

Orange Coast IBM PC User Group

README.DOC

August 2005

Newsletter

Volume 21.8

ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD IN THE COSTA MESA SENIOR CENTER 695 WEST 19TH STREET
AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF 19TH AND POMONA

In This Issue

Front Page 1

Editor's Farewell Message 2

Schedules and Events 2-3

APCUG NOOZ 4-5

President's Report 5

SIG Report 5

New Dimension 6

29 Useful Bookmarks 7-8

Thank the Leaders 9

INTERNET TALK 10-11

INTERNET TALK 12-13

DONA'S COMPUTER CAPERS
14-15

SWUG DEALS 16-17

The DealsGuy 18-19

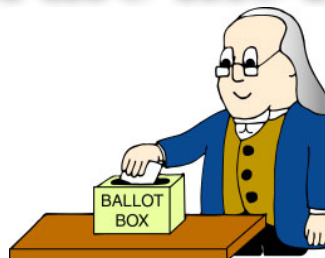
Phishing 20

Publication Guidelines 21

Getting To Know APCUG August 27th General Meeting



What are the Benefits?



We will be holding OCIPUG Elections



Orange Coast IBM PC User Group
695 W. 19th St
Costa Mesa, California 92627

ADDRw

**General Meetings are held
from 9:00AM to noon on:**

**August 27th, 2005
September 24th, 2005
October 22nd, 2005**

**Web Page
www.ocipug.org**

**Meetings of the Executive
Board will be held at noon
on:**

**August 27th, 2005
September 24th, 2005
October 22nd, 2005
All OCIPUG members
are welcome**

**Special Interest Group
(SIG) meetings
are held monthly as follows:**

**1st Tuesday Internet
2nd Tuesday Hardware
3rd Tuesday Windows
4th Tuesday Digital Photo
All SIG Groups start at 7:00pm**

Editor's Farewell Message

Well, this will be the last Newsletter I do for OCIPUG, so I feel it is only appropriate to include an Editor's message. I have certainly appreciated the opportunity to produce the Newsletter, although I wish there had been more input from the members. The main reason is that it would have reflected more of a consensus of ideas instead of one person's idea of what the README.DOC should include. A club in order to be relevant needs to include a cross section of ideas instead of one person's opinions, ideas or efforts. In any group, no matter what the interest or subject matter that is being addressed, the Whole is more, than the sum of its Parts. No individual can accomplish alone, what a group of people working together, utilizing varied abilities and ideas can accomplish. In order for a "Club" to exist there needs to be a consensus, otherwise what results, is one person's way of looking at or doing a project which is ok at times, but in the long run falls far short of the concept of what a club should be.

Although I have only been a member of OCIPUG for a little over 2 years, the club and the resources available to UG members have helped me to improve my computer related abilities many fold. The RMD has allowed me to develop my Pagemaker skills and more recently, my Indesign skills. The website has helped to enhance my abilities in many applications, such as MS Frontpage, Photoshop, & Illustrator. In addition I have benefitted from our Tuesday evening SIG groups. The Windows SIG group led by Bob Strader has given me quite a bit of confidence when I need to deal with OS related situations which prior to my attending these SIGS I knew Nothing, Zip, Zilch, Nada, Zero (Ketch my Drift). If you are a member of this Group (which you don't have to be to attend any of the meetings) and you don't at least attend an occasional SIG, then you either know a whole lot or quite honestly you are missing out on the area where the wheels hit the road. The SIG group are where you can ask your questions & the group is there to help YOU.

Speaking of Knowing a Whole lot, Ed Leckliter on the 2nd Tuesday of the month is extremely knowledgeable about Hardware and presents it in an intelligent and organized manner, (aided by excellent Powerpoint presentations), the PPT presentations are

also archived on his OCIPUG Hardware SIG where one can review the information or if unable to attend the SIG can see what was covered at that particular SIG. Again if you are ignoring this meeting, you must know quite a bit or most likely, very little. These SIGS are the Meat & Potatoes of this UG & ignoring these resources without the aforementioned considerable Knowledge & Wealth of information will allow you to continue to have to deal with the same problems over and over. If this was your personal goal, stay the course because you will succeed in your quest. You will succeed in learning little or nothing by attending an occasional General meeting, and buying some raffle tickets to win a program you can't use or a book you don't understand. On the other hand, attend some or all of the SIGS, volunteer for something and do it as best you can, check out some meetings of other UG in the area, go to a conference (San Diego or Las Vegas) you will learn a lot, more than you can even imagine and realize how useful a UG can be.

In the words of 95 Year Old Coach John Wooden of UCLA, (The Wizard of Westwood) "Learn from others, because you'll never know a thing you didn't learn from somebody else, most of all, never cease trying to be the best you can be under the conditions that exist and try to improve those conditions". "Learn as though you are going to live for a long time, Live as though you are going to die tomorrow".

We will collect our Annual Membership Dues:

**The BOD has approved an annual
membership plan where every-
ones dues are due on Sept. 1st.
This way we will know when dues
are due as opposed to the previous
system or lack thereof.**

SCHEDULES AND REPORTS OF EVENTS

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (SIG) SIG MEETINGS



(All Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings are held at the Costa Mesa Senior Center on the southeast corner of 19th and Pomona at the times noted below.) The next SIG meeting will be:

Support Our Sigs

Sept. 6th, 2005

Internet

Mark Borison mborison@yahoo.com

1st Tuesday 7:00PM

Sept. 13th, 2005

Hardware

Ed Leckliter eleckliter@adelphia.net

2nd Tuesday 7:00PM

Sept. 20th, 2005

Windows -

Robert Strader robert.strader@comcast.net

3rd Tuesday 7:00PM

Sept. 27th, 2005

Digital Cameras / Scanning

David Wintle allart@pac.bell.net

4th Tuesday 7:00PM

Upcoming General Meetings

August 27th, 2005

September 24th, 2005

October 22nd, 2005

OCIPUG Annual Election

President-David Wintle

Vice President-Bob Strader

Secretary-Frank Mastroly

CFO/Treasurer-Shirley England

Director BOD- Write in

President	Dave Wintle	949-548-7994	president.bod@ocipug.org
Vice President	Robert Strader	949-646-1475	vicepres.bod@ocipug.org
Secretary	Frank Mastroly	714-960-9472	secretary.bod@ocipug.org
CFO/Treasurer	Shirley England	949-770-1645	Treasurer.bod@ocipug.org
Director-2004-6	Eugenia Frerichs	714-979-5356	Director1.bod@ocipug.org
Director-2004-6	Mark Borison	714-963-8296	Director2.bod@ocipug.org
Director-2004-5	Morris Fier	949-646-8292	Director3.bod@ocipug.org
Director-2004-5	Sandi Tierney	714-648-2218	Director4.bod@ocipug.org
Past President	Leonard Stein	949-454-0158	pastpres.bod@ocipug.org
Long Range Planning	Leonard Stein	949-454-0158	pastpres.bod@ocipug.org
Readme.Doc Editor	Mark Borison	714-963-8296	Editor@ocipug.org
Webmaster	Mark Borison	714-963-8296	webmaster@ocipug.org
Programs	Mark Borison	714-963-8296	programs@ocipug.org
SIG Coordinator	Robert Strader	949-646-1475	sigcoordinator@ocipug.org
APCUG Rep	Robert Strader	949-646-1475	apcugrep@ocipug.org

APCUG NOOZ

August 2005

The NOOZ is sent to the President, APCUG Representative, Newsletter Editor, Webmaster and Program Chair of each APCUG-member User Group.

We urge you to share the information in NOOZ by including it in your newsletter, posting in on your website, or e-mailing it to members of your group.

- Susy Ball Resigns as APCUG Director and President
- APCUG Board of Directors Elects New President
- APCUG Annual Conference

January 2 through 5, 2006

- Jerry Award Contest
- Newsletter & Web Site Contests
- Auditing APCUG Books
- Would you like to recruit younger members? Microsoft's Chris Norred, who is with their "Expert Zone", has some very interesting things to say about the older generation of computer users.
- Susy Ball, has recently resigned as president and director of APCUG. She had several crisis lines converge at the same time and felt she could no longer effectively serve APCUG. This was a very difficult decision for her to make but she feels she needs to concentrate on her family at this point in time. She and her husband recently moved from their long-time home in Fresno to Napa where he accepted a new job, they moved into an apartment and have just recently purchased a house and will need to move again, and she is also coping with the loss of her father who passed away in late-July. Susy has been a long-time APCUG volunteer and we thank her for her many contributions.
- At a special Board of Directors meeting Ken Bundy was elected President of APCUG to complete Susy's 2005 term as president.
- APCUG's Annual Conference is scheduled for January 2 through 5, 2006 at The Stardust Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada.
- To register for the conference go to www.apcug.net and click on Registration under APCUG Annual Conference. Don't forget to complete the entire form. After your registration has been received, you will be taken to the payment options page. Registration fees may be paid with a credit card through APCUG's secure online gateway, or with a check. Before you complete your registration, we suggest you read the APCUG Privacy Policy, and the APCUG Refund/

Cancellation Policy.

