving servers.

This means that most people aren't going to be able to run mail servers at home. I have Time Warner, for instance, and it won't let me run a home mail server even if I want to.

We put up the new Ventura County Computers mail server 2 to 2 1/2 years ago because we were getting 91,000 to 93,000 messages a day. The new server with a new filter program cut the number to 9,000 to 12,000 a day. We're up to 18,000 to 19,000 a day now, and I expect we'll have greater problems. Handling e-mail is a huge expense and a huge bother, because no provider is going to give you the whole world of e-mail.

Changing e-mail programs

Q: I'm still on AOL because of my wife. I have Yahoo and Verizon e-mail addresses. Should I move to Gmail?

A: AOL is for sale because it's hemorrhaging money. If you've spent years building up an address book and e-mails on AOL, be prepared for it to go away. If you're using AOL, get another account and tell people to start using the new address. Yahoo, Hotmail and Gmail are not that different, but if you have no other accounts, Gmail might be a good place to start. AOL and some other free e-mail providers make it difficult, if not impossible, to export your address book and mail, although some solutions have been offered on the Web. Gmail, Hotmail and Yahoo mail all have easily accessible and importable addresses and mailboxes. Use them in preference to most others.

(To a question) Earthlink has an e-mail subscription service for \$3 a month. CIPCUG will let you have an e-mail account for \$15 a year, and it includes Web access.

I've had the scotts.net domain since 1994 and use it for e-mail. I can keep the same address and move the domain anywhere in the world if my ISP goes away or the service becomes bad.

Comment from audience: I was in Maine for a month and had no problem checking my e-mail at CIPCUG.org.

Comment from audience: I have Verizon and get very little spam. I can check the spam on the Web.

Toby: I like Hotmail because I can make spam and nonspam rules. Microsoft picks up spam definitions from Hotmail to use in Outlook updates.

Multiple copies of messages

Q: I get two copies of messages in Thunderbird.

A: You might have filtering rules that makes copies of messages to separate folders.

Q: I do leave messages on the server for a while.

A: I have lots of folders in Outlook that I direct mail to with rules (family, CIPCUG, etc.) My in box is primarily suspected spam, and that's where I look last.

Q: Can Hotmail and other Web mails

do that?

A: If you're looking at the mail on the Web in those, no. You have to download the mail to your computer to sort with the rules. Gmail, Hotmail and Yahoo Mail all allow you to download your mail messages to an e-mail client (Outlook, Microsoft Mail, Thunderbird, etc.)

Microsoft Essentials

Q: What about Microsoft Essentials?

A: That's the subject of Michael's SIG this afternoon.

Michael: I think McAfee, Norton and AVG could be out of business in two years because of Microsoft's free anti-virus program.

Toby: I agree on Norton and McAfee, but not AVG. Its primary business is on servers for big businesses.

Internet Explorer 8

Q: Windows Update keeps pushing me to install IE 8, even though I don't want it.

A: IE 8 is good, but it won't run on some computers. It's fairly easy to uninstall it and go back to IE 7. IE 8 uses more resources than IE 7, and some installations fail. Some Web pages look strange in it, but that's the fault of the designers, not the program. Early versions of IE were not good about Web standards, and a lot of designers did things that didn't meet standards because IE had the biggest market share. As other more standards-compliant browsers were developed, most newer pages met the standards. But many older pages have not been updated, and because IE 8 is much better about being standards-compliant than earlier versions, many of those pages look funny in it. IE 7 was more complaint than the earlier versions of IE, and IE 8 is about where Firefox and Opera were two years ago, meaning it's 97 to 98 percent compliant. Some pages display well only in IE 5 and 6.

Q: When my computer says programs are ready to download, how do I check to see if IE 8 is among them?

(Continued on page 7)

More on Q&A: malware tools; Windows 7

(Continued from page 6)

A: If you don't use IE, go ahead and get IE 8 because you do need it for Windows Update and it's much more secure than earlier versions. In Internet Explorer, go to Windows Update > Custom, which shows the list of updates. You can also do manual updates.

Michael: Right click on the notification icon and you can pick the updates you want. If you don't agree to the license for a specific update (i.e., IE 8), it will stop asking you.

Toby: If you go to Windows Update you can also remove items from the update list.

Removing malware tools

Q: Microsoft Essentials says to remove other anti-virus and other anti-malware programs. Does that include Spybot?

A: It depends. You only want one anti-virus or similar program running real-time checks because they'll conflict with each other. If you have Spybot's TeaTimer application running, you'll have to turn it off or even better, uninstall it. Other programs might also have tools that run in the background, so be careful. The professional version of Malwarebytes runs in the background.

Q: Hasn't Spybot learned yet that it causes that problem?

A: In fairness, Spybot is one guy in Germany and a couple of volunteers. TeaTimer works with some programs on some computers but not all. Some anti-virus programs have no spyware detector so it's not a problem on those systems.

'Program not recognized' message

Q: I have a problem with an old database program that I use regularly and keep getting warnings that the program is not recognized. The program runs, but the warning is a nuisance. Can I fix that? I'm using Windows XP.

A: The message shouldn't keep coming up. What firewall do you use? (AVG anti-virus and firewall).

Try turning the AVG firewall off and using Windows Firewall. In the Win-

dows Firewall, you can allow a program through the firewall.

Norton scans

Q: In the past month or so I've been getting messages that say Norton is performing a background scan. Is that a danger? Should I be concerned?

A: That one is OK. When Norton AntiVirus 2009-2010 detects that the mouse and keyboard haven't been used in a certain time period, it will get updates and start background scans that used to slow the computer down while you were working. It's a good addition to the program.

.Net problems

Q: I'm getting messages that a .Net update failed. What is .Net, and do I need it?

A: Don't install it unless you have to — meaning if a program says it needs it, install it. But otherwise, don't. There are several versions and some of the installs and updates don't work. You can try uninstalling updates one at a time until the problem is solved, but it usually easier to uninstall the whole thing. Pay attention to versions. .Net 1 is a completely different program than .Net 2, which is different from .Net 3. Only uninstall the version giving you problems.

.Net is Microsoft's program to let Web sites talk to each other. Their ad is about someone who gets hurt in San Francisco on a trip, deals with his insurance company on the Web to find a doctor on the program, checks the calendars of several doctors until he finds one who has an opening and makes an appointment on the doctor's Web site. When you do this you're pushing stuff or having stuff pushed to you, and some of it might be something you don't want. If you allow Active X to run, you don't know what's in it. Your only control is how much you trust the company that's sending it. .Net is a security issue, but many database programs need it to operate. It's a program, not the Net domain name.

Regular Q&A

Reported by Diane Mortensen

Miscellaneous Windows 7 questions

Toby's introduction: These questions I have been asked around six times in the last month, and I would like to answer now rather than make it part of our Windows 7 presentation today. Some of the questions: Should I wait and buy a computer with Windows 7 installed? Should I upgrade to Windows 7? Other questions were variations of the same topic, Windows 7 program install. My question is if you are buying a new computer and you do not buy a Windows 7 computer you are brain dead. Microsoft has said that it will support only two operating systems at a time. All of us know that Vista was an unpopular system, and Microsoft will be forced to support XP for longer than yesterday, when Windows 7 came out. If it is going to support only two at a time, that would be Vista and Windows 7, and XP is on the cutting board.

A lot of people in this club keep computers for more than two to three years. Many will want a computer to last five or six years and some 10 years. We still get '98 machines coming into the shop, and we just roll our eyes. If you think that is something you might want to do with the computer — even if three years from now you will get another primary computer and the old one will be a hand-me-down to spouse, friend, etc. — if you're buying a new computer with XP it will not be supported for the life of the computer and you will end up with a dead box. There will be no security protection and you will not be able to go on the Internet safely. I do not see the Internet getting safer and safer over the next couple of years, and you will short circuit yourself. That is number one. Number two: Windows 7 is a better operating system than XP and it's not just a little bit better, but by an order of magnitude.

