

range Bytes

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

Vol 36 No 10

October 2011

Main Meeting, October 2

The topic is **Introduction to Cloud/Mobile Computing.**
The speaker is **Krish"Krishnamurthy of Siemens in Cyprus** (See page 4)

Big prizes (such as a complete XP P4 computer and a Terabyte SATA Hard Disk)
for our October raffles See page 6
September raffle winners' pix Page 17

We will have a Consignment Table and E-Waste Collection during the Oct. 2011 meeting. (See page 2)

Special Interest Group (SIG) & Main Meeting

9:00 a.m.

Linux for Desktop Users Science 131
Topics about the Linux operating system. Beginner's Qs here.

Visual Programming Science 111
Visual Basic, Visual BasicScript, Visual C++ and Visual J++
Plus web design and HTML code.

Come, Care, and Share Science 109
New SIG! Any computer-related topics you want to discuss. See p. 21 for details.

Beginners Digital Photography Science 131A
Exploring Picassa. **New Room!**

Reviews & Consignment Tables, Coffee & Donuts: Irvine Hall lobby

10:30 a.m.

Beginners PC Q & A Irvine Hall
Beginners' questions about PCs.

Linux Administration Science 131
More topics about the Linux operating system

Access/Excel VBA Science 306
Access & Excell VBA code

10:30 a.m.

Advanced Digital Photography Science 131A
Q&A's and how to plumb your tripod. **New Room!**

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

Mobile Computing Science 109
This SIG discusses mobile devices.

12:00 Noon

PIG SIG Hashinger Courtyard

Microsoft Access Science 306
Database applications and more.

12:30 p.m.

Advanced PC Q & A Irvine Hall
PC hardware & software topics.

2:00 p.m. Main Meeting Irvine Hall

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

Future Meeting Dates in 2011/2012:
Oct 2 , Nov 6, Dec 4,
Jan. 8, Feb. 5, Mar. 4, Apr. 1 May 6



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

Consignment

The NOCCC Consignment Table in the lobby of Irvine Hall will be available during the October 2011 meeting. It is open on even months, the same as the e-Waste collection.

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%.
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
3. **You can fill out a Consignment Table User List and item tags at the table:**
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 Collection

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 bring your “junk” in October. Check their web site for more information:

<http://www.ca-recycle.com/>.
Or call (562) 627-1910.

NOCCC Officers

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

President

Jim Sanders544-3589 president@noccc.org

Vice President

Open

Secretary

Ted Littman779-1936 secretary@noccc.org

Treasurer

John Heenan 998-7660..... treasurer@noccc.org

Directors

Dr. Patricia Adelekan628-9844p_adelekan@yahoo.com

Dr. Don Armstrong..... 733-1187 docarmstrong@gmail.com

Steven Breitbart 486-3070..... sbreitbart@socal.rr.com

Tia Christian..... 263-6105..... lwilliams_00@yahoo.com

Dallas Hazleton..... 526-1592..... ghazleton4@dslextreme.com

Ben Lochtenbergh.....(949) 653-2545 bal@msn.com

Richard Miller..... 309-1504..... rrrmil@gmail.com

Gerry Resch 772-6667..... gerry@gerryresch.com

Gordon E. Strickland, Jr..... 970-7730..... gestrickland@earthlink.net

Editor

Ted Littman 779-1936..... editor@noccc.org

Webmaster

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

Volunteers, Committees, and Projects

Consignment Table

Richard Miller..... 309-1504..... rrrmil@gmail.com

Raffle Leader

Gerry Resch 772-6667 gerry@gerryresch.com

Helpline

Ted Littman 779-1936..... tedlit@roadrunner.com

Membership Database

John Heenan..... 998-7660 treasurer@noccc.org

Membership Chairman

Ben Lochtenbergh.....(949) 653-2545 bal@msn.com

SIG Coordinator

Dallas Hazleton 526-1592..... ghazleton4@dslextreme.com

Programs/Speakers Coordinator

Open

Public Relations.

Open

University Liaison

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

Chapman U. Campus Security 997-6763..... open locked rooms, problems



NOCCC is a Member

Orange Bytes

Table of Contents

SIGs Schedule for October	1
Future 2011 Meeting Dates	1
Consignment Table	2
E-Waste Collection	2
NOCCC Officers	2
Orange Bytes Staff	3
October 2nd Main Meeting	4
President's Message	4
September Main Mtg report	5
Membership Benefits	6
October Club Raffle Prizes	6
Save Your Parking Permits	6
NOCCC Help Volunteers	7
SIG Leaders	7
Computer Talk	8
Word Tips	9
Excel Tips	10
Products Available for Review	11
Product review Photoshop & image edit bk.	12
Product review photography & light book....	13
Product review MS Office 2010 book.....	14
Product review Roboform	15
Product review Touch Mouse	14
Preparing a Review or Article	16
Construction at Chapman	16
Transportation Information	16
September Raffle Winners	17
Renewed & New Members	17
September Board Meeting Minutes	18
NOCCC Bylaws	18
Beginner's Digital Photography SIG	19
Advanced Digital Photography SIG	20
Come, Care, and Share SIG	21
Linux Desktop & Administrator SIG	21
Visual Programming SIG	21
Understanding OS SIG	21
PC Q&A SIG	22
Visual basic for Apps SIG	24
Membership Chairman	25
Mobile Computing	25
Microsoft Access SIG	25
Pig SIG; Membership Chm	26
Free Ad Space & Members' Ads	26
Membership Renewal	27
Publication Information	27
Commercial Display Ad Info	27
Are You an NOCCC Member?	28

Orange Bytes Staff

Publication Chairman Oversees publication tasks and converts the Orange Bytes newsletter to PDF for printing and web posting; transmits PDF to Printer.

Ted Littman (714) 779-1936, tedlit@roadrunner.com

Editor Edits and makes final selections of the articles to be included in the newsletter.

Ted Littman editor@noccc.org

Associate Editor/Production Receives articles from the editor and lays out the issue of the newsletter.

Tony Loechner tonyl@loechner.com

Circulation - Oversees mailing and distribution of the newsletter.

Richard Miller (714) 309-1504, rrrmil@gmail.com

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

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

Copy Editor - Does final proof reading of the newsletter for typos and misspellings.

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The following positions are available:

Social Media Contacts – Maintain and write articles for the newsletter.

Contributing Editors - Write articles for the newsletter.

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 35 years of
“Friends Helping
Friends”*



President's Message

By Jim Sanders, NOCCC President

The September meeting had fairly light attendance. Considering that it was the Labor Day weekend, which was not too surprising even though we had a speaker from Diskeeper for the Main Meeting. It was a shame that the circumstances around getting a "name" speaker and having his availability fall on that weekend had to coincide. As has been said before, it is getting increasingly difficult for companies to justify the cost of having an employee travel to our meeting and be working on a Sunday. For some companies that have offered their products for sale at the meeting, they have a direct gauge of their potential "Return on Investment" based on those immediate sales and projected follow-on sales. For those companies and speakers that don't have that direct gauge to judge the ROI, the size of the audience that attends their presentation is an important criterion. Which is why the e-mail announcement of the meeting asked you to invite friends and neighbors. With a good size audience, the club stands a much better chance of having a speaker return at some time in the future.



The continuation of the printed version of the Orange Bytes newsletter is a related issue. The total membership in the club will determine its fate. Each time you have been asked, the majority of the club members have said they want to keep the printed version of the Orange Bytes and have it mailed to them each month. I know there are recurring complaints about the Bytes not being received before the meeting, but that is usually the fault of your local Post Office. The Bytes are almost always delivered to the bulk mail center at least a week to ten days before the meeting and the bulk mail center claims they usually have them distributed to the local Post Offices the next day. Regardless, a big reason we have been able to afford continuing the printed version of the Bytes is the Non-Profit Bulk Mailing permit. The general perception is that if you have that kind of a mailing permit, it doesn't matter if you are mailing one piece or ten thousand - NOT true. The MINIMUM number of pieces per mailing is 200. The club is now just under that count and has had to mail some extras to one address just to meet that requirement.

If that trend is not reversed, it spells the beginning of the end of the printed version of the Orange Bytes. The only way to stop that is to get new members and have current members renew. Word of mouth is still one of the most effective ways of getting new people to attend a meeting and, hopefully, join the club. I recognize that the quality, pertinence, and quantity of the SIGS in combination with good speakers and a good newsletter are what convince someone to join the club and to continue once they have joined. It doesn't take a Doctorate Degree to see the relationship

of those elements. Clearly, the more members we have, the easier it is to have good results in all of those categories. It is just as clear that the inverse is true. So if you want the club to continue at the level that everyone seems to want, each and every one of you needs to pitch in and give a hand. Talk up the club with your friends, neighbors, co-workers or the guy you happen to be standing in a line with. We just printed some club business cards. So at the next meeting, ask for a half dozen so that you can have one available to hand out when the opportunity presents itself.

The new "Share" SIG had a good initial turnout and has the promise of being an interesting, informative, and fun SIG. Come a little early and check it out in October. It will be in Science 109 starting at 9:00 a.m. Free street parking on the university side is easier to find at that time!

**Oct. 2nd Main Meeting
2 p.m. Irvine Hall**

Introduction to Cloud/Mobile Computing

The presentation/discussion by Krish Krishnamurthy will start with a definition/description of cloud computing, its components and how people and companies use it and its impact on our lifestyle.

Some of the examples include:

- Keeping track of your records from anywhere (Ex: Banking, Quicken for home finances).
- Helping sales reps to track their sales cycle and collaborate with their team across the globe
- Helping local restaurateurs market their wares efficiently.
- Improving home security.
- Aiding children learn to read.

At the end of this discussion, you should have an understanding of the various uses for cloud / mobile and social computing.

Krish Krishnamurthy is with Siemens in Cypress, CA. Krish specializes in helping companies develop new products using collaborative processes and tools to reduce their cycle time at increased quality. In this capacity, he has worked with many companies both in the US and abroad, helping engineers, designers, analysts, and configuration and program management personnel collaborate effectively. He has graduate degrees in Chemical Engineering and Management from U. of Massachusetts.

Orange Bytes

September 4, 2011

Main Meeting Report

By Ted Littman, NOCCC; Photographs by John Krill

President Jim Sanders opened the meeting by mentioning a few “housekeeping” issues (such as parking restrictions) and pointing to a few new faces in the audience of 35 attendees. He again reiterated the need for a new leader for the Microsoft Office SIG and addressed the problem of late delivery by the postal service of the print version of the Orange Bytes (noting that the same issue in glorious color is posted on the NOCCC web site for viewing and downloading about a week before the meeting). Jim then mentioned the raffle prizes available, including (from Omni Technics) a PC monitor this time and a desktop PC next month.

Ted Littman thanked our guest speaker, Jeff Medina of Diskeeper Corporation, who drove all the way from the San Fernando Valley to give the presentation. He was accompanied by his lovely wife and cute daughter. Also, Jeff donated two copies of Diskeeper 2011 Pro for our raffles!



