

Orange Bytes

Award-Winning Newsletter of the North Orange County Computer Club*

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OCTOBER 2008

Main Meeting, October 5th

Paragon Software

Don Lewis, Marketing Director for Paragon Software Group, Irvine, CA will present information on hard drive and storage management solutions and PC data protection. More information is on page 3.

The **NOCCC Consignment Table** will be set up during the October 2008 meeting.

E-Waste will also be collected by Omni Technics, Inc. (See Page 5)

NOCCC Meeting - October 5th

9:00 a.m.

Microsoft Word, Excel and Outlook..... Science 109

Topics about these three parts of the Microsoft Office Suite.

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

This SIG will not be meeting in October.

Digital Photography Irvine Hall

Ultra-wide-angle photos have a special look and are just the ticket for ultra-cramped spaces or scenic vistas. Learn the tricks and learn how to get the same results with the zoom you already have.

Linux for Advanced Users Science 131a

Topics about the Linux operating system.

Internet Today Science 306

Phorm flickr and flickr will be the topics of interest.

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.

OS/2 News and Installation..... Science 306

PC Q & A..... Irvine Hall

Ubuntu, Nero 8 and Q & A about PCs.

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

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

Future Meeting Dates
Nov. 2, Dec. 7, 2008, Jan. 4, Feb. 1,
Mar 1, Apr. 5, and May 3, 2009



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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”***

October 5th Main Meeting. 2 PM Irvine Hall

A presentation will be made by Don Lewis of Paragon Software Group, based in Irvine, California (<http://www.paragon-software.com>). The presentation will be about hard drive and storage management solutions and PC data protection. Don will discuss the storage management lifecycle and include a demonstration of Paragon's Hard Disk Manager Suite, which includes the following PC tools:

- Partitioning
- Backup
- Cloning
- Defrag
- Hard Drive Disposal
- System Management and
- System Recovery

We will also hear about Paragon's Drive Backup product family, which is disk-based continuous data protection, available for consumers, small businesses and mid-enterprise workstations, servers and networks. These products can be a more robust and affordable alternative to well-known Symantec Backup Exec or Acronis True Image products.

Members attending the presentation will receive discounts on the purchase of Paragon software and additionally, fully-featured, "Not For Resale" copies of Hard Disk Manager Suite and/or Drive Backup Professional will be raffled at the end of the presentation.

Orange Bytes in Color!

By Steven Breitbart, NOCCC

NOCCC Members only: Watch your e-mail every month for the user name and password to access the latest issue of the award winning *Orange Bytes* newsletter on our web site and **in color!** The latest issue, in Adobe Acrobat format (PDF) is posted at www.noccc.org/bytes/index.html, and you can view it earlier in the month than the black-and-white printed issue reaches your mailbox. Previous newsletter issues are also available there without any access restrictions.

If you are not receiving the monthly e-mail notice, check to see if your membership is current and send any e-mail address changes to membership@noccc.org.



President's Message

By Jim Sanders, NOCCC President

The summer vacation season is over and I hope to see more of you at the October meeting. For those of you who could not attend the September meeting, we had a really interesting presentation by Don Baker from [Klassic Specialties](#) on inkjet printers. He gave us a few really good tips on the maintenance of our printers, and explained why the quality and type of paper was more important to a really great photographic print than the ink that you are using.



Once again, parking was the issue for a couple of people in particular. Until further notice, I would remind you that no parking in the Hashinger parking lot means NO parking. That includes the handicap parking spots. Because the handicap parking is on private property the rules are somewhat different than on public property. A few of our members really need close in handicapped parking. As a result, I checked with the City of Orange police department, and they confirmed that a handicapped placard allows a holder to park on the resident side of the street where normally a resident parking permit is required. I realize that those of you who are in that category would feel more comfortable if you knew that for a fact so I invite you to call the City of Orange police department and enquirer for yourself.

I requested that anybody who had a good idea for a speaker contact me and let me know who or what they had in mind. As a result, several good leads were provided and one confirmation has been acquired. So if you have a good idea, please let me know. Even better, if you can do some of the footwork to arrange for a speaker that would be greatly appreciated.

Along that same line, we are in need of some use SIGs and of course SIG leaders. In two or three cases we simply need a new SIG leader for an old SIG that is no longer available because the SIG leader retired. So again, if you know of someone who might qualify please let me know.

For our October meeting we have a local software company doing the presentation. The **Paragon Software** group is located in Irvine California. Marketing Director Don Lewis will be highlighting the [Paragon Disk Manager suite](#). More information is available elsewhere in the orange bytes. NOCCC members who are present will have an opportunity to win some product and also be given a discount code for additional items from the large line of software that Paragon offers. Their home page is <http://www.paragon-software.com/> where you can learn a lot more about all of the products that they offer.

SPECIAL NOTE! Gordon Eng, the President of Omni Technics eWaste, is once again making a complete Windows XP, Intel P4 computer system available to the club. A club member will be taking this home from the November meeting.

Jim Sanders

Membership Benefits

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

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"

ZoomWare - Ai Squared is pleased to introduce ZoomWare, revolutionary new software that magnifies and enhances everything on your computer screen. It's perfect for those who squint at the computer screen and lean in to read the fine print. Members of APCUG clubs (NOCCC is one of them) can get a 20% discount! Normally, the download version is \$149, but with the discount it is just \$119. A CD version is also available for \$140, which is a \$35 savings and ships within 3 to 5 business days. To take advantage of your special APCUG member discount, simply purchase ZoomWare online at www.GetZoomWare.com and enter the following code at checkout: APCUG08. Learn more or get a free trial version at www.GetZoomWare.com.

User Group Offers - Books and Magazines

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.

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.

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.

THE CLUB OPPORTUNITY DRAWINGS

GENERAL DRAWING

- 1) East Microsoft Windows Vista, 2nd Ed. book.
- 2) Power Excel Live Lessons DVD.
- 3) Microsoft Office 2007 Live Lessons DVD.

MEMBER-ONLY DRAWING

Wear your NOCCC Membership Badge and get a free ticket!

- 1) Teach Yourself Photoshop Elements 6 book.
- 2) Creating Vista Gadgets book.
- 3) The New School of Information Security book.

COMING IN NOVEMBER

Someone will be going home with **another refurbished PC in November**. Details haven't been settled; it will either be part of the general drawing, a special drawing or sold by auction! The preliminary configuration, subject to change, is:

2 to 3 GHz Pentium 4 with Windows XP Pro & Office XP
512MB RAM and a 40GB HDD
Optical Drive, Keyboard, Mouse and CRT Monitor

Consignment Table and e-Waste Collection October 2008

The NOCCC Consignment Table will be set up during the October 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.

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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.....	aecrcss@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) 539-1304
Internet Today	Science.....	203	10:30	Dave Keays	dave@rdksoftware.com	(714) 348-9096
Digital Photography	Irvine Hall.....	—	10:30	Larry Klees	lklee@dslextreme.com	(714) 879-6405
Understanding OS's	Science.....	111	10:30	Charlie Moore.....	mooreca@adelphia.net	(714) 529-9071
OS/2 News and Installation	Science.....	203	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

Security Tidbits

By Dave Keays, NOCCC SIG Leader

I set-up a fake Facebook account to see what it was like. I had heard that while it started out as a site for college kids to connect to each other, it has grown to include just about anybody including professionals wanting to chronicle their skills and knowledge, and grandparents who want to share photographs of their grandkids and stay connected with them. From what I heard, getting a Facebook account is about as important as getting an email account.

What I found was that it asks too many questions and requires too much personal information. When I set-up an account, I ignored the questions about my friends and my schooling.

Only three personal facts are needed to perform an ID theft and the person doing it already has one or two. Why should I volunteer the others? How many bank/ecommerce account do you have where you can reset your password by answering questions like "what is your favorite book" or "which elementary school did you go to"?

Facebook claims they will not reveal the information they gather. But unless I need to, I won't give that information to anybody. Even if I trust the company today to not sell my information, will I trust them tomorrow? How do I know they won't stupidly leave my information in a laptop or throw it away without shredding it? People have done that with medical information, social security cards, and credit cards. Will they be sure to treat my school name better than others have treated credit card numbers?

It did allow me to ignore the questions it used to find people who are similar to me. Questions like "what is my favorite book?" or "what school did I go to?" But, I put in false information for anything it required. So now I have an account that is completely useless. This account is based on a pseudonym and points to a throw-away mail address and none of the information on it is correct. What good is it?

Our NEW Web Site

By Dave Keays, NOCCC

View the new web site at www.rdksoftware.com/noccc.

Three of the goals of this site are to reduce the need to rely on one person, to make the site as maintenance free as possible, and to make it easy for anybody to contribute to the site. Two of those goals were addressed last month and this month we address all three.

The front page now automatically adds pictures of recent meetings and speakers, which is mediated by the whole board, and it is easy for anybody to contribute pictures. If everybody

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contributes a picture each month then the site will display pictures of the last four meetings on the front page and a small thumbnail of six pictures at the bottom of every page.

Members can now pay their dues online just like they could before. There is a "pay dues" button in the "member's corner". It works the same as the same button on the old site; it sends information to the secure site that a previous webmaster (Jim Peugh) set up. But you do need to be logged in as a member to pay your dues so if someone's membership has lapsed they can't pay their back dues. That will be addressed soon.

I was worried about the pictures. If the site just displayed the pictures sent, then someone reading this issue of the Bytes might think it would be funny to send a bunch of porn to the site. There was also the issue of where to store the pictures since they have a tendency to eat up storage space and bandwidth kind of fast.

