

Orange Bytes

Award-Winning Newsletter of the North Orange County Computer Club*

Vol 33 • No 11

NOVEMBER 2008

Main Meeting, November 2nd USPS on eBay

Sandy Frankel of the United States Postal Service Business Development Team will be speaking about the basics of selling on eBay. More information is on page 3.

The **NOCCC Consignment Table** will be set up during the November 2008 meeting.
E-Waste will also be collected by Omni Technics, Inc. (See Page 5)

NOCCC Meeting - November 2nd

9:00 a.m.

Microsoft Word, Excel and Outlook..... Science 109

Topics about these three parts of the Microsoft Office Suite

Linux for Desktop Users Science 131a

Topics about the Linux operating system
Beginners Q in here

Visual Programming Science 111

Visual Basic, Visual Basic Script, Visual C++ and Visual J++ for beginners

10:30 a.m.

Microsoft Access..... Science 109

Forms

Beginners PC Q & A (New SIG!)..... Irvine Hall

Beginners questions about PCs

Digital Photography Science 306

Ultra-wide angle photos and panoramics

Note change in meeting location!

Linux for Advanced Users Science 131a

Topics about the Linux operating system

Internet Today Science 306

Check the posted schedule to see if this SIG will be meeting

Understanding Operating Systems Science 111

Help with DOS, Windows, OS/2, etc

12:00 Noon

PIG SIG..... Argyros Cafeteria

Lunch and conversation

12:30 p.m.

PC Q & A..... Irvine Hall

Q & A about PCs

2:00 p.m. Main Meeting, Irvine Hall

NOTE: Daylight saving time ends at 2 a.m. on the first Sunday in November, the day of our meeting. More information on page 7.

NOCCC website:
<http://www.noccc.org>

Future Meeting Dates
Dec. 7, 2008, Jan. 4, Feb. 1, Mar 1,
Apr. 5, and May 3, 2009



Table of Contents

November 5th Main Meeting	1
NOCCC Website	1
Future Meeting Dates	1
Orange Bytes staff	2
November 2008 Meeting Preview ..	3
President's Message	3
Orange Bytes in Color!	3
Membership Benefits.....	4
Opportunity Drawings	4
eWaste & Consignment Table.....	5
NOCCC Officers	5
NOCCC Help Line	6
SIG Leaders List.....	6
Security Tidbits	7
Our NEW Web-Site.....	7
Member News	7
Upcoming Shows	7
Daylight Saving Time Ends.....	7
Converting CD-based Music to Compressed Audio Files.....	8
Acronis True Image Home 2009	9
How to Forward Email	10
Customize Your Data Locations.....	11
Vista's Taskbar.....	12
Chicago Computer Society Makes History	13
Preparing a Review or Article	13
Products Available for Review	14
Media Show 4 by Cyberlink.....	15
Outlook & Xobni, a Good Match ...	16
Google's New "Chrome Browser".	16
Pig SIG	18
Paragon Software, Oct. Main Mtg...19	
October 2008 Winners.....	20
Digital Photography SIG	21
Transportation Information	22
PC Q&A SIG.....	23
Internet Today SIG.....	23
Understanding OS SIG	23
Microsoft Access SIG.....	24
Office SIG	24
Visual Programming SIG	24
Linux SIGs	24
October 2008 Bd Mtg Minutes	25
NOCCC Fee Schedule.....	26
Welcome New Members	26
Publication Information.....	27
Commercial Display Ad Info	27
Membership Renewal.....	27
Are You an NOCCC Member?	28

Orange Bytes Staff

Publication Chairman - Oversees publication tasks and converts the Orange Bytes newsletter to PDF for printing and web posting; transmits PDF to Printer.
Ted Littman (714) 779-1936, tedlit@roadrunner.com

Editor - Edits and makes final selections of the articles to be included in the newsletter.
Steven Breitbart (714) 373-5249, editor@noccc.org

Associate Editor/Production - Receives articles from the editor and lays out the issue of the newsletter.
Steven Breitbart (714) 373-5249, editor@noccc.net

Circulation - Oversees mailing and distribution of the newsletter.
Richard Miller..... (714) 309-1504, rrrmil@yahoo.com

Reviews Editor - Communicates with the vendors and members who evaluate products and write reviews. Makes sure members meet deadlines. Sends a copy of the newsletter to vendors of products we review.
Ted Littman (714) 779-936, reviews@noccc.org

Copy Editor - Does final proof reading of the newsletter for typos and misspellings.
Ted Littman (714) 779-1936, reviews@noccc.org

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The following positions are available:

Contributing Editors - Write articles for the newsletter. **Open**

Commercial Swap Meets - Distributes the newsletter and NOCCC flyers at swap meets. **Open**

Commercial Advertising - Obtains ads from vendors for the newsletter. **Open**

Classified Advertising - Obtains computer-related, non-commercial ads for the newsletter free to NOCCC members. **Open**

*Celebrating 32 years of
"Friends Helping Friends"*

November 2nd Main Meeting, 2 PM Irvine Hall

A presentation will be made by Sandy Frankel of the United States Postal Service Business Development Team. The presentation will be about the basics of selling on eBay. eBay is known as **The World's Online Marketplace®** and home to the community of individuals selling goods worldwide. The USPS partners with eBay shippers by offering convenient access and ease-of-use. With the Basics of Selling on eBay, you'll learn how to:

- Become an eBay seller
- Do research and create listings
- Improve your listings with better descriptions and photography
- Set pricing
- Open and use a PayPal account
- Monitor your listings
- Complete transactions



Orange Bytes in Color!

By Steven Breitbart, NOCCC

NOCCC Members only: Watch your e-mail every month for the user name and password to access the latest issue of the award winning *Orange Bytes* newsletter on our web site and **in color!** The latest issue, in Adobe Acrobat format (PDF) is posted at www.noccc.org/bytes/index.html, and you can view it earlier in the month than the black-and-white printed issue reaches your mailbox. Previous newsletter issues are also available there without any access restrictions.

If you are not receiving the monthly e-mail notice, check to see if your membership is current and send any e-mail address changes to membership@noccc.org.



President's Message

By Jim Sanders, NOCCC President

Don Lewis, of Paragon Software, was our Main Meeting presenter for the October meeting and did a great job. Paragon has a large stable of software offerings, particularly in the hand-held market. The main product that Don presented was the backup software that Paragon offers for servers, workstations, and end users. The next best thing to having been at the meeting and winning one of the several software packages that Don donated to the raffle, is knowing about the free download that Paragon offers. You can read more about this in the main meeting write-up by Steven Breitbart.



Be sure to read the small tribute to NOCCC's long-term member (since 1992) and amazingly active at a young 80, Martin La Rocque, on page 7 of this issue.

On the mind-boggling technology front, some of the specifications of the latest and greatest and fastest and biggest, not to mention most expensive, video chip from NVIDIA are really difficult to wrap your head around. Let's start with a transistor count. According to the write-up's, this chip uses 1.4 billion transistors, and is capable of 993 Gigaflops of processing power. In computing, FLOPS is an acronym meaning Floating point Operations Per Second. So that's 933,000,000,000 FLOPS per second compared to the 80387 math coprocessors' relatively modest 150,000 FLOPS in 1988. Even more modest was the first "Main Frame" computer that I worked with, the 1963 vintage Control Data Corporation 1604A 48-bit scientific computer which, on average, was capable of just under two 48-bit FLOPS.

The "Ask the PC Club" column in the OC Register may be in trouble. According to Tamara Chaung, the budget cutbacks at the Register make it difficult to find the "free" space to print the column. On the positive side, since July we have had 24 new members join the club. A large percentage of them became aware of the club through that column. One of the things that the club needs to do to keep the new members coming back is to increase the number of special interest groups that we offer. Please help us find new SIG leaders. At the last Board of Directors meeting, Ted Littman pointed out that the club does not currently have special interest groups that address the needs of the beginning computer or novice computer user. I responded that Bob Ray has agreed to hold a Beginners Linux SIG at 9:00 AM.

After considerable discussion, I agreed to lead a Beginners P. C. Q&A SIG in the 10:30 AM to noontime slot. To simplify the logistics of setting up and tearing down, the new SIG we'll be held in Hashinger auditorium. The Digital Photography SIG, led by Larry Klees will initially move to classroom 306 in Science at 10:30 AM. See you next month.

Membership Benefits

As a valued member, we bring you a section of discounts and offers as part of the entire "Benefit of Belonging." (Caveat: we are unable to endorse these companies, but make these offers available as a service to our members.)

User Group Offers - Software and Hardware

Corel - Use the following link for special pricing for user group members: www.corel.com/specialusergroups

- WordPerfect Office X3 for \$159
- CorelDRAW Graphics Suite X3 for \$179
- Corel Painter IX.5 for \$229
- Paint Shop Pro Photo XI for \$59
- Snap Fire Plus for \$29

Laplink - www.laplink.com - Laplink's Everywhere 4 is a great remote computer control and access program. PCmover is a program for moving all of your applications, settings, and data files from an old PC to a new PC. Members of an APCUG affiliated user group can get discount of 30% by using coupon code APCUG.

Techsmith - You can get SnagIt, a screen capture program, and Camtasia Studio, to quickly record, edit and publish multimedia demos and presentations, bundle for \$269, a \$50 savings. Go to: www.techsmith.com/store/order/bundle.asp and use promotion code **PRESBN05**.

Kingston Memory Products - Many different types of memory products are available at a discount to members of APCUG affiliated clubs. Go to www.shop.kingston.com/swug and use the password "computeroutlook"

ZoomWare - Ai Squared is pleased to introduce ZoomWare, revolutionary new software that magnifies and enhances everything on your computer screen. It's perfect for those who squint at the computer screen and lean in to read the fine print. Members of APCUG clubs (NOCCC is one of them) can get a 20% discount! Normally, the download version is \$149, but with the discount it is just \$119. A CD version is also available for \$140, which is a \$35 savings and ships within 3 to 5 business days. To take advantage of your special APCUG member discount, simply purchase ZoomWare online at www.GetZoomWare.com and enter the following code at checkout: APCUG08. Learn more or get a free trial version at www.GetZoomWare.com.

User Group Offers - Books and Magazines

Pearson Education Products including Prentice Hall Professional, Addison-Wesley Professional, IBM Press, Exam Cram, Que Publishing, and Cisco Press. Get 35% off list price by purchasing directly from the publisher combo site: www.informit.com/join. Sign in or create an account. Enter the membership code "UGDiscount." Select your items and check out. You are required to register and apply the code once, but you must be logged in to receive the special pricing.

O'Reilly Books - Get 35% off all books and PDFs from O'Reilly, No Starch, Paraglyph, PC Publishing, Pragmatic Bookshelf, SitePoint, or Syngress books you purchase directly from O'Reilly. Just use code **DSUG** when ordering online, www.oreilly.com/store/, or by phone, (800) 998-9938. Free ground shipping on orders \$29.95 or more in the US. If for any reason you are not completely satisfied with your purchase, return it to O'Reilly and get your money back (www.oreilly.com/oreilly/cs/guarantee). A return shipping label is included with every direct purchase and directions are posted online in case you misplace it.

Peachpit Press Books Discount - Get 35% off by joining the Peachpit Club. Go to www.peachpit.com to sign up as a member. User group members should note that once you've become a Peachpit Club member, you may use your user group coupon code ON TOP of the permanent savings you earn as a member of the club. Just log into the site before you make a purchase to ensure this permanent discount will be in effect, and then enter coupon code **UE-23AA-PEUF** (case-sensitive) at checkout! This coupon code is an exclusive offer that may not be used in conjunction with any other coupon codes. The offer applies to all titles at peachpit.com including New Riders, Macromedia Press, Adobe Press, and Peachpit Press.

Smart Computing - www.smartcomputing.com For each paid membership (subscription to either Smart Computing or Computer Power User) via personalized membership forms or by telephone, the NOCCC will receive one credit. When the NOCCC has accumulated 5 credits, Smart Computing will donate one subscription to us (Great to use as an opportunity drawing prize or a "thank you" to a member, etc.) Call customer service at (800) 733-3809 and tell them you are with the North Orange County Computer Club. If you go to their website to subscribe, click on User Groups and there is a drop down menu with our group's name on it.

