



It Doesn't Matter How Smart You Are.

By Frank Varano

This is not an IQ Test. Frankly, it is not a test at all. I am being sarcastic. Knowing that all of you have AVG or some sort of Anti Virus software and also some sort of Anti Malware programs running, I'd like to ask if you are aware of the very sophisticated type of phishing that goes on in the Internet? That is where the trouble is or will be for you. If phishing didn't work there would be no phishing, right? So some of you have been 'taken in' by a phishing attack, right?

Ryan Naraine of ZDNet has been talking about the "Storm Worm" which "nine months after it was first discovered, (it still) continues to surge, building what experts believe could be the world's most powerful supercomputer." Them's powerful words, eh what? He says, "a myriad of social engineering lures (are used) to trick Windows users into downloading malware, (and) has successfully seeded a massive botnet — between one million and 10 million CPUs — producing computing power to rival the world's top 10 supercomputers." The words in parentheses are mine.

Frankly that tells me that even the smartest of us can be tricked into taking the bait of these phishing attacks. The trouble is that it is not a matter of being smart; it is a matter of reasonably responding to an email notice that might be the right site or an *exact* duplicate of what might be sent to you legitimately by a company.

The real trouble lies in the situation when a hacker gets into a legitimate site and sort of takes over. No matter how smart you are, how are you to know? I don't want to copy the whole article here but you can see for yourself by going to: <http://blogs.zdnet.com/security/?p=493&tag=nl.e590>

I'd like to be able to tell you what to do to protect yourself but I can't. If a website is hacked and you access it to do business, you've blundered into it. It is not a pleasant thought because we do access many sites just for business purposes. It's like going to Vons, doing all your grocery shopping, paying for it with a debit card and not knowing that the card number and PIN was recorded sur

(Continued on page 2)

RSS Anyone?

By [Bob Bly](#)

[Editor : I ran across RSS some time ago and it sounded so mysterious and complicated to me that I fought it tooth and toenail. Then this guy (Bob Bly) comes along to explain what it is all about. I thought the explanation so good (up to a point) that I am quoting him entirely here. I'll put my comments in his article as needed.]

Should you use Real Simple Syndication (RSS) to distribute your blog content and attract more readers? [Of course, all of you know about blogs.]

In case you don't know, RSS is a method of notifying users when the content of a website is updated. For instance, a person could subscribe to an RSS feed that automatically lets him know that his favorite blog has a new posting. To access the RSS feed, they need to download an "aggregator," a type of software that checks for new content at specified intervals. (Google Reader is one of the few RSS feed services that doesn't require downloading any software.)

Bloggng enthusiasts claim that RSS is bringing blogging to the masses. But according to an article in Fuel newsletter, very few people subscribe to RSS feeds. [You see why I didn't pursue it. It was too complicated for me.]

Despite its name, Real Simple Syndication isn't all that simple. [See what I mean?] Ninety-eight out of 100 people find RSS so intimidating and confusing, they don't use it. [What other proof do you need?]

Before jettisoning RSS completely from your blog, consider that it does have some good points. Aside from notifying individual users when you've updated an article or blog entry, RSS gives you a way to syndicate your website content to other online publications that use RSS feeds as part of their own content. This can help get your name and ideas out to Internet users who aren't already reading your blog, and can result in more traffic to your site and more customers.

[This last paragraph leaves something to be desired. But here it is, RSS for you to digest as best you can.]





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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

Continued from page 1. It Doesn't Matter ...

repetitiously for the owners to pilfer your account before you got home.

Well, that is somewhat of a dramatic analogy but I think you may get the idea. I'll report more as I learn more.

Internet Libraries

By Walter Antoniotti, (creator of the [Free Internet Libraries](#), author of the free [Quick Notes Learning System](#) books series, and President of [21st Century Learning Products](#))

Upon retiring from college teaching/administration, I began developing [Free Internet Libraries](#) for students, teachers, and professionals. Of special interest to your audience are these free computer libraries although all the libraries are educational oriented and may be of interest to your members.

[Free Business Software](#)

[Free Software Tutorials](#)

[Excel Internet Library](#)

Please inform your club members about these libraries.

Wi-Fi Theft

By Frank Varano

A man in London used someone's unsecured broadband link and was jailed. It also happened in the US. In our area with FIOS and other Cable broadband a lot of routers are being used. I suspect that most users never bother to change the

default settings on the router and that leads them to invitations for roving thieves to access the broadband through their routers. Perhaps many don't even know how to change it or what it implies if they don't change it.

