



# Root Directory

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

**Channel Islands  
 PC Users Group**  
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**CIPCUG is a member of APCUG,  
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## The Outer Edge

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 Jerry McLoud.....1993-1995  
 Robert Provart.....1995-1997  
 Toby Scott.....1997-1999  
 George Lakes .....1999-2001  
 Andy Toth.....2001-2003  
 David Harris.....2003-2005  
 Lois Evans de Violini ..... 2005-2007  
 Paul Westefer.....2007-2009  
 Rick Curry.....2009-2011  
 (With the exception of the immediate past president, past presidents are not board members.)

### *Life members*

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

## Coming events

# Topaz Labs is scheduled for November

### Programs

Topaz Labs, which produces image and video enhancement software, is scheduled to make a presentation at the Nov. 19 meeting (remember that we meet on the third Saturday this month and next month). The meeting starts at 8:30 a.m. at the Camarillo Boys & Girls Club, 1500 Temple Ave. (Ponderosa Drive and Temple Avenue), Camarillo. (See the map on the last page.)

The doors open at 8 a.m. The Internet and Networking SIG and the Social Media SIG will start at 8:45 a.m.

More information about Topaz Labs is available at its Web site at <https://www.topazlabs.com/company/index.html>.

On Dec. 17 (third Saturday) Staples is to show tablets.

*(Continued on page 4)*

### Door prizes

We have two types of raffle tickets: one for prizes offered by the presenter and one for club-provided prizes. The tickets for the presenter's prizes are free and limited to one per member.

The tickets for the club-provided prizes are \$1 each, \$5 for six tickets, \$10 for 13 tickets, \$15 for 20 tickets and \$20 for 27 tickets and are available to anyone. Those who can't stay until the drawing may sign their tickets and give the person selling the tickets a list of the prizes they would like in the order they'd pick them. Winners' prizes will be held until the next meeting.

### Consignment table

A consignment table is set up at every meeting. Anyone can buy, but only members can sell.

The club gets 10 percent of the sales price. Sold items must be picked up at the end of the day's meeting.

Any items not picked up will become the property of CIPCUG and will be subject to disposal at the club's discretion.

CIPCUG is not responsible in any way for items bought or sold at the table. Each item is sold as-is unless otherwise stated.

### Meeting, SIG notices

If you would like e-mail notices of regular meetings and SIGs, go to [www.cipcug.org](http://www.cipcug.org), where you'll find a link on the home page to sign up. The URL is [cipcug.org/listserv.cfm](http://cipcug.org/listserv.cfm).

**You will need your membership number, which is on the back cover of TOE, to complete the sign-up.**

## Minutes of the October board meeting

### By Diane Mortensen

CIPCUG Board of Directors held its monthly meeting on Oct. 22, 2011. In attendance were Rick Curry, Craig Ladd, Art Lewis, John Weigle, Helen Long, Ken Church, Toby Scott, and Diane Mortensen. Absent: Jim Brown.

Art Lewis reviewed September's treasurer's report with board members showing a bank balance of \$5,958.14. A copy of the treasurer's report appears elsewhere in TOE. Art informed the board that he now has 59 reservations for the book "Secret Guide to Computers & Tricky Living." After some discussion, the board decided to put in an order for 100 books. With the coming Christmas holiday, the book would make great gifts, and others will be on hand to sell throughout the year. Art passed out a draft of a meeting evaluation slip with the idea of passing them out to attendees at meetings to attain feedback. Topics to evaluate from 1-10, 10 being the highest, are meeting programs/topics;



Mortensen

Q&A sessions; and door prizes.

John reminded members of the board that because CIPCUG will be meeting on Nov. 19, a week earlier than usual, the firm deadline for articles and items for TOE will be Sunday, Oct. 30.

Craig announced that he had spent only \$80 on door prizes this month and the club took in approximately \$130 in raffle money. Craig asked for suggestions of items for door prizes. Toby stated that he could pick up some headphones for use with Skype and Google Talk. Another suggestion was possibly purchasing Dragon Naturally Speaking by Nuance, a voice-recognition program.

Craig thanked Toby and Michael for stepping in, and presenting today's program because of the cancellation by the Staples representative, who was scheduled to speak on tablets.

A TOPAZ presentation is planned for November's meeting, and in December, possibly someone from Staples will speak on tablets.

Toby announced that he has met with the individual in charge of setting up public programs for the Camarillo City Li-

brary. Toby has agreed to offer a series of talks on computer security at the library during the winter. Because the library will be sponsoring the series, it will be responsible for all the marketing, cost of the room and setup.

The board agreed that it is very important to have a new, high-quality brochure about CIPCUG club functions to pass out at each of the series' events to generate interest in the club and possible membership. John had made a first draft of the brochure and e-mailed it to all board members for comments. He agreed to update and complete the brochure and then send it to Toby.

The subject of flash drives containing updated freeware was discussed. Toby stated that it takes a lot of work in going through the various programs and putting it all together to install on the flash drives. Several board members volunteered to assist in this effort. Toby still has not seen flash drives at the right price for the project.

There being no additional business to discuss the board meeting adjourned at 1 p.m.

## Social Media SIG, Q&A

# Discussion shifts to ins, outs of Google+

Reported by John Weigle

### Social Media SIG

*Jessica Scott and Michael Shalkey shared the job of answering questions this month, with Michael handling most of the questions on Google+, which he has moved to after abandoning Facebook. — Editor*

### Facebook email messages

Q: When I get messages in Outlook that say someone posted something on my wall, the screen goes blank if I click on the link.

A: Even in a case like this, it's best not to click on an email link, which might be a fake link that will take you to a site that will fill your computer with malware. Go to Facebook and sign in as you normally would. You'll be able to see whatever has been posted on your wall.

Michael Shalkey: It's fairly easy to make a phony site look legitimate. Grabbing the graphics, text and design of a Web site is not difficult.

From the audience: Many recent emails look like they've come from an office printer.

A: Michael Shalkey: Whatever it looks like, the goal of the senders is to get you to go somewhere you'd never want to

go. I have a client who lost money immediately to a site in the Ukraine because she got a message on her machine that said it was infected with all kinds of malware that could be removed with the program that put the message on the screen. She clicked on the message, ordered the software and provided a credit card number. Just as she clicked on the Send button, she thought better of it and immediately called her credit card company, only to be told that the money had already been taken, and the credit card company had no partners in the Ukraine to try to recover it.

The fact that the window dims when you try to close it means you might already be infected with something. Do a backup now.

### Backups

Q: Doesn't Windows 7 do backups automatically to protect you from losing your data in such cases?

A: Michael Shalkey: No. You have to set it up. If you buy a computer from Ventura County Computers, we might set it up for you if you have two internal hard drives, but otherwise you have to set up the backup through Windows or some other program. To do that in Windows,

go to Control Panel > All Control Panel Items > Backup and Restore. Backing up to a separate partition on the same drive is not really a backup because if the drive dies, you can not recover the information.

### Google+

Michael Shalkey: You might have noticed a change in the Google search page in the past few months. There's a black bar at the top that lists, Web, Images, Videos, Maps, News, Gmail, More and, if you have a Google+ account, an item on the far left that says +You. Clicking on that takes you to your Google+ login page. On that page, the contents of the bar change to +You, Gmail, Calendar, Documents, Photos, Sites, Web and More.