THE CLUB OPPORTUNITY DRAWINGS

GENERAL DRAWING PRIZES:

- 1) Adobe Photoshop Elements 6 book
- 2) Keyboard
- 3) Paragon Software products

MEMBERS ONLY DRAWING PRIZES: (Wear your NOCCC Membership Badge and get a free ticket!)

- 1) Cloud Computing book
- 2) Identity Theft book
- 3) And a surprise or two

COMING IN DECEMBER

We will have a special auction for a refurbished PC! The details haven't been settled yet, but the opening bid will be \$50 with increasing bids in \$5 increments. The preliminary configuration, subject to change, is:

2 to 3 GHz Pentium 4 with Windows XP Pro & Office XP
512MB RAM and a 40GB HDD
Optical Drive, Keyboard, Mouse and CRT Monitor

Consignment Table and e-Waste Collection November 2008

The NOCCC Consignment Table will be set up during the November 2008 meeting. e-Waste will also be collected by Omni Technics, Inc.

- 1) Only current members can place items for sale, but non-members are welcome to purchase items from the table. This is a great place to get some money for your surplus computer items, and help the NOCCC at the same time.
- 2) The consignment table operates on a 90/10% basis — with the owner getting 90%, and the Club treasury 10%.
- 3) **You can fill out a Consignment Table User List and item tags at the table:**
The user list and each tag must contain:
 - a) Seller's name
 - b) Seller's NOCCC membership number
 - c) Item name and description
 - d) Item asking price
- 4) All items and/or money may be picked up by the seller at any time, but no later than 2 p.m. on the day of sale. Any items and/or money not picked up by 2 p.m. will become the property of NOCCC and will be subject to disposal at the Club's discretion.
- 5) California disposal laws have made it illegal to put monitors and computers in the regular trash. If you have a display or computer that doesn't sell, you must agree to pick these items up. The club has no storage room available for unsold items.
- 6) NOCCC is NOT RESPONSIBLE in any way for items bought and/or sold at the Consignment Table. Each item is placed and sold on an AS-IS BASIS.

NOCCC Officers & Directors

The area code for the following phone numbers is 714 unless noted.

Officers

President

Jim Sanders 544-3589 president@noccc.org

Vice President

Steven Breitbart 373-5249 smbreitbart@verizon.net

Secretary

Mary Cornett 995-5551 ladyluck0077@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer

John Heenan 998-7660 treasurer@noccc.org

Directors

Tom Feeley 730-9333 tomfeeley@sbcglobal.net

Dallas Hazleton 526-1592 ghazleton4@dslextrime.com

Chuck Hower 637-7884 wolfcollar@aol.com

Ted Littman 779-1936 tedlit@roadrunner.com

Bob Love 573-9876 wb9plg@sbcglobal.net

Richard Miller 309-1504 rrrmil@yahoo.com

Len Prince 526-7881 lenprince@sbcglobal.net

Gerry Resch 772-6667 gerry@gerryresch.com

Ex-Officio

Editor

Steven Breitbart... 373-5249. editor@noccc.org

Webmaster

Open

Volunteers, Committees, and Projects

Consignment Table

Richard Miller 309-1504 rrrmil@yahoo.com

Helpline

Ted Littman 779-1936 tedlit@roadrunner.com

Membership Database

John Heenan 998-7660 treasurer@noccc.org

Membership Chairman

Open

SIG Coordinator

Open

Programs/Speakers Coordinator

Open

Public Relations

Open

University Liaison

Jim Sanders 544-3589 president@noccc.org

NOCCC Help line

The Help Line is in the true spirit of the NOCCC, which is to help others to learn more about computers. The following is a list of Help Line subjects that a NOCCC volunteer is able to help you with. Call (714) 779-1936 or e-mail Ted Littman at helpline@noccc.org with additions, deletions, or corrections.

Apple II
 AutoCAD
 CPU Aided Investing
 Computer Boards
 Computer Security
 Corel Draw
 Corel Draw
 Desktop Publishing
 Digital Photography
 Excel
 GPS Navigation
 Linux
 Lotus 1-2-3
 Memory/Interrupts
 Microsoft Office
 Pinnacle Studio
 Photoediting
 Photoediting & shop
 Photoshop
 QuickBooks - all ver.
 QBooks 5 & Quicken
 Tcl/Tk & UNIX
 Vista
 Windows 9X & XP
 Wireless



The names of our volunteers are only available in the printed version of the Orange Bytes.

SIG leaders list

Contact the SIG leaders by e-mail, preferably, rather than by telephone.

SIG	BLDG	RM.	TIME	LEADER	E-MAIL	PHONE
Linux for Desktop/Advanced	Science.....	131A	9:00/10:30	Bob Ray.....	bobrobo@dialup4less.com	(714) 634-7520
Visual Programming	Science.....	111	9:00	Anson Chapman.....	aeccrcss@hotmail.com	(909) 860-9515
Word, Excel and Outlook	Science.....	109	9:00	Tia Williams	twilliams_00@yahoo.com	(714) 263-6105
Access	Science.....	109	10:30	Bob Dickson	robertbdickson@socal.rr.com	(714) 539-1304
Internet Today	Science.....	203	10:30	Dave Keays	dave@rdksoftware.com	(714) 348-9096
Digital Photography	Irvine Hall.....	—	10:30	Larry Klees	lklee@dslextreme.com	(714) 879-6405
Understanding OS's	Science.....	111	10:30	Charlie Moore.....	mooreca@adelphia.net	(714) 529-9071
PC Q&A	Irvine Hall.....	—	12:30	Jim Sanders	jsanders@ligasmicro.com	(714) 544-3589
				Please report SIG changes to Jim Sanders	president@noccc.org	(714) 544-3589

Security Tidbits

By Dave Keays, NOCCC SIG Leader

According to Fox news, at least 18 servers at the World Bank were "deeply penetrated" in April and the bank has been targeted for about a year and a half. I would think the World Bank has been always targeted. Just think about how much juicy information is available inside those vaults. I hope they are on their toes about security. If Fox's report is right, then they might not be.

The bank claims the report is "full of fallacies" and, considering the timing, I have to wonder if this is FUD (fear, uncertainty, doubt) brought on by the current crisis. Or worst case, maybe someone was trying to manipulate the banking landscape today by spreading a startling rumor. This kind of thing has happened before like when Apple's stock went down 19 points when it was reported that Steve Jobs had a heart attack. But then conspiracy theories should probably be taken with a salty nugget.

Member News

By Leonard Prince

Martin LaRocque is displayed in the September issue of the Orange Bytes as a winner of three raffle prizes at the August meeting. Some members call him lucky. A chat with Martin as he left the Linux SIG told a different story. When asked what he wanted for his 80th birthday, he said it was a jump out of an airplane with a parachute. Martin got his wish. At 80 years old without prior jump training or experience, Martin tandem jumped from 6,000 feet. The instructor opened the chute at 5,000 feet and completed his wish. A down draft gave him some anxiety, but no broken bones. Pacific Coast Skydiving picked Martin up in good condition and returned him like new to NOCCC.



Martin has 40 years of experience as a "black box" specialist developing special purpose electronic packages. He has worked for North American Rockwell and Boeing. One project he likes to tell about was a remote-controlled tugboat. His present interests include developing remote and self-control unmanned vehicles using Linux-operated small-board computers. Martin frequently visits the Linux SIG to share his current project progress and learn more about the Linux operating system.

Upcoming Computer Shows

By Steven Breitbart, NOCCC

Here is a list of all the computer related shows I found for 2008. If you know of a show that others in the NOCCC might like to attend, let me know at editor@noccc.org.

West Coast Expos Computer Fair (lacomputerfair.com)

Fairplex in Pomona
November 15-16
December 13-14

Giant ACP Computer Show

(www.swapmeetbyhyperactive.com)

Hyperactive Computers Parking Lot, Santa Ana
November 30

Bagnall's Camera Expo (www.cameraexpo.com)

Carson Center
November 23
December 14

New! Consumer Technology Show (www.CTStimes.com)

Orange County Fair Grounds
November 22-23
December 20-21

Our NEW Web Site

By Dave Keays, NOCCC

View the new web site at www.rdksoftware.com/noccc.

The site now has its own domain, NOCCOMPUTERCLUB.ORG. Since I may not be at the next few meetings, if you have any comments or questions about the site then email me at dave@rdksoftware.com.

Any one can contribute by emailing pictures. While someone needs to choose which pictures to use, anyone on the Board can do that. I figure if we can trust anyone, we can trust the Board. The email address to contribute a picture to the club is:

effect47always@photos.flickr.com

Daylight Saving Time Ends

By Steven Breitbart, NOCCC

Remember to **turn your clocks back** at 2 a.m. on November 2, 2008, which is the same day as our meeting. There is a whole lot of good information from the State of California at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/daylightsaving.html#chart>

Converting CD-based Music to Compressed Audio Files

By Mike Moore, Editor, Bowling Green Area Microcomputer User Group, Kentucky

www.bgamug.org; ml.moore@insightbb.com

Obtained from APCUG with the author's permission for publication by APCUG member groups.

I spent the equivalent of two or three days in January, working a few minutes at a time, converting all of our CDs to MP3 format. I had been dreading this project, thinking that it would take too much time, but it really was not that bad and the results are going to be worth it.

A few years ago, I purchased a 400-CD jukebox type CD player. This device does have the capability of displaying a short line containing the album's title, using a standard PC keyboard, but the process is complicated with problems. It's easy to get CDs in the wrong slot and of course, you can only play them in the room where you've physically situated the jukebox unit.

In the past few years, we've been getting away from the album and becoming more focused on individual songs. This lamentable trend has been fueled by the 99 cent price point associated with downloading music by the song. Artists and producers alike have vilified this process, claiming that the artistic sum worth of songs on an album is greater than the tunes taken as individual songs.

I can buy into this sadness, to a point. I remember the smell of vinyl LPs, unwrapping the cellophane outer wrap, and the incredible detail the producers went into in packing artistic value into the finished product, right down to the order the songs appear on the album. These days, you just Google the album or artist title and download the Jpeg, that's about it. For a fee, a program called iTunes will do this for you automatically.

So why would a guy spend the time to rip (compress) the tracks of a CD or other ancient audio product to MP3 files? There are a few good reasons to do this.

For one thing, the devices that play music have become decentralized. What I mean by that is if you can imagine your computer as the "record player," then it's not much of a stretch to think of playing music anywhere in the house, car or workplace.

Doing this in the past meant locating the song you want (which may or may not be an easy task), finding the CD (or tape, or LP) it's recorded on, and hoping that it's not damaged.

Then once you've got it, you carry it to where ever you want to hear it. For me, this was often the car, and a car is a great place to scratch or otherwise ruin a CD, and I've also known friends whose entire CD collections have been stolen from vehicles. Physically moving music and other files from player to player is sometimes humorously referred to as "Sneaker Net"

But once you begin to think of your songs and other media in terms of compressed MP3 files, they become at once more searchable, more replaceable, and more portable.

Compressed audio files, though the wonder of a shared internet database called Gracenote (formerly CDDDB), contain informational tidbits that can be searched. On the other hand, ordinary music tracks on a Compact Disc have no information associated with them at all, not even the name of the song. By converting CD-ROM music to MP3 files, your database can pull up a playlist for you using information encoded in the MP3 file. Most ripping software (such as C-Dex, available at <http://cdexos.sourceforge.net/>) will query the CDDDB so that you won't have to manually type in the names of the songs or the name of the CD.

Compressed audio files can be stored on any hard drive in the house and can be made available on inexpensive MP3 players, iPods, and Multimedia computers that attach directly to your sound system. There is usually no special hardware to buy - you can just feed the stereo output from your computer's sound card to the audio input on your TV or stereo amplifier.

Most of the MP3 player devices out there do not require a lot in the way of software - you generally plug them into a computer, they assign themselves a drive letter, and you can just copy your songs to the devices as if they were another hard drive. There are even self-contained wireless hard drives (see: <http://www.apple.com/airportexpress>) that will broadcast your music wirelessly to any networked computer in the house!

