



THE PREZ SEZ...

2004? What happened to the big concern for starting the new millennium? Ah well, time passes. Much too rapidly. Since beginning a new year is always a good time to evaluate, clean out the old to make room for the new, and make resolutions that can be ignored without too much psychological damage, I will not

break with tradition.

In the evaluation department, we are still in the process of recovering from the loss of computers eight months ago. The insurance company has determined that 50% would be an equitable number to cover our loss. I assume this covers decreased value over time, the professional term being depreciation. The check is in the mail. Bureaucratic wheels grind slowly and to date we are waiting for the money. This

(Continued on page 2)

SOFTWARE WINNERS BE PREPARED!

If you were the winner of software during our recent visit from Microsoft, bring your certificates with you to our next meeting on January 13th. THE SOFTWARE IS IN!!

You will need to present the certificate to claim your software, so please have it with you. No certificate... no software.



Lon's Freeware of The Month

by Lon Whistler,
lwhis@hotmail.com

Discovering Your Hard Drive

This program was discussed last month by Art True and is a comprehensive study of a computer's hard drive.

I have also brought in a few disks on **teaching Windows XP.**

It's not the flu... it's a VIRUS!

Virus' are spreading like crazy lately. There always seems to be something or other going around. Here is some helpful information about leftover error messages you may find helpful. J

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Examining Errors

Usually error messages that appear when Windows boots are easy to fix, but this month a reader presented us with a startup error that was extremely difficult to track down. If you've removed a virus from your computer and continue to see errors when Windows boots, you'll definitely want to read this month's column. We also have tips for deleting stuck files from the Recycle Bin and defragmenting the hard drive.

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Quick Tip

Delete for Good: When you delete a file from your hard drive, it's not really gone. Instead, it hangs out in the Recycle Bin so that you can later retrieve it. However, if you're sure that you want to completely delete a file, select the file and then press SHIFT-DEL. Confirm your action in the message box that displays, and your file will be history.

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Take a look and take the poll

Meeting Time and Place
2nd and 4th Tuesday
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Seventh-day Adventist Church
29885 Bradley Road
Sun City, CA

THE PREZ SEZ...

(Continued from page 1)

delay has naturally pushed the start of classes down the calendar and with any luck we should be starting in early February. One positive aspect of growing older (the only one I have so far discovered) is patience.

Out with the old to make room for the new. As with changing your smoke alarm batteries when you spring forward or fall back each year (which I know you all do without fail), January is a good time to house clean the old hard drive. Run disk cleanup, do a full scan and defrag. That last one is always fun. You can spend most of a day watching a group of colored squares (Win 98) scurry across your screen like insatiable ermites, rearranging your scattered data into a cohesive arrangement.

Resolutions that can be ignored without mental damage. Cleaning out the My Documents Folder of all those important files you saved for future reference (which you have never looked at again) and saving the five really important ones in appropriate folders should take not more than a week or two. Ditto the My Pictures folder.

One serious issue we face is moving the newsletter to the web site. This takes a good deal of time and work to accomplish. We need people to step forward and become contributors. Product evaluations, interesting web sites, or any tips or tricks you have picked up that help you in your constant struggle with your Personal Confuser. We also plan to monitor access to the newsletter, and if interest is insufficient, it may follow the Dodo bird into extinction.

Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach him to use the Web and he won't bother you for weeks.

Computer Classes

Looking to get the most out of your computer? Then CCMV Computer classes are for you. Whether learning for the first time, or brushing up on tips and tricks you may have forgotten, Computer classes are the best way to do it.

Been computing for awhile and want to share what you've learned? Become a trainer or assistant. Contact our Dean, Ed Freeman for more information.
ebfreeman@aol.com

Classes will start the first week of February and run for 6 weeks.

Monday Feb 2nd begins 2 classes of **XP**,
Wednesday Feb 4 starts **Basic Word**,
And Friday the 6th, learn **Win 98**

Sign up at the back table at the next CCMV meeting, at the Kay Cenicerros Community Center front desk or contact the Registrar, Evelyn Rahn, to sign up at: erahn@inland.net

Classes are first come, first served so get your reservation in early!

Evening Classes By Joannie

Joannie's new Class schedule is out. The two evening classes run from 5:00 PM-8:30 PM, on Tuesday & Thursday. Find schedule and class outlines at: www.ByJoannie.com.

Basic Word - Jan. 21 & 22
(note date change)

Basic Excel - Jan. 27 & 29

Register online at:
www.ByJoannie.com or call (909) 301-6226.

Examining Errors

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The Problem: After removing a virus from a Windows Me computer, an error message pops up each time the reader boots Windows.

Error Message: “Cannot find X.dll or Cannot find X.exe” (X is the name of a DLL [dynamic-link library] or EXE [executable] file.)

We’ve answered a lot of questions in this column that pertain to error messages that appear during startup, but this is a special circumstance that may help many readers who’ve successfully removed viruses, Trojans, or other malicious programs from their computers.

Normally, when Windows attempts to load a program as the computer is booting, you can uninstall the program, remove its shortcut from the Startup folder, or use the System Configuration utility to prevent the program from loading automatically. Certain malicious programs, however, place a line that launches the malicious program (or a portion of that program) in the System.ini file.

System.ini is one of many boot files used to store program and other settings, and it’s been carried over from the old Windows 3.x days, before the Registry was created to store all of these settings in a single location. Modern OSes (operating systems) such as Windows XP Pro don’t even need System.ini or similar files, such as Boot.ini, to load any longer. They still maintain copies

of these files, but only to retain backward compatibility with legacy programs that are incapable of storing settings in the Registry. Because System.ini loads automatically when the computer boots, it’s a perfect place for crackers to place lines that launch their malicious programs.

If you see error messages when you boot the computer that claim Windows can’t find a certain file, the first step to take is to fire up your antivirus software, make sure it downloads and installs the latest antivirus definition files from the manufacturer, and perform a complete antivirus scan. If the software detects a virus and removes it from the system, reboot the computer and see if the error message still appears when Windows loads. If it does, click Start and Run, type **sysedit** in the Open field, and click OK. A main window appears with several cascading windows inside; you need to find the window that contains System.ini in the title bar (for example, C:\WINDOWS\SYSTEM.INI). Click the title bar of that window to bring it to the front of the stack, and to play it safe, you may want to click the square icon with the X in the upper-right corner of all the other cascading windows so that the one containing System.ini is the only one open. Accidentally modifying or deleting anything in the other windows can have serious repercussions, so be extremely careful.

Look in the System.ini window for a [boot] entry (it should be at the top).

Under the [boot] entry, you should find a Shell=Explorer.exe entry that’s not in brackets. If you see X.dll or X.exe (whatever program or DLL was listed in your error message) in the Shell=Explorer.exe entry, that’s the cause of the problem. Delete the extraneous text, leaving only Shell=Explorer.exe on that line, click File, click Save, close the System Configuration Editor, and then reboot your computer.

The Problem: A reader recently deleted a DOS game from her Windows 98 computer, and the deleted files ended up in the Recycle Bin. Now, trying to empty the Recycle Bin manually generates an error message, which suspends the deletion process, leaving many deleted files in her Recycle Bin.

Error Message: “Cannot delete “X,” cannot find the specified path. Make sure you typed the right path.”

In a situation like this, try to drag “X” (the file listed in the error message) out of the Recycle Bin and then try emptying the rest of the contents of the Recycle Bin. You might also try to open the Recycle Bin, manually select all of the files you want to delete, and delete around the problematic file.

If you want to completely solve the problem and rebuild the Recycle Bin, click Start, click Shut Down, select the Restart In MS-DOS Mode radio button, and click OK. At the command prompt, type the following series of commands, pressing ENTER after each line. Remember to use

backslashes (\) instead of slashes (/), minus signs (from the number pad) instead of dashes, and don’t forget to put spaces in the appropriate places:

CD

CD RECYCLED

ATTRIB -r -s -h info2.*

DEL INFO2

Reboot your computer, holding down the CTRL key as Win98 boots. When the Startup menu appears, use the arrow keys on your keyboard to highlight Command Prompt Only and press ENTER. When the command prompt appears, type the following series of commands, pressing ENTER after each line:

attrib -r -s -h c:\recycled

deltree c:\recycled

Reboot the computer normally, without holding down the CTRL key, and when Windows loads, the Recycle Bin should be empty.

The Problem: Every time a reader tries to defragment her hard drive an error message appears and the defragmentation process starts over from scratch, repeating this process in a seemingly endless loop.

Error Message: “Drive’s Contents Have Changed: Restarting . . .”

This is more an informative message than an error message; however, the end result is just as annoying as an actual error because the defragmentation process never finishes.

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Examining Errors

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Defragmentation is a process used to reorganize files on the hard drive so they are stored and accessed more efficiently. All versions of Windows since Windows 95 have a Disk Defragmenter utility accessible by clicking Start, Programs (All Programs in WinXP), Accessories, System Tools, and Disk Defragmenter.

Before Disk Defragmenter can do its work, it must analyze the contents of the hard drive to determine the best way to reorganize the data. If the contents of the hard drive are modified in any way during the defragmentation process, Disk Defragmenter must then reanalyze the hard drive. It's important to shut down all other programs before starting the utility. Antivirus software is notorious for constantly accessing the hard drive, so be sure to disable it before running Disk Defragmenter. Also press CTRL-ALT-DELETE simultaneously to see a list of running tasks that you can manually shut down (choose the Applications tab after pressing CTRL-ALT-DELETE in WinXP/2000 to see this list).

In Windows 95/ 98/98SE/Me the only two tasks required to run Windows are Systray and Explorer, so leave those entries alone. Otherwise, click entries to highlight them and then click End Task to close them. You must then press CTRL-ALT-DELETE to bring the Close Program dialog box back up and repeat the process for all of the other running programs. Some programs are more stubborn than others, and it may take several tries to shut them down. Eventually, you'll be left with only Systray and Explorer on the list, at which point you should be able to run Disk Defragmenter without triggering the constant restarts.

In WinXP/2000 do the same thing in the Applications tab, but here you can shut down everything without crashing the computer. Now click the Processes tab and look for entries that have your login name in the User Name column. You can highlight entries and click End Process to shut them down, but don't close the Explorer.exe or Taskmgr.exe processes. Also leave alone all processes that have

System, Network Service, or Local Service listed in the User Name column. Close Task Manager, run Disk Defragmenter, and if you still see the error message press CTRL-ALT-DELETE to open Task Manager and click the Processes tab again.

Look for entries that have SYSTEM (in all capital letters) in the User Name column that also have lower-case names in the Image Name column, and close them one by one. Don't close any entries that have Image Names spelled in all capital letters and don't close entries that have names in a mix of capital and lower-case letters, such as System or System Idle Process. Disk Defragmenter should run without trouble once the lower-case entries are closed. If the system locks up after you close a process, reboot the computer and don't close that process manually in the future.

by Tracy Baker

Have questions about an error message you've seen? Send us your message (errormessages@smartcomputing.com) and we'll try to decipher it. Tell us what version of Windows you're using, give the full text of the error message, and provide as many details in your explanation as possible. Volume prohibits individual replies.



QuickTip

Direct Reflection:

Personalize your PC by changing its background color. To change the background color, right-click any blank area on your Desktop and click Properties. Click the Appearance tab. Make sure Desktop is selected from the Item drop-down menu/palette and click Apply. If you don't like any of the colors available in the Color drop-down menu, click Other to customize your own color. After creating your own color, click Add To Custom Color. Click the color you created under Custom colors,

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Sign Up for a Class TODAY!



February 10, 2004

THE PREZ SEZ:



This issue of the letter is devoted to the latest virus attack on the internet with two quotes from a newsletter (Fred Langa's) and from the TV show "The Screen Savers", hosted by Leo Laport. The fir is the Langa article which contains a web address with

information about how to deal with this virus. You will also not some underlining in the piece. This is provided by your truly as emphasis on the warning we issue constantly at club meeting about **NOT OPENING ATTACHEMENTS!**

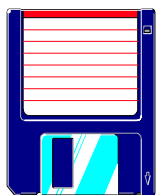
(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

PLEASE BEAR WITH ME!

In one of my unguarded moments, also known as senior moments, I volunteered to put the newsletter together. When I saw the smile on Joannie's face, I should have known that I might have bitten off more than I could chew. Anyway, a promise is a promise and here is my first effort. I call on all members to contribute to the next newsletter, out sometime in March.