Using Flickr was the answer. Flickr stores pictures on their site and people can download them or display them on their website. Those pictures don't take up any space on our site but they are available to us. Flickr also let us group pictures into what they called a "set" and only display that set. Two sets are on the club's Flickr account; one for pictures of the meetings and another for pictures of speakers. The web site is set up to display the latest 4 pictures of each of those sets, but someone can go in and look at the whole gallery.

Any one can contribute by emailing pictures. While someone needs to choose which pictures to use, anyone on the board can do that. I figure if we can trust anyone, we can trust the board.

The email address to contribute a picture to the club is:
effect47always@photos.flickr.com

Upcoming Computer Shows

By Steven Breitbart, NOCCC

Here is a list of all the computer related shows I found for 2008. If you know of a show that others in the NOCCC might like to attend, let me know at editor@noccc.org.

West Coast Expos Computer Fair (lacomputerfair.com)

Fairplex in Pomona
October 25-26
November 15-16
December 13-14

Giant ACP Computer Show
(www.swapmeetbyhyperactive.com)

Hyperactive Computers Parking Lot, Santa Ana
November 30

Bagnall's Camera Expo (www.cameraexpo.com)

Carson Center
October 19
November 23
December 14

Back-Ups Made Easy

A new solution for an old problem

By *Carey Holzman*,

Co-host: www.computeramerica.com and
www.careyholzman.com, Carey@ComputerAmerica.com

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

By now you're probably well aware of the importance of making copies of your valuable data (referred to as 'backing-up'). You've probably read numerous articles about ways to back-up your data and prevent disaster. The problem is, most advice offered on this subject is not truly complete and many of the 'solutions' offered are expensive and time consuming.

There are numerous ways you can lose your data in spite of backing-up regularly. How you back-up, what you back-up, when you back-up and where you store your back-up are just a few important variables that come into play on that miserable day that you require it.

Still, that's better than eight out of ten customers that approach me for PC repairs who do not have any kind of backup. After all, any form of back-up is better than no back-up...but just barely.

First it's important that you understand the existing problems with the back-ups most people create.

1) External hard drives:

There are many problems with backing up your important data to an external hard drive. Since most people keep their external hard drives next to, or in the same building, as their computer, any fire or flood will render both the PC and backup useless. Also, if you are a victim of theft, the crook now has all of your data, and it's probably not encrypted or protected in any way on your PC or your back-up device. Since your back-up device is also a hard disk drive, there is a good possibility that it will fail and need to be replaced. Ironic since that it what you are protecting your data from. If you always leave your external hard drive hooked up to your PC for automated back-ups, then it is prone to viruses and other malware that may cause the loss of data that you are attempting to protect yourself from! Then there's the high cost of around \$150 for these devices.

2) Internal hard drives/RAID:

Some people have a secondary hard drive or partition in their computer and simply back-up from one disk to the other. Here again, viruses and malware will render both drives useless at the same time.

Fires, floods and thefts also leave you with no back-up source. This back-up is only useful if your internal hard drive fails. But as you can already see, hard drive failure is not the sole cause of data loss. Also, a RAID MIRROR (where one drive constantly mirrors what the other drive is doing) will not help if you

accidentally delete a file. The RAID MIRROR will simultaneously delete that file at the same time.

3) Drive images:

Some people believe an image or 'clone' of their entire hard drive onto an external drive or DVD is a good back-up, but it's not. If your computer has a serious component failure, such as a motherboard, or if your computer is stolen or lost in a fire or flood, you'll have to replace it. Once you restore your drive image, your new motherboard will most likely require different hardware drivers and Windows will most likely not start. All you'll get is the Blue Screen of Death. Sure, your data is theoretically fine and well, it's just too bad you can't get to it. Because full images copy everything on your hard disk, they tend to be very time consuming and, as a result, are not done often enough to be current.

4) Flash Drives:

Flash drives are more reliable than CDs, DVDs or external/internal hard drives, but they are very slow and very limited. Flash drives are also prone to theft and being misplaced. Most people do not encrypt their data and, as a result, may have inadvertently just given some stranger all of their personal data simply because the flash drive fell out of their pocket somewhere or they can't remember where they left it.

5) Tape drives:

Seriously? Does any consumer still use tape? Next to the floppy drive, it's the most unreliable way to back-up data and tape drives require a special reader and software to restore the data. In case of data loss, just get your back-up tape, reinstall Windows, reinstall your tape back-up device, reinstall your tape backup software and then you can start to restore your data. That is, the data not damaged on the tape.

What's Left?

Why will you need a back-up? What will happen? Will your hard drive fail? Will your PC be stolen or will your PC just stop working one day? Will you be involved in a theft? An earthquake? A fire? A hurricane? A flood?

We can't answer those questions with-out a time machine, but we do know that even in the best of circumstances, all hard drives eventually fail. It's not a question of "IF" but a question of "WHEN?"

If you only have one hard drive, then you only have one hard drive that can fail. Backing-up your data to another drive doubles your chances of experiencing a hard drive failure in addition to not guaranteeing your data will be there when you need it for the reasons listed above. We also know that most data is irreplaceable. Whether it's a database of your customers, your personal finance, photos from your vacations or of family and friends, your music collection, your email, favorites and address book, once it's gone, it's gone.

Hard drive data extraction services can help recover data from a failed hard drive and even hard drives damaged by flood or fire. Expect to spend \$800 - \$2500 and expect to wait from two to four weeks with no guarantee which or how much data can be recovered.

Say Hello To My Little Friend!

I wear a lot of hats as a computer talk show host, author, instructor, technician and business owner. I like to think that being a consumer advocate is a hat that firmly sits upon all the others. If you're familiar with any of my work, then you're well aware of my passion for free and helpful software and services. However, very rarely a product comes along that is not free, but is still such a bargain I am compelled to write about it.

Allow me to introduce you to [Carbonite.com](http://www.carbonite.com). Carbonite is a small, downloadable application for Windows XP and Vista (Mac version coming soon) that uses your high-speed Internet connection to automatically upload your selected data securely, off-site and in background. For \$49.95 a year, Carbonite offers UNLIMITED storage space. That's right, you can store as much data as you want. Installation is quick and easy. Carbonite's online backup service starts automatically and works quietly and continuously in the background while your computer is on and connected to the Internet. If you've accidentally erased something, don't worry; you can restore deleted files with just a few clicks on your PC. If your PC crashes, just visit their website to recover your lost files. Your data is stored safely - No one can see your data but you because your files are encrypted twice before they leave your computer using a combination of encryption techniques similar to those used by online banks and financial institutions.

Carbonite online back-up software is always looking for new or recently changed files on your PC. The moment you add or modify files, Carbonite swings into action. Whenever your PC is connected to the Internet (at home, the office, a hotel or airport, etc...) Carbonite automatically and continually backs-up all your files (but not system files or applications by default). And it will never slow down your PC or Internet connection.

Once you install Carbonite, simply tell it what you want backed-up and you never have to think about it again. Set it and forget it. It's not loaded with tons of bells, whistles and features because it's designed to be simple and do just one very important thing: keep your data safe. Carbonite offers a free 15-day trial and no credit card is required to take advantage of the free offer. As if that wasn't enough, I have a secret for you: Use the code word "AMERICA" and your 15-day free trial is extended to 30 days! If you choose to purchase a year of Carbonite service, the code word will also extend your subscription an additional two months at no additional charge!

Is This A Paid Advertisement?

Whenever I get passionate about a product that is free, no one asks me if I am being paid to promote it. I see customers everyday who lose data due to unforeseen circumstances and lack of a proper back-up. I like [Carbonite.com](http://www.carbonite.com) and I use it myself. In fact, it's running and backing-up my data, securely and off-site, as I type this! I like this product so much, I've asked the folks at Carbonite to sponsor my radio show and to offer our listeners and readers a discount to help encourage proper, secure, automated, offsite back-ups.

Skeptical? Try it for yourself, free for 30-days! Read more about how Carbonite works at <http://www.carbonite.com/>. Most people with high-speed Internet connections barely use them. Since your Internet Service Provider is charging you the same, regardless of how much or how often you use it, why not take advantage of that and utilize your unused bandwidth for backing-up your valuable data?

I welcome your comments and feed-back concerning back-ups and this article.

Carey Holzman is the co-host of the nation's longest running, nationally syndicated radio talk show on computers, Computer America. Computer America airs Monday through Friday, 7pm to 9pm Pacific time, 10pm to midnight Eastern. To find a station near you or listen online, visit <http://www.computeramerica.com>.

Carey is also the author of The Healthy PC, published by McGraw-Hill and is a freelance writer for numerous web-sites

and computer-related publications. This article has been provided to APCUG by the author solely for publication by APCUG member groups. All other uses require the permission of the author (see e-mail address above).

Botnet—The Evil Network

*By Grant Fuller, a member of Big Blue & Cousins, Canada
www.bbc.org; newsletter@bbc.org*

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

This one might even be too much for Webman. There is a community of evil geeks who own a number of computers that are used exclusively for delivering viruses.

Usually backdoor Trojans, the virus is designed to infect the average computer user's machine when launched periodically from the evil geeks' "Zombie" machines. The virus does not necessarily cause problems on the targeted computers but it uses these average users' machines to deliver spam. With this chain reaction method, huge quantities of spam can be spread with very little chance of tracing it to the source. ISP's have admitted they spend more of their resources on combating these "Botnets" than the old-fashioned crackers and hackers.

"If you suspect you are being used as a pigeon for a botnet operator, it is worthwhile downloading a good, tested anti-virus application that has a tracking firewall. The usual symptom that suggests there is a botnet present is a dramatic slowdown in performance."

Aside from cluttering up the internet with spam, the botnet can deliver "denial of service" attacks. This is a serious financial concern for companies trying to establish themselves on the internet as well as institutions that provide important community services.

