Orange Bytes

Award Winning Newsletter of the North Orange County Computer Club *

Main Meeting, August 10th
Barracuda Server

Wilfred Milsen will be speaking about the BarracudaDrive Web Server. His presentation will focus on how to install, configure and use the web server on a home or business network.

BarracudaDrive includes 4 major components: a content management system, an electronic bulletin board, a Web File Manager/WebDAV server, and a HTTPS tunnel. The presentation will cover the first three features.

Attendees will receive a license code good for two years of usage of the product. One reason for using this software, as apposed to some similar products, is that you can remotely download megabytes of photos without going through a third party server, which is a potential security risk. It also lets you authorize someone else to access specific files, and several other things that the GoToMyPC type programs do not. Find out more at: http://barracudaserver.com/products/BarracudaDrive/

The **NOCCC Consignment Table** will be set up during the August 2008 meeting.
E-Waste will also be collected by Omni Technics, Inc. (See Page 5)

NOCCC Meeting - August 10th

9:00 a.m.

Microsoft Word, Excel and Outlook *.........Science 109*
Topics about these three parts of the Microsoft Office Suite (**New SIG!**)

Linux for Desktop Users *........................Science 131a*
Topics about the Linux operating system

Visual Programming *...................................Science 111*
Visual Basic, Visual Basic Script, Visual C++ and Visual J++ for beginners

10:30 a.m.

Microsoft Access (**New SIG!**)*......................Science 109*
Microsoft Access database. Please check your email and the posted schedules to see if this SIG will be meeting.

Digital Photography *..................................... Irvine Hall*
Learn about Flickr.com

Linux for Advanced Users *......................Science 131a*
Topics about the Linux operating system

Internet Today *...Science 306*
Security threats, development of our web site

Understanding Operating Systems *.........Science 111*
Help with DOS, Windows, OS/2, etc.

12:00 Noon

PIG SIG... ***Argyros Cafeteria***
Lunch and conversation

12:30 p.m.

Hardware Essentials
This SIG is on hiatus until further notice

OS/2 News and Installation........................*Science 306*
PC Q & A... *Irvine Hall*
Q & A about personal computers.

2:00 p.m. Main Meeting, Irvine Hall

NOCCC website:
http://www.noccc.org

Future Meeting Dates in 2008
Sept. 7, Oct. 5, Nov. 2, Dec. 7

*SWUG 1st Prize in 2004, 2005, 2006   APCUG 2nd Prize in 2003, 2004, 2005   Founded April 1976

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Orange Bytes Staff

Publication Chairman - *Oversees publication tasks and converts the Orange Bytes newsletter to PDF for printing and web posting; transmits PDF to Printer.*
Ted Littman .... (714) 779-1936, tedlit@roadrunner.com

Editor - *Edits and makes final selections of the articles to be included in the newsletter.*
Steven Breitbart ....(714) 373-5249, editor@noccc.org

Associate Editor/Production - *Receives articles from the editor and lays out the issue of the newsletter.*
Steven Breitbart .... (714) 373-5249, editor@noccc.net

Circulation - *Oversees mailing and distribution of the newsletter.*
Richard Miller....................................(714) 309-1504, rrrmil@yahoo.com

Reviews Editor - *Communicates with the vendors and members who evaluate products and write reviews. Makes sure members meet deadlines. Sends a copy of the newsletter to vendors of products we review.*
Ted Littman ....(714) 779-936, reviews@noccc.org

Copy Editor - *Does final proof reading of the newsletter for typos and misspellings.*
Ted Littman ....(714) 779-1936, reviews@noccc.org

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The following positions are available:

Contributing Editors - *Write articles for the newsletter.* **Open**

Commercial Swap Meets - *Distributes the newsletter and NOCCC flyers at swap meets.* **Open**

Commercial Advertising - *Obtains ads from vendors for the newsletter.* **Open**

Classified Advertising - *Obtains computer-related, non-commercial ads for the newsletter free to NOCCC members.* **Open**

Celebrating 32 years of "Friends Helping Friends"

August 10th Meeting Preview

MAIN MEETING   **2:00 p.m. in Irvine Hall**

Wilfred Milsen will give a presentation about the **BarracudaDrive Web Server**. It will focus on how to install, configure and use the web server on a home or business network.

LINUX FOR DESKTOPS SIG   9:00 a.m., Science 131A
A continuing series of topics about the Linux operating system.

WORD, EXCEL and OUTLOOK SIG   9:00 a.m., Science 109
Outlook and Excel interfaces with Internet Email (Gmail); Word interfaces with Outlook. (**New SIG!**)

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY SIG   10:30 a.m. Irvine Hall
We will set up a Flickr.com account, explore the features and also how to use a Flickr NOCCC group.

INTERNET TODAY SIG   10:30 a.m. Science 306
Exploring security threats and discussion of the new NOCCC web site. (**Name changed from Security SIG**)

ACCESS SIG   10:30 a.m., Science 109
Introduction to Microsoft Access. Please check your email and the posted schedules to see if it will be meeting. (**New SIG!**)

OS/2 NEWS & INSTALLATION SIG 12:30 p.m., Science 306

PC Q & A SIG   12:30 p.m., Irvine Hall
PC questions answered and problems solved.

HARDWARE ESSENTIALS SIG
This SIG is on hiatus until further notice.

THE CLUB OPPORTUNITY DRAWING
GENERAL DRAWING
1) Sams Teach Yourself Adobe Photoshop Elements 6 book
2) East Microsoft Windows Vista, 2nd Edition book
3) Network Security Technologies & Solutions book

MEMBER-ONLY DRAWING
Wear your NOCCC Membership Badge and get a free ticket!
1) Easy Computer Basics, Windows Vista Edition book
2) Network Security Fundamentals book

President's Message

By Jim Sanders, NOCCC President

Well, the first month of my being the new NOCCC President has ended. At a personal level, it has been a pretty tough month. As most of you know, bladder cancer killed Elise Edgell last month and took away the light of my life. Attending to even the minimum items of club business that I needed to take care of was a challenge. There are a number of ongoing issues for the club that we will be addressing in the coming months. I would really appreciate your input and feedback on these items as we deal with them.

Ivan Randall was the presenter at the July meeting and that was his third time in front of our group presenting different products. For July, he was demonstrating the **PhotoFinder GPS product from Merax.** Being a little preoccupied, I did not take the time to go on to the web and read up on this product. As a result, I was little skeptical about whether or not the product would be of any use or interest to me. I was sufficiently impressed with his presentation, and the usefulness of the product, that I purchased one.

The club web site has been an ongoing embarrassment for quite a while now. Although it was state-of-the-art at the time that Jim Peugh created it, that was over ten years ago. At the moment, there are two projects underway to do something about the website. Club member Dave Keays is studying to be a web master and is working on a whole new web site. Jim Pugh has offered to make some changes to the current web site and create a new one that is more up-to-date. By next month, we should have the current one and Dave's new effort available at the same time. Please e-mail me with your feedback and your suggestions.

CHAPMAN PARKING has been a major issue the last couple of months. I have talked with the Public Safety department about the on-campus parking problem and they gave us a break. If you purchase a $2.00, 2-hour pass for the *Lastinger* underground parking structure, and park there, it will be valid for our entire Sunday meeting.

The Ask the PC Club column is appearing in the Tuesday edition of the Orange County Register newspaper in the Marketplace section. The column is then posted to the Stump the PC Club online column at: http://gadgetress.freedomblogging.com/category/stump-the-pc-club/. This has raised awareness of our club and brought in some new members. If you would like to answer some of the questions received, and get your name in the paper, contact me.

The August main meeting will feature the **Barracuda Home Server product**. At a basic level, the software will allow you to access your own computer remotely via the Internet. The program has a number of other features, some of which are covered in the presentation preview elsewhere in the newsletter, and sounds interesting to me. Hope to see you there

As a valued member, we bring you a section of discounts and offers as part of the entire "Benefit of Belonging." (Caveat: we are unable to endorse these companies, but make these offers available as a service to our members.)

User Group Offers - Software and Hardware

AskSam - SurfSaver Pro 6, normally $29.95, you can get it for $19.95. AskSam 6 Standard + SurfSaver Pro 6 is a flexible and powerful way to organize information and create searchable databases from Web pages, Email, PDF files, texts, and Word documents. Normally $149.95 but you can get it for $69.95 or the Pro version for $99.95. You can also download a 30-day trial version at www.asksam.com/usergroupspecial/.

Corel - Use the following link for special pricing for user group members: www.corel.com/specialusergroups

- WordPerfect Office X3 for $159
- CorelDRAW Graphics Suite X3 for $179
- Corel Painter IX.5 for $229
- Paint Shop Pro Photo XI for $59
- Snap Fire Plus for $29

Laplink - www.laplink.com - Laplink's Everywhere 4 is a great remote computer control and access program. PCmover is a program for moving all of your applications, settings, and data files from an old PC to a new PC. Members of an APCUG affiliated user group can get discount of 30% by using coupon code APCUG.

Techsmith - You can get SnagIt, a screen capture program, and Camtasia Studio, to quickly record, edit and publish multimedia demos and presentations, bundle for $269, a $50 savings. Go to: www.techsmith.com/store/order/bundle.asp and use promotion code **PRESBN05**.

Kingston Memory Products - Many different types of memory products are available at a discount to members of APCUG affiliated clubs. Go to www.shop.kingston.com/swug and use the password "computeroutlook"

Hands free cell phone kit - As of July 1 you can not make a call with a cell phone while driving unless you have a hands free unit. Go to www.freeheadset.org/home.php. This site offered 3 wired models for free and one for $2.50, or a Bluetooth version for $27.00. In all cases shipping was $3.94.

User Group Offers - Books and Magazines

O'Reilly Books - **Get 35% off all books and PDFs** from O'Reilly, No Starch, Paraglyph, PC Publishing, Pragmatic Bookshelf, SitePoint, or Syngress books you purchase directly from O'Reilly. Just use code **DSUG** when ordering online, www.oreilly.com/store/, or by phone, (800) 998-9938. Free ground shipping on orders $29.95 or more in the US. If for any reason you are not completely satisfied with your purchase, return it to O'Reilly and get your money back (www.oreilly.com/oreilly/cs/guarantee). A return shipping label is included with every direct purchase and directions are posted online in case you misplace it.

Peachpit Press Books Discount - Get 35% off by joining the Peachpit Club. Go to www.peachpit.com to sign up as a member. User group members should note that once you've become a Peachpit Club member, you may use your user group coupon code ON TOP of the permanent savings you earn as a member of the club. Just log into the site before you make a purchase to ensure this permanent discount will be in effect, and then enter coupon code **UE-23AA-PEUF** (case-sensitive) at checkout! This coupon code is an exclusive offer that may not be used in conjunction with any other coupon codes. The offer applies to all titles at peachpit.com including New Riders, Macromedia Press, Adobe Press, and Peachpit Press.

Pearson Education Products including Prentice Hall Professional, Addison-Wesley Professional, IBM Press, Exam Cram, Que Publishing, and Cisco Press. Get 35% off list price by purchasing directly from the publisher combo site: www.informit.com/join. Sign in or create an account. Enter the membership code "USERGROUP" (all caps). Select your items and check out. You are required to register and apply the code once, but you must be logged in to receive the special pricing.

Smart Computing - www.smartcomputing.com For each paid membership (subscription to either Smart Computing or Computer Power User) via personalized membership forms or by telephone, the NOCCC will receive one credit. When the NOCCC has accumulated 5 credits, Smart Computing will donate one subscription to us (Great to use as an opportunity drawing prize or a "thank you" to a member, etc.) Call customer service at (800) 733-3809 and tell them you are with the North Orange County Computer Club. If you go to their website to subscribe, click on User Groups and there is a drop down menu with our group's name on it.