Send you contribution to: John Van Olden

Beachdetct@aol.com

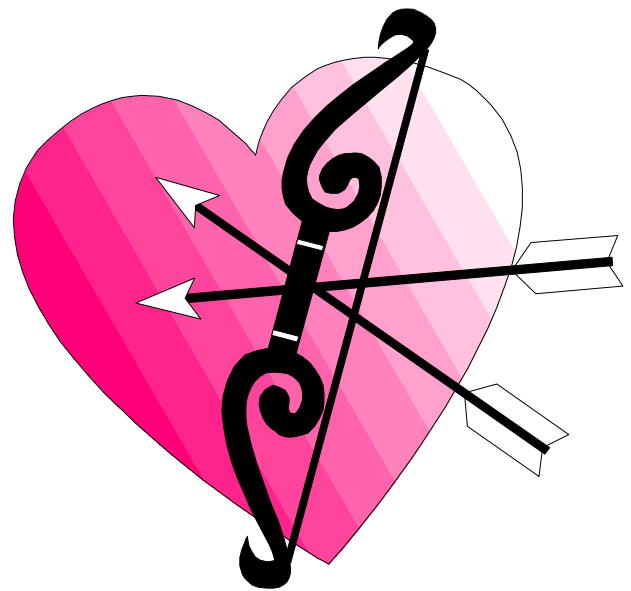


**Lon's Freeware of
The Month
By Lon Whistler,
Lwhis@hotmail.com**

**All-in-One Secretmaker v37.8 [781k]
Win98/2K/XP FREE**

Stop all of the nasties--Most of us have multiple programs for fighting spam, stopping pop ups, clearing cookies, erasing trackers, and catching worms. All-in-One Secretmaker has seven tools built-in to accomplish all of these tasks. There is another tool you can download to stop messenger spam. See the download page for known problems. Meet the masked man who will be you crusader against all the e-meannies. I have a spam program I use and Secretmaker caught most of the same things my spam program caught. The help file is well done and steps you through the process. The spam filter works with Mozilla mail without any set up though it doesn't

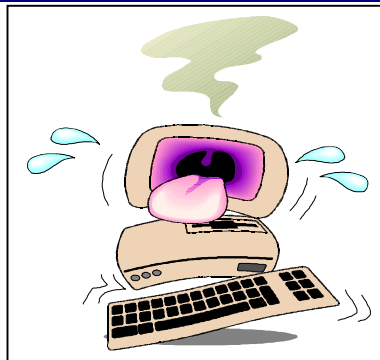
(CONTINUED PAGE 2)



**HAPPY
VALENTINE'S DAY**

include instructions on how to specifically set up the filters, although its possible to follow the instructions for the other mail clients (Outlook, The Bat!, and Eudora)and apply them to yours, if you_re comfortable. I checked and double-checked no ads, spyware, or any of that. The masked man walks the talk.

Lon



Continued from front page:

From The Langa List of January 28, "Novarg/MyDoom/MIMAIL Worm

Unless you've been under a rock, you know about the new worm that exploded around the world Monday afternoon. Almost all AV tools that use "heuristics" were able to detect and block this worm before formal definitions were released; and almost all the major AV vendors did have definition updates available within hours of the worm's appearance, anyway.

That, plus the fact that the worm relied on human help--- people had to click on an unknown email attachment to launch the worm--- should have meant that the worm went nowhere. Instead, it probably will end up as the most-widely distributed worm of all time. (Sigh.) I've gotten literally thousands of infected emails here, all of which were harmlessly filtered and discarded.

I won't beat a dead horse--- or a live worm: You can read about the worm, and how to recover from it if you're infected, at your favorite AV vendor's site, such as this: <http://langa.com/u/3h.htm> .

But beyond stating the obvious--- use an up-to-date AV tool, and never, ever, ever open any email attachment unless you know a priori that the contents are safe--- there's one noteworthy twist to this worm: It was apparently designed to take out SCO, as some kind of retaliation for SCO's anti-Linux lawsuits.

Computers infected with the "MyDoom" virus will begin to attempt to connect to the main page of the SCO company's website on Feb. 1. The connection requests will come roughly every second from each of the estimated thousands of machines that are now infected, in an attempt to overload SCO's Web server and knock the company's site off the Internet....

<http://www.wired.com/news/technology/0,1282,62058,00.html>

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The following is an article from "The Screen Savers" Show notes for February 2 with 10 tips of how to avoid the virus/worm problem.

Top 10 Ways to Fight Malicious Code

Author Ed Skoudis gives 10 easy tips for keeping your system safe from attacks.

By [Ed Skoudis](#)

On tonight's episode of "The Screen Savers" Ed Skoudis, author of "Malware: Fighting Malicious Code," shows you how to keep viruses, trojan horses, and spyware at bay.

Here's Skoudis' list of actions you can take to prevent attacks on your computer. Visit Skoudis' [Counter Hack Web Site](#) to learn more about thwarting computer attacks and to participate in monthly hacker challenges to test your skills.

Top 10 tips for fighting malware

1. Get an antivirus tool. No, really get one. Don't just say you will. Antivirus tools remain one of the easiest and most comprehensive defenses against malicious code. You can purchase a commercial antivirus tool such as [Norton AntiVirus](#), [Trend Micro PC-cillin](#), or [McAfee VirusScan](#). There are also free tools such as [AntiVir Personal Edition](#).

When you first install an antivirus tool, run a complete sweep of your hard drive. Remember to keep your antivirus software current by running its update feature at least once a week. Don't hesitate to update more frequently if you're prompted by the tool!

2. Get a personal firewall. Again, really do it -- don't just pretend. Personal firewall software blocks incoming attacks. It also stops malicious code installed on your system from communicating across the network and revealing your secrets.
3. Keep your systems patched. Believe it or not, [Windows Update](#) is your friend (if you run Windows). New Windows vulnerabilities are discovered almost every day. By visiting Windows Update once a week and making sure you've got all the critical updates, you'll be far safer from attack. It's remarkably easy to do.

Keep your browser security settings at Medium or even High. The Medium security setting contains dozens of tweaks that block common malware-propagation techniques. The High setting goes even further, but it may keep legitimate applets and active scripts from running on your machine.

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Never click 'Yes' when your browser asks if you want to install/run content from an organization you don't trust.

Watch out for organizations with tweaked names such as "Micro\$oft" and "Paypa1" -- they're just imposters. If your browser pops up a "Do you want to install and run..." message, be afraid. Be very afraid. If you click "Yes," you may be inviting someone to have the same control over your computer that you have. The stakes are high, so don't be duped. Just say "No."

- 5. Install an anti-spyware tool to augment your antivirus protection.**
To seek out and delete adware and spyware, it's a good idea to run software such as Lavasoft's free [Ad-aware](#). Be very careful, however. There are Ad-aware imposters that are spyware-installing trojan horses. Download Ad-aware from Lavasoft's site and nowhere else!
- 6. Don't install a search-help bar in your browser unless it's from someone you trust.**
Google and Yahoo! search-help bars are fine. Many of the other search helpers are just plain evil.
- 7. Check to see which companies' software certificates you're configured to trust.**
Your browser will run code from sites in your trusted list without warning you, so make sure you trust every company on your list. In Internet Explorer, go to Tools > Internet Options > Content > Publishers to see which companies are on your good list. Delete the companies you don't trust.
- 8. Get a credit card to use solely for Internet purchases.**
That way you can carefully watch all charges on that card. Also, if by chance someone nabs that card number from a vulnerable e-commerce site, your physical life won't be impacted. By law your maximum liability for a stolen credit card is \$50. Never, ever, ever use a debit card for purchases on the Internet. The maximum liability you could suffer for a stolen debit card is the entire balance of your account. Ouch!
- 9. Don't run executable email attachments, even if sent by a friend.**
Most worms today spread by infecting a machine and launching a mass email attack. You can stop that attack vector and protect your friends by not running attachments. If you get an attachment you really want to open, don't double-click it. Instead, download it (save the file to your hard drive) and then open it from within the appropriate application, such as Word for .doc files or Acrobat for .pdf files. Be especially careful not to execute .exe, .pif, or .scr files!

Originally posted February 5, 2004 , Until next month, Ed Freeman

**Accessories for that New Digital Camera,
Ira Wilsker.**

The national media

predicted that digital cameras sales will soar this holiday season and Ira lets us know about some items we should buy to enhance our digital camera experience: cases (don't practice the fine art of "buying cheap" and trusting a several-hundred dollar camera to a five dollar case), additional memory, photo editing software, printers and more.

Essentials for that New Computer, Ira Wilsker. Didn't get a digital camera? Well, according to preliminary sales figures, computers were among the most popular items purchased this holiday season. Almost all of the new computers straight from the box were most likely manufactured prior to the release of the latest security patches and will require the downloading and installation of all critical updates. Ira has a lot of tips & tricks for people who bought those new computers.

Inhuman Computers, Elizabeth R. Wright, Oklahoma City PCUG. Cars often take on the personality of the owner, much like pets do. Computers, on the other hand, have no soul, no compassion, and certainly no desire to please and cannot be humiliated by ridicule or strengthened by praise and most certainly don't respond to human reasoning. But your computer can be tricked ---- find out how in Elizabeth's article.

New Year's Computing Resolutions, Ira Wilsker. Important resolutions to make & keep regarding your computer --- whether you have a new one, an older model, or are getting ready to upgrade.

Online Information for the Elderly & the Disabled, Steve Rosenthal, Space Coast PC Users Group, Cocoa, Florida. Steve gives seniors, or those approaching senior-hood, a wealth of information that will enable them to find out important information about their benefits.

Take Rest Breaks, Exercise to Prevent Computer Ailments, Ken Fermoye. First published in 2000, Ken's article is full of suggestions on how to stay healthy while using your computer.

To Upgrade or Not to Upgrade!, Timothy Everingham, TUGNET. OK, you didn't get that new computer as a holiday present. Timothy asks whether it is nobler to upgrade the computer you have or to put aside the invested fortune of your current computer and get a new one. Happy Computing Judy, APCUG PUSH Editorial Committee

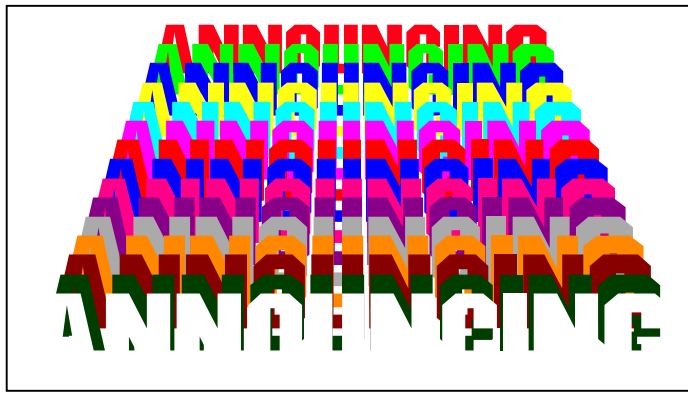
How to sell on E-Bay by John Van Olden

My wife and I love garage sales. I have one of those cars that automatically stop at garage sales signs. We also love to browse at flea markets and are unable to pass up bargains. Consequently we end up with a garage filled with "stuff". We use to sell at flea markets and hopefully for more than we paid. We lived in Alameda, there was a giant flea market and we made a nice profit. Then we moved to Honolulu and again we had two enormous flea markets or swap meets to sell our "treasures". Next, we moved to Kona, and to our chagrin, no flea markets. This where Ebay came entered the picture. We discovered the largest flea market right in our computer room. We have sold on Ebay for 6 years and have been extremely successful. I now consider myself an expert and I am more than willing to share my expertise with anybody who is interested. There is not enough room to explain all the details of how to sell on Ebay. Questions on how much it cost to list your item, how you get paid, etc., all of them important. I will just say that two of the most important things are very detailed and clear photos and an accurate description. If your item has a scratch or a nick, say so. With digital photography it is a snap to showcase your merchandise. Ebay has made it a lot easier to put your items on their auctions. It helps however to use some HTML code and this is very simple. You can write your description with msword for example, use colored text, bold face, etc., save it in HTML format and copy and paste it in your auction page description. I use frontpage, a web design program, but that is sort of advanced. There are dozens of tips I could tell you and if you are serious and interested, email John Van Olden beachdetct@aol.com I am always willing to help you make your fortune.

At the last meeting Ed briefly discussed the Electronic Publishing and the many books that are available on-line. I wrote a book, "Polynesian Dreams", that was published by an electronic publisher in the fall of 2000, (RFI WEST). As promised, I will make the book available to all members of the club. This will be in the form of a download. If you want a CD, email me and include a check for \$4.00 and your address, I will deliver it to your mailbox the same day I receive the order. You can also order the download from my publisher, but that is not free. (\$4.95) Anyway, email me if you want the free download, if you want a CD, my address is: John Van Olden, 27328 Prominence Road, Sun City, 92586-4108. The book's web site is: <http://www.amazingbook.com>

It contains read a sample chapter, see photos that are self-explanatory and go to the web site of my publisher. The book is rated for adult readers. No problem in Sun City. John Van Olden, email: beachdetct@aol.com

I also like to receive feedback re: the newsletter. Comment to Joannie, this is darn hard work.