Google+ is free and similar to Facebook but with a different user interface and fewer games. It lets you establish circles for people, but they don't know what circle they're in. Typical circles might be friends, workers, business, members of specific clubs, and so on. You have complete freedom on what circles you establish and who is in them. Users can also follow individuals and see their posts. For instance, I follow some

*(Continued on page 5)*

## More on coming events ...

*(Continued from page 3)*

Vice President Craig Ladd is working on presentations by the FBI and Gene Barlow for next year.

### SIGs

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

Other than those presented during or just after the regular meeting, the SIGs run from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Ventura County Computers, 2175 Goodyear Ave., Unit 117, Ventura; phone 289-3960. From the 101 Freeway, exit at Telephone, take Telephone south to McGrath, turn left and go one block. Turn right on Goodyear and right again into the second

driveway. Unit 117 is the back, right corner of the building. The pre-meeting SIGs are at 8:45 a.m. at the Boys & Girls Club. The after-meeting SIG is at locations to be announced on the meeting day.

### The general schedule:

Fourth Tuesday: Linux.

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

The November and December schedules:

### November

**Saturday, Nov. 19:** Regular meeting,

pre-meeting Social Media and Internet, connectivity SIGs.

**Tuesday, Nov. 22:** Linux SIG. Upgrade CIPCUG Linux PC to Ubuntu 11.10, discuss the Trinity Rescue Kit and take, ask, and answer questions.

### December

**Saturday, Dec. 17:** Regular meeting, pre-meeting Social Media and Internet, connectivity SIGs.

**Tuesday, Dec. 20:** Linux SIG. Topic TBA. Note date change because of the holidays.

**Be sure to check the calendar on [cipcug.org](http://cipcug.org) for updates on event programs, dates and times.**

(Continued from page 4)

HR photographers, who put their cameras on tripods, take three pictures — one at the normal f-stop, one at one stop above that, and one at one stop below the normal f-stop — and then merge them to get effects that are almost three-dimensional.

### Google+, Facebook differences

Q: What's the difference between Facebook and Google+?

A: Michael Shalkey: Primarily the user interface. Many people moving from Facebook to Google+ are doing so because they decided that they had really messed up Facebook after a certain period of time and wanted to start over.

Facebook also said at the start that everything on Facebook would be private and then kept revising the rules. Google+, on the other hand, started out by saying everything is public, and people seemed more comfortable to expect that going in. For example, I post my pictures on Google+ because I want everyone to see them. Google+ is more casual on purpose.

Jessica Scott: If you sign up on Google+ you automatically get a Gmail account.

Michael Shalkey: Google+ also has hangouts, which allow multiple connections for online meetings with sound and video. A few weeks ago, Desmond Tutu and the Dalai Lama had a hangout for anyone interested. If you search for Google+ hangouts and various iterations of that wording, you'll find lists of hangouts and help files on how to use them.

After trying several hangouts that had no occupants, Jessica found one with a man in Spain who spoke limited English but carried on Spanish conversations with two CIPCUG members who spoke Spanish.

Q: Does the number of people in a hangout affect the bandwidth I need?

A: It affects the bandwidth used by the Google servers, but not your individual bandwidth. The number of people on your own network will affect the speed you get, of course.

Q: Are hangouts available on mobile phones?

A: I'm not sure.

### Regular Q&A

Unless otherwise noted, Toby Scott of Ventura County Computers answered the questions and Michael Shalkey handled

### This month's Q&A topics:

Social Media SIG  
Facebook email messages  
Backups  
Google+  
Google+, Facebook differences

### Regular Q&A

Windows Live Mail  
Home network  
Windows 7 Service Pack 1 problems

'Someone is logged in' message  
Wireless mouse, keyboard issues  
Using computer as an alarm clock  
JavaScript in Firefox  
Microsoft Security Essentials  
Blue screen with SD cards  
Laptop problems  
Damaged .pst file  
VCC mail issues  
Liquid spilled on keyboard  
Basic computer standards

the computer duties. — Editor

### Windows Live Mail

Q: How do I delete mail from the server in Windows Live Mail?

A: Go to the email account in the email program. Open the Server Settings tab and check or uncheck (depending on what you want to do) the boxes for Leave messages on server ... For at most xx days ... Until I delete them). The default is to delete messages after the server gets a response that they've downloaded properly. Leaving messages on the server can be useful for those who check them on more than one computer and want the computers synchronized.

Comment: On my iPhone with an AT&T account, if you don't say "mark as unread" on the phone, when you look at the mail on your PC the messages won't be in the Outlook inbox but they will be there in the "read messages" folder.

### Home network

Q: I live in a single-story house and my connections are fine in my home. I'd like to do something so I can walk to my neighbor's about 150 feet away and still be connected. What do you recommend?

A: The wireless routers come in three flavors — real cheap with one sending and receiving unit; medium with two; and more expensive with three. You want the one with three antennas, which is more important and have a wider range and go through obstacles better.

You can get a range extender, but you'd have to mount it on the outside of the house aimed at your neighbor's. You'd have to run electricity and an internet cable to it and weatherproof it. A window sill is better than nothing, but glass diminishes a signal more than you'd think it would.

### Windows 7 Service Pack 1 problems

Q: I'm having trouble loading Service Pack 1 for Windows 7 Home edition. I've added the hotfix. I've run a virus scan and a malware scan. I have a 64-bit computer. My laptop worked immediately with a similar setup.

A: It's something in the computer, not related specifically to Windows 7. Have you called Microsoft? They will work with you on it.

Q: Years ago I gave Microsoft access to my computer. They changed the registry and messed up the computer.

A: When I've worked with Microsoft on that they've always backed up the registry so it can be restored easily.

Michael Shalkey: Try running check disk: Open a command prompt (Start, type cmd Enter), Run > Chkdsk /r. When it asks if you want it to be run the next time the computer starts, say yes and restart the computer. It could take two to three hours to do that on a large hard drive.

Toby Scott: All service packs can have that problem if something has crept in. It's not just a Windows 7 issue.

### 'Someone is logged in' message

Q: In a network, I sometimes get a message when I try to shut down one computer that others are logged on to it. How can I find out who that is?

A: You don't need to. Just tell it to shut down. The computer can't tell if someone logged on is just looking at files or running a program. In a small office you just want to be sure someone isn't using one of the programs or a remote printer, for instance.

Q: I want to shut down computer 3. Is the message talking about computers 1

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and 2 or 3?

A: It's referring to 1 and 2. The only time you'd get it on 3 would be if someone logged off and logged back in with a different user name, leaving the other user name semi-logged on. That's fairly rare.

### Wireless mouse, keyboard issues

Q: I have a wireless mouse and keyboard. Occasionally one or the other locks up. Is that a sign the receiver is dying?

A: Michael Shalkey: Check the batteries first. Even new ones can be bad, and cheap ones can fail earlier than expected.

Toby: Sometimes the sending unit can fall behind the computer and not be making a good connection. Maybe it's time for a new one.

Wireless keyboards and mice are relatively fragile. I got rid of a wireless mouse and will probably get rid of the keyboard.

### Using computer as an alarm clock

Q: If I'm listening to music and go to bed, how can I program it to turn off and possibly to turn on in the morning so I can wake up to music?

A: There are some scripts to shut down the computer, but I hesitate to recommend going out to look for them. You can go into the scheduler to schedule a shutdown, but I don't know of any way to make it wake up. It will be a little clumsy.

Michael Shalkey: What about shutting off the Internet, similar to a parental control program?

Toby Scott: Most routers will let you limit connection times. You could go to security tools in routers and set the time you can use and not use the Internet. That could shut off your music and turn it back on again if you're listening to music on the Internet and not on the hard drive. I'm not sure. You can turn the music on and off in the router.