Consignment Table and e-Waste Collection August 2008

The NOCCC Consignment Table will be set up during the August 2008 meeting. E-Waste will also be collected by Omni Technics, Inc.

1) Only current members can place items for sale, but non-members are welcome to purchase items from the table. This is a great place to get some money for your surplus computer items, and help the NOCCC at the same time.

2) The consignment table operates on a 90/10% basis — with the owner getting 90%, and the Club treasury 10%.

3) **You can fill out a Consignment Table User List and item tags at the table:** The user list and each tag must contain:
   a) Seller's name
   b) Seller's NOCCC membership number
   c) Item name and description
   d) Item asking price

4) All items and/or money may be picked up by the seller at any time, but no later than 2 p.m. on the day of sale. Any items and/or money not picked up by 2 p.m. will become the property of NOCCC and will be subject to disposal at the Club's discretion.

5) California disposal laws have made it illegal to put monitors and computers in the regular trash. If you have a display or computer that doesn't sell, you must agree to pick these items up. The club has no storage room available for unsold items.

6) NOCCC is NOT RESPONSIBLE in any way for items bought and/or sold at the Consignment Table. Each item is placed and sold on an AS-IS BASIS.

NOCCC Officers

The area code for the following phone numbers is 714 unless noted.

President
Jim Sanders .... 544-3589 .... president@noccc.org
Vice President
Steven Breitbart .... 373-5249 .... smbreitbart@verizon.net
Secretary
Mary Cornett....................... 995-5551 .... ladyluck0077@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer
John Heenan........................ 998-7660 .... treasurer@noccc.org

Directors
Tom Feeley .... 730-9333 .... tomfeeley@sbcglobal.net
Dallas Hazleton .... 526-1592 ...... ghazleton4@dslextreme.com
Chuck Hower .... 637-7884 .... wolfcollar@aol.com
Ted Littman........................ 779-1936 .... tedlit@roadrunner.com
Bob Love............................ 573-9876 .... wb9plg@sbcglobal.net
Richard Miller..................... 309-1504 .... rrrmil@yahoo.com
Len Prince .... 526-7881 .... lenprince@sbcglobal.net
Gerry Resch .... 772-6667 .... gerry@gerryresch.com

Past President
Herb Wong.......................... 968-7264.. ocug@singularitytechnology.com
Editor
Steven Breitbart... .... 373-5249. .... editor@noccc.org
Webmaster
Open

Volunteers, Committees, and Projects

Consignment Table
Richard Miller..................... 309-1504 .... rrrmil@yahoo.com
Helpline
Ted Littman........................ 779-1936 .... tedlit@roadrunner.com
Membership Database
John Heenan........................ 998-7660 .... treasurer@noccc.org
Membership Chairman
Open
SIG Coordinator
Open
Programs/Speakers Coordinator
Open
Public Relations
Open
University Liaison
Jim Sanders .... 544-3589 .... president@noccc.org

NOCCC Help Line

The Help Line is in the true spirit of the NOCCC, which is to help others to learn more about computers. The following is a list of Help Line subjects that a NOCCC volunteer is able to help you with. Call (714) 779-1936 or e-mail Ted Littman at helpline@noccc.org with additions, deletions, or corrections.

Apple II
AutoCAD
CPU Aided Investing
Computer Boards
Computer Security
Corel Draw
Corel Draw
Desktop Publishing
Digital Photography
Excel
GPS Navigation
Linux
Lotus 1-2-3
Memory/Interrupts
Microsoft Office
Pinnacle Studio
Photoediting
Photoediting & shop
Photoshop
QuickBooks - all ver.
QBooks 5 & Quicken
Tcl/Tk & UNIX
Vista
Windows 9X & XP
Wireless

The names of our volunteers are only available in the printed version of the Orange Bytes.

SIG Leaders List

Contact the SIG leaders by e-mail, preferably, rather than by telephone.

SIG	BLDG	RM.	TIME	LEADER	E-MAIL	PHONE
Linux for Desktop/Advanced	Science	131A	9:00/10:30	Bob Ray	bobrobo@dialup4less.com	(714) 634-7520
Visual Programming	Science	111	9:00	Anson Chapman	aeccrcss@hotmail.com	(909) 860-9515
Word, Excel and Outlook	Science	109	9:00	Tia Williams	lwilliams_00@yahoo.com	(714) 263-6105
Access	Science	109	10:30	Bob Dickson	robertbdickson@socal.rr.com	(714) 539-1305
Internet Today	Science	306	10:30	Dave Keays	dave@rdksoftware.com	(714) 348-9096
Digital Photography	Irvine Hall	—–	10:30	Larry Klees	lklees@dslextreme.com	(714) 879-6405
Understanding OS's	Science	111	10:30	Charlie Moore	mooreca@adelphia.net	(714) 529-9071
Hardware Essentials	on hiatus			Herbert Wong	ocug@singularitytechnology.com	(714) 968-7264
OS/2 News and Installation	Science	306	12:30	Steve Schiffman	schiffman@attglobal.net	
PC Q&A	Irvine Hall	—–	12:30	Jim Sanders	jsanders@ligasmicro.com	(714) 544-3589
	Please report SIG changes to Jim Sanders				president@noccc.org	(714) 544-3589

Our New Web Site, Part III

By Dave Keays, NOCCC

It looks like this is turning into a monthly column that will be the documentation for using the new web site at www.rdksoftware.com/noccc.

Last month I thought the page was finally getting used since the traffic doubled. I was getting used by Microsoft's search engine bots and I wasn't the only one who noticed a sharp jump.

Now it is time to tell the SIG leaders how to use the new site and fine-tune their home page. There are three things you can do: change your description and next topic, change your front page, and file SIG minutes.

The description and next topic is easy enough. When you go into the SIG schedule and click on your SIG meeting, you will see some tabs near the top. Choose the "edit" tab. Then there will be a form with 3 fields: the home page, a small description, and your next topic. Make whatever changes you want, scroll down to the bottom and click the "submit" button.

Now, when people look at the SIG schedule it will display your description of the group, and what topic you plan to cover next.

The next step is your group's home page. This is the page people will see when they click your groups name in the SIG schedule. You might have a Welcome message, list of regular attendants, or some pictures.

If you know HTML:
1) Enter the HTML in the content body ("home page")
2) Expand the "input format" section and choose "whole HTML"
3) Scroll to the end of the page and click submit or preview

If you are using Office, then things are a little more difficult. I'm not an MS Office guru so I'll leave this one to someone else.

To file a SIG report:
1) Choose "create content"
2) Choose "page"
3) Enter a title like "blah blah sig report for Feb 2008
4) Under "report type" choose SIG minutes
5) Under "group" choose your SIG
6) Under "month" and "year" choose the date for your meeting
7) Type your report in the body
8) Scroll down and click submit or preview

Now, when members clicks on the SIG minutes menu item, they will see a list of reports filed and a teaser of the first couple of lines.

So let's give the visitors a reason to come to your group. Describe what you do, report what you've done in the past, and mention what you will do next. Would you go to a meeting that you had absolutely no idea what it would be like?

The top three visitors this last month (ignoring test account, search engine robots, and myself) were Ted Littman, Len Prince, and Bob Dickson. Since I only gave Len and Bob accounts last month they've done very well. Both hit in 37 pages in the last 4 weeks. Ted hit 46 and I hit in 660.

Next month I'll talk about how to add uploaded pictures to your home page.

Upcoming Expos, Swap Meets, Computer, Camera and Electronics Shows

By Steven Breitbart, NOCCC

This area of the country seems to have shows for anything under the sun. If you collect two-headed frog statutes, there's probably a show for you somewhere in Southern California. But, the focus of this article is shows that are somewhat computer related. While probably incomplete, here is a list of shows I found for 2008. If you know of a show that others in the NOCCC might like to attend, let me know.

West Coast Expos Computer Fair (lacomputerfair.com)
Fairplex in Pomona
August 16-17
October 25-26
November 15-16
December 13-14
Ontario Convention Center
September 13-14

Orange County Electronics Show (www.oceshow.com)
Orange County Fair and Event Center
September 10-11

Giant ACP Computer Show
(www.swapmeetbyhyperactive.com)
Hyperactive Computers Parking Lot, Santa Ana
September 28
November 30

Bagnall's Camera Expo (www.cameraexpo.com)
Carson Center
August 17
September 21
October 19

Security Tidbits

By Dave Keays, NOCCC SIG Leader

The SANS Institute (SysAdmin, Audit, Network, Security) did another report on how long an unpatched, Windows system would survive on the Internet without being infected by something.

They did the same study in 2003 and in 2004 and each time the length is drastically reduced. This points to two things: 1st the necessity for SP2 or SP3 today and the fact that the Internet underground is getting much more sophisticated every day.

2003 = 40 minutes
2004 = 20 minutes
2008 = 4 minutes

The problem with the numbers above is that nobody (I think) uses an unpatched system today. At least nobody I know does. But then people are always proving me wrong whenever I say something like "nobody is that stupid." If I could only get a nickel every time I hear someone say: "they turned off UAC (Universal Access Control) because they were tired of all the pop-ups."

The solution is to always harden your system as much as you can before getting on the Internet. Use a NAT router especially since most ISP's today are providing them in their package. ASAP get all updates and service patches for both your OS and for your AV. If you can, get the latest SP (currently SP3 for Windows XP) on another machine before you go online. But, by using a NAT router and Windows Personal Firewall, you will be cutting most of the attacks back and can safely update your OS and AV to get even more protection.

Microsoft Warning

By Jim Sanders, NOCCC

The people, who bought a Windows XP computer that came from the vendor with the automatic updates feature turned on, may never have seen any one of the numerous nattering screens that admonished the rest of us to turn it on. There is a screen that natters at you when you install XP on a new system to turn on Windows update now. Once Windows XP is installed and running, if you do not have automatic updates set to on, those little cartoon bubbles pop up and natter at you with the message that you may be at risk if you don't turn automatic updates on. Norton antivirus is one of the third party programs that natter at you if you don't have automatic updates turned on. When you manually click to go to the windows update web site, it natters at you to set your computer to full automatic update. I would guess that most people got tired of the pestering little notices, gave up, and set the computer to automatic updates.

I admit to being one of those people. Three weeks ago, I was given reason to change my mind. I had initiated a backup to an external network drive that was going to take almost two hours to complete. I had left the computer room to do some other chores around the house and returned with a fresh cup of coffee to do some of the paperwork that plagues everybody, aka, bills. The computer screen displayed a window that showed about 40% of the backup was complete. Not long after I sat down, another little window popped up on the screen. It informed me that a critical update had just been installed on my computer that required a reboot of the machine in order to be effective. That unless I chose otherwise, my computer would reboot in five minutes. Had I not been lucky enough to be there when that screen popped up, my backup would have been blown off.

The arrogance of this kind of action, had it come from anyone other than Microsoft, would have really surprised me. Since it originated with Microsoft, I had a suspicion that saying don't do that once was not enough. Sure enough, about fifteen minutes later the same little message screen popped up, again giving me five minutes to say don't do that or it would reboot my machine. As a consequence, I had to sit there for over an hour until the backup finished, and say don't do that two more times. There are a lot of things that take more than five minutes to complete. Rather than run the risk of having Microsoft crash my job if I left my computer for more than five minutes, I turned automatic updates off.

The World's First Computer

By Charlene Brown, Newsletter Editor, Big Blue and Cousins, Canada
www.bbc.org, newsletter@bbc.org

Pull Quote "The mechanism has over 30 gears, the most amazing feature of which is the incorporation of a sophisticated system of differentials. Gearing of this complexity was not known to exist until 1575!"