Compressed audio files cannot get scratched like CDs do, and if your iPod or MP3 player is stolen or accidentally formatted (happens all the time!), or even if your entire CD collection is stolen, it's no longer the end of the world. You just re-copy the files back to another device and you're good to go.

Though not exactly small, compressed audio files do lend themselves much better to e-mail. A typical MP3 music file is around 3 to 6 megabytes, which is just under the threshold of being too large to send to someone using dial-up internet. If both ends of the connection have high-speed, it's no problem at all, as this amount of data can be transmitted by most DSL and cable internet services in about 10 or 20 seconds. The MP3 compressed format is "lossy" in the sense that some of the music data is lost during compression, compared to the original recording, however I've never been able to tell the difference between a compressed song and a non-compressed track on a CD. The data you lose is not data that manifests as part of the music.

By the way, the songs as recorded on CDs you buy are very large - 50 to 80 megabytes would not be uncommon. For those of you audiophiles who need compression but don't want any data loss, consider using the FLAC mode of compression (See <http://flac.sourceforge.net> for information). FLAC stands for "Free Lossless Audio Codec."

So, there are a host of reasons why we would want to compress our audio collection, but what is the downside? The only problem I can think of is that most automotive and older CD players cannot recognize the MP3 or any computer generated music format. Some of the newer CD players can, but it's not

something that people generally know. So, for example, when I transferred an audio book selection to CD for my wife, she found that the CD player in her car refused to play the media, even though her car is not that old. My car, a Chevy Monte Carlo, played the disk without a problem even though it's an older car than hers. So in this situation you may want to take advantage of software that does the reverse of ripping - it would take MP3 files and lay them down on the CD as if they were ordinary Audio CD tracks. iTunes and many CD-writing utilities such as Nero will do this for you.

Now does anyone wanna buy a used 400-CD jukebox player?

like "SystemDiskbeforeRepartitioning" to incremental and differential backups to simplify your searches.

Make reserve copies of your backups – Save them on the file system, a network drive, or a USB stick. Copies can be specified as regular (flat) files, a zip compressed file, or a tib file.

Automatic backup to a removable drive – If you have chosen a removable drive for your backups, but it is not attached when a scheduled backup time is set to occur, Acronis will automatically start the backup to that device as soon as you plug it in. To prevent unauthorized persons from backing up the data to their own devices, the software requires the removable drive to be the same one used for all previous backups.

Automatic computer shutdown after backup or restoration finishes – Launch a backup at night and walk away without bothering about turning off the computer – the program will do it for you.

Consolidate backup files – You can define rules for consolidating your archives to reduce storage space. Merge an older full backup with several incremental backups to quickly create a new full backup; subsequent backups are based on the newly-created full backup.

Automatic consolidation – Set limits on the size of backup archives, the maximum number of backups you want to keep, and the maximum amount of time archives are to be stored. Whenever any of the limits you preset is reached, Acronis will automatically combine the first full backup with the oldest incremental into one full backup dated to that incremental's backup date. Archive integrity is unaffected. This feature can be applied to all archives Acronis manages except those stored on CD/DVDs.

Use Google Desktop and Windows Search to search for files – Use either search engine to find files through multiple archives. Type in a name or part of the name to find and restore individual files easily and quickly. File contents can be indexed as well.

Try & Decide enhanced - create a temporary, safe place on your hard disk where you can perform changes to your system that otherwise might not be advisable, such as installing new software, downloading files from the Internet, or opening e-mail attachments. If the operations are successful, you can apply those changes to the real system or discard the changes as you wish. New with Home 2009: the temporary space you create is maintained across system shutdowns and restarts.

Acronis True Image Home 2009 is available from us for only \$29 (as a download) or \$29 plus shipping (on a CD). This is less than the upgrade price through Acronis and you get a full new license of the product and not an upgrade license. If you order the product on a CD, you also get our Perfect Backup Approach tutorial to help you understand the best way to do backups. There is also a step by step starter's guide for installing and using the product for the first few times. The full Acronis manual is also on the CD for your use. In addition, I try to help my customers when they have questions about *True Image*. You also have the normal technical support through Acronis to assist you. You can order your copy of **Acronis True Image Home 2009** from us at www.ugr.com/TrueImage.html. Make

Announcing Acronis True Image Home 2009

By Gene Barlow, User Group Relations

Copyrighted October 2008

Acronis just announced a significant new release of their top rated backup utility, Acronis True Image Home 2009. It is hard to understand how they could possibly improve on this excellent product, but they did it with dozens of important new features. The product may be ordered now on our secure web site at www.ugr.com/TrueImage.html for only \$29 (as a download) or \$29 plus shipping (on a CD).

Here are a few of the new features included:

New User Interface – Acronis completely redesigned an already superior user interface. It is inspired by Windows Vista and adds usability enhancements to make Acronis True Image Home even easier to use.

One-click Protection. – Start up Acronis True Image Home after installation and the program will automatically take stock of your computer storage devices. If you have enough free space on one of hard drives or in the Acronis Secure Zone, it will offer to protect your system right away by backing up your system volume and Master Boot Record to the storage location of your choice. In addition, Acronis True Image Home can refresh the backups regularly. Just click Protect and your system will be safe from a disaster.

Archive to the popular zip format – Now you can specify file-level backup archives as zip files, one of the most popular archiving formats, in addition to Acronis' space-saving tib files and flat file archives. You can extract zip files from backups created by Acronis True Image Home without firing up the Home product itself.

Encryption of archive data. Protect sensitive data from prying eyes.

More archive location options – Save full, incremental and differential backups of a data entity (for example, a partition, disk, E-mail) almost anywhere you like. Previously, all backups belonging to the same data entity could be stored only in the same place. Now you can choose a network share, CD/DVD, Blu-ray, USB stick, FTP-server, or any local internal or external hard drive. Furthermore, you can now give meaningful names

sure you use the order code of **UGTH2009** when placing your order.

If you are a current user of *Acronis True Image*, then you will want to get this new release and put all of the new features to work for you. If you have not started a backup plan for your computer, then this is the best product to accomplish this important task on your computer. In either case, place your order today so that you can enjoy this new product soon. If you have any questions about this article or *Acronis True Image Home 2009*, please send them to support@ugr.com. I look forward to helping you if I can.

Gene Barlow
User Group Relations gene@ugr.com
PO Box 911600 www.ugr.com
St George, UT 84791-1600

This is one of a series of monthly technical articles that I [Gene Barlow] distribute to those that have subscribed to this newsletter. You can subscribe at www.ugr.com/NewsletterRegistration.html. Watch for them and learn more about your computer and its hard drive. If you do not want to receive these newsletters, simply reply and ask to have your name removed from the list and I will do so immediately. User group newsletter editors may print this article in their monthly newsletter as long as the article is printed in its entirety and not cut or edited. Please send me a copy of the newsletter containing the article so that I can see what groups are running the articles.

How to Forward Email

By Vinny La Bash, a member of the Sarasota Personal Computer Users Group, Inc., Florida
www.spcug.org; vlbash@comcast.net

Obtained from APCUG with the author's permission for publication by APCUG member groups.

Let's examine a typical email scenario. After opening your email, you find a message that you simply must share with all your friends. You press the "Forward" button and one way or another get all their email addresses in the "To:" box. Feeling quite satisfied after pressing the "Send" button, you sit back and take satisfaction in the joy you are sending to others.

You should be ashamed of yourself. You have just exposed everyone on your mailing list plus any people who received the email ahead of you to unending streams of spam, spyware, viruses, and other assorted electronic junk and mischief that hackers are prone to these days. What you have done is prove conclusively that you don't have a clue about the proper way to forward email. Your license to compute should be revoked immediately.

As messages get forwarded in this way they move along the internet, and the list of email addresses embedded in the note gets longer and longer. All it takes is for just one of these folks to get a virus or some other kind of malware, and everyone who has their email address in that list can be infected.

Anyone can take those email addresses, sell them or send out their own junk mail. Assuming you are a mature responsible adult, you most likely would not want to harm anyone, even inadvertently. What does a conscientious person do to stop or better yet, prevent damage?

When you click the "Forward" button you enter the edit mode of your email client. Before you do anything else DELETE all the other email addresses appearing at the top of the message. Let me repeat. DELETE them by highlighting them and THEN pressing the Delete button on your keyboard. It doesn't take long. When you've finished, delete any other junk that isn't actually part of the message, such as information about the original sender. Delete anything that is not part of what you want to send.

If you're sending the message to more than one person, do not use the To: or Cc: fields for adding email addresses. Always, always use the BCC: (blind carbon copy) field for listing the email addresses. The people receiving the message will see only their own address.

Some email clients don't automatically show the blind carbon copy option. If that's the case, click on where it says To: and your address list will appear. Highlight the email address and choose the BCC: option. It's not much effort, and it eliminates the possibility of someone using the email addresses inappropriately. When you send using the blind carbon copy, everyone receiving the message will see "Undisclosed Recipients" in the heading information.

If your email client requires that something be in the To: field, send the message to yourself and use the BCC: field for everyone else.

Remove any FW in the subject line. Better yet, clean up the subject line completely by fixing any spelling or grammatical mistakes. Why let someone else's errors appear as your own?

Sometimes you will receive an email that is a petition. It states a position and directs you to add your name, address, and sometimes other information. Then you're supposed to send it to as many people as possible. If enough people do this, an email can contain hundreds if not thousands of names and addresses.

The longer the list gets the more valuable it becomes to a spammer or hacker because the names and email addresses are valid. If you really want to support the idea behind the petition, a personal letter to the eventual recipient carries a lot more weight than a piece of paper with a long list of names. When you think about it, lists like these can be generated from telephone books. Do you really think that a member of congress is going to pay attention to something that could be so easily faked?

Sometimes these petitions come with statements or warnings that the emails are being traced. Don't believe it. While technology is constantly improving, there is still no way to trace emails through the internet.

One kind of really annoying email is the one that promises that something wonderful is going to happen, but only if I forward the message to at least ten people in the next ten minutes.

However, if I fail to do so, some unspeakable evil will surely befall me. I always fail to do so, and nothing bad has happened yet, but I wonder if this could be the reason I haven't won the lottery.

Before forwarding some version of an Amber Alert, take a little time to check out the story behind the message. Most of these messages have been circulating around the internet for years. Some of them have been around for a decade. Almost all of them are much less than they seem.

Some sites that will help:

www.hoaxbusters.com
http://urbanlegends.about.com/od/internet/a/current_netlore.htm
<http://ciac.llnl.gov/ciac/bulletins/h-05.shtml>
<http://www.snopes.com/snopes.asp>
<http://www.vmyths.com/>

You may not be able to stop this stuff on your own, but you can stop contributing to it.

Hasta la Vista - Customize Your Data Locations

By Lee Reynolds, a member of the Broward Personal Computer Association, Florida
www.bpca.com; LeeTutor@earthlink.net

Obtained from APCUG with the author's permission for publication by APCUG member groups.

I'm told the literal meaning of "hasta la vista" in Spanish is "until the seeing." Or maybe a more adequate translation is "see you later". But in this column, I'm using that phrase to invite you to take a look at Microsoft's latest version of Windows: Vista.

If you take a look at the new Vista Start Menu, one change from Windows XP you will see is that there is a link at the top of it which is your account name. If you click on that, you will open up a Windows Explorer window, which shows all your user folders, such as:

- Documents
- Music
- Pictures
- Desktop
- Favorites
- Etc..

In Details view, this is handy since one column shows the Folder path for each of these. Most of the folders will be on your boot drive (normally, C:) in this path:

C:\Users\<<AccountName>, where <AccountName>, of course, is your account name.

There are several entries in this list which have the little "shortcut" arrow in their icons, for example:

- Application Data
- Cookies
- Local Settings
- My Documents
- Recent
- Send To
- Start Menu
- Templates

If you click on any of these shortcuts, except Recent, you will immediately be presented with an error message: "<folder path> is not accessible Access is denied", then you have to click the OK button to dismiss the message.

All of those shortcuts are there for compatibility reasons, in order for the system to be able to access certain locations that were used in Windows XP. The actual path of each of those locations has changed in Windows Vista. For example, the folder that was accessed in this way in Windows XP C:\Documents and Settings\<<AccountName>\My Documents is now here in Vista:

C:\Users\<<AccountName>\Documents.