- Early Bird registration of \$75.00 ends on October 17 and, if you pay by check, it must be received no later than October 25. If you register between October 18 and November 30, the fee is \$100.00 and the check needs to be received by December 7. If you register after November 30, the fee is \$150.00. The last date to register and receive your choice of t-shirt size is November 15.
- To register at The Stardust, call 866-281-14 and mention Group Code APCUG06. The negotiated conference room rates end December 2, 2005 --- so, make your reservations early!

Room and Suite Rates:

Sunday	Mon/Tues	Wed-Sat
1/1/06	1/2-3/06	1/4-7/06
West Tower	\$150	\$ 67 \$112
Spa Suites	N/A	\$110 \$175

- The surcharge for triple occupancy is still \$20 per room, per night.
 - Jerry Awards. Entry forms for the Jerry Award contest will be available soon. In the meantime, please go to http://apcug.net/events/conference06/Jerry_06.htm for information about the contest.
 - Web Site & Newsletter Contests. The criteria for the contests will also be available soon. Please check out <http://apcug.net/events/conference06/website.htm> or <http://apcug.net/events/conference06/newsletter.htm> for information about the contests.
 - Some user groups have been fortunate enough to find a qualified volunteer among their ranks or within the community who is able and willing to do a complimentary audit of the group's books. One group even had a member who was a retired IRS auditor who did an annual informal audit of the books. APCUG needs help of that nature! If you know of anyone who is willing to audit APCUG books gratis, or just for reimbursement of expenses, please have them contact Sharon Fry, APCUG's Administrative Assistant, at sfry@apcug.net.
7. During the Microsoft event at the 2005 Annual Meeting, Sherry Zorzi, Advisor of Region 8, sat at a table with Microsoft's Chris Norred, who is with their "Expert Zone." After CES, Chris wrote about the APCUG event on his blog - <http://weblogs.asp.net/expertzone/archive/2005/01/07/348307.aspx>

Note particularly that he saw an advantage for younger people to join a group consisting of seniors!

"An interesting thing about the user groups is the demographic makeup. There are a lot of members in their retirement years. There is a potential bonus in this for working age and younger computer enthusiasts. Remember all those really cool home computing projects you intend to master? For me, it's the DVD scrapbook of my son's first years. But you can't find time because the porch needs painting, the kids have soccer, and the boss wants another batch of paperwork by Friday. Well, a lot of user group members, apparently, don't have kids or bosses anymore. They have time to figure out how to use the software, or put together the PC and the home network, and they're eager to share their information. All you have to do is go to a user group meeting

and ask them.” Chris is smart enough to see something a lot of people don’t!!! Older people can help young people. Chris is onto something that Sherry thinks makes a perfect angle for us to pitch in recruiting younger members. We need both seniors give us numbers to keep our club’s viable; younger people give us vitality and a future. That’s all for this NOOZ. Please let me know if you find this information useful to share with your group as a benefit of your membership in APCUG. If you have anything you would like me to include in NOOZ, just let me know.

Happy computing,

Judy Taylour, Chair

Board of Advisors

Presidents Message

Welcome to Election Month. This is when you can cast your vote for the officers of your choice. Contrary to rumors there was no soft money involved in the campaign for this election. The main reason was there was no campaign.

As president, I wish to thank Mark for his energy in producing the Readme.Doc. As has been mentioned over the past year & a half, Mark has been doing the Internet SIG, Web site, Readme.Doc, Programs, a Director, taught the SeniorNet Internet Class & developed a new website for the Senior Center. This is just too much for one person to constantly do each month. Mark does have a life outside of OCIPUG. This is the last issue Mark will be doing. Mark may also have to drop some of the other jobs due to circumstances and a lack of help coming from members. Remember this is YOUR club!

As with most organizations you only receive what you put into the organization. Attending a meeting once a month and paying your dues might be ok if this club was the size it was years ago, but it is not. The size of the membership is not proportional to the number of persons required to keep the club moving. A club of 500 members only needs 3 or 4 more persons working within the club as opposed to a club of 80 members.

As a member it is really not that hard to help the club. If you read an article that you thought was interesting, about computers or just human interest, send it to an officer to be included in the Readme.Doc or the web site. If any member would like to do a presentation on something they are interested in, let an officer know. If you would like to do a Presenta-

tion-in-a-Box, let an officer know. The thing about doing things like this is, it helps make this a better and more interesting club. Even more important is you will through preparation, find out and learn things on a far more in-depth level than you would, listening to someone else do the presentation. You also have the satisfaction of doing something you may have thought you could not do. There are many things a a member you can do to help make this club more interesting, just try it you may like it.

BECOME A PART OF OCIPUG

David Wintle
President

OCIPUG Hardware SIG - Meeting Recap

Meeting Date: August 9, 2005

There were 11 attendees (including SIG Leader, Ed Leckliter).
Featured Topic(s): Other Components (Modems, NICs, Chassis, Power Supplies, HFAs, Fans, Keyboards, Mice): 2004-05 Update

Hardware Submissions - none
Random Access - we discussed Walter Srebnik’s plans to build a new PC.

Next Meeting: September 13, 2005

Next Meeting Featured Topic(s):
Overclocking Your PC

This presentation will include a discussion of water cooling and an overclocking demo/tuning session.

Following Meeting: October 11, 2005

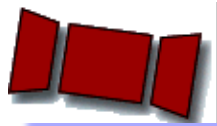
Following Meeting Featured Topic(s): Maintenance, diagnostics, trouble shooting, burn-ins

File(s) attached:

Presentation slides in
Microsoft PowerPoint format (.ppt).

NOTE: PowerPoint presentations are also posted on the OCIPUG Hardware SIG web site (http://www.edscustomcomputers.com/welcome_to_the_ocipug_hardware_sl.htm)

Add a New Dimension To Your Browsing By Gabe Goldberg, APCUG Advisor; Columnist, AARP Computers and Technology Web site



It's hard to imagine a different world. A great early-science fiction book Flatland [www.eldritchpress.org/eea/FL.HTM] describes life in a two-dimensional world, with creatures unable to imagine the third dimension we take for granted. And modern physics' "string theory"

[www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/elegant/] speculates that our world really has eleven dimensions. While I can't imagine those extra dimensions, we



spend time in a two-dimensional world every day -- it's how most people browse the Web. But even that has changed, as browsers have evolved from displaying one site per window to more flexible tabbed browsing, displaying many Web pages in a single window.

So now it's interesting and fun to take three-dimensional browsing out for a cruise, surfing the Internet, courtesy of Browse3D.

This visual-browsing style lets you see forward and backward, where you've been and where you're going. It's great for browsing that involves a lot of forward-and-backward navigation, or that requires following many Web links.

When first started, Browse3D offers abundant helpful tips for use. These can be scrolled all at once or browsed each time the program runs. And built-in Help provides a comprehensive tutorial highlighting features and capabilities.

This tool wraps around Internet Explorer -- the vendor calls it a "reverse plug-in" -- to display Web pages on multiple walls, shown three dimensionally on our two-dimensional monitors. The main straight-ahead wall is the home view, a browser window controlled by a tool bar. It can be zoomed to occupy the full screen, momentarily hiding the side walls. The left wall shows your browsing history, pages you've visited. It's much easier navigating to these pages visually vs. the usual cryptic browser back button: simply right click a page to bring it back to

the home view.

The right wall is a multi-talented workhorse. It can be automatically filled with pages linked from the current home view, avoiding interrupting current attention while allowing instant jumps to linked pages. A handy use for this is pre-loading top entries in search engine results lists. The right wall can also be used like a corkboard, loaded with pages to be kept handy for quick reference; this is called making it "sticky". And it can be put in "4-live" mode which displays four active browser windows with clickable pages. This allows quick site viewing and comparing, or monitoring multiple auto-updating pages simultaneously, such as saving/tracking multiple auction items though the sale process. Right-wall pages can be rearranged, scrolled, flipped between Auto Crawl and sticky. And right-wall and sticky contents are separately cleared.