Diskeeper Presentation software is used by over 90% of the Fortune 500 companies. Diskeeper has issued over 30 million licenses for its software!

Diskeeper started out in 1981 as a program to defragment hard disks, but over the years, it has evolved to “performance enhancement” software with a variety of versions for use by individuals, businesses, and servers. Diskeeper Corporation has had a close working relationship with Microsoft.

He noted that that improvement in processor speed would be wasted if defragmentation software was not used to move file fragments from random locations all over a hard drive to sequential placement on the disk. And the impact can be even worse for common operating system files, the action of antivirus scans, and backup processing.

Disk fragmentation leads to lower productivity, slower boot time, more frequent crashes and freeze-ups, and increased times for antivirus scans. Jeff then ran a short video showing Diskeeper operation. A key feature is that the program runs in the background while you are doing other tasks and only uses unused PC resources. And, once installed is fully automatic.

Jeff then talked about some of the key (patented) features of Diskeeper software, IntelliWrite, InvisiTasking, iFAAST, HyperBoot, and HyperFast. He noted there were five versions of the software.

InvisiTasking® technology is one of the key features of Diskeeper. It takes a “green” approach by running invisibly in the background. It allows defragmentation to occur while your system is actively in use, but still doing so with zero overhead - so it won't slow you down while you work or play.

InvisiTasking is now more intelligent about when to interject defrag processing while a disk is active. The result is greater energy savings and more efficient background processing. Even systems that are never “idle” are defragmented invisibly with zero resource hits.

A high degree of interest was expressed by the audience as reflected in the numerous questions asked. These included: Does Diskeeper work with Linux operating systems? (It isn't needed based on the Linux disk structure.) Can it be used with solid state hard drives? (Yes.) Can attendees buy Diskeeper at a reduced price? (Yes, by ordering it online from the vendor using a special code.)

Finally, Jeff noted that you can download a 30-day free trial of the software. His slide presentation covered lots of territory. Unfortunately, some of the slides had too much information for viewing even with a large screen in the auditorium. For more information, check out the Diskeeper web site at: <http://www.diskeeper.com/products/home-use/>. Here you can view some of the screen shots that Jeff used.

Aside note: *This report was prepared from my personal notes since our main report man, Steven Breitbart, was too ill from his chemo & radiation treatments to attend. We all hope Steven will recover quickly and be “back on the job” by our next meeting.*

We thank all of you who gave up part of your Labor Day holiday weekend to attend. Hopefully, we will have a much larger attendance when we next have a speaker from a prominent computer company. And thanks again to Jeff Medina and Diskeeper Corporation for their support.

See you next month!

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

User Group Relations – You can now order the latest release of Acronis True Image 2011 from Gene Barlow for only \$25 (download) or \$25 plus S&H (on a CD). This top-rated backup utility has many new features and will work with Windows 7. Use the following link for special pricing for user group members: www.ugr.com/TrueImage.html.

Techsmith - You can get SnagIt 10, an outstanding screen capture program, and Camtasia Studio 7, to quickly record, edit and publish multimedia demos and presentations, bundle for \$269, an \$81 savings: <https://store.techsmith.com/government.asp>. You can download SnagIt 10 alone for \$42.95.

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 40% off all books and videos from O’Reilly, Microsoft Press, Pragmatic Bookshelf, and SitePoint, or 50 % off 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, you can return it to O’Reilly and get your money back; see 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.

Free Internet Libraries - Upon retiring from college teaching/administration, Walter Antoniotti began developing Free Internet Libraries for students, teachers, and professionals. ([http://www.businessbookmall.com/Free Internet Libraries.htm](http://www.businessbookmall.com/Free%20Internet%20Libraries.htm)) Of special interest to PC users are these free computer libraries:

Free Business Software

([http://www.businessbookmall.com/Free Business Software Internet Library.htm](http://www.businessbookmall.com/Free%20Business%20Software%20Internet%20Library.htm))

Free Software Tutorials

([http://www.businessbookmall.com/Software Tutorials Internet Library.htm](http://www.businessbookmall.com/Software%20Tutorials%20Internet%20Library.htm))

Excel Internet Library (http://www.businessbookmall.com/Microsoft_Excel_Directions_For_Beginners.htm)

THE OCTOBER 2011 CLUB RAFFLES

GENERAL DRAWING PRIZES*:

- Complete P4 Windows XP Computer
- Norton Utilities 2011 Software
- 3 ½ Digit Digital Multimeter
- 6 ft. USB I/O Cable
- Super-Lit LED Key Chain

* Parking stubs are good for two raffle tickets each!

See the article immediately below this list!

MEMBERS-ONLY DRAWING PRIZES:

(Wear your NOCCC Badge and get a free ticket!)

(Wear your NOCCC Badge and get a free ticket!)

- 1 Terabyte SATA Hard Disk Drive
- Norton Utilities 2011 Software
- Learn-to-Solder Kit
- 6 ft. USB I/O Cable
- Super-Lit LED Key Chain

Save Your Parking Permits!

To offset the cost of parking in the Lastinger Underground Parking Structure, the NOCCC Board approved a motion to give each member two NOCCC General Drawing raffle tickets in exchange for the Lastinger-parking permit. Turn the bottom-half “receipt” part of your permit to the Rafflemeister on the same day or hold it until the next meeting. **Gerry Resch, the Raffle Leader, will exchange it for two raffle tickets.**

The reason for this is that the NOCCC Board has found that some people are not attending meetings or not renewing their memberships because of the parking situation. Chapman University has allowed us to park in the Lastinger Parking Structure under Wilson Field for only \$2 for the whole day of our meeting; normally \$2 is good for only two hours. The advantages of parking there are clear; you don’t have to drive around looking for a legal spot (remember, don’t park on the private home side of the street), the car doesn’t get hot and you don’t have to parallel park. There is even an elevator available to get down to the parking area.

NOCCC Help Volunteers

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 deal with. Call (714) 779 1936 or e-mail Ted Littman at helpline@noccc.org with additions, deletions, or corrections. Most volunteers prefer being contacted by e-mail. Mention NOCCC in the Subject line.

Apple II	Gerry Resch	714-772-6667	.....	gerry@gerryresch.com
Computer Boards	Martin LaRocque	562-697-4318	.....	6 - 9 p.m.
Corel Draw.....	Larry Klees	714-879-7962	.....	larryklees@yahoo.com
Digital Photography	Larry Klees	714-879-7962	.....	larryklees@yahoo.com
Excel	Gerry Resch	714-772-6667	.....	gerry@gerryresch.com
GPS Navigation.....	Bob DeWolf	714-879-8269	.....	rsdewolf@adelphia.net
Linux.....	Bob Ray	714-634-7520	.....	bobsdesk@dialup4less.com
Lotus 1-2-3	Gerry Resch	714-772-6667	.....	gerry@gerryresch.com
Memory/Interrupts	Martin LaRocque	562-697-4318	.....	6 - 9 p.m.
Microsoft Office.....	John Heenan	714-998-7660	.....	heenanjc@sbcglobal.net
Mobile Computing.....	Ben Lichtenbergh	949-653-2545	.....	bal@msn.com
PC Hardware	Jim Sanders	714-544-3589	.....	jsanders@ligasmicro.com
Photo editing & Pshop	Larry Klees	714-879-7962	.....	larryklees@yahoo.com
QuickBooks - all ver.....	Linda Russell	909-949-4930	.....	qbqueen@verizon.net
Tcl/Tk & UNIX	Bob DeWolf	714-879-8269	.....	rsdewolf@adelphia.net
Windows 7, Vista & XP	Jim Sanders	714-544-3589	.....	jsanders@ligasmicro.com
Windows 9X & XP	John Heenan	714-998-7660	.....	jc_heenan@a-wares.com
WiFi & Networking	Jim Sanders	714-544-3589	.....	jsanders@ligasmicro.com



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

Do you want to be an NOCCC Help Volunteer and assist other members with computing subjects that you know well? If so, please contact Ted Littman at tedlit@roadrunner.com or (714) 779-1936.

SIG Leaders

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.....	131	9:00/10:30	Bob Ray	bobrobo@dialup4less.com		(714) 634-7520
Beginner's Digital Photography ..	Science.....	131A	9:00	John Krill..	noccc.bgphotosig@gmail.com		(949) 497-8658
Visual Programming	Science.....	111	9:00	Anson Chapman	aec@cclist.com		(909) 860-9515
Word, Excel and Outlook.....	Science.....	109	9:00	Tia Christian	lwilliams_00@yahoo.com		(714) 263-6105
Access/Excel VBA.....	Science.....	306	10:30	Bob Dickson	robertbdickson@socal.rr.com		(714) 539-1304
Advanced Digital Photography....	Science.....	131A	10:30.....	Larry Klees	larryklees@yahoo.com		(714) 879-7962
Mobile Computing	Science.	109.....	10:30.....	Ben Lichtenbergh	bal@msn.com		(949) 653-2545
Understanding OS's	Science.....	111	10:30	Charlie Moore	mooreca@roadrunner.com		(714) 529-9071
Access	Science.....	306	12:00	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 Ted Littman, editor@noccc.org, or (714) 779-1936.

Microsoft Tips

How to delete unwanted files and Programs

<http://www.microsoft.com/athome/setup/cleansweep.aspx>

“Ever wonder how to clean out your computer? Many people do, because it’s not unusual to have your PC’s hard disk filled with games and other programs you no longer need. In fact, some technology analysts believe that we use less than 10 percent of the programs installed on our computers. The instructions here describe how to safely—and easily—uninstall old or unused programs and remove files from your Windows-based computer.”

Slow PC? Optimize your computer for peak performance

<http://www.microsoft.com/athome/setup/optimize.aspx>

“The tips here can help improve your computer’s performance and help make your computer run faster. The examples in this article are for Windows 7, Windows Vista, and Windows XP. However, these procedures work for all versions of the Windows operating system, with some slight variations from version to version.

These tasks use utilities provided within Windows, so you can run them—free of charge and as often as you’d like—to help you achieve the best system performance and to help improve computer speed.”

How to back up files and recover data

<http://www.microsoft.com/athome/setup/backupdata.aspx>

“Even computer novices know that file backups are important in case of hard drive crashes, but many people wonder exactly how to back up files and how to recover data. This article covers the Backup and Restore feature in Windows 7 and in Windows Vista, which can help save you a lot of time and trouble. It also focuses on how to back up Microsoft Outlook files and how to back up files in the cloud. All of these tools and processes can all help with data recovery in the event that something happens to your computer.”

6 useful Windows tricks

<http://www.microsoft.com/athome/setup/windowstricks.aspx>

“Read these six tips for Windows 7, Windows Vista, and Windows XP that will keep you schoolin’ your friends and family.”

Top 14 websites for students

<http://www.microsoft.com/athome/students/studentsites.aspx>

“Learning how to find the information you need on the Internet, and how to evaluate and appropriately use the information you find, can be challenging for both parents and students. The article is a look at some of the most comprehensive—and reliable—educational websites a student can bookmark and use to research school projects and homework assignments.”

