



Old Computers Don't Die THEY HIDE IN OUR GARAGES!

By Frank Varano

I have a really down to earth thing to gripe about. I have a teeny weenie hearing-aid battery in my hand and the law says that I have to drive to Elsinore to dispose of it! I will burn about a gallon of gas to get there and back. Silly? Yes, but bear with me; I am making a point. I have an old TV that weighs over 100 pounds. I am 89 years old. Am I expected to pick up that 100 pound TV, carry it to the car (if it would fit) and drive all the way to Elsinore to dispose of it? All by myself too? (Or pay someone to do it for me at the cost of 50 bucks which is more than my regular trash pick-up cost.)

How many 50, 60, 70, 80 and even 90 year old people do we have in Riverside County with *old computers*, sofas, TVs, refrigerators, etc. who have to 'shift for themselves' to dispose of these items? I have in hand an article that appeared in the PE that is titled "GET TOUGH ON TRASH *Support legislation to fine illegal dumpers up to \$200.*" But why do we have illegal dumpers? It is so easy to blithely make laws, "Don't do this!" or "Don't do that!" and to ignore the reason for the 'illegal' act of dumping in the first place. It is easy for me to understand why things are dumped off the side of roads!

Waste Management already collects the trash and the recyclables ... at least, that which is relatively *easy* to collect. Why do our citizens both young *and old* have to deal with the big, and heavy items which are impossible to handle or even transport for most of us? Why do we pay the franchised haulers to do only part of the hauling, the really easy part?

With the current trash collection program, it is inevitable that you will get 'illegal' dumping whether you like it or not and *one way or another the taxpayer is going to pay for getting rid of it.* And the stupid part of the whole thing is that picking up trash off the side of the road is a terribly inefficient way of collecting trash. And as long as I am talking about stupidity, let me ask a stupid question: Suppose we stopped *all* trash collection. Where do you think all that trash will go? On the side of the road, right? Need I say more?

IrfanView

By Chet Hartley

At the September meeting I will be doing a demonstration of a program called IrfanView. Here is some information that will help you get started using it.

IrfanView is primarily a viewer for photos and videos but it has some additional features that make it very useful for simple photo editing. The program can handle most image formats and can easily convert from one format to another (either a single picture or a batch). It is free for non-commercial use and is easy to install. IrfanView works with Windows 9x/ME/NT/2000/XP/2003/Vista.

To install the program go to the IrfanView website at www.irfanview.com and at the right side of the screen click "Download IrfanView". Then from the CNet page click "Download Now". For Safety, choose the option to save the file instead of "Run". You can save the file to any folder you want, for simplicity you might want to choose the "Desktop" folder. Download will be quick as the file is only about 1.1 MB. After the download is complete, shut down other programs and double-click on the file you just downloaded to begin installation. If you downloaded to the Desktop, you will probably want to remove the setup file after installation.

After installation finishes you will see a screen giving the option of changing your file associations. I suggest you leave them alone until you more completely understand the program and what it can do. You can change those settings at any time.

Some of the features of IrfanView are included in what are called "plugins". After you have installed IrfanView you might want to return to the IrfanView home page and repeat the download and install process for "IrfanView Plugins". This download will take a little longer because the file is approximately 5.7 MB. If you are upgrading from an older version of IrfanView it is recommended that you install the upgraded plugins at the same time

This short article is not intended to teach you how to do specific things with IrfanView. To learn how to do the things you want, you can get help from the IrfanView home page (FAQ) and from the help menu of the program.



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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

Making Business Cards

By Frank Varano

At The Club I often prepare the flyers and tickets for the Social Committee events. Of course, that involves using printers. I usually have three of them available. I can't take a chance on running out of ink. But I have discovered a problem with HP printers that feed paper from the bottom

This may not be important to many of you. Let's say that you want to make business cards (or, in my case, tickets). And you are using Microsoft Office Word (Envelope and Label function.) And let's say further that you are going to use 64 pound paper which is the usual stock weight for cards (or tickets).

I have found that HP printers that feed from the bottom require that the paper make a 180 degree turn to enter the printing area. For ordinary 20 pound paper that is no particular problem but when you are using the Avery type (or Staples) of business card stock (which is 64 pound stuff), there is a problem, especially as the printer gets older. The rollers lose some of their abilities to move the paper along *without some slippage*. It is my guess that two factors are involved: (a) the stock is too stiff for the printer, and (b) the rollers have become smooth due to some kind of efflux from the paper itself over time which makes the roller smooth.