From the audience: How about putting the computer to sleep?

Toby Scott: I don't know if it will go to sleep with a process running. You might have to shut the process down first.

Michael Shalkey: This site might be



The screen shots show two possible locations for a NoScript notice in Firefox. The top one shows the notice at the bottom of the browser.

The one above shows the notice (the S with a slash mark in a circle) to the left of the address bar. You might have to add this one yourself at View > Toolbars > Customize.

h e l p f u l :    h t t p : / /  
www.lytebyte.com/2009/07/07/how-to-set-windows-media-player-to-start-playing-music-automatically-at-a-certain-time. It looks as if you can turn your music off and on using these settings.

### JavaScript in Firefox

Q: I'm using Firefox, and some financial sites want JavaScript. I can't find a place to turn it on. NoScript is on the computer.

A: The option to allow it should be in Options in the lower right corner of Firefox or through an icon on the upper left when NoScript blocks a script. Use "temporarily allow all on this page."

### Microsoft Security Essentials

Q: How effective is Microsoft Security Essentials compared to other security programs, and is it still necessary to run Malwarebytes' Anti-Malware?

A: All the reviews indicate that Security Essentials is the best of the free AV programs and certainly better than the free AVG.

Norton AV generally ranks first or second for removal of viruses, and it has been completely rewritten in the past few years to fix things that slowed computers to a crawl. It runs only two processes in the background. It's now hardly notice-

able. Don't get Norton 360 or Norton Internet Security because they run lots of things that do slow your computer down and often make home networking difficult.

It's still a good idea to use Malwarebytes. Anti-virus programs are pretty good at checking programs — that is, .exe files — but much of today's malware comes in the form of scripts that run on top of Internet Explorer, and its .exe file is clean. Even if you don't use IE as your Web browser, it's the core engine for Windows Update, Microsoft Messenger and five or six other programs you never heard of. It's always running in the background. The Internet Options in the Control Panel is the same thing you find in Internet Explorer > Tools > Options. The applet covers IE and all the other things that use the Active X scripts. Anti-virus programs get a C grade in finding these problems. Malwarebytes does push its paid version, so be sure you're declining that offer and getting the free version if it's for your home use.

Q: I bought a computer from you that has a solid state drive and lots of memory, and Norton 360 doesn't slow it down at all.

A: You bought a great machine, but I still think you'd be better off with just the Norton AV. If you have other computers at home that don't run Norton 360 or Internet Security, you'll probably have problems if you try to create a home network. The two don't play nice with other firewalls.

The other anti-virus that many technical people like is Kaspersky. It gets high marks and has been a good anti-virus longer than Norton has.

Michael Shalkey: Whatever you use, still don't click on links in email or visit porn sites or illegal web sites. Be very wary of any Web site with "free" in the title.

Toby Scott: If you're going to visit those sites, use a boot CD or Portable Apps.

From audience: Malwarebytes doesn't run all the time.

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Toby Scott: That's true. The paid version runs all the time in the background, but the result is that you'll be slow and safe. Running it once a week is fine for most of you, but if you're visiting warez sites and similar sites, you should have a version that runs all the time.

#### Blue screen with SD cards

Q: I have Windows Vista and periodically get a blue screen when I insert an SD or camera card. It asks for a video driver update, but when I go to Microsoft, it says I have the current driver. This doesn't happen every time I use a card.

A: Michael Shalkey: Is it an internal card reader or USB adapter for a card reader?

Q: It's external. The same thing happened once with my printer.

A: Michael Shalkey: I'd experiment with a different USB port and different card readers, but I'd probably be in the market to upgrade to Windows 7.

Toby Scott: Windows 7 is better for multimedia than both Vista and XP.

#### Laptop problems

Q: I have a Compaq laptop, and when I bring it out of hibernate, I get a black screen with a warning. The date and time stamps are wrong when it does start. It's 4 to 5 years old. It has frozen up on me a couple of times, too.

A: Toby Scott: Try running Chkdsk. At a command prompt, type Chkdsk and let it run (see question above on Service Pack 1 installation problems for details). I'd do a backup quickly because it could be a sign of a failing hard drive.

#### Damaged .pst file

Q: I have a .pst file (Outlook mail) that won't open because, according to the message that pops up, it's corrupted. I have Outlook 2007, which asks me to run scanpst.exe, which I couldn't find on my computer. I copied it from an XP computer, and it didn't work. Should I have copied the .pst file and moved it to the XP computer?

A: No. The scanpst.exe file is on your computer, but the search function does not generally look in the program files folder. Go to C:\Program Files\Microsoft Office\Office12.

Q: I did that, and found scanpst.exe.0002, rather than .exe.

A: Do an Office repair. Start > Con-

trol Panel > Programs and then click on Microsoft Office. At the top of the panel it will show Uninstall and then next to it either Change or Repair. Click Change (or Repair) and let Windows repair your setup.

Q: I have an XP laptop and the file is working there. Can I just copy it?

A: Is it Office 2007? Don't run the wrong version or you'll blow the .pst file up. The key is which version of Outlook you have. If both are Office 2007, make a copy of the .pst file and try it on that. Don't run it on the original .pst file, just in case it doesn't work.

#### VCC mail issues

Toby Scott: I have a written question, which leads to an apology from us. Ventura County Computers had mail problems last Thursday because we had a client spewing out some 10,000 messages an hour, which killed the mail server and took up so much bandwidth that we couldn't get online while working on customer's computers. We have suspended the account until the problem is fixed. We had a whole bunch of issues Thursday night. Michael and Rick were thrilled with me.

#### Liquid spilled on keyboard

Q: I have a laptop and was drinking a cup of Diet Pepsi. A little bit dripped off my lower lip onto the keyboard. I ran to the bathroom with the computer and used the hair dryer to prevent the liquid from going any further. When I talked to Toby the next morning, he said I should have unplugged the power cord AND removed the battery so no power is getting to the motherboard. The hair dryer melted the four keys that the liquid touched. They still function, but they have an ergonomic look to them now. The keyboard can be replaced. I share that so others have the information that I didn't. I used high heat.

Toby Scott: Any time you spill liquid on a laptop keyboard, unplug it and pull the battery out. If the liquid gets on the motherboard while the electricity is on, it shorts the motherboard. People usually shut the computer down, let it sit and then turn it back on a few days later and blow it up. If it was a Coke or similar drink you spilled, even after the liquid has dried, a tiny amount of atmospheric humidity can short your motherboard if the sugar residue is still there. You want to be sure

there is no puddle of moisture on the motherboard by opening it up and carefully cleaning all residue. Usually, a computer is not wrecked at the time of the spill but after.

#### Basic computer standards

Q: A friend is looking to buy a desktop. It's not for gaming, video or pictures. What do you recommend for modest Web surfing and so on?

A: Right now, a basic computer would be an I-3 processor, probably 64-bit but 32-bit would suffice, and Windows 7.

Michael and Rick disagree with me on 64-bit, and it will cause you more trouble today, but the transition to 64-bit is will under way. If you don't go to 64-bit, you'll be locked out of a lot of software. Michael and Rick don't care because they burn their machines down regularly anyway.

Michael Shalkey: I disagree because Windows 8 is aiming at smaller because of smartphones. I think there will be a shift to smaller.

Toby Scott: It's going the other way. There will be 64-bit chips for laptops soon. For desktop users, I still think you're better off going to 64-bit and being prepared for the future. The maximum RAM you can put in a 32-bit computer is 4 Gig, and the most you'll really get is about 3.3 Gig because the computer must reserve some for video.