4 power tools for students

<http://www.microsoft.com/athome/students/studentpower-tools.aspx>

“Your kids can do a great job on even the toughest school projects with just a computer running the Windows operating system and the right information resources. Research no longer requires a trip to the neighborhood library, because a whole world of information—and the tools to put it all together—are right at home on your family computer.”

Teacher Resources

<http://www.microsoft.com/education/en-us/teachers/guides/Pages/index.aspx>

“Getting started with teaching tips and step-by-step guides for popular teacher tasks is easy and free. Learn ways to inspire your students and to better use new tools and technologies in class.”

Microsoft Excel: Quick tips and tricks

<http://www.microsoft.com/atwork/skills/tipsexcel.aspx>

“Here are a few handy tips for getting the most from Excel.”

Get organized:

7 ways to better sort, store, and search your email

<http://www.microsoft.com/atwork/productivity/emailtools.aspx>

“A cluttered and unorganized mailbox can make it difficult to find the email you need. This messy situation can be remedied.”

Free online safety tips

<http://blogs.msdn.com/b/securitytipstalk/archive/2011/06/16/free-online-safety-tips.aspx>

“Whether you tweet, friend, post, or follow, Microsoft provides online safety guidance and resources to fit your lifestyle. Along with the Microsoft Safety & Security Center, we are active on a variety of social networking sites.”

Word Tips

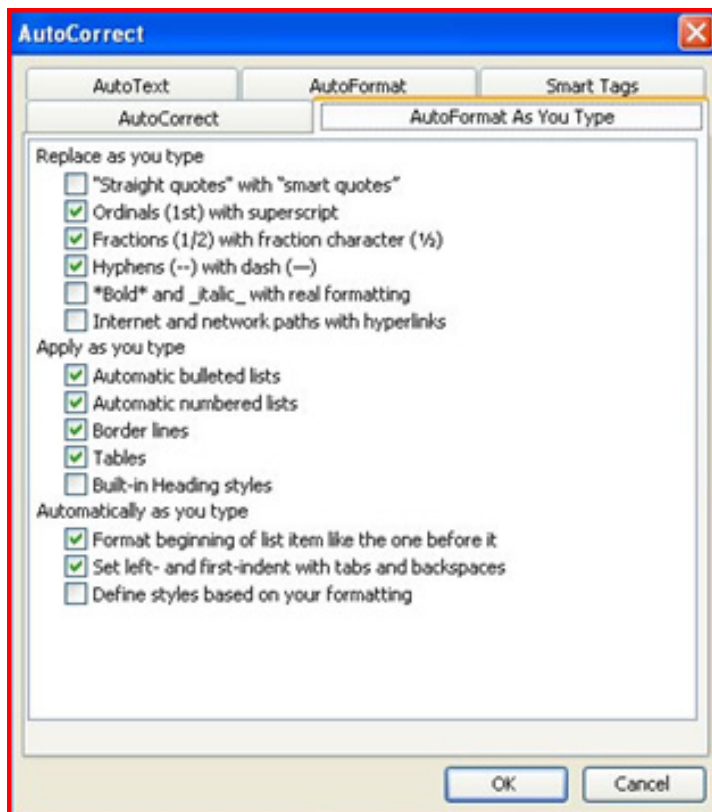
Copyright © 2010 by Sharon Parq Associates, Inc. Reprinted by permission. Thousands of free Microsoft Word tips can be found online at <http://word.tips.net>.

Controlling URL Formatting

In an increasingly well-connected world, Word provides support for the Internet. One aspect of this support is the ability for Word to recognize URL addresses in your document and make them active. For instance, if you type a URL, Word automatically converts it to a field code. When you later click on the address, your Web browser is started and you can visit the Web page represented by the URL.

This feature is turned on by default in Word, but some people find it just plain annoying. This is especially true if you are working with a document that has many, many URLs in it. If you want to turn off this feature, there are two routes you can follow. The first involves these steps:

1. Choose AutoCorrect (or AutoCorrect Options) from the Tools menu. Word displays the AutoCorrect dialog box.
2. Click on the AutoFormat As You Type tab.

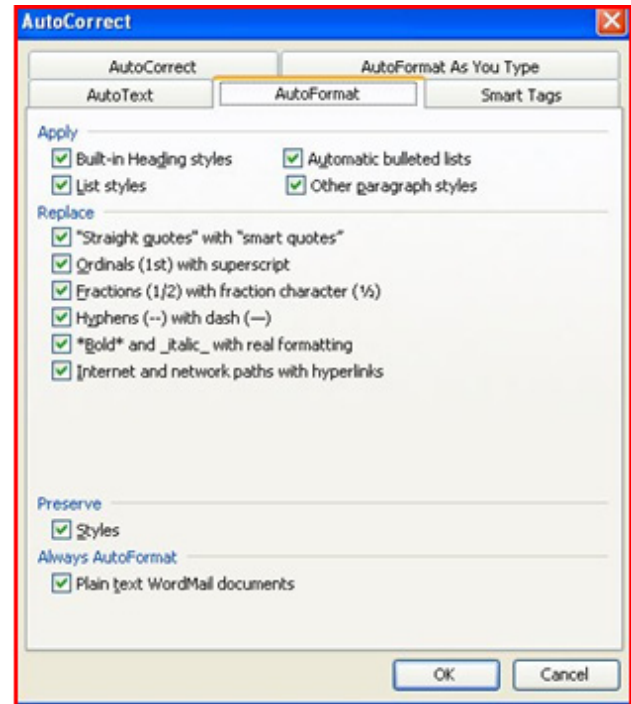


3. Near the middle of the dialog box, at the bottom of the Replace As You Type section, make sure the Internet and Network Paths With Hyperlinks checkbox is not selected.
4. Click on OK.

Now, as you type, the URLs you enter are not converted to

hypertext links. The second place you may want to make changes controls how Word autoformats an entire document at a single pass. This feature of Word (AutoFormatting) is done when you choose AutoFormat from the Format menu. Normally you use the AutoFormat feature if you import a document either from another word processor, or if you import a regular ASCII text file. To make sure that Word does not activate links when you use the AutoFormat feature, follow these steps:

1. Choose AutoCorrect (or AutoCorrect Options) from the Tools menu. This displays the AutoCorrect dialog box.



2. Click on the AutoFormat tab. Near the middle of the dialog box, at the bottom of the Replace section, make sure the Internet and Network Paths With Hyperlinks checkbox is not selected.
3. Click on OK.

Moving Table Rows Quickly

Word provides a handy shortcut that allows you to easily move rows around in a table. Simply follow these steps:

1. Position the insertion point in the row you want to move, or select the rows you want to move.
2. While holding down the Shift and Alt keys, press the Up Arrow or Down Arrow to move the row.

It is interesting to note that when you are using this method, you can even move a row (or rows, since you can select more than one row in step 1) right out of the table. In other words, the moving doesn't stop when you reach the top or bottom of the table. As you continue pressing the Up Arrow or Down Arrow keys, the rows continue to move away from the table in the direction you choose.

continued

Word Tips (continued)

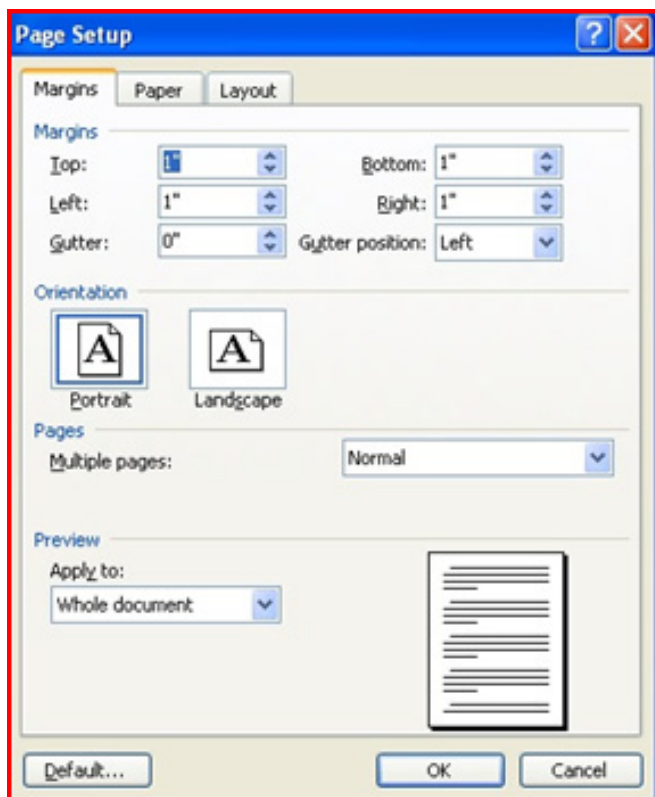
This technique will not work to move columns, however. You should note that when you hold down the Shift and Alt keys and press the Left Arrow or Right Arrow, the heading level of the entire row is changed.

Understanding the Gutter Margin

The gutter margin is a typographical term used to designate an additional margin added to a page layout to compensate for the part of the paper made unusable by the binding process. In a facing pages layout (Word refers to this type of layout as “mirror margins”), the gutter margin is on the very inside of both pages. It is uncommon to use a gutter margin in a single-sheet layout, although Word allows you to do that. In single-sheet layouts, the gutter margin is typically the area where you might three-hole punch your paper.

To set the gutter margin in Word, you follow these steps:

1. Choose Page Setup from the File menu. Word displays the Page Setup dialog box. Using the Gutter control, indicate how wide you want the gutter margin to be.
2. Click OK.



Excel Tips

Copyright © 2010 by Sharon Parq Associates, Inc. Reprinted by permission. Thousands of free Microsoft Excel tips can be found online at <http://excel.tips.net>.

Changing the Size of a Drawing Object

You already know that you can use the Drawing toolbar to add graphic objects to your Excel worksheet. As you create and refine your drawings, there will doubtless be times when you need to change the size of objects. You can change the size of most objects by following these steps:

1. Select the Pointer tool from the Drawing toolbar.
2. Point to the object whose size you want to change, and then select it by clicking the mouse button. Excel displays small boxes called handles around the object.
3. Point to one of the handles, click on it, and hold down the mouse button.
4. Drag the mouse. The size of the object will change as you move the mouse.
5. Release the mouse button when the object is the desired size.

Understanding Underlines

There are several different types of underlines you can use in Excel. Underlining of information within cells is handled by choosing Cells from the Format menu, whereupon the Format Cells dialog box is displayed; you should make sure the Font tab is displayed.

In the Underline box, in the lower-left corner, you can select any of five different underline types.

Underline Type	Meaning
None	Removes any underlining from the cell contents.
Single	Adds a single underline, the entire width of the cell contents.
Double	Adds a double-line underline, the entire width of the cell contents.
Single Accounting	Same as the Single underline, except it is moved downward just a bit.
Double Accounting	Same as the Double underline, except it is moved downward just a bit.