Important Notice Re: February 24 meeting:

February 24 meeting will feature Lee Otsubo, "The Digital Camera Guy" and his program is "Digital Camera Knobs, Dials 7 Switches. What do they all do?" Lee is an accomplished speaker with a great sense of humor and has always presented interesting and useful information. We are lucky to get him again.

Art



Computer Club of Menifee Valley (CCMV)

"Friends Helping Friends"

The President Sez:



The Prez Sez:

March 2004

It is always nice to hear from someone who was a regular club member and then moved. Sandy Kandl was very involved in the Computer Club and even though she has been gone for several months, she still thinks kindly of us.

I received an e-mail from Sandy last week and she was recommending a very usefull web site that she thought our members would find helpful. The web address is www.belarc.com. They have a free download that will give you a look at your computer system and all the software. I downloaded it and ran the program. It gave me a lot of information about my system that is sometimes hard to find when you need it.

I saved the information to a file and will update it in the future as I add and remove software programs. This is a very impressive program and one I would recommend everybody download and use. No telling when you will need some of this information and this is a good way to be

Thanks to all the faithful volunteers:

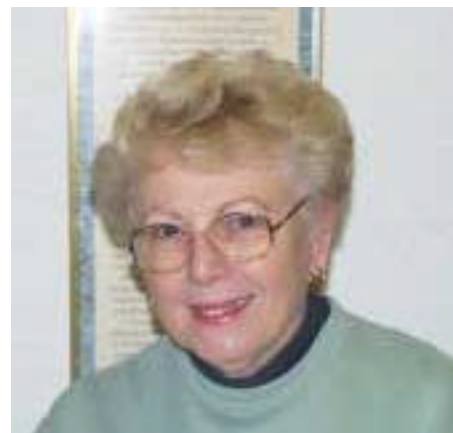
Let's give a heartfelt thanks to all those who So generously volunteer their services. Lon Whistler, always behind the shareware and Free-ware table. Dolores and George Metcalf, Dee Morris at the sign-in table. and Art True behind the cue card table.

There are others but I am the new kid on the block and as soon as I find out I will put you in front of my handy-dandy Olympus camera and snap your picture.

Dorothy Morris



Dolores Metcalf



continued next page

prepared.

I will do a general announcement of this at the next meeting as well. I was tempted to just say that the information was available in the newsletter, but considering the number of hands that stayed down when we asked for a show of hands of those who have visited the newsletter on our web site, I better give the full information at the club meeting.

See you at the meeting Tuesday March 9.

Ed Freeman

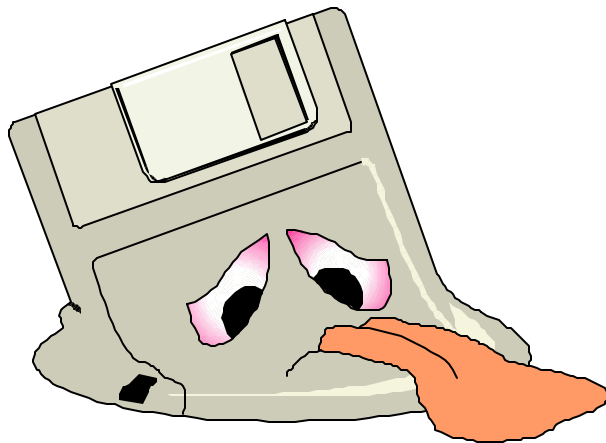
EVER NOTICE

by John Barbee

The older we get the more we are like computers.

We start out with lots of memory and drive, then we eventually become outdated, crash at odd moments, acquire errors in our systems and have to have our parts replaced.

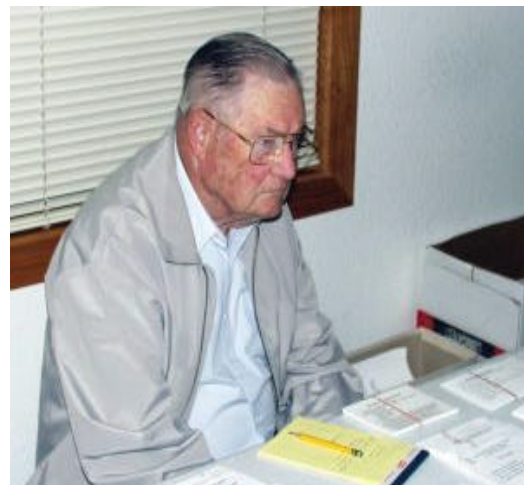
Be Happy



George Metcalf



Above: Lon Whister
Below: Art True



Photos by John Van Olden
Dutch@intergate.com

Dear User Group Member:

Smart Computing is devoted to the betterment of the user group community by supplying users with the most viable computing and technology information available and providing ongoing support for user group events. We know that user groups hold the knowledge, information, and interest needed for individuals to be successful in today's ever-changing world of technology, and we want to ensure this doesn't change. How? By delivering the information you need to improve your PC productivity. We hope you enjoy this edition of the Smart Computing User Group Newsletter.

Smart Computing Tips

As a member of the Smart Computing User Group Program, you are welcome to reprint these tips in your user group's newsletter. If you choose to do so, please include the following disclaimer with the reprint: "Reprinted with permission from Smart Computing. Visit <http://www.smartcomputing.com> to learn what Smart Computing can do for you and your user group!"

* **Email on the Go:** If you travel a lot, and you don't have a portable computer, consider using a browser-based e-mail service such as Hotmail or Yahoo! mail. Provided you remember your login ID and password, you can send and receive e-mail via any Web browser from any Internet connection in the world.

* **Copying Images:** If you're using Internet Explorer you can copy an image from a Web page and paste it into another application. To do this, right-click the image and choose Copy. Switch to the application and choose Edit, then Paste. If you're using Netscape or another browser, chances are you'll have to save the image onto your drive then open it in the other application.

* **Amazon.com:** Amazon.com now has a feature called Search Inside The Book. With it, you can search for any word or phrase inside a book and view the entire contents of more than 120,000 books. Point your browser toward the Amazon.com (<<http://www.amazon.com>>) Web site and conduct a search as you normally would. When the search results appear, look for paragraphs beginning with the words "Excerpt From" and followed by a link to a page number. Click that link to see a scanned image of that page. This process is even faster than thumbing through the books on your bookshelf. To use the feature, you must register with Amazon.com, but registration is free and definitely worth the effort.

* Smart Computing Articles

* As a member of the Smart Computing User Group Program, you are welcome to reprint these articles in your user group's newsletter. If you choose to do so, please include the following disclaimer with the reprint: "Reprinted with permission from Smart Computing. Visit <http://www.smartcomputing.com> to learn what Smart Computing can do for you and your user group!"

* **Squeeze Large Attachments Through Email** Featured as a web-only article on SmartComputing.com (February 2004 issue - Vol 15, Issue 2), this article shows you options for emailing large attachments. For example, we'll show you how to send numerous photos or several seconds of video that your internet service provider normally won't accept, or won't make it to the receiver's inbox due to lack of space. Visit <<http://www.smartcomputing.com/support/links.asp?id=777>> to read more.

*

* **What's Wrong With My CD-R?** From the February issue of Smart Computing (Vol 15 , Issue 2), find out why sessions are necessary and what you need to do to avoid the

problems other users have run into when they didn't properly close a session while using recordable optical drives. Visit

<<http://www.smartcomputing.com/support/links.asp?id=778>> to read more.

* Smart Computing User Group Program

* The Smart Computing User Group Program has been working with and supporting user groups across the country for years. Visit <http://www.smartcomputing.com/groups> to learn more about the program and what it can do for your group. If that's not enough, check out this list of great benefits!

* Earn free subscriptions for your group with our Buy 5 Get 1 Free program.

* A monthly newsletter with helpful articles and tips they can reproduce and share with group members.

* Complimentary issues upon request.

* Permission to reprint articles and tips upon request.

* Presentations available upon request, complete with free magazines and door prizes.

* Plus your group receives a link to your homepage from SmartComputing.com! Check out <<http://www.smartcomputing.com/groups/findagroup.asp>>. If your group isn't listed, register today!

As always, your comments and feedback are welcome. If you have any questions or if you would like to be removed from this distribution list, please email user-groups@smartcomputing.com.

Happy Computing,

Marcy Gunn
Smart Computing
User Group Program

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TOLD EITHER BY A SPEAKER AT A COMPUTER CLUB MEETING OR BY THE INSTALLATION PROGRAM OF A NEW PROGRAM YOU WOULD LIKE TO LOAD INTO YOUR DESK TOP P.C.:STOP ALL PROGRAMS BEFORE INSTALLATION - - IF YOU KNOW WHAT IS RUNNING - STOP HERE YOU ARE TOO SMART FOR THIS TRIVIAL ARTICLE -

- **IF LIKE ME YOU SAY - DUH?? - HOW THE HECK SHOULD I KNOW WHATS RUNNING - THEN READ ON:**

- **IF YOU JUST BOOTED UP YOUR PC FOLLOW THE FOLLOWING STEPS:**

1 PRESS :[CTRL - ALT - DEL] VERY CAREFULLY ONLY ONCE (IF MORE THAN ONCE YOU HAVE REBOOTED) AND YOU GET A RASBERRY

2 A MENUE TITLED :"Close Program" WILL SHOW A LIST OF ALL THE PROGRAMS THAT ARE RUNNING

3 ONE BY ONE HIGH LIGHT EACH PROGRAM TO BE ENDED EXCEPT PERHAPS EXPLORER AND SYSTRAY

4 SELECT THE "End Program" COMMAND AT THE BOTTOM OF THE MENUE DISPLAY AND LEFT CLICK TO END THAT PROGRAM

5 YOU MAY HAVE TO END PROGRAM TWICE TO GIVE IT THE FINAL AXE TO ITS ROOTS - DING HOW - RALPH RIEGE.

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Microsoft Word
Joannie Lenz
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Joannie@RainbowFlair.com

Newsletter
E-mail your articles, comments and suggestions
to:
dutch@intergate.com

Web Page Address
www.ccmv.net

Take a look and take the poll

Meeting Time and Place
2nd and 4th Tuesday
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Seventh-day Adventist Church
29885 Bradley Road
Sun City, CA

Department Leaders

Membership
Dee Morris

Material Distribution
Dorothy & George Metcalf
deewoodee@aol.com

Cue Card Production
Art True
artrue@aol.com

Cue Card Distribution
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&
Shirley Fryrear
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Shareware Distribution
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Contact John Van Olden
dutch@intergate.com

Newsletter Articles
E-mail your articles, comments and suggestions to:
dutch@intergate.com

Web Goddess
Joannie Lenz
joannie@RainbowFlair.com

Computer Instruction

Dean of Computer School
Ed Freeman
ebfreeman@aol.com

Registrar
Evelyn Rahn
Erahn@inland.net

Teachers & Assistants
Various CCMV Members

Sign Up for a Class TODAY!



April 2004 Vol. 10 #4

HAPPY EASTER

The Prez Says:.....



The following information was sent along by a club member with the idea that other club members might have use for a site like this. Take a look at the site and see what you think.

"We are firmly committed to making GIssearch.com the most used and useful military network on the Internet, and we need your help. Ours is a grassroots effort. If you like GIssearch.com, tell others about it and encourage them to register.

Please forward this email to everyone you know who might be interested in using GIssearch.com.

GIssearch.com is completely free and it's a great way to keep in touch or reconnect with lost friends.

You can visit us at <http://www.gisearch.com>.

Gisearch.com is a great tool for:
Service members
Retirees
Veterans
Honoring deceased service members, retirees and veterans
Honoring POW's and MIA's



Spouses of service members, retirees and veterans
Children of service members, retirees and veterans
Civilians searching for service members, retirees and veterans.

Anti-Spam Policy

Our goal is to provide a convenient environment in which current and former service members as well as their families and friends can reunite. GIssearch discourages spam because of its obtrusive nature. Please send this email out to only people you know that may be interested in GIssearch.

Any Questions?

If you have any questions about GIssearch, please email GIssearch at info@GIssearch.com."

The following is the latest from Kim Kommando's newsletter and has information and web address for sites that have the software available. Some of these we have mentioned in previous club meetings and I thought this would be a good addition to the newsletter to remind members of those sites and the others she mentions in the newsletter.