Pop-up window behavior -- normally an annoyance -- is customizable: ignore, open in new window, open on right wall, open in current browser, or ask for instructions.

An elegant "rooms" feature extends browser bookmarks/favorites, allowing saving and sharing collections of Web pages as single files. Any selected pages can be grouped; you might gather family, recipe, financial, or technical pages. Rooms can hold static pages (content when pages were collected) or dynamic pages (links to pages as they are when the room is viewed). Opening a room displays pages as they were positioned when the room was saved.

Browse3D is easily purchased online and downloaded/installed/registered; a free version lacking a few features is also available. The software requires a relatively powerful PC; it checks operation when installing. But most relatively current PCs should be adequate. Because of how it uses screen space, Browse3D is most impressive on larger monitors.

Company: Browse3D Corporation

Product: Browse3D

Price: Free or \$29.95

URL: www.browse3d.com

Telephone: (888) 444-3200

This article originated on AARP's Computers and Technology Web site, www.aarp.org/computers, and is copyrighted by AARP. All rights are reserved; it may be reproduced, downloaded, disseminated, or transferred, for single use, or by nonprofit organizations for educational purposes, with attribution to AARP. It should be unchanged and this paragraph included. Please e-mail Gabe Goldberg at gabe@gabegold.com when you use it, or for permission to excerpt or condense.

There is no restriction against any non-profit group using this article as long as it is kept in context with proper credit given the author. The Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization of which this group is a member, brings this article to you.

29 Useful Bookmarks

By Richard Johnson,

TUGNET

www.tugnet.org

The Web is a marvelous resource, and most of us come nowhere near tapping its full potential. I've attempted here to list 29 websites that without any necessary downloading provide exceedingly useful free non-specialized services and tools, that require no particular knowledge except how to navigate the World Wide Web.

1. **Time Cave** www.timecave.com

2. **Memo to Me** www.memotome.com

Using these two email reminder services you'll never forget another upcoming activity or event. Time Cave allows you to schedule incoming messages by interval (so many hours, days, weeks, months, or even years away) as well as by date and time. Memo to Me allows editing of content and date. With Time Cave you can choose your own subject line and send reminders to others, but Memo to Me will charge you for those features. On the other hand, Time Cave charges for the ability to repeat messages (monthly, weekly, etc.), standard with Memo to Me.

3. **Way Back Machine** www.archive.org/web/web.php

Is a website you're seeking no longer around? If it was active as late as 1996, you'll probably find it easily in this huge archive.

4. **Centerwatch Clinical Trials** www.centerwatch.com

Gives information on more than 41,000 active clinical trials in which you could participate. (Some compensate you handsomely for helping, along with free medical monitoring.) Includes a notification service, for trials in areas of your interest. Also describes the newest drug therapies.

5. **Objectgraph Dictionary**

www.objectgraph.com/dictionary

A combination standard dictionary, technical dictionary, and thesaurus. (There's also a dictionary of chemical elements, of rather limited interest). A unique feature is the site's ability to "read your mind" if you're not sure of the word you're thinking of -- or its spelling -- or if you just want to save typing.

6. **Myway email** www.myway.com

An excellent Web-based email provider with an exceptionally clean interface (no banner ads or pop-ups). Unlike the case with competitors like Yahoo mail, Myway will respond to support inquiries. (It also has a terrific weather page -- see link #7 following.) [If you prefer Gmail, equally clean-appearing, I can get you an invitation -- see my article in the March Keywords.]

7. **Myway weather** weather.myway.com

The best weather page on the Web. Even though its weather information is from weather.com, you'll see when you use it

that the interface is much cleaner (and loading therefore faster) than if you were to bring up either weather.com or one of its competitors. You can personalize the weather according to your home town or zip code; the page you'll want to bookmark is that personalized page

8. **Past Weather**

www.weather.com/activities/other/other/weather/yesterday.html

Use this site to compare today's forecast with yesterday's weather. There's also interesting historical data and a graph showing the weather for the past seven days. The past weather information can easily be compared with the forecast from Myway weather (link #7), which derives its data from the same source.

9. **Furl** www.furl.net

Bookmarking is useful, but what do you do when you find that a bookmarked page has disappeared (left the Web)? Or maybe it's still there, but -- as with many newspaper sites -- you can't read it without going to a paid archive. This won't be an issue if you've Furl'd the page. Furl allows you to create a set of special bookmarks that can be easily searched or browsed -- or shared with others -- but whose contents are permanently stored on your hard drive. (If you feel the need to save parts of a page, try Net Snippets Free at www.netsnippets.com/basic. This does require a download.)

10. **Gold Star Events**

<http://snipurl.com/bl9o>

Gold Star enables admissions to a large variety of live California productions at 50% off or better. After your (free) registration, you'll receive regular email notices of well-described shows in the zip code areas of your preference. There's a small per-ticket service fee, usually between \$3 and \$7.

11. **Password Generator**

<http://mistupid.com/computers/passwordgen.htm>

Random characters compose the safest passwords. This tool will create a password with random characters according to your specifications. On your instructions, will even avoid ambiguous characters [o and 0, 1 and I].

12. **Zap2it**

www.zap2it.com

With Zap2it you can check out both TV and movie schedules. Various options let you permanently personalize each set of listings, to give you just the information you need, in the format you prefer.

13. **Acronym Finder**

www.acronymfinder.com

Don't be baffled by acronyms and abbreviations you encounter on the Web and elsewhere. This site offers definitions for over 398,000 such terms. Optional downloading of any of a number of search tools (for various browsers) will allow you to view a definition almost instantly.

14. **Restaurant health ratings (LA County)**

<http://lapublichealth.org/rating>

Avoid traveling to an appealing restaurant only to find that its health rating is below the level with which you're comfortable.

Cont. from previous page**15. Translation Wizard**

www.faganfinder.com/translate

The Translation Wizard uses other sites' services to ease the process of finding a translation -- that otherwise might require visiting ten or more sites to find the language of interest! It also has a neat button to identify a mystery language.

16. Anybirthday

<http://anybirthday.com>

A fun site that can divulge your friend's birthday or even tell you where to mail the card.

17. TrackEngine

www.trackengine.com

Notifies you via email of changes in Web pages that you select. You can preview the changes or view the whole page via email, with changes highlighted. Choose the Web address of a neighborhood theater, to see what plays are coming up. Or see every new installment of a favorite newspaper column, without having to buy the paper.

18. GovBenefits.gov

<http://govbenefits.gov>

A source of information on over 400 government-funded programs that extend benefits for which you may qualify, including compensated volunteering. Features a confidential questionnaire designed to point you to the most likely matches.

19. AddALL

www.addall.com

Use this site to find the very best price for a book you want to buy. Unlike most other comparison sites, it figures in shipping costs for your location. Links will take you to pages for magazine subs, music CDs, and videos.

20. jux2

www.jux2.com

Jux2 lets you receive and compare search results from two or three different search engines, or see what you're missing from your regular search results. (According to the site, competing search engines typically share fewer than 4 out their 10 top results.) Still in development, it's currently limited to Google, Yahoo, and Ask Jeeves.

21. Medem Medical Library

www.medem.com/medlb/medlib_entry.cfm

Searchable and browsable medical library, organizing contributions from 45 medical societies. Features a complexity indicator for each article, from "introductory" to "professional."

22. Metacritic

www.metacritic.com/film

23. Kids-in-mind

www.kids-in-mind.com Metacritic is an excellent source for movie critiques. For each film, it arranges its large variety of reviews from most to least favorable, and then tabulates the opin-

ions, for an overall "metascore." (Additional Metacritic pages cover videos, music, and games.) For evaluating movies for children, or if you have a concern about violence, sex, or profanity, Kids-in-mind will rate and describe each film's content in those three areas.

24. CardRatings

<http://cardratings.com>

This site maintains information on over 700 credit cards, and will suggest the best cards in a variety of categories --low or no credit, no annual fee, low interest, rewards/rebates, etc.

25. The California Patient's Guide

www.calpatientguide.org

A well-organized extensive guide to Californians' health care rights, and what you can do if they're compromised. Assembled by medical, legal, and consumer experts, and published by the Foundation for Taxpayer and Consumer Rights.

26. CheckFree

www.checkfree.com

There are a host of good reasons for paying your bills online. It saves time, saves the cost of stamps, reduces the chance of late payment, extends the time in which you can use your money, cuts down clutter, eliminates the danger of checks lost in the mail, and facilitates tracking. With CheckFree you'll be able to pay many or most of your bills online, and the service is free to the payers.