Reviews Editor's Corner

Products Available for Review

The NOCCC regularly receives copies of books and software from vendors 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. You can pick up the product in the lobby of Irvine Hall between 9 A.M. and Noon 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 to 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 page 3.

Boxed Programs and CDs

Norton Internet Security 2011 – Symantec's premier protection suite for viruses, spyware, spam. MSRP=\$70.

Snagit 9.1 – TechSmith's premier screen-capture utility with lots of "bells & whistles" for every computerists level. MSRP=\$50. (latest version is 10.)

Books

Operating Systems

New: Degunking Windows 7 – Get your Windows 7 PC running quickly & efficiently. From McGraw-Hill MSRP=\$25.

Office & Home Programs

New: How to Do Everything – Adobe Acrobat X – How to create, secure, optimize, & distribute PDFs. From McGraw-Hill. MSRP=\$25.

New: Microsoft Access 2010 Programmer's Reference – This 1200-page reference book tells you everything you need to know about the latest Access database program. MSRP=\$45.

October 2011

Digital Photography & Design

New: The Portrait Photography Course – Principles, practices, & techniques. By Mark Jenkison, from Peachpit Press. MSRP=\$40.

New: Professional Portrait Retouching Techniques for Photographers using Photoshop – Learn how the pros do it. By Scott Kelby, from New Riders. MSRP=\$50.

New: Canon PowerShot G12 – From snapshots to great shots by Jeff Carlson from Peachpit Press. MSRP=\$25.

New: The Photoshop Elements 9 Book for Digital Photographers – New Riders book by Scott Kelby & Matt Kloskowski. MSRP=\$50.

New: Adobe Real World Photoshop CS5 for Photographers – From Peachpit Press, MSRP=\$60.

New: Adobe InDesign CS5 Classroom in a Book – The official training workbook from Adobe Systems. Includes a CD. From AdobePress. MSRP=\$55.

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.

Social Media

New: Facebook, the Missing Manual, 3rd Ed. – The latest guide to using this online social web site from O'Reilly authored by E.A. Vander Veer. MSRP=\$20.

New: Mining the Social Web – Learn how to combine social web data, analysis techniques, and visualization to help find what you're looking for in the social haystack. By Matthew Russell from O'Reilly. MSRP=\$40.

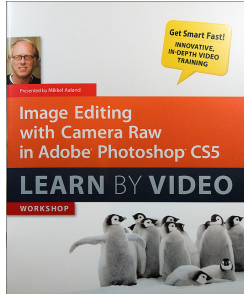
6 smart ways to keep in touch online

<http://www.microsoft.com/athome/email/keep-intouch.aspx>

"We now have more ways to stay connected online than we ever imagined when email first entered our lives. With the right tools and know-how, you can stay tuned in to your friends, family, and colleagues—no matter how different your time zones, schedules, and pace of life."

Image Editing with Camera Raw in Adobe Photoshop CS5

Reviewed by: *Larry Klees, NOCCC*



Learn by Video Workshop from Mikkel Aaland: Photographer, Bestselling Author, Educator.

Anyone who has known me for a while knows that I am something of a fanatic when it comes to the topic of taking digital photographs in Camera RAW format. As time has gone on, Adobe has developed its own program for editing Camera RAW files. While the

Adobe Camera RAW (ACR) program is designed to function as a plug-in for Photoshop and some other programs, the fact is that by itself, ACR is more powerful than many of the photo-editing programs on the market today.

ACR can rotate images (in fractional degrees), crop, adjust exposure, contrast, color, and white balance, sharpen, remove noise, remove redevye, remove spots, re-sample, correct for lens aberrations, and perform many other functions. It does all of this without altering the original file and it makes maximum use of all of the raw information captured by the camera. You then can save the edited file or you can pass it on to Photoshop for even more editing. All of this power comes at the price of a steep learning curve.

Even though Adobe's instructions are better than average, I truly welcomed this Video Workshop. Mikkel Aaland is a professional photographer (he actually earns a living at it) and he also happens to be expert at explaining all of the arcane whys & wherefores to make ACR easy to use in a highly productive fashion.

The workshop consists of a video disk and a 36-page booklet that can often serve as a reference when you want a quick refresher. Lessons are broken down into convenient videos of 2 – 10 minutes each. These are listed in a table of contents. Also the main view screen has previous video and next video buttons to make navigation a breeze.

You can watch the lessons in any order you choose, but the organization is well suited to do them in order.

The first couple of lessons give an overview of the sections of the program. Then each section has its own overview followed by lucid instructions on the use of each tool or feature.

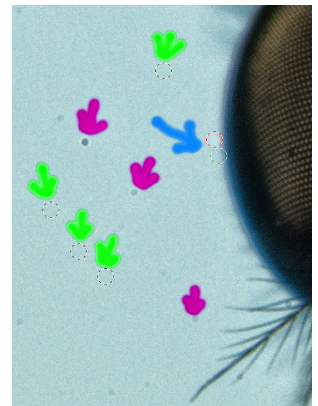
For Mac or Windows computers, there is also a "Watch-and-Work" mode that allows you to run the videos side by side while you work in your own copy of Photoshop RAW. The photo below is of my computer screen and one of my own pictures in Adobe Bridge with workshop "Watch-and-Work" section outlined in magenta. You can make your own adjustments as you follow the video. The images used in the lessons are on the disk so you can follow along exactly with the lessons. Every so often you are given the opportunity to do a self test of your progress. At the top of the lesson screen are "Training Content" "Bookmarks,"

"Help," "Links," and "Search" tabs. At the bottom of the lesson screen is a complete set of video playback, volume controls and the like.



At appropriate times the lessons clearly explain things like the difference between hosting RAW in Photoshop or in Bridge. It tells how to do each or both, how to quickly check the screen and see which is acting as host, what the differences are between them, and why you would prefer to host RAW in Bridge most of the time. (It takes years of experience to put that information together and that information will save you hours of work.)

One of my favorite lessons is on spot removal. Digital cameras with inter-changeable lenses get dirt on their sensors. In most photos you never notice it. Often, however, in shots with clear skies or in macro shots, this dirt can be quite noticeable. In this photo of a fly's eye you can see numerous bits of such dirt. Three of them are indicated by the magenta arrows. Four more that have been removed by the powerful spot removal tool in ACR are indicated by (top & bottom) green arrows. Now, note the pair of circles indicated by the blue arrow on the right. The computer's mouse was clicked on a dirt spot and ACR used the pixels contained in the lower circle to erase the dirt spot in the upper circle. It works great, but it can require thirty minutes to get them all. Adobe's instructions are not at all clear on the topic; but the "Image Editing with Camera Raw" workshop makes it quite clear how to save these settings to automatically remove the spots from other images. For each time you repeat the dirt removal process you save 10 — 30 minutes of work!



The lessons point out short cut keys where appropriate.

In another useful example, the workbook lessons teach you how to work around ACR's requirement to toggle back and forth to compare the original and edited version of the image. The lessons show how to do a side-by-side comparison of the original and edited versions of the image.

continued

Image Editing *continued from page 12*

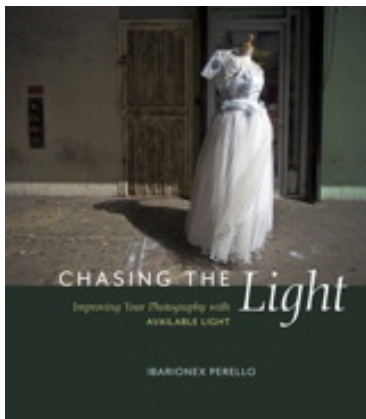
One more small example of what this workshop has taught me (that has nothing to do with Photoshop by the way) is how to use ACR to turn masses of RAW files into 16-bit-per-color TIF files for use in a Focus Stacking Program. All those whys & wherefores not only showed me how to do it, but it works in the background while I'm doing other things.

I have only mentioned a few of the lessons. There are 44 in all. In short, I think these lessons are terrific!

Published by Video2brain/Peachpit Press. It's list price: \$34.99 but is available for \$26.59 from Amazon.com.

Chasing the Light: Improving Your Photography with Available Light

Reviewed by: John Krill, NOCCC



My first camera was a Box type camera that took 12 pictures and, when done, you inserted \$1.00 into the camera and mailed it in to get processed and another roll put into the camera. That was 1951. In 1958 my Dad, tired of me using his Kodak 35, took me down to Thrifty Drug and with a \$20.00 loan I purchased a Kodak Pony 135 camera.

With that camera I learned everything I ever needed to know about taking photos: Exposure, focus, and depth-of-field. I learned how the shutter and the aperture were related. I used Kodak Tri-X black and white film (B/W.) Later my Dad taught me to develop the film and to make contact sheets of my photos.

Why am I telling you this? Because there weren't all that many 'How To' books in those days and who had the money to buy them anyway? But, there were some great photo-magazines and then there were those two great weeklies, Life and Look. 'Learn by Example' was how most of my generation learned photography.

Most of my work was done using B/W film. Color was expensive and, at times, difficult to use. Lighting conditions had to be perfect or you needed to carry all kinds of special color correction filters. Color was too much trouble.

All was good and uncomplicated in the film world of B/W photography. Then came DIGITAL. Everything changed.

October 2011

No longer did we see images or photos in shades of gray but in full color. This meant learning to see all over again. Color could and sometimes did dominate the photo. In some cases this was good but most times it wasn't. And I didn't have a good book to get me started in the right direction. Trial and error. Over and over again.

'That's why 'Chasing the Light' is important. It gets you started in the right direction. This book is all about LIGHT and Color. Light? Yes light. I cannot begin to tell you how many times I've seen someone trying to get a good photo and never taking advantage of the Light or even knowing what the Light was doing to their photo.

Chasing the Light' is one of the best books I've seen in a long time that will get a beginning photographer started in the right direction. And, for the rest of us, it will also help and give inspiration. You never stop learning.

For beginning digital photographers, the first five chapters must be done slowly and completely. The first five chapters (1. Beginning To See, 2. The Elements of Exposure, 3. The Camera, the Exposure, and You, 4. The Color of Light: White Balance, and 5. Building visually ;) should be understood completely before going on to the rest of the book. Go out and take photos as you progress through each chapter.

Once through those first five chapters you can then read chapters 6 thru 11 in any order you want. If your interest is portraits then Chapter 6 is next for you. But you may have other interests such as landscapes (Chapter 8) or street photography (Chapter 9.) There's even a chapter on getting B/W photos from your digital camera (Chapter 10.)

Throughout the book the author uses his own photos as examples. He even has photos that were not completely to his liking but were the best he could get considering the working conditions. The author tries to show that it's best to get the best image in the camera and not rely on Photoshop to do it for you. The author uses several different digital cameras to get the photos and makes a point that it isn't the camera but the photographer that makes the difference. Understanding Light and how it affects your photos will greatly enhance your images.

If you do purchase the book, I recommend you read the last chapter, The Transformative Power of Light, first. And then read it again after reading those first five chapters and then again when you get through the whole book.

