



THE PREZ SEZ

Seems like it is either feast or famine. We have programs scheduled for each meeting for the rest of the year. Two scheduled for the first meeting in October. Our second presentation is from Microsoft introducing the latest update of the Office Suite. They always bring nice goodies for some lucky club members.

To bring everybody up to date (namely those who missed the 2nd meeting in September), a team effort by several club members resulted in some very positive action regarding our burgled computers. It was suggested that we contact Supervisor Venable in an effort to get Family Services to keep us up to date on insurance claims for the loss. It was noted that he, Venable, was meeting with the Sun City Association the following day. I was committed to other obligations and several stepped forward to carry our message to the Supervisor.

The result of this combined effort was most gratifying. Supervisor Venable committed funds to cover our loss should the insurance company avoid their obligation. In addition I received a call the next day arranging a meeting with the Supervisors legislative assistant, the director of the Senior Center and a vice president of Family Services. The results of the meeting helped in our understanding of the delay in this matter. Family Services had submitted a claim, which was denied by the insurance company. An appeal was filed and a response to the appeal was scheduled for October 23. A meeting was scheduled among the attending parties for the following Monday, October 27. I anticipate that at that time we will move forward in replacing the computers, projector and software that was lost. This should be accomplished either with costs underwritten by the insurance company or Supervisor Venable.

Just goes to show "working from the top down" gets more done than bottom up.

Ed Freeman

***Many, many thanks to the
dedicated members who got this***

Officers for 2003-2004

Nominating Committee chairman Ron Spath wanted to encourage more of the members to participate in club management by standing for election today. He believes the club's continued strength depends on such opportunities for new ideas and broader back-up on various duties. However, the candidates for the coming year will remain Ed Freeman for president, Art True for vice president, Chet Hartley for treasurer, Georgiana Dols for secretary, and Dee Morris for director-at-large. Nominations can be made from the floor as provided in our by-laws, with the consent of the person being nominated.

"ActivePDF Composer is an affordable desktop PDF creation tool that enables users to easily create and disseminate PDF files by simply "printing" to the Composer printer. Built-in optimized configurations and enhanced settings for Microsoft Office applications take the "guesswork" out of PDF creation, while powerful features such as 40 and 128 bit encryption and customizable output options make activePDF Composer the reliable alternative for high-quality PDF creation." –

***Featured presentation at the
October 28 meeting.***

Today, Microsoft is offering a special preview of the new Microsoft Office System for CCMV/ Mindshare User Group members. This firsthand look will demonstrate how to maximize productivity at home and at the office, reduce spam, customize email, and much more.

Also on the agenda is a presentation by Mark Haley showing DVDs and CD-ROMs on travel and nature. This includes America's National Parks and Forests; Planets and Stars: a guide to the universe; Bird Watching; The World's Great Cities, Parks and Wild Life; plus others. All will be offered at 50% off retail (cost to our members \$10.00 each)

Board of Directors

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Ed Freeman
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Vice President

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Secretary

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Director at large

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SIGS & Help lines:

Digital Imaging

Techies

Newbies

Genealogy

Quicken

Microsoft Word

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Joannie@RainbowFlair.com

Newsletter

Louise Schultz et al.
dagan@pe.net

Web Page Address

www.ccmv.net

Take a look and take the poll

Meeting Time and Place

2nd and 4th Tuesday
9: to 11: a.m.
Seventh-day Adventist Church
29885 Bradley Road
Sun City, CA

AN UNSOLICITED OPINION — of the Retiring Editor

The past couple of months have wrought disaster on thousands of computer users. Magazine editors and plain folks are up in arms over the faults in their operating systems and the malevolents who are using the faults to prove — something. Computer users who weren't before are now converted to anti-virus and firewall advocates. And, the vendor of their operating systems is chanting "patch-it."

Here are a few snatches from Internet and print sources on this subject:

"It's easy to see if you need that or another update. In Internet Explorer, click Tools>Windows Update. Click Scan for Updates. *Any critical updates should be installed.*" from **komando.com**

"A critical Microsoft security patch does not actually close the hole it was intended to correct. Now virus attacks that take advantage of this flaw have appeared "in the wild," on Web pages that infect Windows PCs without warning. Microsoft doesn't have an update that corrects the faulty patch - despite the fact that the company acknowledged the error on September 8. This fault affects XP but not ME or 9X.