Intel has a new program. For their Gold Partners, they offer 3-year, no-questions-asked replacement warranties on all their components. They pay for next-day air for failed parts. Intel makes this available only to qualified dealers who can also support their server business, leaving out all the big box stores. You can buy a top-of-the-line, all-Intel computer with a 3-year warranty for very little more than you'd pay at a big box store for cheaper components with one-year warranty. If I were out of the business, I'd buy from an Intel Gold Partner (VCC is one).

**Q&A reminder:** Please wait for the microphone to ask, answer or comment on a question so the information can be recorded for use in TOE.

## Windows Live Mesh 2011



Access the stuff on your computers from almost anywhere

With Windows Live Mesh and the Devices website, you can finally stop emailing files to yourself, carrying them around on a USB drive, or worrying whether the version you have with you is the latest.

[Download now](#) [English \(change\)](#)

[View system requirements](#)



### How to use Windows Live Mesh

<p><b>Sync between computers</b></p> <p>Keep up-to-date copies of documents, photos, and other files on all of your computers, whether PC or Mac. Even if your computer is offline, you can still view and work on the files you need.</p> <p><a href="#">Get Windows Live Mesh for Mac</a> (available in English only).</p> <p><b>Sync program settings</b></p> <p>Keep your favorites in Internet Explorer and your Microsoft Office settings up to date on all of your PCs.</p>	<p><b>Sync on SkyDrive</b></p> <p>By syncing folders on the 5 GB of free synced storage space you get with SkyDrive, you can work with up-to-date copies of files on the web from any computer.</p> <p><a href="#">Go to SkyDrive synced storage</a></p> <p><b>Connect remotely</b></p> <p>Work on your PC from another location, similar to using Remote Desktop Connection in Windows. Run programs and browse all the files on your PC from anywhere.</p> <p><a href="#">Go to the Devices website to see the PCs you can connect to</a></p>
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This is the Microsoft Web page for Windows Live Mesh.

### Program: Windows Live Mesh

## Microsoft provides way to sync computers

By John Weigle  
jweigle@vcnet.com

Staples backed out of its scheduled presentation on tablets just a few days before the meeting, and Toby Scott filled in with a presentation on Windows Live Mesh, a free Microsoft program that lets users synchronize files among computers and connect to those computers through the Internet. Staples officials assured Vice President Craig Ladd that they would make the promised presentation on tables in December.

Windows Live Mesh works on both Windows and Macintosh machines and provides password-protected file storage

on Microsoft's SkyDrive. Users need a Hotmail or Windows Live account to use the program.

It's difficult to show the program in action, Scott said, because once it's installed and set up, it works invisibly in the background.

Users determine what files they want to synchronize with other computers and tell Mesh to back them up on SkyDrive, a Microsoft cloud project. Scott synchronizes certain files on his home and work computers and laptop but is judicious about doing so because he doesn't want certain files on the laptop, which is more subject to theft than the desktop computers. As is typical of backup programs,

the first one can take some time depending on the number of files you're backing up. After that, files are backed up as they are changed, which takes little time.

Microsoft's Mesh help site — <http://explore.live.com/windows-live-mesh-sync-p2p-using> — describes the storage limits this way:

"If you have two or more computers with Windows Live Mesh installed, you can sync folders between them (peer-to-peer). With Windows Live Mesh, you can sync up to 200 folders, each up to 50 GB in size and containing up to 100,000 files. When you sync folders between computers, any changes you make on one

*(Continued on page 9)*

(Continued from page 8)

computer will be made on the other whenever the computers are online at the same time. The contents of the synced folders are saved on all of the computers, so you can still work on them even when you're not connected to the Internet."

Certain types of files can not be backed up with Mesh. A list of those can be found at <http://explore.live.com/windows-live-mesh-sync-file-types-ui>.

Windows Live Mesh can be pinned to the Start Menu and toolbar, Scott said.

Users can work on documents in the SkyDrive with trimmed down online versions of Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint and OneNote, Scott said, or with full versions on a computer's hard drive. That means they can work on any document in the SkyDrive from any computer, whether or not it contains the Office programs.

Here are some of the ways to use the program.

### Synchronizing

A user might want to work on files from one computer on two others — for example, a home computer, a work computer and a laptop. Files from any or all of the computers can be placed on the SkyDrive, where they can be accessed by all the computers. Say that a writer prepares a report at work but wants it available to the home and laptop computers too. To do that, the worker would add the file to the list of those to be synchronized by Mesh. When the user logs on to the home or laptop computer, assuming it has an Internet connection, the computers would be synced with the Mesh folder. If the worker changed the file at home or on the road, the newer file would be placed on the work computer when it was next connected to the Internet.

Microsoft also allows synchronization of favorites in Internet Explorer and your

## How to get Live Mesh

To download Windows Live Mesh, go to <http://explore.live.com/windows-live-mesh?os=other> click on Download Now and then follow the prompts. You will need a Hotmail or Live.com email address. If you don't have one already, there is a link in the setup prompting you to get one.

Microsoft Office settings, syncing your templates and other user-specific files.

### Remote connections

Mesh allows users to sign on to one computer from another one, assuming that both are on and connected to the Internet.

Scott logged on to his home computer, where he had access to everything on it. This is similar to Remote Desktop Connection, GoToMyPC, PCAnywhere and other remote control programs. Having the remote connection available through Mesh makes it easier and more secure than other ways of remote connecting, Scott said, because of the secure tunnel to Mesh.

The remote connection feature can be especially useful for those traveling with a laptop, Scott said. The laptop connects securely to Windows Live Mesh, which, when asked for remote connection, establishes a separate secure connection from the cloud to the home computer. That way, the user can safely do online banking and other financial activity without fear that a hacker can see login names or passwords, Scott said.

To use Mesh on several computers, install it on the computers and log in from each one with the same login name and password, he said. You can have multiple accounts, but it makes finding information more difficult, Scott said.

### Online storage

The SkyDrive can be used for online storage and file sharing without the synchronization feature if a user wants to, but Microsoft notes in its online help that it's not an FTP (File Transfer Protocol) site. SkyDrive can be used without Windows Live Mesh.

Users can establish Public and Shared folders in SkyDrive, he said, adding, "You can get quite a bit of storage space this way." Public folders are available to everyone, while Shared folders are available only to people you invite, Scott said.

"This is highly more secure than Dropbox," he said in answer to a question and pointed listeners to "Why I switched from Dropbox to Windows Live Mesh" at <http://www.zdnet.com/blog/bott/why-i-switched-from-dropbox-to-windows-live-mesh/3512> for more information. One difference between Mesh and Dropbox, Scott said, is that files are automatically updated on Mesh, but users must drag and drop, or save as, new versions of files to Dropbox.

Mesh runs on Android and Apple phones in addition to computers, he said.

Here's how Microsoft explains what happens when files are deleted or moved (<http://explore.live.com/windows-live-mesh-devices-move-delete-synced-folder-faq>):

"Moving and deleting synced folders works differently than moving or deleting their contents. When you move contents around in a synced folder, they're moved on all the devices where the folder syncs. When you delete contents from a synced folder, they're moved to the Recycle Bin on all the computers where the folder syncs. If the folder syncs on a Mac, they're moved to the Trash. But if you move or delete a synced folder itself, it isn't moved or deleted on your other devices."

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

# Floods in Thailand slash supply of hard drives

By Toby Scott

*toby@scotts.net*

**Q**uick question. When does 30 percent mean 100 percent? When there's a land-grab.

The flooding in Thailand over the past month has flooded a large percentage of the world's production of hard drives. There are pictures out on the Internet of whole factories under water.

