

Orange Bytes

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

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November 2009

Main Meeting, November 8

Jennifer Hink, Public Information Officer of the California Highway Patrol, will tell us how the CHP uses computers. (See Page 3 for more details.)

There will not be a Consignment Table or E-Waste Collection during the Nov. 2009 meeting. (See Page 5)

NOCCC Handicapped Members Access (See Page 3)

Special Interest Group (SIG) & Main Meeting

9:00 a.m.

Linux for Desktop Users.....Science 131a
Topics about the Linux operating system. Beginners Qs in here also.

Visual Programming.....Science 111
Visual Basic, Visual BasicScript, Visual C++ and Visual J++ for Beginners.

Microsoft Word, Excel, and Outlook.....Science 109
Topics about these three parts of the Microsoft Office Suite.

Microsoft Access.....Science 306
How to use Queries to retrieve a desired set of records.

Beginner's Digital Photography.....Science 127
Ed will talk about Photoshop Elements, including the new features in version 8.

10:30 a.m.

Beginners PC Q & AIrvine Hall
Beginners' questions about PCs.

10:30 a.m.

Advanced Digital Photography..... Science 127
Things your mother never told you about vignetting.

Linux Administration.....Science 131a
Topics about the Linux operating system.

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

Visual Programming for Apps (VBA).....Science 306
Features in VBA that enable wonderful capabilities not available in the standard Access.

12:00 Noon

PIG SIG.....Hashinger Courtyard
Lunch and conversation.

12:30 p.m.

PC Q & A.....Irvine Hall
Q & A about PCs.

2:00 p.m.

Main Meeting..... Irvine Hall

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

Future Meeting Dates in 2009-10:
Dec. 6, Jan.10, Feb. 7, Mar.7, Apr. 11,
May 2



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Orange Bytes Staff

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Ted Littman editor@noccc.org

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Reviews Editor - Communicates with the vendors and members who evaluate products and write reviews. Makes sure members meet deadlines. Sends a copy of the newsletter to vendors of products we review.

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Dennis Martin.....(951) 926-3065, dennismartin@dslextreme.com

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The following positions are available:

Contributing Editors - Write articles for the newsletter.

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

Commercial Advertising - Obtains ads from vendors for the newsletter.

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

Contact editor@noccc.org or (714) 779-1936.

*Celebrating 33 years of
"Friends Helping Friends"*

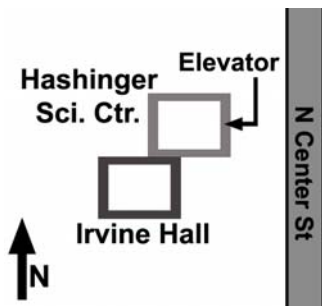
Nov. 8th Main Meeting

2 p.m. Irvine Hall

Jennifer Hink is a California Highway Patrol (CHP) Officer and Public Information Officer stationed at the Santa Ana Office. She has been an officer for eight years and has been the public information officer for the past four of those years. CHP officers use computers everyday while doing their jobs. There is a computer located in every CHP vehicle and the computers provide information needed to investigate incidents such as traffic collisions. Computers have changed the way reports are written, and have cut the time it takes to write a report. The main focus of the CHP is to provide safety and service to the public.

Handicap Access

An elevator is available at the East side of the Hashinger Science Center. It provides access to the upper floors of Hashinger and to Irvine Hall, where we hold our Main Meeting. To reach Irvine Hall, take the elevator to the basement. Turn left, then right and walk to the end of the hallway. There should be a set of double doors on your left. Go through them and through the next set of double doors to get into the auditorium of Irvine Hall.



President's Message

By Jim Sanders, NOCCC President

The October main Meeting featured **Christy Coobatis** of the Music/Performing Arts Dept. at MiraCosta College. His presentation was on how, in the world of music, computer systems and electronics in general are used to create, modify, store, record, and play back music. He used a PowerPoint presentation to highlight the points that he was talking about. I thought that he gave a good presentation, and I learned a number of things that I had not known before.

Mary Cornett has volunteered to be the club's official "speaker Huntress." She spends a great deal of time trying to locate an interesting speaker for the club's Main Meeting each month. She does a lot of phone calling, e-mailing, and talking to people face-to-face. She has had a number of successes in providing an interesting speaker for the education and enjoyment of the club members. As I am personally aware of how much work all of that can be, I wish to acknowledge her effort and give her my personal thanks.

On the down side, I overheard some grumbles that the presentation was not quite what the club member had expected. They were disappointed that there was not a show and tell of hardware. That at the very least, there could have been photos and examples of some of the things that were talked about. As a result, I wish to remind all of the club members that if you think things can be done better, then instead of simply grumbling about what is, participate in the effort to make things better. I have every confidence that if we took 100 club members, gathered them together in a forum, and explored the concept of finding speakers for the club, lots of interesting suggestions would be forthcoming. However, it does not require club members together in a forum. You can do at least part of that on your own. If you know someone, or you know someone who knows someone, who would make a good speaker for the club, get in touch with Mary and let her know!

Speaking of cooperative efforts, NOCCC has been in existence for 33 years. A lot of things have happened over those years and a lot of that was recorded in the Orange Bytes. We now have a number of years of the publication recorded in the PDF format, but most editions prior to the year 2000 are only available in printed format and we do not have a complete collection of those editions. I would like to see a history of the club put together and published on DVD. This project needs some volunteers and I would appreciate it if you could contact me with your offer to help. The first step in this project is to catalogue what is currently available and then start tracking down those issues that we are missing. John Szary has offered his personal collection that he says is complete from 1983 on as a starting point. Again, please contact me if you would like to help. See you next month.

NOCCC meeting attendees please note that food and beverages are not permitted in Irvine Hall per Chapman University regulation

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

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 <http://store.techsmith.com/order/bundlegov.asp>.

ZoomWare - Ai Squared is pleased to introduce ZoomWare, revolutionary new software that magnifies and enhances everything on your computer screen. It is 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. Use the following hyperlink to sign up: http://memberservices.informit.com/my_account/login.aspx?partner=52 to sign up as a member. User group members should note that once you have become a Peachpit Club member, you might 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.

Free Internet Libraries - Upon retiring from college teaching/administration, **Walter Antoniotti** began developing **Free Internet Libraries** (<http://www.businessbookmall.com/Free Internet Libraries.htm>) for students, teachers, and professionals. Of special interest to PC users are these free computer libraries:

Free Business Software
(<http://www.businessbookmall.com/Free Business Software Internet Library.htm>)
Free Software Tutorials
(<http://www.businessbookmall.com/Software Tutorials Internet Library.htm>)
Excel Internet Library
(http://www.businessbookmall.com/Microsoft_Excel_Directi ons_For_Beginners.htm)

THE OCTOBER CLUB RAFFLES

GENERAL DRAWING PRIZES:

- ❖ QuickBooks software
- ❖ Microsoft Office 2007 Live Lessons
- ❖ Windows XP Power Hounds Book

MEMBERS ONLY DRAWING PRIZES:

- (Wear your NOCCC Membership Badge and get a free ticket!)
- ❖ Power Excel 2007 Live Lessons Book
 - ❖ The New School of Internet Security Book

Consignment

The NOCCC Consignment Table **will not** be available during the **November 2009** meeting. It is open on even months, the same as the e-Waste collection, so save your items for sale until December. For your information:

- 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) The seller may pick up all items and/or money 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. The club has no storage room available for unsold items
- 5) 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.

E-Waste

California disposal laws have made it illegal to put monitors and computers in the regular trash. **Omni Technics, Inc.** will be at our regular meetings to collect E-Waste **on even months**, so hold on to your "junk" until October.

Check their web site for more information:
<http://www.ca-recycle.com/>.

NOCCC Officers

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

President

Jim Sanders 544-3589..... president@noccc.org

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Volunteers, Committees, and Projects

Consignment Table

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Membership Chairman

Open

SIG Coordinator

Bob Love.....573-9876..... wb9plg@sbcglobal.net

Programs/Speakers Coordinator

Mary Cornett.....995-5551..... pacificblu.mary@gmail.com

Public Relations

Mary Cornett.....995-5551.....pacificblu.mary@gmail.com

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
 Desktop Publishing
 Digital Photography
 Excel
 GPS Navigation
 Linux
 Lotus 1-2-3
 Memory/Interrupts
 Microsoft Office
 Photo editing & Pshop
 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/Admin	Science	131A	9:00/10:30	Bob Ray	bobrobo@dialup4less.com	(714) 634-7520
Beginner's Digital Photography	Science	127	9:00	Ed Schwartz	Edwardns@cox.net	(949) 374-4845
Visual Programming	Science	111	9:00	Anson Chapman	aecrcss@hotmail.com	(909) 860-9515
Word, Excel and Outlook	Science	109	9:00	Tia Christian	lwilliams_00@yahoo.com	(714) 263-6105
Access	Science	306	9:00	Bob Dickson	robertbdickson@socal.rr.com	(714) 539-1304
Advanced Digital Photography	Science	127	10:30	Larry Klees	larryklees@yahoo.com	(714) 879-6405
Understanding OS's	Science	111	10:30	Charlie Moore	mooreca@adelphia.net	(714) 529-9071
Access VBA	Science	306	10:30	Bob Dickson	robertbdickson@socal.rr.com	(714) 539-1304
PC Q&A	Irvine Hall		10:30/12:30	Jim Sanders	jsanders@ligasmicro.com	(714) 544-3589

Please report SIG changes to Bob Love: wb9plg@sbcglobal.net or (714) 573-9876.

Speed Demons

Written by Bill Roman, Advisor to the Board of Directors,
The PC Users Group of Connecticut
www.tpcug.org; br (at) numbercrunch.com

This article has been obtained from APCUG with the author's permission for publication by APCUG member groups; all other uses require the permission of the author (see e-mail address above).

There is an issue that I feel must be addressed, since the issue continues to come up on a regular basis. As a PC technician I constantly get asked why the client's computer has become so slow, and if there is anything wrong with it.

The first thing I tell the client is that there are two main culprits that contribute to a PC becoming very sluggish. The first being lack of RAM memory. This answer usually elicits a quick response from the user that they "only do e-mail, Internet, and word processing" or some similar response. I then go into a discussion with the user that there are two kinds of memory in a computer: hard drive storage, which holds all their music, pictures, documents, etc. and RAM, or working memory. A user could have plenty of hard drive space to store all of their documents and stuff, but when they don't have enough RAM, the computer will, over time, become slower and slower.

Why, you ask? When the computer was originally purchased (usually somewhere between 2 and 5 years ago) Windows XP, in this case, required about 512 MB of RAM to run properly. As Windows critical security updates and service packs are installed, as well as upgrades and updates to all sorts of programs used on a daily basis (antivirus, Internet Explorer, AOL, Adobe Reader and Flash Player, printer updates, etc.), the programs NEVER get smaller, always bigger.