"Computer prices are so low, just about everyone can afford one.

The expensive part is stocking the computer with software.

Fortunately, there are many great free programs. They may have fewer features than their paid counterparts, but they often work as well.

Unfortunately, much free software contains adware. These programs track surfing habits and tailor ads to your interests. The publishers of the programs are paid to include the adware. The programs in this column do not include adware, according to their user agreements.

1. So let's start with the Internet. Threats there are serious and growing. But free software can put a wall around your computer. For instance, you simply must have a firewall. This makes your computer invisible to hackers' probes.

ZoneAlarm and Outpost provide basic protection for Internet users. First-time users should go with the default settings. Both are available for Windows 98SE, ME, 2000 and XP. In addition, Outpost is available for Windows 95 and 98. ZoneAlarm: <http://www.zonelabs.com>
Outpost: <http://www.agnitum.com>

2. A firewall cannot protect your computer from viruses or Trojan horses. For them, you need anti-virus software. AVG Anti-Virus by Grisoft scans your hard drive and e-mail. Virus definition updates are free as well. AVG Anti-Virus is available for Windows 95 and higher. AVG Anti-Virus: <http://www.grisoft.com>

3. You need software to scan for adware. In addition to tracking your surfing, these programs sometimes hijack your Internet home page.

Ad-aware and Spybot Search & Destroy are adware killers. Both programs

work on Windows 98, ME, 2000, NT and XP. Spybot Search & Destroy is also compatible with Windows 95. Ad-aware: <http://www.lavasoftusa.com/>
Spybot Search & Destroy: <http://www.safer-networking.org>

Now that your computer is safe for surfing, here are some programs to make your computing experience more enjoyable.

4. Pop-up ads are often delivered by adware. One of the best pop-up blockers is included on the Google Toolbar. It not only blocks pop-up ads; it also gives you numerous search options. It's available for Windows 95 and higher, for use with Internet Explorer 5.5 and higher. Google Toolbar: <http://toolbar.google.com>

5. If you chat with friends, you know how cluttered your desktop can get. It's not uncommon to have two or three instant messaging programs open at the same time.

Trillian Basic allows you to chat with AOL Instant Messenger, ICQ, IRC, MSN and Yahoo! users simultaneously. Trillian is for Windows 95 and higher. Trillian: <http://www.ceruleanstudios.com>

6. PowerToys are additional programs that extend the functionality of Windows. One of the most popular PowerToys is Tweak UI. With it, you can clear your Internet tracks, manipulate mouse functions, get rid of arrows on shortcut icons, and more. Tweak UI is available for Windows 95 and higher. PowerToys: <http://www.komando.com/bestshareware.asp#powertoys>

7. Microsoft's Outlook Express is a popular e-mail program. Outlook Express doesn't have a built-in spell checker.

It relies on the dictionary from Microsoft Word or Works.

If you don't own Word or Works, Spell Checker for OE can help. It's a stand-alone program and works on Windows 95 and higher. It requires Outlook Express 5 and higher.
Spell Checker:
<http://www.geocities.com/vampirefo>

8. Free software sometimes can substitute for expensive software. Office programs fall into the "expensive" category. Word processing and spreadsheet software can cost several hundred dollars.

You can open, create, and save Microsoft Word and Excel documents with 602PC Suite. It also comes with a basic photo editor and organizer. It's compatible with Windows 98 and higher.
602PC Suite: <http://www.software602.com>

In addition to adware, free programs often have other downsides. Documentation is sometimes sparse, so you may have to experiment to master them. Technical support is limited or non-existent. If there's a problem, you may be on your own." See you at the club: Ed

Lon's Freeware of The Month
lwhis@hotmail.com
Winpatrol

This neat little utility not only lets you see and disable start-up programs, but it also gives you quick access to the services and processes that are running. Of course, WinPatrol sets itself to load at start-up, but that's one icon I can live with.

Several people have asked about this program, so here it is.

.... Also.....

HijackThis

A general homepage hijackers detector and remover. HijackThis examines certain key areas of the Registry and Hard Drive and lists their contents. These are areas which are used

by both legitimate programmers and hijackers. It is continually updated to detect and remove new hijacks.

Note: HijackThis does not target specific programs/URLs, just the methods used by hijackers to force you onto their sites. As a result, false positives are imminent and unless you are sure what you're doing, you should always consult with knowledgeable folks (e.g. [the forums](#)) before deleting anything.

Lon's Freeware of The Month
lwhis@hotmail.com



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www.janos.net/seniorsource

Have you checked out the Senior Source web site? Many seniors have found it to be highly informative and financially beneficial.

Senior Source is created and maintained by Jim Richardson, a CCMV member. Shortly after moving to Sun City and assisting friends and neighbors with their computers, Jim became aware of the need to provide increased visibility and access to beneficial and supportive Internet sources specifically tailored for Seniors.

Utilizing sources such as the Librarians Index to the Internet (lii.org), the cyber atlas (now clickz.com/stats), AARP, the Administration on Aging (aoa.gov), the Economic Development Agency (eda.gov) and numerous search engines, Jim compiled a list of hundreds of web sites created for seniors. He then screened his collection for privacy, security and ease of use.

The Senior Source web page was then designed with a view toward providing an effective one-stop, Internet portal for new Seniors users. For example, Jim broke with established convention by building his web pages in 8 ½ by 11" size to simplify printing of the information presented. This enabled new Senior users to easily print a copy of the information and pass it on to friends and neighbors without having to branch or click away to a printable page.

The Senior Source web site features a favorite web site on the home page, easily links to a list of favorites and contains a frequently asked questions (FAQ) section with links to on-line sources.

Seniors are invited to use the email contact link and submit their questions regarding the myriad Internet sources available on the World Wide Web. Jim has provided visitors with Internet source information on wide variety of topics ranging from "Where can I find a free sample of my family coat of arms?" to "Are there any local programs to help Seniors on fixed incomes with housing repair?"

Jim is always seeking additional Internet sources to include in the Senior Source web pages. So, if you have a favorite web site that you believe would be of interest to Seniors, you are invited to email Jim at seniorsource@msn.com with the information.

If you are looking for specific information on a topic of interest to seniors, email Senior Source with your question and Jim will respond with at least one Internet source as soon as time allows.

Not surprisingly, Jim is now searching for information on effective time management. If you have any suggestions, Jim anxiously awaits your input.

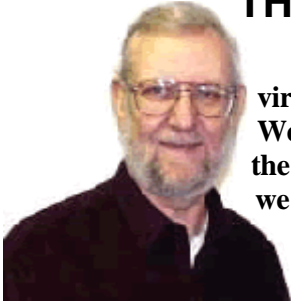
Browse by and check out the Senior Source web pages. The site is hosted (free of charge) by LOG-ON Internet Café, a Cyber Service Center located in Palm Springs. (what some people won't do for a tax break!) Hence, the unusual web site address.

www.janos.net/seniorsource

By the way, Jim says he is currently working with Leslie Covey at the Kay Cenicerros Community Center to provide a presentation on "Seniors and The Internet." Check the Kay Cenicerros FOCUS newsletter's forthcoming issues for scheduling and sign-up information.



THE PREZ SEZ...



Well with Dutch down with virus's (that don't look right) and the Web Goddess gallivanting all over the country, no May news letter. But we will make up for it in June with whole bunches of interesting and cost saving items.

I continue to be amazed at the advances being made in the "Consumer Electronics" field. Cell phones that let you connect to the internet and get you e-mail, take pictures and send them to all your friends. That phone-picture business has a whole bunch of possibilities. Just let your imagination loose for a few minutes and you will be amazed at the ramifications.

Toshiba just announced a 2 to 4GB hard drive that is one

(Continued on page 2)

Lon's Freeware of The Month



by Lon Whistler,

whis@hotmail.com

USER GROUP DISCOUNTS

At the May 25 meeting there were several companies mentioned that give user group members discounts on software. The web addresses were listed and code numbers to use if a purchase was made. Here is the information to take advantage of these offers in case you did not get the information you wanted about a particular item.

Thanks to Sherry Zorzi for this freebie from Microsoft. She found it on one of the Cajun Clickers' discussion lists.

Microsoft is running a special at <http://msdn.microsoft.com/vstudio> for Visual Basic .NET. Click on Visual Basic at the Movies. All you do is view and rate five short vb.net programming movies (5-6 minutes each). Then sign up to receive your redemption code email entitling you to a complimentary Not-For-Resale copy of Visual Basic .NET 2003 Standard Edition.

In true studio fashion, MS is releasing two categories each week, so check back often to catch the latest releases. Grab your popcorn and soda, sit back and enjoy!

The fine print ... This offer is valid in the 50 United States, the District of Columbia, all U.S. military bases that contain valid APO/FPO addresses, and Canada. Please allow 4 - 6 weeks for shipment. Offer good only while supplies last, or until September 30th 2004.

(Continued on page 3)

Web Washer Classic

This utility filters unwanted ads, crushes cookies, and prevents companies from profiling your surfing habits. You can eliminate pop-up windows, banner ads, and the new, larger "skyscrapers" and "rectangles" that increase the time it takes to view Web pages. You're

(Continued on page 2)

MORE USER GROUP DISCOUNTS

It is always a pleasure to hear from Gene Barlow. Gene and his wife were regular (annual) presenters the CCMV. Gene always had some interesting information about how computers work and especially detailed information about hard drives. Although the whole scene of company presentations has changed, Gene is still a strong supporter of users groups and indicated in the following article that he will be sending out similar items in the future. The two pieces of software mentioned at the end would be good additions to your security



(Continued on page 3)



Quick Tip - Undo Shortcut

CTRL-Z

CTRL-Z is normally used in word processing documents, but it also works just about anywhere in windows. Let's say you accidentally drag an icon to your desktop and really wish you had it to do over. Well, hit CTRL-Z and the icon vacates your desktop and jumps back to wherever it was before. Try it!

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Web Page Address
www.ccmv.net

Take a look and take the poll

Meeting Time and Place
2nd and 4th Tuesday
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Seventh-day Adventist Church
29885 Bradley Road
Sun City, CA

THE PREZ SEZ...

(Continued from page 1)

inch square. Should be on the market late 2004. Plans are to use it to expand the capabilities of digital cameras and PDA's.

There is some strong indication that a new broad band standard is just around the corner for wireless use of all kinds of connections' computers, tv's, sound systems, etc., etc., etc. These items can all communicate with out being connected by wires. Not only that, but they will be fast, fast, fast

The really mind blowing part of this is that computers continue to drive tech advances at and astounding rate. The old bit about buy it and by the time you get it home it is outdated still seems to be operating. I guess that's what makes it so much fun.

Ed Freeman

Lon's Freeware of The Month

(Continued from page 1)

even protected from Web bugs, invisible graphics hidden in documents that trigger the sending of messages to third parties. With the cookie filter, you can classify cookies as good, bad, or neutral so that you can keep the ones you need (such as for home shopping), while classifying the ones that spy on you. And the included SecretMaker software sends phantom data in place of personal information and surfing habits.

A picture is worth a thousand words, but it uses up a thousand times the memory.

Computer Classes

Looking to get the most out of your computer? Then CCMV Computer classes are for you. Whether learning for the first time, or brushing up on tips and tricks you may have forgotten, Computer classes are the best way to do it.

Been computing for awhile and want to share what you've learned? Become a trainer or assistant. Contact our Dean, Ed Freeman for more information.
ebfreeman@aol.com

There will be a few summer classes running. Now's the time to sign up for our fall semester.

You can sign up at the back table at the next CCMV meeting, at the Kay Cenicerros Community Center front desk or contact the Registrar, Evelyn Rahn, to sign up at:
erahn@inland.net

Classes are first come, first served so get your reservation in early!

Evening Classes By Joannie

Joannie's new Class schedule is out. Classes will be running throughout the summer months. Each class is two evenings and runs from 5:00 PM-8:30 PM, on Tuesday & Thursday. Find complete schedule and class outlines at: www.ByJoannie.com.

Intermediate Word-June 8th & 10th

Intermediate Excel-June 22nd & 24th

Basic Outlook-July 13th

Basic PowerPoint- July 27th & 29th

Basic Word-August 10th & 12th

Basic Excel- August 24th & 26th

Register online at:

www.ByJoannie.com or call (909) 301-6226.

User Group Disc.

(Continued from page 1)

PC Annoyances for under \$8.00!!

This one is from Steve Bass, PC World columnist, retired president of the Pasadena IBM User Group and author. Amazon.com has his book, PC Annoyances, for the amazing low price of \$7.98. Here's your chance to buy it for dirt cheap - actually, for less than wholesale. Take advantage of this great price for a gift - or for yourself.