27. Bug Me Not

www.bugmenot.com

This site and the one following save you time and trouble while helping you cut down on spam. Bug Me Not keeps on hand log-in data (passwords with user names) for a huge number of sites that require registration. If you want access to such a site (like latimes.com), but don't want to bother registering, just visit the Bug Me Not site and log in easily.

28. Spam Bob

<http://evil-wire.luvfeed.org/cache/1269>

Spam Bob offers a choice of three email addresses that you create, to protect your privacy. Anything@spambob.org is a phantom address, messages to which disappear into the ether. Use anything@spambob.com if you'll want to check on a reply message. (This is handy for registrations that require confirmation.) And you may want to use anything@spambob.net for all your correspondents. Mail from each such "net" address can be forwarded to you, and if it starts generating spam, just cancel the forwarding order!

29. Google Maps

<http://maps.google.com>

Head and shoulders above the competition, these maps are much larger and far easier to configure. Zooming in and out is quick as a bunny, and re-centering is instantaneous. You can locate by category businesses in the map area, along with their phone numbers. Note that (at least as of this writing) these maps are not implemented in the regular Google search results, which will still point you only to Yahoo and MapQuest maps.

Richard Johnson is a writer and editor, and founder/administrator of FREE FOR ALL The Skills Pool, a 29-year-old membership organization (<http://theskillspool.org>). He is a volunteer with TUGNET HelpContact for assistance with Internet Explorer, Outlook Express, and Gmail. You may reach him at rj@theskillspool.org.

There is no restriction against any non-profit group using this article as long as it is kept in context with proper credit given the author. The Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization of which this group is a member, brings this article

Offer to be a “computer mover,” so that if someone in the club isn’t able to move their computer from one room of their house to another, you’ll be there to help them do that. Or be the modem rescue person, so if someone’s modem got zapped by lighting, you be there the next day and connect a replacement modem for them. If they ask you why you did that, tell them that you value them being connected.

You can start a scholarship program for five families/year in your community. Interested families could apply to the club to get a donated computer and 1/2 off the annual dues of the club. (For the first year.) By doing so you’re building a ramp to club membership, you’re helping the community and you’re creating new ways for club members to engage in outreach and publicity.

Get creative in how you thank the leaders of your computer club. Behind the scene many hours of work go into making computer clubs work. Club leaders are not paid a dime. They do it because they get a thrill from seeing people help each other, from people increasing in their learning and computer confidence.

Surprise them in the ways you say thanks. You may even want to say: “I’m ready to work. I’d like to offer my time to help.”

How to Thank the Leaders of Your Computer User Group

By Phil Shapiro,
member of the Capital PC User Group,
Virginia Macintosh Users Group,
Washington Apple Pi,
Young Hackers and Scholars Libre Users Group

If you have found benefit in belonging to a computer user group, there are many ways of thanking the leaders of the group. Sure, you can always walk up to them after a meeting and shake their hand. But there are more meaningful things you can do, too.

You can thank them by moving the club forward in countless small ways. You can drop off membership flyers at the local computer stores and public libraries. You can offer a smile and encouraging word to people who show up to meetings.

You can answer questions on the club’s email list. You can ask questions on the club’s email list. (Questions are as valuable as answers.) You can exhibit patience with computer beginners -- answering their questions in ways that benefit them the most.

You can offer some computer item you’re no longer using to another member of the club. (If you’re giving away commercial software, make sure you delete the copy on your own computer.)

You can also spread the word about the club around town. Be careful not to oversell, though. When I explain about the benefits of the local user group, I spell out honestly what the club can offer and can’t offer. You would be doing no-one any favors if you raise false expectations in the minds of prospective club members.

You can write an article for the club’s newsletter. Articles can be on almost any topic you think would bring value to club members. You don’t need to be a computer expert to write an excellent article. Computer beginners have lots of important and interesting things to say. “In the beginner’s mind there are many possibilities, but in the expert’s there are few.”

**A grateful handshake is a
good starting point.
A grateful action is
an appropriate follow-up.
Actions speak louder than words.
Find a need. And then fill it.**

The author has benefitted from the generosity of people in computer user groups for the past 20 years. He is reachable at <http://www.digitaldivide.net/profile/pshapiro> and pshapiro@his.com

This article was inspired by the actions of the Macintosh Business Users Society of Greater Philadelphia in starting an award program for students at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia -- where this user group meets. Somebody in that club is thinking outside of the box in excellent ways.

There is no restriction against any non-profit group using this article as long as it is kept in context with proper credit given the author. The Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization of which this group is a member, brings this article to you.

INTERNET TALK

by

Frank Chao**Greater South Bay PC Users Group (GSBUG).****(August 2005)**

This is the 84th “Internet Talk” article for “The Bug Report”, a publication of the Greater South Bay PC Users Group (GSBUG). Liz and I hope that your computer and it’s Internet connection is useful instead of problematic.

STOPWATCHES

While using your computer, you sometimes need to time something. You might need to find out how long it takes a certain file to download from a Web site or you might need to determine when to take some eggs out of a pan of boiling water. Here are seven free stopwatches that are available for you to use:

“Multitrack Stopwatch” can be found at <http://www2.neweb.ne.jp/wd/morimoto/en/mwatch/>

It downloads into your computer as

MultiTrackStopWatch.zip

It installs as a local software application into your computer and provides you with 10 separate stopwatches that can be used determine lap times for a repetitive activity where both lap times and total times are important. You can set this stopwatch to show elapsed time with accuracy to tenths or thousandths of a second.

“Numion Stopwatch” at

<http://www.numion.com/Stopwatch/>

is a specialized stopwatch. This Web-based stopwatch is used to measure the load time for a Web page. You type the URL of a Web page into the form field and then click on the “Start Stopwatch” button. For example, type

<http://gsbug.apcug.org>

into the form and then click on the “Start Stopwatch” button. The GSBUG Web page will load with an added tool bar at the top. Inside this added tool bar, the grey button that is slightly right of center shows amount of time that it took for the GSBUG Web site to load into your computer. It shows time in seconds down to the thousandths of a second.

“Fun with a Stopwatch” is a Web-based stopwatch that is

available at <http://math.uc.edu/~pelikan/stopwatch.html>

It is no frills, easy to use, and shows elapsed time down to thousandths of a second. It is provided by Steve Pelikan, a mathematics professor at the University of Cincinnati.

“Stopwatch - Elapsed Time Calculator” is another Web-based

stopwatch that is available at

<http://www.etn.nl/elapsed.htm>

It shows seconds to the thousandths of a second.

“The JavaScript Source Calculators Double StopWatch” is a

Web-based double stopwatch that is located at

<http://javascript.internet.com/calculators/double-stopwatch.html>

The two stopwatches are operated independently.

Vol. 21.8

One stopwatch shows milliseconds while the other shows seconds.

While any stopwatch is running, it has a “Snapshot” button that allows you to stop the display while the stopwatch continues to count time in the background. At this point, you might wish to write down the elapsed time onto a piece of paper or press “Alt + Shift + Printscreen” and then “Paste” an image of the Web page into a Microsoft Word file. When you click on a “Snapshot” button, it turns into a “Continue” button that lets you continue the display of the elapsed time. When you are ready to view the count up of the elapsed time, you click on the “Continue” button and the count up of elapsed time continues.

“Stopwatch” is available at

<http://www.gieson.com/Library/projects/utilities/stopwatch/>

This elegant stopwatch can be either operated as a Web-based stopwatch from it’s Web page OR you can download it as a file called `stopwatch_pc.zip`

and install it as a local application in your computer.

The downloadable option is available in both Windows and Macintosh versions. Both the Web-based and downloadable options show whole seconds but not tenths of seconds.

“Stopwatch” is available at

http://www.geocities.com/SiliconValley/7116/jv_stopw.html

This Web site provides two Web-based stopwatches. Each can be operated independently with it’s own “Start” button. Both can be started at the same time with the “Start Both” Button. The left stopwatch counts whole seconds upwards. The right stopwatch counts whole seconds backwards. The left stopwatch has a “Stop at” field where you can enter the number of elapsed minutes and seconds that you want the left stopwatch to stop at. The right stopwatch has a “Start at” field where you can tell it how many minutes and seconds that you want it to count backwards from. Let me know which of these stopwatches is most useful to you.

SAVING WEB INFORMATION

When you encounter information on the World Wide Web that you want to save, the “official” way that you are supposed to use to make sure that you can see it again is to “Add to Favorites” in Internet Explorer” or “Add Bookmark” in Firefox. However, “Favorites” and “Bookmarks” have their problems. In Internet Explorer, if you do not check “Make available offline” and if the Web page out on the Internet goes away, then you lose the information that you are trying to store.