In setting up my own router I detected several networks, two of which I could have accessed. They had good signals. Although it is silly for me or any homeowner to bother using someone else's access, if I had nefarious intentions I could take a laptop and roam the area and access the net from many places. It is like walking into someone's house and taking a nap in the master bedroom.

(Continued on page 4)



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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



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 the 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 here.

S L O O O W Computer Startup (XP Machine)

By Frank Varano

Every time you uninstall something on your computer you should uninstall the drivers too or else they will use up system resources. You will notice it particularly at start up. Even though the thing you uninstalled is long gone there will be a weighty footprint of the device still lurking in your computer. These drivers can be many, many megabytes big. They load up at boot time.

But how do you find and remove them? Do the last step carefully and I'll tell you why.

1. Press the **Windows and Break** keys to bring up **System Properties**.
2. Click on **Advanced** tab and click the **Environment Variables** button.
3. Click the **New** button below the **System Variables** panel.
4. In the **New System Variable** dialog box, type `devmgr_show_nonpresent_devices`, and type `1` in the **Variable Value** text box.
5. Click OK twice to return and get back to **System Properties**.
6. Click on the **Hardware** tab and the **Device Manager** button.
7. Go to **View | Show Hidden Devices**.
8. Click each + sign to expand the tree then look for the washed out icons. They are unused device drivers. A washed out icon will be lighter.
9. To remove an unused device driver, right-click the icon and select **Uninstall**. But *Warning!* The world will not come to an end if you uninstall all of

the washed out icons. But be aware that if an item is not being used (not plugged in, for example) it will be grayed out. So don't uninstall *willy-willy*. You may need *willy-nilly!*

Disk Imaging

By Frank Varano

I mentioned in an earlier article that you can create an image of your hard drive on another hard drive with Acronis software whose representative was at the CCMV meeting a couple years ago. I learned that Vista has a hard disk imaging utility which allows you to create an image.

You can get a copy of the (OEM) version of Acronis True Image through Seagate Seagate DiscWizard or Maxtor MaxBlast software which will do this for you. They are free. If I remember rightly, when you buy a Maxtor hard drive you also get a CD with MaxBlast on it. The tool migrates your files from an older hard disk to a new one. You can also use the tool as backup utilities. If you don't have the CD, you can download it. After you install the utility, you'll have that Vista backup utility on XP.

I remember (circa 1998) when I used MaxBlast on Windows 98SE. A drive developed only a few bad sectors at first which alerted me to the impending disk failure. Although that was the only time I *ever* saw bad sectors on a hard disk, Maxtor tried to convince me that it was 'normal'. Eventually more and more sectors were bad which led me to a panic situation. The disk was under warranty. It was replaced. I saved most of the disk.

Is there a lesson here? Perhaps. Though disks are very dependable, there is an adage that says, "Not if, but when." I would add that you should pay attention to the results of the disk scan. If there are any bad sectors, even one, pay attention and get ready to replace the drive before it is too late. It is like a melanoma.

Editor's Note to Readers

You don't have to be a good writer to get an article in the Newsletter. If you have a good topic of general interest and some typewritten or hand-printed notes, give it to me to write it up for you and have your own 'by-line.' Remember that the editor has the last word on material suitability. Writers must expect that all material submitted will be edited.



Kwikly Krop Krappy Fotos

By Frank Varano

I thought of that clever title as soon as I awakened this morning at 4:30. It is not just an ordinary title; it's about MS Paint which everyone has on his computer. Compared to any other photo editing software available like Adobe, it is like comparing a bicycle to a car. This is not the most elegant way to crop a picture but neither is starting the day at 4:30.



This guy needs a shrink

Let's assume that you already got the picture and it is just a file on the Desktop where you put it because you intended to work with it when you are through clearing out the cat litter box. Assume that it is in jpg or bmp format which is very common. (Let's keep it simple (KISS principle.)

Although I have Adobe Photoshop and a few other photo-editing software for handling photos, I use MS Paint. Everybody who uses Windows has MS Paint. For me it is a simple program for 'kwikly cropping Fotos.' And I use it only to prepare the photo for sending it by email or for inserting it in The Connection or even the CCMV Newsletter. Right now I am not interested in doing anything fancy with photos. Here's how to simply crop a photo and no more.