Using Google Alerts is a good way to keep up-to-date on media coverage of on-going developments in scientific research. I have requested these alerts with various combinations of search words - archaeology + computer + maps or GPS or 3D models or mtDNA, etc.—to obtain updates on the topics I write about in the area of computer applications in archaeology.

The alerts, which I receive several times a week, provide links to news stories and thus tend to emphasize surprising research findings or announcements of odd theories:

The discovery could accelerate efforts to clone woolly mammoths and other extinct beasts.

Device made for contractors helps archaeologists create first-ever digital blueprints.

Topographical or historical details in Gospel of John may be accurate.

Some weeks ago, I received an alert about the Antikythera Mechanism, which caught my eye because it referred to two of the places I was planning to visit in October.

GRAPHIC - The Archaeological Site of Kamiros.

The Antikythera Mechanism is the world's first known 'computer.' It was developed at an academy founded by Posidonius at Kamiros on the Greek island of Rhodes. In the first century BCE, the mechanism was on board a ship, part of the treasure transported to Rome to support a triumphal parade staged by Julius Caesar. Unfortunately, the ship sank in a storm off the island of Antikythera. Since the device was found in the wreck in the early 20th century, it has been the subject of much debate - some scholarly, some not.

GRAPHIC – 1st model. Various models of the mechanism have been constructed, based on fragments, now on display at the National Archaeological Museum in Athens (two of the fragments shown). CT scans of the pieces have revealed much about the interior GRAPHIC – 2nd model workings, and computer-enhanced, optical-imaging techniques were used to examine explanatory inscriptions on the many surfaces.

The mechanism has over 30 gears, the most amazing feature of which is the incorporation of a sophisticated system of differentials. Gearing of this complexity was not known to exist until 1575! The device determined the position of the sun and moon, and calculated other astronomical information such as the location of planets and the timing of eclipses. The possibility has even been raised that it was based on the concept of heliocentricity, rather than the then-dominant view espoused by Aristotle, that the Earth was the centre of the universe.

This ancient, and apparently lost, 'computer' technology is mentioned on various paranormal blogs to support the theory that alien beings (usually arriving from space in chariots of fire) passed on advanced technology - but departed without providing follow-up support, another concept years ahead of its time.

Or perhaps failure to form a user group caused the technology to be lost until the twentieth century.

New Technology Terms

By Sandy Berger, CompuKISS
www.compukiss.com; sandy@compukiss.com

Obtained from APCUG with the author's permission for publication by APCUG member groups.

Words, words, words….In the fast-moving world of technology, new words and phrases are constantly introduced. In order to keep up with the times, you need to learn about the current terminology. This need not be drudgery. In fact, it can be fun to see what new words and abbreviations are popular. Check these out and you can wow your friends next time computers and technology become the subject at the 19th hole or the neighborhood cocktail party.

SSD (Solid-State Drive)

This is a type of memory that you will be hearing more and more about in the future. It is a type of flash memory that has no moving parts. Some small laptop computers are appearing using SSDs for storing data instead of hard drives. Because SSDs have no spinning disks like the ordinary hard drives, they offer improved battery life for laptop computers. They also have better data access speeds than hard disks.

404

You may recognize this as a common message on the Internet. It indicates that the requested page could not be found. This may mean that the page has temporarily or permanently moved and is not currently available. However, recently the term 404 has come to have another meaning. It refers to someone who is clueless. From the error message "404 not found", this has become a slang term meaning that the person's brain could not be located. If you decide to call your spouse a 404, make sure that he or she has not read this column or you'll be in big trouble.

Crowdsourcing

Using the skills of a wide variety of people to do a job or perform a task is called crowdsourcing. The people who perform such a function are often found on the Internet. Although these people can be paid, often they are often volunteers.

Geotagging

This is technology built into a digital camera or part of a camera add-on device that is able to tag each photo with the exact location that the picture was taken. Photos can then be sorted based on where they were taken. They can also be plotted on maps.

HDMI (High-definition Multimedia Interface)

This is a newer audio and video interface that is often found on televisions, DVD players, video game consoles, video cameras, and other video equipment. This type of connector replaces older standard connectors like composite video, S-Video, component video, and DVI. HDMI carries both audio and video in one cable. It supports digital rights management systems. HDMI cables can be very expensive in comparison to older audio and video cables.

One Laptop per Child (OLPC)

Led by Nicholas Negroponte, this is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to design, manufacture, and distribute affordable laptop computers to children around the world. The laptops were initially called the "$100 laptop", but the final build cost almost $200 each. In 2007, the One Laptop per Child organization started distributing these laptop computers to children in developing countries. The laptops are bright green and white portable computers with special features like a sealed keyboard. They are called XO computers.

SEO (Search Engine Optimization)

Search Engine Optimization is the process of tweaking a website to improve the volume of traffic that is produced by search engines. The idea is to give the website a higher ranking in the search engines thereby producing more traffic to the site. SEO includes using keywords and website design to get higher rankings with search engines.

Skype

This is an online service that allows users to make telephone calls over the Internet. The software is free and there is no charge to call the computers of other Skype users. Your computer must have a microphone in order to use Skype. With the addition of a webcam, Skype callers from computer to computer can also place video calls where they can both see and talk to each other. Skype also allows you to call landlines and cell phones for a fee. Skype has other services such as instant messaging and file transfer.

FTW

This stands for "For the Win". You may remember it being a part of the game show "Hollywood Squares" where a certain square would be selected "For the Win." It is also used in some online games like World of Warcraft. It is now a popular term that usually projects a boast, as in "I did it FTW." It is often used ironically and sarcastically.

Bot

A bot computer is one that has been infected with some type of malware that allows the computer to be controlled by an outside entity. Millions of computers are bots that are now under the influence of malware distributors who use these computers to send out spam, attack other computers and websites, and carry out scams and identity theft. The computer owner is usually unaware that their computer has been compromised since this activity is performed in the background.

BotNet

A series of bot computers, sometimes as large as millions of computers is called a BotNet. The BotNet does the bidding of some entity that has compromised the computers and taken control of them by installing some type of malware.

Zombie

This term that means the same thing as a Bot. It is a personal computer that has been infected with a virus that allows an outside force to control it. Such a computer can be used to send out spam or attack other computers without the owner's knowledge. Millions of computers today are zombie computers. They are part of a Zombie Network of computers that are controlled by hackers.

Google Releases Updated Version of "Google Earth"

By Ira Wilsker, APCUG Director; Columnist, The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas; Radio & TV Show Host
Iwilsker@apcug.net

Obtained from APCUG with the author's permission for publication by APCUG member groups.

WEBSITES:

http://earth.google.com
http://earth.google.com/download-earth.html - FREE Version
http://earth.google.com/tour.html
http://earth.google.com/enterprise/earth_plus.html - $20 Plus Version
http://earth.google.com/enterprise/earth_pro.html - $400 Pro Version

It has been nearly two years since I first (and last) discussed Google Earth in this column. In the ensuing time since the last review, Google has been busy updating and improving the product, adding new features, and improving the graphics. For those who may not be aware, Google Earth is a program that allows the immense Google database of terrestrial and satellite images of the earth, along with amazing images of space, to be utilized and manipulated on the computer.

What is new and improved in the recently released Google Earth 4.3 (beta) is demonstrated in an interactive video tour online at earth.google.com/tour.html. One of the new features in version 4.3 include what Google calls "Photo-realistic Buildings", where hundreds of buildings in many of the world's major cities are shown in three dimensions (3D). If a building that is displayed "turns purple" when cursoring over it, clicking anywhere on the building will open up a smaller window giving details of the building, and the moniker of the person who created or updated the digital image. The images displayed can be manipulated to zoom in or around them from any angle, effectively creating a dynamic 360-degree panoramic view. These 3D views are not just of cities and buildings, but there are also spectacular images of natural beauties such as mountains, rivers, waterfalls, and canyons. Another new feature on this version is what Google calls "Swoop Navigation" where the user can virtually "Fly seamlessly through the landscape with new navigation controls. Swoop from outer space to street level and leap from one building top to another. Use the look joystick to view buildings as if you were standing right in front of them."

Another aspect of the new version is the "Light and Shadow" feature where many of the images can be shown in selected or sequential times of the day, such as displaying a mountaintop from sunrise to sunset. On the top of the screen is an optional slider which can be moved with the mouse to display the simulated or realistic image at any chosen time. In some of the more scenic images it appears to show the path of the sun across the sky with the corresponding light and shadows. The new and improved "Street View" that has been previously available online with Google Maps (maps.google.com) is now integrated into Google earth. Google has a fleet of vehicles which cruise

major cities taking high-resolution 360-degree digital photos as they drive down the streets. With "Street View", the user can virtually visit a city and virtually walk or drive the streets using the mouse instead of a vehicle. Views are literally from the street level showing cars, people, storefronts, intersections, and any other features visible from street level. Using the mouse, the user can cruise the streets just as if he was navigating the city for real. While not yet available for every city, a camera icon, when displayed on a map, will zoom in to a 360-degree panoramic image from street level. Many street level images contain additional camera icons which allow the user to travel seamlessly up a selected street, and the mouse can be used to turn in any direction.

The popular features that were in earlier versions of Google Earth have been retained. One that I periodically use is the "Directions" feature, which does not just give traditional driving directions and maps, but also animates the drive by clicking on the play button at the bottom of the driving directions listing. When animated, a detailed sequential zoomed-in satellite image is displayed, with the directions overlaid on the image. For example, when I requested driving directions from the Examiner offices on Willow Street in Beaumont, to the Bush Airport (IAH) in Houston, the seamless animation in Google Earth showed the street images including real pictures of the highway showing which lane to be in, detailed images of each turn or exit, and high resolution images of the airport. The images are actual photographs, not computer generated images. By seeing the route in exquisite detail prior to a journey may help ease the anxieties of the drive.

Once at a destination, it may be helpful to find nearby "points of interest", such as restaurants. By simply entering the word "restaurants" in the "What?" box, and the current address in the "Where?" box, restaurants will be displayed on the Google map. By clicking on the icon displayed for each restaurant, details will be displayed for the selected restaurant in a window overlay. Typical information displayed included the name, address, phone, a hyperlink (if any) to the restaurant website, any reviews that may be available and driving directions "to" and "from" the restaurant.

Google Earth does not just provide maps and images of terrestrial and earthly locations, but also includes celestial maps and images. Clicking on the Saturn-looking icon on the top of the screen will open a "Search the Sky" search box. By entering a celestial body or location, such as "Mars", Google Earth will display a sky map with an image of the heavenly body, and also display the current geometric coordinates for those using sophisticated telescopes.

The basic version of Google Earth 4.3 (beta) is a free download from earth.google.com. For those desiring more features, Google offers Google Earth Plus for $20, which adds support for a variety of GPS devices (verified support for Magellan and Garmin GPS devices, but can not upload to those devices), improved network performance, and improved high resolution printing. For professional and commercial use Google offers the Pro version for $400.

Google Earth is a fascinating utility, and will run on Windows 2000 or XP (Vista is not mentioned), and requires a minimum of 400MB hard drive space, and a video card capable of 1024x768 resolution with a 16bit color depth. An internet connection of at least 128Kb/sec is required. I suggest that readers of this column at least download the free version of Google Earth and simply play with it. Click on the icons at the top of the page, and check and uncheck some of the boxes on the left margin, and experiment with it; do not worry, you cannot hurt anything by experimenting with it. Google Earth is one of my favorite "fun" programs.