Several of the major computer writers who were Vista bashers have been

(Continued on page 8)

More on Q&A: Video editing; backup issues

(Continued from page 7)

Vista bashers all along, never liked Vista and have been using XP still, yet when the Windows 7 beta came out, they went “Wow!” They have already made the switch to running Win7 beta before the product came out and using the beta as their primary Windows platform. One of the people who had been a Vista basher came out and wrote in May 2009 the beta of Windows 7 is the best operating system Microsoft has ever produced. That is the beta, not even the release candidate, much less the final. The system is hugely more stable than anything I have ever seen from Microsoft. This may sound paradoxical, but the reason it is so good is that Windows 7 is Vista

Install Windows 7 now or wait?

Q. I am getting a copy of Windows 7 in the mail and it came with my new computer. Do you recommend installing it as soon as get the software or wait?

A. If you are going to install it, there is no reason to wait. There is nothing in your Vista for which Windows 7 isn't a massive improvement. There is nothing new that will go bump in the night. Vista was an entire rewrite on XP. There was not one line of code in Vista that was in XP, and that was the reason they had all those problems. It has taken them this long to sand off all of the warts and get it all up and running. Windows 7 is just a much cleaner version of Vista — a very cleaned up version. If you are going to do it, you may as well as do it in a long weekend.

Upgrading XP

Q. I have an OEM version of XP. Can I buy upgrades and then install Windows 7?

A. Yes, you can do that. Let us agree that we will not entertain any more Windows 7 questions in this Q&A and wait until the regular meeting to field those questions.

Transferring Verizon address book

Q. How can I transfer a Verizon address book to another e-mail account?

A. If you are using online Verizon,

the answer is I do not know. I would look on your Verizon e-mail account for the calendar/address book and see if you can import that to another e-mail account. This was one of the problems with AOL; it does not make it easy because it wants you to be forced to stick with AOL. When you open an e-mail account these are some of the things you want to consider. That is why I prefer using a real e-mail program, not Web mail. I use Outlook all the time, and I own the data and do not need to rely on anyone else giving me back my own data.

Video editing programs

Q. I just got a new toy, a video camera, and I am entering the wonderful world of video editing. I am currently using Magic Pro 15 program, which is supposed to be a good program; however I have found it completely unstable. As far as I am concerned, it is worthless. My computer is 2.6 GH processor and 6 GB of RAM, and I am getting memory allocation errors and it's the only program showing that error message. The two questions I have are (1) What video editing program do you use that you found stable that I can go out and try, and (2) How, generally speaking, how big a clip can you expect to edit at one time? Maybe I have too many and that is the problem.

A. Since never in my life have I ever edited a video clip, I do not know what to tell you. Does anyone have any suggestions?

From the audience: Premiere Elements, Pinnacle Studios, and Magic Movie Editing.

A. Elements is an Adobe product and we all know that Adobe products aren't cheap, but they do tend to work and they have support. On the Web under “the top 10 video editing software reviews,” No. 3 is Adobe Premiere Elements; No. 5, Pinnacle Studios; No. 4, Magic Movie Editing. Make sure that whatever program you select to use has backup support.

Back to the original question and the

memory error message, my suspicion is that it will probably be your install or something went wrong with your computer and not enough horsepower, memory, or too big of an item. What was shown appears to be a fair review system. Outside of Magic, I know all those companies — Pinnacle, Adobe, Corel — and they are all responsible companies. If you have memory allocation errors, it will not blow up the computer mid-stream.

From the audience: I use Magic 14 and have no trouble with it, but I have had to contact them by e-mail to Germany. They come back and solve any problems I might have. I am very happy with the program.

A. The digital photo club in Thousand Oaks also may be able to help you. It is worth a try. Their programs are on CIPCUG's calendar.

Backup issues

Q. This is a question on backup. I have a desktop and a laptop and everything on my desktop in the way of letters, photos I have on my laptop. When Gene Barlow spoke the last time, I bought a portable hard drive and I am always afraid to do anything, but I did install his program on my desktop. It was my understanding it would copy the whole computer program, the operating system and data, so that if my computer crashed I would have the backup to put on. However, if I buy a new computer, and obviously I'm not going to have the XP program, do I go ahead and continue with that or somehow use the program on my hard drive and then copy it over?

A. In terms of backup, there are two kinds of backups. One is a backup of the whole computer, operating system and everything else. Second, there is a backup of just data. Most of us do not have that much data. If you have videos, music libraries, and huge archives of photos, that might be different. However, for most of us in this room, we do not have much data. I strongly recommend that you make one copy of your

(Continued on page 9)

More on Q&A: calligraphy font; connection speed

(Continued from page 8)

image backup that is of the entire computer. You would only need to do that every month or couple of months. The only time you really need to worry about a backup is when you install a new program that you suddenly start using a lot. It is then that you would want to make another image backup, but you would not have to update that very often.

What you want to update daily is your data so if the computer dies you do not lose all your e-mails, added contacts in the last several days, data from your accounting programs, and the last batch of family photos. That is the data you want to back up and do it on a daily basis. Most of the USB drives you buy, unless you have very huge quantities of data, have plenty of space on there to do both. The backup of your data will be small.

Q. So are you saying that the program that came with the hard drive to do the data backup or what?

A. You can use any backup program you want, but generally speaking if you use a program to back up the entire computer and that program will do the data as well, then stay with that one program.

Going back to your original question that you were looking at getting a new computer and getting rid of the old in the short term and you are absolutely certain you know every location for your data, then you can do a data backup. A lot of us do not know where the data is located. Quicken is famous for putting the Quicken data files in your Program Files, which nobody backs up; therefore, the Quicken data does not get backed up. If it were my computer and I were planning to get rid of it, I would use the drive image to make a complete image of my computer. Then I would use the drive image in the program mode to copy all of the known data I have and I am sure that I can get to it and I would do both. That is the safest way to do it and continue backing up often. I would make sure that Intuit or Quicken does not put the data in someplace strange and it puts it in the My Documents

folder.

Q. So when I get a new computer what goes from the True Image would be just what I put onto the new computer, not everything that is on it?

A. You would restore the data in the data backup, not in the image backup. You can also go into your image backup of the entire computer and backup just selected files. You do not have to copy the image over because you would have the data and you can pick off the individual programs that you need. It is doable although you may need some help.

Calligraphy font

Q. My wife wants me to get her a calligraphy font set. This is a two-part question. One is where can I find this kind of program just by Googling? Second, how do you go about installing the program or whatever and where do I put it?

A. First you can Google the subject. Sometimes when you search you'll come upon a site that appears to be what you want, but when you go there, the site is dead. What happens is that somebody will have a site they got tired of keeping up, maybe because they are not making the business they initially thought would happen. They decide not to renew and some hijacker goes out and grabs the same site. He puts all of the stuff in the header to make it look like it is a calligraphy site, but when you click it on, it says, "You want to buy this site?" He is just looking for someone to buy the calligraphy site. You get this all the time from hijackers who think they can make thousands of dollars on these sites. If you have a domain and you let it expire, you can count on someone asking you for a thousand dollars to get it back. They will register the site for \$9.95 from GoDaddy, but they will charge you \$1,000 to get it back.

Depending on what program you are in, you can go out and download fonts, save them and then open to install. Some locations for fonts are www.fontriver.com, www.dafont.com or go to download.cnet.com and search for

Calligraphy fonts.

Governing domain names

Q. I understand that the United States is giving up its domination of its domain name and given to some type of international control and have more people involved in it. What is your opinion on that?

A. It has been a gradual migration going on for a long time. ICAAN (the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) handles the basic stuff. Essentially, the Internet is going to have more international control, and that is just the way that it is, the natural order of things. The basic motivation behind the move is to allow domains to be registered in non-Roman characters — Chinese, Cyrillic, Arabic, etc.