Now, several years later and the programs being used are double or triple in size, but the computer is the same one with the same specs as when it was purchased. Adding more RAM memory is a quick, cheap way to improve performance to an aging computer, and extend life before a replacement is in order. Windows XP should have at least 1024 MB (1 GB) of RAM to run properly, and Windows Vista (32 bit) needs 3 GB of RAM. More is not better in the case of Vista for technical reasons I will not go into in this article.

This is only half the battle. The other half is to beat down what I will call the "moochers." Years ago when I would inspect a computer for sluggish performance, it was usually because of a rogue game that was installed. Back then quite a few games adopted the theory that the only reason you owned your \$3000 or \$4000 computer (yes, it was that much back then, even more depending on how far back you go) was to play some ridiculous \$49 game. The game would change many settings that allowed the game to work properly, but made it miserable to perform simple tasks like type a letter.

Now, in 2009 every program under the sun assumes that they are the main focus, and must be given priority at all times. What does this mean to you, the end user? Each time when an upgraded revision of Adobe Reader comes out, it always wants to include the new "MSN Toolbar" or "Yahoo Toolbar," etc. This adds unnecessary junk to your browser, which slows down getting online. In addition, many of these programs load an additional program when Windows starts to speed it up when starting it. This is just lousy practice that is a very poor substitute for tight, efficient programming. If the program was small and lean, there would be no need for "speed loaders," which make your computer take an exorbitant amount of time for Windows to start.

Not to pick on, but a classic example of this is how much Apple's iTunes has grown through the years. iTunes 6 which was released in January 2006 was about 35MB in size. iTunes 7.5 was 52MB and iTunes 8.1 (the current release) is now up to 70MB. The program is twice as large only three years later, and loads a number of programs when Windows starts to aid loading this memory hog.

What to do about this? In short, be mindful when installing updated programs to unselect add-on toolbars and, if available, to kick them out of starting up when Windows loads. I have discussed at our local computer club meetings to do your best to keep running processes to a minimum. Clicking control-alt-delete once (with no programs active), will bring up the task manager and show how many processes are running. A good number for Windows XP is less than 35, and for Vista it's about 45.

Startup Cop and the free **CCleaner** utilities have the ability to disable or remove programs from starting, but I would check online in a Google search before disabling anything unless certain. I do hope this article sheds some light on the subject of pokey computers. Remember, it's not so much the hardware as it is software that kills a computer! Until next time!

A faster microprocessor or a dual or quad core processor will allow applications, their processes and threads to execute faster (to actually run the microprocessor instructions of which a program is composed) once the instructions and data reach the microprocessor.

So, if you are processing intensive applications like video or music (studio) production and editing (or scientific number crunching), faster and more core processors will speed things up considerably, but only if you have plenty of RAM and a high performance hard drive.



Holders and Racks for USB Devices

By Steven M. Breitbart, NOCCC

I have been pleased with the advent of the USB port and all the peripherals that are now available and easily connected to and removed from the PC. However, I have a problem with all the cords and transformers. They all look alike; they are all black and almost none are identified. A name brand gadget will have a transformer from any one of many electronics suppliers from China. A list of my devices that have USB cords and/or power cords are:

- Mobile telephone
- Bluetooth earpiece for mobile telephone
- Bluetooth dongle
- USB cradle
- External hard drive
- Memory card reader
- Hard drive to USB adapter
- Digital Cameras
- Note capturing device

I have been looking for a way to store these cords and transformers so they are out of the way when I don't need them, yet convenient to reach when I do. One day I happen to be looking at an "Asker" magnetic knife holder that I don't need in my present kitchen and I realized I could use it for small USB cords. The knife holder was purchased at Ikea and is still available. What I don't know is if the magnetism will affect data transfer.

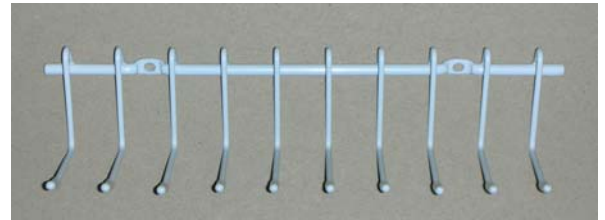
The larger transformers were a different problem, which I solved with a 10-hook Tie and Belt Rack that was part of a *ClosetMaid* closet system, but was available separately for a few dollars.

Mounting these items required a few screws and drywall anchors. However, your walls may be different.

If you want stick-on labels for these devices and many more, check out: <http://www.idpilotlabels.com/home.html>. These are available at *The Container Store* and other places. I prefer something simpler, so I use a fine point gold paint pen to write on the cords and/or transformers when necessary.



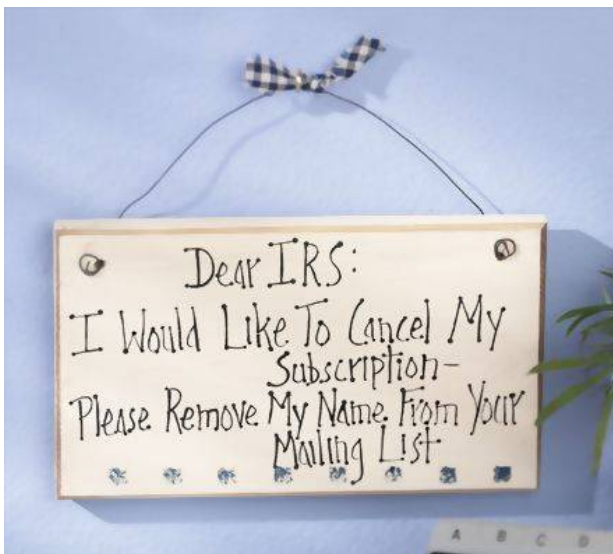
"Asker" Magnetic Knife Holder



ClosetMaid Tie and Belt Rack



Mounted Holder and Rack



Driver Query Helps Resolve Driver Problems

Written by Vinny La Bash, a member of the Sarasota Personal Computer Users Group, Inc., Florida; www.spcug.org; labash@spcug.org

This article has been obtained from APCUG with the author's permission for publication by APCUG member groups; all other uses require the permission of the author (see e-mail address above).

Anyone using Vista for any length of time knows that most of the common driver problems were resolved long ago. Advances in computer technology including removable devices however, have called attention to problems that may be caused by device drivers that are no longer needed, but still installed on the system. These drivers can become corrupt over time. If they become inadvertently enabled they can cause memory conflicts which under some circumstances could crash your system.

Most people beyond the novice level have some familiarity with **Device Manager**, but are usually not knowledgeable with its limitations. They know that Device Manager will allow a rollback to a previous version of a driver if problems are encountered, but few know that Device Manager has no way of keeping track of a device driver's history. This is important because you can't document which version of a device driver is good and which version could cause problems.

You can get around this limitation by using a command-line tool called Driver Query that will track the history of all the device drivers on your system. From the Start Menu, open Accessories, and activate the Command Prompt. Type `driverquery.exe` at the command line and you will see a list of all the device drivers with some basic information included. This list by itself won't do you much good. You need to use some command-line switches to get the information that you need. At the command prompt type:

```
DRIVERQUERY /FO:CSV /V > C:\ DRIVERINFO .CSV
```

`DRIVERQUERY` is the primary command that tells the operating system to run the query.

The `/FO` switch says you want the output to be formatted.

CSV (Comma Separated Variable) tells Vista to format the output so it can be displayed in a spreadsheet.

`/V` (Verbose) tells the query to blab its head off and tell everything it knows about each driver in the system.

`C:\` says to put the output file in the root (primary) directory of the primary drive where your operating system is installed. This makes the file easy to find in case you can't remember where you put it.

`DRIVERINFO.CSV` is the name of the file with an old DOS style extension. You can name the file anything you want, but do end it with the CSV extension or you might confuse your spreadsheet when you try to open it.

After creating the file, open your spreadsheet, click the file open icon and in the File name: box type:

```
C:\DRIVERINFO.CSV
```

By opening the file this way, you don't have to get into DOS commands. You may, of course, use DOS if you feel Vista isn't complicated enough.

Your spreadsheet will resemble the illustration below. After expanding the columns you will have to scroll horizontally to see all the available information. The amount of information for each driver has greatly increased, but you still don't get the driver version. Tracking driver changes is possible if you run the query periodically and compare the Link Date column for changes. It's clunky and cumbersome, but it does the job.

Another important piece of information that's missing is any data about whether or not the driver is signed. A signed driver is a device driver that includes a digital signature which is an electronic security mark that tells you who published the driver. It also indicates if the original software has been altered in any way. Signed drivers provide assurance that the software actually comes from the manufacturer and hasn't been changed.

This exercise is an excellent illustration of the laws of information availability:

1. The information you have is not the information you want.
2. The information you want is not the information you need.
3. The information you need, you can't get.
4. The information you can get is either too expensive or too troublesome to obtain.

A1	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
	Module Name	Display Name	Description	Driver Type	Start Mode	State	Status	Accept Stop	Accept Pause
1	ACPI	Microsoft ACPI Driver	Microsoft ACPI Driver	Kernel	Boot	Running	OK	TRUE	FALSE
2	adp94xx	adp94xx	adp94xx	Kernel	Disabled	Stopped	OK	FALSE	FALSE
3	adpahci	adpahci	adpahci	Kernel	Disabled	Stopped	OK	FALSE	FALSE
4	adpu160m	adpu160m	adpu160m	Kernel	Disabled	Stopped	OK	FALSE	FALSE
5	adpu320	adpu320	adpu320	Kernel	Disabled	Stopped	OK	FALSE	FALSE
6	AFD	Ancillary Function Driver for W	Ancillary Function Driver for Wi	Kernel	System	Running	OK	TRUE	FALSE
7	agp440	Intel AGP Bus Filter	Intel AGP Bus Filter	Kernel	Manual	Stopped	OK	FALSE	FALSE
8	ac78xx	ac78xx	ac78xx	Kernel	Disabled	Stopped	OK	FALSE	FALSE
9	alide	alide	alide	Kernel	Disabled	Stopped	OK	FALSE	FALSE
10	amdide	amdide	amdide	Kernel	Disabled	Stopped	OK	FALSE	FALSE
11	amdK8	AMD K8 Processor Driver	AMD K8 Processor Driver	Kernel	Disabled	Stopped	OK	FALSE	FALSE
12	arc	arc	arc	Kernel	Disabled	Stopped	OK	FALSE	FALSE
13	arcas	arcas	arcas	Kernel	Disabled	Stopped	OK	FALSE	FALSE
14	aswF8Bk	aswF8Bk	aswF8Bk	File System	Auto	Running	OK	TRUE	FALSE
15	aswMonFit	aswMonFit	aswMonFit	File System	Auto	Running	OK	TRUE	FALSE
16	aswRdr	aswRdr	aswRdr	Kernel	System	Running	OK	TRUE	FALSE
17	aswSP	aswSP	aswSP	Kernel	System	Running	OK	TRUE	FALSE
18	aswTdi	aswTdi	aswTdi	Kernel	System	Running	OK	TRUE	FALSE
19	AsyncMac	AsyncMac	AsyncMac	Kernel	Manual	Running	OK	TRUE	FALSE
20	atapi	atapi	atapi	Kernel	Boot	Running	OK	TRUE	FALSE
21	bowser	bowser	bowser	File System	Manual	Running	OK	TRUE	FALSE
22	BrFltLo	Brother USB Mass-Storage L	Brother USB Mass-Storage L	Kernel	Manual	Stopped	OK	FALSE	FALSE
23	BrFltUp	Brother USB Mass-Storage U	Brother USB Mass-Storage U	Kernel	Manual	Stopped	OK	FALSE	FALSE
24	BrSer	Brother MFC Serial Port Interf	Brother MFC Serial Port Interf	Kernel	Manual	Stopped	OK	FALSE	FALSE
25	BrSerWdm	Brother WDM Serial driver	Brother WDM Serial driver	Kernel	Disabled	Stopped	OK	FALSE	FALSE
26	BrUsbMdm	Brother MFC USB Fax Only M	Brother MFC USB Fax Only M	Kernel	Disabled	Stopped	OK	FALSE	FALSE
27	BrUsbSer	Brother MFC USB Serial WDM	Brother MFC USB Serial WDM	Kernel	Manual	Stopped	OK	FALSE	FALSE
28	BthEnum	Bluetooth Enumerator Service	Bluetooth Enumerator Service	Kernel	Manual	Running	OK	TRUE	FALSE