More than 100 million virus-carrying e-mail messages were spread by SoBig. F. . . But an even more severe problem is that the PCs that were infected by the disease are now running "zombie" programs. These routines silently run as "open proxies" in compromised PCs. As such, they obey directives from the virus's originators to send vast quantities of spam through whatever Internet connection each machine may have." from Brian's Buzz -- **briansbuzz.com**

"At press time, Microsoft was publicly considering the prospect of changing the update process from a user-controlled feature to an automatic process that would occur the instant an update became available, at least for updates that are critical or security related." **Smart Computing** v.14 no. 11, page 26

That first quote must have helped aggravate the problem. Believe it or not, not ALL patches from Microsoft labeled "critical" and "recommended" are "good guys" and not ALL of them belong on ALL machines. So all you users who followed that first piece of advice may not have known that the "what do you mean by" syndrome applies and that you were going to have to read very carefully not only the paragraph presented for your "review and install" but ALSO VERY carefully the supplementary paragraphs from the Knowledge Base. And, of course, you better also know not only which operating system and which version of Internet Explorer you are using but which version of virtual machine and whether you care about it.

Ah, but you say you are confident that when the Microsoft screen displayed the message that it was checking your system to see which patches you needed, you could accept whatever it recommended. Actually, Microsoft was not checking to verify that your system needed a given patch based on its intent and your system. It was just looking at a list of which of its patches had previously been downloaded, and then offered you all that had not.

So, if you are running Win98Se or WinME or Internet Explorer 5 or 5.5 (and not buying Microsoft's marvelous XP), you better not take the IE version 6 Service Pack update. It makes for a very unhappy system that doesn't behave at all well. However, if you do believe in updating, be ready to "Remove" that choice from the recommendations EVERY time you go to the updates. And these geniuses want to do automatic updating. **NOT ON MY SYSTEMS!**
(See page 5 on the web site ccmv.net for more.)

SUN CITY COMPUTER CLUB AS OF OCTOBER 2, 1992

BRYSKAR, ELAINE
BUECHNER, BLANCHE & PAUL — 286
COLEMAN, VERVYL
FINK, ROSS — 386
FORD, BOB — 386
GUMPH, JOHN & JEAN — 386
HACKLER, VERN
ICKES, HERB — 286
HUNTER, AL
JOHNSON, ROSCOE — 386
KUPFER, ELLEN
McWILLIAMS, BOB — 386
MERRITT, HENRY — 286
MOYNIER, JOSEPH — 286
NAFTULIN, AL — 386
ODOM, Dr. CLOYCE — 386
PERRY, JIM — 386
POWERS, PAULA — 386
RAHN, EVELYN — 286
RAIKEN, GILDA — 286
RASMUSSEN, BEA
ROARK, GLENN — 386
RUSCITTI, DANTE
RUTHVEN, JUNE
SCHULTZ, LOUISE — 386
SMITH, JACK — 386
STEINER, HERB
TOGIE, KATHY
WILSTACH, ILAH — 386
WOLF, ARTHUR — 386
WOOD, DAVE

and some didn't even
use a window

HATS OFF TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS & OLD-TIMERS

Well, you know what happens when you get to scrounging around in attics and dusty file folders — you uncover all sorts of interesting stuff. The panel at left is one such. The group had already been sharing woes and triumphs for six years before this list was done. And we're proud to have **Hank Merritt, Evelyn Rahn, Jack Smith, and Kathy Togie**, who have continued with the group so long. Many of those listed did much more than attend those seminal meetings. They helped newcomers and worked to establish a bulletin board system at the Sun City Library (**Glenn Roark**), a newsletter (**Bill Davis**, then **Verdell Roark**), a web site (**Bill Herzog**), a computer lab (**Ed Freeman**) and our present web site (**Joannie Lenz**). Others were also responsible for success of all those projects and accomplishments. Where would the computer lab be without the volunteer teachers — **Bill Oberg, Art True, Ron Spath**, and others — and especially, without **Celia Douglas** and now **Evelyn Rahn** to arrange class membership? **Kathy Togie** led the way with **Sandy Kandler** in reporting meeting events for those who couldn't get to every meeting. We've "bio"-ed many of the "back tables" volunteers but don't have bios from all the present volunteers — some are too modest (**Lon Whistler**). But they are really appreciated. When you see one, smile and say "thanks." (It's no substitute for money but it's the best we can do.)