What that means is that all the effort you made to get the card printing and art work fails on you. The top card is OK but the last card at the bottom of the sheet of cards loses registration. The art and text is no longer properly positioned inside of the card section. Evidently the paper slipped a small amount in the process of moving the paper around the 180 degree bend.

But how much did it slip? I'll tell you what I did to solve the problem. It is a lousy solution but in a pinch it worked. At the top of the second card in each column (of 5 cards) I increased the space by 1 point. On the second card I increased I increased the space by 2 points. ETC. The last card was increased by 5 points. The points refer to font size.

I say it is a lousy solution because there is a very efficient procedure to making the cards or tickets and, manually adding a minute change in each row of cards (or tickets) added work to the procedure and thus efficiency was lost. I no longer use HP printers to make the tickets or cards.

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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**



Errors

By Frank Varano

I was poking around the Internet trying to find out what the various errors pop ups mean. This is what I came up with. I still don't know what some of them mean but I can explain some of them based on my programming experiences. I'll even use some silly analogies. (I am not going to show up at the next meeting.)

Runtime Error - An error that occurs during the execution of a program. *Let's say you are running a race and you stepped on a nail. Your participation in the race would come to a halt, right?*

ActiveX Error - An error caused by certain browser settings and misconfigured system files. *These are little programs which help the main program. In the above race, while running someone hands you a drink to keep you hydrated but the bottle leaked. Ok, it's a lousy one.*

DLL Error - Missing or corrupt .dll files often occur when removing or installing a program. *OK, here's my analogy: All the runners in the race have to check in first. It rained and the records got wet. Do I have to say more?*

.exe Error - Often occurs during system or program start up due to unneeded files in the Windows registry. *I really don't know what I am talking about but go back to the race and two of the runners (executable programs) trip over each other. Not bad, eh?*

General Protection Fault - Occurs when a program that is running violates the hardware rules in some way. *One of the runners was picked up by his wife and drove to the finish line. Nah, that's no good at all. I just don't know.*

.Blue Screen of Death - Occurs when Windows cannot recover from a system error. Usually requires a reboot. *All the runners in the race were wearing boots; they didn't get enough water and all of them simply collapsed with their boots on, and had to change their running boots.*

Windows Explorer Error - A dirty registry may cause Windows Explorer to get stuck in a loop. *One of the runners wears glasses and he didn't see the turn then went around the block and kept going around the block.*

iExplore or iExplorer Error - An error related to your Internet Explorer browser often causing it to shut down. *The racers ran into a parade and it rained too.*

Access Violation - An error that occurs when an application tries to access storage not designated for it.

Here is where the programmer(s) simply goofed. One programmer took all of his tools out of the box and laid them on a table. And another programmer did the same and they got mixed up, each blamed the other for hogging the work bench. Hey, I like that one.

System32 Error - An error often caused by missing or corrupt system files. I dunno about this one. *Let's say that the racers ran into a bunch of potholes in the roadway!*

Windows Installer Error - Caused by 3rd party "shell extensions" resulting in a white screen and/or crash. *My imagination goes wild here. One of the runners ran home instead and found his wife in bed with another runner. Naw!*

Quick Research Tip:

Gov. Websites You Didn't Know About

The U.S. government maintains hundreds of websites full of useful information on topics such as government auctions, grants, historical records, student loans, presidential documents, maps, license renewals, Supreme Court decisions, Congressional hearings, and much, much more. Following is a list of some websites you should know about. Be sure to check out the links on each site to discover even more.

USA.gov (general gov. information and links)

Fedworld.gov (more general information and links)

Health.gov

Students.gov

Gpoaccess.gov (Government Printing Office)

Loc.gov (Library of Congress)

Archives.gov (National Archives)

Fedstats.gov

Usgs.gov (United States Geological Survey)

Science.gov

(Source: Lifehacker)

APCUG OYSH Reviews

By Frank Varano

Each month I get stuff from Judy Taylor with a summary of many interesting stuff. It is too much to put any of it in this small newsletter. Some of articles are pretty good. I'll see if I can get Jim to make it available on the web at our website. It makes more sense for each of you to go to the web and extract what you specifically want.

However if I do see something that I know will be of general interest to most of our members I will include it in the newsletter. The last email from her had something interesting from Open Office. The unzipped version is too long to include it here.