In fact, if you want to impress a friend, say you know Steve (well, you do, sort of...) and he'll send you a free signed, self-adhering bookplate label that goes into the book. He'll even add a personal note to you or your buddy.

Send Steve an e-mail at stevebass@earthlink.net and let him know how many bookplates you need!

StompSoft, here in southern California, is new to User Groups. They have offered UGs a deep discount on their software and will provide review software on request. Please get those reviews back to StompSoft within 90 days. They are not making presentations to UGs but are interested in putting a couple of PIABs together for us. More on that as it develops. I asked Mike if there was a timeframe for the discount and he said, no. Our code is UG0504. They only ship to the US and Canada. Visit their site www.stompsoft.com to see the comparison charts between their software and

other vendors.

Please send your requests for the discounted software to:
Mike Moriarty
mikem@stompsoft.com

Spyware X-terminator: part number 03010. Retail \$29.99, our cost \$18.00
Virus X-terminator: part number 03030. Retail \$39.99, our cost \$24.00
Firewall X-treme: Part Number 03050. Retail \$39.99, our cost \$24.00
BackUp MyPC: part number 03004. Retail \$79.99, our cost \$34.00

New in mid-June Parental Control X-treme: part number 03040. Retail \$39.99, our cost \$24.00
Span X-terminator: part number 03020. Retail \$29.99, our cost \$18.00

Do you work with lots of images and video files? Need to create thumbnails, resize images or convert them into different formats?

Media Resizer offers you a 30% discount for the professional version of the advanced thumbnail creator, Media Resizer! This program allows you to create thumbnails from any picture or video file and resize them. You can add cool borders, image or text watermarks, beautiful styles and more. You can check out the reviews by Lockergnome and CNet on the Media Resizer webpage www.mediaresizer.com

Please download Media Resizer PRO using this link: http://www.mediaresizer.com/download/MediaResizerPRO_setup.EXE

Your discount coupon is MEDI-SVO1 <http://www.mediaresizer.com/order.htm>

The program is distributed electronically over the Internet. A free 15-day trial version is available at <http://www.mediaresizer.com/>. Retail price of a single copy is \$79; volume buyers and software resellers should inquire about special prices.

If you have additional questions or would like to request an editor's copy, please contact Anton Branchuk at anton@sibental.com

=====

GhostSurf Pro (\$29.95 - 25% discount) allows users to take control of their personal information online - it searches for spyware applications, can clean computers of recent files and "Internet tracks" so other users of the computer can't tell which websites have been visited, blocks ISPs from watching their customers, and it blocks all types of advertisements. Find out more about the software at www.tenebril.com. To order GhostSurf Pro, call 888.781.1162 and use Promo Code 112630.

=====

MailWasher Pro, US \$29.95 - a saving of \$8.00. MailWasher Pro is the ultimate solution to getting rid of spam and unwanted email. It's easy to use and very effective. Over 3 million downloads! For more information about MailWasher Pro and to order your copy, visit www.firetrust.com. Use code GTUGAD. This code expires on May 31.

Happy computing! Ed Freeman

MORE UG Disc.

(Continued from page 1)

software collection. Here's Gene.

Deleting Information from Hard Drives By Gene Barlow User Group Relations Copyrighted May 2004

The early hard drives on mainframe computers were not considered very reliable. Information stored on these early devices would often not record properly or may become contaminated easily. Programmers using these drives would write the data in two separate locations on the drive. Then, when the data was needed later, it would be read from both locations and compared in memory to make sure it was still the same. If differences were detected, then the program could not continue until the data was corrected and rewritten to the hard drive.

As technology advanced, special mathematical checking codes were stored with the data that could detect if the information retrieved from a hard drive was still valid. These codes eliminated the need to record the data twice, but did nothing to clean up any errors found. It wasn't long before more sophisticated checking codes were introduced that could not only detect errors, but would also actually correct most single and double character errors. Still, the recording of information on hard drives was not considered real reliable and frequent backup copies of the drives were necessary.

(Continued on page 4)

MORE UG Disc

(Continued from page 3)

When the IBM PC was introduced with hard drives, the designers of these drives were still very concerned about loosing data on these devices. So, everything was done to make sure the data written to the drive remained on the hard drive and could not be accidentally deleted or lost. Today, it is almost impossible to permanently delete information, once it is written to a hard drive. Who would have thought that this retention of information would become a problem for computer users?

In today's world, privacy and security of information are major concerns. Identity theft is a major problem that we all face. With just a few pieces of information about us, dishonest individuals can steal large sums of money from us and ruin our credit ratings. At the same time, computers and the internet have made information much more widely available not only to us, but to these dishonest individuals. Unless we are careful, our private information can get into the hands of these dishonest individuals and they will certainly take advantage of the situation.

Recent studies have shown that hard drives on PCs contain a wealth of private information that most users thought they had removed from the drive months or years earlier. What these users do not understand is that simply deleting a file from the hard drive does not permanently remove it from the drive. In fact, all that deleting a file does is to flag that file space for future reuse. It may be years before that space is reused with another file or it may never be reused. So, the deleted information remains on the hard drive, hidden from the user, but still there. Dishonest individuals using commonly available software can find and access all of these deleted files.

Users that are knowledgeable enough to know that deleted files remain on the hard drive are often surprised to learn that formatting the hard drive does not get rid of these deleted files either. All the formatting function does is to create a few tables at the beginning of the partition. The deleted information on the hard drive is not removed or changed

during a format. Operations such as defragging a hard drive only cause your private information to be copied and spread across the entire hard drive. So, how can you permanently remove private information once it is written to a hard drive?

The only effective way to permanently remove information from a hard drive is to write blanks or zeros over the top of the deleted information. This obliterates the information that was written there earlier. To do this, special hard drive wiping utilities must be used. Two of the best hard drive wiping utilities were developed by WhiteCanyon Software. I have come to know and rely on these excellent products. One or both of them could make your job of keeping your hard drive clean of hidden private or personal information easy to do.

The first of these two products is called WipeDrive. This is the bulldozer of the two products. When you use it to wipe your hard drive, it starts at the beginning of the drive and writes blanks on top of everything on the drive. It continues to wipe the drive until it reaches the end of the hard drive. When it is done, the entire drive is totally clean and empty. Nothing remains on the hard drive that a dishonest person could see or use against you. Everyone should use this utility before they sell or give their old computer or hard drive away. Otherwise, you are giving away all of your private information with your old computer. WipeDrive boots from a diskette or CD and can wipe all PC type hard drives. WipeDrive sells for up to \$45 in computer stores, but user group members can obtain a copy from our User Group Store for just \$24.

The second of these two products is called SecureClean. This is more like a vacuum cleaner, than a bulldozer. It vacuums the dirt out of the carpet, but does not knock over the furniture or the walls. In other words, it can clean the deleted information off your hard drive, but does not disturb the actively used files on the drive. The selective ability of SecureClean to wipe your hard drive, but not disturbing your current files, makes it the ideal tool to use on your current

(Continued on page 5)



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Various CCMV Members

Sign Up for a Class TODAY!

MORE UG Disc

(Continued from page 4)

hard drives to keep them clean of deleted information. I recommend that you run SecureClean about once a month on your computer to permanently wipe over all deleted information on the drive.

Packaged with SecureClean is a bonus utility called SecureScan. This product will scan your hard drive and show you all of the deleted information that is hidden on the drive. You will be surprised at what you'll find still on your hard drive. You may find personal files that you deleted months or years ago that are still on the drive. You may even find some files that were accidentally deleted and you thought they were forever lost. If a deleted file is still complete, SecureScan can even bring this file back to life and make it available again on your hard drive. This undelete function of SecureScan is not the main purpose of this program, but a nice additional feature that you may want to use. SecureClean and SecureScan install on any Windows operating system. SecureClean sells for \$40, but user group members can obtain a copy from our User Group Store for just \$24. Buy both WipeDrive and SecureClean/Scan for just \$39, a \$60 value.

To order either or both of these excellent hard drive wiping utilities, go to the User Group Store at <http://www.usergroupstore.com>. (or <http://www.ugr.com/store>) You can read more about these two products in the security department of the store. Click on any of

the Buy Now buttons to get to our secure web order form. Complete the form including the special code of UGWCM04. You will be given the chance to verify and correct your order before it is submitted. Once you submit it, we will receive it shortly and normally we ship all orders the following morning. You should have your products in just a few days. While you are at the User Group Store, check out the many other products we offer, all at great user group discounts.

Preventing personal and private information from building up on your hard drive is important for all of us to do. Get the tools you need to keep your drive clean today. If you have any questions about these products or this technical newsletter, please contact me at gene@ugr.com. I look forward to helping you.

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This is one of a series of monthly technical articles that I plan to distribute on a regular basis in the coming months. Watch for them and learn more about your computer and its hard drive. 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.

Computers and Cars

For all of us who feel only the deepest love and affection for the way computers have enhanced our lives, read on.

At a recent computer expo (COMDEX), Bill Gates reportedly compared the computer industry with the auto industry and stated, "If GM had kept up with technology like the computer industry has, we would all be driving \$25.00 cars that got 1,000 miles to the gallon."

In response to Bill's comments, General Motors issued a press release stating: If GM had developed technology like Microsoft, we would all be driving cars with the following characteristics:

1. For no reason whatsoever, your car would crash twice a day.
2. Every time they repainted the lines in the road, you would have to buy a new car.
3. Occasionally your car would die on the freeway for no reason. You would have to pull to the side of the road, close all of the windows, shut off the car, restart it, and reopen the windows before you could continue. For some reason you would simply accept this.
4. Occasionally, executing a maneuver such as a left turn would

Computers and Cars

(Continued...)

cause your car to shut down and refuse to restart, in which case you would have to reinstall the engine.

5. Macintosh would make a car that was powered by the sun, was reliable, five times as fast and twice as easy to drive - but would run on only five percent of the roads.

6. The oil, water temperature, and alternator warning lights would all be replaced by a single "This Car Has Performed An Illegal Operation" warning light.

7. The airbag system would ask "Are you sure?" before deploying.

8. Occasionally, for no reason whatsoever, your car would lock you out and refuse to let you in until you simultaneously lifted the door handle, turned the key and grabbed hold of the radio antenna.

9. Every time a new car was introduced car buyers would have to learn how to drive all over again because none of the controls would operate in the same manner as the old car.

10. You'd have to press the "Start" button to turn the engine off.





Computer Club of Menifee Valley
(CCMV)

"Friends Helping Friends"



Member of
The Association of
Personal Computer User Groups



The Prez Sez:

Well! **THIS** is different! How'd I get here??? It will probably take a few months for me to get into the swing of things, so I know y'all will "help the new guy" along with all my mistakes and MANY questions. I figure I can't mess things up TOO badly before October, so let's give it a try.

As most of you know, our President, Ed Freeman is moseying along to Arizona, and that is leaving a HUGE hole at CCMV. We'll never be able to replace Ed, but a lot of members have stepped up to the plate and will be filling in some of the gaps. Ed, we all will miss your leadership and most of all your friendship. We hope you'll keep in touch and keep us up-to-date on what's happening with you. **BEST OF LUCK in your new home!!**

A big thank you to the CCMV Board, for their confidence in me to try to fill in for Ed as Interim President (or Interim Exalted Ruler as I would prefer to be called... (hehe).

I will also be acting Dean of the Computer Lab, helping to organize the class schedules and such. Art True will be backing me up, with my Prez duties to be sure everything gets done, and the rest of your Board has also offered their help and support. Jim Richardson has agreed to be our Lab Technician, keeping the lab in tip top running order. (Thanks Jim!) I am counting on the rest of our membership (that's **YOU**) to also pitch in to get the many things necessary to run this club done. I know it LOOKS easy, but that's only because of all of the dedicated members who help every meeting day to make things run smoothly. **THANK YOU!!**

CCMV news...

Lab to get a face lift. Beginning (we think) in July, the Kay Cenicerros Community Center, location of our Computer Lab, will be undergoing some extensive remodeling. A new paint job looks to be in store for our lab. This means we will have to move all of the equipment out of the lab and it will be closed down for at least a week. They are hoping all the dust will settle by the end of September, but this may affect the start of our Fall Class Schedule. We'll keep you updated as information becomes available.

In Computer news...

Microsoft Corp. plans to make its much-anticipated foray into the high-stakes battle for computer users searching for information online, posing a new challenge to Google Inc. and Yahoo Inc., the two dominant search engine companies.