Remember, no book is the end-all answer to learning photography, but 'Chasing the Light' is an excellent start. Yes, this book is best for beginners but long-time photographers, such as me, will gain some insight from this book.

Author: Ibarionex Perello; Publisher: New Riders

Pages: 259, Chapters: 12

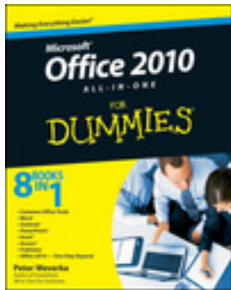
List Price: \$44.99. The book is available at amazon.com for about \$27: <http://www.amazon.com/Chasing-Light-Improving-Photography-Available/dp/0321752503>

Microsoft Office 2010 All – In – One for Dummies

Reviewed by Anson Chapman, NOCCC

This is one of the many Dummies books published by Wiley. It is large (816 pages) and is supposedly eight books in one and covers the following:

- Book 1 - Common Office Tools
- Book 2 - Word
- Book 3 - Outlook
- Book 4 - PowerPoint
- Book 5 - Excel
- Book 6 - Access
- Book 7 - Publisher
- Book 8 - Office 2010 – One Step Beyond



I have a natural bias against things (and people) that tend to disrespect the intelligence of others so “Dummies” books generally rub me the wrong way.

That being said, the book does offer some insight into Office 2010, unfortunately not in any way useful for an experienced user. It is essentially a somewhat friendlier version of a user’s manual for each of the office components.

Office 2010 actually consists of three suites: Office Home and Student, Office Home and Business and Office Professional none of which (and the differences between them) is mentioned in the book at all. Additionally the Office One-Note component and clip manager which is a part of all three suites is barely mentioned. Access can also be purchased separately from other Office components, a fact also not detailed.

The book is divided into several so-called smaller “books” each of which covers a topic such as Excel, Word or Access. The whole book has a small “Quick: table of contents as well as a larger detailed one covering each sub-book. Additionally each sub-book also contains a table of contents for the sub-book. There is also a large index table at the back of the book.

An analysis of each of the “Books” shows that the page layout is reasonable with bookmarks for each Book and Chapter of a book indexed and displayed on each page as well as good use of pictures, labels and some definitions. Each sub-book is essentially a separate entity except for Book 8 which tries to tie things together. What these books consist of are a series of simple examples showing the reader how to do various things.

One of the good things about the books is the elaborate use of icons, images, and the like and the www.dummies.com web site does contain many useful videos, examples, how-to articles and the like.

However, unless you do not have any knowledge / skill in Microsoft Office, then do not buy this book as an experienced user should be able to do what the book says without any need for it. The only section that gives some advanced knowledge is Book 8 and that is limited.

That being said as a reference for novices it does have some value. The book is authored by Peter Weverka; ISBN 978-0-470-49748-7. List price is \$35, but available at amazon.com for about \$20 with free shipping. For more information go to: <http://www.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-0470497483.html>

Touch Mouse for Windows 7 and 8

by Tony Loechner



The Microsoft Touch Mouse is designed specifically for Windows 7. It carries a suggested retail price of \$79.95, but you can get one from an online retailer for anywhere from \$60 to \$65.

The surface of the Touch Mouse is populated with a multitude of sensors that are designed to track movement of your fingers and allow you to take advantage of Windows 7’s touch-based, user interface features. You can use one-, two-, and three-finger gestures.

The initial mouse driver will provide you with only basic functionality until you install the IntelliPoint 8.2 software, which is required for full functionality.

The system works best if the USB transceiver and mouse are in a fairly direct line of sight. For those with a tower system under the desk, the package includes a 60-inch USB cable extension with a Velcro attachment on the end to attach the USB jack and transceiver to something on top of your desk.

The Touch Mouse is smaller than a standard mouse, and it fits in the palm of your hand. It is bit heavier than a standard mouse.

Are you already using the Touch Mouse? If so, how has your experience been? If you want to see the Touch Mouse in action, check out CNET’s Video Review.

Qualifying for free shipping from the online merchants is becoming more difficult, partly because of high oil prices. To save money, try doing an Internet search for “Promo Code” and the store’s name to see if there are any discounts or promotions available.

RoboForm

Review by Jim Thornton, Member, Channel Islands PCUG, CA
August 2011 issue, The Outer Edge, www.cipcug.org
Jasthorn (at) gmail.com

RoboForm is one of my favorite software programs as it helps me very quickly log into secured websites. My listings of these websites include airlines, email, financial, medical, stores, travel, etc., and I currently have more than 50 of these secured websites listed.

The program is very easy to use. For example, first open Internet Explorer, and then click on one of its little toolbars titled RoboForm and a list of several choices appears titled Logins, Identities, and Soft Notes. While I mentioned Internet Explorer, RoboForm also works equally as well with Firefox, Safari, Chrome, and many more browsers. Next, I click on Logins and then click again on the listed secured website that I want to enter. Next, RoboForm automatically redirects Internet Explorer to the website that I selected and when the login website appears, RoboForm automatically fills in my name and password, and I'm immediately logged into the secured website with unrestricted abilities.

Once you have the program installed, when you go to a new secured website and fill in your user name and password and click on Enter, RoboForm will automatically add the information, including the website address, to your list of Logins.

If you need a new password, RoboForm will generate a highly secure password. On the Login list in RoboForm, the secured websites are listed alphabetically and you can easily rename any listing.

Other RoboForm features include SafeNotes, which securely stores other information of your choice. For example, some banks will frequently ask you for your wife's favorite color, your first dog's name, etc., to ensure that you are the secured party attempting to access your bank account, etc. You can securely store this information in SafeNotes.

RoboForm's options under Logins include Edit, New, and Print List. Under Identities are Edit, New, and Fill Empty Fields Only. SafeNotes includes Edit, New, Print to New, and Print Last. Numerous other choices include Fill Forms, Save Forms, Fields — Reset, Sat, and Clear, Profiles — Default, New, Date, Name, Refresh Fields, Explorer, Tools — Edit Identify, Edit Password, Edit SafeNotes, Search Fields, Taskbar Icon, Generate Password, and Sign RoboForm data, and Options — Help.

I've used RoboForm for numerous years in Windows XP, Windows Me, Windows 2000, Windows Vista, and now Windows 7. RoboForm's website is www.roboform.com, and there are three versions of RoboForm available: Desktop, Everywhere, and 2Go.

Desktop provides high security and restricts the access to RoboForm from only one computer. Everywhere allows you to access RoboForm from numerous computers.

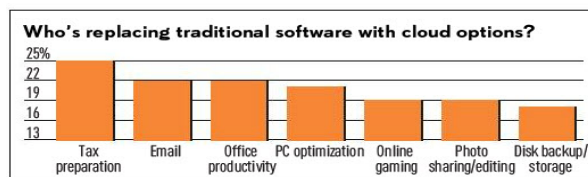
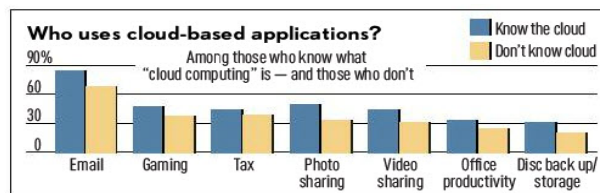
2Go works using a portable USB drive, so that you can take your RoboForm information and use it on many computers while traveling on business or on vacation.

RoboForm runs in numerous versions of Internet Explorer, including versions 6, 7, 8, and 9 but only on 32-bit versions and not the 64-bit versions. There is a free version of RoboForm that is limited to only 10 logins. For more than 10 logins, the Everywhere version is available for \$20 per year, and the Desktop version is \$30. The current version, which is version 6.10.2.0, was introduced earlier this year.

When you install RoboForm for the first time, you will be asked to create a master password, which protects all of your secured data in your Logins, Identities, and SafeNotes. This prevents anyone else who has access to your computer from seeing or copying this information. If you prefer, you can eliminate this protection and allow anyone to access all of your important information.

Most People Use Cloud, Few 'Get It'

Only 22% of U.S. consumers surveyed are familiar with the term "cloud computing." But 76% actually used a cloud service in the last year. These are just software applications or processes accessed from the Internet.



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 regularly sent copies of books and software by the publishers for review by 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

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.

Construction at Chapman

Construction is being done on Argyros Hall and the some paths near it, including some from the Lastinger Parking Structure, may be blocked. Be careful; Sunday is a workday for the construction crew; in May, a large crane was lifting things to the upper floors. More information is available at the Chapman web site www.chapman.edu/about/community/construction/. This site includes links to two webcams that show the construction.

For construction and campus event questions, please call the Community Hotline at (714) 744-7880.

Meeting Information

The NOCCC meetings are 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. (See M on map below.)

On Sundays, Inland Empire Orange County Line train 857 leaves San Bernardino destined for Orange County at 7:30 am. Train 859 leaves at 8:55 am. For the return trip, train 858 leaves nearby Orange Metrolink at 3:55 pm and train 860 leaves at 5:35 pm. The Metrolink station is four-and-a-half blocks from Chapman University. For specifics regarding your trip, check the web site: <http://www.metro-linktrains.com> or call 1-800-371-5465.



September 2011 Raffle Winners

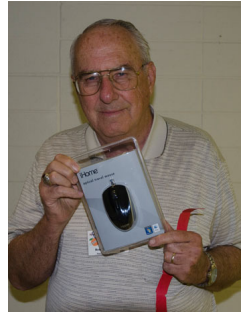
Photos by John Krill, NOCCC



Barth Bybee
USB2 connector



John Carlson
Learn to solder kit



Bob Van Horn
Optical travel mouse



Terry Dickson
6ft. USB I/O cable



Richard Miller
Seagate 500GB SATA HD



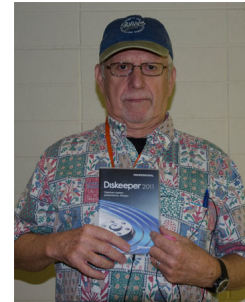
Gerry Resch
19-inch LED monitor



Richard Miller
Digital Multimeter



Prentiss Robinson
Wireless router



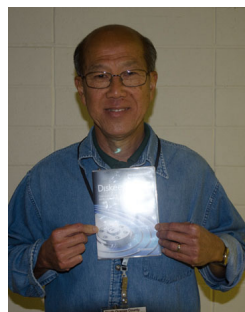
Barth Bybee
Diskeeper Pro software



Bob Van Horn
6ft. USB I/O cable



John Szary
USB2 connector



Giok Tan
Diskeeper Pro software

Thanks to Our Members Who Renewed in August 2011

- Belinda De La Libertad
- Terry Dickson
- Eugene Jovin, Jr.
- Stephen Kilmer
- Ted Littman
- Tom Miller
- Robert Okimoto
- Dino Panicacci
- Jim Sanders
- Walter Srebnik

Thanks to Our New Members Who Joined in August 2011

- Mel Inamine
- Robert Olinskas

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).