Watermarking

By Frank Varano

For you guys that download music, legally or illegally, it is interesting to know about Watermarking. Let me explain. Suppose you prepared a colorful love letter that you wanted to submit to your better half (such as your wife) or one of your many mistresses (you rogue!). (Look, I gotta make it interesting!)

And you have a very nice printer. In the process of printing the love letter with all of its beautiful clip art, etc. you decide to have the printer insert a watermark. You know what that is. It can be a clever, big lettered, light pink, watermark reading an amorous "I love you, honey!"

I do that all the time. Not the "I love you, honey" part. But when I make a flyer for our Association I put a watermark (at printing time) reading "For your review" because I want the committee chairperson to review it for errors. Sensible, isn't it? It sure isn't an earth shaking idea. Surprisingly, all printers have that function available.

Let's develop the idea a little more. If I were to make a document (again, not a love letter, of course) for a company and if I wanted to identify the document as originating from me, I would print it with a watermark such as: "Made by Leonardo de Varano Lab." And I would make it in soft pink lettering so that it is noticeable only if you look for it and maybe through some kind of colored lens. .

The idea I want you to get here is that the recipient of my document carries with it the identity of the creator. *But it could have just as easily carried with it the identity of the recipient. Or the identity of the document itself or with a serial number. Right?*

Now we are getting somewhere. Let's suppose that you wanted to download some music composition by a certain composer and performer. The downloader could also download it with some kind of identifying information such as an ID or Account No., or whatever) of the downloader. Or the addressee. Right? Eureka! It's a Watermark! (Or a Musicmark!)

There is a big fuss going on right now in the industry over the use of the Watermark vs the use of DRM (Digital Rights Managements.) I don't know enough about DRM to give you any colorful write-up on the subject. For your homework look it up yourself. Any writers out there?

I think that what we are headed for is some kind of 'watermark' on music that will be some hard to beat copyright protection

From The Editor

The brutal fact of life is that all things come to an end. I want to put the thought minds of all the CCMV members that sooner or later someone will have to take over the Editor's job to maintain the continuity for this newsletter. No, I am not dropping out precipitously. I'm good for several months yet.

Just be aware that in January I will be 90 years old. At my age I cannot guarantee that I will not drop dead anytime. Yes, I do buy green bananas. I am optimistic about the future. But no amount of optimism can preclude the inevitable. In short, I am saying let's get a backup editor who can be prepared to take over at a moment's notice.

It would be nice if there were writers who submitted articles to the Editor for use in the newsletter. It would make the editing job easier for the candidate who is not much of a writer to begin with but who knows English well enough and is versatile on the computer to do the necessary editing.

I will insert a note in subsequent issues of the Newsletter reminding all of you well ahead of time that someday, someone will be the new Editor. .

Monthly Inc. and Exp. For September, 2007	
Income (\$)	
Contributions	117.00
Interest	2.23
Shareware/Freeware	
Sales	15.00
Tuition	0.00
Total Income	134.23
Expenses (\$)	
Church Usage	100.00
Lab expenses	0.00
Newsletter	11.21
Textbook purchase	0.00
Total Expenses	111.21
Inc. Less Exp.	23.02

Anti-Spyware Recommendations

By Frank Varano

Spywarrior.com lists these (but not limited to) softwares as 'legit' in the sense that they don't load your computer with stuff you don't want: Ad-aware, AVG-Anti-Spyware, Pest-Patrol, Spy-Sweeper, Spyware-Doctor, SUPERAntiSpyware, Windows Defender, Spybot Search and Destroy.

There is a huge list of rogue anti spyware software companies. I can't list them here but let me give you a warning when you see Adware or adaware in the name make sure that the company is Lavasoft.de or LavasoftUSA.com. There is another that capitalizes on Spybot that will have Spybot or something like that in the advertising. Watch for the misleading word "Pest" also in the advertising. There is so much info in the site that I would rather give you the site to visit:

http://www.spywarewarrior.com/rogue_anti-spyware.htm#trustworthy.

Go there and poke through the site and print out what is important to you. You were given the essentials by Jim recently on what to have on your computer. I concur. I run Ad aware, Spybot, AVG Anti-Rootkit Free, AVG Anti-Spyware and Defender. "I don't take no chances." I even have an offline backup computer in a room with an armed blonde at the door.