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Careful What You Ask For! Part I

By Richard Kennon, Newsletter Editor, Amador Computer Users Group, California (www.acug.net/; editor@acug.org)

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

This last Christmas I asked Santa for a nineteen-inch wide-screen, thin, flat display for my computer. Santa, being busy and not knowing a thing about computers, asked our son to make the purchase. He decided that nineteen inches was for wimps so he picked up a twenty-two inch wide-screen. It is a beauty with 1680x1050, 96ppi resolution. That is super good... except, wouldn't you know, my old Dell has a video card that does not go that high. So, buy a new video card, right? They are not so expensive. It turns out my old Dell does not have a slot to unplug the card and plug in a new one. I am not sure of the technicalities, but one tech suggested a new mother board as well. They are not too expensive either. Then his partner says, "If you are going to spend that much, why not let us build you a new computer for just a little more?" Golly, what a great idea. The old Dell is getting so slow, I am frustrated every time I use it. So, why not get a new supercharged dual processor and two gigs of RAM so I can really sail? We discussed specifications for a while and came to agreement. Then I said I would want the Vista Home Premium operating system. One of the partners said, "Why don't you stick with XP?"

What follows is not what he said but I figured out later that this is what he was thinking. "This old geezer is probably not going to outlast XP so why burden him with a new operating system that just eats up processor power and RAM without offering any benefit? He is going to continue to do the same things he has always done on the computer so why not let him enjoy the benefits of all this new horsepower without the burden of having to learn about a new operating system?"

Out loud he said, "This will allow you to use all the software you now have and won't require you to download all new drivers, etc." I had already decided I could not afford a new version of MS Office and would convert to Open Office, instead. There is no Publisher in Open Office so I would have to do something, I hadn't figured out yet, to continue publishing this newsletter. This idea gave me a great sense of relief - I could reap the benefits of the newer, faster hardware without having to give up software I have grown used to. A little extra icing on the cake is that they will transfer all my Outlook Express folders and address book to the new box so I won't have to figure that out. Also, I have an 80-GB second hard drive in the old box that they will mount in the new. I use it for backup. The new main hard drive will be a 250-GB SATA drive and the second drive can remain an IDE drive. I haven't the slightest idea what that means except that SATA is supposed to be faster and they can mix the two types on one machine.

I am anxiously awaiting delivery of the new computer and will report next on how it all works out. So, I have spent our Federal rebate already. You can't say I am not patriotic!

Careful What You Ask For, Part II, The Arrival

I got it! Wow, it looks just like every other computer. It has a 250-GB SATA hard drive, 2 GB RAM and an AMD 64x2 dual processor. Also, it is loaded with XP Home operating system. I was so proud of my smarts when I copied all "My Documents" to an 80-GB backup hard drive and then had the store transfer this drive to the new box. But, when I went to access it, the latest copy had not taken. Bummer! Then I started to copy the files onto a flash drive to transfer them. About that time the old computer went bonkers - out of spite, I suppose. After many tries I got most of what I wanted transferred. I won't bore you with sordid details.

The first priority was to load the McAfee firewall and virus protection. I went to the McAfee site and mucked around for a while and finally got into a chat with someone called, Anish, on the other side of the globe, probably. He offered to help and led me through the most complicated procedure I have ever followed including typing Windows-R and typing in "%temp%." Then he said to delete all the files that popped up. There were about 250 files and perhaps 10 or 20 did not wish to be deleted. Every time I got to one that would not be deleted, I clicked 'OK' and had to start over again. After we finally got through that, he gave me a web site to access and everything went smoothly from there.

The next anguish was trying to load the HP printer drivers for my two printers. That appeared to go well at first but later something went very wrong and Microsoft volunteered that the problem was caused by Hewlett Packard and that HP had a fix on a site I could click to. That is really nice service! So, I did everything the HP site said to do but it kept failing with a message outlining three possible causes - none of which seemed to apply from the best I could determine. At that juncture, I decided to drop back to square-one and try to reload the driver in question from the disk. First, it was necessary to uninstall the driver and then re-install it. I did this but failed to read the fine print. It is clear now that one cannot install the driver if the printer is plugged into the computer. So, uninstall and re-install again but do it right this time, dummy. What do you know? It worked!

I reloaded MS Office 2003 Professional that I had been using for some time. That went quite well. Then I downloaded Service Pack 2 (or, is it 3?) and the Compatibility Pack. That went well, also. It is interesting how even old people can learn, isn't it?

Next came Photoshop Elements 5.0 and after that will come TOPO! (which is a map program I like) and several other smaller programs, including my Nikon camera software.

All in all, it has been not as bad an experience as it might have been and not as good as wished for. The backup hard disk is/was a great idea but somehow I fumbled the execution. My only advice is that if you want to get a new computer, plan, plan, plan and then consult as many others, who might have gone through it, as possible.

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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..

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 & 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 & David Smith, this book tells you how to segment and protect traffic in the data, control, management, and services planes. MSRP=\$65.

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

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, & Paul Maggiora, MSRP=\$40.

CCIE Professional Development Network Security Technologies and Solutions – A comprehensive, all-in-one reference for Cisco network security – Authored by Yusuf Bhajji, 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, & 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.

New Books in June & 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 & Andrew Stewart. MSRP=\$30. Why critical problems exist & 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, & Email scams.

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

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

New Books in August & September

Create Your Own Website – 6 easy projects by Scott Mitchell in full color from Que. Includes a CD. MSRP=\$25.

The Truth About Email Marketing – Everything you need to know to utilize this approach in your corporation or small business by Sims Jenkins from FT Press/Pearson. MSRP=\$19.

The Truth About Identity Theft – Everything you must know to protect yourself and your business by Jim Stickley from FT Press/Pearson. MSRP=\$19.

Geekonomics, the Real Cost of Insecure Software – The alarming cost of insecure, badly written software and how to fix the problem once & for all. Authored by David Rice from Addison-Wesley. MSRP=\$30.

Cloud Computing – Web-based applications that change the way you work and collaborate online. What it is, how it works, and who should use it. Authored by Michael Miller from Que. MSRP=\$25.

Transportation Information

Meeting Information

The NOCCC meeting is held at Chapman University, in the Hashinger Science Center and Irvine Hall, near the northwest corner of Center Street and Palm Avenue.

Parking Information

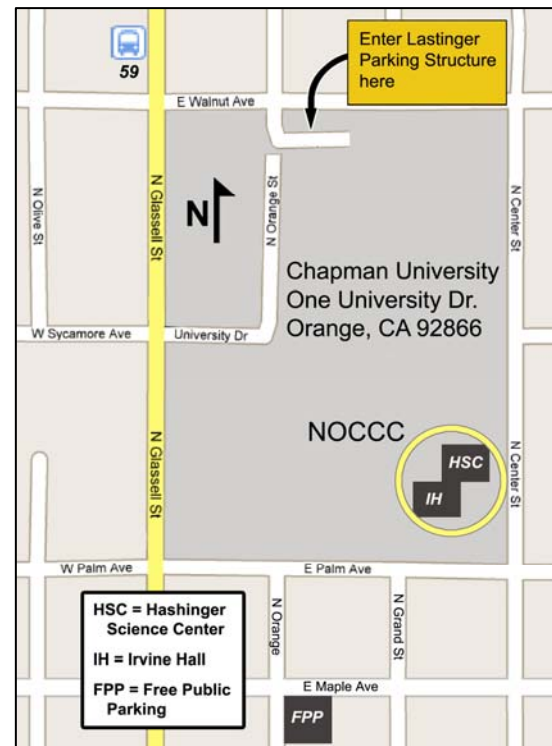
Most of this information is on the back cover. For more information, see www.chapman.edu/map/parking.asp. A map of the Chapman University campus is also available at www.chapman.edu/map/map.pdf.

Bus

Chapman University is serviced by several Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) buses. Route 54 runs East and West on Chapman Ave. The 59 runs North and South on Glassell Avenue, but doesn't start early enough for the 9:00 a.m. SIGs. Get the most current information or use a trip planner at www.octa.net. OCTA also has a Consumer Information Center at (714) 636-7433 (RIDE).

Railroad

Two Metrolink trains can get you to the NOCCC meeting from the Inland Empire. There are stops in the cities of Riverside, Corona, and Anaheim Hills. Parking your vehicle is free at the train station.



On Sundays, Trains 857 and 859 leave San Bernardino destined for Orange County at 8:30 am and 8:55 am. For the return trip, trains 858 and 860 leave nearby Orange Metrolink at 3:55pm and 5:35. The Metrolink station is four-and-a-half blocks from Chapman University. For specifics regarding your trip, check the web site: www.metrolinktrains.com or call 1-800-371-5465

Roxio Easy Media Creator 10 Suite

Comments by Ted Littman, NOCCC

Easy Media Creator 10 was Roxio's 2007-2008 "flagship suite of digital media applications which enables consumers to quickly and easily produce impressive multi-media projects that combine photos, video and music." It lists for \$100, but can be bought at amazon.com for \$49.

Following my comments on installing the program, you can read two of the excellent reviews that were done by members of other user groups.

My desktop PC is a 3.2 GHz Intel Pentium 4 Dell Dimension 8400. It has 4 GB of Ram and two large hard drives with multiple partitions. Windows XP HE SP3 is installed on one and Vista Ultimate on another. Dual booting allows selection of one or the other operating system.

Roxio provided me with an installation DVD and a Review Kit on a CD. Initially, I tried to install the program on the XP partition. The process seemed inordinately long at about an hour and was evidently incomplete, since I could not open the suite. I then tried the repair function found by opening Control Panel/Add or Remove Programs/EMC 10. That didn't work either.