Open MS Paint. (Start, Programs, Accessories, Paint.) In Paint click on File and then Open. Find the file on the desktop to put it in Paint. At first you may be shocked. You might see only the corner of the picture. You might not even see the picture at all and think that you didn't copy it. Be assured that it is still there. Do some scrolling to find out where it is located. Don't let the size throw you. It is huge but kind of easy to work with. You have to keep shrinking it until it is just right.

Continued on page 5

Annual Income and Expenses

Ending September 30, 2007
Chet Hartley, Treasurer

Income (\$)	
Contributions	2080.51
Equipment sale	325.00
Interest	20.24
Shareware-Freeware Sales	120.00
Tuition	2402.00
Total Income	6167.75
Expenses (\$)	
Association dues	50.00
Bookkeeping expenses	10.21
Church Usage	1900.00
Meeting expenses	148.43
Newsletter expenses	153.42
Insurance	640.00
Lab expenses	1278.76
Textbook purchase	1062.79
Web Hosting	95.40
Total Expenses	5338.51
Income less expenses	829.24
Account Balance, 10/1/2007	2610.32

(Continued from page 2, Wi-Fi)

The widespread use of routers in our modernized society will have to be addressed. Just how, I don't know. From a moralistic standpoint, accessing the broadband other than through your own router is 'stealing.' This can lead to a silly situation in court. When you steal something there is often a restitution situation. How can you give back the bandwidth you stole from me?

If you leave your car window open with valuables inside it is still theft if I appropriated the valuables. No good analogies fit the picture. If your neighbor also has a Linksys you could (inadvertently) just happen to use his SSID. It's not your fault. The computer did it! Does that make your computer a criminal? I sure would not like to be a judge in any such case. I'd be byting off more than I can eschew.



Only in America

Only in Americadrugstores make the sick walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front.

Only in Americado people order double cheese-burgers, large fries, and a diet coke.

Only in Americado banks leave both doors open and then chain the pens to the counters.



News Item

Fran Nakayama tells me that her husband "has carcinoma cancer in his nasopharynx. We were told on July 31 after pressing for an emergency CT Scan because an off-and-on headache wouldn't go away and became continuous. Surgery is out because of its delicate location. Chemo and radiation simultaneously has to be done which was finally started on Sept. 17 after weeks of preparation with all kinds of specialists. I'm afraid the long fight has just begun."

Fran is a long time member of the CCMV. We've missed her in these past few months. Keep her in your prayers.

Cityhood iForum

By Conrad Melton, Presiding Officer and Secretary of Menifee Valley Municipal Advisory Council'

Supervisor Jeff Stone and other featured speakers and representatives from Riverside County offices will hold a forum on Wednesday night, October 24 at the Kay Cenicerros Senior Center, 29995 Evans Road at Newport Rd., starting at 7:00 PM. Come, bring your questions. Admission is free.

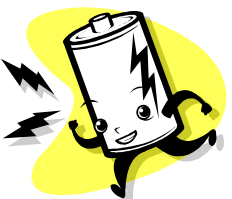
Recycle Batteries and Phones

By Frank Varano

I didn't know about this until I read an article by Berlimd of ZDNet. about RBRC (Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation. It is an answer to my prayer.) "Who said you can't get nuthin' for free?" he says (or asks).

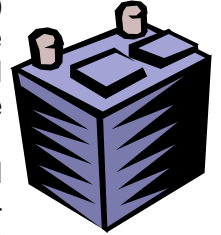


You too can join a plan to save the Earth (I didn't know it was in danger.) He continued, "Not only does the not-for-profit RBRC take rechargeable batteries from notebook PCs, cordless drills, etc, it also takes cell phones, many of which it refurbishes and resells. The proceeds of those sales go to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the Boys and Girls Clubs of America." How noble a cause! (See next column)

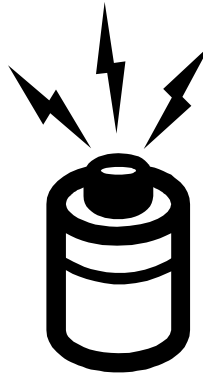


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There is no cost whatsoever to participate. RBRC has collection boxes at various places. (Like Best Buy, Home Depot, Radio Shack.) When those collection boxes are full, they seal them up and call UPS. The UPS shipping fees are prepaid.



If we wanted to do so, we could put a collection box in the clubhouse but that would be another thing we would need volunteers for. For us it's more practical to simply bring those batteries (from cell phones, notebooks, cordless drills video cameras, etc.) to the boxes at the places I mentioned above.



Across the US and Canada, there are thousands of public drop off locations at retailers. Search [RBRC's online database](#) and you will get the list of drop off locations by zip code. No, I do not have a drop off box in my garage.