Backup and Partitioning

I like to backup my entire system periodically with a drive image program from Acronis called True Image.

However, I also like to try and keep most of my data separate from the program files and windows system files making up the boot drive.

I took advantage of the built-in drive partitioning software of Vista (more about this in another article), in order to create several other partitions on my C: drive, and one of these is reserved for storing the contents of such folders as Documents, Favorites, Music, and Pictures. (I did something similar for an old computer using Windows XP.)

This not only reduces the size of the backup image of my boot drive, it also makes it much easier to backup my rapidly changing data to CD-RWs or DVD-RWs.

In Windows XP, in order to move the data locations to another partition, I was forced, in some cases, to edit the registry. In Windows Vista, this is no longer necessary.

There is a Windows user interface to change folder locations of your user account profile. Just right click on your Documents folder, for example: Select Properties from the context menu, and then you will see a new tab in the folder properties windows called Location.

Click on that tab, and you will now see this message: You can change where files in this folder are stored to another place on this hard drive, another drive, or even another computer on your network.

All you have to do is type in the new location, and click OK. You will then be presented with a message, asking if you want to move all of the files from the old location to the new location, and recommending that you do so, or else you will see two of the designated folders in your profile.

Hasta la Vista Vista's Taskbar

By Lee Reynolds, a member of the Boca Raton Computer Society, Florida and regular contributor to Boca Bits, the BRCS monthly news magazine
www.brcs.org; leetutor@earthlink.net

Obtained from APCUG with the author's permission for publication by APCUG member groups.

I'm told the literal meaning of "hasta la vista" in Spanish is "until the seeing." Or maybe a more adequate translation is "see you later."

But in this column, I'm using that phrase to invite you to take a look at Microsoft's latest version of Windows: Vista.

CONFIGURING THE TASKBAR

The Taskbar works very much like previous versions of Windows, particularly XP. You can configure some options on how it operates by right clicking an empty area on it and selecting from a popup context menu.

For example, you can decide:

- ◆ To have various toolbars such as the Quick Launch toolbar and a Desktop or Documents toolbar displayed
- ◆ Show all open windows "cascaded" like a row of dominoes one behind the other, or show them side by side, or one on top of another to cover the desktop
- ◆ Minimize all the windows to show the Desktop
- ◆ Start the Task Manager application; or lock the Taskbar so that its settings cannot be modified without unlocking it first.
- ◆ If you select Properties from the context menu, you are given further ways of customizing the Taskbar.

As in Windows XP, there are options:

- ◆ To auto-hide the Taskbar (it reduces to a very thin line which only becomes visible as a normal Taskbar when you put your mouse over that thin line)
- ◆ Keep the Taskbar visible over other open windows,
- ◆ Group similar Taskbar buttons for the same application in a stacked list.

New Option

A new option available in the Taskbar properties page, is to determine whether or not hovering your mouse over a Taskbar button shows a live preview of the corresponding window (thumbnail).

CUSTOMIZE THE NOTIFICATION AREA

Unlike XP, you now have a separate tab to customize the Notification Area, which is the part of the Taskbar on the right hand side, normally showing the system clock, a volume control for your speakers, a Network icon, a Safely Remove Hardware icon, a Power icon (if you are using a laptop on battery power), and others. You can put a check mark next to Hide Inactive Icons and then click the Customize button, in order to access a list of all icons that have shown up in the Notification Area.

This is broken down into two lists, those icons that are currently showing in the Notification Area, and those that have shown up in the past but are not currently there now. For each icon, you click to access a drop down list to choose Hide when inactive, Hide, or Show.

System Time

One of the things that you can show on the Taskbar is the system time (and that was in previous versions of Windows also), but this now has some modifications.

Hover your mouse over the system time in the Notification Area, you get a balloon tip telling the system date and day of week, but if you click on the system time instead, up pops a nice looking circular clock and a calendar of the current month, with a link to the Control Panel area where you can change the date and time settings.

In that area of Control Panel, you can now click on a tab for Additional Clocks and configure up to 2 more different system clocks to be active, each with a different time zone and time of day perhaps. If you do that, then hovering your mouse over the system time in the Notification Area will modify the balloon tip to show all active clocks, whereas clicking on system time will now show all these different clocks side by side, together with the calendar of the current month.



Chicago Computer Society Makes History!

By Irene Ganas

Obtained from APCUG with the author's permission for publication by APCUG member groups.

Digital Imagery SIG's Meeting for June, 2008

History was made by the Chicago Computer Society, as its Digital Imagery SIG, hosted by Sanford Kolinek, gave its first Main Presentation at our local meeting by its presenter from two thousand miles away.

As one of the largest member turnouts this year assembled in their seats in Lisle, Sanford passed the popcorn for all to enjoy and Jack Jackson, a long-time member of the Chicago Computer Society who now lives in Utah, presented his slide-show of gorgeous photographs of Goblin Valley and Arches National Park with his live narrative from his home in Utah. Assisting Jack at the meeting were Alvin Reisbeck and Jerry Sass.

Here is how this unique program came about and was done. Jack had mailed me a DVD of his photographs that I took to the February Digital Imagery Meeting for Show-and-Tell. We had a beautiful show but no tell and our members discussed how nice it would have been had we been able to learn more about how to make such wonderful images by being able to ask Jack about his camera, the settings he chose and why, what post-processing he did, etc.

That led to the idea of using Skype at our meeting. Jack mailed several more DVDs to Alvin and Jerry. Jack downloaded the latest Skype from www.skype.com and then Sanford, Jerry and Jack worked out and practiced the details ahead of time which made the evening's presentation run perfectly.

The DVD was run from Jerry's notebook PC on site at the meeting. A small "eyeball" video camera connecting to Jerry's notebook allowed "Utah Jack" to see Jerry and a video cam on Utah Jack's computer allowed Jerry to see Jack. When Jerry's notebook was connected to the projector and sound system at our meeting, all of us at the meeting could see and hear Utah Jack.

Here's the fun part: when the video cam "eyeball" was turned around and passed around, Utah Jack was able to see all the members at the meeting to "Howdy" us, each by name because he could see each of us.

The video cam eyeball was then positioned to "look at" the screen so that Utah Jack could look at the same show that all of us at the meeting were seeing. It was this setup that enabled Jack to present his live running commentary on the slide show. During the show, people asked Jack questions about everything from the technical aspects of his photographs, the music he chose for the show, commented on "his house" and laughed together about it because it was a photograph of an historic log cabin at a park in Utah.

This historic technical event and the hot popcorn compliments of Sanford made the evening one of the most enjoyable

November 2008

meetings of the year. We anticipate another great meeting next month at Brookfield Zoo, the site of this year's Digital Imagery SIG's Annual Summer Outdoor Event. Hope all will join us. See you there.

Preparing a Review or Article for the NOCCC Orange Bytes

By Steven Breitbart

There are two sections in the NOCCC newsletter, the Orange Bytes, where our members can contribute reviews and articles. They are the **Computer Talk** section and the **Product Reviews** section.

Articles in the **Computer Talk** section can be about almost any computer or technology related experience that you have had. For example, getting a new ISP, getting an ISP to change your connection speed, converting a PC to Linux, using a MacIntosh PC for the first time - the list is endless.

The **Product Reviews** section can be a review of almost any type of computer hardware, software, or book about a computer-related topic. The item can be something you have bought or obtained from the NOCCC. Once you agree to do a review, you will generally have 2 months to complete it. These reviews are published in this newsletter, the Orange Bytes

The NOCCC Reviews Editor, Ted Littman, (714) 779-1936, reviews@noccc.org is often sent copies of books or software by the publishers for review by one of our members. **We need NOCCC members to take these items and commit to review them promptly. The reward for doing a review is that you get to keep the book or software.** If we do not review them, they may stop sending these items in the future.

If you are interested in doing a review, please contact Ted and provide your membership number, phone number, and e-mail address; or pick up the product at the next NOCCC meeting.

Important! There are two articles at the following link. One provides suggestions and guidelines for preparing a review or article for the Orange Bytes. The second provides guidelines for submittal. Please read both. The link is www.noccc.org/bytes/info/index.html

The NOCCC reserves the right to refuse to publish any review at the discretion of the editors of the Orange Bytes newsletter or officers of the club. Reasons may include, but are not limited to, length and quality of the review or offensive nature of the product or of the review.

Products Available For Review

The NOCCC is often sent copies of books or software by the publishers for our review. We can also request specific products for you to review. These reviews are published in this newsletter, the Orange Bytes. In order to make this work, we need NOCCC members to take these items and commit to review them promptly. In general, you will have 2 months to complete the review. **Then you get to keep the book or software.**



If you are interested in doing a review, please call or send me an e-mail and provide your membership number, phone number, and e-mail address; or pick up the product at the next NOCCC meeting.

Ted Littman, (714) 779-1936, reviews@noccc.org.

Boxed Programs and CDs

Roxio Creator 2009 – This latest edition from Roxio/Sonic on a DVD provides even more capability to the well-known DVD-CD “burner.” The previous edition, Easy Media Creator 10 Suite, was reviewed in the October issue of the Orange Bytes. The new program makes it easy for family members of every age and experience level to create awesome photo and video stories to share with family and friends—safely online and on DVD or Blu-ray Disc. MSRP=\$100.

Books

PC Hardware

Build It. Fix It. Own It. A beginner's Guide to Building and Upgrading a PC – Que; Paul McFedries. MSRP=\$30.

Easy Computer Basics, Windows Vista Ed. – Que; Michael Miller. MSRP=\$22.

Operating Systems

Microsoft Windows Vista on Demand, 2nd Edition – This highly graphical, in color book by Steve Johnson, Perspection, Inc., includes MCAS Exam Objectives, was revised for SP1, and is one of the easiest to learn Vista. From Que, MSRP=\$35.

Easy Microsoft Windows Vista – Another highly graphical book in color for beginners to learn the fundamentals of using Vista. From Que, by Shelley O'Hara, MSRP=\$20.

Networking with Microsoft Windows Vista – A complete beginner's guide to creating, configuring, administering, & using a small network of computers with the Vista operating system. From Que; MSRP=\$40.

Microsoft Windows Vista Unleashed, 2nd Ed. – This 800-page book from Sams by Paul McFedries was written for intermediate-advanced users, contains lots of helpful information, and is updated for Vista SP1. MSRP=\$50.

Easy Microsoft Windows Vista, 2nd Ed. – Que; Shelley O'Hara. MSRP=\$22.

Creating Vista Gadgets – Sams; Rajesh Lal. MSRP=\$35.

Office Programs

Microsoft Office 2007 Live Lessons – Que; J. Peter Bruzzese. MSRP=\$40. DVD + Lesson Booklet.

Power Excel 2007 with Mr Excel Live Lessons – Que; Bill Jelen. MSRP=\$40. DVD + Lesson Booklet.

Microsoft Office Access 2007 VBA – A recent book from Que by Scott Diamond teaches the skills needed to automate you database quickly. MSRP=\$40.

Microsoft Office PowerPoint 2007 Complete Makeover Kit – From Que, includes a CD, MSRP=\$30.

Using Microsoft Office Visio 2007 Special Ed. – This book by Steven Holzner from Que is a comprehensive reference manual for the premier drawing program. MSRP=\$45.

Using FileMaker 9 Special Ed. – From Que, MSRP=\$45.

Internet

Create Your Own Website – 6 easy projects by Scott Mitchell in full color from Que. Includes a CD. MSRP=\$25.

Cloud Computing – Web-based applications that change the way you work and collaborate online. What it is, how it works, and who should use it. Authored by Michael Miller from Que. MSRP=\$25.

Understanding AJAX – If you are already an experienced Web developer, this book by Joshua Eichorn, senior architect for Uversa, will show you exactly how to create rich, useable, Internet applications using AJAX. MSRP=\$40.

Microsoft Expression Blend Unleashed – Sams; Brennon Williams. MSRP=\$50. For developers of interactive Web & desktop applications; take graphical assets & blend them with functional .net code through the power of XAML and the WPF platform.