Lon's Freeware of The Month

by Lon Whistler, lwhis@hotmail.com **Free DCE** is a young (and free) brother of our commercial automatic enhancer and batch processor DCE AutoEnhance. Free DCE does the hard job of noise reducing and automatic balance control for you. And it is free! The program works best if you have a bad light condition (indoor, shadows etc...) and your image is somehow off. So if some of your images are already fine, you won't see much difference. DCE makes very delicate changes...One thing makes DCEnhancer different from other tools -- reducing the noise and skin smoothing algorithm. It makes DCE ideal for making cool portraits and close-ups!

from Kim Komando newsletters

Re: Clipart Another great clip art source for Microsoft Office users is Microsoft's Design Gallery Live (<http://dgl.microsoft.com>). Here, you can choose from thousands of images ready for placement in books, newsletters, and Web sites.

On this site and others, be sure to search smartly. If the clip art returned does not seem to match the criteria you set, try using more keywords. In addition, you usually can reduce the number of collections that are searched. If you do not need Web animations, for instance, clear this option in the media types area.

Re: File Space. If you do a lot of surfing, you've built up a large bank of temporary files in Internet Explorer. The browser uses the temporary files to speed up your surfing. For instance, if you go to a site that rarely changes, the browser will use the stored pages. That's faster than opening them from the Internet.



However, most sites change with some regularity. So those stored files are often worthless. They're just taking up space. This isn't necessarily a big deal, with today's mammoth hard drives. But if you do a virus scan and scan your hard drive, it can take forever to get through these files. Deleting the temporary files is easy.

In Internet Explorer, click Tools > Internet Options. On the General tab, click Delete Files. That's it!

Re: Addressing Envelopes. Here's how to do it in Microsoft Word: Click Tools > Letters and Mailings > Envelopes and Labels. On the Envelopes tab, enter the return address. Put an envelope in your printer and click Print.

If you're using a word processor other than Word, they all handle envelopes. Open Help and click the Index tab. Type the word "envelope" in the box and click Search.

Virtually all printers can handle envelopes. Typically, an imprint on the printer shows how to insert the envelopes. Check the machine's instructions for envelope sizes the printer can handle.

A FEW OF OUR NEWCOMERS by Evelyn Rahn, erah@inland.net

We hope you will want to get acquainted with newcomers. We want them to feel welcome and eager to participate

ELSIE HALLER is a native of Arkansas and still retains a delightful southern accent. She and her husband moved to California in 1955 living in Santa Ana area until they took early retirement. They lived in Canyon Lake for eighteen years, moving from there to Sun City in 1991. Elsie was a stay at home mother of three sons all of whom live nearby in Southern California. Her computer was a gift from her grandson, and family members are available for assistance should she have need. Elsie is now widowed and keeps busy with her computer, volunteering at the Senior Center and her church. Her second love is shuffle board. Irene Pickering is responsible for her joining CCMV and she is delighted to be with us.

JOHN STANFORD and his wife Bertha were born and reared in Flora, Illinois. They were in high school there and worked together on the school newspaper. Printing continued to be both of their lifetime careers. John joined the U.S. Airforce during the Korean War and his job there was printing. In 1957 the family moved to California. John furthered his education at Pasadena City College and at Rio Honda College in Whittier. They founded their family printing business in Whittier where they lived and reared their family of three daughters. John also taught printing at Pasadena City College. They retired and moved to Menifee 13 years ago. John lists his status with computers as "some experience"

LAIRD MICHAELIS: This man is probably unique in CCMV. He is 20 years old; however he probably has more experience with computers than 90% of us have. His grandfather introduced him to computers when he was three and this gave him a headstart in reading, spelling, typing. And at 20 he lists his status with computers as expert in technology and usage of computers. During his entire life he has worked with computers through high school and in the corporate world. During high school and since graduation he worked with his father who is a salesman and in the contracting business in Arlington, Texas. Laird is currently with his grandparents in Sun City while he arranges to attend San Jacinto College Menifee and he is hoping to

build a business for himself in computer technology and as an instructor during his years in college His goal is to help people. He will have business cards at our meetings and if any of us needs help, he will be available to help us out.