It's Not Just Entertainment Any More

By Gene Komaromi, a member of the Computer Club of Green Valley, Arizona
http://gvcc.apcug.org/; genek6@gmail.com

In the past, we've commonly thought of computer games, especially those played on game machine platforms, as pure entertainment. Times have changed and many games have become educational as well as physical training devices.

Learning has become fun for both kids and adults. Here's some information that will keep you ahead of the digital gaming curve.

DS - Handheld Games for Senior Citizens Nintendo has a hot selling hand held video game machine called the "DS" for "Double Screen." The device opens with two visible screens, one is a display screen and the other is a "Touch Screen" which serves as the controller interface. The DS has a series of games designed with "older" users in mind. They are **Brain Age, Big Brain Academy, and Flash Focus.**

All three have been recommended by AARP, and Brain Age has been shown to improve mental performance in independent tests. Brain Age and Big Brain Academy have a series of

Ted's Stuff

By Ted Littman, NOCCC Reviews Editor

In this column, I share with my fellow NOCCC members and other readers, links to interesting and useful web sites as well tips and ideas on computing that I come across as well as suggestions from NOCCC members.

Use the Train?

Dennis Martin, an NOCCC member residing in the Inland Empire, recently switched from driving his car to taking the train to attend our monthly meeting. If you live at a distance from Chapman U., you may want to investigate if switching is feasible and cost-effective for you too. Here's what Dennis wrote: "**At a cost of $7.00 Round Trip (Senior Citizen), two Metrolink trains are scheduled to accommodate attendance at NOCCC meetings for those members residing in the Inland Empire. There are stops for boarding in the cities of Riverside, Corona, and Anaheim Hills. And, parking your vehicle is free at the station where you board the train.**

On Sundays, Trains No. 857 and 859 leave San Bernardino destined for Orange County at 8:30 am and 8:55 am. On the return trip to the Inland Empire, trains 858 and 860 leave nearby Orange Metrolink at 3:55pm and 5:35. Metrolink is a short four-and-a-half blocks from Chapman University.

Occasionally, while sitting in the spacious rail car, I glance at the traffic-laden 91 Freeway. This is when I enjoy reading the Orange Bytes!" **For specifics regarding your trip from home to Chapman U., call 1-800-371-5465 or check the web site: www.metrolinktrains.com.**

New Adobe Reader 9
(http://ct.download.com/clicks?t=63800494-aa9b04aa65ad21d162c6282152e6931c-bf&brand=DOWNLOAD&s=5)
The popular free program now includes Flash, Shockwave, and other "rich media content" support and is supposed to start faster. Use the link to download a copy.

Windows Secrets Newsletter

7-3-08 Issue (http://windowssecrets.com/comp/080703/)
The DIY Guide to PC Troubleshooting
Scott Dunn tells you what to do if you are having problems with your computer, before you resort to the services of an expert. "Whether it's a slowdown, some strange behavior, or a total crash, a few basic troubleshooting tricks and tools may be all you need to get your PC back to peak performance."

7-10-08 Issue
(http://windowssecrets.com/comp/080710)
Finding Searchable Databases of Tech Answers
Scott Dunn evaluated a dozen searchable sites to find the ones that get you the answers you need if your computer is behaving strangely. This is a very useful article.

Bob Rankin's Tourbus Newsletter

7-15-08 Issue
Wireless Printers
(http://askbobrankin.com/wireless_printers.html)
If the idea of printing without wires appeals to you, check out what Bob has to say on the subject. If you travel with a laptop and need to print as well, consider one of the light-weight units he suggests.
Receive a Fax for Free
(http://askbobrankin.com:80/free_inbound_faxing.html)
Bob explains the options available for receiving faxes, free or nearly so, via email and the Internet. And you don't have to buy a fax machine or tie up your telephone using faxing software on your computer.
Defrag Your Hard Drive
(http://askbobrankin.com/defrag_your_hard_drive.html)
If your PC or Mac is getting sluggish, your hard drives may need to be defragmented. Read all about the problem and solutions.
Make Vista Run Faster With ReadyBoost
(http://askbobrankin.com/vista_readyboost.html)
Bob explains how inserting an inexpensive flash memory device into a USB slot can significantly increase system performance. Bob also talks about a new Russian software program to accomplish the same thing for Windows XP users. It's not free, but there is a free trial period (**http://www.eboostr.com/**). If this doesn't work for you, add more RAM – it's pretty cheap currently and doesn't have the potential for problems, like software might.

HP
Online Classes
http://h30240.www3.hp.com/outgoing?mailingId=3820963&eventType=ILK&targetUrl=http%3A%2F%2Fh30240.www3.hp.com
Hewlett Packard continues to offer free electronic classes like protecting your PC from spam, spyware, and viruses, making a disaster preparedness inventory, and safe wireless computing.
6 Secrets to Saving Power
http://your.hp.com/r/c/r?2.1.3KT.2ZQ.yDDVi.CEwXrs..N.E1qu.1Ru8.az10YXdfSnVuZTA4Jm1wMzAyODI9MCZtcDMwMjcyPVVTJm1wMzAyNzY9MDAwFUUKCD00
Here are six simple, eco-friendly tips to help you cut your energy costs.
Online Social Networks Go Mainstream
http://www.symantec.com/norton/clubsymantec/library/article.jsp?aid=cs_social_networks_mainstream
"Not long ago, Web sites like MySpace, Facebook, YouTube, and Second Life were perceived as the domain of teenagers and college kids.

Products Available For Review

We have obtained a number of products from vendors for review by qualified NOCCC members. If you are interested in doing a review (which will be published in the Orange Bytes), please call or send an e-mail to me and provide your membership number, phone number, and e-mail address; or pick up the product at the next NOCCC meeting. If you would like me to request a specific product for you to review, let me know.

REMEMBER, YOU GET TO KEEP THE SOFTWARE OR BOOK!

Ted Littman, (714) 779-1936, reviews@noccc.org.

Boxed Programs and CDs

None are currently available..

New Books for June and July

Build It. Fix It. Own It. A beginner's Guide to Building and Upgrading a PC – Que; Paul McFedries. MSRP=$30.

Easy Computer Basics, Windows Vista Ed. – Que; Michael Miller. MSRP=$22.

Easy Microsoft Windows Vista, 2nd Ed. – Que; Shelley O'Hara. MSRP=$22.

Creating Vista Gadgets – Sams; Rajesh Lal. MSRP=$35.

Power Excel 2007 with Mr. Excel Live Lessons – Que; Bill Jelen. MSRP=$40. DVD + Lesson Booklet.

Microsoft Office 2007 Live Lessons – Que; J. Peter Bruzzese. MSRP=$40. DVD + Lesson Booklet.

The Truth About Profiting from Social Networking – FT Press/Pearson; Patrice-Anne Rutledge. MSRP=$19.

Teach Yourself Photoshop Elements 6 in 24 Hours – Sams; Kate Binder. MSRP=$25.

The New School of Information Security – Addison-Wesley;Adam Shostack and Andrew Stewart. MSRP=$$30. Why critical problems exist and how to solve them.

Is it Safe? Protecting Your Computer, Your Business, and Yourself Online – Que; Michael Miller. MSRP=$25. Identity theft, data theft, Internet fraud, online surveillance, and Email scams.

Blown to Bits: Your Life, Liberty, and Happiness after the Digital Explosion – Addison-Wesley; Hal Albelson, Ken Ledeen, and Harry Lewis. MSRP=$26.

Microsoft Expression Blend Unleashed – Sams; Brennon Williams. MSRP=$50. For developers of interactive Web and desktop applications; take graphical assets and blend them with functional .net code through the power of XAML and the WPF platform.

Books

Using Microsoft Office Visio 2007 Special Ed. – This book by Steven Holzner from Que is a comprehensive reference manual for the premier drawing program. MSRP=$45.

Using FileMaker 9 Special Ed. – From Que, MSRP=$45.

Becoming a Digital Designer – A new book from Wiley. MSRP=$35.

Microsoft Office Access 2007 VBA – A recent book from Que by Scott Diamond teaches the skills needed to automate you database quickly. MSRP=$40.

Microsoft Office PowerPoint 2007 Complete Makeover Kit – From Que, includes a CD, MSRP=$30.

Understanding AJAX – If you are already an experienced Web developer, this book by Joshua Eichorn, senior architect for Uversa, will show you exactly how to create rich, useable, Internet applications using AJAX. MSRP=$40.

Virtual Honeypots – Security experts Niels Provos and Thorsten Holz cover a large breath of cutting-edge topics from low-interaction Honeypots to Botnets and malware in this new book from Addison-Wesley. MSRP=$50.

Software Security – This book/CD, authored by Gary McGraw, a leading authority in the field, teaches you how to put software security into practice. MSRP=$50.

Wiley Guide to the Management of Projects – This series of 4 books provides timely, accessible, and relevant procedures and strategies to deliver projects on time and on budget. Each book lists for $50.

- **Project, Program, and Portfolio Management**
- **Project Control**
- **Project Org. & Project Mgmt. Competencies**
- **Proj. Technol., Supply Chain, & Proc. Mgmt.**

dotCrime Manifesto – How to Stop Internet Crime – How to build a better, safer Internet by Phillip Hallam-Baker is from Addison Wesley, MSRP=$30.

The New School of Internet Security – Security experts Adam Shostack and Andrew Stewart address the biggest, toughest problems and how to solve them. From Addison-Wesley, MSRP=$30.

Router Security Strategies, Securing IP Network Traffic Planes – From Cisco Press, this book by Gregg Schudel and David Smith, this book tells you how to segment and protect traffic in the data, control, management, and services planes. MSRP=$65.

Network Security Fundamentals – An introduction to the key tools and technologies used to secure network access. From Cisco Press/Prentice-Hall; MSRP=$55.

Cisco Networking Simplified, 2nd Ed. – A complete up-to-date visual explanation of today's networking technologies in full color. From Cisco Press/Prentice-Hall, authored by Jim Doherty, Neil Anderson, and Paul Maggiora, MSRP=$40.

The Craft of System Security – From Addison-Wesley, MSRP=$60.

Products Available For Review

CCIE Professional Development Network Security Technologies and Solutions – A comprehensive, all-in-one reference for Cisco network security – Authored by Yusuf Bhaiji, from Cisco Press, this 790-page hardcover book has an MSRP=$80.

Cisco ASA, PIX, and FWSM Firewall Handbook, 2ⁿᵈ Ed. – From CISCO Press, MSRP=$60.

Microsoft Windows Vista on Demand, 2ⁿᵈ Edition – This highly graphical, in color book by Steve Johnson, Perspection, Inc., includes MCAS Exam Objectives, was revised for SP1, and is one of the easiest to learn Vista. From Que, MSRP=$35.

Easy Microsoft Windows Vista – Another highly graphical book in color for beginners to learn the fundamentals of using Vista. From Que, by Shelley O'Hara, MSRP=$20.

Networking with Microsoft Windows Vista – A complete beginner's guide to creating, configuring, administering, and using a small network of computers with the Vista operating system. From Que; MSRP=$40.

Microsoft Windows Vista Unleashed, 2ⁿᵈ Ed. – This 800-page book from Sams by Paul McFedries was written for intermediate-advanced users, contains lots of helpful information, and is updated for Vista SP1. MSRP=$50.

Red Hat Enterprise Linux 5 Administration Unleashed – From Sams Publishing. MSRP=$50.

Absolute Beginner's Guide to eBay, 5ᵗʰ Ed. – This latest update from Que by Michael Miller is a useful guide for beginners interested in buying and selling on eBay. MSRP=22.

The Digital Photography Companion – This 200-page book by Derrick Story, a professional photographer, from O'Reilly tells you how to take photos that reflect your creative spirit and is full of color photos. MSRP=$25.