Firefox does not give you the option of making available offline the Web pages that you bookmark. Instead of using these “official” ways of storing Web information, greater reliability can be attained with a bit more effort:

Create a folder on a local hard drive for storing Web information. For example, you can create a folder called “Web Info” in your “My Documents” folder.

Then, create logical sub-folders inside this “Web Info” folder. For example, you might create folders called “Medical Info”, “Travel”, “Genealogy”, “Work Stuff”, and “Karoake” in your my “Web Stuff” folder.

Now, comes the fun part !

You are “surfing” the Web with “Internet Explorer” and you end up at <http://www.gosing.com>

You decide that the information on computer-based karaoke at this Web site is something that will be of value to you in the future.

Leave “Internet Explorer” open or minimized.

Use “My Documents”, “My Computer” or “Windows Explorer” to open up your “Karoake” folder which is located at
..\ My Documents\ Web Info\

Now create a sub-folder called “GoSing”.

Go back to “Internet Explorer”.

Use your mouse to drag the “Internet Explorer” logo that is just to the left of the URL in the “Address Bar”. While you are dragging, leave your left (or main) mouse button pressed down and the mouse cursor will show a fuzzy rectangle and a curved arrow “shortcut” symbol below it. Continue to leave your left mouse button pressed down and drag into the window that represents the “GoSing” folder. Then release your left mouse button, and a shortcut to the “GoSing” web site will be created in your “GoSing” folder.

If you cannot find the “GoSing” folder on your computer’s “Desktop”, continue to leave your left mouse button pressed down and drag into the button on the gray Task Bar that represents your “GoSing” folder. Then, while continuing to press on the left mouse button. After a second or two, a window that represents the “GoSing” folder will open up and while continuing to hold down the left mouse button, drag the mouse cursor to this window. Then release you left mouse button, and voila, a shortcut to the “GoSing” web site will be created in your “GoSing” folder.

However, shortcuts to Web pages out yonder on the Internet put you at risk of changes that are out of your control. Sometimes the Web pages that the shortcuts point to are removed or revised and the information that you needed on them is then no longer available for you.

Most Web pages let you save static images of them onto your local hard drive. The information on the Web pages is then permanently stored on your hard drive and you are then no longer subject to changes out yonder on the Internet.

Here is how you can save a static copy of the information on the GoSite Web page onto your hard drive:

Go back to “Internet Explorer”. You should still be at the GoSing Web page.

Click on “File” on the Menu bar of “Internet Explorer”. Click on “Save As...” (If you do not see “Save As..”, click first on the double V at the bottom of the pull-down menu that pops up when you click on “File”).

A “Save Web Page” dialog box pops up.

Use the drop-down arrow and other navigation techniques to go to your “GoSing” folder.

Make sure that “Save As Type” shows

Web Page, complete (*.htm, *.html)

Click on the “Save” button.

The information on the GoSing Web pages is now saved in a static, “frozen in time” mode onto the hard drive of your computer. However, remember that this only saves the information on the page that you are looking at and not on pages that are linked via hyperlinks to the current Web page.

For example, if you click on the “More Songs...” button, you arrive at a “More Songs...” page. In order to save a shortcut and a static copy of this page, you would have to create another folder and perform the above steps. For example, inside the “GoSing” folder, you might create a folder called “More Songs”. Then you would have to use the drag technique to create a shortcut to this page. Then you would have to run “Save As...” to save a static copy of the “More Songs” page to the “More Songs” folder.

Finally, saving the “More Songs” page as a shortcut or as a static copy does not save the actual *.kar and *.midi music files that are listed on this “More Songs” page so you have to download each *.kar file and save them in a folder of their own. For example, you could create a folder called “Karaoke Song Files” in the “More Songs” folder. Then, perform a click onto “A big hunk of love (Elvis Presley). Then, click on “Save Target As” and download the file called

Elvis_Presley_-_A_big_hunk_of_love.mid
to your “Karaoke Song Files” folder.

WAYS TO CONTACT ME:

If you have any questions or problems, I can be contacted by the following methods:

1. Send me e-mail at: fchao@pacbell.net
2. Leave me a voice message at (310)768-3896.
3. Send “snail” United States Postal Service (USPS) mail to
Frank Chao
4001 Inglewood Ave., Ste. 101

Or sell your computer and take up photography instead !!

INTERNET TALK

by

Frank Chao

**Greater South Bay PC Users Group (GSBUG)
(September 2005)**

Liz and I would like to welcome you to the 85th "Internet Talk" article for "The Bug Report", a publication of the Greater South Bay PC Users Group (GSBUG). We hope that you have not had as much trouble with your computer as I have had with mine but that is another story which I will not expound upon. Computers are like cars. Sooner or later, they will break, even if you perform lots of preventive maintenance on them. Computer user groups such as GSBUG and OCIPUG can help you keep your computer and it's Internet connection operational.

GOOGLE EARTH

According to the "Google Earth" Web site at <http://earth.google.com>

<start of quote>

Google Earth combines satellite imagery, maps and the power of Google Search to put the world's geographic information at your fingertips."

Fly from space to your neighborhood. Type in an address and zoom right in.

Search for schools, parks, restaurants, and hotels. Get driving directions.

Tilt and rotate the view to see 3D terrain and buildings.

Save and share your searches and favorites. Even add your own annotations.

Google Earth puts a planet's worth of imagery and other geographic information right on your desktop. View exotic locales like Maui and Paris as well as points of interest such as local restaurants, hospitals, schools, and more.

The idea is simple. It's a globe that sits inside your PC. You point and zoom to anyplace on the planet that you want to explore. Satellite images and local facts zoom into view. Tap into Google search to show local points of interest and facts. Zoom to a specific address to check out an apartment or hotel. View driving directions and even fly along your route. We invite you to try it now.

Google Earth is free for personal use. No registration is required.
<end of quote>

The free version of "Google Earth" is available at <http://kh.google.com/download/earth/index.html>

GSBUG MEMBERSHIP REPORT

On August 3, 2005, Joyce Oliver reported that we currently have 146 members. Joyce is doing a great job as our Membership Director and has done so for the past two years.

PICASA PHOTO ORGANIZER

Picasa is a software application that is also provided for free by Google.

According to the Web page at <http://picasa.google.com>

<start of quote>

Picasa is software that helps you instantly find, edit and share all the pictures on your PC. Every time you open Picasa, it automatically locates all your pictures (even ones you forgot you had) and sorts them into visual albums organized by date with folder names you will recognize. You can drag and drop to arrange your albums and make labels to create new groups. Picasa makes sure your pictures are always organized.

Picasa also makes advanced editing simple by putting one-click fixes and powerful effects at your fingertips. And Picasa makes it a snap to share your pictures – you can email, print photos, make gift CDs, instantly share via Hello™, and even post pictures on your own blog.

<end of quote>

SOUTHWEST USER GROUP CONFERENCE

On August 5th, 6th, and 7th, Liz and I attended APCUG's Southwest User Group (SWUG) Conference in San Diego. APCUG stands for "Association of Personal Computer User Groups". GSBUG is a member of APCUG. In addition to Liz and me, five other GSBUG members attended. Gary Sexton and Virginia Pfiffner of GSBUG volunteered their time to register attendees. The catered food was excellent. We attended presentations by Adobe, Intel, "The Digital Photo Guy", Pinnacle Systems, and Sandhills Publishing Company, the publishers of "Smart Computing" magazine.

Liz and I ran into Mark Borison, the energetic newsletter editor, Webmaster, and Program Director of the Orange Coast IBM PC Users Group and we enjoyed talking with him. Mark also teaches computer skills at the Costa Mesa Senior Center. His "Internet and Senior Resource Page" is located at <http://www.seniornet.org/usa/costamesa/default.php?ClassOrgID=5024&PageID=7132>

Mark's "Jewish Resources on the Web" page is located at <http://www.geocities.com/mborison/>
His "Buying on eBay" Webpage is located at <http://www.geocities.com/mborison/buyonebay>

Liz's favorite presentation was by Lee Otsubo who is also known as "The Digital Photo Guy". Otsubo presented technical information and advice on digital cameras and photo editing. He is in hot demand as a speaker at computer user groups and other organizations throughout California.

Otsubo's Web site is located at

<http://thedigitalphotoguy.com>

His Web site offers advice, disks of shareware for photography enthusiasts, and a service which converts photos into huge wall posters.