My next try was to install the program on the Vista partition. This took about 80 minutes, but lo-and-behold, the installation was successful and the program ran OK.

Not one to give up easily on Windows XP, I removed the program from that partition and downloaded/installed an updated file from the Roxio web site, EMC version 10.1.226. Yikes! It worked. And I was able to activate it using the key that came with the original DVD! I have no idea what caused the installation problem initially, but if you read the following reviews, you will note that John Roy had a similar installation experience whereas Yvonne Luce had smooth sailing. Unfortunately, these reviewers did not identify their systems, so it is difficult to determine the cause of the problem. Needless to say, I did not have such a problem with any of the preceding versions of Roxio's program.

On the basis of my past usage of Roxio products and limited experience with EMC 10, I would expect that most users will

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find the software does its jobs well. Unfortunately, the quest to "make improvements" and add functionality can lead to bloated software that is slower to install and more prone to problems.

With that said, Roxio recently released the next EMC, simply called **Roxio Creator 2009**. It is said to be "faster, easier, and even more fun to use." For more information, check out <http://www.roxio.com/enu/products/creator/suite/>. It has a list price of \$100, but can be purchased now from Roxio for \$70, after a \$30 mail-in rebate, if you are eligible for an upgrade.

Roxio Creator 10 Suite

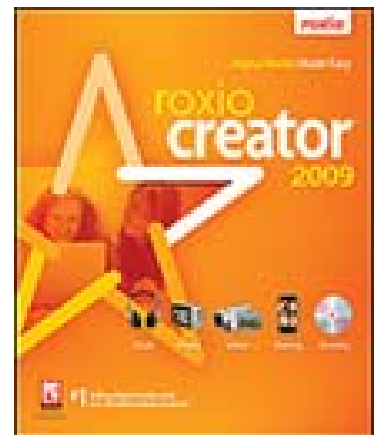
*Review by John Roy, President, The PC Users Group of CT
www.tpcug-ct.org, johnroy1@comcast.net*

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

Roxio, a division and brand of Sonic Solutions, has been a leader in burning software for many years. I personally have used the product since it was distributed by Adaptec several years ago. The CD/DVD burning software today far exceeds the basic functions that existed in those early days. Roxio Easy Media Creator (EMC) will accomplish so much more than the basic burning tasks and is now a full-featured suite.

Doing this review has allowed me to explore and appreciate the many applications within this suite. Because EMC is so comprehensive I will provide an overview in this article but follow up with more details in future issues of our newsletter.

Before I start boasting about some of these neat applications I must discuss some installation issues. The product would not install on my primary computer! After trying several times to install under various scenarios I checked for possible solutions using Roxio's web product support and also their user forum. None of those sources provided any clues so I connected with technical phone support. I was quite surprised that the wait time was very small and the technician was professional and extremely competent. Unfortunately after almost two hours of phone support the problem was not solved. The tech support effort involved major system modifications including deletion of all files associated with my original EMC version 9, my Nero burner software, a complete registry purge line by line of anything remotely associated with or influenced by Roxio software, removal of all anti-virus software and firewalls, elimination of all startup files except system essentials



and running registry clean utilities. Nothing worked! A trouble report was left open but I never received any further calls. In their users forum, I did find one other person with the exact same problem and no solution.

Fortunately I have a couple of other computers at my house so I tried installing the version 10 on both an older desktop and on my primary laptop system. The install went smoothly on both of those systems. So until I get a chance to rebuild my primary desktop I won't know if I can ever use the latest version on it. On a side note before trying to install EMC version 10 I had version 9 successfully working. After all the system changes I could no longer load my EMC version 9. So now I struggled with that problem for a few days. Once again not finding any online solutions, I contacted a phone support tech who was able to direct me to a download utility that cleared the problem and allowed me once again install version 9.

While the above debacle was frustrating don't let it deter you from considering the purchase of this capable applications suite. So let's look at why you should consider owning this product.

Once you get past the install, you will see a super-clean interface with applications divided into seven primary areas; [Audio](#), [Data and Backup](#), [Copy](#), [Media and Devices](#), [Photo](#), [Video](#), and [Tools](#). Each application provides another set of choices. Audio has (13), Data and Backup (5), Copy (5) Media and Devices (2), Photo (9), Video (11), and Tools (8). Now that is a huge chest of applications at your disposal. If you were to purchase each primary application separately it would cost you a few hundred dollars. This package sells for about \$100 but if you watch for sales you can buy it for much less.

When you think of Roxio and burning software the primary reason most people purchase the product is for those tools. The Copy and Data and Backup modules take care of those basic requirements along with some other goodies. For anyone familiar with an older version, you will still find the original Creator Classic still there but spruced up. That old standby is quite the work-horse. You select the type and size of disc you want to burn and it will keep you updated on available space as you move files or folders you want to burn into a holding area. Once your files and folders are selected you can burn your CD/DVD directly or make an image for later burning. Of course you have advanced options to define the type of disc, speed, copies, etc. You can also make a bootable or multimedia disc and go directly to creating disc labels of your burn project.

The backup module provides capability to be selective of the files you want backed up or restored and at what frequency. If you want more powerful options then you will be provided an upgrade link. A range of backup devices and media including Blu-ray discs and HD DVD discs are supported. Large files can be automatically spanned across multiple discs as required.

The Audio module provides thirteen selections that cover just about everything you could possibly want to do with audio. All the expected tools are there to rip CD's into MP3 files or create audio CDs from other formats. You can make custom CD's with fades, effects and mixing. Tools are there to edit song information and to do batch conversions to formats of your choice. One module allows you to instantly capture any audio playing on your computer, including streaming radio. There is one utility "Convert LPs and Tapes" that I was especially

enthused about. At our meeting we have had the question of how to convert LPs and Tapes asked many times in the past. While there are several methods to accomplish this, Roxio EMC has made it easy and crystal clear with this application. So for those of you that have a desire to do this you should give Roxio EMC serious consideration.

The Photo application contains a full-featured photo suite with powerful editing, effects, and touchup tools. It is complete with all the ancillary things you want to do with photos such as creating slideshows, panoramas, albums, greeting cards, calendars and layout templates. You can quickly optimize a group of photos for sending email.

The Video application is another full-featured suite for importing, editing, customizing and exporting video into various formats. Included is [CinePlayer](#) a full featured video player. The features are similar to those found in Pinnacle Studio or Adobe Premier.

While some of Roxio EMC tools are not as robust as the leaders you will find some tools not available in the others. The fact that it may not be as flexible as the stand-alone programs, it will be easier for the novice. If you are a true video buff, then even if you own other video software you would also want to have EMC in your software chest. The smallest stand alone module is [Media Manager](#) that enables users to easily browse, manage, share and protect their media files. The final application module is [Tools](#). This module is used for creating disc labels, obtaining drive information, erasing discs, creating virtual disc drives and a few other assorted utilities. Roxio EMC is Vista compatible and includes gadgets for doing things directly from the desktop.

I'm certain most computer users will find enough applications on Roxio Easy Media Creator to make the investment worthwhile. If this review has captured your interest pay a visit to Roxio's website at [http:// www.roxio.com/](http://www.roxio.com/). They have some great videos that will demonstrate these neat features

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Roxio Creator 10 Suite

Review by Yvonne Luce (Published in Volume 23 Number 3, March 2008, Journal of the Thousand Oaks Personal Computer Club)

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

Roxio Creator 10 Suite is a comprehensive and highly creative media package. Not only can you burn disks, you can convert your analog vinyl into digital, send audio mixes to your iPod and PSP, and create slideshows or videos with music and or narration. This program is a smorgasbord of multimedia creativity.

[I found the installation easy and straightforward.](#) When you open the desktop icon there is an index menu on the left, and the click to open menu in the middle with an options icon on the lower right. Photo menu contains a list of 8 tasks. The photo

editing appeared rather basic. It does have 34 new templates. However, the multiple photos per page for printing and slide show more than make up for it. A CD music disc was very easy to make. A photo slide show was also very easy to make, after minimal trial and error. Without looking at the tutorials I was able to make a photo slide show with music and transitions. However, I would recommend viewing the tutorials first. Burning to the DVD proved a little more difficult in that the program would start to copy to the disc and fail at the end. The program states the one time discs are preferable. However, that turned out not to be the case, and after many hours of trial and error I purchased rewritable DVD discs which worked perfectly.

Video contains a list of 10 tasks. VideoWave has quite a lot of creative options. This is probably the most exciting section. You are able to take those family photos, videos and miscellaneous odd pieces you haven't quite known what to do with, and make them into an exciting cohesive movie for your loved ones, without taking it to someone else to manage it for you, and to have it look professional. The program <http://www.topcc.org> has the capability of converting videos to DVD's. VideoWave offers a 32-track time-line, complete with batch video-segment removal, timeline markers and automatic tools for correcting color and removing background noise. Using the SmartSound feature you can add just the right sound track and the music is adjusted to fit the length of the project. VideoWave has some really creative transitions, overlays and video effects. The panning and zooming action for stills really creates a sense of movement that enhances your project to new heights.

MyDVD for video creation has custom motion menus, chapters and menu soundtracks to make professional-looking DVD and VCDs. In the DVD section there are 15 new menu themes. Using MyDVD Express you can create a slide show, add a movie, or create a CineMagic movie. The CinePlayer is a full featured video player. You can also convert DVDs, videos to the right format for web, iPod, PSP, or mobile phones. Taking some samples available, I created a small cool movie. It was pretty easy to add the music using the SmartSound feature. The features including transitions and video effects are fun to experiment with. There is a lot to explore here.