All of Western Digital's Thai plants are shut, and Seagate's are running slowly. But even manufacturers outside Thailand are saying they may be facing shortages of some parts that go inside hard drives. Thailand is the world's second largest manufacturer of hard disks. Experts expect the supply of hard drives worldwide will shrink by about 30 percent.

That doesn't sound too bad. But try to buy a hard drive. Some stores still have

them, but distributors are pretty much out of all models, and here at VCC we can't get any high-end drives. Our distributors are completely out. We have found a couple of vendors on eBay and Amazon that we have never done business with before. But their prices are quite high, and they will sell only one drive per customer. That's nice until you try to build a server with RAID, which requires multiple identical drives. Oops.

What's going on here? How is it that a 30 percent shortage completely dries up supply? Because as soon as the major vendors heard about the problems, they bought up all the drives they could find. Then speculators started the second round of feeding frenzy. So an event that should have caused minor disruptions has caused the world's supply of hard drives to virtually disappear. The only way to purchase hard drives now is from the speculators at

double the price of two weeks ago (I'm writing this on Oct. 26). If the weather forecasters are correct and the flooding continues for another six weeks, prices are certain to go even higher.

The funny thing about this is that because solid state drives (SSDs) aren't manufactured in any quantity in Thailand, they are still in plentiful supply. Two weeks ago, you'd have to pay double or triple the price for a smaller SSD drive. Now, they are about the same price. Soon, they may be more expensive.

Rick has been telling everyone he can get to listen to him that all anyone needs in a computer is an SSD and a comfortable chair.

While the price of SSDs hasn't come down, the relative price certainly has. If you suddenly find that you need a new hard drive, treating yourself to a super-fast SSD just became a no-brainer.

# Open source Trinity Rescue Kit works on Windows

By Bill Wayson

*bwayson@gmail.com*

**W**indows sometimes just refuses to work or works incorrectly. Users may have to deal with a PC that will not boot or is suspected of having malware running that defies eradication. Maybe the user did something — played around with hard drive partitioning or deleted “unnecessary” files — that

left the PC useless. You need the administrator password but cannot remember it. And who hasn't experienced the debilitating effects of the accumulation of Windows cruft — temp files, restore points, and the like — that reduce performance to the level of lethargy. Utilities are available for purchase

which can help in all of these situations. There are also open source solutions to these problems. This month we will dis-

cuss the free Trinity Rescue Kit, a live Linux distribution aimed specifically at recovery and repair operations on Windows PCs, which is equally usable for Linux recovery issues.

Trinity Rescue Kit, or TRK, is freely available as a 151 MB ISO image or a self-burning Windows executable at [trinityhome.org](http://trinityhome.org). Normally, the file would be burned directly to a CD, but it can also be used to create a bootable USB key or to boot from a network. The TRK website provides extensive documentation in only slightly broken English that makes TRK simple to use for anyone. No matter how TRK is booted, you are quickly presented with an extensive text menu of 20-plus start options. Don't let this list intimidate you as the default option will work in almost all situations. The other items are primarily for those with less common hardware, such as SCSI storage or uncommon network cards, and can be used when the default startup does not detect a network, hard drive, or the like. One other option is for PCs with at least 256 MB of RAM (the option recommends 512 MB).

This will load TRK completely into memory and run it from there, greatly speeding up its operations.

Startup is fairly quick, so you will soon see another text menu of the most common operations a user will perform. The arrow keys move you up and down in the menu, and the Enter key selects the item. As you move within the menu, the screen displays a short explanation of what will be performed and the command and options to be run. Most users will never leave the menu, but should you become more proficient using TRK and the commands, there are a couple of simple ways to get to a command line which are explained in the opening Welcome screen.

TRK will perform several functions that are useful to home users of Windows. TRK can quickly save you from a bad situation. Forgotten and unknown passwords for any local user account can be quickly reset or deleted. Systems rendered hopelessly slow by the accumulation of Windows cruft, junk, and ballast

*(Continued on page 11)*

**Penguin's  
Lair**



**Wayson**

# Sony leaves frustrated owner, techs in lurch

By Rick Smith  
*rvants@vcmail.net*

I saw two signs driving around Ventura County this past month. One of them was a person trying to save her home from foreclosure with a sign that said “Save Blue Hill Farms” with a banner across the top saying “OCCUPY.” I actually met this person when she found my Dachshund dog Roxy wandering the streets near my office looking for a handout. She took her home and put her up for the night, and I found her the next day and picked my beloved girl up no worse for wear. The woman was featured on the cover of the Ventura County Star this week.

Rick's rant



Smith

Her husband died, and she was trying to save her property and her lifestyle from the villains at Wells Fargo. It's hard to

know right from wrong sometimes on the issues we face in life, but one thing I know. If I borrow something I have to eventually pay it back. During the housing run-up I got offers every week offering me \$300,000. All I had to do was sign on the dotted line. I threw every one of them in the trash. So when my home value fell I was right back where I started with excellent credit and was able to re-fi when banks were denying everybody. The other sign I saw had a banner across the top saying “Fortify.” Get ready, buy lots of ammo, because somebody wants your stuff. You can probably figure out where I land in regards to my preferred sign. Now on to something about computers.

Sony VIAO — have you ever wondered what that name meant? Well today's your lucky day. Here's what Wikipedia has to say;

*VIAO is a sub-brand used for many of Sony's computer products. Originally an*

*acronym of Video Audio Integrated Operation, this was amended to Visual Audio Intelligent Organizer in 2008 to celebrate the brand's 10th anniversary. The branding was created by Timothy Hanley to distinguish items that integrate consumer audio and video with conventional computing products, such as the Sony VAIO W Series personal computer, which functioned as a regular computer and a miniature entertainment center. Although Sony made computers in the 1980s exclusively for the Japan toy market, the company withdrew from the computer business around the turn of the decade. Sony's re-entry to the global computer market under the new VAIO brand began in 1996 with the PCV series of desktops. The VAIO logo also represents the integration of analog and digital technology with the 'VA' representing an analog wave and the 'O' representing a digital binary code.*

*(Continued on page 12)*

## More on Penguin's Lair ...

*(Continued from page 10)*

can be rejuvenated by selecting the “Windows junkfile cleaning” option. Deleted files can be quickly recovered using TRK. Note that as with all file-recovery products, the probability of success decreases as more time elapses between deleting the file and attempting to recover it. TRK even includes utilities that can recover “lost” drive partitions.

TRK helps when you suspect that vermin have infiltrated your PC. All hard drive partitions can be quickly mounted (made available for use) and unmounted. Even NTFS partitions are fully writable by TRK. Any or all drives and partitions can be scanned for malware using five different scanning tools, which are dynamically updated when this item is selected (thus, an Internet connection is required). Two rootkit utilities can be run to detect and eradicate these pernicious and dangerous pests.

TRK can help rescue your precious files and data from hardware that is dead or being decommissioned. A backup util-

ity is included that can create and restore images of entire drives or partitions. Midnight Commander, a text-based file manager inspired by Norton Commander, makes it simple to find and copy files. You can use TRK to run a Windows file or Secure Shell server (or both) on the PC, which can simplify moving files to and from a remote machine.

TRK utilities that are useful in more complex situations include the ability to clone computers over a network, set up a boot server, and examine the data traversing a network. If you would like assistance with using TRK, you can contact the maintainer from the TRK website for remote support. TRK will set up your PC to allow them access to it so that they can help you in your rescue efforts.