Board Meeting Minutes September 5, 2011

The NOCCC Board held its meeting at President Jim Sanders' residence on Monday, September 5, 2011.

All Board members attended except Dr. Don Armstrong. The Vice President's position is open.

Secretary's Report: given by Ted Littman. The Board Meeting Minutes of the August 8 Board Meeting published in the September 2011 Orange Bytes was motioned for approval, seconded, and approved by all in attendance. It was noted that attribution of the Main Meeting report in the Bytes on p. 8 to Ben Lochtenbergh was incorrect. The report was, in fact, written by Steven Breitbart.

Treasurer's Report: given by John Heenan. Net income for club shirts, coffee, cookies, and donuts was -\$2.28. The Raffle earned \$87; cost of the prizes was not available. Dues received was \$420.

Memberships: As of August 1: Regular (1-yr.) = 155, Regular (3-yr.) = 11, Family = 7, Newsletter = 12; Total of 185 Members, which is an increase of 1 from the previous month. In August, there were 10 member renewals and 2 new members. The Board accepted the Treasurer's report.

Opening & Closing: The coffee was prepared by Richard Miller. Bob Love got the donuts and cookies. The cables in Science 127 were locked in the cabinet so the SIG meeting was moved to 131A.

Main Meeting: The one-hour presentation by Jeff Medina of Diskeeper Corporation was attended by about 35 people. Interest appeared high and a lot of questions were asked. Jeff offered a 10% discount to attendees purchasing their defragmentation software. He also provided 2 copies of the Pro version for our raffles.

Programs: The next Main Meeting is Sunday, October 2nd, followed by the BOD meeting on Monday, October 3rd at the President's residence. We do not have a firm commitment for a speaker next month. Jim and others will explore several possibilities.

Public Relations: Dr. Pat wrote an article about NOCCC for the Mobile Home News. Two people attended the Sunday meeting as a result.

Publications & Reviews: given by Ted Littman. One software program and one book were taken for review at the meeting on Sunday. One book review was received and will be rewritten to expand content. Four reviews are due this month. The September newsletter published one review by an NOCCC member. BOD members and SIG leaders were emailed the calendar for production of the October newsletter.

Membership: Ben noted that his email to BOD members inviting them to join him on "Google Plus" did not receive any responses. Several members indicated that they would take another look.

Raffles: given by Gerry Resch. Ticket sales brought in \$87. An LCD monitor donated by OmniTech was used in the raffle in place of the computer which will be held over until October. Jim Sanders has purchased several items for the next raffle and Ted will add two software programs. John Heenan reported on raffle sales and income for the period July 2009 through June 2010. Cost of raffle prizes was \$349.60 and ticket sales brought in \$721 for a net income of \$371.40.

SIGs: The Understanding Operating Systems SIG was not held due to the absence of the SIG leader. A new SIG was started in September by Dr. Patricia Adelekan on "all things having to do with the Internet and computing." It was attended by 7. Attendees expressed interest in a variety of topics including social networking, cloud computing, what's new in software and electronics, and searching the Internet. Pat contacted several potential speakers to address SIG attendees. Jim had 6 people in his first SIG on building a PC and 35 in his second one on PC Q&A.

New Business: Ted reported that one NOCCC member will be attending the CES convention in Las Vegas and will try to procure hardware and software items for us. He was given some of the NOCCC business cards to distribute.

Pat, Ben, and Richard will make a recommendation on using computers obtained from OmniTech as incentive prizes in special raffles for new members.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

NOCCC Bylaws

The club's Bylaws are available at our website:
www.noccc.org/bylaws/

Orange Bytes in Color and More at the NOCCC Website. Webmaster Needed!

By Steven Breitbart, NOCCC

Jim Sanders, the NOCCC President, has been updating the NOCCC web site. 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, in color and with 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>.

SIG Meeting Reports

Beginner's Digital Photography

By John Krill, SIG Leader



NEW Room Science 131A. We have moved our meeting location from Science 127 to Science 131A. To repeat, we will be meeting in Science 131A from now on. Science 131A is next door to Science 127. Clear?

Editing your photos with Adobe Photoshop Elements.

I have been absent in talking about editing your photos and today we started talking about using Adobe Photoshop Elements. We didn't get far. Ended up taking about merging photos and doing a demonstration of Photomerge. The resulting merged photo is on my SIG blog. For details read on.

Elements can't read my RAW files.

I attempted to open a RAW file from my camera, a Nikon D5100, and Elements wouldn't open the file. The reason for this is the RAW editor provided with Elements doesn't have data on my camera's RAW file format. I will have to go to Adobe Support and download the latest RAW editor data for Elements.

Can you combine files into one large image?

Yes you can. This is called Photomerge and Photoshop and Elements will do this easily. As an example I stepped outside and took a group of photos and merged them into one picture.

Problem one was Elements not having the latest information for the RAW files that my camera uses. To overcome this problem I converted the RAW files to JPEG. I needed to cheat because I used Adobe Lightroom to do this.

I then used the created JPEG files to create the photomerge image.

The process is easy as File New Photomerge Panorama. You input the photos for the merge and select the type of Photomerge you want to do. I suggest you use Auto. It works.

A few suggestions for taking the photos for your Photomerge. Shoot vertical. Have each preceding photo overlap the previous by half. Keep the camera parallel to the subject. Use a telephoto focal length or try to keep you focal length as narrow as possible.

The photo was made from eight JPEG images. I also didn't follow my own rules. I used 27mm focal length (35mm camera) and the wide angle focal length resulted in the distortion you see. You can view the photo at our SIG Blog. The URL address is listed at the end of the report.

The resulting Photomerge file will be in TIFF format and probably large. You can convert this file to JPEG and then Save it.

You will need to flatten the Image Layer Flatten Image. Then you can save it as JPEG.

If I have a large image, how can I send it via e-mail?

If you need to keep the original size of the image, then you should use one of the WEB-based apps like Adobe's SendNow to transfer the file. I reviewed these apps in an earlier post.

If you just need to send an image that is of small size, the easiest way is to do this in Windows Explorer. In Windows Explorer, right-click the image or images you want to e-mail and select Send To. Under the Send To menu select Mail Recipient. Your e-mail program will then take over and all you need to do is to input the recipients e-mail address.

Standard stuff that is always in this report

This report should be up on the SIG's blog. I may go into greater detail and I will include screen shots as well.

I've been lax in posting to the blog. I hope to correct this. Because our meetings are once a month and last for only an hour and a half, there is much more I can cover with the blog.

If you have a special request for information regarding digital photography, let me know. E-mail me using the address listed below.

Check out the SIG Blog for other information and maybe info on what we will discuss at the next meeting.

As always we will answer any and all questions.

If you have a special request for information regarding digital photography let me know. E-mail me using the address listed below.

We had seven members attend our SIG meeting.

See you at the next meeting.

Note: I am using a new Web location for the photos I take at the meeting. I now upload the photos I take to Microsoft SkyDrive. A link will be put here every month to the folder with that month's photos.

SkyDrive Photos: <https://skydrive.live.com/redir.aspx?cid=64f55afd7868d4fb&page=play&resid=64F55AFD7868D4FB!179>

PS: I know it's a LONG link and if you go to the NOCCC web site you can find the clickable link in the Beginners Digital Photography SIG report.

SIG Blog: <http://nocccbphotosig.wordpress.com/>

Picasa Photos: <http://picasaweb.google.com/noccc.bgphotosig>

Email: noccc.bgphotosig@gmail.com

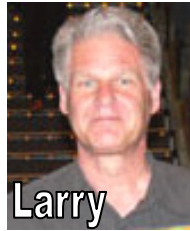
This SIG meets in Science 131A at 9:00 a.m.

Advanced Digital Photography

By Larry Klees, SIG Leader

Last Month

The September meeting was to have been about a technique to improve panorama shots by finding the nodal point in a lens and placing it over the center of a tripod. This solves alignment problems caused by parallax when the camera is pivoted on a tripod.



Instead we discussed other facets of panorama shots. These included how to make stitches between adjacent shots either at a part of the image with a hard edge like the side of a tree trunk or where two walls of a building join. Such places are easy to fit together and minor mismatches in color or brightness are not noticeable. Another good place to stitch two adjacent photos together is in a patch of clear sky or grassy hill, etc. Such places allow a variegated mask to be applied so that one photo can gradually blend into the other. Either method makes the stitches invisible.

We also discussed the benefits of rotating your camera to the portrait position for taking the usual horizontal panorama. This allows extra cropping room when the time comes to stitch the shots together. You can take as many shots as required to cover the angle of panorama you like and you get the equivalent of many more mega-pixels in the finished image.

There are usually several benefits to using a telephoto lens rather than a wide angle lens to shoot panoramas. If you like that scenic mountain range and use a telephoto lens, you can take as many shots as required to get the whole range into the panorama and the mountains will look great. If, on the other hand, you took few shots with a wide angle lens, the mountains would be too small to see in the final panorama. Also, wide angle lenses tend to have a considerable amount of barrel distortion. This can make the individual shots more difficult to stitch together. Distortion is rarely a problem when stitching telephoto shots together.

At the October meeting

There are a few occasions, especially when shooting panoramas, that it is important for the center post of the tripod to be plumb or vertical. There will be a discussion of why this is important and a demonstration of a very easy way to do this otherwise tricky chore.

This SIG meets in Science 131A at 10:30 a.m.

I'm a great believer in luck, and I find
the harder I work the more I have of it.

Thomas Jefferson

Right Click Surprises – Windows XP

By Warner Mach, Editor, SouthEastern Michigan Computer Organization
August 2011 issue, SEMCO DATA BUS; www.semco.org;
Machw48185 (at) yahoo.com

I have recently become familiar with some handy uses of the mouse right-click that are worth mentioning.

1. Right click on “Start” brings up a menu that lets you select Microsoft “explorer” and “search.” This can be a quick way to get at those utilities.
2. If you want to use a program other than the default in conjunction with a file, then right click on the file and go to “open with.” I sometimes use this with pdf files. My default for pdf files is “Nitro” but it does not have a search function, so I will sometimes switch to “Adobe Reader” if I want to use the search.
3. In the tray at the bottom of the screen is an icon that looks like a screen with radiation coming from it. Left click tells the status of your Wi-Fi connection. Right click gives options of disable/status/repair. I was at a location where I appeared to be connected properly, but all of my browsers were unable to reach any URL. Someone assisted me by clicking on “repair” and I could watch the system rework my connection and make it better. I was dazzled.
4. The most important time-saver of all: If you are playing solitaire and you reach the point where you have won the game and it is just a matter of moving all the cards to the top row, then right-click on one of the cards in the bottom row and the system will do the remaining work for you.

Orange County Register Technology Articles

<http://www.ocregister.com/sections/news/technology/>

<http://www.ocregister.com/search/?q=weekly+computing+column&site=ocregister&fstype=&csort=newest&ctype=&page=&filter=p>

Our local newspaper regularly prints articles on computing and other technologies that are available free at its web site.