The Audio tab contains a list of 11 audio tasks. These cover most of the aspects of burning to audio tracks and converting audio and digital audio tracks to audio files, including DVD, MP3 files, managing files, and editing songs (a virtual smorgasbord of musical entertainment for the music enthusiast). In the menu entitled Convert LPs and Tapes, you can capture from various audio sources via the sound card including LP, audiotapes, Internet radio and microphone. This program has a recording set up guide to facilitate capture, a very nice feature for those of us who are electronically challenged. Creator Classic is listed under applications and is the core program for making data, multimedia and bootable discs. The last four are important basic tools. Media and Devices has 1 file: Media Manager. Although the Media Manager is useful for organizing files I found it difficult to understand without a tutorial.

The following menus are self explanatory, easily understood and very user friendly:

[Data and Back up guide](#) contains a list of 4 tasks. The Data section includes: Data disc, Creator classic, Backup files, and Restore files. [Copy](#) contains a list of 4 tasks. The copy section includes: Copy Disc, Copy DVDs, Create Image and Burn image. [Tools](#) contains a list of 8 tasks. The Tools section includes: Express labeler, Label creator, Disc Information, Erase Disc, Finalize disc, Load disc image, and Disc Gallery.

The online tutorials at in the drop down menu are read only versions. This was advantageous in your being able to skip to the needed info. The amount of helpful information via these tutorials is basic and straightforward with about 4 or 5 steps indicated per each mini section. The help menu (that is not online) is also beneficial having pictures of the screens being used. There is no manual provided with the program. I found a couple audiovisual tutorials by going to the Roxio website through Explorer instead of using the program. There is online help via the website. There are several options to choose from email to technical service plans at www.roxio.com.

There are a number of tools you can use at the Roxio Site like submitting an email at <http://selfserve.roxio.com>, ask Roxann or using the knowledgebase and tutorials. Roxann is listed in the support menu. Roxio also provides a Premium Telephone Support option currently at the rate of \$1.89 per minute (US). Call, toll-free (866) 434-9871. Hours of operation: Monday – Friday, 11:00 am to 6:00 pm., EST, excluding Roxio holidays. Please see the Roxio website for more detailed information regarding the support options.

I feel that Roxio Creator 10 Suite is well worth the money and the time and patience to learn. I definitely recommend this program to advanced and intermediate users. I would caution beginners. If you frustrate easily, read and utilize the tutorials as the program may be a challenge, although worth learning. The extraordinary results will be something you will be proud to share with friends and family.

FEATURES:

The audio section includes: Easy Audio CD, Music Disc creator, Create jukebox disc, Quick music DVD, Rip CDs, Multi CD ripper, Edit song information, Convert LPs and Tapes, Sound editor, Batch audio converter, and AutoMix. The Data section includes: Data disc, Creator classic, Backup files, and Restore files. The copy section includes: Copy Disc, Copy DVDs, Create Image and Burn image. The Media and devices section includes: Manage media. The photo section includes: Import photos, PhotoSuite, Multi-photo enhance, Create panoramas, Create slideshow, Photo projects, Print photos and Email photos. The Video Section includes: Capture video, Plug & Burn, CineMagic, VideoWave, MyDVD express, MyDVD, CompileMovies, Covert video, CinePlayer, and DivX DVDs. The Tools section includes: Express labeler, Label creator, Disc Information, Erase Disc, Finalize disc. Load disc image, and Disc Gallery.

MINIMUM SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:

- DVD-ROM drive required to install this software.
- Windows Vista with 1.6 GHz Intel processor, 512 MB RAM
- Windows XP with 500 MHz processor or faster; 128 MB RAM

- 1 GB of free hard disk space for typical installation of all components
- 1024x768, 16-bit color graphics card
- For DVD, slideshow or video authoring 1.6GHz Intel Pentium 4 or equivalent; 512 MB RAM
- DirectX9 or higher compatible sound card and graphics card
- Windows Media Player 10 or higher
- Microsoft Internet Explorer 6 or higher

SUPPORTED FORMATS:

Input formats:

- Video: AVI, DV, HD-V, MPEG-1, MPEG-2, MPEG-4, MPEG2-HD, IFO/VOB, DivX, DivX HD, XviD, DVR-MS, TiVo, ASF, MOV, WMV, QuickTime, 3GP, MPEG2 Transport Stream, H.264, OpenDVD
- Audio: Audio CD, MP3, WAV, WMA, Dolby Digital AC-3, AAC, Ogg Vorbis, FLAC, M4A, MP4, Playlists (WPL, ASX, M3U, PLS, XSPF)
- Image: JPG, PNG, TIFF, BMP, GIF

Output formats:

- Video: AVI, DV-AVI, HD-V, MPEG-1, MPEG-2, MPEG-4, MPEG2-HD, DivX, DivX HD, WMV, WMV HD, H.264, MP4, 3GP
- Audio: MP3, WAV, WMA, Dolby Digital AC-3, Ogg Vorbis, FLAC, MPEG-1, MPEG-2, M4A, AAC, Playlists (M3U, PLS, XSPF, WPL, HighMAT, MPV)
- Image: JPG, PNG, TIFF, BMP, GIF
- Video disc formats: DVD, Video CD (VCD), Super Video CD (SVCD), Mini DVD

Recordable media formats:

- Supports all popular recordable formats: CD-R/RW, DVD+R/RW, DVD-R/RW, DVD-R DL, DVD+R DL, DVD-RAM, BD-R, BD-RE, BD-R DL
- Supports popular disc image formats: ISO, C2D, and BIN/CUE

Notes:

1. BD-R/RE discs can be copied using the copy task in Roxio Central, Video Copy & Convert, Music Disc Creator, DVD Music Assistant, LP & Tape Assistant, and Sound Editor only support CD and DVD burning.
2. QuickTime 7 or higher is required for playback of M4A or MOV files.

Scotty, I Need More Power!

By Alan Mildwurm, President, Diablo Valley PC Group, California

www.dvpc.org; avm@mildwurm.com

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

When my kids were young, I bought batteries by the bushel. All of their toys required some batteries. The phrase **“batteries not included”** raised almost as much terror as **“some assembly**

required.” I still recall going out one Xmas morning in search of “C” size batteries because we missed the warning on the box. (7-11). One very cool pool toy took 16 batteries - in 3 sizes.

In those days, rechargeable batteries were garbage. Most rechargeables were nickel-cadmium and with a memory that made them useless after a few charges. Shelf life was a joke and power output dismal. For several years, I bought throw away alkaline batteries at Costco because they were cheaper than those clever bunny batteries. Not environmentally friendly, but definitely kid toy friendly. As the kids grew up, their needs for batteries diminished (actually they now buy their own), but my need for batteries is increasing. Wireless keyboards, wireless mice, GPS, wireless game controllers (the Wii-mote takes 4 batteries per controller and there are 4 controllers), iPod external power units, camera accessories and on and on. I am going through more batteries now with my toys than I ever did with the kids! Luckily, rechargeable battery technology has come a long way.

Sanyo produces the **eneloop** (www.eneloop.info). According to their spec sheet, the AA battery is rated at 1.2 volts and 2000 mAh. Not bad for a rechargeable. (A disposable usually is 1.5 volts.)

There are two sizes of eneloop batteries, AA and AAA. They also produce C and D size cylinders in which you insert AA batteries.

From their site: eneloop is a totally new type of battery, which satisfies in a unique way the needs and expectations of the consumers.

Consumers would like to have a battery, which:

- can be used right after the purchase
- has a high performance
- has a long shelf life with no loss of energy
- can be used everywhere
- is cheap in purchase and usage
- is environmental friendly
- is easy to use

So far these requirements could not be satisfied by a single type of batteries. The consumer had the choice between disposable batteries or rechargeable batteries. Disposable batteries have several advantages:

- they can be used immediately
- they have a long shelf life with low loss of energy
- they are rather cheap in purchase
- they are easy to use and no charger is required



These advantages of disposable batteries however, had to be seen alongside several clear disadvantages:

- can be used only once and therefore mean substantial waste and risk for the environment.
- have to be purchased over and over again and are therefore expensive considering the life-time of your equipment.
- are not quite powerful enough in certain applications (like digital cameras)

- are being offered in many varieties and special application-specific types, which confuses the consumer.

The classical advantages of rechargeable batteries are:

- high performance, especially if high discharge currents are required (like in digital cameras)
- cheap in use, because they can be recharged many times.
- environmental friendly, because one rechargeable battery replaces 1000 disposable batteries.
- good performance at low temperatures.

Given these advantages, rechargeable batteries also have some disadvantages, which made consumers reluctant to exchange disposable batteries by rechargeable batteries:

- After purchase, rechargeable batteries have to be charged before they can be used.
- Rechargeable batteries lose the stored energy rather fast.
- The state of charge is hard to determine.
- Continuous charging or frequent charge (without complete discharge) can destroy the battery.
- Proper charging is complicated for an average consumer
- The charging takes quite long and rapid chargers are expensive.

All these negative attributes have one root-cause: *self discharge*.

Self-discharge means, that a charged battery slowly discharges itself without any equipment consuming any current. This is the reason for rechargeable batteries being sold in discharged state. And this is the reason for that keeping charged batteries for some time did not make any sense. When you needed them, the energy was gone.

How the self-discharge was reduced? (For you techy folks!)

Modern Ni-MH batteries consist of two metal stripes (anode and cathode), which are separated by a non-conductive porous plastic foil (separator). These three stripes are laid on top of each other and are wound to a coil. This coil is put in a metal can and immersed with a liquid (electrolyte). Then the metal can is closed with a cap.

The self discharge of Ni-MH batteries is caused by three main reasons:

- the chemical decomposition of the cathode,
- the natural disaggregation of the anode,
- Impurities of the anode.

