



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.

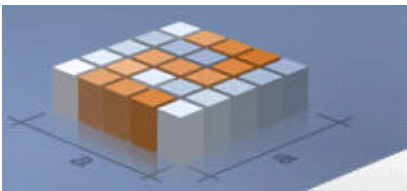
What some may not know is that Windows XP has a built-in firewall. While it lacks the bells and whistles of a full version firewall, such as Norton or Zone Alarm, it is still useful.

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

**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



Board of Directors

President

Joannie Lenz
Joannie@RainbowFlair.com

Vice President

Gary Skill
grskill@verizon.net

Secretary

Georgiana Dols
gianadol@pe.net

Treasurer

Chet Hartley
chet-hartley-1963@
alumni.calpoly.edu

Director at large

Dee Morris

SIGS & Help lines:

Digital Imaging

Techies

Newbies

Genealogy

Quicken

Microsoft Word, Excel &

PowerPoint Help

Joannie Lenz

301-6226

Joannie@RainbowFlair.com

Newsletter

E-mail your articles, comments
and suggestions to:

fbporter@yahoo.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

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.

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 or call (951) 301-6226.

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.

Free Microsoft Update CD

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.

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

Happy Holidays

An Effective "Oops" Strategy

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.

Buying Safely

(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

Membership
Dee Morris

Material Distribution
Dorothy & George Metcalf
deewoodee@aol.com

Cue Card Production
Art True
arttrue@aol.com

Cue Card Distribution
Art True
arttrue@aol.com
&
Shirley Fryrear
safohio@msn.com

Shareware Distribution
Lon Whistler
lwhis@hotmail.com

Newsletter Editor
Frank Porter
fbporter@yahoo.com

Newsletter Reporters & Articles
E-mail your articles, comments
and suggestions to:
fbporter@yahoo.com

Computer Lab Technicians
Jim Richardson
Dixie Warwick
Les Widd

Web Goddess
Joannie Lenz
joannie@RainbowFlair.com

Computer Instruction

Dean of Computer School
Joannie Lenz
joannie@RainbowFlair.com

Registrar
John Cope
copepiano@earthlink.net

Teachers & Assistants
Various CCMV Members

Sign Up for a Class TODAY!