Preparing a Review Article for the Orange Bytes

By Ted Littman, NOCCC Reviews Editor

Important! There are two articles at the following link. One provides suggestions and guidelines for preparing a review article for the Orange Bytes. The second provides guidelines for submittal. Please read both. The link is www.noccc.org/bytes/info/index.html

Ted's Stuff

Now, online social networks are becoming a significant presence in the digital life of a more mature Internet audience. A recent study by Ipsos Insight found that one in five adults has visited a social networking site. Some sites, such as Growing Bolder and Eons, cater specifically to people 50 and older." Read the article at the ClubSymantec web site.

Microsoft

Assistive Technology Approaches for Improved PC Access
http://go.microsoft.com/?linkid=9215928
Whatever your impairment might be, it doesn't have to stop you from using the computer. Also, read about how a retired computer analyst with Parkinson's disease is using the built-in Windows capabilities to make it easier for her to use the computer
(http://www.microsoft.com/enable/news/vandergraft.aspx).
Help Avoid Computer Viruses that Spread to Mobile Devices
(http://go.microsoft.com/?linkid=9233863)
If you use a smartphone, cell phone, or handheld computer, follow these tips to help protect the data on your mobile device.
Avoid Downloading Viruses
http://go.microsoft.com/?linkid=9233860
Avoid potentially downloading viruses to your PC by ensuring that your antivirus software checks files before you open them.
10 Things to Teach Your Kids to Improve Their Web Safety
http://go.microsoft.com/?linkid=9233861
Here's a list of topics to discuss with your children or grandkids about using the Internet safely.

PC World

Avoid Underpowering Your USB Devices (PCW Apr. 2008)
Kirk Steers writes, "If your PC's USB ports are filled with USB hubs that are packed with yet more USB devices, make sure that all of those gadgets are getting the power they need to run properly. A single USB root hub, which typically supports two USB ports on your PC's motherboard, delivers a maximum of 500 milliamps of electricity to its attached devices." Check your power needs in Windows XP by clicking *Start* then right-clicking *My Computer.* In the Computer Management window, select *Device Manager* from the left pane. In the right pane, you can double-click each *USB Root Hub* listed under *Universal Serial Bus Controllers*, and open the *Power* tab for each one to see a listing of the power consumption for each item.
If you want to view all of the information on your USB devices, you can download a small, free utility (USBDevice) at find.pcworld.com/60045. It works great!
Top Ten All-Purpose Laptops (PCW March 2008, p. 68 and http://Find.pcworld.com/55176)
If you are in the market for a laptop, check the PCW review, which rated the $1079 HP Pavilion model dv6500t tops and a best buy. Two laptops rated "Good" are well under $1000, if you are on a tight budget.

Able2Doc, ver. 4.0
Converting PDF Files
to Word

By Ted Littman, NOCCC

According to Broderbund:

Get fast and accurate PDF to Word conversions. With essential key features and expanded capabilities, you'll get the best result possible!

- **Simple 3-step conversion -** Open your PDF, select your data, and click a button to instantly convert
- **PDF Viewer** - Users can easily see and choose exactly what they're converting
- **Convert to editable Word docs** - Convert even the most complex PDF documents & forms into editable Word formats
- **Exclusive Pinpoint Conversion** - Enjoy more accuracy! Select and convert only the lines, paragraphs, or pages you want. No need to convert full documents or pages
- **Stand-Alone Software** - No need for Adobe products
- **And much more!**

So, does this relatively inexpensive program (list is $50, but a $10 reduction may be available) do all of these good things without the need to buy the expensive Adobe Acrobat software?

For those of you who read the Orange Bytes regularly, you know (?) that we prepare the newsletter in Microsoft Word format and then convert it (using Adobe Acrobat 8) to PDFs for printing and posting on our web site. So, we don't need another utility to make corrections – major ones can be done in the original Word file and modest text changes can be made within the PDF using Acrobat. However, if we don't have the original Word file, as is the case when we want to use a review or article from the PDF newsletter of another user group, that requires a conversion utility.

For this review, I used Able2Doc to convert one of our 28-page newsletters in PDF format as well as a 2-page SIG report to Word. The Broderbund software did a surprisingly good job in both cases. Formatting, placement of text and graphics were retained and the text was editable. However, when the PDF files were opened in Able2Doc, I noticed that some of the color photos had one or two horizontal white bars through them. These were retained when the files were converted to Word. I have no idea why this happened.

I then tried converting the 22-page PDF newsletter from another user group with less than satisfactory results: the file expanded to 28 pages, including some blank ones, placement of many graphics was not retained, and some text did not stay in their original position; however, no white horizontal bars through the photos. It should be noted that the PDF file looked fine when opened in Able2Doc before conversion. I also tried the conversion with a 36-page newsletter from another user group and it worked fine. Go figure!

Now I must say that, although Acrobat is supposed to have the capability of converting PDFs to a variety of other formats, including Word, it did a terrible job of converting our 28-page newsletter. In fact, it was worse than Able2Doc's conversion of the 22-page newsletter from another user group to Word! Even when I tried to use Acrobat for converting an individual page from a PDF file of mixed text and graphics to Word, the result was a mess.

At this point, I will say that Able2Doc can do a satisfactory job if your PDF files are mostly text or more limited in size with text and graphics and you need to convert them to Word format. Furthermore, it has a very good graphical user interface with pop-up help notes as you proceed.

One final note: According to Broderbund, (www.broderbund.com/shopping/product/specialoffer.jsp?itemID=2030&sku0=2046&qty0=1&Counter=1&rProduct=2015&iProductID=2030) if you upgrade to Able2Extract PDF Converter 5.0, you can:

- Convert PDFs to Excel while retaining the row and column structure of the original PDF
- Convert PDFs to PowerPoint for easy editing and viewing for your next presentation
- Convert PDFs to images in popular formats such as TIFF, JPEG, PNG, BMP, & GIF
- Custom Conversion Templating allows users to save templates for converting PDFs that include the same layout
- Enjoy even more flexibility! You can also convert your PDFs to HTML & text
- And much more!

Adobe Photoshop Lightroom

Review by Tom Ekvall, newsletter editor and "Creative Imaging" columnist, Northeast Wisconsin PCUG
http://webpages.charter.net/newpcug; Tekval(at)new.rr.com
Obtained from APCUG with the author's permission for publication by APCUG member groups.

Do you like to shoot plenty of pictures with your digital camera?

If you are like me, storing and organizing them is always a chore so that you can find the right picture when you need it.

Enter Adobe Photoshop Lightroom – the new kid on the block for handling your digital workflow. Designed specifically for professional photographers, Lightroom is equally fantastic and impressive for any photo enthusiast.

Lightroom is not designed to replace Adobe Photoshop or Photoshop Elements. However, it is the perfect complement to the programs, and for some who do not care for doing layers, may become the only product they need for digital imaging tasks.
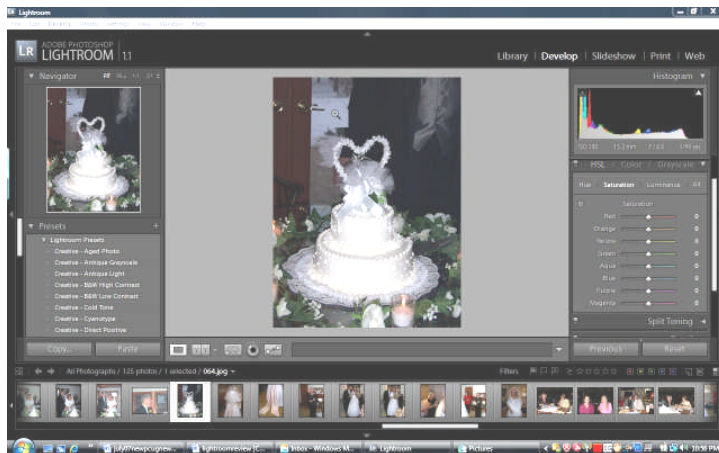
While Photoshop is designed as a general-purposed tool to handle a variety of creative digital imaging tasks, Lightroom has only one focus—providing photographers with an effective, streamlined way to manage their photos, process them, and deliver a final product whether a print or web gallery.

The product incorporates many features I enjoy in Photoshop CS3, such as the state of the art black and white adjustment techniques and being able to edit JPEG and TIFF files in a non-destructive manner.

In fact, everything you do in Lightroom is handled in a non-destructive manner, so that .jpg images do not diminish in quality over time as editing changes are made. I like the way Lightroom lays out the photo editing tools on the workspace so that everything is at hand. Edits can be undone in the future and new changes made without having to create separate files for each change. Information is stored in a separate file associated with the image. The information is there in a Managed Photos folder whether you import the images into Lightroom's library or leave them in the original location.

Lightroom in fact is a cataloger of your photos, with the user having the choice where to store the images. It will even recognize pictures on removable drives or external hard drives as part of the catalog, something most browsers will not do. I chose to store my pictures in their original location for now.

When you start up Lightroom, you will notice a sleek, black interface with photos in the workspace depicted as slides.

The concept behind Lightroom is to provide a simplified workflow setup from shoot to finish with five modules identified on the top right hand section of the screen: Library, Develop, Slideshow, Print, and Web. Each module has a set of panels with pre-set information on the right hand side, task information on the left hand side, photo displays in the center and a filmstrip on the bottom of photos being reviewed. The filmstrip shows all in a particular folder, not just those opened up.

The *Library* is where photos are imported and cataloged with the ability to add keyword information, rate the photo on importance, and even mark it for rejection before a final deletion. It also includes Quick Develop controls that let you make simple edits with push button controls rather than sliders. Photos can be viewed in tandem to facilitate selecting, comparing, and ranking (stars and colors) photos for later processing.

The *Develop* module is where you do the non-destructive processing of photos including those in the .raw format. Whether you are in the library looking at a set of photos or in the Develop module, a histogram of the picture selected is always visible. This helps in evaluating which picture to keep or edit for printing.

The *Slideshow* provides a way to review photos or show them to someone else in an interesting format with the filmstrip of all the photos still showing on the bottom part of the screen.

The *Print* module provides all the choices for printing while the *Web* provides a tool for enabling the pictures to be viewed on the web either in html or in flash formats.

I love the way Lightroom is laid out on the screen as you can see from the accompanying image. Everything is so simple to use and user-friendly.

I also love the Color Adjustment sliders that adjust both the primary and secondary color ranges (all eight colors) with regard to the hue, saturation and luminance (HSL) characteristics of the image as well as the tonal controls including a new Tone Curve feature. Both allow you to make adjustments directly in the targeted photo.

Lightroom can probably handle most of my image-editing needs. However, there is still definitely a place for Photoshop CS3 for those things which Lightroom cannot do.

What Lightroom cannot do is apply layers, masks, and selective editing to a photo nor will it allow you to do compositing and montages. It is not a "fix it" program when extensive retouching is necessary, nor does it have filters and brushes to create artistic effects, something I love to do. .Lightroom also does not work with video, which is no big deal to me.

Lightroom does provide for exporting the photo to Photoshop, Photoshop Elements or other image editing programs so that further work can be done to the photo.

Lightroom sells through Adobe (**www.adobe.com**) for $299. A 30-day fully functional tryout version is available for downloading from their web site.

Final thought. This is definitely a must-have program for those who want to manage their photos and process them in a non-destructive manner. To me what sets this apart from other organizers/digital asset management programs is the quality and depth of the photo-editing tools. It is obvious the program draws upon the experience of Adobe staff in developing image-editing products such as Photoshop, Bridge, and Camera Raw.