Linux Desktop & Administrator

By Bob Ray, SIG Leader

Our last meeting was basically a carbon copy of the month before. We reviewed many of the newest features of the upcoming new release of Ubuntu 11.10. Many of the features tested revealed bugs and errors, which is expected in the “Beta” test versions we were using.



We also broke out our group meeting into many separate small working groups experimenting in difference areas and releases and features of Linux etc.

On the Agenda for next month will again be more of the same, using “updated” Beta releases of Ubuntu and Fedora. Also, we might experiment a little in the area of the Linux Debian Distribution 6.1.a. Plus, I expect to do some demonstrations of the command line terminal usage

These SIGs meet in Science 131 at 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Microsoft Tips

How to delete unwanted files and programs

<http://www.microsoft.com/athome/setup/cleansweep.aspx>

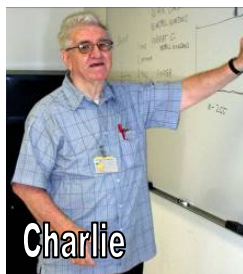
“Ever wonder how to clean out your computer? Many people do, because it’s not unusual to have your PC’s hard disk filled with games and other programs you no longer need. In fact, some technology analysts believe that we use less than 10 percent of the programs installed on our computers. The instructions here describe how to safely—and easily—uninstall old or unused programs and remove files from your Windows-based computer.”

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.



Come, Care, and Share

By Dr. Pat Adelekan, SIG Leader

The first meeting of the Come, Care and Share SIG was very productive and informative. Seven members attended (9:00-10:30 a.m. in Science 109) I gave out an information sheet asking for name, address, phone numbers, email address, and what each member expected out of this unique SIG. The answers were varied and interesting: What is “cloud,” why use Facebook and the other Social Media (advantages); what is the difference between using the desktop computer and a laptop, and what are some Interest websites to access?



Part of the SIG’s time was used to get acquainted with one another. We learned new and interesting information about one another - that brought Ah’s and Oh No’s.

The next meeting will be a “hands-on” meeting where each member is encouraged to bring his or her computer and actually access a few of the Social Media sites. We will spend some time discussing the pros and cons of social media and comparing the different kinds. We will also discuss the issue of “clouds.”

We welcome members and non-members of all ages, cultures, and interests. Come with an open mind and study up on social media before the SIG meets. Bring your ideas and experiences and share them with us.

See you then!!! Dr. Pat Adelekan, SIG Leader & NOCCC Director. 714-628-9844. p_adelekan@yahoo.com
P.S. Please bring your computers.

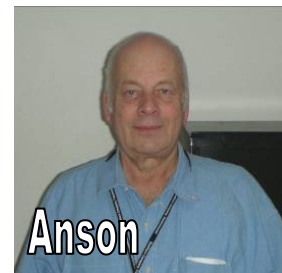
No cost to visit and share. NOCCC membership is available for a nominal fee and we Welcome potential Presenters for the Main Meeting at 2:00 p.m.

This SIG meets in Science 109 at 10:39:00 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.

PC Q&A

By Jim Sanders, SIG Leader



The attendance at the September “build-a-computer” SIG was sparse without all the long-weekend Labor holiday vacationers. So, not as much progress as I had hoped for occurred. We really do need for you to bring in your list of proposed parts and ideas to make this exercise work well. Dennis Martin said he really likes the Cubitek case with the red interior. After some discussion of the merits of that case as compared to a Lian-Li aluminum case, he decided that he wanted the new computer I am building for him to use that case. Which reminds me, someone pointed out that I had mislabeled one of the features of that case. There are a couple of rubber grommets in the back of the case which I had labeled “cable grommets” (which they could be). However, the use that they are intended for is for the two liquid cooling hoses that go to the external radiator for that kind of cooling system. Some of the over-clocked high-end gaming systems have a CPU that is generating 140 watts of heat and one or more video cards that generate 150-200 watts of heat. For that kind of system, air cooling with fans is just not good enough. Conducting that much heat outside of the case before it is dissipated is both more efficient and quieter.

The Cubitek case is a full tower case with all kinds of drive bays and lots of room to work in. A legitimate question is whether you need that much room for a system that meets your needs. The Shuttle small form factor computer that I bring to the meeting is maybe ¼ the size of the Cubitek case and is my favorite brand of “transportable” computer. Clearly it has some limitations. It only has one 5.25” bay for an optical drive and one exposed 3.5” inch bay for a floppy disk or whatever and one internal 3.5” bay for a hard disk drive. It only has two memory slots. It only has one PCIe x16 expansion slot (primarily for a video card that is more capable than the one built into the motherboard video) and only one PCI expansion slot. The book said I couldn’t use a CPU with more than a 95 watt power rating. So what does that really mean? For my Shuttle that meant that the biggest AMD CPU that I could use was a Quad-core 2.8GHz unit. The most memory that I could install was 8 GB of RAM. The biggest hard disk that I can install is a 3TeraByte SATA HDD. I could install a Blu-Ray burner that does all the Blu-Ray stuff as well as just about every variation of DVD+R-R, RW, RAM and CD, CD-RW known to man. Due to size and power limitations I can only install a mid-range+ video card and not all expansion cards that I might want (USB 3.0 for example) are available for the remaining PCI expansion slot. Still, a pretty decent system for most uses. Plus, I would point out that my unit is a 2+ year old model. Some of the newer models incorporate USB 3.0 on the motherboard and use the newer, faster CPUs that have the latest reduced feature size circuits.

In the regular PC Q&A SIG, one of the recurring topics was

raised by a first-time visitor to the meeting. She wanted to know if what she was paying for DSL service from AT&T was an OK deal. She said that she was paying \$40 a month for AT&T’s 6 mbps service. For the most part, DSL service is available in four tiers, 768 kbps, 1.5 mbps, 3.0 mbps, and 6.0 mbps (these are the designations on the AT &T website, other sites refer to the speed ranges as 3.0 Mbs=3.0 Mega bits per second). The standard or regular price for AT&T keeps changing, but it is something like \$14.95 for 768 mbps, \$24.95 for 1.5mbps, \$34.95 for 3.0 mbps, and \$40 for 6.0 mbps per month. I knew that DSLExtreme had been running a special offer for their DSL service, so I brought up their price page on the projector screen. Their offering is \$14.95 per month for the 768 kbps, and for the 1.5mbps, and for the 3.0 mbps while the 6.0 mbps service is \$19.95. Why anyone would opt for the slower speed for the same price is beyond me. There is a very small * that ties to a line that says this price is for NEW customers only and requires a 1-year contract. Still, a much better deal than the regular price at AT&T. In fairness, while writing this I checked the AT&T site and they are currently matching the DSLExtreme offer with the same little * on their offer.

In January of this year my AT&T special price ended and they started charging me \$24.95 a month for the 1.5 mbps service. I called my AT&T customer service number and got John which was really refreshing because he sounded like he had an IQ above 100 and I had been expecting the usual something closer to 70 IQ. I asked John if he knew of some good reason why I should continue paying nearly twice as much money for half the speed that I could get from DSLexteme. Other than the hassle of changing my e-mail address if I happened to be using jdoe@sbcglobal.net as my main email account (which I wasn’t) he agreed that there was no good reason not to switch. However, he said let me transfer you to the “save the account” department and see if they can do something for you. I was surprised and pleased that I was transferred to another rep that sounded like she was in the over 100 IQ range. After relating my story, she said that current AT&T offers didn’t allow her to match the \$14.95 for 3.0 mbps offering, but that she could give me the 6.0 mbps service for \$19.95 and would that be acceptable? I said yes, and she enter the change into her computer, gave me a work order number, and said it would take a few days to go into effect. A few days later my DSL was running at the higher speed. However, when I received my next bill I was being charged the full \$40 a month for the 6.0 mbps service. Unfortunately, when I called to find out why I was being charged \$40 instead of the \$20 that the work order number called for, my luck had run out. I was back to talking with one of the reps that has an IQ closer to 70. She could only suggest that the rebate programs had to go through a separate department and sometimes took another billing cycle before going into effect. When I asked what about the work order had anything to do with any rebate, I couldn’t get an answer. Long story short, 7 phone calls, 12 different reps, 4 months and I don’t know how many hours on the line, the problem was finally fixed. I hope if you try this “save the account” procedure with AT&T, you have better luck than I did. It could almost make you switch to cable.

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.

Buying a New Windows PC

By Dick Maybach

August 2011 issue, BCUG Bytes, Brookdale Computer Users Group, NJ; www.bcug.com; n2nd (at) charter.net

Sooner or later, you'll be looking for a replacement for your PC. What requirements must the hardware satisfy? This article will assume you will be using the Windows 7 operating system, although almost any PC that supports Win 7 will also support any Linux distribution. If you purchase your PC from a well-established vendor, it will arrive with Windows already installed and well checked-out. However, most of us keep our PCs for several years, which means that their performance should exceed what is needed today. Software vendors know that to sell new versions of their products, they must add new features, and these require more from the hardware. Moore's Law, which says that integrated circuit performance doubles every 18 months, has been true for 30 years and shows no signs of changing in the near future. As a consequence, six years from now, PCs will be eight times as powerful as today's models, and software designers know and depend on this. Buying a barely adequate PC means that it may not adequately run any software on it that it wasn't delivered with.

Let's begin by looking at what hardware Microsoft recommends as a minimum for Win 7.

- 1 gigahertz (GHz) or faster 32-bit (x86) or 64-bit processor
- 1 gigabyte (GB) RAM (32-bit) or 2 GB RAM (64-bit)
- 16 GB available hard disk space (32-bit) or 20 GB (64-bit)
- DirectX 9 graphics device with WDDM 1.0 or higher driver

We see that the first choice is between a 32-bit and a 64-bit processor. At present, most home applications are available only in 32-bit form, and while these will run in a 64-bit environment, doing so provides little advantage, except that 64-bit CPUs can handle more RAM. (See the RAM discussion below.) This will probably change, perhaps as early as the next release or so of Windows. You might be tempted to go for a 64-bit processor, thinking that you will be able to upgrade to Win 8 or 9; however, don't forget Moore's law. When the time comes to upgrade, you will certainly find that your PC is hopelessly underpowered. A 32-bit processor is the correct choice, unless you have special requirements.

Processor clock speeds can now exceed 3 GHz, but processor architecture also greatly affects its computing rate, with the result that clock speed is not as good an indication of computing power as in the past. Indeed, AMD has stopped using clock speed to characterize its processors. Manufacturers achieve higher performance by putting multiple processors (called cores) on a single chip. Get at least a 2-core processor and preferably a 4-core one. You may not see much advantage initially, but Windows slows down as the number of updates increase, and you probably will add new applications, which become more resource-hungry with each release. Note the important difference between multi-core processors and multiple processors. The former are single packages with more than one computing component; the latter are multiple packages, each with its own stacks, cache memory, and input/output. Only the Professional, Enterprise, and Ultimate versions of WIN 7 can make use of more than one processor, although all 32-bit versions of WIN 7 can use up to 32 cores.