Court Limits Privacy of E-Mail - A company that provides e-mail service has the right to copy and read any message bound for its customers, a federal appeals court panel has ruled in a decision that could expand e-mail monitoring by businesses and the government.

Have a wonderful month!



A note from the editor:

Unfortunately I have been absent the last four meetings. I had a family emergency (worked out well) and went on two trips for family outings. One was my granddaughter's appearance at the stage of The Flamingo in Las Vegas with her modern dance studio in the National Competition. They finished second in her age group (7). I will try to be at more meetings but please email your contributions to: dutch@intergate.com

Art True Writes:

Spam detection software, running on the system "mail.trip.net", has identified this incoming email as possible spam. The original message has been attached to this so you can view it (if it isn't spam) or block similar future email. If you have any questions, see the administrator of that system for details.

Lon's freeware of The month

lwhis@hotmail.com

a2 free [3.01M] Win9x/2k/XP FREE

If you haven't had spyware bite you yet, be prepared: it will happen. There are so many variations of spyware, trojans, worms, etc., floating around on the Internet, and they're all multiplying like rabbits. This stuff can cause problems that are obvious to you, but in many cases, the effects are unseen at first. You've probably used programs such as Spybot - Search & Destroy and Ad-Aware to clean out this junk in the past. A new program called a2 (a-squared) will also help you get rid of the baddies. The software is useful in identifying and removing the previously mentioned problems. You can have it search in specific folders, or the entire drive. When the scan starts, it runs a process memory scan to see if there is any garbage in all of your running programs and services. An integrated update component helps you to stay ahead of the game. The program seemed to do very well at finding and eradicating known problems. While this free version does not include the background guard and analysis tools of its big brother, it's still a worthy tool. If spyware seems to bite you on a regular basis, bite back with a2.

Volunteers

CCMV is always looking for volunteers! If you are sitting there with an hour a month to spare, WE NEED YOU!

- If you like to read the newspaper, perhaps you would consider writing some **publicity** articles for us, and keeping our current bulletin information current.
- If you do a lot of researching on the internet, maybe you would like to share what you find and have a column in our **newsletter**.
- If you have experience in **teaching**, or would like to learn how, think about sharing your knowledge and skills in our Computer Lab by being a trainer or class assistant.
- If you have an expertise, consider sharing that with the rest of our group by doing a presentation.
- Looking for a **Special Interest Group** we don't currently have? Starting one is EASY! Let us know your interest and we'll put you together with other members with the same interests.

Contact Joannie at Joannie@RainbowFlair.com or 301-6226 if you are interested.

Sharing what you know helps everyone to grow. Be a CCMV Volunteer!

~~~~~

### **Nominating Committee Needed**

We need to begin putting together a Nominating Committee for upcoming elections. If you are interested in serving on this committee, OR, interested in filling a position on the Board, contact Joannie at [Joannie@RainbowFlair.com](mailto:Joannie@RainbowFlair.com) or 301-6226.

~~~~~

In Search Of:

