



APCUG INFORMATION FOR CCMV

A Note From The Editor

I have a lot of interesting articles coming up for subsequent issues but information from the APCUG has been accumulating in my Inbox to the point that it may be prudent to dedicate most of not all of this issue to the APCUG.

By bunching the stuff from APCUG in one issue like this, you might consider keeping this issue for future reference. Keep in mind that it always available on the web at www.ccmv.net. for you to read.

Back-Ups Made Easy

by Carey Holzman, Co-host:

www.computeramerica.com / www.careyholzman.com

(approx. 1,690 words).

By now you are probably well aware of the importance of making copies of your valuable data (referred to as "backing-up). You've read numerous articles about ways to back-up your data and prevent disaster. The problem is, most advice offered on this subject is not truly complete and many of the 'solutions' offered are expensive and time consuming. How you back-up, what you back-up, when you back-up and where you store your back-up are just a few important variables that come into play on that miserable day that you require it and your back-up isn't there.

Can't Play Online Videos? –

Here's What to Do

by Sandy Berger,

(CompuKISS www.compukiss.com approx. 706 words).

Generally, each video you find on the Web will play only using the software that it was formatted for. If you try to play a video and you don't have the proper software, you won't be able to view the video. Sandy walks readers through how to get many of the popular video viewing software

Exploring Windows Explorer

by Jim Sanders,

(North Orange County Computer Club, CA

www.noccc.org approx. 1,309 words).

Everyone using WinXP uses Windows Explorer all the time. Some use it in what Jim considers the true form. Some, of you use it as My Computer and all of us
(Continued in the next column.)

Tiger-Direct

Judy Taylor, Chair Member Services

As a benefit of its membership in APCUG, your group is receiving this discount offer. APCUG does not endorse any company offering discounts, but makes these offers available as a service to its members. Please forward the discount information on to your members as a benefit of belonging to your group.

Tiger Direct, through its parent company Global Computer, is offering all APCUG member user groups discount pricing on all products they carry (and that is a lot).

This program will provide similar discounts that vendors normally provide their corporate accounts. All products includes everything on their web site, in their catalogs, and special orders.

Most items will have a varied percentage off but all items will be lower than advertised. In other words software, hardware, peripherals, printers, servers, all may have a slightly different discount rate as do brands such as HP, EPSON, LENOVO, IBM, etc.

This discount includes all major brands, including their own Global and Tiger Direct Systemax custom computers as well as printer ink and toners, peripherals of all kinds, and media. The web site is:
<http://www.globalcomputer.com>

To get the User Group discount, your members should call Clay Bennett, Senior Manager, Global Computer, and identify themselves as belonging to your user group which is a member of APCUG. Please have the item number and description to give Clay, as well as quantity and a credit card for payment. Clay may be reached at 866 310 1947.



(Continued from previous Column)

use it when we are using Internet Explorer, because Windows Explorer is an integral part of Internet Explorer. Jim continues to be surprised at how many people do not know that they can right click on the Start button and go directly to Windows Explorer. This tip and more will make is easy for your readers to start using Windows Explorer in its true form



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Joannie Lenz—301-6226

Joannie@RainbowFlair.com

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E-mail your articles, comments and suggestions

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*Take a look ,
there is a lot of
good information
on our Web Site*

Meeting

Time, Days 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

Checkmate

by *Berry T. Phillips,*

Computer Club of Oklahoma City

(www.ccokc.org approx. 554 words).

Man-vs-machine has been a theme that has intrigued the public for many years. Berry writes about some the chess machines from the early-1700s through early 2003

Fix That Fan

by *Jim Sanders,*

(North Orange County Computer Club, Calif.

(www.noccc.org, approx. 599 words).

Cheap (sleeve bearing) fans die young. Bet on it. The cheaper the system, power supply, cooler, etc., the cheaper the fan. When you hear that sleeve bearing fan (or a ball bearing fan, for that matter) rattle, notice a fan is barely turning, or not turning at all, fix it!

Free Online Mapping and Driving Directions

by *Ira Wilsker,*

(APCUG Director, approx. 999 words).

Many of us like to use maps when we travel. Maps can be used to display driving directions and points of interest. Fortunately, there are several excellent and free mapping utilities available on the Internet, such as those provided by Microsoft's "Live" service, Google, Yahoo! And AOL's Mapquest.