TRK is another example of open source goodness that provides Windows users with a free alternative to proprietary, closed, and costly commercial software. It can be used to resolve many difficult problems that otherwise would require a good recent backup and a reinstal-

lation and reconfiguration of Windows. Because it is actively maintained, TRK will remain up-to-date and support the latest hardware. Due to the good documentation and active online user forum, help can be easily obtained from the maintainer as well as other TRK users. There is little reason not to download TRK today and burn it to disc so it is available when needed.

If you have questions or would like to learn more about Linux and FOSS, come to the Linux SIG meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 22 at 6:30 p.m. at Ventura County Computers in Ventura. The October upgrade of the CIPCUG Linux PC to Ubuntu11.10 was interrupted by a hiccup, so we will most likely install it from scratch. This will give us plenty of time to discuss the Trinity Rescue Kit and take, ask, and answer questions. See the CIPCUG website for more information. If you have a question or topic you would like the Lair or Linux SIG to cover, send it to me at [bwayson@gmail.com](mailto:bwayson@gmail.com).

Until next month, happy computing.

*(Continued from page 11)*

It's well known I'm not a big fan of some of the big-name PC manufacturers, and Sony just about tops my list. I had a client come in this month with a Sony VAIO VGC series multimedia PC. This thing had a TV tuner and all the bells and whistles you'd expect from Sony to entice you to buy this PC. He got infected with "CLOUD SECURITY" malware. We were able to partially remove the active infection, but the Web browser was still redirecting to alternate sites. This generally means there's a rootkit hidden or a very sneaky .DLL hiding and doing the dirty work. I handed this project over to our partner emeritus, Toby Scott, who was sleeping in his chair. In the interest of the common good, he decided he'd do battle with this new variation of a common malware plaguing the populace recently. After working on it for the afternoon, he proceeded to render the computer unbootable. He was trying various fixes recommended by unknown people on Internet blogs. So now we had to get XP working again on this PC. We tried the usual standard XP repair of the operating system. When it came time to start copying the software, everything halted because XP could not detect the hard disk. This means you are either using the wrong version of XP or there is some sort of RAID controller driver that needs to be installed. So off to Sony's website we go, and sure enough there is a list of about six hard disk controller drivers to try. Wonderful, we thought; now we're going to be here all day. If you've ever installed Microsoft Windows XP or other Microsoft operating systems you may have noticed "hit F6 to load additional drivers" near the beginning of the software install. Of course, if you miss the couple of seconds the screen is displayed you have to start over again. We had to install a USB floppy device to load the drivers as this PC had no floppy drive controller. We dutifully hit the F6 and noticed that six choices of drivers presented themselves.

We tried each one and as it failed we had to start the process over again and choose the next one. Of course the one that worked was the final choice. It saw the hard disk and gave us the choice to repair the existing installation, which is essentially an upgrade of XP with XP. As it chugged away, imagine our surprise when it asked a second time for the hard disk drivers. OK, fine, we put this floppy disk in, and the computer then said unable to find floppy disk to load drivers. What! It is a Sony USB floppy drive and it doesn't work. Nothing we could do would get us past this Sony roadblock. Eventually, we found some info suggesting a Teac drive might work but no guarantees. So after a day or two messing with this we called Sony and ordered a restore disk for \$25 as the PC did not come with one. After more than two weeks and three calls to Sony, which took more than 10 days just to get the item into a box, we received the product. Now, remember people who order this stuff usually have a dead PC and need it fixed as soon as possible. There is a huge disconnect between corporate thinking and what end users want and need. Now we are about three weeks into what should have been a one- or two-day fix. Thank you, Toby. So we used the disks provided by Sony and the install works. Now, granted we had to wipe out the whole PC because restore disk doesn't allow the repair option. Once everything finished, imagine our surprise when none of the drivers were installed. Every other manufacturer who supplies system restore disks does it with the necessary drivers included, except — you guessed it — Sony! So we now had to download every driver from Sony's website, and there were about 25 of them. After the computer installed every driver it had, there was still one exclamation point in the XP device manager. It was the TV tuner card. Nothing was listed on Sony's site so I had to remove the card, write down the part number and begin searching. Sony's site had no information at all when I searched

for it. What a surprise. I finally had to go to drivers guide and get the driver. It would not install and froze up the PC when I tried. You who know me can only imagine how depleted my patience meter was at this point so I resorted to the thing I hate the most in tech support ... ONLINE CHAT. There has never been more time wasted in my life, except maybe at the DMV, than doing online chat with some slightly educated tech in a foreign country. I tried five times in a period of three day to get a person online and gave up after more than half an hour on each attempt. Finally on the third day I got a phone call and went into the other room, and when I came back the tech had got my request and dropped me because of MY non-responsiveness. Every man has his breaking point, and I had finally met mine. I called the client and said please come get your PC. Too bad he didn't know I would have paid him to rid my life of this monster instead of him paying me. After we went through everything, I found out he did not use the TV tuner and had no idea what the device manager was so I let it go out with the job partially completed.

Did I take the coward's way out not telling him about the missing device driver? Probably. Did I lower my standards to relive myself? Yes. Would I allow myself to be put in this compromising position again? No! I am putting a sign on the door that says we have the right to refuse service to anyone, especially Sony! So if you are reading this and own a SONY VAIO and need to have some service done, you might consider asking someone else to help you.

See you next month, hopefully. I am on my way to buy some bullets and bottled water right now.

—

*(Rick, you shouldn't slam Toby and then ask him to proofread your musings. The bullets are blanks and the water is tainted. You won't read this soon enough to save you.)*

**Find us on the Web at <http://www.cipcug.org> and at our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/groups/cipcug>.**

# The Droid wars: Apple, Microsoft see a threat

By Rick Curry  
trindflo@cipcug.org

The Android class of mobile phone (or Droid) has become a significant threat to the Apple products iPhone and iPad as well as to Microsoft's Windows 8 Mobile Phone. An attorney for Apple recently told a judge that Apple's customers would be lost forever should the customer purchase any Android apps. The attorney was probably exaggerating, but clearly Apple and Microsoft view the device as a threat. And with reason: a good price for an iPhone with a 2-year plan is around \$200, while a good price for an Android with a plan is zero. Also, Android apps can potentially be used on devices other than phones: Google TV for instance.

Apple has been attempting to prevent sales of the Samsung "Galaxy" knock-off of the iPad worldwide. Samsung has resolved a number of the issues in Apple's complaints, and it should be no surprise that such lawsuits will continue. Apple

does not want the product to be sold at all.

Microsoft, for its part, seems OK with the prospect of Android devices so long as the industry allows Microsoft to tax and regulate the market through the assessment of licensing fees for Microsoft patents.

Does Microsoft have patent rights against Android devices? That is hard to say. Some years ago, the federal government adopted a more laissez-faire attitude towards patents, preferring to let patent owners fight for the patents in court rather than paying government experts to see if the patent makes sense. One of the side effects of this policy is that many more patents are filed now that there is less oversight. Corporations build up war chests filled with patents that they can use to legally harass other corporations. Often there is a mock threat of legal action based on patents where two companies will wave their patents at each other like gorillas throwing palm fronds into the air.

More often, the threat is real and the legal wrangling proceeds. Sometimes the point of the lawsuit is to delay the release of a product. Sometimes the idea is to charge a nuisance fee; if the cost is low enough, it might be more cost-effective for a business to just pay the fee. It may not seem very moral, but it turns out to be legal.