Understanding connection speeds

Q. I was in the Verizon store yesterday, and they tried to interest me in a Netbook and talking about the difference with the connection speeds. I realized I did not understand what 5 MPS or 15 MPS means. Does that mean what I can do in an instant or the total amount I can do in a month? Could you explain that? I did not understand the language or what it would mean to me when I was working on the Netbook.

A. It's a measure of what you can do in an instant. However, download speed is only part of the story. When you are doing Google searches, you want to go out to get a page, it sends you out to all these little pages, and you click on next, then to next page. In that instance, download speed does not make much of a difference because the second aspect of speed on the Internet is what they call latency. This means when you send a message out, how long does it take to get returned back from the other person. Or, if they send you a request for information, how long does it take your computer to get it back to them? DSL has very fast sustainable download speed. Latency is terrible so do not use it as a server because it is slow. A 1.54 MPS T1 on a Web site will run circles around

(Continued on page 10)

More Q&A: flash drives; solid-state drives

(Continued from page 9)

a 25 MPS connection. If all you are doing is surfing the Web and reading e-mail, any DSL will work as well as the fastest DSL connection because they both have the same latency.

DSL latency speed does not change when you increase download speed. That is why about 10 years ago there was a deal, where everybody was going to get Internet over the satellite. It still gets incredible download speed. The problem is that the latency is like two minutes. Therefore, every time you send a query out, you can go and get a cup of coffee. If the query was to send a large amount of data, upon your return it will have started and the data would come in a rush. However, when you ask another query, you can go get another cup of coffee. It was so long that it became an annoyance and the same thing when they tired to go to satellite for a long-distance telephone. There was a time when MCI and others were using satellites for long-distance calls. Everyone screamed bloody murder because there was this half a second delay listening to someone talk. You would say something and you did not get back the answer in real time; that is latency. If all you are doing is looking at Web pages and not doing long sustained downloads, then download speed is a waste of money. That is unless you get psychic rewards because you can go to cocktail parties and brag that you have 25MB download speed. It might be worth it for that, but it

does not do anything for you. Ninety percent of the people in this room it does so little that it would be a waste of time.

Flash drives

Q. I have a question about flash drives. I have three — one is the CIP-CUG flash drive, and two that I have for data backup. When I go to plug in one with data, the computer says flash drive “I” and I can download on to it; the other one does not come up. I go to My Computer and it does not register.

A. Flash drives do die. Try it on another computer to test if it does the same. If you do not have another computer, bring it to the next meeting, and we will try it on one of the computers here. Flash drives do die and that may be all that it is. You can also kill them. If you are wiring your computer and building it yourself and accidentally get the USB plug on the front of the machine plugged into the motherboard backwards, that can kill a flash drive. They are also are not waterproof. A member left his flash drive in his pants and his wife washed them; there went his flash drive.

Solid-state drives

Q. What do think about the life expectancy of these solid-state drives that are coming out?

A. There are flash drives out there that use the flash technology. They put them in the size of a regular hard drive and put them in the computer and you can get up to about 400GB, which is a

decent size drive, but they cost around \$500. The problem is that the flash is not a copy-forever medium and will eventually wear out. I do not know how long and believe no one knows. We do have tools that can do checks on disks and lockouts, faulty sections, etc. Therefore, you might be able to use some tools to extend the life of the drive even if one section goes bad. Unless you have a compelling reason, I would not jump on that technology yet because I believe it is too soon. If I did get that technology I would get a smaller drive and set it up as the C: drive, set up my operating system on it, which tends to be programs that do not change very often, except for Microsoft updates. Then I would put all my data on a different drive and put up with a slower, more time-tested drive with my data because data becomes the small component and the operating system a large component. You get a boost of speed and you would not wear your drive out as rapidly. That is what I would do, but will it last three, four, five years? I do not know.

Michael comment: I have a friend who did exactly that. He has money to throw around and he bought the flash hard drive as the Windows drive and he can get the drive to boot up in like 14 seconds. Depending on whom you ask, one of the experts I was listening to said the problem with flash drive is not the age — like if I put the drive on a shelf, how many years later can I still read it?

(Continued on page 11)



**User Group Members Save On
All Books
From O'Reilly
and our publishing
partners**

30%

O'REILLY
USER GROUP PROGRAM

Order Online: www.oreilly.com
By Phone: 800-998-9938
By Email: order@oreilly.com
Use Discount Code **DSUG**

The Outer Edge is printed and prepared for mailing by:

Bob Weisensee
Production Supervisor



CREATIVE TECHNOLOGY

of Sarasota, Inc.

5959 Palmer Boulevard
Sarasota, FL 34232-2841

bob@ctims.com
newsletters@ctims.com

(941) 371-2743
Fax: (941) 379-2933
(800) 533-1031

More on Q&A ...

(Continued from page 10)

The problem is that it can write only 10,000 times or 100,000 times, or a limited number of times. It can read, no problem, but it can only write 100,000 times and it is not a 100,000 writing to it, it is 100,000 times for each sector of the drive. In my lifetime, I am more likely to lose a flash drive, or plug into a bad computer and have it fried, or stop using it because I bought one that was five times the size for half the cost, than I am to have it die of natural causes. This is where we get into trouble with Windows because the temp file is always writing. When you get your Windows drive in flash technology, no one knows yet how long it will last.

Toby: There are solutions to the temp drive. You could put your cache on another drive, either a cheap flash drive or a hard drive and not worry about it. The thing to recognize is that you have a limited number of writes in the data, and it will not last forever. How long, we do not know. A theoretical number in a laboratory and real world experiences do not always dovetail. It is not where I would put my data. I would put an operating system on it and copy it, but not data.

Program: Windows 7

Shalkey and Scott introduce Microsoft's new operating system

By John Weigle

jweigle@vcnet.com

Michael Shalkey and Toby Scott introduced us to Windows 7 in October, and they emphasized that it was only an introduction even though the meeting ran past noon because it was often interrupted with questions.

Shalkey said he and Scott prepared their presentation after reviewing Paul Thurrott's Windows Super Site — also highly recommended the next day by Leo Laporte on his radio show. Thurrott is the co-author with Rafael Rivera of the book "Windows 7 Secrets." Thurrott is one of the many early users who say Windows 7 is the best version of Windows ever,

(Continued on page 12)



Ventura County Computers

www.vccomputers.com



(805) 289-3960

2175 Goodyear Ave. #117 Ventura 93003

Buy a new PC at your locally owned computer store
 With every new Intel system we sell we provide
 a three-year health insurance policy to go with it!
 Who needs a public option when you already
 have good insurance with VCC.
 Drive a new one off of the lot today!



Buy Local Special

Bring us a new customer
 (who buys something from us)
 And lunch is on us!
 Receive an IN-N-OUT
 Gift Certificate for \$5.00
 If you want to eat in
 we'll even go get it for you!

Cash for Clunkers

In keeping with change you can believe in,
 Ventura County Computers is offering to upgrade any
 Windows Vista PC sold to CIPCUG members to Windows 7
 for only the cost of the Upgrade Software. We'll eat the
 LABOR and a FEW WORDS for selling you Vista, oh my.

More on Windows 7 ...

(Continued from page 11)

Shalkey said, noting that Thurrott also liked Windows Me, which few others did, because it introduced features we take for granted now.

Vista users will see a lot of familiar features in Windows 7, Shalkey and Scott agreed, because it's a revamped Vista with most of the problems that people complained about revised or eliminated.

Microsoft let everyone download Windows 7 to see how it worked, Shalkey said, and those who registered and activated a release candidate can pay the upgrade price for the final version. Apple never did that, he added.

Windows 7 comes in six versions: Home Basic, Starter (designed for netbooks), Home Premium, Professional, Enterprise and Ultimate. The first two are for computers with little power.

Home Premium is the version most likely to be placed on new computers and Professional is the one most businesses will want. Most of us will never see the Enterprise edition, and Microsoft seems to be pulling back from Ultimate and not promoting it, Shalkey said.