How I Find My 'Deleted' Emails

by *Tom Thiel,*

Lake-Sumter Computer Society

(www.lscs.us approximately. 826 words).

Old emails are one of my most frequent retrievals from my back-up files. How does Tom retrieve an email after he's deleted it from his Inbox or Sent items? This article shows you the way.

Internet Services – E-mail and the Web

by *Hilton Kaufman,*

Chicago Computer Society

(www.ccs.org, approx. 1,109 words).

The Internet is a network of networks used to transmit messages. Somehow things arrive at where they are supposed to go. It is the services that go over these networks that make the Internet useful! The two best known services today are e-mail and the World Wide Web.

The Inside Security Recovery Toolkit

by *Dick Maybach,*

Brookdale Computer U G, N.J

(www.bcug.com approx. 890 words).

Most use an OEM (original equipment manufacturer) version of Windows supplied by the vendor who built our PC. Although we often receive a Windows CD-ROM, it is not the same as the disk included with the retail version of Windows. Sometimes without a good recent back-up or good recovery software, all of our data can be lost. A powerful recovery tool is **INSERT**, a version of Linux designed to correct problems in Windows, Linux, and the latest Macintosh PCs. Dick sent me his tutorial on INSERT. It's far too large for a newsletter article, but if you would like a copy for your members.

Windows Vista Power Management

by *Vinny LaBash,*

Sarasota PCUG, Florida

(www.spcug.org, approx. 618 words).

Those of us who drive laptops are usually more aware of power management than the desktop jockeys. In Vista, you can optimize settings to conserve energy, go for flat out performance or achieve some kind of sensible balance between the two.

What is PCI Express?

By *Brian K. Lewis, PhD,*

Sarasota PCUG, Florida

(www.spcug.org, 1,560 words).

PCIs (Peripheral Component Interconnect) are the slots in the motherboard of your computer used for connecting peripheral devices directly to the computer bus. The original PCI bus was released in 1992. Your knowledge will certainly be expanded re PCIs after you read this article.

"Patience serves as a protection against wrongs as clothes do against cold. For if you put on more clothes as the cold increases, it will have no power to hurt you. So in like manner you must grow in patience when you meet with great wrongs, and they will then be powerless to vex your mind." — Leonardo Da Vinci



Computer Games to Keep Your Mind Sharp

Domenic Greco, PhD (From the Internet)

Don't scoff at the games kids play on computers. More and more adults are discovering that on-line games help keep their minds sharp and allow them to socialize via the Internet with people all over the world.

On-line games are by no means all fast-action electronic versions of what you once might have played at penny arcades. The Internet also gives you access to dozens of traditional games, including bridge, canasta, mah jong, hearts, dominoes, chess and backgammon.

Hundreds of Web sites let you play these and other games against a computer or real competitors. (Read on.)

GOOD FOR THE BRAIN

If you have any doubt that computer games are good for the brain, your skepticism might be allayed by the experience of James Rosser, Jr., MD. He's the director of the Advanced Medical Technology Institute at Beth Israel Medical Center in New York City -- and he asked his staff of surgeons to periodically play video games.

Dr. Rosser recently reported that surgeons who played games three hours a week performed their medical tasks faster and more accurately than those who didn't. Rosser's findings aren't unique. Experiments at my own company, CyberLearning Technology, show that people who regularly play video games have an easier time learning new tasks.

For older people, on-line games have another benefit. They can introduce you to activities that you'll enjoy with younger members of your family.

GETTING STARTED

To best play games on-line, you need a computer with at least 128 megabytes of memory (preferably 256) and at least a 17-inch screen. A high-speed Internet connection isn't necessary, although it's helpful for some games.

In on-line games, the board or playing field is displayed on screen, often with stunning graphics and dramatic sound effects. Moves are made by manipulating the mouse or other types of controllers, such as joysticks or gamepads.

Depending on the game, winning usually requires a combination of coordination, memory and occasionally teamwork. Luck plays a role, too.

For an overview of available on-line games, visit one of the major sites, called portals, that have links to hundreds of games. Some of the biggest game portals are <http://games.yahoo.com/games/front...> <http://games.aol.com...> and <http://zone.msn.com>. To find other game sites, enter "on-line games" into Google or another search engine.