My favorite presentation was a demonstration of "Adobe Elements 3" by Howard Benedict. Benedict concentrated on the "Organizer" features of this software package and demonstrated how it can help you keep track of the digital photos on your computer's hard drive. Benedict is a member of the Computer Club of Green Valley of Arizona. His name is on their "Resource People" Web page at

<http://gvcc.apcug.org/resource.htm>

He teaches digital photography classes there.

With the exception of Liz and I, all of the attendees from GSBUG were members of the Board of Directors or appointees. However, as of this year, this annual conference is open to all members of computer user groups that belong to APCUG.

To see more details about the SWUG conference or to find out about the conference that will be held in August of 2006, see <http://www.swugconf.org/>

MAXFIELD PARRISH ART

While we were in San Diego, Liz and I attended attended the Maxfield Parrish art exhibit at the San Diego Museum of Art. See <http://www.sdmart.org/>

for details and some samples of his paintings. His whimsical portrayal of people in assorted settings is fascinating.

For a look at some his paintings, see

<http://www.globalgallery.com/ggresult.asp?ref=googad&artistfull=maxfield+parrish>

<http://parrish.artpassions.net/parrish.html>

http://www.independentweb.com/maxfield_parrish_online_gallery/

<http://www.bpib.com/illustrat/parrish.htm>

http://www.artcyclopedia.com/artists/parrish_maxfield.html

<http://cgfa.sunsite.dk/parrish/>

<http://www.goodart.org/artofimp.htm>

<http://www.parrish-house.com/>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maxfield_Parrish

<http://www.tfaoi.com/newsm1/n1m575.htm>

<http://www.webwinds.com/thalassa/parrish.htm>

COMPUTOREDGE

While Liz and I were down in San Diego, we picked up a hard copy of "Computoredge", their local computer magazine.

You can read their informative articles online at

<http://www.computoredge.com>

"DIGITAL PHOTO RECOVERY"

"Art Plus" provides a software application called "Digital Photo Recovery" for recovering images from corrupted or accidentally-erased memory cards that are used in digital cameras.

Download your free copy at

<http://www.artplus.hr/adapps/eng/dpr.htm>

WAYS TO CONTACT ME:

If you have any questions or problems, I can be contacted by the following methods:

1. Send me e-mail at: fchao@pacbell.net
2. Leave me a voice message at (310)768-3896.
3. Send "snail" United States Postal Service (USPS) mail to

Frank Chao
4001 Inglewood Ave., Ste. 101
PMB 305
Redondo Beach, CA 90278

Or sell your computer and take up fishing instead !!

Editor's Note: *It was a real pleasure meeting Frank and Liz in person for the 1st time and I'd like to express a real thanks for all the great resources pointed out in their Internet Talk articles that Frank has allowed me to run in the README.DOC the past year and a half.*

DONA'S COMPUTER CAPERS

By Dona Z. Meilach
TALK, TALK, TALK

Here are three utilities that will talk to you, and help you talk longer. For the visually handicapped, or those who want to sit back and listen to their computers, there's a Brit who will read your screen to you. If you run out of battery power on your cell phone in the middle of nowhere, you can still get a charge and continue talking with Cellboost. And if you need to learn about the stock market and the ins and outs of reading financial charts, there's a voice that will teach you more than you may ever want to know in a software CD called The Investor's Helper. One, or all, may be just what you're looking for and didn't know was available.

TALK TO ME, COMPUTER

If you use the right Web site, you can have almost everything on the computer read aloud to you. The one I found is <http://www.speegle.co.uk/>. Log on, select a subject, and when the list appears, a voice reads the names and descriptions of the sites. But that's only the beginning.

When you enter the speegle Website, several other options appear. First you can select whether the voice is to be male or female.

The next screen enables you to check various news sources from Britain and the United States such as Time, Newsweek, The Manchester Guardian, MSNBC, CNN and others. Select the subject matter you want read such as business, sports, home, etc. Almost immediately, the text appears on screen while the material is read aloud. The day's events, and sometimes those of the past week, will be read to you from your computer.

It's a boon for the visually impaired person, or just to listen to it while you're doing other things in the office that don't require the computer or total concentration. It could be used in a dental office by giving the patient earphones. Most often it's better and more informative than the elevator music they may have piped in. It could help those who are learning English to work on their comprehension but not on their pronunciation...because therein lies the major problem.

What's the problem? The male reader has a heavy English accent...not surprising, as it's a program that originates in the UK. Perhaps there are others of that ilk that I haven't found so if anyone knows of another Website that will read aloud, let me know. My visually impaired husband loves the idea but he can't cut through the British accent.

WHEN YOUR CELL PHONE BATTERIES EBB

So you're out in the boonies, or on a long trip somewhere, and the charge in your cell phone is signaling that it needs to be recharged. There's nary an electric outlet in sight now or many an hour. What to do? Panic?

Not if you've had the foresight to toss a "Cellboost" into your briefcase, purse, or backpack. Cell boost is an innovative disposable battery charger for cell phones that doesn't require any electrical hook. It will recharge your cell phone to last for another 60 minutes.

Developed by Compact Power Systems, Inc, Cellboost is a pocket-sized accessory that is inserted into the same portal as the standard battery charger without using a charger or cords. This 3 oz, charger, that's about half the size of a pack of cigarettes, assures you that you never have to be out of touch because your phone battery is down. The Cellboost units will simultaneously power and charge the device. Each one be used in one charging session or several; and then thrown away when its power is exhausted.

Cellboosts vary from about \$10.00 to \$50.00 depending on the unit, and size and length of time in the battery back. You buy them based on the type of phone you have (by manufacturer). But the company is expanding its offerings to provide these throwaway battery chargers for camcorders, Blackberry's, iPods, Gameboys, and other devices. You can use them anywhere from the middle of the tropics to the resorts of Europe, from the beach to Disneyland, and the subways of Washington or Barcelona.

See what batteries are available for your units and how much they cost at www.cellboost.com or at your local computer store. Cellboost can give your tools a boost when they need them desperately.

GET AN EDUCATION WITH INVESTORS HELPER

Can you read the charts on the financial pages that help predict the market's action? Wouldn't you like to know what the broker's know before you call and ask them for an opinion? Wouldn't it be nice to know the direction a stock is moving to help you make an informed investing decision?

Whether you're already a stock market investor, or you're among those who are starting out, a new software program called The Investors Helper will sweep away the unknowns and shed light on all the lines and bars on various company stocks. It is a course in investment information, how to read it, how to use, and how to unconfuse it.

This complete investment education on one CD-ROM might be your best investment before you enter the stock market. There is a quick overview that is simple to understand complete with animated drawings and a voice over explaining each chart, what it means, and how you can use it advantageously.

This is not really a "quick" lesson...to get the most out of it, plan to spend some time going through the lessons. Then return to any that you might need to review when questions arise.

The Investors Helper is compatible with PC's and Mac's. There's a 15 day trial version at their Website www.investorshelper.com. You can also check the site if you have questions as you go through the lessons. But the program itself is free if you open an investment account with the on-line broker. There's a tremendous amount of help in the program including a "playground" module in which you can plug in your own stock choices and try to anticipate what they will, or won't do.

Dona Meilach is the author of over 85 books with 10 on computers. Her latest book, just out, is TEAPOTS: MAKERS & COLLECTORS from Schiffer books. Other computer organizations interested in running this column should contact the author. The column is also available as a free E-zine. Subscribe DCC: Contact dmeilach@msn.com. Dona's Computer Capers may also be found at <http://www.smalladdictions.com/Skateboard>

SPECIAL DEALS FROM VENDORS AT THE SWCUG CONFERENCE 2005 Benefits of Membership



Smartcomputing is offering a free three month subscription to any of their magazines to non-subscribers. If you are presently are subscriber to their magazine they will send you a copy of one of their special magazines like "Ebay." If you are interested email me at mborison@yahoo.com your

Name,

Address

and E-mail address.

I will send them a list of all interested members. for more information about their magazines visit their web site at: www.smartcomputing.com

Smart will also give 3 of our members 6 month Sub.

Trivista Technologies, Inc is offering 6 different programs to help you save, store and manipulate your photo's. For more information visit:

www.trivista.com. Unitl Nov. 8, 2005 they are offering a suite of all six programs for \$22.50 which is 50% off list. check out their web site.