Most people will get Windows 7 when they buy a new computer, Shalkey said, but users can upgrade machines. Any computer that will run Vista will run Windows 7, Shalkey said. Scott said that businesses will want the Professional version because it can connect to domains. Most medium and large businesses require their users to connect to a domain, with layered permissions, etc. Home users don't need this level of security, hence the continuing distinction between Home and Business versions.

Before installing Windows 7, Shalkey reminded us, back up your data — and your whole computer if you think you might want to go back to your current operating system — and be sure you know how to restore from the backup. Find your program CDs and registration numbers so you can reinstall them.

It's best to do a clean install of Windows 7, but it's possible to upgrade from Vista, Shalkey said. Scott advised in-

stalling the 64-bit version of Windows 7 because the world is moving to 64-bit from 32-bit, and new software won't come in 32-bit versions in the next few years. The advantage of a 64-bit system is that 32-bit software can use only 4 Gig of RAM and the 64-bit can access any amount — well not really, but the number is 17 digits and doesn't have a prefix (kilo, mega, giga, tera, etc.)

In answer to a question, Scott said that 32-bit programs will run in the 64-bit installation but run in a separate box. The process is called "thunking." Most new software is now available in 32- and 64-bit versions, but more and more will be available only in 64-bit versions, he said. Some vendors are selling both versions in the same box, giving users a choice. A specific version of Microsoft Office, however, must be selected at the time of purchase.

A family pack is available that allows installation of Windows 7 on three computers. It comes with three serial numbers. One advantage of the pack is that Windows 7 has a feature called "Homegroup," that easily creates home networks, but only with other computers running Windows 7, Scott said.

Discussing OEM vs. Retail versions, the two said that the main difference is that Microsoft supports the Retail version and the person you bought the OEM version from supports it. Industry practice is that the seller will support installation problems for free or a small cost but will charge to fix problems caused by the user (software that doesn't work, viruses, and so on), Scott noted.

Virtualized Windows will be the subject of a coming SIG by Shalkey, but the license allows the system to be installed on up to four virtual machines on the same computer.

Windows 7 eliminates the Vista sidebar, Shalkey said. Gadgets remain and can be placed wherever on the desktop a user wants them.

Aero Shake minimizes all Windows except the active one when it's jiggled with the mouse. Aero Snap lets users minimize, maximize and resize a win-

dow by just dragging-dropping it to a screen corner.

Program notifications appear in the notifications area of the taskbar rather than popping up on the desktop. They can be read by right clicking on them.

Another new feature is the Action Center, which shows system maintenance and security information and simplifies troubleshooting.

Jump lists are similar to History lists already in many programs and can be reached by right clicking on the program's icon. Their contents depend on the program, but the idea is to show the last several items opened and sometimes actions that can be performed on them.

If you can't remember where you stored a file but know its name, you can start typing the name in the search box to find it.

At first glance, Libraries look like regular folders, but each one is more like an index of all the folders and any external drives or other networked computers. Windows 7 comes with Libraries for documents, music, pictures and videos, but users can create them for anything they want to.

Because of anti-trust issues in Europe, some features have been deleted from Windows, but they can be downloaded and installed. The programs that were left out or are new include Microsoft Live Mail, Windows Live Essentials and Microsoft Security Essentials, which includes the new Microsoft anti-virus program.

Shalkey is impressed with the new WordPad, which doesn't have spell check but does allow changing of fonts, type size and type colors. Scott noted that it's also possible to insert spreadsheets and pictures in its documents. A person could prepare a full publication in Word Pad, Scott said.

The User Account Control, which irritated so many Vista users, has been toned down, Shalkey said. Vista pops up lots of messages, and users are supposed to say no to programs that try to install themselves or make major changes that

(Continued on page 13)

'They're here' (written on Halloween night)

A group of seemingly benign Microsoft Techs communicating with 5-year-old Carol Anne Freeling in her parents' suburban California home via static on the computer. Eventually they use the computer as their path into the house itself.

First, there are a few signs that the Microsoft Techs have arrived: Carol Anne carries on a seemingly one-sided conversation with a computer that's turned on but has no Internet signal, an earthquake occurs that only the Freelings feel (which was caused by the Microsoft Techs leaving the computer and

Rick's rant



Smith

entering the house), and Carol Anne announces, "They're here." The next morning, e-mail automatically downloads at breakfast, photos edit and print by themselves, and when the mother, Diane, asks Carol Anne, "What did you mean? Who's here?" she answers, "The Microsoft people." At first, the Microsoft Techs play harmless tricks and amuse the mother, including moving and stacking the OS software they have bought over the years by date. Windows

3.1, 98, ME, 2000, XP, Vista and on the top lies a new copy of Windows 7. Of course, Diane must convince Steven that night by showing him. He then announces that "Nobody goes on the computer until I know what's happening."

During a rainstorm, a gnarled Apple tree comes to life and grabs Robbie, Carol Anne's brother, through a window. However, this is merely a distraction used by the Techs to get Carol Anne's parents to leave her unattended. Like a black hole, a shining light appears where the Windows 7 disk lies on the DVD player that pulls everything

(Continued on page 14)

More on Windows 7 ...

(Continued from page 12)

the user didn't expect. Making changes in the background is the way viruses and other malware get installed. The function is still there but with fewer pop-ups

Asked if Windows Mail would be moved during an upgrade installation, Scott said he wasn't sure.

Shalkey said a licensed, registered copy of an earlier Windows version must be on the hard drive to install an upgrade version of Windows 7. An activated release candidate of Windows 7 suffices for the requirement, he said.

The minimum requirements for Windows 7 are 1 Gig of RAM and a 1 Gig processor, Scott said, and the software will run on the minimum requirement.

Networking with other Windows 7 computers is easy, Scott said. Go to Start > Right Mouse Click on Network, Properties to see what exists. The first time you log onto a network, Windows 7 will create it as a Public network. If the network is your Home or Work network, click on Private Network and change it to the appropriate choice. If you have more than one Windows 7 computer on the network click on HomeGroup on the left and create a HomeGroup as it will make networking much easier. HomeGroup only works with Windows 7

computers.

The system defaults to Public Network, which is more secure than the home or business networks. Windows 7 interprets all the computers in a home or business network as safe, while those on the Public Network are not, Scott said.

All of the networked activities are seamless, and Libraries can show all the material on all the machines in your HomeGroup.

While all the data appears to be in the same place, programs must be installed on each computer to be used. It is possible to prevent specified files and folders from being read for the libraries.

Another new feature, Problem Steps Recorder, gives users a way to re-create problems and record the steps that lead up to them, thus making it easier for a technician to figure out what's wrong. It's opened from the Start menu; type "psr" and it will start.

Devices and Printers, also available from the Start menu, shows all the devices attached to the computer. A device that's not working properly will be marked with a yellow triangle. This area speeds up troubleshooting, Scott said. It doesn't show ghost entries like XP does for devices installed on more than one computer on the network.

The new Media Center can play TV, movies, music, pictures and even Netflix movies. YouTube videos are Flash and don't work in Media Center. They are normally played in your browser, Scott said. No special card is needed for the media center.

On the Net:

There are many Windows 7 sites on the Net. These barely scratch the surface:

Paul Thurrott's Windows Super Site is at <http://www.winsupersite.com>.

Microsoft has an introduction to Windows 7 at

http://www.microsoft.com/Windows/windows-7/what-is-windows-7.aspx?CMXID=2120_win7.542B4639-E0B5-449D-A44F-45660DD25D6D&WT.srch=1&CR_CC=100249569&WT.srch=1&WT.mc_id=Search&CR_SCC=100249569

The Microsoft Upgrade Advisor can check your computer and tell you if it's suitable to run Windows 7. Download it at <http://www.microsoft.com/windows/windows-7/get/upgrade-advisor.aspx>

A general site devoted to Windows 7 news and tips is at <http://windows7news.com/>

More on Rick's rant ...