Products Available For Review

The NOCCC regularly receives copies of books or software from the publishers for our review. **We can also request specific products for you to review.** These reviews are published in this newsletter, the Orange Bytes. **Then, you get to keep the book or software.** If you are



interested in doing a review, please call or send me an e-mail and provide your membership number, phone number, and e-mail address; or pick up the product in the lobby of Irvine Hall at the next NOCCC meeting. **Ted Littman, (714) 779-1936, reviews@noccc.org.**

Note to Reviewers

- ❖ You have 2 months to submit a review. Due-cause time extensions must be requested from the Reviews Editor.
- ❖ You must leave a security deposit (check, credit card number, or cash equal to the product's list value.), returnable upon our receiving an acceptable review.
- ❖ If you decide to return the product without reviewing, there is a \$2 penalty after the first month and a \$5 penalty after the second month.
- ❖ Guidelines for preparing your review are addressed on the next page.

Boxed Programs and CDs

None.

Books

Operating Systems

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.

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

Office & Home Programs

Ado.net 3.5, LINQ, & EF w/VB2008 – From Murach For database programmers. MSRP=\$52.

Office 2008 for the Mac on Demand – If you use this Microsoft suite on your Mac, this book by Steve Johnson should be of interest. From Que. MSRP=\$30.

FileMaker Pro 10 In Depth – Written by Jesse Feiler & published by Que, this book covers the features of this powerful database system and is aimed at the FileMaker developer community. MSRP=\$40.

Internet

New: Teach Yourself YouTube in Ten Minutes – From Sams. MSRP=\$15.

New: Teach Yourself LinkedIn in Ten Minutes – From Sams. MSRP=\$15.

New: All a Twitter – From Que. MSRP=\$20.

New: iPhone; The Missing Manual – From O'Reilly. MSRP=\$25.

New: Web Geek's Guide to Google Chrome – The browser of your dream? By Ledford & Davis from Que. MSRP=\$20.

New: Murach's Ado.net 3.5 LINQ and the Entity Framework with VB 2008 – MSRP=\$52.50.

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.

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.

Microsoft Voice & Unified Communications – From Addison-Wesley. MSRP=\$40.

Digital Photography & Design

New: The Shot Doctor - The Amateur's Guide to Taking Great Digital Photos. By Mark Soper from Que. MSRP=\$20.

New: Adobe InDesign Styles – Author Michael Murphy explores styles in InDesign CS4 for graphic designers, art directors, and production artists starting with the simplest concepts and building up to the most intricate and time-saving concepts. Peachpit Press. MSRP=\$45.

New: Real World InDesign CS4 – This book covers the waterfront on Adobe's new design suite. Authored by Olav Kvorn & David Blatner, it is published by Peachpit Press. MSRP=\$55.

New: Photoshop CS4 Down & Dirty Tricks – By well-known author, Scott Kelby & from New Riders. MSRP=\$45.

New: Teach Yourself Photoshop CS4 in 24 Hours – Sams. MSRP=\$35.

New: Photoshop CS4, vol. 2 Visual Quickstart Guide – For intermediate & advanced users. Authors Weinmann & Lourekas from Peachpit Press. MSRP=40.

New: The Adobe Illustrator WOW! Book/CD – Peachpit Press. MSRP=\$60.

New: Designing Brand Identity – Authored by Alina Wheeler from Wiley, a hardcover book. MSRP=\$45.

Packaging Sustainability – This Wiley book covers tools, systems, & strategies for innovative package design. \$50.

Security

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.

Cisco Networking Simplified, 2nd Ed. – A comprehensive visual explanation of networking technologies from Cisco Press/Prentice Hall. MSRP=\$40.

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

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

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

The NOCCC reserves the right to refuse to publish any article or review at the discretion of the editors of the Orange Bytes newsletter or officers of the club. Reasons may include, but are not limited to, length and quality of the review or offensive nature of the product or of the review.

Orange Bytes and More At the NOCCC Web Site/ Webmaster Needed

By Steven Breitbart, NOCCC

Jim Sanders, the NOCCC President, has been updating the NOCCC web site recently. **Nevertheless, we urgently need a volunteer to be the Webmaster. If you can help, contact Jim Sanders** at president@noccc.org or (714) 544-3589.

The latest issue of the Orange Bytes is now available in PDF format, with color photographs and **live** internal and external links. There is no user name or password needed. Older issues also are available. Go to our website:

<http://www.noccc.org/bytes/index.html>.

Preparing a Review or Article for the NOCCC Orange Bytes

By Steven Breitbart, NOCCC

There are two sections in the NOCCC newsletter, the Orange Bytes, where our members can contribute reviews and articles. They are the **Computer Talk** section and the **Product Reviews** section.

Articles in the **Computer Talk** section can be about almost any computer or technology related experience that you have had. For example, getting a new ISP, getting an ISP to change your connection speed, converting a PC to Linux, using a Macintosh PC for the first time - the list is endless.

The **Product Reviews** section can be a review of almost any type of computer hardware, software, or book about a computer-related topic. The item can be something you have bought or obtained from the NOCCC. Once you agree to do a review, you will generally have 2 months to complete it. These reviews are published in this newsletter, the Orange Bytes

The NOCCC Reviews Editor, Ted Littman, (714) 779-1936, reviews@noccc.org is often sent copies of books or software by the publishers for review by one of our members. **We need NOCCC members to take these items and commit to reviewing them promptly. The reward for doing a review is that you get to keep the book or software.** If we do not review them, they may stop sending these items in the future.

Important! There are two articles at the following link. One provides suggestions and guidelines for preparing a review or article for the Orange Bytes. The second provides guidelines for submittal. Please read both. The link is:

www.noccc.org/bytes/info/index.html

**Programming today is a
race between software
engineers striving to build
bigger and better idiot-
proof programs, and the
Universe trying to produce
bigger and better idiots. So
far, the Universe is winning.**

**Rice Cook,
The Wizardry Compiled**

The NOCCC Board of
Directors wishes all a very
Happy Thanksgiving Day.



BLOWN TO BITS

Your Life, Liberty, and Happiness after the Digital Explosion

Review by Leonard Prince, NOCCC



When I asked our editor if the book “Blown to BITS – your life, liberty, and happiness after the digital explosion” was a computer book or a political book, his answer was “You tell me.” Well, my reading is “Half and half.” The “bottom” half was written so that the average user group member would understand the computer and Internet aspects of the digital explosion as well as the attorney

in training. The “top” half was written discussing the past and present legal battles resolving the bad aspects of the digital explosion such as loss of privacy, loss of money due to id theft, and resolution of encryption rules to trade off a balance between commerce and security. The legal and technical composite made the book hard to put down until the end. The only complaint I have about the three author-engineers is the ending is a cliff-hanger. The authors leave the question of how your Life, Liberty, and Happiness will survive the digital explosion unanswered. Maybe the answer can be forthcoming in the follow-up book if we get some well-educated political scientists to polish up their crystal balls. In the meantime, we need more people in all walks of life to read this book to help decide how this digital explosion will end for the majority of us.

My review copy was a second printing. If you go to www.bitsbook.com, a Safari-free online third printing is available for a 45-day review. The \$25.95 list price can be reduced by the club discount by 35% to \$16.87 plus shipping. Amazon showed prices of \$19 to \$20. Authors are Hal Abelson, Ken Ledeen, and Harry Lewis. The book is published by Addison-Wesley:

<http://www.informit.com/store/product.aspx?isbn=0137135599>.

“*Blown to Bits* offers provocative answers to these questions and tells intriguing real-life stories. This book is a wake-up call to the human consequences of the digital explosion.”

Chapter 1: Digital Explosion: Why Is It Happening, and What Is at Stake? p.1

Chapter 2: Naked in the Sunlight: Privacy Lost, Privacy Abandoned p.19

Chapter 3: Ghosts in the Machine: Secrets and Surprises of Electronic Documents p.73

Chapter 4: Needles in the Haystack: Google and Other Brokers in the Bits Bazaar p.109

Chapter 5: Secret Bits: How Codes Became Unbreakable 161

Chapter 6: Balance Topped: Who Owns the Bits? P.195

Chapter 7: You Can’t Say That on the Internet: Guarding the Frontiers of Digital Expression p.229

Chapter 8: Bits in the Air: Old Metaphors, New Technologies, and Free Speech p.259

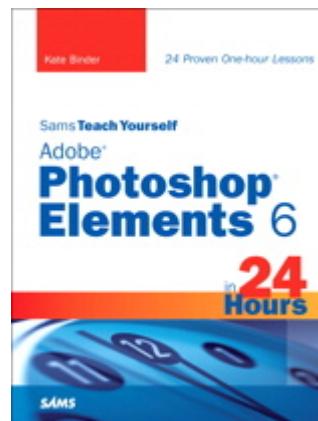
Conclusion: After the Explosion p.295

Appendix: The Internet as System and Spirit p.301

Endnotes p.317

Adobe Photoshop Elements 6 in 24 Hours

Review by Gordon Strickland, NOCCC



As the title suggests, this book is aimed primarily at those who wish to acquire skill in using this popular photo-editing and organizing program. The idea is to follow a course of 24 hour-long (more or less) lessons given in the 24 chapters of the book. However, the book should also be useful as a reference and user’s guide; the index of no less than 22 pages should be an effective aid in locating guidance for a particular topic. To enhance the

instructional function, each chapter concludes with a summary, a short question and answer session, and a “workshop.” The latter may contain a short quiz and suggestions for simple instructional projects.

One should note that this book does not deal specifically with the latest version of this program, which is Photoshop Elements 7, and concerning which there are already many books available, including two with Ms Binder as author or co-author. However, the present book would probably be very adequate for the great majority of interactions with the newer version. As an aside, my own concern is with backward compatibility, not

forward, in that I am running Photoshop Elements 5; I have not encountered any substantial difficulties in this regard.