BILL KRUGER is a native Californian born in Glendale; growing up, getting his education and working there. During WWII he was a SeeBee surviving D Day in Europe and the invasion of Okinawa. He married during the war and there was one child. After the War, he resumed his career of 53 years as an Electrical Contractor. He lived his last 25 working years in Fresno, retiring and moving seven years ago to Hemet. He attended our CCMV for awhile, but he and his friend travel and were touring the USA and Canada in his motor home, just returning from a gathering of Polka dancers up state California. He is experienced in Computer Science and belonged to a club in Fresno where they had SIG groups that met in homes on days other than meeting day. He expressed willingness to be on a "Helper List" fielding calls and helping people who need occasional help getting going on their computer. His specific interest in CCMV now is the tech group and digital photography.

EUGENE and NATALIE CRANSTON are just back from a cruise to Alaska! Eugene is native Californian but Natalie is from Ohio. They met at University of California Santa Barbara. Eugene was too young for WWII and was in the Reserves but was not called for active duty in the Korean War. He and Natalie have one living child who is in the area. Natalie was a kindergarten teacher and Eugene a Design Engineer. Rather difficult to describe but 13 of his working years were with SantaFe Railroad as concerns their electronic signals. Sounds as if he updated the signals or designed new items for railroads and had to show them how to implement them. Apparently he loved his work, because his hobbies also relate to trains, steam engines, and ham radio. He works with the Railroad museum in Perris one or two days a week – all for fun now. They have been in Sun City for five years. Natalie's hobby is making quilts and both are interested in computers.

from winxpnews.com

More Windows Key Shortcuts

Windows Key + D brings up the Desktop, and pressing it again will put the windows back up in the same order they were (like pressing the desktop quicklaunch button twice).

Windows Key + B brings the taskbar up and using the directional keys while having the windows key still pressed will let you scan through the icons in the system tray and the tip will popup and pressing enter will bring the selected item up.

Windows Key + U brings up the Utility Manager for: magnifier, narrator & on-screen keyboard.

Killing Pesky Startup Programs

Here's a quick and easy way to manage the programs that run at startup (and kill those that aren't necessary). This is a little freeware program that will run on most versions of Windows (you might need to download an update if you're using Windows 95 or NT 4.0 and haven't upgraded Internet Explorer to at least version 3). The download is less than 60kb and it gives you a nifty (and safe) GUI interface for editing several

Registry keys.

<http://www.winxpnews.com/rd/rd.cfm?id=030819TI-Startup>

Although it's completely free, if you like it as much as we do, consider making a donation to the software author via PayPal.

Alternative to VMWare

For those who want to run multiple virtual machines on their desktop — to run programs that require an older OS version, to test new applications without risking undesirable changes to a primary XP installation, and to emulate a larger network with multiple servers look into VMWare and Virtual PC (which was bought by Microsoft). MS plans to release a new version of the product, Microsoft Virtual PC 2004, later this year. Meanwhile, a time limited free evaluation version of the current version (v5) can be downloaded here:

<http://www.winxpnews.com/rd/rd.cfm?id=030819TI-VirtualPC>

From: "Trend Micro Newsletters Editor"

<newsletters@trendmicro.rsc03.com>

Email and P2P Worm – WORM_CASPID.A (Low Risk) is a destructive, memory-resident worm that spreads through peer-to-peer (P2P) file-sharing networks such as Kazaa, Morpheus, LimeWire and BearShare, and via email. When propagating via email it drops a copy of itself, in HTML format, and sets the HTML copy as the default stationery for all outgoing Microsoft Outlook Express email messages. As a result, all HTML-formatted messages sent using Microsoft Outlook Express, with the default stationery, contain a copy of this worm. This worm affects systems running Windows 95, 98, ME, NT, 2000, and XP.