(Continued from page 13)

from the room into it; however, only Carol Anne was taken into the Windows 7 dimension. The Apple tree appears to swallow Robbie whole, but he is rescued, and as the family watches Steven pull Robbie out of the Apple tree, a tornado of Linux users drags the Apple tree into oblivion. They then realize that they can't find Carol Anne. They search the entire house, including their new data room, which is now extremely quiet and dark, until Robbie hears Carol Anne through the computer.

Steven reluctantly calls on a group of Computer Techs from Ventura County Computers: Dr. Lesh (Rick Smith), Ryan (Toby Scott), and Marty (Michael Shalkey), who are awestruck by the manifestations they witness. With the VCC Techs present, the Freelings show them things they've never before seen. They open the door to the data room to reveal DVDs and other objects flying around by themselves and disembodied laughing voices reverberating throughout the room. Previously, one of the techs described a PC taking seven hours to boot, calling it "[F]antastic. Of course, this would never register on the naked eye." After they see the Freelings' house, they are all humbled.

Over coffee (and a coffee urn that moves by itself), techs explain to the Freelings the difference between XP and Windows 7. They determine that indeed, it is Windows 7 they are experiencing.

It turns out that the older operating systems have left this life but have not gone into the "Light." They are stuck in-between dimensions, watching their loved ones still use PCs with this new OS, but feeling alone. Carol Anne was born with a PC in her crib. Only 5 years old, she gives off her own life force as she nimbly moves the mouse. It distracts and confuses the old OSs, who think Carol Anne is their salvation. Hence, they take her.

What is also in the other dimension is a malevolent spirit, what techs call "The Beast." It exploits the fact that the

old OSs have security vulnerabilities that leave them confused and lost, unable to boot and run properly, and uses Carol Anne as a distraction so they cannot move on into the Light. After the group witnesses several malware episodes where they hear Carol Anne talking to Diane through the PC, see advertisements, and hear the unending ads of fake software fixes, which subsequently injures Marty, the techs leave, admitting they need more help. Carol Anne's elder sister, Dana, shaken and overwhelmed, leaves to stay with friends. The Freelings also send Robbie to his grandmother's house for his safety.

When techs return, they bring a magical disk, called the Bart PE, who informs Diane that her PC is "alive and in this house." She also explains the malevolent malware in the house to Diane, saying, "it lies to her and tells her things only a child can understand. To her, it simply is another child. To us, it is the Beast."

They realize the entrance to the Windows 7 PC is through the children's PC, and the way out is through the Internet. By tying a rope around a live person who can enter, and presumably exit the other side, with enough time to grab Carol Anne, they could bring her back. Diane is the only choice to go. What happens next is a terrifying sequence where Diane gets Carol Anne and Bart PE coaxes the agonized old OSs away from Carol Anne to the real Light, Windows 7 (during this, Steve panics and pulls on the rope, causing the Beast to appear right in front of him). Diane falls through the living room ceiling clutching Carol Anne and bearing new streaks of grey hair, presumably from fright; both Diane and Carol Anne are also covered in technobabble. After both are revived in the downstairs bathtub, BART PE pronounces that "this house is clean."

Unfortunately, though the old OSs have seemingly moved on, the Beast hasn't, and wants revenge. On their final night in the house, when they are almost

packed up and ready to go, the Beast returns to reclaim what he believes is his: Carol Anne. This time, the Beast does his own dirty work and comes after Carol Anne personally with a malicious virus attack.

While Robbie and Carol Anne are getting ready for bed, Robbie's notebook comes to life and pulls him under the bed to look at porn. Diane, in the other room hears her son's screaming voice and tries to investigate but is pulled against the wall and ceiling by a desire not to see what her son is looking at. Robbie manages to defeat the notebook, but a strange, mouthlike Internet porn portal appears in Carol Anne's closet and attempts to pull the children in yet again.

Diane tries to get to her son and daughter but runs into the Beast himself, in the form of a snarling, skeletal backdoor Trojan virus. He blocks Carol Anne's and Robbie's Internet access and throws ads at her, causing her to click endlessly on the PC. Diane runs to the backyard to seek help from her next-door neighbors, but slips into the endless useless search on the Internet, which is now infested by ads as well as financial offers, which burst out of the browser and open. Her neighbors hear the commotion and arrive to help Diane out of the endless search, but they refuse to enter the house with its PCs now blazing with windows 7 energy, so Diane runs back into the house alone to get Robbie and Carol Anne.

Through skill and luck, the Freelings finally escape the house, but not before the anger of the Beast reveals the reason for the old OS' being there in the first place: Old CDs, manuals and how-to books begin exploding out of the ground throughout the neighborhood. When the neighborhood was first built the real estate developer Steven worked for moved an old Gateway Store that was on the location. In reality, in order to save money, they moved the store but left all the old software licenses, installing Win-

(Continued on page 15)

Ubuntu 9.10: Karmic Koala

By Bill Wayson

bwayson@gmail.com

October 29 saw the release of a new version of Ubuntu, 9.10, the latest in Ubuntu's regular six-month upgrade cycle. This release, just as earlier ones, is eagerly anticipated by the numerous users of Ubuntu worldwide. Since the CIPCUG computer runs under Ubuntu, we'll look at what's new in 9.10. There are many more new features than those

Penguin's
Lair



Wayson

listed here added in the latest versions of the system and user interface software. Ubuntu ships with Linux kernel 2.6.31; the default file system for new installations is ext4; Grub2 is the boot manager installed in new installations, providing support for recent motherboard technology; and a new architecture for handling specific hardware features, such as power management, laptop hot keys, storage devices, and cameras, has been adopted. The

Ubuntu users are brought up to date with

(Continued on page 16)

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.

Display issues: If the images on your computer screen are fluctuating (one second they're there, and the next they're not), check your connections. If the connection between your PC and your monitor isn't perfect, the data may have difficulty making its way from the computer to the screen. Take a look at the cable running between the PC and the monitor. Is it bent or crimped? Are the pins not straight? Are the connectors loose? If you answer yes to any of these questions, you may need to replace or secure the cable.

Dry out that cell phone: Cell phones are tougher than they look. Although most mobile phone manufacturers don't claim that their phones are

water-resistant, many phones can undergo a quick dunk. "The key is to minimize the time the phone is wet and the time the battery is on the phone while it is wet," says John Wernecke, spokesperson for Motorola. "Remove the battery. Give it time to dry before replacing the battery. Some have reported that wrapping the phone in a thick towel to absorb liquid works very well."

In our own experience, we've found that phones often need as much as 48 hours to completely dry. Once you've dried and then reassembled the phone, power it on and place a test call to make sure the phone works properly. If your phone displays problems (or doesn't power on at all), it's probably time to find a new phone.

Sunglasses for your camera: If you've ever tried to take pictures on a sunny day and noticed bright reflections, it might be helpful to get your camera a pair of sunglasses. In a pinch, you can

use average polarizing sunglasses held over a camera's lens to help reduce glare. A better option, however, is to use a polarizing filter that works the same way, but that is better suited to your camera. Regardless, you're sure to take better pictures by reducing glare

*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.

More on Rick's rant ...

(Continued from page 14)

dows 7 right on top of them, thus desecrating the old, still useful software licenses. And because of the upgrades to the PC (installing the new Windows 7 directly over the licenses) the old OSs came at this point of time.

As the Freelings flee down the street in their car, the Beast is so angry that the PC implodes into the other dimension as stunned neighbors (including Steven's boss) look on.

The family checks into an Internet-free hotel for the night. Not wishing to

tempt fate, Steven puts the notebook PC outside their room.

The author would like to thank Wikipedia for the story outline of the 1982 feature film "Poltergeist" whose story outline inspired him on this spooky night.

More on Penguin's Lair ...

(Continued from page 15)

default desktop environment, Gnome, has been updated to 2.28, its latest version, which includes several new applets of its own. Most of these features are of no interest to most computer users since they simply keep the computer running. Suffice it to say that Ubuntu 9.10 includes the latest and greatest system software.