At least one portal, www.aboutseniors.com.au/ComputerGames.html, has links to games traditionally popular with seniors, including bingo, solitaire, cribbage and canasta.

Before you can play, you may have to register by submitting your E-mail address and choosing a password. Most sites are free, and those that charge usually have fees of less than \$100 a year. (See next page.)

Department Leaders

Membership

Dee Morris
MEMBERSHIP@ccmv.net

Material Distribution

Dorothy & George Metcalf
GWDJM@Verizon.net

Shareware Distribution

Position Open
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Frank Varano
EDITOR@ccmv.net

Newsletter

Reporters & Articles
E-mail your articles, comments and suggestions to:
EDITOR@ccmv.net

Computer Lab Technician

Jim Richardson

Web Site

Jim Semanek
WEBGUY@ccmv.net

Computer Instruction

Dean of Computer School

Joannie Lenz
joannie@RainbowFlair.com

Registrar

Carol Taggart
REGISTRAR@ccmv.net

Teachers & Assistants
Various CCMV Members

Computer Classes:

**Sign Up for a Class
TODAY!**

at

**The Computer
Club meetings
or at the**

Kay Cenicerros Center

**Computer Club
Classroom is located at
Cherry Hills Country Club
At the West End of
Cherry Hills Blvd**



Problems, Problems, Problems!

The word *nemesis* comes to mind to an editor when his newsletter publication finally goes 'to press.'

He asks himself, "What errors will go undetected in this issue?" So he uses proofreaders to go over the material to catch typos, sheer blunders, plain errors, duplications, gross syntax goofs, etc. But, alas, proof readers are not perfect either.

His hope is that what errors do occur will pass undetected. If not he hopes the readers will plainly forgive him. But readers are not always that forgiving.

The passage of time often ameliorates the error problem because there is a learning process by which methods and procedures become more efficient allowing for easier detection of the common errors.

The funny thing about the errors is that small errors get detected and fixed before going to press but the really big ones sometimes get overlooked.

When it has to 'go to press' the editor says, "Here it is, warts and all!"

(Nemesis is the 'Goddess of Devine Retribution,')

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Game sites usually allow you to play with people you know, who must also register, or with anonymous opponents chosen by the site on the basis of the skill level that you select.

Though your identity won't be revealed when you play, many sites have chat rooms where players can exchange messages about game strategy and other topics. In chat rooms, players usually have the option of posting their real names and contact information.

CHOOSING A GAME

Backgammon. "It's Your Turn" at www.itsyourturn.com has classic backgammon as well as several variations that you and a friend can sign up for and play for free. As in all backgammon games, winning requires you to remember complex numerical combinations and to vary your strategy as your opponent moves.

• **Battleships.** "Battleships-General Quarters II" at www.battleships.f-active.com has been a free site for young people and it's now attracting a multi-generational crowd. Each of two players is in command of a fleet of five ships, and the object is to "destroy" the opponent's fleet before the opponent destroys yours. The game is tricky, requiring physical coordination to work the computer's mouse as well as the ability to make quick decisions about the most likely location of the enemy.

• **Bridge.** "OKbridge" at www.okbridge.com has been sanctioned by the American Contract Bridge League. It is the oldest and largest on-line bridge club, with members from 100 countries.

Cost: \$99 a year after a free seven-day trial. Unlike most other games, bridge is played with a partner, a feature that can hone your skill at communications and patience.

• **Chess.** "Free Internet Chess Server" at www.freechess.org allows you to play -- free of charge -- against its computer or a real person.

• **Crossword puzzles.** "Best Crosswords" at www.bestcrosswords.com has seven new puzzles a day. Solvers have the option of submitting their results so they can track their improvement and also compete against others. When competition results are posted, players are known only by their screen names. Like most other word puzzles, crosswords build vocabulary and remind you of words you may have forgotten.

• **Dominoes.** "GameDesire" at www.gamedesire.com has a classic domino game with 28 "bones," or pieces. Play is free.

• **Mah jong.** "GameHouse" at www.gamehouse.com/onlinegames lets Internet users play a variety of solitaire mah jong games for free.