Absolute Beginner's Guide to eBay, 5th Ed. – This latest update from Que by Michael Miller is a useful guide for beginners interested in buying and selling on eBay. MSRP=\$22.

The Truth About Email Marketing – Everything you need to know to utilize this approach in your corporation or small business by Sims Jenkins from FT Press/Pearson. MSRP=\$19.

The Truth About Profiting from Social Networking – FT Press/Pearson; Patrice-Anne Rutledge. MSRP=\$19.

Security

The New School of Internet Security – Security experts Adam Shostack & Andrew Stewart address the biggest, toughest problems and how to solve them. From Addison-Wesley, MSRP=\$30.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

Media Show 4 by Cyberlink

by Terry Oden, President, Macon Computer User Group, Georgia

www.mcug.org, terryo@brmemc.net

This article has been obtained from APCUG with the author's permission for publication by APCUG member groups; all other uses require the permission of the author (see e-mail address above).

There may be hundreds of ways to gather, store, view, edit and show off your pictures and videos. This is one of the best and easiest I have found so far. Your own operating system will do a fairly good job of getting your pictures and videos into your computer for you. On the net you also have programs that are free like Picasa, Flickr and You Tube which all do a very good job of storing and displaying your own work to family and friends.

One of the things that I liked best about Media Show was ease of operation. There are only 5 buttons to control the whole program. Below you'll find a screen shot of the second screen you'll see select the Pictures button.

Starting with the #1 button, or the Home button here you can see all of your different folders and how many pictures or videos you have in each folder.

For the #2 button you have Create. Here you can do things like make your own Screen Saver, compose a movie or DVD. You can print your own pictures or order prints on line.

Next you have the #3 button or the Share button. Here you can share your pictures with friends and family or up-load them to Flickr. Also, you could upload them to U-tube with a single click of your mouse, if desired.



The next button #4 is the View button, here you can adjust the size of your thumbnails or add any captions to your pictures. You can also change the color of the skin of the program (appearance).

The last button or #5 is the Folder Tools button. Here you edit, sort, locate, delete or hide some pictures if you like.

This Media Show 4 is one of the top programs when it comes to ease of operation, not to mention what the finished product will look like. To create a movie or slideshow with sound and motion, fading or cell you only have to make about three clicks of the mouse. First you have to decide if you want background music or not, next select what format you want to use, and where to save your work in your computer. Yes, you do have to tell it what pictures or videos to use! At last, all you do is click the Burn button and that's it. Zap you're done!

To create a DVD it's very easy. First decide a name for your DVD. Then pick out a menu style for your DVD. Now comes the hard part. You must decide which videos you want to use and if you want any still pictures in it or not. Yes, once again you have to tell the program which videos or pictures you want to use.

Next, click on the preview button to see what your work looks like. If you like it, click on the burn button and you're done.

System Requirements:

1. Operating System- Windows Vista / XP (with Direct X 9 or above)
2. Screen Resolution- 800 x 600
3. Printers- All
4. CPU- Intel Pentium D 3.0 GHz, AMD Athlon 64 3500+ or above
5. Sound Card- PCI sound card or on-board audio
6. Memory- 512 MB RAM minimum, 1GB recommended
7. Hard Disk Space- 1 GB required, 20 GB recommended for DVD production
8. Graphics Card- Intel 945GM or above-64 MBVRAM or above
9. Optical Drive- A DVD burner (DVD+R/RW or DVD-R/RW) is required to burn content onto DVD's
10. Import Devices- Cameras via removable disk interface- Cameras support Windows Portable devices interface- Camcorder DV devices via IEEE 1394 (Firewire)
11. Internet Connection- An Internet connection is required for some upload/download features.

As for the overall way the program works, I've not found a program this large at this cost that operates so easily and simply. I have found no shortcomings with this program yet. This is the best program for the money that can be found, under \$50.00.

Outlook & Xobni, a Good Match

by **Vinny La Bash**, Member of the Sarasota Personal Computer Users Group, Inc., Florida
www.spcug.org, vlabash@comcast.net

This article has been obtained from APCUG with the author's permission for publication by APCUG member groups; all other uses require the permission of the author (see e-mail address above).

Xobni is Inbox spelled backwards, but there is nothing backward about this free plug-in module from www.xobni.com. The more email you receive, the more you will like and appreciate Xobni. The program works as a data mining machine for your stored emails. Without Xobni, the best you can do with Outlook is to organize your email by folders, messages, and dates. With Xobni, you can organize your email by people, email histories, and personal, social or business relationships.

You need Outlook 2003 or 2007 to use Xobni. Either XP or Vista will work fine with the program. The folks at Xobni are also working on versions for other email programs such as Gmail and Yahoo Mail. How long this will take is unknown. Downloading and installation is quick, easy, and seamless. The program requires some time to synchronize itself with outlook. The amount of time will be determined by the size of the email data base you have accumulated. I had slightly over two thousand emails in eighteen different folders, and that took about ten minutes.

If you keep a lot of information on your contacts, it's difficult to extract that information in a way that can be useful with Outlook. All that changes once Xobni is installed. Changes begin with an attractive panel that sits on the right side of your Outlook screen and doesn't infringe or interfere with any of Outlook's standard functions. The panel interface slides open when you need it, and discretely closes when you don't.

You get two options within this panel. The first brings up a blank email which is nice. For you organizational types, the second option lets you send meeting requests. A real time saver is the simultaneous display of open time slots that Xobni drags from your Outlook calendar.

Your contact profiles display at the top of the Xobni panel with pictures if one is in the profile. That's followed by the phone number and a thread of any conversations you've had along with files you've exchanged. Specifics topics are quickly found with Xobni's search tool, and there is a handy slider that exposes or hides lines of email text. While it appears you could be getting bogged down in details, the material is organized so that navigating through the information is an easy, pleasant journey filled with discovery.

Skype's VoIP service integrates with PC, Xobni quite well. A mouse click on a phone number within a Xobni profile generates a SkypeOut call.

You can use Xobni for simple searches within Outlook, and Xobni searching is lightning fast in comparison. That's probably because it's integrated within Outlook rather than running on top of it like most third party applications. Xobni gives you more than express searching. It organizes social information logically with additional functions that Outlook simply can't match. How often have you given up searching with Outlook because the program lacks even the simplest logic for intelligent searching?

Instead of treating mail conversations, contacts and calendars as separate entities, Xobni weaves them together in a responsive, intuitive interface. It's hard to go wrong with this tool. Go to www.Xobni.com and get started.

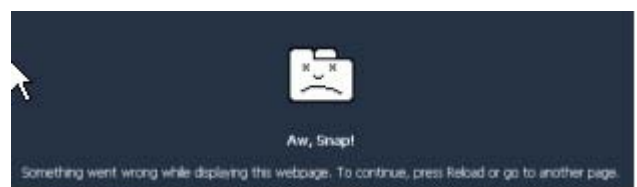
Google's New "Chrome Browser" (Beta) Not Yet Ready for Prime Time

by **Ira Wilsker**, APCUG Director; Columnist, *The Examiner*,
Beaumont, TX: Radio & TV Show Host
Iwilsker@apcug.net

This article has been obtained from APCUG with the author's permission for publication by APCUG member groups; all other uses require the permission of the author (see e-mail address above).

WEBSITE: <http://www.google.com/chrome>

As I type this, the national media is playing up the fact that today is Google's tenth anniversary. In that time it has become the predominate player in the search industry, with a market share of about two-thirds. By more than coincidence, Google also recently announced the public release of a beta version (pre-release) of its free new browser with the moniker "Chrome". It is no secret that Google is in a competitive war with some parts of the Microsoft dynasty, and Chrome is intended to be a competitor of Internet Explorer (IE). By design, Chrome may be a superior browser to IE, but in the few days that I have used it, I have to conclude that the current beta version is "...not yet ready for prime time." Several of the websites that I routinely visit, including two different webmail accounts, My Yahoo, my weather page, and some other sites would partly load and display, and then disappear with a black window with a white font and graphic displayed. The graphic is of a frowning web page, and the expression "Aw Snap! Something went wrong while displaying this webpage. To continue, press Reload or go to another page." Reloading would not fix the problem on any page where the error appeared. This is why I believe that this beta version, while fast, attractive and



feature rich, is not quite ready to take its place as a primary or secondary browser. For the record, every page that failed to load in Chrome, loaded flawlessly in IE and Firefox. Despite this nagging bug, Chrome is still a worthwhile free download, because it has several interesting features lacking on the competing browsers, especially its obvious target, Chrome's nemesis, Internet Explorer.

Chrome (beta) was fast and easy to download from www.google.com/chrome, and effortlessly installed on my XP machine. During the install I was given the option to import bookmarks (favorites), cookies, and passwords from Internet Explorer, which I chose to do. While unstated by Google, it appears obvious that later versions of Chrome will be able to import data from Firefox. Chrome will also run on Vista, and versions for Mac and Linux are in the works.

After reading about Chrome and its features, I was excited about its potential. It is written in open source code using some of the best features of other open source products such as Firefox and Apple's WebKit. The code is tight and compact, and when it works, appears to load and display websites much faster than IE. Some of the technical

websites have actually tested the load times of popular websites, and Chrome may be the fastest browser available. One feature about Chrome, which I was especially interested in, was its default display of thumbnails of the websites most frequently visited by the user. Clicking on the thumbnail would instantly open the website either in that window, or in another tab (window) at the user's discretion. The appearance of the Chrome browser is clean and uncluttered. Each Chrome tab or window is loaded in a virtual "sandbox" such that if one web page crashes, it will not take down the entire browser, but instead only close the affected tab.

More and more applications are being integrated, many of which can be run directly from Chrome. Clicking on the control icon on the toolbar of Chrome gives several options, one of which is to create instant application shortcuts which can load applications into Chrome. An icon is created and placed on the desktop by Chrome, and clicking on that icon directly opens the application in a Chrome tab, even if Chrome is not loaded or is offline. This can give near instant access to such services as Gmail, Google Calendar, or most other applications.

Utilizing a concept "one box for everything" enables the traditional address bar of the browser to perform several simultaneous functions. As information is typed in the address bar, Google (by default) will identify previous websites visited as well as suggested search topics which become more detailed as more is typed. While Google is the factory default search setting, it can be easily changed to other major search engines, such as Yahoo. Multiple sites, such as EBay, Amazon, and others can also be selectively searched as determined by the user.

Chrome uses tabbed browsing long a staple of Firefox, but fairly new in IE. The tabs are dynamic, in that they can be dragged changing their order on the top of the screen, or into a window creating a new window. This gives the user total control over the appearance of the pages displayed for comparison or other

purposes, and is an attractive feature. Another useful feature in Chrome that also previously appeared as a default in Firefox is a safe browsing function. Chrome dynamically checks websites entered in the address bar against a continuously updated database of malware and phishing (identity theft) websites, and displays the following in a red warning window in a large font, "WARNING: Visiting this site may harm your computer!".



Many users like to create lists of bookmarks and favorites, and Chrome makes book marking sites very fast and easy. There is a small star on the address bar, and clicking on the star creates the bookmark, with the option to modify the bookmark. Another common task that Chrome handles very well is downloading files. Rather than using a download manager, Chrome displays download progress in the bottom of the window. When completed, the downloaded file can be dragged to the desktop or elsewhere, or opened directly by clicking on the filename in Chrome.

Chrome has been a lot of fun to play with, despite my frustrations trying to open some web sites. Google will be releasing frequent updates, and hopefully the page loading bug will be quickly remedied. If you want to try the latest in browser technology, being fully cognizant that it is currently a beta version, then Chrome may be a worthy browser to download and install. Chrome coexists just fine with IE and Firefox, and does not interfere with them.

Products Available For Review!

Virtual Honeypots – Security experts Niels Provos and Thorsten Holz cover a large breath of cutting-edge topics from low-interaction Honeypots to Botnets and malware in this new book from Addison-Wesley. MSRP=\$50.

Software Security – This book/CD, authored by Gary McGraw, a leading authority in the field, teaches you how to put software security into practice. MSRP=\$50.

dotCrime Manifesto – How to Stop Internet Crime – How to build a better, safer Internet by Phillip Hallam-Baker is from Addison Wesley, MSRP=\$30.