The system requirements include Microsoft Vista or Windows XP, 768 MB of RAM (1 GB recommended) and a Pentium 4 processor. I installed the software on an Acer laptop running Vista with Pentium 4 dual-core processors (1.60 GHz speed), and 2 GB of RAM. No installation problems. There are a number of books out on the market to help you learn more about the software. The one I use is Photoshop Lightroom for Digital Photographers Only by Ron Sheppard. I like it for its simplicity in presenting information in an easy-to-understand format. There are a number of other great books out there.

Mobile Digital Scribe by IOGear

Review by Steven M. Breitbart, NOCCC

I take notes almost everywhere I go. One of the aspects of personal computers that appeals to me is that once my notes are in the computer, they are searchable. I do not have to remember when and where I learned something, I can find it relatively easily using a standard Windows search.

Anything that can help me get my notes into a computer faster and easier is certain to attract my attention. At the March 2, 2008 Meeting of the NOCCC, Mr. Keith Renty of IOGear gave a presentation about some of the interesting products in their line of over 200 products. One of those was the Mobile Digital Scribe. When he offered the club members a substantial discount on all of their products, I couldn't resist buying the Mobile Digital Scribe (MDS). As of July 2008, the list price is still $129.95. Another similar product is also available, the Digital Scribe, which must be used while connected to a PC.
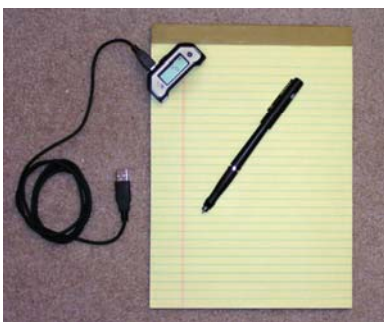
According to the information on the MDS at www.IOGear.com, this is "The first device ever to capture natural handwriting from any surface, and store it in the receiver for future use," "No special notepad, digital pad, or ink is required." A starter version of handwriting recognition software, "My Script®

Notes 2.1 Lite for NoteTaker" is included. The upgrade to the full version is free, but it is a 215 MB download. The software recognizes several languages and allows the user to create a personal dictionary and create a recognition profile. I haven't been able to download the full version yet, or I would provide additional information.

Basic Information

The MDS consists of a base unit with a rechargeable battery that clips to the corner of a standard writing pad. The base unit senses the position of the pen, which requires two watch batteries. Notes are taken almost normally; the only difference between old-fashioned note taking and using the MDS is that you must unclip and reclip the base unit when a new page is needed. Later, the base unit connects to the PC with an included USB cord and the notes are downloaded.

The paper size used is A4, which is 8.27 x 11.69 inches, slightly narrower and longer than standard 8½ × 11 inch letter paper. Diagrams in the manual, which in general is very good, show that there is a dead zone of about ½-inch around the perimeter of the paper. In practice, I found that the whole 8½ × 11 inch sheet was useable. The pen uses a ballpoint refill that is 67.2mm long and 2.33mm in diameter. I tried to find a refill and could not. Fortunately, IOGear sells a package deal of two refills and four batteries for $19.95.

Software

The controlling software is called Note Manager. Once downloaded into a PC, the notes are named by page number in a folder named for the date of their creation, but the notes and the folder can be renamed. In addition, the notes can be edited, to include items such as "Ask Professor about this!" or erase the blob or doodle you wrote. The notes can also be archived or exported in JPG format. Note Manager will make the conversion to JPG format automatically when you attach a note to an email message. A note can also be set to open at a certain time as a reminder, or left on the desktop as a "Sticky Note" or a "Paper Holder" window for typing into the computer. You can effectively turn the MDS into a drawing tablet by writing over a drawing attached to your writing pad.
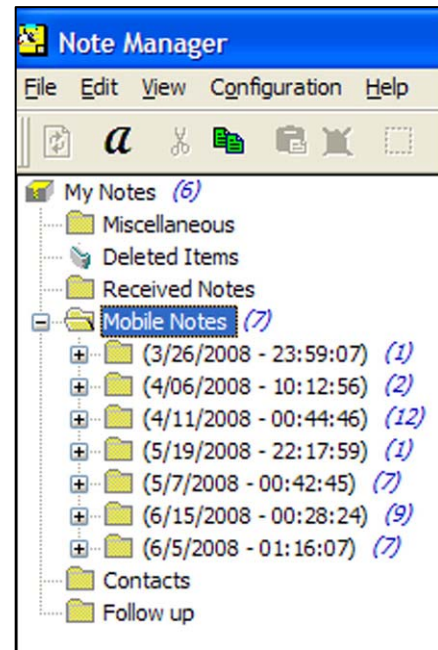
Features

The MDS can be used to create new notes while connected to a PC. In that mode, it can be used as a mouse as well. A plastic stylus the same size as the pen refill is included with the MDS. It seems that the stylus could be used instead of the ink refill if a user is planning to use the MDS as a mouse for an extended period. It also can be used to press the reset button, which is on the bottom of the base unit. The stylus isn't mentioned anywhere in the manual and, in fact, neither is the reset button. I contacted IOGear's Service Support and they responded in one day. They verified that the stylus could be used in place of the pen refill.

Instead of scanning each individual page of notes into a PC using a flatbed scanner, the MDS can be used. It is easier to use the MDS than trying to write notes into a PDA or smart mobile phone and it's a lot less weight and less of a theft- prone item than any laptop PC. It also captures any sort of diagram or
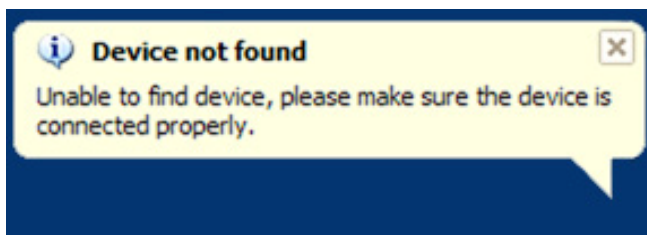
equation with no problem. Once the notes have been downloaded into a PC, the paper copies can be thrown away.

Problems and Comments:

1. The manual states that the "Supplied batteries are good for initial use only." Indeed, the included batteries were already low immediately after installation. The good news is that the warning message worked. But how do they manage to include weak batteries – use factory seconds from the battery factory? For a product in this price range, provide good batteries or none at all!

2. Note Manager lists the note folders by the date of their creation. Incredibly, it sorted the dates incorrectly because sometimes a leading zero wasn't inserted into the portions of the date. In the screen capture at the right, note that 5/19/2008 is before 5/7/2008, and 6/15/2008 is before 6/5/2008, but 4/06/2008 is before 4/11/2008 because of the leading zero in the 06.

3. In general, the Quick Start Guide was informative but the one included with my unit had a few errors and was a bit too hard to read. It was printed with gray ink and using small print. Fortunately, a new version is available online, as a PDF file.

4. A few things are hard to do at first. The base unit must be clipped to just the right number of sheets to prevent it from moving. If it does move, the next bit of text will be skewed. The good news is that the MDS doesn't insist on a standard page size; it will expand the page size to accommodate your movements. This may produce a page slightly difficult to read, but it will be readable. I found that five or six sheets work well to hold the base unit in place. In addition, the pen is fatter at the bottom than most normal pens, so you can't see the tip of the ballpoint. Finally, another problem is accidentally placing another sheet or form on the writing pad you are using. The MDS captures those words - whether they are on top of other words or not!

5. After installation, every time I start up my PC, I get a message balloon that says, "Device not found." Well, I don't use the MDS all the time, so I don't connect it to my PC all the time. This may become a problem if I have several devices, none of which identifies themselves in the message balloons. That is, why can't it say, "Mobile Digital Scribe not found?"

6. During the installation, the software attempted to access the Internet. If it said why it needed the Internet, such as to check for updates, I would have allowed it. Better yet would be a message during installation to alert you to adjust your firewall software for their connection.

7. Erasing too much on a page of notes caused Note Manager to crash. When this occurred, the prior changes were lost as well. In addition, when you start to select the next group of objects to erase, you see an outline of the last area selected as soon as you click the mouse.

8. The keyboard shortcut, Ctrl+V, cannot be used to paste into the text entry box when editing a note. Right-click the mouse and select "Paste" instead.

9. Note Manager uses Ctrl + '+' to Zoom In and Ctrl + '-' to Zoom Out. They also provided Ctrl + '/' and called it Zoom to Fit. I assumed this meant the software would fit the note to the size of the open window. Wrong! It returns an opened note to its original size!

10. If a video lasts more than 10 minutes, the MDS goes into Power Save mode. Pressing the "on" button wakes it up, but it will start a new page. It would be great if the base unit could be put into a "pause" mode and wake it up again on the same page.

11. It looks like the name of the product has changed quite a bit and is somewhat confusing. It is now called the "Mobile Digital Scribe," but in the manual, it is also called by the names "Cordless Digital Scribe," "Wireless Digital Scribe," and "NoteTaker."

12. Don't hide the existence of the reset button on the base unit.

The Mobile Digital Scribe is not perfect, but is an interesting and useful device I hope to use in the near future for many different areas.

PhotoFinder GPS at July 2008 Main Meeting

By Steven Breitbart, NOCCC

At the start of the meeting, President Jim Sanders introduced the new NOCCC officers and Executive Board members. For Random Access, where any member can ask or comment about almost anything computer related, Gerry Resch mentioned the termination of EarthLink's Wi-Fi service in the City of Anaheim.

Once again, parking was an issue. The City of Orange has an agreement with Chapman University. Chapman University has there own rules, which are now being enforced. Public parking is allowed only on the University side of the street, all around the campus. The opposite side of the street is for residents who need a parking permit from the city. More information about parking is on pages 1, 3 and 28 of this issue of the Orange Bytes.

The presentation about PhotoFinder GPS was given by Ivan Randall, self described "Product Evangelist." PhotoFinder GPS, made by Merax, Inc. (www.merax.com), is a product that allows and enhances Geo-tagging, which is embedding GPS-based location information into the metadata portion of a digital photograph.

The PhotoFinder GPS is a tracking unit about the size of a small mobile phone, which you carry with you. First, you synchronize the clock in the unit with that of your digital camera. As

PhotoFinder GPS

you change location throughout the day, the PhotoFinder GPS keeps a log of the date, time and your location - latitude, longitude and elevation. Once back at home, you upload your photos. You upload the location log the same way, using a USB port. The PhotoFinder GPS software then embeds the location data into each photograph, based on the time each photograph was taken. The frequency that PhotoFinder GPS makes an entry into the log as well as several other settings can be changed. Using typical settings the unit holds three to four weeks of data. It also has a vibration sensor that shuts it off after a while and starts it up again as soon as you start to move. A question that was not asked was how does it handle changing time zones?

The PhotoFinder GPS software has location mapping capability integrated with Google Maps/Google Earth. This means that

you can zoom to a street-level map and see where the photo was taken.

PhotoFinder GPS also works with several photo sharing web sites such as Flickr, Locr, Panoramio, Picasa and Zoomr. I must admit that I was somewhat confused by where the PhotoFinder GPS capabilities end and the use of Google Maps/Google Earth or the photo sharing web sites began. However, that's quite irrelevant - it's all incredible! When I go on vacation, I usually get an extra map of the area I visit and later use a highlighter to show the route I took. Using PhotoFinder GPS and the photo sharing web sites, you can produce a similar map of your travels with thumbnail photos at key places. The map is now online and available to anyone you choose to give access to your photos. In addition, Google Maps/Google Earth and the photo sharing web sites know the names of various key landmarks based on their location and add that information into the photos as well.

Ivan Randall holding a PhotoFinder GPS unit

Besides locating vacation photos, other possible uses are to find the location of an object, such as a house, or an event on a map. Hikers and people who travel as part of their jobs can show the route that they took.