• **Zuma.** "Flash-Games" at www.y8.com features Zuma, which has a reputation as one of the most addictive games in the "action puzzle" genre. To win this solitaire game, you must make your way through a visually perplexing temple in the mythical city of Zuma. It's not easy. You must use the mouse to fire magical orbs without letting them reach the golden skull in the middle of the temple. The game requires coordination and the ability to resist being distracted by the accompanying music (unless you turn off the sound).

The majority of portals let you download many types of games that you can play on your computer without actually being connected to the Internet. While some downloads are free, others require payment of a fee -- usually under \$25.

"The moment the idea is admitted into society that property is not as sacred as the laws of God, and that there is not a force of law and public justice to protect it, anarchy and tyranny commence." --John Adams



REVIEWS

Actiontec MegaPlug

by Terry Currier,

WINNERS- WInDows usERS, California www.windowsusers.org/, approx. 779 words).

Terry likes the idea of networking through power lines especially if you can not run a cable to where you may want to connect, or you get no wireless signal. You might want to try this method after reading Terry's review.

Fisheye-Hemi Plug-In

by Neil Longmuir,

Winnipeg PCUG, Canada

(www.wpcusgrp.org, approx. 703 words).

The Fisheye-Hemi Photoshop plug-in from Image Trends corrects distortions present in fisheye lens images. This is a terrific plug-in filter that retains more of the original image resolution allowing the end user to display the original composition as seen through the viewfinder when the image was taken.

Professor Franklin's Instant Photo Artist 2.0

by Tom Ekvall,

Northeast Wisconsin PCUG)

(www.webpages.charter.net/newpcug, 1,043 words).

Can someone create a photo art masterpiece from a snapshot within a matter of minutes without going through a lot of training and reading manuals? Yes, if you use this program. Thanks again to Tom for getting us the discount.

The AntiSpyware Revolution Starts Here

by Tou Torraca,

The TUG, Hawaii

(www.the-tug.org, approx. 1,807 words).

CounterSpy V2 was completely rebuilt with a revolutionary new design -- more powerful and effective than ever. Lou takes us through all the ins and outs of CounterSpy -- your members might want to buy a copy when they read the review.

VOIP Made Easy with Skype

by Sharon Walbran,

Twin Cities PCUG, Minnesota

(www.tpc.com, approx. 456 words).

Voice Over Internet Protocol, using your Internet connection to make phone calls, has become very popular. Skype (rhymes with "type"), is a free VOIP program that offers free computer-to-computer calls anywhere in the world if both computers have Skype installed. For calls from a computer with Skype to standard phones

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and cell phones in the U.S. and Canada, Skype offers unlimited free calling with an annual charge of \$29.95 a year. Other VOIP vendors charge \$30+ per month.

Zune -- A Player for the Rest of Us

by Ash Nallawalla,

Melborne PCUG, Australia

(www.melbpc.org, approx. 1,014 words).

Are your readers older than 50? Have they tried to use an MP3 or video player but found their thumbs and fingers were all mixed up? Was the text too hard to read? Then, Zune is for them.

Here are the authors:

Ash Nallawalla -- anallawalla@apcug.net

Berry K. Phillips -- bfpdata@1access.net

Brian K. Lewis -- bwsail@yahoo.com

Carey Holzman -- carey@holzman.com

Dick Maybach -- n2nd@att.net

Jim Sanders -- editor@noccc.org

Hilton Kaufman -- hmkaufman@earhtlink.net

Ira Wilsker -- iwilsker@apcug.net

Lou Torraca -- af06hi@gmail.com

Neil Longmuir -- longmur@ms.umanitoba.ca

Sandy Berger -- sandy@compukiss.com

Sharon Walbran -- sqwalbran@yahoo.com

Terry Currier -- tcurrier@aol.com

Tom Ekvall -- tekvall@new.rr.com

Tom Thiel -- tthiel5@comcast.net

Vinny LaBash -- labash@spcug.org

Note: Referenced websites will be posted on the CCMV website where you can link to them directly.

Marriage

If a man has enough
horse sense to treat
his wife like a thor-
oughbred, she will not
turn into an old nag.

Too many couples
marry for better, or for
worse, but not for
good.