Router Security Strategies, Securing IP Network Traffic Planes – From Cisco Press, this book by Gregg Schudel & David Smith, this book tells you how to segment and protect traffic in the data, control, management, and services planes. MSRP=\$65.

Cisco Networking Simplified, 2nd Ed. – A complete up-to-date visual explanation of today's networking technologies in full color. From Cisco Press/Prentice-Hall, authored by Jim Doherty, Neil Anderson, & Paul Maggiora, MSRP=\$40.

The Craft of System Security – From Addison-Wesley, MSRP=\$60.

Network Security Fundamentals – An introduction to the key tools and technologies used to secure network access. From Cisco Press/Prentice-Hall; MSRP=\$55.

CCIE Professional Development Network Security Technologies and Solutions – A comprehensive, all-in-one reference for Cisco network security – Authored by Yusuf Bhajji, from Cisco Press, this 790-page hardcover book has an MSRP=\$80.

The New School of Information Security – Addison-Wesley; Adam Shostack & Andrew Stewart. MSRP=\$30. Why critical problems exist & how to solve them.

Is it Safe? Protecting Your Computer, Your Business, and Yourself Online – Que; Michael Miller. MSRP=\$25. Identity theft, data theft, Internet fraud, online surveillance, & Email scams.

Blown to Bits: Your Life, Liberty, and Happiness after the Digital Explosion – Addison-Wesley; Hal Albelson, Ken Ledeen, & Harry Lewis. MSRP=\$26.

Cisco ASA, PIX, and FWSM Firewall Handbook, 2nd Ed. – From CISCO Press, MSRP=\$60.

The Truth About Identity Theft – Everything you must know to protect yourself and your business by Jim Stickley from FT Press/Pearson. MSRP=\$19.

Geekonomics, the Real Cost of Insecure Software – The alarming cost of insecure, badly written software and how to fix the problem once & for all. Authored by David Rice from Addison-Wesley. MSRP=\$30.

Digital Photography

The Digital Photography Companion – This 200-page book by Derrick Story, a professional photographer, from O'Reilly tells you how to take photos that reflect your creative spirit and is full of color photos. MSRP=\$25.

Teach Yourself Photoshop Elements 6 in 24 Hours – Sams; Kate Binder. MSRP=\$25.

Becoming a Digital Designer – A book from Wiley. MSRP=\$35.

Project & Program Management

Wiley Guide to the Management of Projects – This series of 4 books provides timely, accessible, and relevant procedures and strategies to deliver projects on time and on budget. Each book lists for \$50.

- **Project, Program, and Portfolio Management**
- **Project Control**
- **Project Org. & Project Mgmt. Competencies**
- **Proj. Technol., Supply Chain, & Proc. Mgmt.**

Pig SIG Open to All

Meet us outside Irvine Hall from about noon to 12:30 p.m. There is also a buffet lunch and snack bars open in Argyros Hall. There are several benches where NOCCC people gather, eat and chat. Just look for the member badges, grab a chair and join in! This is an informal group; so many different subjects are discussed. It's a great opportunity to mix, mingle and network. See ya there!



Main Meeting Report

Paragon Software at October 2008 Main Meeting

By *Steven Breitbart, NOCCC*

At the start of the meeting, President Jim Sanders said that the club needs new SIGS, specifically a Beginners SIG and asked for feedback. He will also try to get a PA system for the next meeting that is FM radio based, so members can bring in an FM radio and headphones in order to hear the presentations better.

Our speaker was Don Lewis of Paragon Software Group (www.paragon-software.com). "The company's comprehensive product line for the data storage market addresses the needs of data security, storage and management for PCs, servers and networks." They also manufacture applications for handheld devices. Their local office is in Irvine, California.

Their consumer level software offers "Safe and easy to use partitioning and imaging solutions for PC's." That translates into everything you need to keep your data safe and maintain your hard drive from the minute you start it up to the time you wipe it clean before throwing it away (or giving it to our friends at e-Waste).

One of the first things Don told us was that they want to get people into the habit of backing up their data. Therefore, their product Drive Backup 9.0 Express is available as a free download. They have several products for personal use: Hard Disk Manager 2008 Suite, Partition Manager 9.0 Personal and Drive Backup 9.0 Personal. Paragon is addressing hard drive utilities from the point of view of lifecycle management.

Drive Backup 9.0 Personal, features the ability to backup to many types of hardware such as Blu-Ray DVDs and can restore to dissimilar hardware - for example, an entirely new system after a crash. The software allows for scheduled backups, full backups and incremental backups as have other packages for years, but they also include a cyclic backup to keep a revision history of a document.

Partition Manager 9.0 Personal is a utility for adding, deleting or adjusting the partitions on a hard disk. It also does defragmentation.

Hard Disk Manager 2008 Suite is a utility for backup and restore as well, but also includes imaging, partitioning, defragmentation, recovery and wiping capabilities. We saw a demonstration of Hard Disk Manager 8.5 Server, which is similar.

It was great meeting! Thanks to Don for the donation of several packages of Paragon software for our opportunity drawing

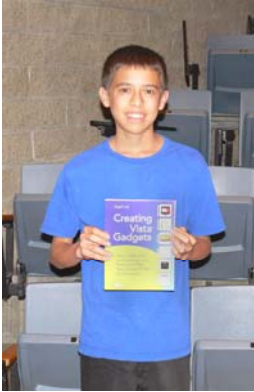


Don Lewis of Paragon Software Group

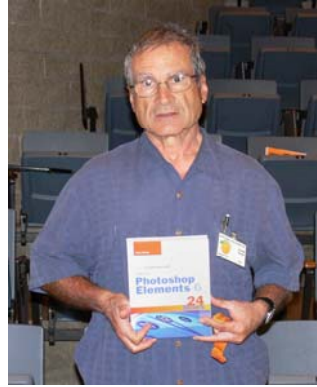


John Heenan running the Opportunity Drawings

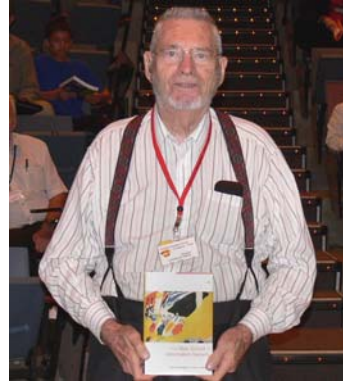
October 2008 Opportunity Drawing Winners



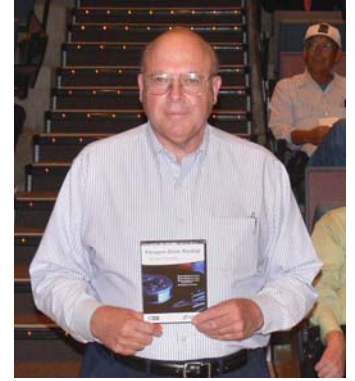
Bejec Reimer



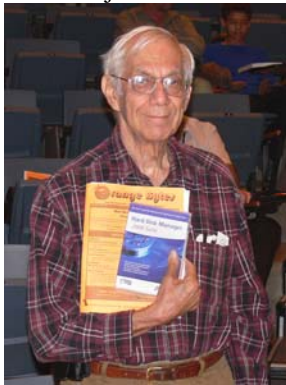
Arnold Gomez



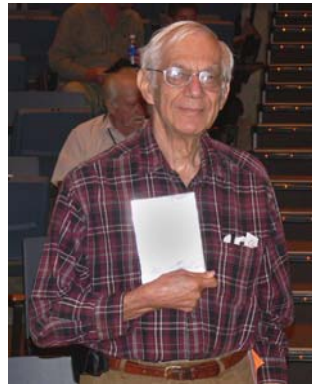
Leonard Prince



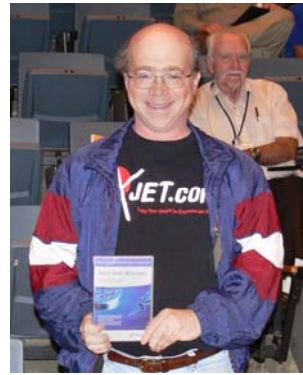
John Szari



Ted Shapin



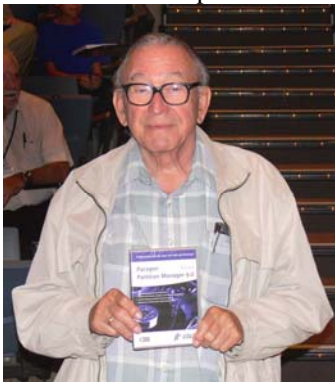
Ted Shapin



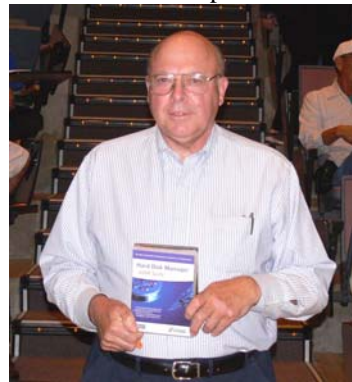
Steven Breitbart



Mary Cornett



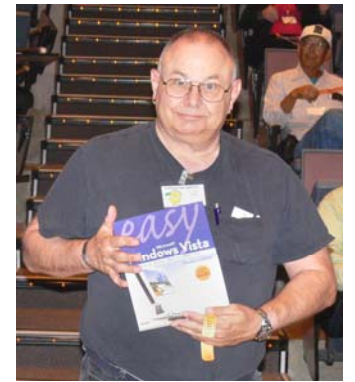
Martin LaRocque



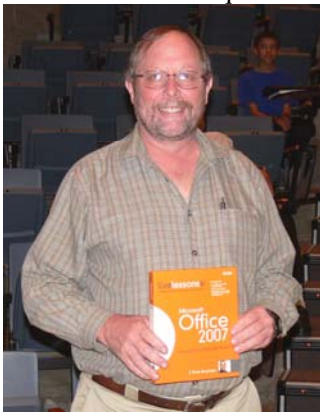
John Szari



Dale Atwater



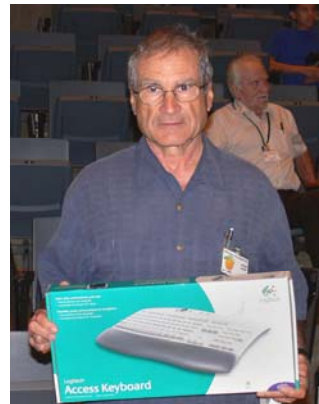
D. Tom Haigh



Thomas Reimer



D. Tom Haigh



Arnold Gomez

***Your photo could
be here - but
only if you buy
some raffle
tickets!***

Photos by Jim Sanders, NOCCC

Digital Photography SIG

By Larry Klees, SIG Leader

Last Month

The topic was **Wide Angle photography**, which was part two in a series of topics about types of photographs that have a different look. (The previous month's part one of the series was macro photography.)

Wide-angle photos can look very different from normal photos because they allow great control over perspective.

The shot on the right was taken with a 35mm equivalent focal length of 16.5mm. This is considered to be ultra wide angle. Careful use of such a lens creates dramatic perspective without causing noticeable distortion.



It is also possible to create extreme distortion either deliberately or through improper use as in the following example.



Bust of Abraham Lincoln by Miriam Baker

Both of these shots were taken at Chapman University. The left used a 35mm equivalent focal length of approximately 88mm which is a normal length for portraits. (The bust is life-size.) The one on the right used a 35mm equivalent of 16.5mm. In each case, the camera was positioned so that the head filled the frame. The wide angle lens was placed about one foot from Abe's eye and resulted in the extreme distortion. This would normally be considered a misuse of the wide-angle lens, unless

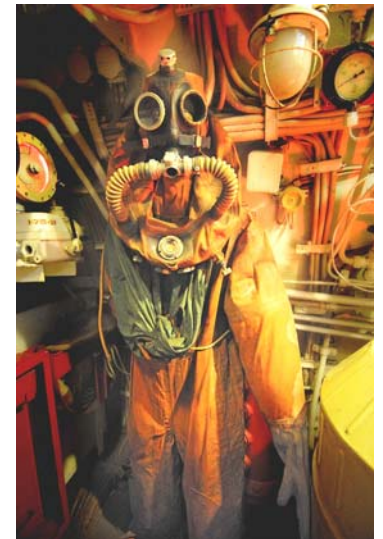
you were trying for comedy or an attention grabbing advertisement. Notice also how much larger the bust appears to be compared to the windows in the background.