The book's 24 chapters are divided into four major sections. Part I, "Working with Elements," contains the first 10 chapters. These discuss the organization of the program, importing and organizing your photos and making "quick fixes" to them. Later chapters go on to discuss printing your photos and sharing them on-line. This section also gets into what some will consider to be non-elementary photo adjustments, with descriptions of element selection, layering, and the addition of text to an image. All in all, this first section covers all of the activities that will be needed for editing many photos.

Part II, "Simple Corrections," contains the next five chapters. Topics dealt with include composing and cropping; straightening, skewing, and distorting an image; removing red eye, dust, and scratches; and adjusting brightness, contrast, and color. In addition to the obvious tasks listed here, the correction of apparent perspective distortion is described as being akin to deliberate image distortion. I don't suppose that the manufacturers of even very advanced digital cameras feel any need nowadays to provide their products with swinging and tilting lens capability, the way that perceived perspective problems were often dealt with in the film era.

In Part III, "Photo Rescue," there are four chapters covering the topics of repairing black and white photos, making color repairs, removing and replacing objects in a photo, and using the program's improvement filters. The chapter on black and white photo repair is quite extensive and should be of great interest to those with a large accumulation of old monochrome photos, and perhaps with a considerable amount of time to devote to enhancing them.

Part IV, "Going Creative," comprises the final five chapters. Chapter 20 deals with the use of "artistic" filters, for giving a photo the impression of a watercolor, an oil painting, a charcoal drawing, and so on. The next two chapters discuss creating artistic images from scratch and then making composite images. Chapter 23 describes a number of extreme effects that are possible, and Chapter 24 discusses the creation of photo projects, such as books, calendars, collages, and cards.

This book should provide a useful guide to those wishing to become familiar with the many features of this complex program. However, that familiarity will not come without the application of a good deal of effort, despite the book's description of the program as "simple" and "easy to use."

Adobe Photoshop Elements 6 in 24 Hours:

Authored by Kate Binder; 488 pages

Published by Sams, May 2008

ISBN-13: 978-0-672-33017-9; ISBN-10: 0-672-33017-2

List price \$25, available to NOCCC member at 35% less from the publisher:

<http://www.informit.com/store/product.aspx?isbn=076868076X>

Open Office.Org 3.0

An Evolutionary Improvement

Written by Bill Wayson, LINUX SIG Leader, Channel Islands PCUG, California

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OpenOffice.org (OO.o) is Free and Open Source Software's (FOSS) premier alternative to the Microsoft Office productivity suite. It offers a high level of compatibility with many of the ever-changing MS Office formats, provides many of the same features as MS Office, and works similarly to MS Office. This month, we will explore the recently released

OpenOffice.org 3.0, which is available for Microsoft Windows, Linux, Apple's Macintosh, Sun's Solaris, and several other operating systems. Many, if not most, users of MS Office who require the broad, deep range of features of MS Office could change to OO.o and become productive after a very shallow learning curve.

If your requirements are more for just compatibility with Microsoft's Word document formats in a word processor, you can consider more streamlined FOSS alternatives such as AbiWord.

OO.o is a full-featured office productivity suite comprised of six integrated applications: the **Writer** word processor (which also has a Web page editing mode), **Calc** spreadsheet, **Draw** graphics program, **Impress** presentations program, **Base** database program, and **Math** equation editor.

OO.o 3.0 is an evolutionary improvement on the application suite, with new features, enhancements, and user interface improvements. Users of Apple Macintosh OS X systems benefit greatly from OO.o 3.0, which will now run as a native OS X application.

OS X users will also have support for Microsoft's VBA macro language and the Calc Solver component, which allows solving optimization problems where the optimum value of a particular spreadsheet cell has to be calculated based on constraints provided in other cells. Both of these features are missing in MS Office 2008 for Mac OS X.

All users of OO.o 3.0 benefit from its improvements, including the two above. Another area of significant improvement is one where OO.o is breaking out of Microsoft mimicry mode:

support for open document standards. OO.o 3.0 supports the latest Open Document Format (PDF) specification. In fact, ODF is the OO.o default document format. ODF is gaining wider acceptance worldwide, being adopted by more companies and governments as the standard for documents, and becoming supported by an increasing number of applications. OO.o will also read and write many other formats, including those of various versions of MS Office and Word, plain text, and several PDA document formats.

Additionally, it will read the newest formats introduced in MS Office 2007. Exchanging documents with users of Microsoft's products should not be an issue. The Writer screen now sports a handy zoom slider control, making it quick and easy to change the zoom level of the view. Additionally, it will automatically display multiple pages of the document as the zoom level is lowered. Writer now displays notes — notations added to a document that are not necessarily meant to be printed — at the edge of the editing window to the side of the document, making it easier to read them and see their context in the document. In addition, notes from different users are displayed in different colors, together with the editing date and time, facilitating collaborative work on a document.

Calc sees some useful improvements. One is in the charts feature. Now, custom error bars can be included, and regression equations and correlation coefficients can be displayed right in the chart. Another is a new feature, spreadsheet collaboration through workbook sharing. This feature allows multiple users to work collaboratively on a spreadsheet while avoiding editing conflicts. The users share a spreadsheet, each adding their data. The spreadsheet owner can then easily integrate the new data with a few clicks. And Calc now supports 1,024 columns per worksheet.

Draw now lets you crop images the same way that most other graphics programs do, by dragging handles located at the edges and corners of an image. This same improvement appears in Impress, too. Additionally, Impress now natively supports inserting tables into presentations. Tables can be added directly into the presentation and edited within Impress as native Impress objects.

Improvements affecting the entire suite include a new set of icons, expanded feature support when exporting to XML, and a new gateway to the suite called the Start Center, which makes it more intuitive to get to where you want to go in the suite.

There is nothing revolutionary in OO.o 3.0. What is new are several improvements and enhancements that will keep the suite in contention with its competitors. And we have not touched at all on the features OO.o already had before 3.0. If you need a productivity suite with both a broad and deep set of features, and particularly, if you are not married to Microsoft Office, you should give OO.o a look. It costs you nothing to try; you may just like it, so it just may save you hundreds of dollars.

Fun & Games with Ubuntu

*Written by Brian K. Lewis, Ph.D., Regular Columnist and member of the Sarasota PCUG, Florida
www.spcug.org; bwsail@yahoo.com*

This article has been obtained from APCUG with the author's permission for publication by APCUG member groups; all other uses require the permission of the author (see e-mail address above).

As I said in my last article in the Monitor, this one would be about my experience getting Ubuntu up and running on my new Asus laptop. I had been running version 8.04 (Hardy Heron) on my old laptop. Since it seemed to be quite successful, I decided to use it for the initial install on my new computer. Perhaps I should point out that Canonical, producers of Ubuntu, turn out a new version of their OS every six months! Compare that with Microsoft and its multi-year production cycle. Hardy Heron is a long-term support version with guaranteed support until April 2011. That is three years from its original release date. In the meantime, version 8.10 (Intrepid Ibex) was released in October 2008 and will be supported for two years. However, the latest version is 9.04 (Jaunty Jackalope) which was released on April 23, 2009. Since I was starting my installation the end of March, I decided that installing Hardy Heron should be fine. A bad guess, as it turned out.

The process of installing any Ubuntu version is very similar to installing Windows. The exception being when you want it to share the hard drive as a dual-boot system with Windows. Then a few extra steps are needed. The first step is to download Ubuntu. This will be an ISO image file. That is a compressed file in the format specified by the International Organization of Standardization. It is almost 700 megabytes in size, so it is best to have a broadband connection for your download. (If you do not have a broadband connection, you can request a free CD from Canonical and have it mailed to you.) Once the file is on your hard drive it has to be decompressed and the image burned to a CD. Most commercial software can burn the ISO file image to a CD. I used CDBurnerXP, a free Windows program, to burn the image to the CD. That gave me a bootable CD that either runs Ubuntu from the CD or it can install the OS to a hard drive as a dual boot with Windows/Vista or it can take over an entire drive. If you have two hard drives in your computer you could have Ubuntu take over the second drive and dual boot with Windows. There is also an option to install it as Windows software allowing you to run it within Windows or Vista. I have not tried this option. It just seems to me that running Ubuntu under Windows you would lose many of the benefits of Ubuntu, especially its stability.

The hard drive on my laptop was already partitioned into C and D drives and formatted with NTFS. (That is the file system XP and Vista use.) My intention was to install Ubuntu on the second partition as a dual boot system. As I found out, if your hard drive is not already partitioned, do not change it. Let the Ubuntu installation do it for you. That is much easier. I ended up doing a more manual preparation of the hard drive which

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requires a better understanding of how Linux systems need to be set up. You can find the info on the Ubuntu site, but why make things any harder than you have to? Once the drive was set, Ubuntu spent some time installing all the files needed for my hardware and the additional software. If you are interested in the details of installing Ubuntu, check out this web site: <https://help.ubuntu.com/community/GraphicalInstall>. They have a detailed graphical presentation (screen shots) of the steps involved.

During the installation, Ubuntu asks for a user name and a password. I used my initials and a fairly secure password. I recommend that you do not shirk this password setup. It will help to protect your computer from problems caused by outside entry of worms or Trojans through the Internet connection. The password has to be entered for software installation or any other administrative function. So using a strong password is advisable.

Now I was ready to do my part of the setup. I had to program my new USB modem so I could connect to the Internet. That requires some knowledge of the command line functions in Terminal. I had done this on my previous computer but some of the information for the new modem was different, so I had to find that first. It took a little hunting, but everything worked once I had the commands right. The other thing I had noticed was that the sound didn't seem to working and the video resolution was not right. So I investigated both of these through the Ubuntu forums. That turned out to be far more difficult than I imagined it would be. My laptop has an NVidia graphics card. It turned out Hardy Heron did not have the drivers for my card, it was too new. The drivers available on the NVidia web site also didn't seem to help. My sound card was part of the Intel chip and the drivers just didn't seem to want to work with it no matter what I did. Then I also found that Hardy Heron didn't recognize my eSATA port. After doing more research in the Ubuntu Community forum, it seemed like I needed to try the Intrepid Ibex upgrade or maybe I would have to wait for Jaunty Jackalope to solve my problems.

So, next I downloaded the ISO file for Intrepid Ibex and burned it to a CD. That gave me a bootable CD that I could use to test how well this version would work with my laptop. When I booted from the CD, although it took some time to load, the video setup was perfect. It recognized my NVidia card and gave me the 1200x800 resolution that I had with Vista. It also had the expected 3D effects and other graphics features that my card supports. Next I tried the sound and had no problem playing some WAV files I had stored in the Linux partition. Better and better. With previous live CDs I had never been able to connect to the Internet with my old wireless modem. But, I clicked on the wireless Icon on the top bar of the window and it gave me a list of several local wireless networks and it also had a choice of a wireless broadband connection. So I tried the broadband connection and within seconds I was connected through my Verizon wireless modem to the Internet. This live CD also recognized my printer, but didn't have the drivers to print to it. However, everything was working much better with Intrepid Ibex than it had with Hardy Heron. So, I decided my next step was to upgrade to Intrepid Ibex.