On the user experience front, users will notice many welcome enhancements. Boot time, which was very quick under Ubuntu 9.04, is made faster still under 9.10 by converting to "Upstart" boot jobs. The time it takes for a freshly started computer to become usable is impressively short. Shutdown time is even shorter. Firefox, the standard Web browser, is now at version 3.5.4, and updates of Firefox can be expected to keep pace with those coming from the Mozilla community. Ubuntu updates to 3.0 the default office application suite, OpenOffice.org. (Admittedly, OpenOffice.org 3.1 is available — this may be an instance of Ubuntu following the long-held Debian philosophy of favoring stability over cutting edge.) Ubuntu 9.10 ushers in simple, end-user support for cloud computing. By taking advantage of the new "Ubuntu One" feature, all users have available up to 2 GB of data storage at an Ubuntu-hosted Internet-accessible site. Additional storage can be had with a monthly subscription. Ubuntu One makes it simple to share files with any computers, yours and your friends', who have access to the Internet.

System administration has improved. Users now find and install new software through the new "Ubuntu Software Cen-

ter." Applications are grouped under categories such as Education, Games, Sound and Video, Graphics, and Programming and Office, making it easier to find a solution for a particular need. Once you choose to install an application, the Software Center takes care of installing everything required for the program to run properly. The included firewall configuration tool, Uncomplicated Firewall, now allows you to configure different firewalls (rule sets) for different network interfaces (such as an Internet-facing card and a home network-facing card), and to filter data as it leaves your computer. You now can disable the loading of kernel modules (aka drivers) after your computer has finished booting, providing an additional layer of protection from certain types of malware, like root kits. And once disabled, loading kernel modules cannot be re-enabled without rebooting the computer.

Ubuntu 9.10 showcases its community's dedication to creating a simple, pleasurable, and functional computer end-use experience. Canonical and the Ubuntu community want its operating system to just work, and in many, many instances Ubuntu does just that. This latest release should help Ubuntu remain one of the most popular Linux distributions, especially among home computer users.

Now may be the time for many more computer users to consider Ubuntu. Now that Windows 7 is available, there will be more pressure to convert from Windows XP. Those Windows users who are considering upgrading their existing computer to Windows 7 may

want to give Ubuntu a look. Ubuntu makes this simple and completely safe by providing a try-it-before-you-install-it "live" version of Ubuntu on each Ubuntu CD. Just boot from the CD, accept the default boot option, and see how Ubuntu looks and runs on your PC. Installing Ubuntu alongside an existing Windows installation is simple. Since using Windows 7 and upgraded applications effectively itself presents a significant learning curve, you may just want to learn Ubuntu, gain a stable, well-supported operating system and application set, and save yourself some significant dough. Those who are considering an upgrade to Windows 7 by purchasing a new computer with it preinstalled can consider purchasing a computer with Ubuntu preinstalled. Several major computer manufacturers, including Dell, HP, Acer, and Toshiba, offer and support computers with Ubuntu already installed for you.

If you have questions or would like to learn more about Linux and FOSS, come to the November Linux SIG meeting on its new date (the fourth Tuesday of each month), Tuesday, Nov. 24, at 6:30 p.m. at Ventura County Computers in Ventura. The CIPCUG Ubuntu computer will be updated during the meeting, during which time we will answer questions about Ubuntu, Linux, and FOSS. Come see how well the update goes. See the CIPCUG Web site 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.

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

Site has information on electronic waste

This is merely a reminder that our Electronic Waste Recycling information is still on the Web site, located below the Calendar Information. David Minkin has done a great job in making this information available to us.

Bits & Bytes



Long

Please make use of it.

Guess what? The SIG SIGNUP sheet has been fixed. Toby has been very busy, but he promised to check the page out. It is one that I don't know anything about because it is complicated and I don't know what makes it

work. To sign up to be informed of coming SIGSs, just check the club's Web page under "Latest Revisions Box." At the bottom of the box "List information," check the SIGINFO list and fill out the information and hit Submit (or Send).

Toby and Rick are considering the possibility of another CIPCUG Flash Drive run for the Christmas holidays. They are looking into the possibilities to see what options are available and at what price. Even if we proceed, they will not be available before the December meeting. This is just a Christmas suggestion. A flash drive to store valuable data is always useful!

If you missed Toby and Michael's presentation last month on Windows 7, you really missed a good one. Win 7 is the topic of the season. Many of us are operating with equipment that is sadly outdated, and by more than a few years. I'm sure mine is over 7 years old. The only thing that makes me hesitate is I can't find an "install" fairy to install all my programs and fill out those horrendous registration forms. NOW IS THE TIME TO REBUILD! If you find any unoccupied Fairies around, please let me know.

Have you run your spyware programs lately?

Excel and Word tips

This item is copyright 2009 by Sharon Parq Associates Inc. and are reprinted by permission. Thousands of free Microsoft Excel tips can be found online at <http://excel.tips.net>.

Excel: Determining high and low non-zero values

There may be times when you need to derive the smallest (or largest) value from a range, unless the smallest (or largest) value is zero. For instance, you might have a range of values such as {0, 3, 1, 4, 2}. In this case, the lowest value is zero, but the value you really want returned is 1.

There is no intrinsic function within Excel to return a value as stipulated here. However, you can create a formula that will do the trick. Assuming that the range of values you want to analyze are in C4:C8, the following formula will return the lowest non-zero value:

```
=IF (MIN (C4 : C8) = 0 , SMALL
(C4 : C8 , COUNTIF
(C4 : C8 , "=0" ) + 1) , MIN
(C4 : C8) )
```

This formula uses the MIN function

to determine if the lowest value in the range is zero. If it is, then the SMALL function is used to derive the lowest value, excluding the zeros. (The COUNTIF function returns the number of zeros in the range, and therefore tells SMALL which item from the range to pick.)

A small change to the formula allows it to be used to return the largest non-zero number in a range:

```
=IF (MAX (C4 : C8) = 0 , LARGE
(C4 : C8 , COUNTIF
(C4 : C8 , ">0" ) + 1) , MAX
(C4 : C8) )
```

These formulas will work for any range, unless the range is made up entirely of zeros. In that instance, a #NUM! error is returned.

This item is copyright 2009 by Sharon Parq Associates Inc. Reprinted by permission. Thousands of free Microsoft Word tips can be found online at <http://word.tips.net>.

Word: Splitting a table

Word provides a powerful table editor that allows you to create and modify

data in tabular format. If you are working with large tables, there may be times when you need to split a table in half. To do this, follow these steps if you are using Word 2007:

1. Position the insertion point anywhere in the row you want as the first row in the table that is split off the larger table.
2. Display the Layout tab of the ribbon. (This tab is only visible if your insertion point is within a table.)
3. Click the Split Table tool, within the Merge group.

If you are using an older version of Word you can split a table by following these steps:

1. Position the insertion point anywhere in the row you want as the first row in the table that is split off the larger table.
2. Choose Split Table from the Table menu.

The result is that Word inserts a Normal-formatted paragraph prior to the table row in which your insertion point was placed. The two resulting tables can now be treated independently.

Acronis releases True Image Home 2010

(Gene Barlow, our November presenter, sent this article on True Image Home 2010, one of the programs he represents through User Group Relations. — Editor.)

By Gene Barlow

*User Group Relations
Copyrighted October 2009*

Acronis recently announced a significant new release of their top rated backup utility, Acronis True Image Home 2010. This new release adds many practical new features to a product already packed with excellent function. The product may be ordered now on our secure web site at www.ugr.com/TrueImage.html for only \$29 (as a download) or \$29 plus shipping (on a CD).

Here are a few of the new features included:

Support for Microsoft Windows 7 — Thoroughly tested to run on the new Windows 7 operating system. It also delivers more comprehensive functionality over Microsoft Windows 7 backup capabilities. So, if you are planning a move to Windows 7 in the future, you need to backup first with True Image 2010.