When not doing portraits, this change in apparent scale can be very useful as in the photo of a fountain below.



The wide-angle lens allows the desired composition with the camera located where a viewer would normally stand. The pool and the fountain look beautiful. To get the same composition with a normal lens would require the camera to be moved way back and the pool would look much smaller compared to the background, just as with the portraits of Abe Lincoln.

In all of the shots, so far, there was ample room and wide latitude for camera placement. Sometimes you are working in very cramped quarters and a wide-angle lens is just about the only option. In the case of 'The Thing From The Black Sea' on the right, it was necessary to take a picture of a five-foot-high escape suit. So what's the problem? People photograph five-foot things all the time. The problem was that this thing is on a submarine and the camera could only be two feet away. Wide-angle lens to the rescue!



What if you don't have a wide-angle lens?

All of these examples have used an ultra-wide-angle lens on a camera with interchangeable lenses. Many of us take pictures with a camera that at best only has a three-to-one zoom lens. Not to worry. All of these situations have one thing in common. Camera placement (which controls the perspective). The wide-angle lens just makes it easier to place the camera where you want and still frame the picture the way you want. Many times it is possible to use that 3-to-1 zoom lens, or even a standard

lens to take a two-shot to four-shot panoramic photo. This is why Jack Donan volunteered to show us some of the panoramic shots he took.

Jack showed us a 360-degree panoramic and one that was a little more than 360 degrees. He discussed some of the problems with keeping the camera level, achieving the proper overlap, getting matching exposures from shot to shot, and splicing the shots together. Some of the other members have also taken panoramics in the past and the discussion was one of the most interesting and animated I can recall. Well done, Jack.

Below is a shot that required an ultra-wide angle lens to have the camera in front of a large crowd of onlookers. Except, I didn't have an ultra-wide angle lens. So, I used a 4-to-1 zoom and took a three-shot panoramic.



I would have used a wide-angle lens (if I'd had one) and cropped out the yellow *do not cross* tape at the bottom and the hanger ceiling at the top. The finished image would have looked exactly the same.

At the November Meeting

The original plan was to move onto 'The different look of telephoto shots.' However, the panoramic discussion last month ran on so long that several wide-angle questions were left unanswered and was so interesting that many questions about panoramics remain. So, we will pick up where the last meeting left off, and discuss how to control the perspective in wide-angle shots and how to mimic them with part one of panoramic shots. If you didn't attend the last meeting, you will get a chance to pick up on the really interesting things you missed; and if you did attend – YOU AIN'T SEEN NOTHIN' YET.



In the meantime, here are a few Flickr groups where you can view many styles of wide-angle pictures.

- <http://www.flickr.com/groups/architecture/>
- <http://www.flickr.com/groups/tokina11-16mm/>
- <http://www.flickr.com/groups/638028@N25/>

This SIG meets in the Irvine Hall at 10:30 a.m.

Transportation Information

Meeting Information

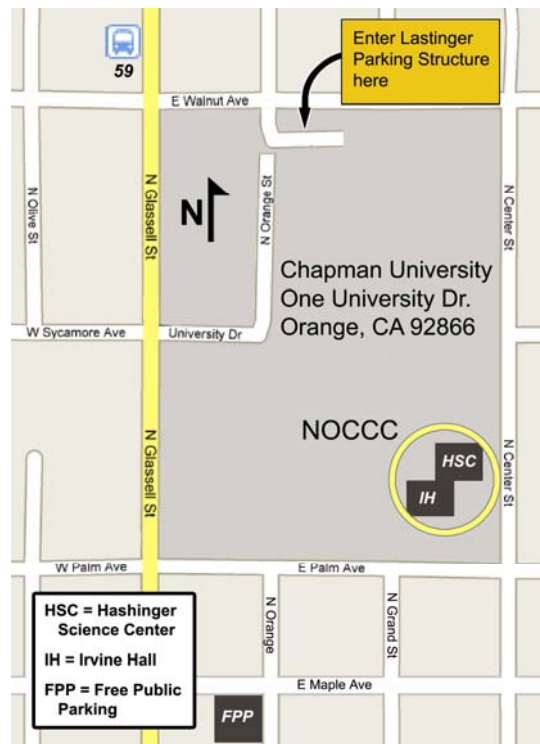
The NOCCC meeting is held at Chapman University, in the Hashinger Science Center and Irvine Hall, near the northwest corner of Center Street and Palm Avenue.

Parking Information

Most of this information is on the back cover. For more information, see www.chapman.edu/map/parking.asp. A map of the Chapman University campus is also available at www.chapman.edu/map/map.pdf.

Bus

Chapman University is serviced by several Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) buses. Route 54 runs East and West on Chapman Ave. The 59 runs North and South on Glassell Avenue, but doesn't start early enough for the 9:00 a.m. SIGs. Get the most current information or use a trip planner at www.octa.net. OCTA also has a Consumer Information Center at (714) 636-7433 (RIDE).



Railroad

Two Metrolink trains can get you to the NOCCC meeting from the Inland Empire. There are stops in the cities of Riverside, Corona, and Anaheim Hills. Parking your vehicle is free at the train station.

On Sundays, Trains 857 and 859 leave San Bernardino destined for Orange County at 8:30 am and 8:55 am. For the return trip, trains 858 and 860 leave nearby Orange Metrolink at 3:55pm and 5:35. The Metrolink station is four-and-a-half blocks from Chapman University. For specifics regarding your trip, check the web site: www.metrolinktrains.com or call 1-800-371-5465

PC Q&A SIG

By Jim Sanders, SIG Leader



We spent a fair amount of time discussing DSL at the October meeting. The reason? A member asked if I could recommend a good dialup ISP (Internet Service Provider). I can, of course, but the return question was why would you want one? One very good response is that DSL is not available where I live. Another is that my budget is so tight five to \$10.00 a month more is out of the question. A far out response might be, "I am a masochist and it is my pleasure to set there twiddling my thumbs while I am waiting for a web page to load."

Seriously folks, people are still paying ten to \$20.00 a month for dial up service. The least expensive DSL, and the slowest, is available for fifteen to \$20.00 a month from AT&T and DSL Extreme. As usual, there is fine print that needs to be read and a few potential gotchas that might have to be dealt with. But, let's compare the two. With dial up, the absolute best speed you can hope to obtain is 53,000 bits per second. With the Basic DSL service, the maximum speed is 768,000 bits per second. For an additional five to \$10.00 a month, that is a pretty significant improvement in speed. Then there's the question of using the phone for voice service. If you only have one phone line, once you install DSL, you now have 24/7 access to the Internet, and 24/7 availability of the phone for voice usage at the same time. For those that have a second phone line for the computer dialup modem, you no longer need that second line. The savings from terminating that second line are more than enough to pay for the Basic DSL service. A little icing on the cake from AT&T, you still have unlimited dial up service available, mostly useful for when you're traveling.

The question was asked about the incoming firewall that is part of the Norton 2008 antivirus package. While attending the Norton Night dog and pony show that was introducing the 2009 version of Norton antivirus, I asked about that feature. I was told that as the feature turned out to be somewhat redundant, caused problems in a few cases, and added a fair amount of additional code to maintain in the program package, they decided to simply drop that feature in the 2009 version.

It was pointed out that Zone Alarm is BOTH an incoming and an outgoing firewall. That it will notify you if a program is trying call out from you computer to some location on the Internet. That includes all of the many different parts of the Win XP operating system that want to call home for various reasons. Zone Alarm asks me every morning when I turn on my computer if I want to allow one of those Microsoft Win XP parts to call home. One that I find irritating and insulting, the Microsoft Genuine Advantage module that wants to check to see

November 2008

if I am a pirate and a thief. And guess what, your computer is probably doing the same thing, you just don't know about it. It offends me that MS takes the position of, "every one is a thief until proven innocent."

The web site, www.youtube.com provides an amazing number of video clips on subjects from A to Z. If you haven't visited the site, you should. There are helpful video clips on things like how to repair a faucet. Maybe not so useful, how to pick a lock. Music clips, comedy clips, political clips, people doing weird things, the list is nearly endless. A few that I stumbled across are in the category "Fun in Space." These clips show our astronauts indulging in some of the fun things that are only possible to do when you are in a weightless environment. I think watching them will bring a smile to your face.

The November meeting should be interesting for me. I have agreed, at least on a trial basis, to lead a **Beginners PC Q&A SIG**. The intention is to provide a forum for new and beginning computing members to get answers to some of the basic questions about using a PC. The kind that they may be embarrassed to ask when other people are asking heavy duty questions about encryption and wireless networking, etc. For logistical reasons, it will be held in the 10:30 AM slot in the Hashinger auditorium. Larry Klees and the Digital Photography SIG will initially move to Science room 306 pending a review of room usage.

So bring your questions to the normal PC Q&A time slot and tell people you think would benefit from it, about the beginners version.

This SIG meets in the Irvine Hall at 12:30 p.m.

Internet Today

By Dave Keays, SIG Leader

Unfortunately, the only thing I have to report is that I will be busy for the next few months with other commitments and will only make it if my schedule allows. If I'm not there in November and December, I'll see you next January

This SIG meets in Science 306 at 9:00 a.m. Check the posted schedule the day of the meeting.



Understanding Operating Systems

Charlie Moore, SIG Leader



This SIG is lead by Charlie Moore and is a continuing discussion group about Operating Systems for Computers.

This SIG meets in Science 111 at 10:30 a.m.

Microsoft Access

Bob Dickson, SIG Leader

I've returned from my trip and the Access SIG is ON for November (and for all foreseeable months into the future). We'll cover more interesting topics for Access 2003. Questions and participation are welcome and hoped for. In recent sessions we reviewed importing Excel files into Access to automatically create a table. In November, let's look at working with FORMS. We're all used to filling out forms; it seems so natural so let's have some fun making forms so that the user can enter and find data quickly.



This SIG usually meets in Science 109 at 10:30 a.m.

Microsoft Office SIG

Tia Williams, SIG Leader

This SIG started in June 2008. Lead by Tia Williams, it will be about three parts of the **Microsoft Office Suite: Word, Excel and Outlook**,



This SIG meets in Science 109 at 9:00 a.m.

Visual Programming

Anson Chapman, SIG Leader

This SIG is lead by Anson Chapman and is a continuing discussion group about computer programming using Visual Basic, Visual Basic Script, Visual C, Visual C++ and Visual J++ for Beginners. They meet in Science 111 at 10:30 a.m.



This SIG meets in Science 111 at 9:00 a.m.

Linux SIGs

Bob Ray, SIG Leader

For the November 2, 2008 Linux Desktop SIG meeting we have planned a newbie **Intro for Linux** using the **Redhat Fedora 9 Live CD**. This is a bootable CD. It is a fully functional Linux operating system with many features of the KDE Desktop included.



The nice thing about this CD is that you can run Linux and use the software on a trial basis without affecting your current system or doing anything to change your current hard drive.

First, we will change the BIOS to boot from the CD drive as a first boot priority device. Then all we need to do is stand back and watch the boot process. After doing this we will have a fully functional but limited GUI KDE working Desktop, although this will be a smaller version of the full system that is available on the companion DVD. Any updates or modifications that we make will be made in memory and not on the hard disk. This will allow you, the user, to experiment in a safe way with many features of the KDE Desktop without putting or writing anything on your hard drive. For example, you may use all of the features for Open Office and you can save and retrieve files, and print reports. The Live CD will also connect to the Internet....providing your hardware is compatible, etc. The files you create are held in memory. So, when you turn off your machine, these files will be gone. If you find that you like this approach and it works for you, you can then install the Live CD on your hard drive and save all of your work on disk.

The bottom line for this approach is: "easy-in, easy-out" without a lot of technical stuff to learn and you can keep your current operating system intact. There are additional features of the Live CD which will be covered in the SIG meeting. **Be there at 9 AM or be left out.....**

Up coming events...