If I had done an install from the live CD, it would have wiped out many of my files that had been created using Hardy Heron. It wouldn't affect my documents as they were backed up to my external drive. However, there were other files that I had created to help with hardware compatibility and additional software I had downloaded that would have disappeared. So I went back to the Ubuntu site to find out how to upgrade, rather than install Intrepid Ibex from the CD. It turned out to be much easier than I had anticipated. In the System-Administration menu there is a selection for "Software Sources". This contains the information on locations where the Synaptic Package Manager will find additional software. On the Update tab you will find the options for operating system updates. Mine had been set for "long term support" updates only. I changed that to "standard updates", clicked OK and exited the window. The package manager told me that there was an update available, version 8.10, and it could be downloaded. It also gave me an estimate of the amount of time it would take with my connection. The estimate was two hours, but it ended up taking 30 minutes less. Once the download was complete, the upgrade installation started. About an hour later, the screen announced that the system needed to be rebooted. Since I still have the live CD for Intrepid Ibex, I automatically have a backup CD, should problems occur down the road.

After the upgrade, the first thing I noticed was that the dual-boot menu reflected the new version of Ubuntu. Next, it took far less time for the user name/password request to show up. Then, very quickly, on the desktop there was the Intrepid Ibex. I will be replacing the Ibex graphic with my own wallpaper, another very easy task. But, I had noted there was no sound. So I clicked on the sound icon and found that the sound had been muted! Once I corrected that, it worked perfectly. First problem solved! Then I clicked on the wireless icon and there was the broadband choice. I selected it and within seconds I was on the Internet. Second problem solved. However, the screen resolution didn't seem right. With some hunting I found an NVIDIA X Server setting on the System – Administration menu. That allowed me to change the resolution to 1200x800. Third problem solved.

Next, I realized I hadn't tried to use the eSATA port when I was running the live CD, so now was the time to try that out. I plugged in my external drive and all three partitions appeared in the Places menu. I clicked on the main partition and all the files come up in the file manager (nautilus) window. So, everything that I had problems with under Hardy Heron seemed to be working with Intrepid Ibex. And, the improvement came without having to do anything with the Ubuntu command line. In my mind, that makes Ubuntu much more ready for the average user. With an easy install, either single or dual boot, a great selection of software that is easily available through a graphics interface, it is becoming something that anyone can try and, probably, enjoy using. As for crashes, in more than 10 years of using various flavors of Linux, I have yet to have one crash. I certainly can't say that for Windows over the same period of time.

My next step will be to download a live CD of the latest version, Jaunty Jackalope, after the initial surge of business slows down. I really don't want to be trying to download almost 700 MB of data at a time when thousands of other Ubuntu enthusiasts are

trying to do the same thing. By trying out the live CD version I can be sure that it will work with my hardware before doing an upgrade. I have already seen the problems that occur when you have to remove a newer version and revert back to a previous version. That is something I really don't want to do again. Windows has similar problems as those who replaced Vista with XP found out. I am also considering downloading the 64 bit version of Ubuntu. I am very curious as to how it would work with my hardware. You may be sure I will share the results with you.

So for all of you Windows/Vista users who are curious about Ubuntu, the easiest way to test it on your hardware is to download a live CD. From the home page, www.ubuntu.com, you can download either the latest version, or an earlier version. I would recommend that you not go back any further than version 8.10, Intrepid Ibex. You really should give it a try and download the CD, especially if you have a broadband connection. You'll also find the Ubuntu has a large selection of games that come with the installation. So, have some fun and games with Ubuntu!

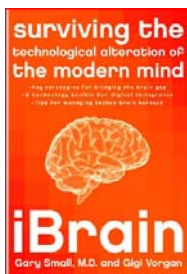
Dr. Lewis is a former university and medical school professor of physiology. He has been working with personal computers for over thirty years, developing software and assembling systems. He can be reached at [bwsail at yahoo.com](mailto:bwsail@yahoo.com).

iBrain: Surviving the Technological Alteration of the Modern Mind

Reviewed by Bayle Emlein, Secretary, PC Community, California; PCC News, May 2009;
www.pcc.org; [pcc \(at\) ix.netcom.com](mailto:pcc(at)ix.netcom.com)

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In iBrain, Dr. Small addresses the differences between the mental processes of "digital natives" and "digital immigrants." Digital natives are those born after about 1980, who have never known a world without computers, Internet, video games. Those born before electronic saturation have, with varying amounts of skill and willingness, learned to use these electronic extensions of the human mind. But no matter how proficient we become, we always operate as outsiders, immigrants with the slightest trace of accent, not quite able to function with the unconscious abandon of a native speaker in the digital culture.



Gary Small is the Director of the Memory & Aging Research Center at the Semel Institute for Neuroscience & Human Behavior and the Center on Aging at UCLA. In previous books he popularized some of the new information on brain development, plasticity, and neurological changes.

This is a book, actual paper with static black ink. The book itself does not have a Web site, though Dr. Small has one that focuses heavily on the book -- <http://www.drgarysmall.com>. I went there and was immediately blasted with a feature clip from a Los Angeles area TV show's brief review of the book and the topic of brain plasticity.

The book has many short case studies/vignettes that make a point or describe how it looks in real life. While these are all probably valid for the group they describe, it's missing large segments of the population. It seems to me that Dr. Small is stuck in a restricted point of view that every kid in the industrialized world has the same kinds of experiences that his UCLA environment provides his family. Where are the single mothers holding down two minimum-wage jobs, the foster kids pushed out on their 18th birthday? I wonder what kind of differences Dr. Small would find in looking at the brains, and minds, of the digital native generation who struggle with basic literacy or with the English language. He frequently mentions that digital natives 'multitask and parallel process with ease,' though other sources find that multitasking sets the mind up for errors and may not be as productive as linear focus sequential tasks. Since he doesn't give his sources for these tidbits, it's hard to check his accuracy against other studies.

Frequent anecdotes put the brain science into everyday life and illustrate how we'd see the neurochemistry in the everyday world. There are several self-analysis surveys. They are designed to help the reader figure out from her/his own behavior what might be going on inside his brain. The questions are worded in such a way that they add to understanding of the topic.

There are points for both groups to consider. Digital natives, often fail to develop social and interpersonal skills. Digital immigrants plod through information, missing connections. Immigrants generally know they are in foreign territory: digital natives might be surprised to consider that their citizenship in the post-information age is not necessarily an all-encompassing advantage. This might be a book you'd like to show to your acquaintances (including family members) who have a different orientation than you do.

I've heard that when writing was introduced to many oral cultures, it was lamented as the end of memory, since people no longer need to memorize in order to preserve history and culture. Whether writing is ultimately a blessing or a curse, it appears here for the foreseeable future. The same can be said for always-on electronic communication. It's silly to lament a simpler past. It's equally silly not to use the tools now available to understand the implications of changes taking place and make the most of developments. iBrain helps folks from each side understand their own point of view better and gain some perspective on the other. Definitely worth reading while waiting for the next discovery in brain science.

Product Information: List price, \$24.95; Gary Small, M.D. and Gigi Vorgan; Harper Collins, Publisher, 2008; www.drgarysmall.com.

October 2009 Main Meeting Report

By Steven Breitbart, NOCCC

(Photos by Jim Sanders & Larry Klees)

The meeting started with a few announcements from President Jim Sanders. The club needs volunteers. Specifically, we need help writing the Orange Bytes newsletter. Contact Ted Littman at editor@noccc.org if you want to help. We also need new Special Interest Group (SIG) leaders. If you have a passion for something, though you may not be an expert, consider starting a SIG. Several suggested topics are included in this issue of the Orange Bytes.

Our speaker was **Christy Coobatis**, Lead Instructor of the Music Department at MiraCosta College, which is in and around Oceanside, California. His topic was Using Computers to Create Music. His background is in setting up and operating music laboratories, recording studios, and music technology for live sound. He is a composer, educator, and musician who uses PC's and Macintosh computers in tandem for the production of music. One of the things he mentioned was working with



Leo Fender at G&L, a company founded by George Fullerton and Leo Fender and after Fender had sold his original guitar company.

MiraCosta College has over 14,000 students at three campuses. It is the premier music recording college within the California University system and helps educate people for work in the recording and entertainment industries. The Music department is part of The Multimedia & Entertainment Initiative, which is a state sponsored program.



One of the things Christy was happy to tell us about is a new \$15 million concert hall which has been in the planning and construction stages for the past six years. The concert hall will be networked with several other buildings within an 8-mile circumference. This will allow real-time listening and recording of live music from one location to another.

He noted that a wide variety of people try to get into the music industry. They need desire, talent, skill, an instrument, a place to play the instrument, and people skills too. Even so, with all that, it is very hard to make it as a musician. Apparently, there are many good instruments available on eBay because many people give up.

There are several ways to produce music:

- A *synthesizer* creates sounds artificially with the aid of electronic oscillators.
- A *sampler* plays back a recording of a sound created elsewhere.
- An *instrument* produces sound by organic means, as in vibrating a string, blowing through a horn or hitting the face of a drum.

USB or Firewire interfaces are now replacing the Musical Instrument Digital Interface (MIDI) interface. This was a transmission protocol that operated at 31.25 KB using 6-pin DIN connector.

The process of converting music to something that can be stored on a computer is:

1. Sound goes into a microphone.
2. Microphone output goes into a preamp.
3. Preamp output goes into an analog-to-digital (A/D) converter.
4. Digital data is stored like any other data.

Because there are so many variables with IBM-type PCs, Christy uses Macintosh computers at MiraCosta. If you want to use a computer for music, the considerations include whether it is for a professional or amateur musician, budget, time to learn software, and audience. Sound cards are made by Lexicon, Emu, Digidesign, Kerzweil, and Creative Labs. Software for music are from ProTools, for which a lite version is available, Cubase, Logic, and Cakewalk, which has several versions at different prices.

Compact disks, which Christy thinks will be obsolete soon, use a sample rate 44,100 samples per second at 16-bit quality. DVDs more than double that, at 96,000 samples per second with 24-bit quality. Studios typically record at 192,000 samples per second so future productions can be made with even greater quality. As a comparison, a sample rate of 384,000 samples per second is needed to approach the quality of an analog recording. However, along with the great quality of analog you also get the pops, clicks and sound of friction of the stylus against the record groove. He expects other sound technology, such as speakers, to be advancing soon also.

Thank you, Christy; it was a very interesting meeting. Following Christy's talk, we had our monthly Raffle Drawings. If you have some current software still in the box that you are not planning on ever using, consider donating it to the NOCCC.

Great meeting. See you next month.