Charging fees to anyone using Android seems to be the Microsoft strategy. It just completed a deal with Samsung and has previously settled with HTC, Acer, General Dynamics Itronix, Onkyo, Velocity Micro, ViewSonic and Wistron. The deals are all secret, so each company might pay a different fee. This way, Microsoft can control and tax its competitors.

One Android peddler has held out and refuses to pay this Microsoft tax. The parent company for Motorola Mobile has decided to go up against the Microsoft legal department. And who would be so bold? Why, none other than Google!

*(Continued on page 14)*



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Review: Eudora

# Email program meets most people's needs

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

I'm a longtime user of Eudora email. It's a popular electronic mail (email) software program used both by individuals, businesses, and college students (for example, University of Michigan) that accesses your Internet and/or your home or work network to receive and send your email messages.

Another example of Eudora popularity is that there are at least 10 groups on the Yahoo! Groups website on the Internet.

Here are descriptions of Eudora's basic features:

**Email Service** — If you use more than one email service, Eudora will send and receive mail to and from your multiple accounts. For example, I use both Verizon and G-mail.

**Address Book** — Your favorite e-mail addresses are stored in your Eudora address book. Each address listing has five tabs: Personal, Home, Work, Other, and Notes. Personal contains first and last names, and email address. Work contains title, organization, street address, city, state/province, country, postal code, telephone, fax, mobile, and Web. Home contains street address, city, state/province, country, postal code, phone, fax, mobile, and Web. Other contains other email addresses, other telephone numbers, and one Web page. And Notes contain a large space for your notes, which I frequently use to store birthdays, etc. You can easily copy your Outlook Express or similar email program's address book into the Eudora address book.

**Fonts** — There are 200 choices, and there are seven sizes to choose from — very small, small, medium, large, very large, and humongous. Other features include bold, italics, underline, color, typewriter align left, center, right, indent in and out, bulleted list, and hyperlink.

**Spell Checker** — As you are preparing your message, Eu-

*(Continued on page 15)*

## More on Droid wars ...

*(Continued from page 13)*

Google created Android in the first place and apparently does not welcome Microsoft as its new corporate overlord. Microsoft does not tolerate competitors in its markets, which seems to include anything vaguely computer-ish that is highly profitable.

A small company that was partially financed by Microsoft used these tricks to fight against Linux. At the time, IBM was willing to champion the cause of Linux and won the day. It is not obvious how things would have turned out if IBM had not taken up that standard. In the great Droid wars of 2011, it is Google vs. Apple and Microsoft. There is good money to be made in predicting the outcome of that fight.

Happy computing (and investing?).

### 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](mailto:editor@cipcug.org)), within the week after the regular meeting. Otherwise, the ad is held to the following month.

### Free

### For sale

### Wanted

### Other categories as needed

The Outer Edge is printed and prepared for mailing by:

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## 'Secret Guide' expected in November

**A**rt Lewis has turned in the order for The 31st edition of the "Secret Guide to Computers and 'Tricky Living.'" This updated version has 703 pages in 52 chapters grouped into 10 sections. It has more than 40,000 improvements over the previous edition and covers Windows 7, modern browsers, websites, email systems, MS Office 2010, modern programming languages and much more. The retail cost for this book is \$25, and CIPCUG will sell copies for \$20. They make wonderful Christmas presents. Art has ordered about 10 more books than he had orders for, so if you didn't order one you can let me know at the meeting if you

### Bits & Bytes



Long

want one of the extras. He will be collecting money at the November meeting and if the books have arrived we will have them available to pick up. The Nov. 19 program will be Topaz Labs, which has promised to come with its video and image enhancement products, which use the most advanced technology currently available. Keep your fingers crossed; they had an emergency the last time they were scheduled so we hope they make it this time. Always have a peek at the Web page for

any last-minute changes.

Last month, we had another computer auctioned off. It was a 2 dual core XP with Office 2003 and the latest version of Nero, which sold for the fantastic price of \$110. Pretty good price for a computer these days, even if it was only XP. Sorry you missed out!

I need someone to take over the updating of CIPCUG's Web page. It is becoming more than I can handle and I hate to see the quality of the site go down. I have done it for 15 years, and it is time for me to step down. Anyone interested please contact me or Toby Scott.

**HAVE YOU RUN YOUR ANTI-SPYWARE PROGRAMS LATELY?**

## More on Eudora ...

*(Continued from page 14)*

dora is checking spelling, and all misspelled words are underlined. Move your cursor to and right click on the misspelled word and a list will appear for you to choose from. You can add words to the spelling list.

**Attachments** — You can write and send your messages with custom stationary and signatures. You can send both text and graphic files attached to your message. Attachments are stored in a separate folder on your hard drive.

**Priority** — You can designate the priority of your message to send as highest, high, normal, low, or lowest.

**Auto-Reply** — You can create an email message that will be sent to people automatically upon receiving their message when you are on vacation or away from your computer.

**Return Receipt** — You can receive a receipt email message acknowledging when your sent message has been received and is being read.

**Tip of the Day** — A new tip of the day will appear every time you open Eudora.

**Checking Mail** — You can specify how frequently you want Eudora to check for new mail. The choices are in minutes. I use every five minutes.

**Mailboxes** — There are individual mailboxes on the left side of your Eudora screen and these mailboxes are In, Out, Trash, Junk, and all of the individual mailboxes that you have created for the storage of your sent and received messages. For example, when I send a message to a person, whom I have created a mailbox for, the sent message automatically is moved from the Out mailbox and into the individual mailbox that I have previously created. You can search for a particular message by using the Eudora search feature.

**Trash and Junk** — When you delete a message, it will be moved into the Trash mailbox and remain there for about three months. Eudora automatically evaluates

all incoming messages and will move all unread messages containing junk into the Junk mailbox and remain there for about 30 days. Unread messages in the Junk mailbox are indicated by the name of the mailbox being bold.

**Backup** — I periodically move my sent and received e-mails from Eudora to a separate folder on my hard drive, and whenever I need to reread any of those emails, all I have to do is the left click on the file in the separate folder and all of the e-mails are temporary copied back into my Eudora program, where I can easily read the e-mails. When I close Eudora, all of those temporary e-mails are removed but still remain in my separate backup folder.

**Software Versions** — There are two software versions — 7.1 for all versions of Windows and 6.2.4 for Mac. I'm using version 7.1.0.9 with Window 7. Eudora is available at [www.eudora.com](http://www.eudora.com) and many other websites easily found by using Google. The program is free.

## November and December changes

Don't forget that, because of conflicts with holidays, our November and December meetings move from the fourth Saturday of the month to the third Saturday of the month.

## Early wishes for a series of happy holidays

**W**ith any luck at all, you should get this issue of TOE long enough before the regular meeting to be reminded that, because of the holidays, it will be on the third — not the fourth — Saturday of the month in both November and December. I join President James Brown and wish all our members a Happy Thanksgiving and the best of whatever you celebrate in December, be it Christmas, Hanukkah, Eid or Festivus. If none of those fits your lifestyle, have a happy December.

### Editor's corner



Weigle

The holiday season is also a logical time to plug the availability of "Secret Guide to Computers & Tricky Living," which is also mentioned elsewhere in this issue. Author Russ Walter jams lots of information about computing, and life in general, into more than 700 pages in the 31st edition of the book. It's a good gift for anyone among your friends and family who need an easy guide to computing. Copies are expected to be available at the November meeting.

This issue contains a nice variety of information, ranging from the usual coverage of the regular meeting to a report on the effects of floods in Thailand on the availability of hard drives in the entire world to a review of Eudora, a popular email program. My thanks to all the members who make my job easier by providing articles for TOE.