WORM_CASPID.A exploits a known vulnerability affecting Microsoft Outlook Express 5.5 and 6.0, which enables MIME-encoded programs inside HTML files to execute.

Upon first execution, the worm displays a message box and then drops the following copies of itself in the Windows folder: CAPSIDE.EXE and CAPSIDERED.PIF

It drops the following MIME-encoded copies in HTML format in the same folder: CAPSIDE.HTM and CAPSIDECODE.HTM

This worm also drops a randomly named copy of itself with an .SCR extension into the Windows System folder, and creates a registry entry that allows it to execute at every Windows startup. It propagates through peer-to-peer shared folders under the following

applications: BearShare ; eDonkey ; Filetopia; Grokster; iMesh; Kazaa; LimeWire; Morpheus; SoulSeek

It drops a MIME-encoded copy of itself in HTML format into folders shared under the P2P applications using any one of approximately 152 possible file names.

To propagate by email it uses a MIME-encoded copy of itself, CAPSIDE.HTM, and then sets this file as the default stationery on Microsoft Outlook Express. As a result, a copy of itself is automatically embedded in all outgoing HTML-formatted email sent with the default stationery. It does this by modifying a registry key. This worm also infects HTML files in all folders and subfolders on the infected system.

10 Most Prevalent In-the-Wild Malware Surveyed by Trend Micro US (week of: September 15, 2003 to September 21, 2003): JAVA_BYTVERIFY.A; ADW_TENGET.A; BKDR_COREFLOOD.A; WORM_MSBLAST.A; WORM_SPYBOT.B; BKDR_SDBOT.GEN; WORM_NACHI.A; JAVA_NEEDY.A; BAT_MUMU.A; WORM_MSBLAST.D

XP/Win2000 performance.

1. Always disable the Indexing service. This service is the equivalent of the hated Find Fast program installed by previous editions of Microsoft Office. It consumes incredible amounts of system resources and is basically useless.

2. Get Mike Lin's great free startup control panel which allows you to see all the programs that start with the system. You will often be surprised how many useless and resource consuming programs there are. If you are in doubt what a program is and does and whether it is something useful that you need, the program allows you to disable it and test the result at your next boot.

<http://www.mlin.net/StartupCPL.shtml>

Mike Lin also has a great Startup Monitor that asks you each time some program tries to add itself to the programs that start with the system:

<http://www.mlin.net/StartupMonitor.shtm>

3. Bootvis is a free Microsoft tool (only for XP) to monitor what happens when the system starts. It also has an optimization function that places all the programs that need to start with the system at the "front" of the harddisk, thus speeding boot performance. Get it at

<http://www.microsoft.com/whdc/hwdev/platform/performance/fastboot/default.mspx>

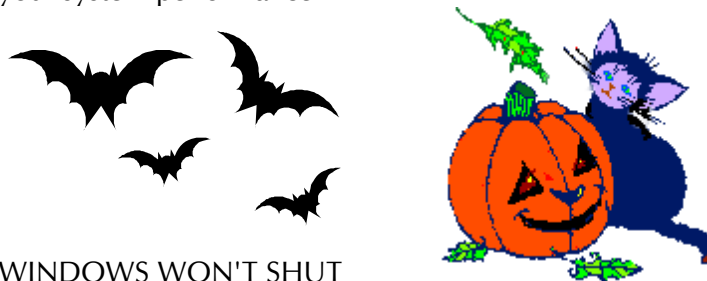
4. Pagedefrag is a great free tool to defragments your pagefile (swapfile) and your registry files every time you boot. This greatly improves system performance.

<http://www.sysinternals.com/ntw2k/freeware/pagedefrag.shtml>

5. Regularly use the free Lite version of the ultimate Defragmentation tool Diskeeper.

<http://www1.execsoft.com/dklite.exe>

Following the above suggestions will greatly improve your system performance.