(continued on page 23)

October 2009 Raffle Winners

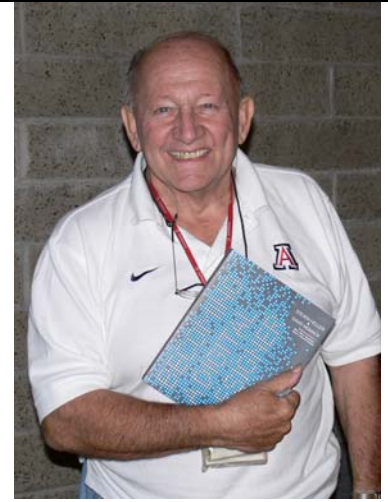
Photos by Jim Sanders, NOCCC



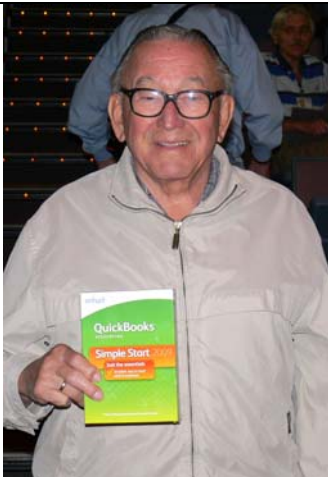
Bob Dickson



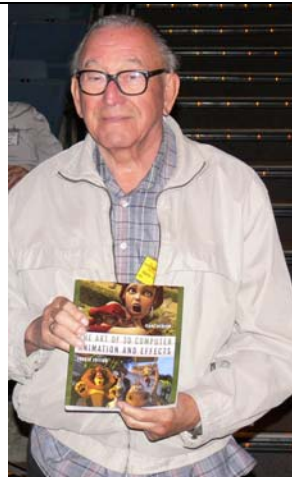
Dallas Hazleton



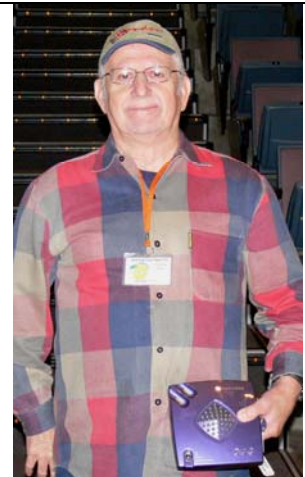
Gerry Resch



Martin LaRocque

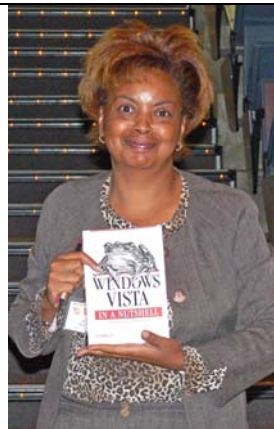


Martin LaRocque



Barth Bybee

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



Tia Christian

Wearing your membership badge can win you prizes too!

SIG Meeting Reports

Beginner's Digital Photography

Ed Schwartz, SIG Leader



This month's meeting continued the topic of creating slide shows, specifically with Proshow Gold. The program is available from www.photodex.com for \$69. One of its many strengths is the ease with which Panning and Zooming can be added to individual slides mimicking the Ken Burns effect. Many types of output can be created including DVDs,

Executables, Web Show, Flash, YouTube and Autorun CDs. It has a built-in slide sorter making it easy to rearrange your slides. Videos can be included also making it possible to interleave stills and videos. Sounds including music tracks and narration can be added also. Any audio track can have its duration and fade edited. Next week's meeting will cover some of the features in Photoshop Elements including the new Version 8 features.

This SIG meets in Science 127 at 9:00 a.m.

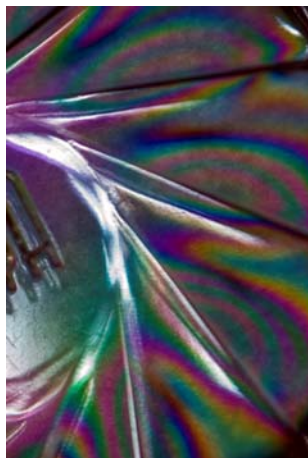
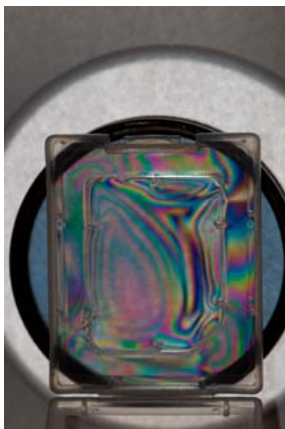
Advanced Digital Photography

By Larry Klees, SIG Leader



Last Month

Last month we investigated some uses of polarizing filters – such as making beautiful skies and clouds, and reducing reflections from glass or water. We demonstrated how to use and adjust them. We discussed the differences between linear & circular polarizers and how to identify each kind. We did not have time to cover the remarkable things that can be done with a pair of polarizers.



The left image above is a full frame straight from the camera. The camera has a polarizer on the lens with the index pointing to the 3 o'clock position. The memory card holder being photographed is on top of another polarizer with the index pointing to the 12 o'clock position. The portions of the memory card holder that extend past the polarizer look like ordinary plastic, while the parts above the polarizer have color patterns that show the stress distributions in the plastic.

The image on the right is similar except the subject is part of a filter box and the image has been cropped. We also briefly played with a software program that mimics polarizing filters quite well.

At the November Meeting

Mention vignetting and most people think of the dark corners in old photos.

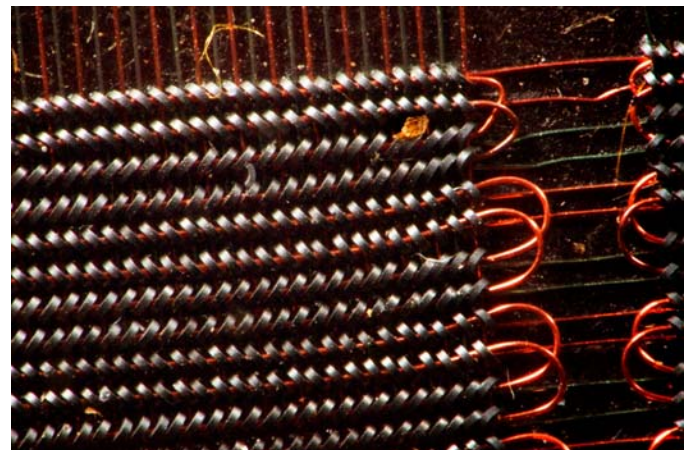


When lenses are used in ways that go beyond their design capabilities one of the common symptoms is a fall-off of light that shows as dark corners. This is known as vignetting. In the good old days, this was a frequent occurrence and

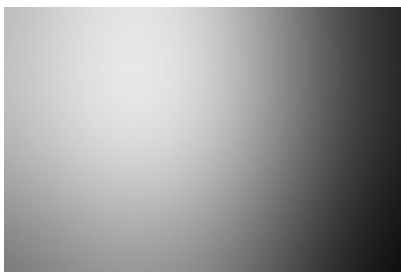
few people knew any better. It was such a common flaw that nobody noticed. Today when dealing with old photographs it is considered quaint.

You may want to deliberately simulate vignetting in your latest pictures to recreate that old photo look. I added the dark corners in this shot more to illustrate the definition of vignetting rather than be quaint. You too can add similar vignetting and with a little care the result can be very attractive.

You can also modify the technique slightly to produce a powerful tool for directing the viewer's eye to a particular point in your photo. In the following macro of a computer's core memory, the eye easily locates the broken bit of core in spite of the multitude of distractions.



The gradient of the vignetting (shown on the right) is so gradual that it is invisible in the photo. Never the less, the combination of the dark corners and the bright area around the broken core, lead the eye directly to the brightest area and that teeny tiny broken bit.



This technique works well with entrances to buildings, eyes in portraits or anything else to which you want attention drawn. With programs like Photoshop, Photopaint, GIMP, and others, this powerful technique is easy to do. In another example, vignetting makes this pear truly glow.



If time permits, we may also investigate ways to remove or at least reduce unwanted vignetting.

DON'T miss this meeting. Few edits are this easy, powerful, and useful.

This SIG meets in Science room 127 at 10:30 a.m.

Microsoft Access

By Bob Dickson, SIG Leader



In the October SIG session we reviewed creating reports. YES -- I found out how, for many years, I created sums at the ends of columns. Funny how all this technology you use everyday until you know it like the back of your hand slips away if you don't use it for awhile. It's back. We dived into all aspects of reports, including specifying groups, sorting ascending and descending,

changing styles, and selecting which fields to use. There was a new member in the group and she was delighted at the revelations. She'd used Access at work a few years ago and needed a refresher as she was going to work where she would need to use Access again. It's always good to be able to provide assistance to someone. And there were many good suggestions and much participation by the others present. We had a good group discussion and discovery session.

Got a need to work with large files or have to perform some special manipulation with just some of the records? Let's talk about it and see if Access can provide you with some techy tools to solve your problem. Fill your coffee cup, buy a donut, and come on up to Science 306 at 9 AM. See 'ya there.

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

Visual Basic for Applications (Access VBA)

By Bob Dickson, SIG Leader



The VBA SIG starts at 10:30 AM following the Access SIG. Normally scheduled to end at noon, in Oct we had to break it off at 2:20 !! so we could get down to the main meeting. WOW! We got into a real discussion on how to control the properties of an Excel cell when it is moved and the program is closed and reopened. We

started with the usual properties of controls added to the worksheet but then had to move off into virgin territory as the problem was dissected into its components. We went round and round, spiraling down into the depth of logic and properties and values. A terrifically interesting problem in a real industry application that's in real need of some 'over the top' type solution. Every time we thought we were on to a solution the problem slipped into a darker corner. We haven't come up with a good solution, or even a solution but the avenues we explored were enlightening, engrossing, and educational.

OK, we're not trying to make the VBA SIG into a programming class. It's intended to help real people use VBA to enhance their programs without needing to be professional programmers. If you're new to VBA, or just interested in finding out how to use it, and why you would want to use it, we will answer your questions and discover what you need to know in a friendly manner. Primarily Access VBA, we will work on and dig through VBA in other Microsoft apps if that's what you need. And we'll really try to keep to the noon closing time in Nov.

We'll follow the Access SIG in Science 306 with the VBA SIG at 10:30 a.m.

PC Q&A

By Jim Sanders, SIG Leader



Most of us are familiar with the basic Murphy's Law. "If anything can go wrong, it will." The following excerpt from Wikipedia illustrates that it was recognized before it was named: "The perceived perversity of the universe has long been a subject of comment, and precursors to the modern version of Murphy's Law are not hard to find. For example, in 1841 a newspaper in [Norwalk, Ohio](#) printed this verse (a parody of famous lines in [Thomas Moore's Lalla Rookh](#)^[1]):

"I never had a slice of bread,
Particularly large and wide,
That did not fall upon the floor,
And always on the buttered side."

There are many extensions to the basic Murphy's Law. "If there is a possibility of several things going wrong, the one that will cause the most damage will be the one to go wrong." Extreme version: "If there is a possibility of several things going wrong, the one that will cause the most damage will be the FIRST to go wrong."