Now, how could the self-discharge in the eneloop been reduced?

The chemical decomposition of the cathode has been reduced substantially by the use of a new superlattice alloy. As an additional benefit the superlattice alloy increases the electrical capacity of the battery and reduces the internal resistance, which allows higher discharge currents. Another advantage of the reduced decomposition of this alloy is the fact that less Cobalt is needed to stabilize the alloy. The anode has been strengthened by another new material, which reduces the natural disaggregation. Additionally the separator and the used electrolyte have been optimized for low self discharge of the eneloop.

They really are good batteries!

I have been using eneloops for several months. They work fine. I have both a wall charger and two battery (AA or AAA) USB charger. Both chargers work very well. I like the USB charger and I love the fact that they come charged and ready to go.

The kit shown below lists for \$50.00 but is available at Amazon for \$32.00 It comes with 4 AA, 2 AAA, and 2 spacers each for C and D plus a charger. I have found even better deals with more batteries at Costco!!



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

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

Careful What You Ask For

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Main Meeting Report

Klassic Specialties at September 2008 Main Meeting

By Steven Breitbart, NOCCC

At the start of the meeting, President Jim Sanders said that the club needs new SIGS, so members are encouraged to suggest SIGS they would like to see or lead. You don't have to be an expert in the field that is the topic of the SIG; you just have to be willing to lead the SIG. In the past few months, the AmiBroker, Computer Aided Investing and Hardware Essentials have lost their leaders recently, so those areas are available.

Another issue is that we need more speaker for our monthly Main Meetings. If you know of a person or company that has something interesting to say about computers, they might be willing to speak to us. For both the SIG issue and Main Meeting speakers, contact Jim for more information at president@noccc.org.

Vice President Steven Breitbart encouraged members to take out books and software for review. We would rather publish reviews from NOCCC members, rather than from other clubs. Remember, you get to keep the book or software after reviewing it. Ted Littman is the Reviews Editor and he is at every NOCCC meeting until about noon. A list of items available for review is on Page 11. Information about writing a review is on our web site at www.noccc.org/bytes/info/index.html

Parking is still an issue. Two members were ticked for parking in the Hashinger parking lot. If you want to park on campus, use the underground Lastinger Parking Structure under Wilson field. More information is on the back cover of this newsletter.

Our speaker was Don Baker of Klassic Specialties. Klassic Specialties is based in Artesia, California (www.klassicspecialties.com) and was established in 1998.

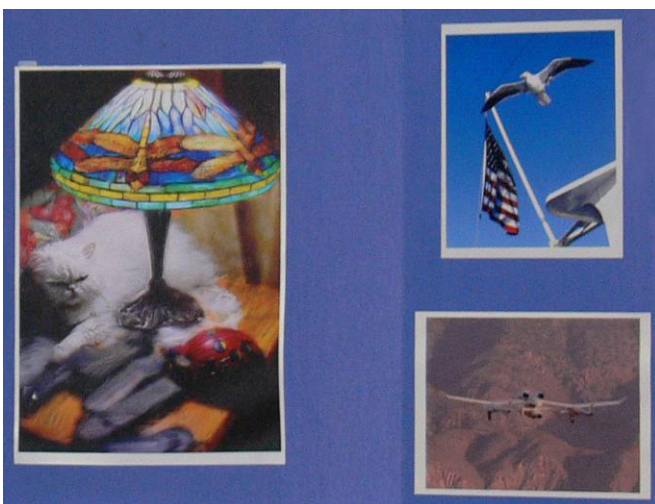
They are based upon the premise of providing the BEST Customer Service and Highest Quality Imaging Products available at affordable pricing.



Don Baker

They have attained a position as one of the primary suppliers for such events as; The Academy Awards, Miss Universe and Miss USA contests. Some of the photos printed using their supplies from these events were on display and they looked great, even if they were printed several years ago.

Don's presentation was entitled "Demystifying Inkjet Printing," but covered much more than that. First, he provided an overview of the various digital printing techniques available today including; Dye-Sublimation, Laser, Thermal Autochrome, and Inkjet Printing.



An important issue is the question of media, that is, paper. If you are dissatisfied with the quality of the photos made by your printer, consider the paper you are using. Your problem may be that you are using plain typing paper, which costs less than 2¢ a piece for an 8½x 11 inch sheet. Try using a better photo paper, which costs 15¢ per sheet, or for even better results, a paper which costs 40¢ or more per sheet. The printer manufacturers do not make their own paper, but they have their own set of specifications. So, when you buy some good photographic paper, make sure that it is compatible with your printer. Paper sold by Klasic Specialties will work with both types of ink jet printers being sold today.

Some of the more exotic paper materials available from Klasic Specialties are Canvas, Transparency, and Tattoo. Of course, various photo quality papers are available as well, such as water, UV or tear resistant. Some of these papers are available in packs of 10, so you won't have a pile of photo paper gathering dust if you only need to print a few photos. Here is a great tip: If the ink doesn't dry immediately after printing, microwave it for a few seconds.

For many printers being sold now, we all know that the profit is in the ink, not the printer itself. Typically, the ink tanks that come with a printer are only partially filled and the cost of ink is going up. The dollar amount may be the same as last year's printer but the new ink tanks will hold less ink. The printer manufacturers' have included more circuitry, sensors, software and channels to attempt to prevent the use of third party ink tanks or prevent the refilling of the original tanks. Some printers will recognize how long a tank has been in service; calculate how many pages can be made with the ink tank installed or recognize that a particular empty tank has been reinserted after refilling and won't function. But, if you have a printer with refillable tanks, refill them slowly to avoid the formation of air bubbles in the tanks.



If you want to buy a new printer, don't just look at it's features such as resolution, find out the cost of operating it. How much does a set of ink tanks cost and how many pages will they print? Klasic Specialties has a calculator for printer costs on their web site.

Even the best printers get clogged heads occasionally. The nozzles on a modern Epson printer are 14 microns wide, about 0.0006 inch, or to put it another way, about a the diameter of a human hair! The best way to clean the heads in a printer is to

run the cleaning routine a maximum of 2 times. The cleaning routine uses a lot of ink. In some Epson printers there is a sponge to absorb the excess ink. When this sponge is filled, a sensor detects it and shuts the printer. Epson has a download which will bypass this setting, but they were concerned about a possible overflow of ink into the body of the printer and then onto our desks or floors. Final hint: Leave the power on for four to six hours. The printer will regularly agitate the ink tanks and new ink will soften the old, dried ink.

You can order supplies directly from the Klasic Specialties web site or buy it in person at their booth at local shows and swap meets. Their schedule is also available on their web site.

It was great meeting! Thanks to Don for the donation of 5 packs of photo paper for our opportunity drawing.

Follow Up on PhotoFinder GPS

By A. Nonymous

Our July 2008 Main Meeting included a presentation by Ivan Randall about PhotoFinder GPS, which is made by Merax, Inc. (www.merax.com). This is a product that allows and enhances Geo-tagging, which is embedding GPS-based location information into the metadata portion of a digital photograph. (See the August 2008 issue of the *Orange Bytes*, page 19.)

I have found another use for this type of product. After twenty plus years of renting, I have been looking for a condominium. The big difference in looking for an apartment and for a condo is that the first thing I looked at when evaluating an apartment was the layout; these are now available on line in some instances. The information provided by the real estate agent on a condo, it includes everything but the layout! So I am taking my own digital photos so I can remember what each condo really looks like. In the course of a day of looking at condos, I take over 100 photos. After a while they all look alike. Unless I sort them soon afterward, I really can't tell one from another.

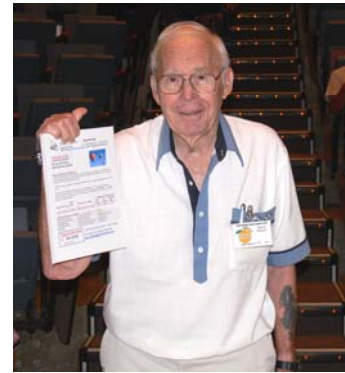
If I had the PhotoFinder GPS, I could get all the locations of the photos and have the software display them on a map.

September 2008 Opportunity Drawing Winners

Your photo could be here - but only if you buy some raffle tickets!



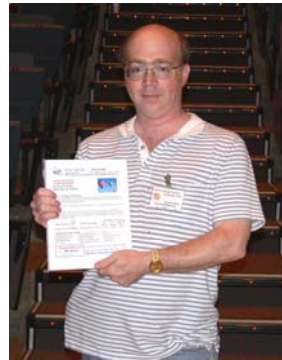
Steve Schiffman



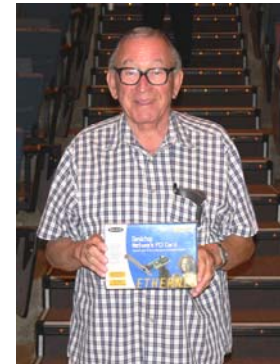
Dale Atwater



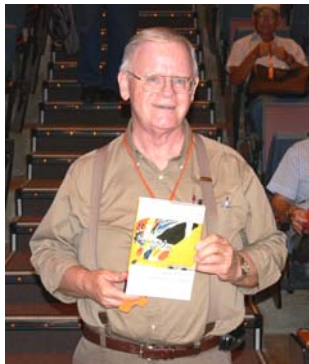
Kaz Adachi



Steven Breitbart



Martin LaRocque



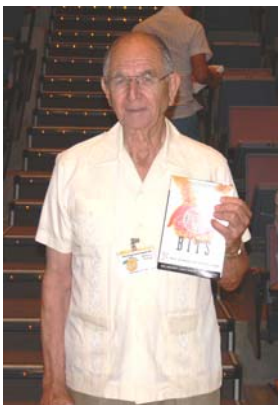
Bob Dickson



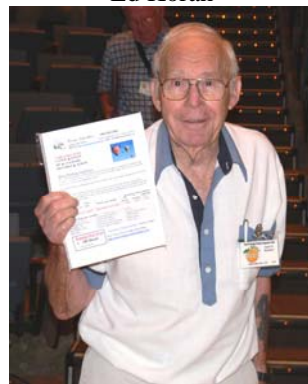
Ed Koran



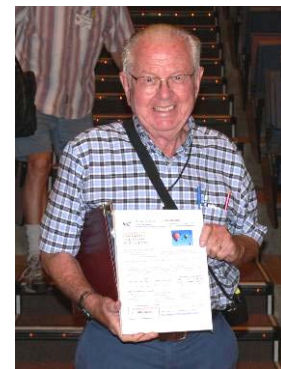
Kaz Adachi



William Thomas



Dale Atwater



Dallas Hazelton

Gerry Resch, not pictured,

Photos by Jim Sanders, NOCCC

Digital Photography SIG

By Larry Klees, SIG Leader

Last Month

The topic was macro photography.