The Club is in need of a four-drawer filing cabinet with lock for our computer lab. If anyone has one they no longer need, please contact Joannie ASAP. Joannie@RainbowFlair.com or 301-6226.

~~~~~

### **Area Code Changes in Western Riverside County**

As you are probably aware, just days from now on July 17, 2004, the California Public Utilities Commission is changing our area code from 909 to 951. This will affect western Riverside County.

For more information, a map of the areas included and the codes affected, go to: <http://www.rainbowflair.com/areacode.pdf>

HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY





## THE PREZ SEZ...

Welcome to Autumn! Vacations are winding down and it's time to begin settling in for the winter. Back home I'd be canning applesauce, pickles and tomatoes. Here in California, I'm looking forward to many of my groups that were dark over the summer months

to begin again. There are so many groups making things happen in our area. We are truly lucky to have such wonderful people who care about others. Our classes will be beginning this month. Details are still being finalized for them. Our fundraiser from the Valley News began at our last meeting. If you didn't get information on that, you will find it in this newsletter. We hope you can help. We have a nominating committee for our upcoming elections and it's just a wonderful day in CCMV land!

*(Continued on page 2)*

## How and when to enable Windows XP's firewall

by Linda Gonse, Editor, Orange County IBM Users' Group, California  
downloaded at: <http://www.apcug.net>

Most users are aware of a need for an antivirus program and a firewall in order to be protected from regular, daily Internet threats.

What some may not know is that Windows XP has a built-in firewall. While it lacks the bells and whistles of a full version firewall, such as Norton or Zone Alarm, it is still useful.

You can enable it by going to Control Panel and clicking on the Network Connection icon. In the Connections window, right click on the name of your connection and click on Properties in the drop-down menu. Click on the Advanced tab. Check the box next to "Protect my computer and network by limiting or preventing access to this computer from the Internet." Then, click OK.

Follow these steps each time you wish to enable

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Lon's Freeware of The Month



by Lon Whistler,  
[whis@hotmail.com](mailto:whis@hotmail.com)

### Web Washer Classic

ScrubXP cleans your computer from temporary files and registry keys resulting from opening files and or using the Internet. It removes IE history, temporary files, cookies, and your documents list from your Start Menu. It also empties your Recycle Bin and clears Auto Complete Entries. Finally, it clears recent file lists that

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Hardware Review: Logitech Pocket Digital Camera

By Bruce Pechman, The Musclemann of Technology<sup>SM</sup>  
[www.mrbicep.com](http://www.mrbicep.com)

Did you ever want to be just like James Bond? Sure, we all did—but although you can't quite have 007's persona, you can have the camera Bond probably would've carried in his pocket all the time.



*(Continued on page 3)*



## Quick Tip - Grouping Similar Taskbar Buttons in Windows XP

When you open more than one document in the same program and then minimize each document, rather than showing separate icons on the taskbar for each document, WindowsXP groups them under a single icon for that application. If you want to group, or ungroup, similar taskbar buttons,

1. Right click on the Taskbar
2. Select *Properties*
3. Check or Uncheck *Group similar taskbar buttons*



## XP's firewall

(Continued from page 1)

the firewall for other Internet connections on your computer.

But, before enabling XP's firewall, you should be aware of these points:

It must not be used through software or hardware routers. It only works on incoming Internet traffic, not outgoing traffic from spy-ware, Trojan viruses, or hacker tools.

On local area networks (LANs) with other computers, it will block File and Printer Sharing.

It can be turned on or off for each of your dial-ups, LAN, or high-speed Internet connections.

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



## Quick Tip - Using the Wheel Mouse to Control the Font Size

Try using the Control key with the mouse wheel. This works a zoom function.

I know you do this for Office 2k apps as well, but in IE it just works on the text, so the page stays somewhat the same.

## Great News for you... Great Profits for CCMV

The Valley News is offering to CCMV the opportunity to make some money, AND get great news in the process. For each \$20 subscription, CCMV will receive \$5!! You will receive 1 year of the weekly published Valley News **AND** the Los Angeles Times Weekend Edition at no additional cost.

To subscribe, fill out the **SPECIAL** form below and either mail to the address on the form OR bring to a meeting in September. Additional subscription forms will be available at the meeting or by contacting Joannie Lenz at joannie@RainbowFlair.com.

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## Digital Camera

(Continued from page 1)

The Logitech Pocket Digital Camera is your ticket of entry into the bottomless world of hi-tech espionage and clandestine activities. Sorry, I just get so carried away glancing over at the credit-card sized camera; it makes me daydream about Spy School enrollment and how I could have the camera surgically implanted in my bicep.

So much for introductions; let's get into the details of Logitech's diminutive super cool camera. The brushed aluminum exterior adds to the camera's sleek appeal. Grab a business card out of your wallet. Take a good look at it—because the 1.8 oz camera is just about the same size (2.25" x 3.5"). This is about the easiest digital camera you will ever use. No focusing is required and it contains only two buttons on the back of the camera. One button is for toggling the resolution from 640x480 to the higher 1280x960 (1.3 megapixels interpolated). The second button is the self-timer and sound control. Also on the back, you will find a small monochrome

(Continued on page 4)

## Digital Camera

*(Continued from page 3)*

LCD display that is most useful for letting you know remaining picture count and battery status.

To take a snap, just slide the stealthy camera body open and press the shutter. Are you ready to talk about cool technology? OK, the Logitech Pocket Digital Camera includes a built-in Rechargeable Lithium-Polymer Battery (you never have to replace it). The battery will get you through well over a hundred pictures before needing a charge. The battery is automatically charged while downloading your shots with the included USB cable. Another neat technology incorporated into the camera is something called "Autobrite" by SMaL Camera Technologies ([www.smallcamera.com](http://www.smallcamera.com)). Autobrite solves a shortcoming many digital cameras have interpreting varying light levels. It accomplishes this by extending the dynamic range of a scene and customizing it based on specific lighting conditions. In a nutshell, this means it compensates for overly bright or dim lighting situations to give you the most detail in your shot (I read the tech brief).

The Logitech Pocket Digital Camera includes 16MB of built-in memory which will yield about 52 pictures. Included on the equally cute miniature 3 inch CD are the drivers and MGI's Photosuite 4 SE imaging application. This quality built camera is backed by Logitech's two year warranty! Performance is best in bright lighting conditions. Memory is not expandable, there's no included flash, and no color preview LCD

screen. Considering this is a unique ultra-sleek camera designed to fit in your pocket and take spontaneous pictures for \$99 MSRP, I don't consider these missing particulars a deficiency. However, the Pocket Digital camera should not be compared to a 2 or 3 megapixel full-feature digital camera as those pictures will clearly be better quality.

This svelte camera would make a welcome gift for anybody—parents, teens, or especially yourself. Let me tell you what happened to me at the mall yesterday. I saw this fine looking creature sauntering down food court. So I check her out. She gives me this vague stare back and quips, "Take a picture...it lasts longer." So, I whip out the Logitech Pocket Digital Camera and say "OK, could you move over there? The sunlight is perfect!" To learn more about this camera or any of Logitech's other quality products, visit [www.logitech.com](http://www.logitech.com).

The system requirements are at least a PII running at 400MHz with 64MB RAM. It runs under Windows 98, 98SE, Win ME, Win XP, or 2000. You will need 75MB of free HD space, CD-ROM drive, and available USB port.

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

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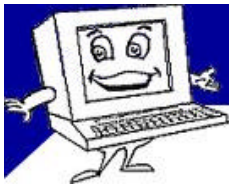
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*Teachers & Assistants*  
Various CCMV Members

**Sign Up for a Class TODAY!**



## THE PREZ SEZ...



Well, another very busy month has past. Classes seem to be going well and there are several students becoming more aware of the power of their computers.

The annual APCUG Conference will be January 3rd-6th of 2005. Anyone interested in attending can get more information on their website at: [http://www.apcug.net/Events/fall\\_2004\\_preview.htm](http://www.apcug.net/Events/fall_2004_preview.htm). It sounds like a great time. Ed Freeman, our past president will be attending so anyone that wants to go can hook up with him. Don't forget to bring back a report for CCMV!

As you will see in this newsletter, I have had a great response from some of our members from my request for newsletter articles. **Keep them coming!** We still need an editor. It's really not that hard to do, I just am having a hard

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Genealogy Club of Sun City

Are you using your computer to search for ancestors or put a few more twigs on your family tree? There are additional ways to do genealogy research. Perhaps you've missed a few.

The Genealogy Club of Sun City can help you find those missing facts, help you get through that brick wall. They meet on the second Monday of each month at 1:00 p.m. in the Community Room of the Provident Bank in Sun City. That is located at Cherry Hills Blvd. and Sun City Blvd. Guest speakers and experienced club members offer assistance in all phases of genealogy research and record keeping. Guests are welcome.

On the fourth Monday of each month, club members attend a workshop at their genealogy library. With many resources at hand, members help one another discover long-hidden data.

For more information, e-mail Linda Arnold: [LRFArnold@AOL.com](mailto:LRFArnold@AOL.com), or phone her at 951/301-9814.

## My Thoughts Regarding the Recent SWUG Conference

by Larry Nelson

This is the fourth time I've attended the conference, and I was somewhat disappointed in it this time. First of all, the Workshops leave a lot to be desired. They have the same ones year after year with just a few new ones to give you something to go to. The two workshops that I thought were worthwhile were Printer Cartridge refills by Cynthia Hunter from the Ink Dot Co. and how to give an effective Presentation in a Box with Judy Taylour. Most of the meals were good and the presentations given by the host vendors were great.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## The "Day of Infamy," Dec.7, 1941

By Frank Verano

I write here not to cover my personal experience at Pearl Harbor but to talk about the macro picture of that event

We witnessed a similar event on '9-11'. Both events were watershed events in American History, and perhaps in World History. Although I was only a 'kid' of 21 years, I did have some sense of the importance of the attack on Pearl Harbor. My immediate thoughts were that 'we are at war with Japan'. That was not a profound thought. And not a particularly 'macro' thought either. My macho thought along was that I would not shave again

*(Continued on page 3)*



## REMINDER ...

**CCMV will have ONE MEETING ONLY in November & December because of the holidays.**

CCMV will be meeting on the second Tuesday of the month only in November & December. We will return to our regular schedule of two meetings per month in January. For updated information visit the website at: [www.CCMV.net](http://www.CCMV.net).



## Aging with Dignity

The annual Aging with Dignity Symposium will be held on October 16, 2004 at Chancellor Place in Murrieta.

This **FREE** event invites leading professionals to present educational information on topics that have critical life importance for seniors and caregivers alike. This educational symposium is for the adult children of seniors, as well as seniors. This is the first of its kind in the Temecula Valley. This symposium is strictly to educate our community and absolutely **NO** products or promotion of services will be allowed on the premises during this Symposium. For more information visit their website: [www.AgingWithDignity.com](http://www.AgingWithDignity.com)

## Walk For Life

The Sun City Concern is holding it's first annual Walk For Life on October 23rd. The proceeds for this event will benefit the work of Sun City Concern keeping the connection alive in our community. Please support this fund raiser by walking, supporting a walker or volunteering that day. You can get more information on their website: [www.SunCityConcern.org](http://www.SunCityConcern.org)



**Quick Tip - CONSTANT FONTS** - Fonts may come and fonts may go, but the size changes to whatever is called for in the Web site you visit. If this bothers you, in Internet Explorer, go to Tools/Internet Options and in the General tab click on Accessibility, then check the option for "Ignore font sizes specified on Web pages".

## Great News for you... Great Profits for CCMV

The Valley News is offering to CCMV the opportunity to make some money, AND get great news in the process. For each \$20 subscription, CCMV will receive \$5!! You will receive 1 year of the weekly published Valley News **AND** the Los Angeles Times Weekend Edition at no additional cost.

To subscribe, fill out the **SPECIAL** form below and either mail to the address on the form OR bring to a meeting in September. Additional subscription forms will be available at the meeting or by contacting Joannie Lenz at [joannie@RainbowFlair.com](mailto:joannie@RainbowFlair.com).

|                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                             |
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## Day of Infamy

*(Continued from page 1)*  
until we entered Tokyo harbor. Others shared my 'macho' thoughts and expressed them similarly. This war would be a piece of cake.

The attack barely ended when my ship unmoored from Berth 13 unassisted by the usual tug assistance and headed for sea to join the carrier Enterprise and other fleet ships in pursuit of Japanese ships. We did not have any more encounters and after a few days we headed back into the port of Pearl Harbor.

On seeing the smoking disaster in the harbor, my macho thought evaporated and I shaved. Now my macro thought was that this was a war about dominance in the Pacific.

Ok, so much for the war itself. I did not know then of other events that had taken place the computing world in which I would be involved later. What? The computing world in 1941? Let me say, as an aside, that Lord Kelvin was devising computational methods in 1847. Feel old now?

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Day of Infamy

(Continued from page 3)

Ok, back again to my story. I spent the rest of my time in World War 2 in the Navy in the Pacific Theater. I was discharged after 6 years in the Navy. (Hey, it was an honorable discharge.) In groping around as a civilian after that long stint in the service I decided to go to college at a ripe old age of 28 and I ended my search with an Electrical Engineering Degree (BSEE) at MIT in 1952. MIT had a laboratory called The Instrumentation Laboratory which was in the Division of Industrial Cooperation that housed the Rockefeller Differential Analyzer, a huge computer that was as big as my house.

Here is where I enter the picture again in the events of macro importance. On graduation I decided to work with the Instrumentation Laboratory. That was in 1952. I was assigned to work on that monster which was really on its last legs (or vacuum tubes). I learned that the machine was built with a grant from the Rockefellers. I don't know if the money came from the foundation or money bags himself. That fantastic machine (the monster that it was in size and importance) was built during the '30s' at the Lab before WW2!.

That big computer was put to work during the WW2 to solve the trajectory problems of the buzz bombs that Germany fired off to England during that war (among other things). I don't know much more than that about its use. Much of the work was research work done by graduate students at MIT before my time.

The machine itself used only

vacuum tubes. A technician was assigned specifically to that machine just to keep it maintained. The mathematical element was a mechanical wheel and disk (or platter) as an integrating function. Just imagine a phonograph arm (or a hard disk arm) with a wheel on it and a spinning disk. The relationships between the spinning wheel, the wheel position and the disk itself defined the integral function. Equations written as integrating functions that, as you know in math, can be defined as differential equations. Hence the name, The Differential Analyzer. Programming was done by punched tape that defined the interconnection of all the integral elements in accordance with the differential equation to be plotted and/or solved.

Of course, I only programmed the machine while I was there along with another grad and some assistants. He left the Lab to work with IBM and for a while I was left alone with my mistress. As I said earlier, the machine was on its last legs. Whirlwind and other digital computers were being developed there and elsewhere. The new world would be all digital except for the special purpose analog computers which are still being used today.

And when I left, I pulled the power switch and that was the end of the Rockefeller Differential Analyzer. It was a famous machine and its parts were distributed to museums all over the country.

I declined to be sent to a museum since I was not yet obsolete. However at 86 years, I am ready now. But there are no takers now..



### Department Leaders

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#### Registrar

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jguardia7@wmconnect.com

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**Sign Up for a Class TODAY!**



## THE PREZ SEZ...

How the heck did the holidays get back here so fast??? Time does fly when you're busy... and **busy** we have been. Over the past six weeks, thanks to Bill Oberg and Art True, CCMV helped three classes of students learn to use their computer more efficiently. (yes, that does include learning how to

turn it on) We've already received one check from our little fund-raiser by subscribing to the Valley News, and should be receiving one more as well. I'll let you know the grand total when that comes in. We installed a new message board on our website, with great results so far. Besides general discussion areas, we also have specialty discussion areas for our Special Interest Groups. You can share information or ask questions about Digital Cameras, Digital Music, Shareware/Freeware, Operating Systems, or pick the brains of some of our Techies. You can take our current Poll, or

*(Continued on page 2)*

## How and when to enable Windows XP's firewall

by Linda Gonse, Editor, Orange County IBM Users' Group, California  
downloaded at: <http://www.apcug.net>

Most users are aware of a need for an antivirus program and a firewall in order to be protected from regular, daily Internet threats.

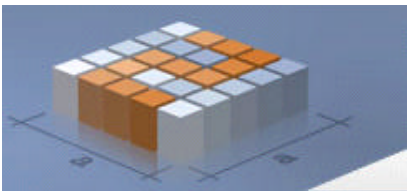
What some may not know is that Windows XP has a built-in firewall. While it lacks the bells and whistles of a full version firewall, such as Norton or Zone Alarm, it is still useful.

You can enable it by going to Control Panel and clicking on the Network Connection icon. In the Connections window, right click on the name of your connection and click on Properties in the drop-down menu. Click on the Advanced tab. Check the box next to "Protect my computer and network by limiting or preventing access to this computer from the Internet." Then, click OK.

Follow these steps each time you wish to enable

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Lon's Freeware of The Month



by Lon Whistler,  
[whis@hotmail.com](mailto:whis@hotmail.com)

**a2 free [3.01M]  
Win9x/2k/XP FREE**

If you haven't had spyware bite you yet, be prepared: it will happen. There are so many variations of spyware, trojans, worms, etc., floating around on the Internet, and they're all multiplying like rabbits. This stuff can

*(Continued on page 2)*

## BUYING SAFELY ON THE INTERNET

by Joannie Lenz

With the holidays quickly approaching, and there never being enough time to go shopping, more and more people are turning to the Internet to get it done quickly and easily. Most sites are safe and you will never have a problem. However, I thought I'd take this opportunity to remind you of some Internet buying safety tips to make sure YOU are the only one using your credit card this year. Please take a moment to review them **BEFORE** doing any holiday shopping.