Steven Breitbart brought up an example of Murphy's Law at the October PC Q&A SIG. He has a computer with an add-in 4 port USB 2.0 PCI bus expansion card manufacture by the SOYO Company. There was a software hiccup on his computer a couple of months ago, and he needed to download the driver for the card. So no problem right, you go to the company website, locate your board and download the current driver for it. Except a few months earlier the Soyo Company filed for bankruptcy and shut down all of its websites.

So the question was, "How do I get a driver now?" The answer is a little circuitous but it works. The first step was to determine who made the actual USB chip and what the part number is. In this instance the chip is actually made by VIA. A search of the VIA website revealed that they have made three different models of USB 2.0 chip. The VIA website suggested that you could get a basic driver from the Microsoft Corp., but that they didn't provide drivers per se. Of course a little further down they noted that if the basic Microsoft Corporation driver didn't solve your problem, they had a little add-on driver that might help.

The point to remember here is that there are many companies that may make an add-in card, but most actually obtain the integrated circuit hardware from a company like VIA. In some cases the manufacturer of the integrated circuit will provide drivers. For instance, nVidia provides drivers for the video boards that are based on its video chips. In this case, we wanted to find another manufacturer which made a USB 2.0 card based on the same VIA chip that Soyo used on their card. Using all three part numbers, I entered this search string in the Google search window: USB 2.0 pci card VT6202 OR VT6212 OR

VT6214/L. A company called Syba and Seagate were two of the companies that were listed that made PCI bus based USB 2.0 cards based on the VT6202 chip. Since, in essence, they are the same card, the current driver for the Syba card should work just fine for the Soyo card.

As we ran out of questions from the audience, and there was still time left in the session, I used the time to talk about a relatively new Microsoft offer that I stumbled upon last month. That offer is the download of a program that is called Small Basic. At this time it is at version .6 and can be considered a beta release. Nonetheless, those features that are currently offered in the program seemed to work fine.

When the IBM PC was first introduced, it included a version of BASIC in ROM. One of the great things about BASIC is that it converts concepts that are expressed in English into actions that the computer performs. For example, a simple basic statement might be: Print "My name is Jim." This would cause the string "My name is Jim." to be printed on the screen. This is far easier than learning all of the machine code that would be necessary to command the hardware to do the same thing. In the early days of the PC, there were tens of thousands of programs that were written the Basic language. They ranged from the very simple to the very complex. For example, there were a number of very competent double entry bookkeeping programs written in Basic and a bunch of games.

One of the interesting things about this Small Basic offering is that it includes a turtle. For those of you who remember the Apple II computer, it also offered a turtle programming language. This is actually a small icon of a turtle that appears on the screen and the programming commands can cause the turtle to move from one location to another, to rotate to different headings, and with the pen down command, draw a line on the screen. The PDF tutorial that comes with the download gives easy-to-follow examples of several basic programs that allow the user to command their computer to do something that they have designed. For those of you who have never actually written a program, but wondered what it was like, by downloading this program you will have the opportunity to experience it yourself. This is the download site:

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloadS/details.aspx?familyid=B006D58D-C2C7-44AD-936B-E7E2D7DE793E&displaylang=en>

Alternately, just do a Google search on *Small Basic Microsoft download*.

If you get hooked on this offering, but would like to have a more powerful version of basic to program with, there are a number of free versions that you can download and are easily found with a Google search. Use the search string 'windows xp basic interpreter' and you will find several offerings.

Bring your questions to the next PC Q&A SIG in November and I will try and answer them. See you then.

Jim's two SIGs meet in the Irvine Hall at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., respectively. The first is the Beginner's PC Q & A and the second is for everything and everyone else.

Linux Desktop

By Bob Ray, SIG Leader

You all come if you want to learn about Linux or share your experiences with other users. It is sure to be interesting and useful whether you are a beginner or more advanced user of Linux.



Everything in Linux is a file. A Linux system can be made up of different types of File Systems. File systems under most Linux Distributions, Fedora 11 and Ubuntu 9.04, commonly called Distros, are, ext2, ext3 and ext4.

Ext2 is an older type of file system but is still used for formatting 16-bit-type floppy drives. Ext3 is also an older version of the “extended” file systems standard and development. But, it is still used for the actual storing of the bootable operating system and the boot file. Ext4 is a greatly improved type of file system allowing for better file recovery, access time, table efficiency and also to accommodate very large file sizes, up to ga-zillions of bytes. That's ga-zillion as in lots, ee-gads, mucho el grande. The developers of this latest version of ext4 were being very considerate and knew you would need this capacity for your stuff.

Now that we know a little about File Systems, very little, but enough for now, we can examine what and where things go and where they are located on your computer system as files and directories. As stated earlier, everything is a file under Linux and this “everything” comes under the main highest level directory called the root directory referenced by the symbol “/”, everything comes under this main directory as a sub-directory. If you attach a file to your computer system, some file, any file, a network file, even if that file is in China, your computer system will mount this file in a sub-directory under the root directory “/” and will be seen and accessed as though it were a local file. Most Distros discourage users from accessing and manipulating directories in the root directory, other than the /home directory because deleting or modifying files here could damage your system’s ability to function properly or cause your system to not function at all.

Now comes the sub-directories. I will list all or most of the major first-level sub-directories found on a basic GNU/Linux Distro. First comes the /home sub-directory which we will just call a directory for short. Each user on a Linux system is assigned a unique user /home directory when added as a user to the computer system. Under Linux there can be many users on a single system. Starting with user number 501, that's usually you, there can be additional users up to roughly and approximately 65,000. So you can add your friends, family and relatives with their own unique /home directory. The idea here of each person having his own /home directory is that if a group member screws-up a file in their directory, they do not clobber your files

and data in your private directory. Each /home directory would be shown as /home/username typically /home/YourNameHere.

For example, if a person’s name were Jack, then Jack might want his home directory to be /home/jack and being the first user on the system jack’s user id would be 501. Generally, under GNU/Linux, lower case is used for most sub-directories and file names. If a second user were added, for example Jackie. Then Jackie could be added as a user, /home/Jackie, and as user number 502. These user numbers are added automatically and will not be discussed in further detail here, but rather, multiple users will be discussed at a later time as networking Advanced Linux and Linux Administrator topics.

Within the /home/user directory there are common additional sub-directories automatically created when the users /home directory is created. Hopefully, the intended usage of these sub-directories, as stated, will be recognized and understood by the average person as named and as shown. These are /home/user/Documents, /home/user/Music, /home/user/Pictures, /home/user/Videos, /home/user/Downloads, /home/user/Public, /home/user/Example, /home/user/Templates, and /home/user/Desktop. A user can choose to add sub-directories to his /home/user directory by using the \$mkdir function with the sub-directory-name as the function argument at the terminal command line.

Next month we will continue with this theme regarding Linux files in a multipart series. We will list and review the main file system sub-directories and their reason for being.

This SIG meets in Science 131a at 9:00 a.m.

Microsoft Office SIG

Tia Christian, SIG Leader

These sessions are an open forum for problems incurred using Microsoft **Word**, **Excel**, and **Outlook** and their resolutions. During these SIG sessions, topics have been discussed on creating Labels in Word and exporting to Excel and printing them. Primary session topics have been the upgrade from Microsoft Office 2003 to Microsoft Office 2007, in addition to the requirements for installation of Microsoft Office 2007 from Microsoft Office 2003; using add -In; e-mail compatibility issues from Microsoft Office 2003 to Microsoft Office 2007 Word, Excel, and Outlook; and PowerPoint products; installation requirements for installing Microsoft Office 2007 on Windows XP as well as Vista 2007; PowerPoint compatibility issues on PowerPoint 2003 slide presentation consisting of an AVI; file viewing.



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.

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

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.

Main Meeting Report (continued from page 17)



More Information at:

- Concert hall:
<https://www.miracosta.edu/OfficeOfThePresident/PIO/News/090331.htm>
- The Multimedia & Entertainment Initiative:
<http://www.cccmei.net/home.htm>
- Christy's web site, where he has some of his own music, is www.filogram.com.

Ted's Stuff

By Ted Littman, NOCCC Editor



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

HP Learning Center Free Online Classes

(http://h30187.www3.hp.com/?tab=atWork&mcID=em15atworktop&dimid=1062430490&dcid=null&jumpid=em_edm/us/oct09/smb/across-bg/newsletter/mrm/mcc/loc/atworktop/model_desc)

Some of the many classes of interest that are available:

PC Security & Maintenance
Troubleshooting Laptop PCs
Microsoft Office & Adobe Skills
Graphic Arts
Adobe Photoshop
Digital Photography

Microsoft

Should You Turn Off Your PC at Night?

(<http://co1piltwb.partners.extranet.microsoft.com/mcoeredir/mcoeredirect.aspx?linkId=12579260&s1=91ad5d30-5798-a712-865e-ed38701848f4>)

Learn how to tell fact from fiction and save energy to boot.

20 Ways to Recycle Your PC

(<http://co1piltwb.partners.extranet.microsoft.com/mcoeredir/mcoeredirect.aspx?linkId=12579259&s1=91ad5d30-5798-a712-865e-ed38701848f4>)

If you've replaced or are planning to replace your clunker, sending it to eWaste isn't your only option. Lots of interesting options are discussed.

Conserving Your Laptop's Battery

(<http://co1piltwb.partners.extranet.microsoft.com/mcoeredir/mcoeredirect.aspx?linkId=12579258&s1=91ad5d30-5798-a712-865e-ed38701848f4>)

How to get the most from a single charge.

Ask Bob Rankin

Do You Need a Surge Protector?

(http://askbobrankin.com/surge_protectors.html?awt_l=DGqD3&awt_m=1fX84kx9Q8P6SL)

Some sage advice to avoid disaster.

Which Linux Version is Right for Me?

(http://askbobrankin.com/which_linux_version_is_right_for_me.html)

If you're thinking about trying this free operating system, but there seem like too many choices, read Bob's take on what's best for you.

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

Several Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) buses service Chapman University. 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

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, Inland Empire-Orange County Line trains 857 and 859 leave San Bernardino destined for Orange County at 7:30 am and 8:55 am. For the return trip, trains 858 and 860 leave nearby Orange Metrolink at 2:50 pm and 4:30 pm. The Metrolink station is four-and-a-half blocks from Chapman University. For specifics regarding your trip, check the web site: <http://www.metrolinktrains.com> or call 1-800-371-5465.

October 5, 2009 Board Meeting Minutes

The NOCCC Board Meeting was held at NOCCC President Jim Sanders' residence on Monday, October 7. Jim called the meeting to order at 7:45 P.M. Also in attendance were John Heenan, Ted Littman, Steven Breitbart, Robert Love, Tia Christian, and Gerry Resch. Board members Jim Morrison, Bob Dickson, Richard Miller, and Dallas Hazelton were not in attendance.

Secretary's Report (by Ted Littman): It was motioned to approve the Secretary's Report as printed in the October Bytes; this was seconded and approved by all in attendance.