Iolo technologies - www.iolo.com

Offers up to 50% discount on all products through 12/31/03. Call iolo at 877.239.4656 to order product. To order online, use coupon code SWUG. You can download 30 day trial versions, with the offer good till December 31, 2005. System Mechanic \$25, System Mechanic Professional \$35, Macro Magic \$20, Search and Recover is \$20. Receive 35% discount off any Addison

Wesley or Prentice Hall PTR Book.

Just go to www.awproffeswsional.com or www.phptr.com and use the cupons code SWUG. Good until 10/01/05.

Apress - visit <http://www.apress.com/userGroups/ebookpromotion.html> to obtain your 25% special user group member discount. There you will enter your user group name, your e-mail address, and this password: apressug2563493.

Microsoft Press - Microsoft's Mindshare is pleased to offer a special 20% discount on all titles of Microsoft Press Books. This discount is available for User Group members using discount code MCPC. Your friends may use discount code DCPC. <http://mspress.microsoft.com>

New Riders -

Provides a 20% discount off their prices. Log on to www.newriders.com and complete your shopping. At checkout, enter coupon code is NRUZERZ. The coupon is not case-sensitive as nruzerz works too.

O'Reilly Press -

20% on all O'Reilly products and conferences www.ug.oreilly.com/

Que / SAMS -

visit www.sampublishing.com and add books to your cart. At the checkout use coupon code UGS-0805-35 for 35% off. Offer expires August 31, 2005

Answers.com is a new answers based search engine. It presents to you information from over 100 encyclopedic sources, and gives the answer to you on a single

page. If you download their 1-Click Answers

askSam -

is offering their SurfSaver 6 places information from your browser into a searchable filing cabinet. Normally \$29.95 but you can get it for \$19.95 askSam 6 + SurfSaver 6 a flexible and powerful way to organize information and create searchable databases from Web pages, Email, PDF files, texts, and Word documents. Normally \$149.95 but you can get it for \$69.95. You can also download 30 trial versions.

Blue Squirrel -

www.bluesquirrel.com/ 50% off all products - call 800.403.0925 to order & mention user group special pricing.

Corel

at the Southwest User Group Conference gave us the following link for special pricing to user group members. http://www.corel.com/promotions/cug_usd.html WordPerfect Office 12 for \$149, CorelDRAW Graphics Suite 12 for \$179, Corel Painter for \$229, Paint Shop Pro 9 for \$59, Paint Shop Studio for \$39, and Paint Shop Photo Album 5 for \$29.

Laplink -

www.laplink.com their Laplink Everywhere 4, their great remote computer control and access program. An annual 3 PC license normally sells for \$129.95 use coupon code LLE4THRTY at checkout and get it for \$30. Their PCmover program for moving all of your applications, settings, and data files from your old PC to your new PC while keeping all the new software intact is normally \$39.95. Use coupon code PCMVRTEN and get it for \$10.

nfti created WebBuild Express an easy to use web editor. For information about it go to www.webbuild.net. You can download a 30 day trial version there. The program costs \$29.95, but through 9/8/05 you can get \$7.50 reduction in cost. Use the coupon number CPN1502566405. To order it go to <http://store.esellerate.net/nfti/store>.

RoboForm is a Password Manager and web form filler for storing your online passwords

and automates password and for entering. You can download a complimentary version at www.roboform.com/corts. If you want to upgrade to the PRO version before September 30, 2005 use coupon code CORTS and get 10% off.

Techsmith

www.techsmith.com/store/order/bundle.asp using promotion code PRESBN05 you can get SnagIt (screen capture program) and Camtasia Studio (Quickly record, edit and publish multimedia demos and presentations) Bundle for \$269, a \$50 savings.



Free Software from SWCUG 2005

Avery Label

Need club membership badges, mailing labels, CD Covers and the like? If so, then this program is for you. It is available, as a free download, from the Avery web site and is also included with the purchase of Avery labels.

Button Maker

The Button Maker program helps you create simple buttons that can be used on web sites. CD Auto Run Has your group ever wanted to create a Welcome CD for its members but did not know how to make it start automatically? If so, Autorunpro is for you. In fact this is the program used on this CD.

FrontPage Express

Does your group or your members want to build a web site but don't want to purchase an expensive program to use one time? If so FrontPage Express is a free "What You See Is What You Get" (WYSIWYG) program you should checkout. Group Mail With the Group Mail Pro program user groups can send emails to all or just certain members. If needed It can be set up so members can subscribe/unsubscribe to a master list. It has built in merge functions and the only limit with this free version is that you can only email to a group of 100 or less, but you can set up many groups.

PDF Creator

This application will install a PDF print driver so Portable Document Files (PDF)s can be created from inside any program. When you go to print just choose the PDF print driver instead of your normal printer.

From The DealsGuy for September, 2005, by Bob (The Cheapskate) Click, Greater Orlando Computer Users Group

More On HD Warranties

In response to my comments about misleading HD warranties, Ira Wilsker, APCUG board member, sent me the following: “The federal Magnuson-Moss Warranty Improvement Act, effective July 1, 1976, **REQUIRES** any seller of an item that has a retail selling price of \$15 or more **AND** has a warranty, to make a copy of that warranty available on request **PRIOR** to purchase! In the future, wherever you buy items covered, **ASK** for the warranty **BEFORE** you buy it. Under the law the seller **MUST** let you see a copy prior to any purchase. Look at the FTC web site: [<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/pubs/buspubs/warranty.htm>]” Thanks Ira. I don’t know if my readers in Canada have any protection like that for consumers?

Interesting Show

My wife and I worked the Microsoft Tech Ed show and each attendee received a nice carrying bag, but 1000 of them got a nice box of goodies that included a compact USB four-port hub, perhaps those who achieved a certification, I never found out for sure. There were 18,000 attendees and the exhibit floor had over 300 booths, although most booths were not elaborate. Food was in abundance throughout the entire show for attendees. I was told that each attendee (or their employer) paid at least \$1,700 to attend. There were many sessions using many different speakers, and covering a diverse variety of topics during its six days. Steve Ballmer gave the keynote speech. It was fun to work this show.

I stopped at the booth for the new MS spyware program that is downloadable as a beta. I mentioned that I was told it would stop working in July and had not heard what would happen then. The lady said it would continue to be free for home users. I hope she knew what she was talking about.

New Computer Project

I finally finished assembling the parts to go with the Intel motherboard I won at the FACUG event and got it up and running. A real surprise for me was when I accessed the Intel Web site for information and found that motherboard was already no longer supported. However, there was a PDF containing a manual for that motherboard and it had the answers I needed. A friend was a lot of help over e-mail since that was the first time I had built one completely from parts. There was a bit of frustration when I tried to install the OS, but with my friend’s suggestions, I eventually found the problem and it is now in service and working well, so far. Due to the price of the RDRAM that boards takes, I only used two memory slots, and I’m glad my friend told me about choosing the right RDRAM. I was unaware there was more than one type of RDRAM for that MB.

Last Chance For The Biometric Unlocking Device Deal

This deal was only supposed to be for two months, but Hassan will probably still give you the discount on the fingerprint unlocking system for your locks, if you ask. Unlocking your doors doesn’t get much better. E-mail him and ask for more information so he knows you read about it. To order, e-mail him at [Hassan.Hares@ekeyUSA.com] and check for product description at [<http://www.ekeyusa.com>]. 30% off is a great discount on the product.

Special Rebates For Zio Corp. Products

Chris Allen, Channel Sales Manager, has set up rebates on several Zio Corporation products. This is a special situation and you can download a PDF containing all the rebate forms from my Web site’s Announcement page

I received the Digital 990 (Digital Camera/Camera Phone manager to try out. It is 4" long by 2 ½" wide by ½" thick and does some neat things. You connect it to your computer's USB port and it goes to work. There are five slots to accommodate popular media cards for a digital camera or phone. It also has two USB slots that act as a hub. They say the Dazzle 990 Hi-Speed Reader/Writer allows you to manage your digital stuff; you can transfer photos, contact lists, ring tones, MP3s, etc. between your mobile phone, digital camera, MP3 player, flash drive, and even any USB flash memory device and your PC. The package lists 17 different types of supported media for your camera phone or digital camera.

Packaged with it are two CDs containing ProPix Sound that enables you to add music or sound to your photos, ProPix on TV that allows creating a slideshow for your TV, and automatic backup on a CD. That CD includes ProPix Address Manager that works with SIM based mobile phones and updates your contact list from your PC. Also included is ProPix Share to share photos with friends easier and faster than using e-mail by using peer-to-peer technology. The other CD contains Paint Shop Photo Album (standard edition). There is more and you can check their Web site at [<http://www.ziocorp.com>], although their Web site needs work since I didn't find as much information as on the package.