### 10 tips for shopping safely online during the holiday season

Use common sense. This seems obvious, but

*(Continued on page 3)*



## Computer Books

With the loss of her ability to read, Louise Schultz is offering items from her collection of computer books our club members.

Call Louise at 679-9261



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### Web Page Address

**www.ccmv.net**

*Take a look and take the poll*

*Meeting Time and Place*

2nd and 4th Tuesday

9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Seventh-day Adventist Church

29885 Bradley Road

Sun City, CA

## THE PREZ SEZ...

*(Continued from page 1)*

create one of your own! We also get to welcome two members to new volunteer positions. Thank you to Frank Porter who has consented to become our Newsletter Editor, and to John Cope who is our new Registrar of Classes.

We are still looking for Newsletter articles from YOU! So no relaxing!!! What do you love to do on your computer? Find your passion and write about it. Sharing what we do and love helps us all to learn and grow.

November is the month when we give thanks for our many blessings. CCMV has been an important part of my life. Since becoming President, I've come to appreciate all the work

## Lon's Freeware of The Month

*(Continued from page 1)*

cause problems that are obvious to you, but in many cases, the effects are unseen at first. You've probably used programs such as Spybot - Search & Destroy and Ad-Aware to clean out this junk in the past. A new program called a2 (a-squared) will also help you get rid of the baddies The software is useful in identifying and removing the previously mentioned problems. You can have it search in specific folders, or the entire drive. When the scan starts, it runs a process memory scan to see if there is any garbage in all of your running programs and services. An integrated update component helps you to stay ahead of the game. The program seemed to do very well at finding and eradicating known problems. While this free version does not include the background guard and analysis tools of its big brother, it's still a worthy tool. If spyware seems to bite you on a regular basis, bite back with a2.

and dedication it takes to make this club run, and the many people who volunteer their valuable time to do it. I'm thankful as well for each and every member. Without you we would have no meetings. And... after all... what else would I do with my Tuesday mornings??? Dwight and I wish everyone a wonderfully AWESOME Thanksgiving, and hope



## Computer Classes

Looking to get the most out of your computer? Then CCMV Computer classes are for you. Computer classes keep you informed and learning, and you get to meet a great group of people!

You can sign up at the back table at the next CCMV meeting, at the Kay Cenicerros Community Center front desk or contact the Registrar, John Cope, to sign up at:  
copepiano@earthlink.net

## Evening Classes By Joannie

Joannie's evening classes continue. Each class is two evenings and runs from 5:00 PM-8:30 PM, on Tuesday & Thursday. \$55 fee includes class and step by step manual. Find complete schedule and class outlines at: [www.ByJoannie.com](http://www.ByJoannie.com).

**Basic Word**-Nov 9th & 11th

**Basic Excel**-Dec 14th & 16th

Basic Microsoft Word-Jan 11th & 13th

Basic Microsoft Excel-Jan 25th & 27th

Feb 8th MS Outlook (1 evening course-\$35)

**Register online at:**

**[www.ByJoannie.com](http://www.ByJoannie.com) or call (951) 301-6226.**

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## XP's firewall

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*(Continued from page 1)*

the firewall for other Internet connections on your computer.

But, before enabling XP's firewall, you should be aware of these points:

It must not be used through software or hardware routers. It only works on incoming Internet traffic, not outgoing traffic from spy-ware, Trojan viruses, or hacker tools.

On local area networks (LANs) with other computers, it will block File and Printer Sharing.

It can be turned on or off for each of your dial-ups, LAN, or high-speed Internet connections.

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



## Quick Tip - Using the Wheel Mouse to Control the Font Size

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Try using the Control key with the mouse wheel. This works a zoom function.

I know you do this for Office 2k apps as well, but in IE it just works on the text, so the page stays somewhat the same.

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## Free Microsoft Update CD

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Here's a useful offer from Microsoft . It's a CD that contains all of the critical WinXP security updates through October 2003, as well as a free antivirus and firewall trial software CD, Better yet, it won't cost you a dime. Order one and keep it safe with all your other backup discs. It'll come in handy if you have to reformat your hard drive or reinstall Windows. It beats having to reinstall everything via Windows Update, The CD is also available for Windows 98/98SE/Me/2000. Order your CD at [http://snipurl.com/MS\\_order](http://snipurl.com/MS_order).

This is from the June 2004 issue of Smart Computing page 27.

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## Happy Holidays

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### An Effective "Oops" Strategy

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Have you ever had the experience of moving, copying, cutting, renaming, or deleting a file or other data, then, a second later, realized that you had made a horrendous mistake? If you're like me, you scream, collapse in a heap, and sob uncontrollably until the paramedics arrive or you lose consciousness, whichever comes first. The next time an "oops" situation presents itself, before the screaming begins, pres the keystroke combination CTRL-Z, which will reverse (undo) yur last action. As simple as this tip is, it can be a lifesaver. Your family, neighbors, and paramedics will thank you.

This is from the October 2004 issue of Smart Computing page 40.

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## Buying Safely

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*(Continued from page 1)*

people don't always do it. Further, if you have a gut feeling that something isn't legitimate, you're probably right.

If possible, pay by credit card rather than by check or money order. Here's why: If you use your credit card to make a purchase and you encounter a problem -- and the company won't fix it -- you can notify (in writing) the bank that issues your credit card that you are disputing the charge, and you don't have to pay the charge while your dispute is being investigated. And, if the company doesn't deliver the item or they are a scam, you're in a much better position to get your money back.

Don't buy anything from companies that use bulk email solicitations. We recently heard from a colleague that she had purchased a lot

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Buying Safely

(Continued from page 3)

of stuff on the Net, and had not even received about 60% of it! We were baffled. We, too, order a lot on the Net, and have \*never\* not received an item.

Investigating further, we discovered that all of the items that she had not received were promoted using bulk email. Every item she ordered from a Web site was, in fact, delivered. Since we have a strict policy never to buy from any company that spams, we had never encountered this problem.

Checking further, we discovered that other people who bought from companies that spam had similar experiences. So, this is another reason not to buy from companies that use bulk email -- there is a high probability you won't even receive the products you ordered!

Check the company out. Only do business with companies that provide a physical address and a phone number. If you're suspicious, trust your gut feelings.

\*Always\* ask for references and check them carefully. A reputable company will be pleased to provide you with lots of references.

Only do business with companies that offer a strong guarantee and/or warranty. Ask the company what will happen if you want to return the product or service. Most reputable companies offer strong guarantees and stand behind their products, especially online.

Keep good records. Always print out a copy of any

online products or services you purchase. Make sure you print out the Web page (including the Web address, URL), any emails with the email addresses, and any other relevant information, including the date and time that you saw the offer and made the purchase. Save this information in case you need it later.

Before entering ANY personal information like your credit card number, take a look at the web address of the page you are on. Instead of beginning with http://, the address should read **https://**. This is a good indication that you are using a secured server. Some browsers, like Internet Explorer, will also display a closed padlock on the bottom right of the window.

When possible, deal with companies that you know, and go directly to their website from a search engine or by typing the address in yourself. **DO NOT** click on or use email addresses that were sent to you by unsolicited email. These could be taking you to fraudulent websites that are disguised as the real thing.

Be careful, but don't be paranoid. After all, most businesses on the Web are legitimate. Shopping online can provide tremendous advantages -- including the safety of not venturing out to shop! -- so don't throw the baby out with the bath water. Use good judgment, be careful, follow these tips, and you probably won't have any problems.

### Department Leaders

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Joannie Lenz  
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*Registrar*  
John Cope  
copepiano@earthlink.net

*Teachers & Assistants*  
Various CCMV Members

**Sign Up for a Class TODAY!**



### THE PREZ SEZ...

Holiday Greetings members of the Computer Club of Menifee Valley! The holiday season has always been a special time of year for me. All the hustle & bustle of trying to get everything done seems to fill everyone with a special kind of

energy. Like everything else, I always wait until the last minute to do my holiday shopping. Procrastination seems to be my first, middle and last name lately. But things always seem to get done and to fall into place. We had a little extra hustle, and a LOT of extra bustle this past month. I would like to personally thank the members of our club who volunteered at the last minute to come and help move all of our equipment

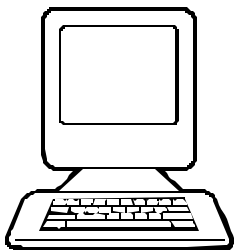
*(Continued on page 2)*

### Holiday Meeting Schedule

Don't forget... There is ONLY ONE MEETING in December. We will return to meeting twice a month in January. Enjoy your holiday!

### Holiday Shopping Questions

Will Santa be leaving some computer equipment under your tree? You may have questions on what to buy and where to get the best price. Perhaps you've found a great deal... Ask it or Share it with fellow members on our message board. [www.CCMV.net](http://www.CCMV.net)



### Lon's Freeware of The Month

by Lon Whistler,  
[whis@hotmail.com](mailto:whis@hotmail.com)

### Santa's Workshop Screen Saver

This is the free version of Santa's Workshop Screen Saver.

It shows Santa's helpers making up the toys in his North Pole Workshop. A fun seasonal offering!

#### Two Christmas Cards

To share with friends & family.

You may remember these two Xmas cards from last year. By a click of your mouse, you can decorate the yard and inside the house. Pets included.

Hope you have a joyous Holiday Season

### Temecula Valley Computer Club

On the afternoons of November 7th and 14th, (Sunday), members of the Temecula Valley Computer Club gave a Power Point presentation about digital cameras. On November 7<sup>th</sup>, the presentation was on selecting a digital camera to buy and on November 14<sup>th</sup>, Bill Harkins gave a talk on how to improve your photographs from your digital camera. These upcoming presentations were announced by Elaine Bryskar at our club meeting and a few of us attended them.

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E-mail your articles, comments  
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### Web Page Address

**www.ccmv.net**

*Take a look and take the poll*

*Meeting Time and Place*

2nd and 4th Tuesday  
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
Seventh-day Adventist Church  
29885 Bradley Road  
Sun City, CA

## THE PREZ SEZ...

*(Continued from page 1)*

out of the lab at the Kay Cenicerros Community Center, and store it away until after the renovations are complete at the Center. When you see these members, please join me in thanking them. Our lab is an important part of what we do here, and I NEVER could have done it alone!

Thanks to Jim Richardson who orchestrated the whole thing. The move was not only done efficiently, but we were able to get a pretty accurate inventory in the process. Jim also is storing inventory, disconnect, pack, move and carry all of the "stuff". It was unbelievable the amount of equipment that was packed into that little room. It was done with expertise and care and you are all amazing!!! Thank you Pn'nah Stone-Kurtz, Bill Oberg, Ben Guaydacan, Malcolm Lowes, and Ken (whose last name I can't remember... sorry Ken) You all were awesome!!!! Now y'all need to save up your energy for January when we have to move it all BACK!!!

May this holiday, fill your hearts and minds with the spirit of the season, and be with you through the New Year. From our home to yours... a VERY Happy Holiday Season!!!

Joannie



## Backup Headaches Solved

Backing up your system is a task we all know we should tend to more often than we do. But let's be honest---there's always tomorrow. The consequences of not backing up your vital data, however can be disastrous. Taking steps to protect your data is not as complicated as it may seem, and the results can turn what could have been calamitous in to a minor headache.

**Question:** How often should I back up my computer or data files?

**Answer:** The answer depends upon how rapidly you create new files or make changes to existing files. If you do a lot of work every day, daily backups are a good idea. Remember, your computer can go down at any time, and you could lose everything you haven't backed up. Eight hours of work is a lot to do all over.

This article from the October issue, page 38 of the SmartComputing magazine presented "Answers To 10 Common Questions". There's probably a copy of the magazine on our back table as several of our members subscribe to it.

*Happy New Year*

## Newsletter Articles

Your Newsletter Editor needs articles for this Newsletter, so if you have computer related items to share with our members, submit them to Frank Porter, fbporter@yahoo.com during the early part of the month.

# Happy Holidays

## Computer Classes

Looking to get the most out of your computer? Then CCMV Computer classes are for you. Computer classes keep you informed and learning, and you get to meet a great group of people!

You can sign up at the back table at the next CCMV meeting, at the Kay Cenicerros Community Center front desk or contact the Registrar, John Cope, to sign up at:  
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Jan 11th & 13th – Basic Microsoft Word  
Jan 25th & 27th - Basic Microsoft Excel  
Feb 8th - MS Outlook (1 evening course-\$35)  
Feb 10th - The Internet (1 evening course - \$35)  
\*NEW\*  
Feb 22nd & 24th - Microsoft PowerPoint  
Mar 8th & 10th - Intermediate Microsoft Word  
Mar 22nd & 24th –Intermediate Microsoft Word

**Register online at:  
[www.ByJoannie.com](http://www.ByJoannie.com) or call  
(951) 301-6226.**

## NEAT NET TRICKS TIP:

If you're running Windows XB networked, you can use a little-known application to talk to others available users on the network. At Start/Run, enter "winchat" without the quotes. Click on Conversations and Dial, select the computer to call and click OK. This will ring the user and invite him or her to chat with you. Of course, you could step in the next room or call them on the phone, but that's so untekkie.

Submitted by Joannie

## SCAMS AND SPAM

*(Continued from page 4)*

pace, or worse. Unlike other problematic solutions, a virus scanner doesn't detect these "bad boys." Currently there are special spyware and adware detections and removal programs available online, such as "Spybot – Search and Destroy" which can freely be downloaded, [www.download.com](http://www.download.com).

8. Subscribe to a free electronic newsletter that monitors the web. New information is invaluable in warning you of current scams and spam – junk e-mail (did you ever wonder where the name "spam" came from – if you guessed Hormel, you're right. Hormel went to court, and fought against the word "spam" being utilized for junk e-mail, however, they lost. Presently, Hormel uses a double play on the word, in a positive advertising campaign, for their canned meat product called "Spam".)

9. Be alert and careful, but don't be paranoid. Most businesses on the web are legitimate and provide tremendous advantages – lower prices, no traveling, world-wide access, and much more. Don't "throw the baby out with the bath water," use good judgment.

Never purchase from a bulk unsolicited e-mail (called spam.) According to research, Jim and Audri are alerting people that 95 per cent of bulk, unsolicited email is spam, and potentially a scam. Consequently, if individuals don't respond to the spam, they have done the single most important thing they can do to avoid getting taken. As Jim and Audri always say, "if it's spam, it's a scam!"

This was submitted by Diane of Canyon Lake

## SCAMS AND SPAM ON THE INTERNET

Jim and Audri Landford have solid solutions to avoid being “scammed”

1. Use Common Sense. This should be obvious, but people don't always trust themselves. The old saying “if it seems too good to be true, it probably is”, encourages listening to your “gut” feelings.

2. If possible, always pay by credit card rather than check or money order. This is perhaps the most counter-intuitive advice on the list. When purchasing with a credit card, if encountering a problem—immediately notify the credit card company in writing. Using the credit card, a person isn't responsible to pay the charge while the dispute is being investigated. Your maximum liability is only \$50.

3. Take safety precautions. (a) Be vigilant to selection of passwords. For instance, select words that aren't in the dictionary use a combination of letters and numbers. Don't use the same password for various accounts, give your password out, or write out where snoops can find it. (b) Be selective in private information you give out on the net (i.e. don't mention to someone on the net you'll be on vacation!) (c) Don't let others use your computer unsupervised, unless you intend for them to witness every detail on your computer. (d) Use a firewall. Anyone using the net, should have one. Firewalls make a computer virtually invisible to any unauthorized site on the net, especially if you have an “always on” connection, such as DSL or cable modem. One firewall is “Zone Alarm”, which can be found at [www.zonelabs.com](http://www.zonelabs.com). They offer a free, personal and professional version.

4. Be Skeptical. When shopping on-line, always check out the company. A reputable company will be pleased to provide you with references. Ask about returns. Only do business with companies who offer strong guarantees or warranties.

5. Never send an e-mail to anyone that says: “Send this to all your friends.” They are many times a hoax and a few legitimate e-mails include that language.

6. Be extremely careful at online auctions sites. Check the references of the seller, and if the cost of the item is more than you can comfortably lose, rethink the purchase. Most auction sites have a buyer and seller rating system, be sure to use this security resource.

Be diligent about protecting your personal information and your privacy. Identity theft is extremely serious and it's affecting hundreds of people

An additional threat to privacy is Spyware and Adware – these are two computer threats that are quickly over-taking viruses as a major concern to both home and business users.

These “spies” can be downloaded and silently installed in your computer while you surf the net. They attach themselves in various ways when you install a share-ware or freeware program, through pop-up advertisements and E-mail.

Technically, these are “Trojan Horses” type attacks. They record your online shopping, track your web surfing habits, record personal financial information (i.e. credit card, and bank), passwords, account names, and e-mail address books, plus they redirect you to other websites or cause continuous pop-up ads that flood your screen. The spyware and adware then pass your information to a host computer. Once compromised your computer will be flooded with marketing e-mail and pop-ups, and since these spy programs are always running, they use valuable system resources – even bringing your computer to a snail's

(Continued on page 3)

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