Trouble in marriage of-
ten starts when a man
gets so busy earnin' his
salt that he forgets
his sugar.

Monthly Inc. and Exp. (For June 2007)

Income (\$)	
Contributions	41.87
Equipment sale	250.00
Interest	1.92
Textbook Sales	300.00
Tuition	270.00
Total Income	863.79

Expenses (\$)	
Church Usage	100.00
Lab expenses	517.49
Textbook purchase	329.80
Total Expenses	947.29

Inc. less Exp. 83.50

Note that "Lab Expenses" includes the purchase of one laptop computer which will be used for lab or meetings at various times. This was enabled by generous contributions



Funny and Disturbing

By Frank Varano

This came from Tech Republic.com. It is about a woman who was having problems with Word and Excel in Office XP. She said that the computer had a "Mind of its Own." She said that she could be typing and all of a sudden the program would start to enter pure "gibberish" on its own. They were real words the words didn't make sense, as if she plucked the words out of different pages of the dictionary.

Several people tried to explain her predicament in the Forum. As matter of fact she put sample words in the Forum: "the whole new America Online now for the UCLA she's the boss". You must agree that the phrase just doesn't make sense but they are words. Just gibberish.

After a few people offered their solutions in the Forum she came back with the announcement that she found the problem and fixed it! She said that she searched Google (like we all do) but 'I could not find the answer.' And then, in her own words, "I opened task mangler (sic) and looked at processes, listing ... (highest) cpu (usage) at top. I saw one I was not familiar with." (I put my words in parentheses to make it clearer what she wanted to o s a y .)

The most active thing was this program: SAPI5VR.EXE but what in the world is it? (I it very hard to decipher what those files in the Processes column do. See another article about another process which was a blunder by Microsoft ... another time. It chews up the CPU time voraciously.)

What she did here is quite murky but apparently she went to "ask-leo.com" (I never heard of that at all but it sounds interesting.) She went back to back to Google which gave her a site I never heard of before.

<http://ask-leo.com> and then add to it is this question: "why does my computer go nuts sometimes." Altogether it was a link and you can assemble it into a link if you wish, but a link does you no good here in this writing.

What about her solution?

It appeared that her speech recognition program was enabled and a microphone she used to use, months ago, was plugged in but up on a shelf. The program was trying translate all the noises it was hearing in the room, even the ambient sounds. And was trying to translate them to

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words! This thing was even filling in the search line in Google when activated. How brazen!

Now after reading all of this I turned on my own speed recognition system. I wanted to see what it would do when I cleared the throat in my frog into the microphone. That is one of my many defects. Can you guess what it said? Yup, you're right. It said, "Take a cough drop, you idiot!"

NET TAXES BY THIS FALL????

By Frank Varano

For a long time there has been a rumor floating around the Internet that taxes on email and Internet matters are being quietly considered by Congress. I sent many references from Snopes.com to the 'rumor spreaders' that it is only a hoax.

Taxing Internet functions is actually ad not so quietly being pushed by various state and local governments. They really can't do anything about it except push the Federal Government for action.

I should put this on the front page with blazing headlines. Maybe I will in subsequent issues of this newsletter. For now let's cover a few of the issues being brewed up by your beloved legislators.

Remember the ubiquitous S&H on items you buy on the Internet? To me it is a joke. It is a way to list a low price on an item and then jack it up by adding S&H. It makes you think that the Internet companies know that if you buy locally you will pay sales taxes anyhow.

You can bet your next to the bottom dollar that the sales tax part of the move afoot is driven by the S&H.. That \$4.95 S&H on a \$30 item is more than any sales tax. Any tax on top of that will drastically reduce shopping on the net.

Ironically, the Internet cable, fiber optics, Wi-Fi, wireless, broadband, etc. are all developments that have arrived on the scene just as energy costs are going sky high. These are the things can make obsolete jumping in the car to drive to a store a thing of the near past. Leave it to the government to tax it!

I'll cover more in August and later as things develop. But I want to leave you with a thought. Imagine that you have used up a AAA battery in your hands. To dispose of that battery you are have to drive all the way to a disposal site. Yet every week you pay for a huge truck to pass by your house to pick up your trash. Where is the concern about energy? *I bought a new soap box.*