The new Fedora 10 full Distribution is scheduled to be released late in October 2008. It takes several months for much of the printed and published documentation with CDs and DVD to become available. As this happens we will be doing full installation procedures on Desktop PCs and Laptop PCs. Reviews and demonstrations will be made at your NOCCC Linux Administrator SIG. So stay tuned in.

This SIG meets in Science 131a at 9:00 a.m.

October 6, 2008 Board Meeting Minutes

The NOCCC Board Meeting was held at Jim Sanders' residence. The meeting was called to order on Monday, October 6, 2008 at 7:35 pm by Jim Sanders, NOCCC President. Also in attendance were Steven Breitbart, Tom Feeley, John Heenan, Ted Littman, Robert Love, Richard Miller, Leonard Prince and Gerry Resch. Not present were Mary Cornett, Dallas Hazleton, and Chuck Hower.

Secretary's Report: Ted moved to accept the minutes as printed in the Orange Bytes. It was seconded by Steven and approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report by John Heenan:

- Dues: New \$140.00, Regular \$105.00
- Coffee/Donuts table \$17.20, Consignment table \$8.00, Raffle tickets \$68.00.
- Membership Report: 6 Family, 12 Newsletters, 1 Student and 251 Regular = Total 270 Members

The **Main Meeting** was held on October 5, 2008. Don Lewis of Paragon Software was the speaker. He donated a large number of items to the club that will be used in the club raffles over the next several months. It was thought that he did a good job demonstrating Paragon's software. About 30 people attended the meeting. Coffee and donuts were set up by Richard Miller, with the coffee available free. Richard may not be available at the November 2 meeting, but it is expected that Bob Dickson will be back to set up the coffee and donuts. The schedule for the SIG meetings needs to be posted as do directions on how to open the main doors to Irvine Hall. We can also prop the doors open using an ashtray or buy doorstops. Closing the meeting went easily because several people stayed to help put things away.

Committee Reports:

Programs: Jim said he had confirmed that a representative from the U.S. Post Service will be our guest for the November 2nd, 2008 Main Meeting to talk about eBay. The next Board Meeting will be held on November 3rd at Jim's house. While the November 2008 club meeting is planned, we need speakers for future meetings - December 2008 and onward.

Regarding future meetings, Robert questioned if we let local computer companies know about our club and if they send someone for a Main Meeting speaker. Jim said that it has been targeted to specific companies. Jim and Ted suggested several means to locate companies of this type: the phone book, search engines on the Internet, etc. It was suggested that we try to get someone from Sammy's Camera to be our speaker for December.

Publications: It was brought to our attention that the City of Orange free parking lot is drawn in the wrong spot in the map put into the Orange Bytes. It will be corrected for the November issue.

The Products Available for Review and the instructions on writing an article or review for the Orange Bytes will be revised. The objective will be to highlight the fact that articles and reviews are accepted and to make the rules of writing a review clearer; the reviewer gets to keep the book or software, but must complete the review in two, or with permission, three months.

Reviews: Ted said that no books or software were taken out at the October 5 meeting. We are relying on articles/reviews from other clubs to fill the Orange Bytes. Jim wants to get a list of new members to let them know about this opportunity. Richard will attempt to contact computer science instructors at Chapman University to see if any of their students wants an opportunity to write a review, noting that a student membership in the NOCCC is less than the cost of almost any book.

Raffle: John ran the 13-prize raffles at the October 5 meeting. Success was largely due to items donated by our speaker, Don Lewis of Paragon Software. For the November 2 Main Meeting raffle, we will have some Paragon software, several books to be determined later and a keyboard.

After some discussion, it was concluded that we should have a separate **auction** for the refurbished PC, which is being given to the club by Omni Technics, Inc (eWaste). Preliminary conditions are that the opening bid will be \$50 and increasing bids will be a minimum of \$5 increments. It was also decided that we should have the auction in December, not November.

Publicity: Jim said that the **Ask the PC Club** column in the **Orange County Register** might be moved to another day of the week or eliminated from the printed newspaper altogether.

SIGS: Jim said that he contacted Bob Ray, the leader of the Linux SIGs and asked him to do a Linux for Beginners SIG. Bob said he would take beginners questions during the 9:00-10:30 a.m. Linux SIG. Ted said that he has answered questions from beginners and suggested a beginner's PC Q&A SIG (PC Q&A 101). Jim said that to simplify logistics, with Larry Klees' concurrence, we could move the Digital Photography SIG into a class room with a projector and use the Irvine Hall auditorium for a beginner's PC Q&A SIG from 10:30 to noon. Jim will talk to Larry about this proposed change.

Old Business: Ted mentioned that the upgrades to the NOCCC web site needs to be implemented one way or another.

New Business: Ted stated that the Rules Committee needs to meet to discuss reviewing and possibly updating the Bylaws. Jim said that everyone should review the Bylaws and make comments about where they need to be modified. A meeting of the Rules Committee was set up for October 20, 2008 at Jim's house at 7:30 p.m. All BOD members are invited to participate.

Jim will chair the meeting and Ted will act as scribe. A copy of the Bylaws will be emailed (again) to all Board members.

Jim mentioned that a small FM transmitter kit has been purchased. People with hearing difficulties could bring a small FM radio and headphones to the meeting to hear the presentations better. He will try to have it at the November 2 meeting. He mentioned that a pair of speakers with a built in

amplifier are available for about \$100 and that they could replace the large speakers and amp we currently use in Irvine Hall

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Gerry and seconded by Steven. All members present agreed and the meeting was adjourned at about 9:40pm.

NOCCC Fee Schedule

The fee schedule has been set up to increase club membership, attract people with an interest in computing, and attract local computer-related businesses to place ads in the Orange Bytes with or without becoming NOCCC members. We are also offering members the opportunity to help our club financially by making donations that should be income-tax deductible since we are chartered as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Donors will be acknowledged in the Orange Bytes and the Membership level will be shown on the Member's Badge.

Membership Level (\$)	1 Year	3 Years
Individual Member	35	90
Each Additional Family Member	15	45
College Student	20	
High School Student	15	

Business Member + Ad (Business Card)	180
Business Member + Ad (¼ Page, ½ Page) ...	465, 800
Business Member + Ad (Full Page)	1,475

Membership Donations (\$)	
Contributing Member	75
Supporting Member	100
Advocate Member	250
Patron Member	500



Welcome to Our Members Who Joined in September/October 2008

Your Board of Directors welcomes our members who recently joined:

- ✚ Sandra G. Kaley
- ✚ Ake Gissler
- ✚ Robert J. Van Horn
- ✚ Frank Vargas
- ✚ Tia Williams

We invite you to take an active roll in running NOCCC and planning its activities. Please contact President Jim Sanders one of our other officers at a monthly meeting or by e-mail.

Thanks to Our Members Who Renewed in September 2008

- ❖ Michael Miller
- ❖ John J. Nestor
- ❖ Ted Shapin
- ❖ Betsy Vigus

New SIG Leaders Needed

The following SIGS need new leaders:

- Computer Aided Investing
- Amibroker
- Hardware Essentials

If you have knowledge and an interest in any of these areas, please consider leading SIG. If this list of topics is not your area of expertise, feel free to suggest a topic. Contact Jim Sanders, the President of the NOCCC with your SIG ideas.

Publication Information

Orange Bytes is published monthly by:
North Orange County Computer Club
P.O. Box 3616, Orange, CA 92857

All opinions expressed herein are those of the individual authors only and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the NOCCC, its officers, Board of Directors, the *Orange Bytes* newsletter or its editors. The NOCCC does not guarantee the accuracy or the correctness of advertising or articles in the *Orange Bytes*, nor does the NOCCC intend to endorse, rate, or otherwise officially comment on products available. Therefore, the readers are cautioned to rely on opinions presented exclusively at their own risk.

Trademarks/Copyrights — The mention of names of products in this publication without trademark or copyright symbols does not imply that they are not so protected by law. All trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

Production — *Orange Bytes* was produced with **Microsoft Word**® using the True Type fonts Arial, Bauhaus 93 and Times New Roman.

Printed by: Creative Technology

5959 Palmer Blvd.
Sarasota, FL 34232—28
800-533-1031

*Commercial display advertisements
are welcome, contact
reviews@noccc.org.*

RATES

One Page Vertical	7.0" x 9.5"	\$150
Half-page Horizontal	7.0" x 5.0"	\$80
Half-page Vertical	3.5" x 9.5"	\$80
Quarter-page	3.5" x 5.0"	\$45
Business Card	3.5" x 2.0"	\$ 15
Center Spread.....	14.0" x 9.5"	\$300

Deadline: Tenth of the month

Discounts: 3months=10%, 6=15%, 12=20%
If you are interested in advertising in the publications of multiple User Groups throughout the region or nationally, you can learn more by contacting www.apcug.org

Readers, please tell our advertisers that you saw their ad in the *Orange Bytes*



Membership Renewal

When you turn in your Membership Renewal check, PLEASE fill out a Membership Renewal Application.

Memberships may also be renewed on our Website:
<http://www.noccc.org>

Send e-mail address changes to membership@noccc.org

QUICK MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

Date: _____ I am a new member
This is a renewal; my membership number is _____

PLEASE PRINT!

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____ Phone (____) _____ - _____
email _____

Fees: see page 25 for fee schedule; \$35 for single membership

Amount enclosed \$ _____
MC / Visa _____ Expires _____

Please make your check payable to **North Orange County Computer Club** and mail with your application to:

**North Orange County Computer Club
PO Box 3616
Orange, CA 92857**

North Orange County Computer Club
PO Box 3616
Orange, CA 92857

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SANTA ANA, CA
PERMIT NO. 1588

Address Service Requested

Members: Your expiration month and year appear on your mailing label. Please renew promptly, using the application inside.

Dated Material - Please deliver by November 1st.

Are You an NOCCC Member?

Consider all that you get with membership and Join Now!

- **Meetings.** Keep up with what's going on in the computer world. Hear outstanding industry representatives make presentations of the latest and greatest in computer products.
- **Special Interest Groups.** Our SIGs cover a broad spectrum of computer issues. Whether you are a beginner or a power user, attend the lectures and demonstrations, and share your knowledge about computers.
- **Opportunity Drawings.** We have distributed thousands of dollars worth of hardware, software, and books as prizes at our Main Meeting.
- **Consignment Table.** We have a consignment table during select monthly meetings, in which members can sell or buy all kinds of computer items.
- **Get help with your current computer problems.** In the Random Access portion of the Main Meeting, you may ask your question of the entire assemblage. More than likely someone will have the answer.
- **NOCCC Help Line.** NOCCC volunteers, experts in their fields, are ready to assist you with your computer problems. They can be contacted by email or by telephone.
- **The Orange Bytes Newsletter.** Our [award-winning](#) newsletter reports on club activities and provides articles about current computer issues and reviews of software and books.
- **Product Reviews.** Write a review for the *Orange Bytes* and keep the software, hardware, book or CD!
- **Volunteer Work.** We have several interesting assignments available. As an all-volunteer organization, you can join with other members in a variety of activities: write articles for our newsletter, conduct a seminar, run a SIG, show new members around, join a committee, assist in setting up the meeting or participate in computer-related community volunteer work.

Become an NOCCC member by signing up at the Membership Desk during a general meeting, usually the first Sunday of the month. Or simply fill out the form on the reverse side of this page and send it in.

Meeting Information — The NOCCC meeting is held at Chapman University, in the Hashinger Science Center and Irvine Hall, near the northwest corner of N. Center St. and E. Palm Ave.

Parking Information — Chapman University's main parking lot is the underground Lastinger Parking Structure under Wilson field on the north side of the campus. Enter from Walnut Avenue, just east of Glassell Street. Buy a permit but note that the **permit machine only takes \$1 bills and coins.** Do not park in any other lot, in a reserved space or back into a space.

Free street parking is available on the campus-side of the streets only. **Parking in front of any residential housing will result in an expensive parking ticket.** A City of Orange public parking lot, located on the southwest corner of E. Maple and N. Orange, is also free and only 2 blocks from the meeting. See page 22 for more information about parking and transportation.