All authors like feedback on their material, so if you find something you particularly like, please send the author or me a note saying so. Pro and con comments on articles are welcome for publication in TOE, of course. Letters to the editor are always among the most popular parts of any publication, and I'd love to have a monthly letters section. All I ask is that letters avoid personal attacks. Comment on the article, not the writer, please.

Also, please let me or our writers know what topics you'd like to see covered in TOE or take pen in hand (or put hands on keyboard) and write your own article. I can edit it and send a copy back for your approval if you'd like, but please don't just jot down a bunch of unconnected thoughts and ask me to make sense of them for you.

Along the same line, if you have program ideas, please pass them along to Craig Ladd, our vice president and program chairman. As you've no doubt noticed by now, it's getting harder and harder to get companies from outside the county to visit us to promote their products, so if you know of local folks who are doing interesting things with their computers, please let us know. Or if you have a collection of electronic gadgets you'd like to share with us, please offer to do so. You don't have to be the most accomplished speaker in the world, but you have to be a step or two above the level of being frozen into silence if you're standing in front of a group.

— John Weigle, editor

## Treasurer's report for September 2011

By Art Lewis

[treasurer@cipcug.org](mailto:treasurer@cipcug.org)

9-1-2011 through

9-30-2011

### Category Description

#### INFLOWS

Coffee income	-5.00
Membership Income	
New Members \$160.00	
Renewals 540.00	
<b>TOTAL MEMBERSHIP</b>	<b>700.00</b>
Raffle	99.00

**TOTAL INFLOWS 794.00**

#### OUTFLOWS

Raffle prizes	94.69
Rent Paid	150.00
TOE	347.12

**TOTAL OUTFLOWS 591.81**

**OVERALL TOTAL 202.19**

Unrestricted Funds	5,958.14
Restricted Funds	0.00
<b>Bank Balance 8-31-11</b>	<b>5,958.14</b>
Year to Date Income	1,886.25
Year to Date Expense	1,715.44
Net Year to Date	170.81



Lewis

## 2011 contributors to The Outer Edge

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

Ken Church  
Rick Curry  
Bob de Violini  
Bill Kenworthy  
Jeff Levy  
Art Lewis  
Brian K. Lewis (APCUG)  
Helen Long  
Warner Mach (APCUG)  
Dick Maybach (APCUG)  
Diane Mortensen  
Sr. Dorothy Robinson (APCUG)

SANS Institute  
Sharon Parq Associates Inc.  
Toby Scott  
Michael Shalkey  
Rick Smith  
Smart Computing magazine  
Jim Thornton  
Les Townsing A0CUG)  
US-CERT  
Bill Wayson  
John Weigle  
Jonathan Wylie  
Worldstart computer tips,  
[www.worldstart.com](http://www.worldstart.com)

Membership report:

# Is it time to renew?

By Ken Church

email address: [membership@cipcug.org](mailto:membership@cipcug.org)

Welcome –  
New Members: Wanted

Attendance at the October, 2011, general meeting:  
65 members and guests

Total membership: 195

## MEMBER RENEWAL INFORMATION

\$30 for single membership,  
\$35 for two or more family membership.

## NEW MEMBER INFORMATION

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

Please send your payment to:

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

Or bring your payment to the sign in table for the Nov. 19, 2011, meeting.



**CHURCH**

## September 2011 renewals payment due:

Mbr#	Last Name	First Name	Pd to Dt
0006 T	Burnett	Bob	201109
0613	Green	Gunnar	201109
0773 T	Lang	Nita	201109
1235	Shaw	Wayne	201109
1208	Sheffield	Craig	201109

## October 2011 renewals payment due:

Mbr#	Last Name	First Name	Pd to Dt
1224	Alexander	Doug	201110
0034	Campbell	Gordon	201110
1107 T	Carlson	Gordy	201110
0990	Mehr	Steve	201110
0942	Mickey	Barbara	201110
0901	Shelton	Charles	201110
0158	Volpi	Ralph	201110

## November 2011 renewals payment due:

Mbr#	Last Name	First Name	Pd to Dt
0388	Armstrong	Bob	201111
1074	Chaison	Doris	201111
1061	Churchyard	Martha	201111
0915	Clayton	Phil	201111
1215	Cobb	Charles	201111
0944	Coon	Donn	201111
0635	Godwin	John	201111
0945	Gorelik	Donn	201111
1212	Hollander	Gary	201111
0789	Knauer	Wolfgang	201111
0145	Lee	Bill	201111
0542	Salisbury	Wayne	201111
1194	Tsutsui - Trujillo	Sandy	201111
0863	Zapf, D.P.M.	Michael	201111



# 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.**

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## WEB HELP SITES (Updated 4-5-11)

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

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



# Why join Channel Islands PC Users Group (CIPCUG)?

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

- ◆ The Outer Edge newsletter, which includes a list of members willing to help other members.
  - ◆ The general meeting, featuring a question-and-answer session and program on new software or hardware.
  - ◆ Special Interest Groups — special meetings held several times a month.
  - ◆ Door prizes at the regular meeting.
- Other benefits include:
- ◆ Special user group discounts on books and software.

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

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

Please make checks payable to CIPCUG.

**Dues for new members**  
 Individual member, \$40.  
 Family membership (same address), \$55.  
 Renewals are \$30 and \$35 per year respectively.  
 TOE subscription only (in the U.S.), \$20.

**CIPCUG E-MAIL ADDRESS**  
 Members who would like to have an e-mail address through CIPCUG in the form of YourName@cipcug.org may obtain one for \$20 per year.

**CIPCUG MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Print the following information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_, State: \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Home): \_\_\_\_\_ (Work): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

User level: Novice \_\_\_\_; Intermediate \_\_\_\_;  
 Advanced \_\_\_\_

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Member # \_\_\_\_\_

# Channel Islands PC Users Group Inc.

P.O.Box 51354  
Oxnard, CA: 93031

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

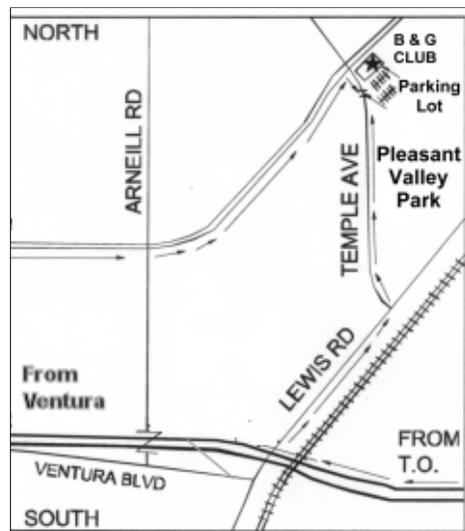
**DATED MATERIAL**  
Please Do Not Delay

## DUES REMINDER

If the number above your name is 2011NOVEMBER, your membership dues are payable in November 2011.

## NOVEMBER 2011 MEETING OF THE CHANNEL ISLANDS PC USERS GROUP

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



**Saturday morning, Nov. 19, at the Boys & Girls Club, 1500 Temple Ave. (Ponderosa Drive and Temple Avenue), Camarillo.**

### Meeting Schedule:

8:30 a.m.	Doors open
8:45-9:30	Internet and networking SIG, Social Media SIG
9:30-10:30	Business meeting, Q&A
10:30-11:00	Break — Please contribute requested amounts for coffee and doughnuts
11:00-12:00	Program — Topaz Labs Drawing