When I first took up a serious interest in photography, I noticed that certain kinds of pictures are different. Among these are 'Wide Angle,' 'Extreme Telephoto,' "Extremely long or short shutter speed," and "Macro." Photos from each of these categories just naturally stand out from all the rest. Each category has its own unique look.

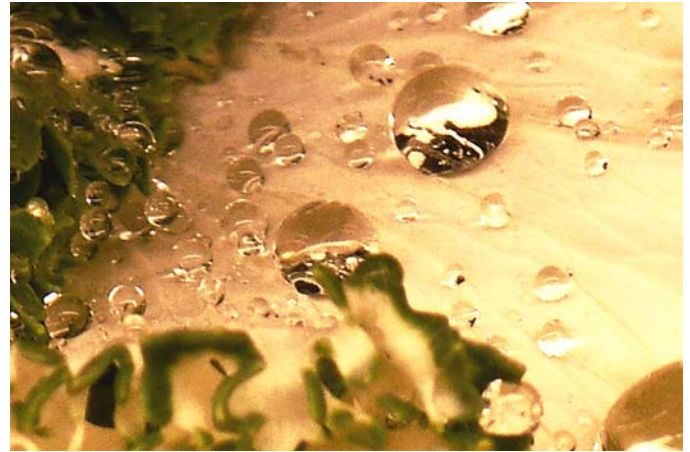


One of the characteristics of all macro shots is high magnification of small-to-ordinary-sized objects. A trait that frequently results from this high magnification is a shallow depth of field. Another characteristic (since macros are usually shot at very close distances) is a distorted perspective. The result of these traits is that **macro photos not only have a special look, but they let you see objects that you might not otherwise see. They let you see everyday objects in a whole new way.** This is no idle boast; it's a literal fact.



The original technical definition of a macro shot was that the image on the film plane is equal in size to, or larger than the

actual subject. Over the years (especially since the introduction of digital cameras), the definition has been loosened, distorted, and muddled.



Most camera and lens combinations do not have the ability to get close enough to the subject to get the required magnification.



For cameras with interchangeable lenses you can achieve the necessary closeness/magnification by using special macro lenses, or bellows, or extension tubes. The macro lens naturally gets close and delivers exceptionally high quality images with minor trade offs. True macro lenses tend to be very expensive. The bellows allows a normal lens to focus extremely close but requires very bright light and/or long shutter speeds. Bellows are somewhat expensive. Extension tubes are less versatile but less expensive than bellows.

Most cameras including those without interchangeable lenses can use close up lenses. These cost about \$20 - \$60 and screw onto the front of your lens. They offer slightly less quality (still acceptable) than bellows or extension tubes, but they don't require the bright light or long shutter speeds. Close-up lenses can be uncoated (seldom labeled as such), coated, or multi-coated.



I recommend spending the few extra dollars for coated lenses; but, unless you are a fanatic for image quality, I'm skeptical that most of the multi-coated ones are worth the extra money.

Attendees of the last meeting got considerable macro theory not included here, and also got to experiment with macro lenses, bellows, reversing rings, focusing rails, and close up lenses. Most brought their own cameras and some took macro shots. Hopefully we will be able to include some of those photos in future issues of the Bytes.

Here are some links to some very good macros on Flickr:

- <http://www.flickr.com/photos/yokusho/2823976443/sizes/o/in/pool-485571@N24/>
- <http://www.flickr.com/photos/29876435@N07/2823627490/sizes/o/in/pool-485571@N24/>
- http://www.flickr.com/photos/mara_rodrigues/2803377714/sizes/o/in/pool-485571@N24/
- <http://www.flickr.com/photos/sand-dreams/2797386814/sizes/o/in/pool-485571@N24/>
- <http://www.flickr.com/photos/bozina/2843161887/sizes/o/in/pool-329725@N25/>

If you haven't taken macros before you should try it.

Helpful Tip

Did you know that there are correct and incorrect ways to use your zoom lens? Actually whatever works for you is fine, but if you adhere to the following rule, the overall quality of your pictures will improve.

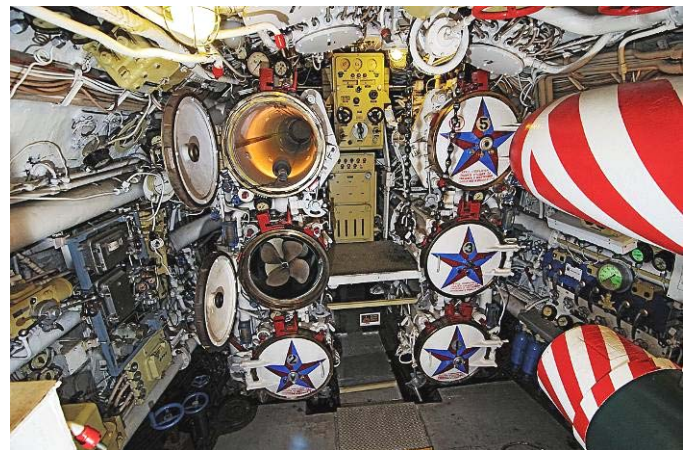
Zoom lenses are wonderful things. They allow you to use a single lens (less money – more convenience) to do what some photographers use a truck load of equipment to do. What could be wrong with that?

That very convenience allows zoom lens users to stand wherever they happen to be, point the camera at something and snap a picture. To the educated eye, that's just how the pictures look. If you want your photos to look better, you should move around and find the spot that gives you the best perspective of the subject, then zoom until the subject fills the frame, and then take the shot. Try it, your pictures will improve.

At the October Meeting

We will discuss ultra-wide-angle shots, the look that they create, when to use them, and how to control it. You will also learn how to fake ultra-wide shots with the standard zoom lens that is already on your camera.

Both of the following shots have the same perspective and field of view. One used an ultra-wide lens, and one was faked with a standard zoom.



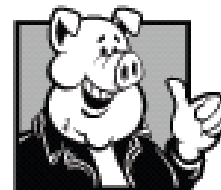
Come learn which is which and how they were done.

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

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 NOCCC people gather, eat Just look for the member grab a chair and join in! informal group; so many subjects are discussed. opportunity to mix, mingle network. See ya there!



where and chat. badges, This is an different It's a great and

Internet Today

By Dave Keays, SIG Leader

The September meeting went well. One member came by and showed enthusiasm for the new web page. I decided to open the site up to others to join. I go into it in more details in my article on our new web-site.



Another member came in with some questions which were outside our area, but we tried to answer the question the best we could. While we try to stick to web technologies and general security, it is better if people come by with questions on just about anything. I say "just about" since I can't say when Palin will comb her hair or why Obama knows so much about wrapping fish.

We talked a little about Facebook and the website this month.

Next month I'll go into viral networking and how it is used.

So if you want to learn more about what is happening on the web or contribute to this site, please come to the "Internet Today" group meeting.

Here is the proposed schedule of what I'll cover:

	Threats	Web2.0	This Site
October	phorm flickr	flickr	
November	logging off	Facebook	input formats
December	click fever	Youtube	Bytes archive
January 2009	the padlock	deviant art	guru's list

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

PC Q&A SIG

By Jim Sanders, SIG Leader



As promised, the September meeting was mostly on the Ubuntu linux operating system. In August, I demonstrated how you could install Ubuntu on a blank hard disk. This month I demonstrated how you could install Ubuntu on an existing Windows XP computer. There are several ways to do this, and Ubuntu provides a menu of options to choose from. I emphasized how option number two on the menu, which says it

October 2008

will use all of your hard disk, means exactly that and should be avoided. ALL of your hard disk would include that area where WinXP currently resides!

The first option allows you to very easily resize the partition on your hard disk to make room for the required Ubuntu partitions. The graphics slider adjustment feature is very easy to use. The only downside in this instance was that I had a lot of information on the hard disk and the repartitioning took longer than I had expected.

Last month I installed Ubuntu on an older Shuttle computer and it installed with absolutely no complaints. As a further test of Ubuntu's ability to install itself on newer equipment, this month I used a Shuttle with a near new Intel Core 2 Duo based motherboard. The partitioning of the hard disk was without question the trickiest part of the installation and, of course, the most nerve-racking. I would make two recommendations. First, make a complete image backup of your hard disk before you do this, and second, read the help files about doing the partitioning. The other questions in the setup dialogue, like what time zone are you in, were all pretty simple and straightforward.