WINDOWS WON'T SHUT DOWN? SIC THE DOG ON IT! –
from Komando.com

The freeware program Slawdog, on Windows XP, works in one step. It closes open programs, but first gives you the opportunity to close any unsaved files. Slawdog should be especially useful if you are having shutdown problems. Get it at:

<http://www.slawdog.com/products/smartsd/index.htm>

Symantec buys storage software maker

by Matt Hines, CNET News.com

Security software maker Symantec expanded its disaster recovery portfolio with the acquisition of PowerQuest, which sells storage management applications. Symantec said it plans to create a new line of disaster recovery applications, dubbed Active State Management, that will initially include software for managing and protecting servers, workstations, laptops and handhelds. Terms of the deal to buy PowerQuest were not disclosed, but Symantec expects the merger to close by the end of 2003, pending approval by PowerQuest shareholders and regulators.

... Some editorial addenda

PowerQuest has had an active program of giving presentations and discounts to user groups, including ours. Their partitioning and imaging programs have had good acceptance. Symantec has not offered a partitioning program but acquired and sells an imaging program called Ghost. Ghost originally was slanted at the system administrator who had to keep several (or many) computers equipped with the same set of programs. In fact, it had a "broadcast" function to send the desired contents out on a LAN. For the individual user, it simply acted as a reliable back-up program.

Until WinXP, products from both Symantec and PowerQuest operated from a DOS base. Thus, PowerQuest's Drive Image, like Ghost, operated directly on the hardware without any Windows code running. Action taken to modify a hard drive or to capture its contents for back up avoided any possibility of unexpected influence by a Windows function. As we know, there is no DOS under XP. So both programs have been revised to run under WinXP.

From langalist.com — Some sites for information on partitioning and System Restore

Partitioning:

<http://www.langa.com/backups/backups.htm>

http://www.google.com/search?as_q=partition&as_sitesearch=langa.com

Taming System Restore (WinME and XP):

<http://www.informationweek.com/story/IWK20020711S0009>

http://www.google.com/searchs_q=system+restore&as_sitesearch=langa.com

Dealing with "Recovery Partitions"

See items #1 and #2 in:

<http://www.langa.com/newsletters/2003/2003-02-06.htm> and

<http://www.langa.com/newsletters/2003/2003-02-13.htm#7>

General:

<http://www.informationweek.com/story/IWK20011204S0009>

SOME ODDS AND ENDS

Accordnig to a rscheearch at an Elingsh uinervtisy, it deosn't mtttaer in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoetnt tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer is at the rghit pclae. The rset can be a toatl mses and you can sitll raed it wouthit porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae we do not raed ervey lteter by it slef but the wrod as a wlohe. Qiute ture I thnik.

Philadelphia Area Computer Society's members did an experiment to create a mini KVM (keyboard video mouse) network. They used an Iogear KVM switch to connect two computers to one keyboard, one mouse and one monitor. They then connected a CrossOver RJ45 cable to the NIC ports in both computers to form a Mini KVM Network. Such a hookup could be very helpful to anyone who purchases a new computer and wants to gradually transfer files and programs from their old computer; or for the techies that do house calls

from winxpnews.com

Customizing your XP Desktop Icons

Here's how to change the look of the default icons on your XP desktop (My Computer, My Documents, etc.): Right click an empty space on the desktop, and select Properties from the context menu. In the Display Properties box, click the Desktop tab. Click the Customize Desktop button. Choose the desktop icon you want to change, and click the Change Icon... button. Select an icon from those that are displayed, or click the Browse button to use an icon in a different location on your hard disk. Click OK. Click OK again to apply the change and close the Display Properties dialog box. Now your icon has a new look. If you don't like any of the icon choices supplied by Windows, you can make your own icons using popular programs such as IconEdit or download icons created by others at sites such as IconFactory.

- 1) How long did the Hundred Years War last?
- 2) Which country makes Panama hats?
- 3) From which animal do we get catgut?
- 4) In which month do Russians celebrate the October Revolution?
- 5) What is a camel's hair brush made of?
- 6) The Canary Islands in the Pacific are named after what animal?
- 7) What was King George VI's first name?
- 8) What color is a purple finch?
- 9) Where are Chinese gooseberries from?

All done? Check your answers below!

- 1) 116 years; 2) Ecuador; 3) Sheep and Horses; 4) November;
- 5) Squirrel fur; 6) Dogs; 7) Albert; 8) Crimson; 9) New Zealand

What do you mean you failed? Pass this on to some other "brilliant" friends.