Acronis Nonstop Backup — Near-CDP (Continuous Data Protection) is now available to Acronis True Image Home users. You will be able to revert your documents to previous states in time. This may come in handy when you accidentally deleted an important document or made some corrections that turned out to be wrong and you need to return the document to the state in which it was, for example, two weeks ago. When you need to recover a file, a Windows Explorer-like browser with integrated search makes searching for a file you need to recover very easy. But Acronis Nonstop Backup is much more than a versioning tool. It also provides for recovering your system if you ever need that.

Online backup — You can make

your critically important data much more secure by storing it off-site. Because files are stored on a remote storage, they are protected even if your computer gets stolen or your house burns down. So the risk of data loss as a result of fire, theft, or other natural disasters is practically eliminated.

And you can safely recover any corrupted, lost or deleted files on your computer. Integrating online backup into Acronis True Image Home provides a single solution for all your data backup needs.

Powerful scheduler — The scheduler became more powerful and flexible. We expanded the set of already existing scheduling options. The new scheduler allows you to specify the date when a scheduled task should run for the first time. While scheduling a monthly task, you can use a month calendar for specifying the date (e.g. 1st day of the month) or dates for running the task (e.g. on 10th, 20th, Last day of the month). If you do not need to run a scheduled task for some time, but intend to use it again in the future, you can disable the task for the time being and then re-enable it when required. So it is not necessary to re-create the task from scratch. You can clone a scheduled task and then introduce some minor changes into the duplicate. This may be useful when creating several similar tasks. In combination with a selected backup method and automatic consolidation rules, the scheduler allows implementing various backup strategies.

Selective validation — Earlier versions of Acronis True Image Home could validate only a whole backup archive. Sometimes this may be inconvenient. Suppose, you have a full backup archive with a size of 20GB and a longish chain of differential backups having sizes of several gigabytes each and amounting to 100GB. In this case Acronis True Image Home validated the whole 120GB archive and this could take quite a long time. Now the program will validate just a single selected differential backup and the full one.

VHD format support — Virtual Hard Disk (VHD) is a file format containing the complete contents and structure representing a hard disk drive.

Furthermore, Windows Backup utility included into Windows Vista (except Home editions) and Windows 7 operating systems now uses this format for backing up an image of the system hard drive when users select the “Complete PC Backup” option. Acronis True Image Home can convert vhd files into tib files and vice versa, recover operating system from vhd files, and even boot from vhd images of Windows 7.

Booting from tib images containing Windows 7 — Users of the Windows 7 Enterprise and Windows 7 Ultimate can boot from a tib image containing a backup of their system partition. This will allow testing the bootability of the backed up system without actual recovery. If the operating system boots from the tib file, then it will definitely boot after recovery from that tib file.

Try & Decide New features — Try & Decide now can protect your system not only to Acronis Secure Zone, but to the protected volume itself, or any other volume. Now users can protect not only a single system partition during Try & Decide session, but as many volumes as needed. This is very handy when the applications being installed make changes on two volumes and in many other cases.

Acronis True Image Home 2010 is available from us for only \$29 (as a download) or \$29 plus shipping (on a CD) and you get a full new license of the product and not an upgrade license. If you order the product on a CD, you also get our Perfect Backup Approach tutorial to help you understand the best way to do backups. There is also a step by step Starter Guide for installing and using the product for the first few times. The full Acronis User Guide is also on the CD for your use. In addition, I try to help my customers when they have questions about True Image. You also have the normal (first 30-days free)

(Continued on page 19)

Computing 101: Some tips for new users

By John Weigle

jweigle@vcnet.com

I made a quick Web search to try to find the most common uses for a computer, and while I couldn't find anything specific to home users, I expect that the following list for types of computer activities at work from October 2003 have not changed much:

Internet or e-mail, 75.2 percent.

Word processing or desktop publishing, 67.6 percent.

Spreadsheets or databases, 64.2 percent.

Calendar or scheduling, 56.8 percent.

Graphics or design, 29.7 percent.

Programming, 16.4 percent.

(The figures come from a government study at <http://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2005/aug/wk5/art05.htm>.)

The first two categories — Internet or e-mail and word processing or desktop publishing — are probably equally popular for home users. Almost everyone with a computer, I think, checks the Internet and uses e-mail and writes something on the computer, even if it's only shopping lists.

On the other hand, I doubt that 16.4 percent of home users do any programming.

I'd like to know how you use your computer so I have some idea what

should be covered in these articles. If you have ideas or questions you'd like me to seek answers for, please let me know.

Printing

Printing is usually simple. Open the file menu, click on print, and, assuming it's on and connected to the computer, the printer starts to spew out whatever you asked it to.

Then there are the times it doesn't.

I had one of those while preparing this issue of TOE. The green and orange lights on the printer came on, the green light went out, and the orange light stayed on. I couldn't see a message in the printer's message box, so I started checking connections, uninstalled and reinstalled the printer, updated its software and said some things I can't print here. Bad words don't make a printer print. I searched the Web and found a message about toner levels, which I had tried to check but couldn't. Finally, I looked at the message box again, juggling a light closer to it so I could read the message.

It needed black toner.

The first rule of troubleshooting: Check the obvious first. Making sure it's plugged in, turned on and connected to the computer might be first on that list, but checking the toner is an obvious possibility that should be right up there.

Related rule, if you have the room in your computer area: Put the printer low enough that you can easily read its messages.

As long as we're talking printing, here are a couple of things to know.

Usually, you can just accept the default settings on your printer, but sometimes they aren't satisfactory. For instance, instead of a vertical page like this one, which is called portrait, you might need a horizontal (landscape) page.

To do that, open the File > Page Setup menu. A box will come up that lets you pick Portrait or Landscape. Click in the correct radio button, and the change is made.

If you want to save on color ink, you can print your documents in black and white. This might change from one program to another, but in Word, go to File > Print and select the printer you want to use. Then click on Properties > Color and click the radio button for "Print in grayscale." That cuts your use of color ink or toner.

To save on the black ink or toner, too, chose Options on the same page you picked the printer. Pick draft output, which results in lighter printing.

To set draft quality as the default in Word go to Tools > Options > Print Tab > Printing, select Draft output and click OK.

More on True Image ...

(Continued from page 18)

technical support through Acronis to assist you. You can order your copy of Acronis True Image Home 2010 from us at www.ugr.com/TrueImage.html. Make sure you use the order code of UG-TIH2010 when placing your order.

If you are a current user of Acronis True Image, then you will want to get this new release and put all of the new features to work for you. If you have not started a backup plan for your computer, then this is the best product to accom-

plish this important task on your computer. In either case, place your order today so that you can enjoy this new product soon. If you have any questions about this article or Acronis True Image Home 2010, please send them to support@ugr.com. I look forward to helping you if I can.

Barlow's contact information: Gene Barlow, User Group Relations, , P.O. Box 911600, St. George, UT 84791-1600; gene@ugr.com; www.ugr.com.

(Barlow generally provides copies of

the two Acronis products at his webinars. — Editor)

This is one of a series of technical articles that I distribute to those that have subscribed to this newsletter. You can subscribe at www.ugr.com/NewsletterRegistration.html. Watch for them and learn more about your computer and its hard drive. If you do not want to receive these newsletters, simply reply and ask to have your name removed from the list and I will do so immediately.

'Missing Manual' book for Windows 7 due soon

The computer sections of local bookstores are expanding with books on the newest Apple and Microsoft operating systems. Two of what I expect to be the most popular books are scheduled for release in December: "Windows 7: The Missing Manual" and "Switching to the Mac: The Missing Manual, Snow Leopard Edition," both by David Pogue. According to his biography at <http://www.oreillynet.com/pub/au/347>,

Editor's corner



Weigle

Pogue has 3 million books in print (that's books, not titles). He's the author or co-author of seven "For Dummies" books and started the "Missing Manual" series, which now has 100 titles, in 1999. His Web site is www.davidpogue.com. The books are published by O'Reilly, which offers a discount to user groups members (see the regular ad in this issue or on the CIPCUG Web site. If you've switched to Windows 7 and found a favorite book on the subject, please send me a review

that notes some of the best points so other members can learn from your experience. If you don't believe in the words on paper mode and use a Web site instead, pass that information along, too.