Once all of the questions were answered and the installation portion of Ubuntu started its work, it took about twenty minutes to finish the installation. At the end of that time not only was the Ubuntu operating system installed but a significant amount of applications software was already installed and ready to use after a single reboot of the computer. For instance, I was immediately able to open Firefox and go browse the Internet. Someone asked if it would recognize a USB thumbdrive, so I plugged one in to find out and it worked fine. One difference with Ubuntu, you need to learn about the concept of mounting and dismounting Drives.

A number of users are becoming very irritated with Microsoft's "Windows Genuine Advantage" program and it's increasingly strident ways of implying that you are a thieving pirate until proven innocent. As an alternative OS, Ubuntu is looking better and better.

The second item that we covered in the SIG was a new product from Belkin. A pretty nifty little item, especially for those of you that travel. It is a power outlet expander that converts one outlet into three. It is a surge protector that provides 918 joules of protection with a response time of less than one nanosecond and a maximum spike current rating of 36,000 amps. In addition it has two USB charger ports that can each provide the full 500 milliamps of power. It comes with Lifetime Product and \$75,000 Connected Equipment Warranties. Costco sells the unit by itself or \$20.00 or in combination with a four port hub as a kit for \$28.00. www.belkin.com.

At the end of October's question and answer session I will be spending little bit more time on Ubuntu and probably on Nero 8 as well .

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

Microsoft Access

Bob Dickson, SIG Leader

Bob will be out of town in October, so this SIG will not be meeting.

This SIG usually meets in Science 109 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.



Visual Programming

Anson Chapman, SIG Leader

This SIG is lead 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 lead 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.



MORE SIGS ON NEXT PAGE

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Botnet—The Evil Network

The usual routine is, the spammer, who wants to get a message out to the world, pays the botnet operator, who then sends the file to his zombies which in turn launches the spam to the innocent distributors. Sometimes, banks of computers in offices and institutions are commandeered by the botnet operator for this criminal activity.

In preparing this article, I could not find proof as to how the original virus is delivered to the unsuspecting so I am assuming it is the usual method. Either the user clicks on a deceptive button while surfing the net and triggers a download, or an email attachment is opened unwittingly. The culprits often use a harvesting program that goes to the ISP server and gathers all their email addresses. Some mass mail programs actually send email to the addresses on the server at the same time they are collecting the addresses for future use.

Botnet applications are cleverly designed so they often escape detection by anti-virus software. However, some firewalls such as ZoneAlarm will track incoming and outgoing calls so if the user is patient enough to investigate each of the unidentified communiqués going on between the hard drive and the internet, the botnet may be found.

If you suspect you are being used as a pigeon for a botnet operator, it is worthwhile downloading a good, tested anti-virus application that has a tracking firewall. The usual symptom that suggests there is a botnet present is a dramatic slow down in performance. As always, it is a good idea to search the internet for the latest information on topics like this because the war between good and evil is forever evolving.

September 8, 2008 Board Meeting Minutes

NOCCC Board Meeting was held at Jim Sanders' residence in : 17782 Rainer Dr., Santa Ana, CA

The Board Meeting was called to order on Monday, September 8, 2008 at 7:30 pm by Jim Sanders, NOCCC President. Also in attendance were: John Heenan, Gerry Resch, Ted Littman, Steven Breitbart, Dallas Hazleton, Leonard Prince, Mary Cornett, Richard Miller and Chuck Hower. Not present were: Robert Love and Tom Feeley.

Secretary's Report: by Mary Cornett: Ted Littman made a Motion to: "Accept the minutes as printed in the Bytes" and it was seconded by Leonard Prince and approved by all in attendance.

Treasurer's Report: by John Heenan:

- Dues: New \$105.00, Regular \$420.00
- Coffee table \$27.16, Donuts \$37.08, Supplies \$3.50
- Consignment Table \$13.00, Raffle tickets \$63.00.
- Membership Report: 6 Family, 12 Newsletters, 245 Regular = Total 264 Members

Encouraging note: New members have joined our club after seeing our article in, "The Orange County Register" newspaper in the Marketing Section, which is published most Tuesdays, under the "Ask the PC Club."

The **Main Meeting** held on September 7, 2008, was "Klassic Specialties" represented by Don Baker. Jim Sanders counted a total of 35 persons in attendance. He noted it was a "good" presentation. Coffee and donuts/cookies were set up by Bob Dickson, with coffee free and sugar-free cookies \$.25/each at the September Main Meeting.

Parking: Handicapped are OK to park on the resident side of the street, but not in the Hashinger parking lot. Jim has continued to announce where to park at the meetings and in the Bytes. In addition the back cover of our Bytes now shows the location of the underground parking structure for members' convenience.

Committee Reports:

Programs: Jim Sanders said he was in discussion with Paragon software regarding the presentation at the next Main Meeting of October 5th; he will confirm it with the presenter. The next Board Meeting will be October 6th.

Publications: Steven Breitbart has been doing an excellent job of reviewing & improving our "Orange Bytes" newsletter. He has combined some topics to avoid duplication, while

rearranged others to improve the overall look of our Bytes. The Board of Directors is very pleased with the new look of our newsletter.

Reviews: Ted Littman said that there were two reviews by NOCCC in the September Bytes. Two books were given out for review at the Sept. meeting. Ted has been emailing a monthly calendar to our Board members to remind us of our deadline dates, a very helpful tool.

Raffle: Gerry Resch took in \$63.00. Gerry will not be present at the October Main meeting; in his place, John Heenan will run the raffle. For the October Main Meeting opportunity drawing: Ted Littman donated 6 books, Jim Sanders donated a keyboard. Thanks to Alan Pearlman for donating several gifts for the September opportunity drawing.

SIGS: Jim Sanders will ask SIG Leaders to write what they have done and will do, at their SIG meetings.

Old Business: Ted mentioned the NOCCC web site should be updated. Gerry said our eWaste donations are coming mostly from outsiders, some of whom saw our logo in the OC Register. Gerry also mentioned that he would ask eWaste to use our club logo, (the Orange) to call attention to our support. Ted said that we will publish the new names of new and renewing members in the Bytes. We had: 3 new, 13 renewals.

New Business: Board Members discussed additional means of creating new interests in our computer club.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Gerry Resch and seconded by Steven Breitbart. All members present agreed and the meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm.

Understanding Operating Systems

Charlie Moore, SIG Leader



This SIG is lead 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.




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.

<u>Membership Level (\$)</u>	<u>1 Year</u>	<u>3 Years</u>
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	

Welcome to Our Members Who Joined in September 2008

Your Board of Directors welcomes our members who recently joined:

-  **Tom Backe**
-  **Marc L. Davis**
-  **Armand St. Marseille**




We invite you to take an active roll in running NOCCC and planning its activities. Please contact President Jim Sanders one of our other officers at a monthly meeting or by e-mail.

Thanks to Our Members Who Renewed in September 2008

- ❖ **Beverly Blakeley**
- ❖ **Steven Breitbart**
- ❖ **Marc Carter**
- ❖ **James Cotton**
- ❖ **Denji Ebisu**
- ❖ **Robert Gauger**
- ❖ **Kenneth Kamber**
- ❖ **Lloyd D. Mizer**
- ❖ **Ted Littman**
- ❖ **Walter Srebnik**
- ❖ **Nick Valek**
- ❖ **Bill Van Horn**
- ❖ **Terry & Susanne Warren**

New SIG Leaders Needed

The following SIGS need new leaders:

-  Computer Aided Investing
-  Amibroker
-  Hardware Essentials

If you have knowledge and an interest in any of these areas, please consider leading SIG. If this list of topics is not your area of expertise, feel free to suggest a topic. Contact Jim Sanders, the President of the NOCCC with your SIG ideas.

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One Page Vertical	7.0" x 9.5"	\$150
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Deadline: Tenth of the month

Discounts: 3months=10%, 6=15%, 12=20%

If you are interested in advertising in the publications of multiple User Groups throughout the region or nationally, you can learn more by contacting www.apcug.org

Readers, please tell our advertisers that you saw their ad in the *Orange Bytes*



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
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email _____

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

Amount enclosed \$ _____
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Orange, CA 92857**

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Members: Your expiration month and year appear on your mailing label. Please renew promptly, using the application inside.

Dated Material - Please deliver by October 4th.

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 computer issues. Whether you are a beginner or a power user, attend the lectures and demonstrations, and share your knowledge about computers.
- **Opportunity Drawings.** We have distributed thousands of dollars worth of hardware, software, and books as prizes at our Main Meeting.
- **Consignment Table.** We have a consignment table during select monthly meetings, in which members can sell or buy all kinds of computer items.
- **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. More than likely someone will have the answer.
- **NOCCC Help Line.** NOCCC volunteers, experts in their fields, are ready to assist you with your computer problems. They can be contacted by email or by telephone.
- **The Orange Bytes Newsletter.** Our [award-winning](#) newsletter reports on club activities and provides articles about current computer issues and reviews of software and books.
- **Product Reviews.** Write a review for the *Orange Bytes* and keep the software, hardware, book or CD!
- **Volunteer Work.** We have several interesting assignments available. 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, show new members around, join a committee, assist in setting up the meeting or participate in computer-related community volunteer work.

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

Meeting Information — The NOCCC meeting is held at Chapman University, in the Hashinger Science Center and Irvine Hall, near the northwest corner of N. Center St. and E. Palm Ave.

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. Buy a permit but note that the **permit machine only takes \$1 bills and coins.** Do not park in any other lot, in a reserved space or back into a space.

Free street parking is available on the campus-side of the streets only. **Parking in front of any residential housing will result in an expensive parking ticket.** A City of Orange public parking lot, located on the southeast corner of E. Maple and N. Orange, is also free and only 2 blocks from the meeting. See page 12 for more information about parking and transportation.