PhotoFinder GPS is an alternative to very expensive cameras that have GPS capability built in and GPS Trackers bundled with digital cameras. PhotoFinder GPS is not a GPS Tracker; it doesn't have a real time read out. The list price is now $149.99, but is available directly from Merax for $20 less, which is almost as good as the deal our members got! By the way, there is a companion product called PhotoFinder RAW that adds support for over 100 RAW formats, but no price information was available at www.merax.com.
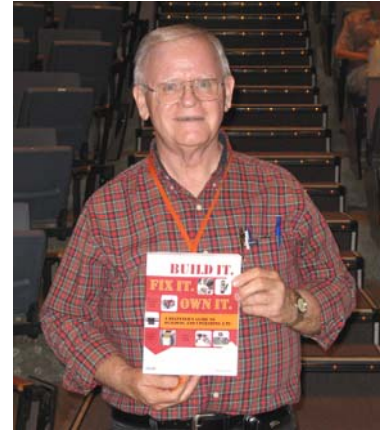
Once again, a very informative meeting!
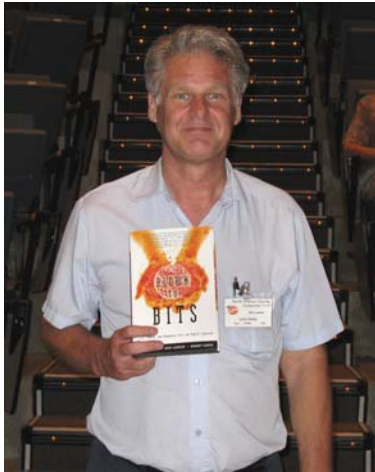
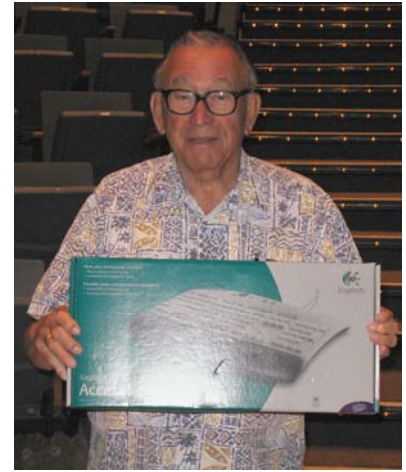# July 2008 Opportunity Drawing Winners
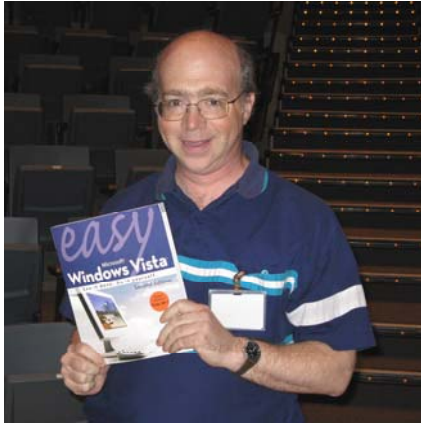
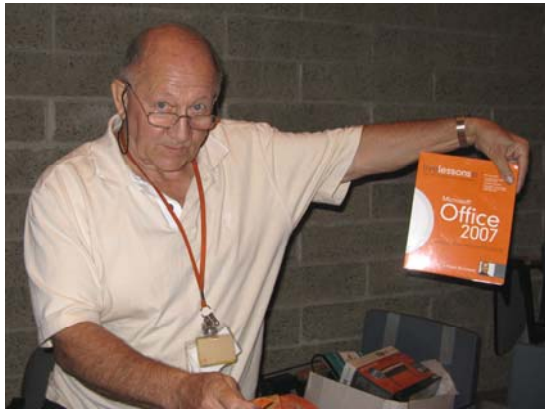Steven Breitbart
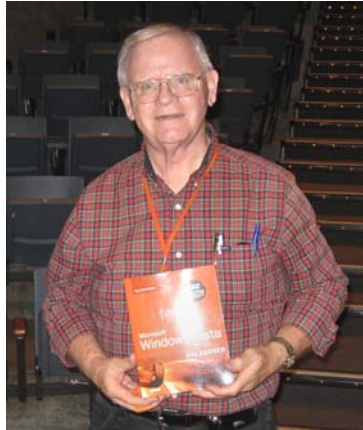
Bob Dickson

Bob Dickson

Larry Klees

Martin LaRocque

Martin LaRocque

Gerry Resch

Barbara Whittaker

Photos by Jim Sanders, NOCCC

Digital Photography SIG

By Larry Klees, SIG Leader

Last Month

We used the Pantone Huey to calibrate the Liquid crystal display on a notebook computer. Who knew we could spend all of the SIG time plus lunchtime (two hours) talking about a calibration process that takes about three minutes to perform?

Pantone is a company that was formed to calibrate colors for commercial printers more than thirty years ago. They have been supplying calibration devices for computer monitors since digital cameras got popular. Advances in the technology combined with the reduced requirements of most digital photographers have brought the cost down from several thousand dollars to well under a hundred dollars. I bought the least expensive model on sale for $50.00.

Color calibration of monitors is important. I have been struggling for years with home-brewed techniques that help but still leave much to be desired. Now I know that what I see on my screen will have a consistent look when I upload it to the Internet, and it is infinitely easier to get good prints out of my inkjet printer. (Printers still require their own calibration, but you can't begin to calibrate the printer

until the monitor is calibrated.)

It takes about 15 minutes to install the software for the Huey. After that, you stick the Huey onto your CRT or LCD screen (it

has eight tiny suction cups), make a few mouse clicks, and in about three minutes your monitor has accurate colors and brightness. The picture below shows the hardware portion of the Huey stuck onto a notebook screen as it measures the color of green to put into a color profile that the software feeds into Windows.

Helpful Tip

Last month, I was asked what **saturation** adjustments I do. Many photo-editing programs allow you to decrease or increase saturation. I tend to forget that some people haven't been doing graphics for years and should from time to time define what some of these terms mean. In the case of saturation, a picture is worth a thousand words.

The center portion of the above picture has normal saturation. To the left of that the saturation has been reduced and to the far left, the saturation has been reduced to zero. The two bands on the right have increased saturation.

Editor's note: View this article on our web site to see this photograph in color. There are five bands of saturation, each about 20% of the width of the photograph.

At the August Meeting

We will have a demo of the very useful and free 'Flickr' web site for displaying, sharing, and editing photos on the internet. We'll also examine how to use Flickr for the Digital Photography SIG. I normally shy away from this sort of thing; but during my research over the past month have found Flickr to be a wonderful thing. Caution: it tends to be addicting.

This SIG meets in the Irvine Hall at 10:30 a.m.

Internet Today
(Formerly Security SIG)

By Dave Keays, SIG Leader

Well, the turn out was not good once again. The fact that the room no longer existed may have had something to do with it. The whole second story of the Science building was gutted. I hung-out and talked to some of the board members about the site and what to do next.

Jim said he would get me a site address that was easier to remember than RDKSOFTWARE.COM/NOCCC and he would get me in touch with the past Webmaster so we could work out some of the details for making this site official.

In August, I need help getting better pictures and some graphic designs. I am lousy at that and need some help.

This SIG meets in Science 306 at 9:00 a.m.

A few months ago, a friend of mine had mentioned a *Voice-Over-Internet-Protocol device (VOIP)* called **Magicjack**. It is a USB device about the size of a small box of matches. The initial cost of the device directly from the manufacturer's web site, with priority shipping, is $50.12. For the price, you get quite the list of very nice features. First and foremost of course, is unlimited local and national calling without an additional expenditure. Well, almost, you probably have to pay for your broadband DSL service. The price includes a phone number, in this case a 714-927 prefix, voice mail, and call waiting, not to mention localized 911 reporting. The device works directly with the computer using a microphone and headset, or you can plug a regular phone into the box. You can call any regular telephone and any regular telephone can call you (a running computer is required) as well as any variation of computer-to-computer.

As I demonstrated at the meeting, the system works when connected over a Wi-Fi connection as well. At home, I connect the second line of a two-line cordless phone system to the MagicJack box and find that this works very well. One thing that I have yet to try is taking the MagicJack with me on a road trip along with the Wi-Fi laptop and see how it works at a Wi-Fi hot spot. Based on the test at the SIG meeting, I expect it to work OK. So far, I'm very pleased with the product. I will bring it to the meeting in August for those that missed the July meeting. The URL is www.magicjack.com.

This SIG meets in the Irvine Hall at 12:30 p.m.

PC Q&A SIG

Jim Sanders, SIG Leader

The July meeting was fairly standard, in that we had a number of questions from several people. One new member had quite a few questions. None of them requires elaboration, so I will proceed with what I would consider the main attraction of the July meeting.

With a slew of medical bills coming in from Elise's illness, I decided that one of the unnecessary expenses was having too many phone lines. I eliminated the unlimited local service line to the house, and eliminate the caller ID and other frill services to the limited service main phone number at the house. I also moved the AT&T DSL service to the main number, and that was a major war story unto itself. That left me with my cell phone number, which provides some "free" long distance calling but doesn't do a good job of providing unlimited local calling.

Microsoft Access

Bob Dickson, SIG Leader

At the July Access SIG we had a good meeting (5 attended which was good, I think). I went over a project I did for my church a couple of years ago. The survey was mostly text: very difficult to get any info out of the survey results by just reading each form. I developed an Access program, keyed in the data from the survey forms, created a series of queries to extract data from the table, and generated several reports that targeted selected info. I showed the group how to design and build the table, then use the queries to select sub-sets of data from the table, then build reports. The Access project was not so big as to be daunting to the group and clearly demonstrated the power of this tool for such a task. The comments I received indicated they found the presentation interesting, educational, and worthwhile.

Bob will be out of town in August. Please check your email and the posted schedules to see if it will be meeting. Normally, This SIG meets in Science 109 at 10:30 a.m.

Understanding Operating Systems

Charlie Moore, SIG Leader

This SIG is led by Charlie Moore and is a continuing discussion group about Operating Systems for Computers.

This SIG meets in Science 111 at 10:30 a.m.

Microsoft Office SIG

Tia Williams, SIG Leader

This SIG started in June 2008. Lead by Tia Williams, it will be about three parts of the **Microsoft Office Suite: Word, Excel and Outlook**,

This SIG meets in Science 109 at 9:00 a.m.

Hardware Essentials

Herbert Wong, Jr., SIG Leader

Herb Wong has put this SIG on hiatus for the next few months.

Visual Programming

Anson Chapman, SIG Leader

This SIG is led by Anson Chapman and is a continuing discussion group about computer programming using Visual Basic, Visual Basic Script, Visual C, Visual C++ and Visual J++ for Beginners. They meet in Science 111 at 10:30 a.m.

This SIG meets in Science 111 at 9:00 a.m.

Linux for Desktop Users and Linux for Advanced Users SIG

Bob Ray, SIG Leader

This SIG is led by Bob Ray and is a continuing discussion group about the Linux Operating System.

This SIG meets in Science 131A at 9:00 a.m. Following that, is the Linux for Advanced Users SIG at 10:30 a.m.

Computer Aided Investing and Amibroker SIGs Need a New Leader

After many years, Bob Krishfield has resigned as SIG Leader. Someone is needed to serve as SIG Leader if these SIG are going to continue. Contact the club President for more information.

July 2008 Board Meeting Minutes

Location: Universal Career College, 1125 E. 17th St. Suite E211, Santa Ana, CA

The Board Meeting was called to order on Monday, July 14, 2008 at 7:30pm by Jim Sanders, NOCCC President. Also in attendance were John Heenan, Richard Miller, Gerry Resch, Ted Littman, Steven Breitbart, Dallas Hazleton, Leonard Prince, Tom Feeley, Bob Love and Mary Cornett.