I enjoyed adding commentary to the photos taken on our Panama Canal cruise and setting up a slide show. Since I don't have a picture phone, I couldn't try those functions. I did move around some of the image files from the media cards to my USB external HD, USB thumb drive, PC, etc. and it worked well. It handles both USB speeds. You need Windows 2000 or XP for this product. An available free download on their Web site is Orb Networks that allows accessing the photos, video and music on your home PC (broadband connected) from your Internet enabled mobile device. As for using it as a USB hub, it normally handles low powered USB devices, but an optional accessory power supply is available. MSRP for the Dazzle 990 is \$49.95.

Dazzle Universal Media Reader/Writer DM-24001: MSRP \$39.99

Dazzle 8 in 1 DM 22000: A high-speed reader for eight different card media: MSRP \$29.95

CameraMate VideoSafe CM-53000 allows you to capture analog video/audio from any VCR or camcorder and burn it to a CD or DVD and includes some hardware: MSRP \$49.99.

CameraMate Real Time Video CD-50000 is an adapter and software for capturing the video/audio from any VCR or camcorder for the purpose of burning to a CD or DVD. However, Real Time Video software also offers Autoedit Wizard, Autoedit Storyboard Wizard, Randomize Wizard and a DVD Burn Wizard. Software and drivers are included on a CD. Adapter cables for RCA audio/video/SVHS plugs are not included, but are easy to obtain and many folks have them lying around: MSRP \$69.99.

That's it for this month. Meet me here again next month if your editor permits. This column is written to make user group members aware of special offers or freebies I have found or arranged, and my comments should not be interpreted to encourage, or discourage, the purchase of any products, no matter how enthused I might sound. Bob (The Cheapskate) Click [bobclick@mindspring.com]. Visit my Web site at [<http://www.dealsguy.com>].

Phishing Scams Lure Innocent Surfers

Sandy Berger

<http://www.compukiss.com/>

Internet scams to steal personal information and perpetrate identity theft are at an all time high. Phishing is the scam that most often lures unsuspecting victims into the net. Phishing is an Internet term that is used to describe a scheme which an unscrupulous person used to “fish” for personal information like social security numbers, credit card numbers, passwords, and account information.

The “fishing” usually takes place by e-mail. First the scam artist carefully creates a bogus Web site making it look exactly like the real Web site of a bank, an Internet service like eBay or Hotmail, or another institution that most people trust. Then he sends you an e-mail that looks like it is from the institution that he has decided to use as his lure.

When you receive his e-mail it will look just like it came from Citibank, Visa, eBay or another reputable institution. It will request that you verify your account information and give you a link to click where you can do that. Sometimes the e-mail will try to scare you by saying that your account will be terminated if you don't respond immediately. The link, however, does not go to the real Citibank or eBay, instead it goes to the bogus Web site that the scam artist has created. Since the Web site you are taken to looks so realistic, it seems okay to type in your personal account, credit card, and other information. When you do, the crook is saying “Got Ya!” since the information you type in is going directly into his database. He will then utilize this information to use your credit cards and to access other accounts that you may have unwittingly given him passwords for. In many cases, he will have enough information to actually commit identity theft, using your information, bank accounts, and credit cards as his own.

The e-mail that you receive will look very official. These scammers have deceived thousands of people into believing that the e-mail and Web sites are legitimate. The names of just about every major bank, retailer and e-mail provider have been used in the scams including US Bank, Suntrust, AOL, eBay, Well Fargo, Lloyds, Westpac, and Citibank.

The Anti-Phishing Working Group (www.antiphishing.org), an industry association that fights identity theft and fraud, reported 1422 unique phishing attacks in June of 2004 and shows such attacks increasing in numbers over the last several months. It lists Citibank as the organization most targeted by phishing attacks. The scope of these scams is very large. It involves millions of e-mail messages. The

Anti-Phishing Working Group estimates that up to 5% of those receiving the bogus e-mail respond and put their personal information directly in the hands of a scam artist.

Phishing costs American consumers and businesses billions of dollars every year. It also causes the consumer a great deal of aggravation and time as they are forced to try to straighten out their financial accounts and take control of their own identities.

Don't fall for these phishing schemes. Banks and most legitimate businesses will never ask for passwords, credit card numbers, or other personal information in an e-mail. To ensure your safety follow these easy guide lines.

Don't click on any link that is requesting personal information. If you want to check out the request for information, contact the company through an authentic phone number. Visit Web sites where you might give out personal information by typing in the URL into your address bar. Also always check to see if the exact same address is still in the address bar after you arrive at your destination.

Update your Windows and Internet browser software often. Hackers often use software vulnerabilities to help them create fake Web sites and security locks.

Routinely review your credit card and bank statements. Protect your Social Security number. It is the key to your identity. Don't enter it online if you can possibly avoid doing so.

Report any suspected scams to the proper authorities. You can report any phishing e-mail to the institution that is being victimized. You can also send phishing e-mail to uce@ftc.gov. If you feel you may have been victimized by a phishing attack, call the institution in question immediately and visit the FTC's site at www.ftc.gov/idtheft for information on what to do next. For more information visit the Federal Trade Commissions' (FTC) consumer help site (www.consumer.gov). Whatever you do, don't bite at a phishing scheme.

Copyright ©2001 Computer Living Corp. All rights reserved.



(OCIPUG)

Mailing Address
695 W. 19th St
Costa Mesa, CA 92627

OCIPUG, founded in 1985, is an independent California nonprofit (IRC 501-c-3) corporation, and is not affiliated in any way with IBM, any vendor, equipment manufacturer, or other organization.

Publication Copyright © 2005

A newsletter, *Readme.Doc*, is published monthly. A subscription of \$12 per year is included with all paid memberships. Address all inquiries, address changes, and material for publication to the above address marked "ATTN:Editor".

Opinions expressed by the authors are not necessarily those of this newsletter, its staff or OCIPUG. Mention of products does not constitute endorsement by OCIPUG. Omission of trademarks does not imply that the products or names are not so protected. *Readme.Doc*, its contributors, and staff assume no liability for damages arising out of the publication or nonpublication of any advertisement, article, or any other item in this newsletter. Permission is granted to other user groups to reprint herein material, not specifically copyrighted, for non-commercial use only, provided credit given to *Readme.Doc* and to the author.

Publication Deadline

Material for the **Sept.** issue must be received on or before **Sept 15th, 2005** by **mborison@yahoo.com**

Publication Guidelines

All material submitted will be published *exactly* as submitted, but may be subject to editing at the *Editor's* discretion. We reserve the right to refuse any material submitted for publication. Send all submissions as follows:

1. Send via Internet e-mail to: editor Mark Borison mborison@yahoo.com
2. Mail a 3.5" disk so as to be received by the deadline by the Newsletter Coordinator at the OCIPUG mailing address above.
3. Hard copy to Editor at the OCIPUG mailing address above.

Membership

Benefits of OCIPUG Membership include, but by no means are limited to:

- * Subscription to OCIPUG's monthly newsletter, *Readme.Doc*, with up to-date information on meeting schedules as well as the newest software and hardware.
- * Free monthly General Meetings with speakers from industry and academia describing advances in technology.
- * Free Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings/seminars to exchange tips and tricks and to solve problems.
- * Free technical support from knowledgeable fellow members via telephone and/or e-mail.
- * Pleasure in helping your fellow member solve their problems.
- * Camaraderie with those of similar interests.
- * Discounts from vendors on software, hardware, and other items.

Meetings Location

Costa Mesa Senior Center
695 W. 19th St
Costa Mesa, Ca
Southeast Corner of 19th and Pomona

Orange Coast IBM PC User Group
695 W. 19th St
Costa Mesa, CA 92627

Membership status: New Renewal - Member # _____

Membership type: Individual Family

Title: Mr. Mrs. Ms. Dr. Prof. Hon. () (Circle one)

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____
 Street Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Home Phone:() _____ Work Phone: () _____ Fax: () _____
 E-mail address: _____
 Profession/Trade: _____ Retired Current Occupation: _____
 Family Member(s) Names: _____ Company: _____

Annual Dues:

Make check payable to OCIPUG Individual \$30.00 \$ _____
and mail to the above address Family \$35.00 \$ _____
or bring to the General Meeting. *Full-time student \$20.00 \$ _____
Donation \$ _____

I consider my skill level to be:
 Beginner Novice Intermediate Advanced

Total Amount Paid \$ _____
*(U-grad 12 units; grad 6 units)

I learned about OCIPUG from: _____

Today's Date : _____