Treasurer's Report (by John Heenan): Net income for Coffee & Donuts was -\$2.64. Income from raffle tickets was \$35. The Consignment Table provided 3.20. Total net income was \$35.56. Post office and newsletter printing charges are not included.

Membership: Regular = 217, Regular (3-yr. renewal) = 9, Family = 6, Newsletter = 12; **Total of 244 Members**, down 11 from last month. There were 39 renewals & 1 new last month. The Board accepted the Treasurer's report.

Main Meeting: The speaker was Christy Coobatis of MiraCosta College. (See Main Meeting report elsewhere.) There were about 30 attendees. Board members who attended said the speaker was interesting and knowledgeable.

Opening & Closing: Bob Dickson set up the Coffee & Donuts table in the lobby of Irvine Hall and all went well. A few issues were reported including locked classrooms & cabinets, & projector problems.

Next Scheduled Meetings: **The next Main Meeting is Sunday, November 8th, followed by the BOD meeting on November 9th at the President's residence.** Subsequent monthly meeting dates obtained from Chapman U. through May 2010 are listed on the front page of the Bytes.

Committee Reports

Programs: Mary Cornett obtained a commitment from the CA Highway Patrol to provide a speaker for the November Main Meeting. Jim Sanders said a speaker from Trend Micro will present in December. Mary is working on possible speakers from AT&T, T-Mobile, Verizon, Time-warner Cable, & the Santa Ana Police Dept. for subsequent meetings. Steven is trying for speakers from the FBI & the OC Sheriff.

Public Relations: Mary Cornett succeeded in having a notice of the October 4th NOCCC meeting published in the Oct. 3rd Local Section of the Orange County Register newspaper. A meeting notice was published on Sept. 1.



Publications & Reviews: Ted reported that tone book review by an NOCCC member was in the Oct. OB and two are pending for the November newsletter. Three books were taken out for review on Oct. 4th. He also has reviews and articles from other user groups provided by APCUG. Jim Sanders took photos at the main meeting and Steven provided a list of the raffle winners for publication in the next Bytes. Steven took notes at the main meeting for publication in the next Bytes. Jim Sanders will receive the November print newsletters to deliver to the Post Office due to the unavailability of Richard Miller. Gerry Resch reported that a local printer, *WePrint* of Orange, was unwilling to meet the price of our current Printer in Florida.

Raffles: Seven items were given out at the raffles on the 4th (Photos are published elsewhere in this newsletter.) Ted provided four items for the November meeting raffles. Jim Sanders provided one *Quickbooks Starter Ed.* software program
SIGs: **Robert Love** looked in on the Oct. 4th SIG meetings to check attendance which varied from three to thirteen, another lightly-attended day. An extensive discussion took place about the Beginners PC Q&A SIG and possible ways to increase attendance.

Old Business: A previous proposal by Jim Sanders was discussed. We may offer NOCCC members the opportunity to submit written PC questions to be answered by knowledgeable BOD members & SIG leaders and then publish the results in our newsletter. This is similar to a service by the Orange County Register in which we participate.

New Business: Gerry Resch reported that Omni Technics (eWaste) is moving to a new, larger facility that could afford NOCCC members opportunities to obtain computer parts at low cost or in exchange for services such as dismantling collected equipment and putting together workable systems for donation or sale.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:42 P.M.

This report was prepared by NOCCC Secretary Ted Littman.

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

Welcome to Our Members Who Joined in September 2009

Your Board of Directors welcomes our members who joined in September 2009:

👤 **William L. Smith**

👤 **Betty Wise**

Thanks to Our Members Who Renewed in September 2009

- ❖ **James F. Amato**
- ❖ **Steven M. Breitbart**
- ❖ **Mark Carter**
- ❖ **Don Dennison**
- ❖ **Tim Duffy**
- ❖ **Denji Ebisu**
- ❖ **Stanley Guzzy**
- ❖ **Carol Hilly**
- ❖ **Bill Larsen**
- ❖ **Terry & Susanne Warren**
- ❖ **Lloyd Weinstein**
- ❖ **Vincent Zappala**

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. **Your regular dues is tax deductible!**

<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	

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

NOCCC Bylaws

You may view the club's Bylaws at our website: <http://www.noccc.org/bylaws/>.

SIG Leaders Wanted

We would like to expand our Special Interest Group topics to include:

- Computer Aided Investing
- Home Automation
- PC Hardware Essentials
- Internet and the World Wide Web
- Computer Security
- Genealogy 101
- Desktop Publishing

If you have knowledge of and an interest in any of these areas, please consider leading a SIG Contact Jim Sanders, the President of the NOCCC, with your SIG ideas.

Upcoming Computer Shows

By Steven Breitbart, NOCCC

Here is a list of all the computer related shows I found for November 2009 to December 2009. If you know of any other shows, send me information about it. I would recommend you check the web sites before going; shows have been cancelled recently.

West Coast Expos Computer Fair
(acomputerfair.com)

Fairplex in Pomona
November 14 & 15
December 12 & 13
Shrine Auditorium & Exposition Center in L.A.
November 21 & 22

Bagnall's Camera Expo (www.cameraexpo.com)
Brookhurst Community Center in Anaheim
December 13

Hyperactive-ACP Computer Show
(<http://www.swapmeetbyhyperactive.com/>)
Hyperactive Computers Parking Lot, Santa Ana,
November 29

The W6TRW Amateur Radio Association
(<http://www.w6trw.com/>)
Northrop Grumman Aerospace Systems parking lot,
Redondo Beach. Last Saturday of the month, 7am to 11:30am.



FREE AD SPACE

If you are a NOCCC member, and have a computer related, **non-commercial** or **"talent Available"** ad that you would like to have placed in this newsletter or on the NOCCC web site, send an e-mail with a copy of your business card or ad to the NOCCC Editor at editor@noccc.org.

If you have had an ad previously, you must request that we continue to run it for the remainder of this calendar year.

Your business card would look good here!!

For information about advertising in the Orange Bytes, contact editor@noccc.org.

Classified ads by NOCCC members cost \$5 for 1-25 words and \$10 for 26-50 words.

Pig SIG Open to All

Meet us outside Irvine Hall from about noon to 12:30 p.m.



There are several benches where NOCCC people gather, eat and chat. Just look for the member badges, grab a chair and join in! This is an informal group; so many different subjects are discussed. It's a great opportunity to mix, mingle and network. See ya there!

If you need to buy lunch, Jazzman's Cafe in Beckman Hall is open until 1:00 p.m. Brunch is available at the new Sandhu Conference Center until 1:30 p.m., all you can eat for \$10.99 (\$8.99 with a Chapman ID).



Free coffee at November meeting!



Donuts \$1.00/each.

Publication Information

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P.O. Box 3616, Orange, CA 92857

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800-533-1031

Commercial display advertisements are welcome, contact editor@noccc.org.

RATES

One Page Vertical	7.0" x 9.5"\$150
Half-page Horizontal	7.0" x 5.0"\$80
Half-page Vertical	3.5" x 9.5"\$80
Quarter-page	3.5" x 5.0"\$45
Business Card	3.5" x 2.0"\$ 15
Center Spread.....	14.0" x 9.5"\$300

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 <http://www.apcug.org>

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

Part of the inhumanity of the computer is that, once it is competently programmed, and working smoothly, it is completely honest.

Isaac Asimov



Membership Renewal

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

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

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

QUICK MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

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

PLEASE PRINT!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone (_____) _____ - _____

email _____

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

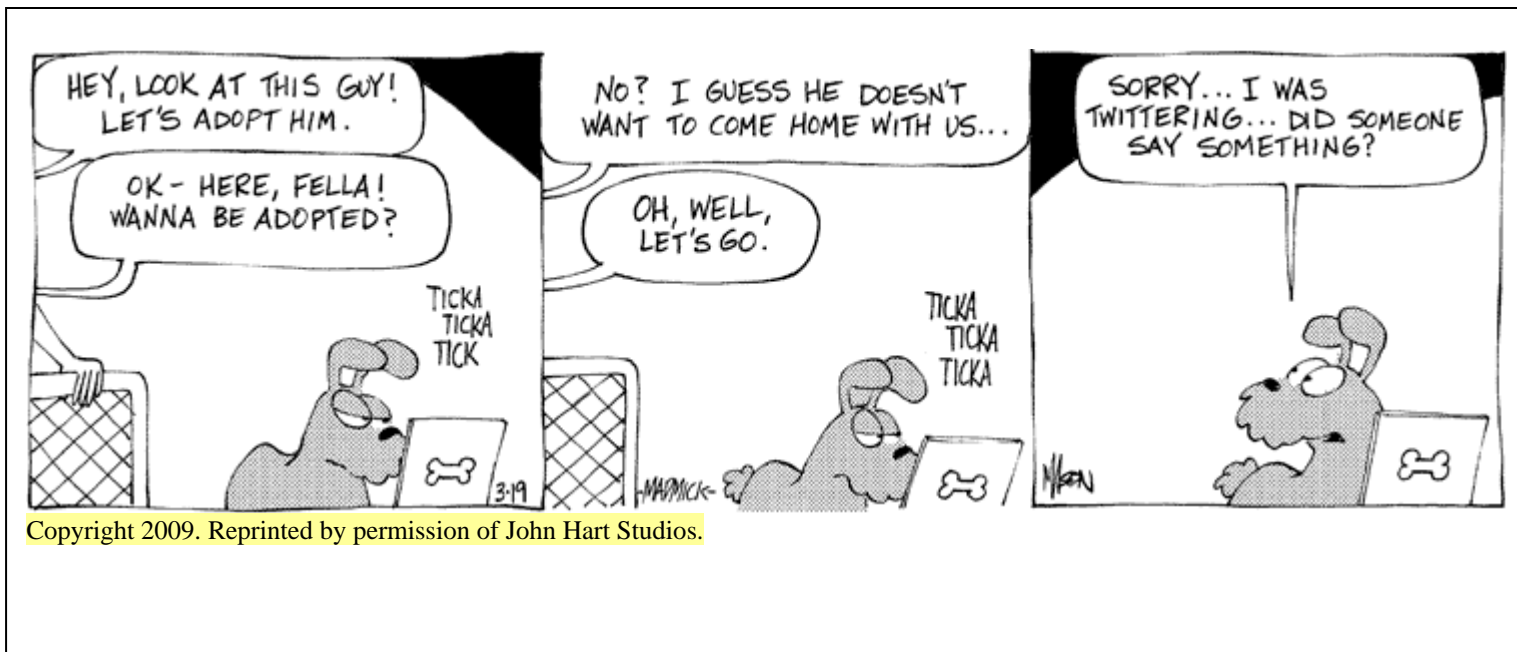
Since the North Orange County Computer Club is incorporated as a 501 (c) (3) organization, checks are 100% tax deductible when made payable to North Orange County Computer Club.

Amount enclosed \$ _____

MC / Visa _____ Expires _____

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

North Orange County Computer Club



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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.
- **Raffle 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 southwest corner of E. Maple and N. Orange, is also free and only 2 blocks from the meeting. See page 23 for more information about parking and transportation.