Secretary's Report by Mary Cornett: A motion to accept the minutes as printed was made by Gerry Resch and seconded by Steven Breitbart. The motion was accepted unanimously.

Treasurer's Report by John Heenan:
- Membership reported was 7 family, 12 newsletters, 240 regular and 1 student = 260 members. There were 9 guests.
- Coffee/Donuts table income $36.00 - cost $23.80 = net income of $12.20.
- Main meeting raffle income $33.00
- Dues revenue $245.00. Total net income of $290.20

The **Main Meeting** was held on July 13, 2008, regarding "Geo-tagging by Merax, Inc." with Ivan Randall doing the presentation. The presentation was a Photo Finder GPS system that can place a location notation into your digital photographs. Jim felt he did a good demonstration with a good device. Attendance was approximately 35 persons. The next Main Meeting will be on August 10, 2008 with presentation by Barracuda.com on remote access of a PC; Jim will confirm.

Opening and Closing: Done by Jim Sanders.
Bob Dickson has been setting up our coffee and donuts table. However, in his absence, Richard Miller has volunteered to fill in for him.

Parking was discussed at the July meeting and fees were printed in the July issue of the Orange Bytes. Jim will reinforce the parking issue at our August Main Meeting. In addition, there is free parking at the SW corner of E. Maple and N. Orange. The underground parking garage has fees as published in July.

Committee Reports:
Jim: e-waste will collect again at our August meeting.
Gerry: We need a one-page flyer for people who drop off e-waste.
Bob Love: Will create a flyer explaining what our club does for Gordon to hand out.
Richard: Will check out possibility of Disney for a future Main Meeting.

Publications and Reviews:
Ted Littman distributed a schedule for preparation of the next issue of the Bytes. All inputs are due one week from today, on July 21, 2008. Ted stated that one book was taken out Sunday.

Ted also said that we have a large number of reviews and articles from other clubs for use in our newsletters. Steven Breitbart will write a review on his IOGear note-taking unit, the Mobile Digital Scribe. A discussion took place regarding appearance and placement of articles in the Bytes. Board Members offered their opinions and ideas. Jim and Steven will review their various suggestions. It was noted there is a change in staff.

Raffle by Gerry Resch:
Gerry Resch took in $33.00. Next month, Dale Atwater will have software for handling many things. Steven donated two calculators and a pedometer. Ted submitted 5 books.

Public Relations - is open:
Else Olovsson is not on the Board this year, as she will be traveling and vacationing. A volunteer is needed to fill the PR position. Else has submitted a few articles in advance for the Orange County Register. She would like her name removed from the Register. The Board thanks her for all her good work. Jim asked for volunteers to supplement the responses that he provides to the Register on computer questions from readers. Ted suggested asking the NOCCC Helpline volunteers as well. Steven may answer some of the MS Word questions.

SIG Report:
Tom Feeley recommended the new Excel, Word and PowerPoint SIG lead by Tia Williams. Ted Littman suggested that, in lieu of a new SIG, we could establish an "ANSWER MAN" at the front table in Irvine Hall since people regularly stop by the Reviews Desk and ask computing questions.
Charlie Moore's SIG will switch from Room #336 to Room #131A. Bob Dickson, who runs the Access SIG, will be gone in August. The August Bytes will announce if there is a replacement or not. Steven Breitbart mentioned that the Linux SIG leader may want to update/change the two SIG names. Len will hook up the projector at the meeting in August. A note for the Linux group and others: please return the furniture to their original locations and please do not erase any blackboards.

Old Business:
Jim Sanders directed our Treasurer, John Heenan to rewrite the Chapman donation check and then Jim will handle it. Richard reminded us if about the vote to give Board members free membership for a year. Jim determined we could not, as it would be in violation of our Bylaws, Article V, Section 2.b. The Board Members agreed. On the issue of publishing our past president's report of his concerns, the Board decided against doing so at this time.

New Business:

Our new Board of Officers and Directors will be considering the following:
- To update the NOCCC Bylaws: Only certain Bylaws require updating, and this will be addressed in a future meeting, as this meeting is already running late. One section that definitely needs to be updated is the requirement for two signatures on checks issued by the club, which now conflicts with bank rules.

- Dave Keays is suggesting a different web site name. He will make suggestions and email them to us in the near future.
- Future Meeting Location Options: Ted Littman offered his home, Richard Miller is researching the possibility of a local library, and Bill Thornton has some new ideas. All options will be considered at future meetings to best serve the new NOCCC Board for drivability, ample parking, easy access to keys/room and low or no fees.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25pm by Jim Sanders.

Minutes by Mary Cornett, NOCCC Secretary

NOCCC Fee Schedule

The fee schedule has been set up to increase club membership, attract people with an interest in computing, and attract local computer-related businesses to place ads in the Orange Bytes with or without becoming NOCCC members. We are also offering members the opportunity to help our club financially by making donations that should be income-tax deductible since we are chartered as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Donors will be acknowledged in the Orange Bytes and the Membership level will be shown on the Member's Badge.

Membership Level ($)	1 Year	3 Years
Individual Member	35	90
Each Additional Family Member	15	45
College Student	20	
High School Student	15	
Business Member + Ad (Business Card)	180	
Business Member + Ad (¼ Page, ½ Page)	465, 800	
Business Member + Ad (Full Page)	1,475	

Membership Donations ($)	
Contributing Member	75
Supporting Member	100
Advocate Member	250
Patron Member	500

Orange Bytes in Color!

By Steven Breitbart, NOCCC

NOCCC Members only: Watch your e-mail every month for the user name and password for the latest issue of the award winning *Orange Bytes* newsletter. The latest issue in Adobe Acrobat format (PDF) is posted on the NOCCC website, www.noccc.org/bytes/index.html, much earlier in the month than the printed issue reaches your mailbox. Older issues are also available without any access restrictions.

Not only can you get the Orange Bytes earlier, but the PDF is in color! Send any e-mail address changes to membership@noccc.org.

games, practice exercises and tests that are designed to improve and evaluate cognitive skills, and best of all "they're fun." They chart and graph improvement and will keep records for several individuals.

Have you ever had a problem with that vision test on your driver's license exam? Then Flash Focus was made for you. It too has games and exercises, but instead of improving your brain they improve your eyes.

Wii Want to Play

The hottest new gaming console is the Wii, another product from Nintendo that has games designed for the older kids, real older kids. The game controller is a little motion sensitive device that straps on the user's wrist. Participants interact with the game by moving their arms.

In the Detroit area, aerobic classes and movies have been replaced by Wii in many senior citizen centers. "Bowling" seems to be one of the most popular games. I've played it, and yes, it's exactly like the real thing. The motion of your arm, as you approach a virtual bowling alley, allows you to curve the ball and add some spin. Wii bowling leagues are springing up all over the country. Nintendo is about to release an exercise program for the Wii that uses a floor pad as a controller.

Pig SIG Open to All

Meet us outside Irvine Hall from about noon to 12:30 p.m. There is also a buffet lunch and snack bars open in Argyros Hall.
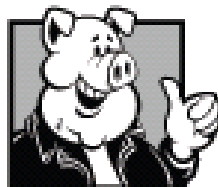
There are several benches where NOCCC people gather, eat and chat. Just look for the member badges, grab a chair and join in! This is an informal group; so many different subjects are discussed. It's a great opportunity to mix, mingle and network. See ya there!

NOCCC Executive Board
Officers

Here are photos of the newly elected Executive Board of the North Orange County Computer Club.
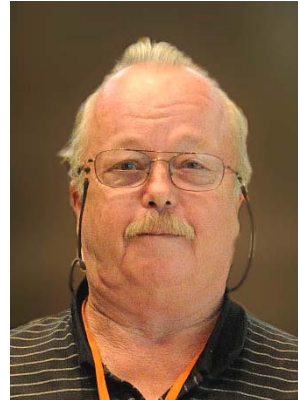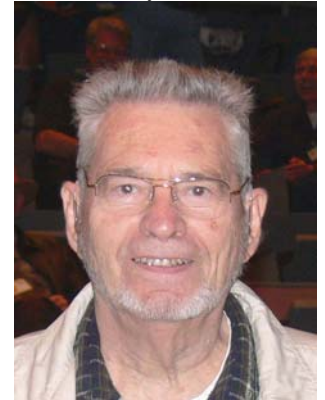
President
Jim Sanders

Vice President
Steven Breitbart

Mary Cornett
Secretary

John Heenan
Treasurer

Directors

Bob Love

Chuck Hower

Dallas Hazleton

Gerry Resch

Richard Miller

Leonard Prince

Tom Feeley

Ted Littman

Ex-officio Board Members

Past President
Herb Wong

Webmaster
open

Membership Renewal

When you turn in your Membership Renewal check, PLEASE fill out a Membership Renewal Application.

Memberships may also be renewed on our Website:
http://www.noccc.org

Send e-mail address changes to membership@noccc.org

QUICK MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

Date:_____   I am a new member   ☐
          This is a renewal; my membership number is   _____

PLEASE PRINT!
Name _____
Address_____
City _____
State_____ Zip _____ Phone (_____)_____-_____
email_____

Fees: see page 25 for fee schedule; $35 for single membership

Amount enclosed $_____

MC / Visa _____ Expires _____

Please make your check payable to **North Orange County Computer Club** and mail with your application to:

> **North Orange County Computer Club**
>
> **PO Box 3616**
>
> **Orange, CA 92857**

Are You an NOCCC Member?

Consider all that you get with membership and Join Now!

- **Meetings**. Keep up with what's going on in the computer world. Hear outstanding industry representatives make presentations of the latest and greatest in computer products.

- **Special Interest Groups**. Our SIGs cover a broad spectrum of user interest; they invite you, whether you rank as beginner or seasoned computerist, to the lectures and demonstrations they sponsor, and to share computer knowledge.

- **Get help with your current computer problems**. In the Random Access portion of the Main Meeting, you may ask your question of the entire assemblage, and more than likely someone will have the answer.

- **The NOCCC Help Line**. NOCCC volunteers, experts in their fields, are ready to assist with your problems, and are as close as your telephone.

- **The *Orange Bytes* Newsletter**. Our Award Winning newsletter reports on current activities and gives you articles and reviews geared toward your needs.

- **Opportunity Drawing**. We have distributed thousands of dollars worth of hardware, software, and books as prizes at our Main Meeting.

- **Product Reviews.** Write a review for this newsletter and keep the software, hardware, book or CD! Members' reviews are published in this newsletter.

- **Consignment Table**. We have a consignment table on select monthly meeting days in which we assist members to sell or buy all kinds of computer items.

- **Volunteer Work**. You are given opportunities to help our activities with interesting assignments. *As an all-volunteer organization*, you can join with other members in a variety of activities: write articles for our newsletter, conduct a seminar, run a SIG, man the help desk, show new members around, help the membership committee, and more.

Parking Information — Chapman University's main parking lot is the underground Lastinger Parking Structure under Wilson field on the north side of the campus. Enter from Walnut Avenue, just east of Glassell Street. Use the right lane and buy a permit. **The permit machine takes $1 bills and coins only.** Do not park in a reserved space and do not back into a space. Do not park in any other parking lot.

Free street parking is available on the campus-side of the streets only. Parking in front of any residential housing, across the street from Chapman University, is prohibited by The City of Orange. **Expensive parking tickets will be issued to violators.**

There is a FREE City of Orange public parking lot on the Southeast corner of E. Maple and N. Orange. This is a 2-block walk from the meeting.

Become an **NOCCC** member by signing up at the Membership Desk on our general meeting day, usually the first Sunday of the month. Or simply fill out the form on the reverse side of this page and send it in.