In the past few weeks, I've seen references to some problems with Windows 7 installations (not to mention the Apple ads suggesting that, if you're going to switch operating systems anyway you should switch to Macintosh). As Toby and Michael noted during their presentation, most people upgrade to a new operating system when they buy a new computer rather than moving up from an existing computer. No matter how you upgrade, you know it will take a certain amount of time even if you start with a brand new system. You have to back up and restore all your data (unless you've decided this is the time for a massive housecleaning, and you're dumping everything before the new computer) and install all the software you plan to use. And there will probably be some learning curve whether you go to Windows 7, Snow Leopard or some form of Linux.

■ ■ ■

You probably noticed that this is another 24-pager. A couple of regular features ran longer than usual, and I added the new Word and Excel tips promoted on page 1.

Jeff Levy's column hasn't appeared in the past two issues because I haven't heard from his producer, who gives us permission to reprint each column. I hope that we'll be able to bring the lessons back soon.

As always, contributions are welcome from all members in the form of letters to the editor, short tips on your favorite programs or hardware or longer articles on computer-related subjects. — John Weigle, editor

Treasurer's report for September 2009

By Art Lewis

treasurer@cipcug.org

9-1-2009 through

9-30-2009

Category Description

INFLOWS

Coffee income	-7.00
Donation	122.00
Membership Income	
New Members	55.00
Renewals	295.00
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	350.00
Raffle	-45.00

TOTAL INFLOWS 419.10

OUTFLOWS

Corporation Expt.	20.00
ISP Expense	122.00
Rent Paid	150.00
TOE	195.65
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	487.65
OVERALL TOTAL	-68.55

Unrestricted Funds	6,481.86
Restricted Funds	2,000.00
Bank Balance 9-30-09	8,481.86
Year to Date Income	1,905.59
Year to Date Expense	-1,766.21



Lewis

2009 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
Smart Computing magazine
Marjie Tucker (APCUG)
Bill Wayson
John Weigle
Paul Westefer
Ira Wilsker (APCUG)
Albert Wolfkiel (IEEE)

Membership report:

Is it time to renew?

By Ken Church

email address: membership@cipcug.org



CHURCH

New Members: Wanted

Attendance at the October 2009 general meeting:
82 members and guests

Total membership: 211

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 renewal payment to:

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

Or bring your payment to the sign in table for the November 21, 2009 Meeting.

September 2009 renewals payment due:

Mbr#	Last Name	First Name	Pd to Dt
0373	Houle	Robert	200909
0145	Lee	Bill	200909
1036	Smith	Howard	200909

October 2009 renewals payment due:

Mbr#	Last Name	First Name	Pd to Dt
1107T	Carlson	Gordy	200910
1049	Duncan	Gerald	200910
0990	Mehr	Steve	200910
0942	Mickey	Barbara A.	200910
1209	Nachian	Paul	200910
1165	Taggesell	Bernice	200910

November 2009 renewals payment due:

Mbr#	Last Name	First Name	Pd to Dt
0388	Armstrong	Bob	200911
1074	Chaison	Doris	200911
1061	Churchyard	Martha	200911
0915	Clayton	Phil	200911
0944T	Coon	Donn	200911
0635	Godwin	John	200911
0945	Gorelik	Donn	200911
0946	Gorelik	Patricia	200911
1212	Hollander	Gary	200911
0905	Knauer	Hedy	200911
0789	Knauer	Wolfgang	200911
0272	Provart	Robert	200911
0542	Salisbury	Wayne	200911
1194	Tsutsui-Trujillo	Sandy	200911
0046	Wood	Bart	200911

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.

For sale

1) PC Tower, Intel Pentium MMX-CPU, 233MHz. 2.0 GB HDD, 24X CD-ROM, 1.44 MB 3.5" HD, Win 98SE, Monitor \$20/OBO

2) D-Link Wireless Print server DPR-1260 \$10/OBO

3) Microsoft Keyboard, ergonomic \$10/OBO

4) Microsoft Serial Mouse \$5/OBO

5) One HP 22 Tri-color inkjet cartridge (recycled-refilled), \$6

6) Two HP 27 black inkjet cartridge (recycled-refilled), \$6 each

— *David Minkin, ddave@cipcug.org*

HP DeskJet D 4360 Printer. New. Original box unopened. \$25.

— *Jerry Kiess, jerry105@dslextreme.com, 805-985-5636*

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



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

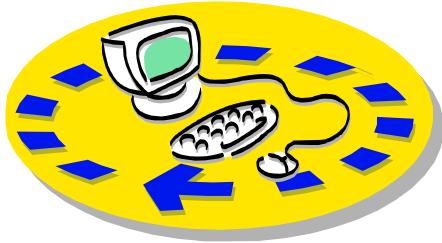
If you would like to volunteer to help others, please send your contact information and programs you're willing to help on to editor@cipcug.org.

.....

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.windowsexpmagazine.co.uk/
 Microsoft Windows Vista The Official Magazine (UK): [/www.windowstviamagazine.com/US/](http://www.windowstviamagazine.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 members are eligible to sign up for the group's Internet service provider (ISP) at the low price of only \$15 per month plus a \$15 processing fee.

To sign up, contact one of the club's techies (see next column). Call one of them you may know or one in your area, and they will be glad to provide you with the details necessary for signing up. Checks should be made payable to CIPCUG and sent to Treasurer, c/o CIPCUG, P.O. Box 51354, Oxnard CA 93031. Don't forget to include the \$15 set-up fee in your first sign-up check.

You may make payments in three-month, six-month or annual increments. We also give a 12-month subscription if prepaid in advance at the 11-month price of \$165. Many of our club members are electing to do this to keep Helen from nagging them for money. Renewals can also be mailed to Treasurer; just be sure to mention the dates that your check is to cover.

There is no program to install; you will use programs that are already on your computer. It's simple to talk you through the set-up, but if you're the least bit timid about setting up your computer, a club member will come to your house and make the necessary arrangements. Our agreement will also give you a 5 MB Web page allowance.

CIPCUG INTERNET SERVICE TECH TEAM

Helen Long, 642-6521

helen@cipcug.org

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

dddave@cipcug.org

Bob Thompson, 647-2287

CIPCUG MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Amount enclosed: _____

Phone (Home): _____ (Work): _____

E-mail address: _____

Please Print the following information:

User level: Novice ____; Intermediate ____; Advanced ____

Name: _____

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

Address: _____

City: _____, State: _____

ZIP Code: _____

Date _____ Member # _____

Channel Islands PC Users Group Inc.

P.O.Box 51354
Oxnard, CA: 93031

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

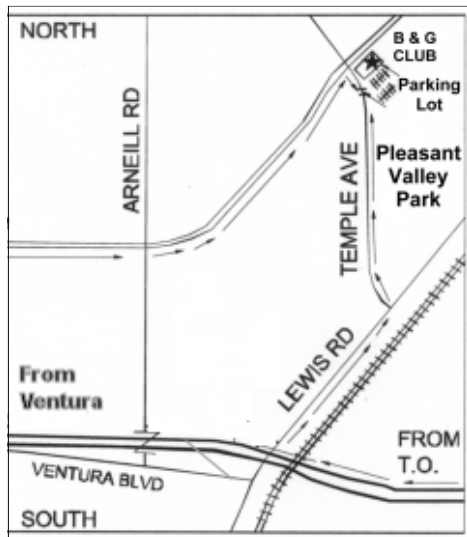
DATED MATERIAL
Please Do Not Delay

DUES REMINDER

If the number above your name is 200911, your membership dues are payable in November 2009.

NOVEMBER 2009 MEETING OF THE CHANNEL ISLANDS PC USERS GROUP

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



**Saturday morning, Nov. 21,
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 e-mail 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 (Migrating from Windows XP to Windows 7)
- Drawing
- 1:30 After-meeting SIG by Michael Shalkey