(Continued from page 4,)

First, using the up/down and left/right scroll bars, scroll to find that part of the picture you are interested in cropping. Put it in a position so that you can see all of that part of the picture, keeping in mind that in using the cropping tool you must be able to draw a rectangle (or square) that encloses the part of the picture you want.

At this stage I suggest that you save the picture with a different name so that if you screw up you will be able to open it again. You will screw it up for sure because you will want to change what the end result will be.

Pick a point on the picture (which will be the upper left corner of the cropped picture.) Now click on the rectangle tool, move the mouse to the corner you selected above and drag the mouse so that the rectangle (or square formed) neatly encloses the cropped picture you want.

If you got what you want, right click on cropped picture and left click on Save. You can save it where you want but you've just kwikly kropped a picture.



Lazy Links and Stacked Commands

By Frank Varano

I think that Windows Task Manager (WTM) is the best thing that Microsoft ever did. I think it is even better than sex. Look, I don't expect a consensus! It is what I think, personally. Why? Well, it is constantly telling me what is going on in the computer (not sex, I am talking about the WTM). A case in point: (I like that phrase, whatever it means.)

Today (it doesn't matter when that is by the time you read this) I started the computer as usual early in the morning bright and early, at 4:30. But in my impatience to see how much money I made in the market yesterday (again it doesn't matter when that is either, since it is a day before today) I clicked on IE (Internet Explorer, for those who have not awakened yet) but nothing (apparently) happened.

So I clicked it again and waited for something to happen. Nothing (apparently) happened (I have to say 'apparently' because it has to do with Stacked Commands.) I found another IE shortcut on the Quick Launch Bar and clicked on that and again on the desktop shortcut. Exasperated, I waited and waited.

Finally IE opened up and the computer response seemed terribly sluggish. I whipped out my six-shooter, the WTM to see what is making things drag. You know, I found 4 instances of IE open! Each had about 60K of memory usage. That was over 240K. My RAM was really rebelling at the rapacious IE. (How did you like that alliteration?)

Of course, I killed three of them. I only needed one and things returned to normal. Now, here is a lesson for you. You can stack commands when you are working with a computer but you can only do it (successfully) when you know that each successive command is a valid one that can apply to any incidental dialog box or Window that may appear as a result of a command. You can't go willy-nilly hoping that each one will apply. You may end up in computer no man's land.

Stacking commands gives you an edge on efficiency. There is enough waiting going on when you work with a computer. If you have ever written an Office macro in Visual Basic to do a bunch of things sequentially (and repetitively) you'll appreciate the efficiency that results. But most of you don't see a need to write a macro so knowing about stacking commands is useful.

Continued in next column

I'll leave you with one very simple command stacking example. You have a *existing* Word document open. (a) You want to copy all of the text for use elsewhere, (b) close the Word document with the changes you made, (c) open a new blank Word document, (d) paste the copied material into the new Word document. (I know this whole thing is silly but, it is just an example.) How would you do this with stacked commands? You can do these commands one after the other.

(a) Alt+E, L, Ctrl+C, (Select and copy)

(b) Alt+F, C, then Enter (Close and save changes)

(c) Alt+F, N, then Enter (Create a new blank document)

(d) Ctrl+V, (Paste to where cursor is at beginning of document.)

A final note. You can create macros that deal with many files successively. It reduces the work from hours to minutes. In creating a macro you'd start with the steps such as above (a, b, c, d,) either going through the actual steps while creating the macro or by actually writing the VB code. For purposes of this article, let's stick with stacking of a few well-known commands which will save you a few seconds so that you can practice on the guitar in the time you save.

Reference: I used MS Word in Office 2003.

Problem Computers

By Frank Varano

In the space of 4 weeks I had occasion to help friends with their computers having many of the same symptoms. (1) Accessing a webpage or closing a webpage precipitates an MS error reporting message. (2) Computer randomly shuts down and restarts. (3) Opening any program takes 30 seconds or more. (4) Message appears indicating a corrupt file. (5) Restoring to earlier date does not fix any problems.

On the first computer I failed to correct the problems and the user had to 'start all over.' On the second one, I did clear up the problems (but I don't know which one (s) of the many things I did brought the success.) I am completely baffled by the third one which had all the symptoms. I am still working on it. Restoring to an earlier date was unsuccessful.

The fourth leads me to suspect that IE6 and IE 7 is at fault through updates by MS. More on that later.