Finally, consider getting a CPU with a Intel-VT or AMD-V supported and enabled. Without this, you can't run Windows Virtual PC, <https://www.microsoft.com/windows/virtual-pc/default.aspx>.

RAM is cheap, which means you should get as much as you can use. However, a 32-bit processor, can access a maximum 4 gigabytes of memory, and memory includes not only RAM, but also video RAM. If you have a high-end graphics controller with 1 GB of video RAM, your processor can use only up to 3 GB or RAM. Remember though, that many people use just a video controller on their motherboard, and such units use regular RAM for video storage. Once your system fills RAM with data, it begins to use swap space on your disk, and this drastically slows performance. I recommend you install as much RAM as your processor can address, 4 GB if you use an integrated video controller, perhaps somewhat less if you have a separate one. You can see a problem developing here; because the recommended RAM is at the limit of what the processor can see. To use more RAM, you have to use a 64-bit CPU and operating system, which is why I think that we will soon see a move to this configuration.

I recommend at least a 2000-GB (2-TB) hard disk. You do not want to run out of disk space and have to port all your software and data to a new one. Faced with this, most home PC users would decide to purchase a new PC. A competent PC shop can do this for you, and while the cost is reasonable, it will certainly exceed any savings you realized by skimping on the original disk size.

Most home PC users will find that the minimum video controller specified by Microsoft is adequate, but if you play action games or have specialized needs, such as photo editing or computer-aided design (CAD) you probably need a separate high performance video card, perhaps one compatible with DirectX 10 or 11. Graphics cards have faster processors than those mounted on motherboards and their video RAM is separate from that on the motherboard. You will have to do some research into the recommendations of your software vendors, not just for what you now use, but also for what you may soon install. However, replacing your video controller is much easier than changing disks, so you can upgrade later if needed. Pay attention to the connector for the display; although VGA is still common, many high-performance controllers use Digital Visual Interface (DVI), High-Definition Multimedia Interface (HDMI), or Display Port.

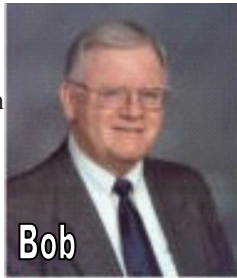
Besides the basics above, you also need some peripherals, and the most important of these is the display. You will probably follow the recommendations of the PC vendor, but consider getting a larger one than standard. As we age, our vision dims and blurs, and more visual real-estate allows us to magnify images, which makes computer time more comfortable. Be a little careful here, and be sure the display interface is compatible with your video controller. Of course, you need a read-write

DVD drive, and you may want to get one that handles Blue-Ray. If you have a pile of diskettes, you may also want a floppy drive, but the need for these is fading fast. Get as many USB ports as you can (version 2.0 or later), and at least two should be on the front panel. If you run out of ports, you can add USB hubs, but the result is a tangle of cables, power cords, and power supplies. (This will happen anyway, but try to avoid making it worse.) Keyboards and mice are cheap commodities and are easily upgraded. Current PCs use USB ports to communicate with keyboards and mice, so you may not be able to transfer these from your old system.

Visual Basic for Applications (Access/Excel VBA)

By Bob Dickson, SIG Leader

We were back on schedule at the Sept SIG session as promised we would be. In this session we looked at a project that has been in development on-and-off for sometime. It's one of those projects that never seems to get finished but always keeps getting better. This project is used to collect info on church congregations for a sales organization. The input form is modeled on the paper form currently in use. This project enables keeping contact data in the computer and retrieving it as desired / needed. Beyond the simple recording of data and making it easy to retrieve, the principle improvement is the ability to maintain notes by date/time. In the box on the form for notes, the operator clicks on the label 'Contact: Dates/Times and Notes' and the program enters today's date and time in the yellow box and also in the left margin of the first line in the big box at the bottom of the form labeled 'Notes:', enclosed in double left and right brackets. The operator then clicks the insertion point in the rightmost space within the double brackets and then starts entering any comments desired regarding this particular contact. This enables keeping a history of contact info. The Notes box will scroll up / down as needed to permit maintaining a considerable history of contact activity for the account / prospect. Any comment can be deleted by highlighting it with the cursor and deleting it.



Bob

A further improvement in the use of this form is the 'Call Again (Days / Date)' box. Click in this box and enter some number of days in the future that you wish to contact this account / prospect again. The number of days will be added to today's date and the calculated future contact date will be displayed in the box to the right of the Call Again box. This future date can be used to print a list of contacts to be contacted to assist in maintaining timely contacts with the account / prospect.

For a hardcopy of the contact, the entire form can be printed on a single 8 1/2 X 11 sheet of paper.

There is considerable data in each account and it's not always desired to simply print each form in its entirety. To permit selecting a subset of data, a Selection function is provided enabling the operator to select up to 20 fields from the list of 40 fields. For example, it may be desired to just print a list of names and addresses with phone numbers. A 'Select' button is provided on the lower left corner of the user form. Clicking on this button opens a Selection form.

The Selection form lists each field of data on the User form. The operator can click in up to 20 of the checkboxes to indicate the fields desired to be selected. When the checkboxes have been clicked, the operator clicks on the 'Select the data' button. This causes the indicated fields to be output to a worksheet. The program displays a message informing the operator the desired fields have been output to the worksheet. The operator then clicks the 'Clear All' button which clears the checkmarks from the boxes. Clicking the 'Close' button closes the form and returns to the main User Form. The operator can then go to the worksheet and use the regular Excel features to format and output the selected data.

The next phase of development in this project is to, on the main User form, replace the numerous buttons in the lower left corner of the form with a Menu Item that will list the operations on a drop down menu item. This will 'clean up' the user form and make it somewhat more intuitive for the operator (at least that's the plan). Another area of development will be select one or more records from the entire list before selecting the subset of fields. At this time, the subset of fields is from the entire file. And another area under consideration is the control of displaying the data in the Notes box. This box can hold a considerable quantity of data. When selected, it flows into a large area in the output worksheet, requiring the operator to spend time reformatting the data before attempting to print it. The goal is to permit the operator to specify the dimensions of the output sheet and have the program format the data to the physical dimensions of that sheet.

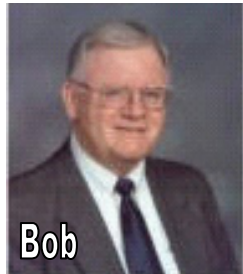
Fun stuff! This is better than Sudoku or crossword puzzles for keeping the grey matter percolating. Again, kudos to Richard for his excellent input on the various projects in Excel VBA. He's been irreplaceable in my growing understanding of Excel VBA over these past many months. Interested in VBA (Excel or Access)? Got an interesting project / program you want to brag about or some little problem that's holding up progress? Join us in Sci. 306 at 10:30 AM – Noon. Fill your coffee cup and buy a donut and come on up

This SIG meets in Science 306 at 10:30 a.m...

Orange Bytes

Microsoft Access

By Bob Dickson, SIG Leader



We had some ‘fun’ at the Sept session -- the kind of ‘fun’ that causes one to pull out your hair or utter loud (unprintable) sounds! We spent some considerable time trying to find the correct file on Helen’s PC. She worked at home keying in data to a standard Excel workbook for her Dolls project. Where was it? Amazing how this stuff can be ‘lost’ in that endless list of folders and files. OK, we finally found it. The data was to provide the input to the Dolls table. Helen was having some trouble with her version of the Access database program we worked on at the August session so, at my suggestion, she keyed the data into an Excel spreadsheet during the month. My task was to import the data in the spreadsheet into a table in the Access program. After some ‘playing around’ we managed to create a new Access database, and then imported the data from the Excel spreadsheet into the table to fill it. It is very easy to import/export data in Access from Excel. Because the import function uses the Access defaults, I will work on the table during the month to adjust each field to the specs that had been decided upon at the August session. We didn’t actually determine why Helen wasn’t able to key in data to the database we designed in August but I suspect it had to do with the fact that she’s running Access 2010 under XP and some security function operates differently from how it works in Access 2003. Anyhow, we got the database built and the table defined and populated. Helen will continue to take pictures of the dolls collection and enter data during the month of September.

We designed a switchboard form for the new database. Using the switchboard form is much easier than just having the operator clicking on functions or objects. Also, the switchboard allows better control of selecting options by the operator. The switchboard form will be revised to provide buttons for each form and report as each is developed over the coming months. Further development will be to provide the ability for the operator to select dolls by various characteristics, to sequence the output, and to provide expansion capabilities as possible new data about the dolls comes up.

Come up to Sci 306 at Noon – 1:30 PM. Share your knowledge or ask some questions. We’ll get out in time for you to get to the main meeting.



This SIG meets in Science 306 at Noon.

October 2011

Mobile Computing

Ben Lochtenbergh, SIG Leader



It was good to be back from vacation, having **skipped the August meeting**. I prepared a short PowerPoint Presentation for this month. A difference, I converted the Microsoft version to a Google Presentation version. No overhead projector was used this month, but instead the Google Presentation via Kaz’s HDTV and my Xoom tablet showed well to the attendees. I emailed the Microsoft version, as always, to those on the MC SIG email list, with a link to the Google (latest info) version on the Internet.

What I don’t like is the long URL needed to view the published version in the ‘cloud.’ I’m sure I can fix that in future Google Presentations, but all that takes time to learn/do, and that needs to be weighed against other priorities. One of our MC SIG members moved permanently to Seattle. He wrote that he enjoys the Presentations. I’ll keep him on the email list as a remote member.

One more thing about publishing presentations, **one advantage** by publishing via Google is that Android tablets/phones can now see the presentations too. Another advantage, Google doesn’t ask for money, as Microsoft does for Office.

Kaz Adachi told me/us, at the SIG meeting, that he downloaded an App on his Android tablet that can display Microsoft PowerPoint Presentations!! I couldn’t do that since day one of my phone and tablet. I plan to follow-up on that for next month.

NOCCC’s New SIG: Early for the MC SIG, I enjoyed the presentation by Dr. Patricia Adelekan.



Patricia at her inaugural 9:00 am SIG Science 109
Chapman University September 4, 2011
This SIG meets in Science 109 at 10:30 am.

From the Desk of the Membership Chairman

By Ben Lochtenbergh, bal@msn.com

Even though there has been a steady decline in overall membership throughout the last year or so, last month we actually **gained one in total membership**, as reported by our Treasurer John Heenan. Still we (me) are struggling, with what can be done to increase our membership's total number. Most important, it seems (to me) that we should be relevant to people using computers. Today that seems to be almost everyone, young and old. All this computer stuff takes time away from doing other things. In other words one needs to prioritize his/her time, and recognize (computer) opportunities when they come along. What is important to you?

Parking in the underground structure at the University still can be a challenge for NOCCC members and members who quit because of parking. To facilitate parking, we've made a video on YouTube for all to see. The movie star of this video is non-other than our own Treasurer John Heenan, purchasing a \$2 parking ticket with his credit card. The video is about 2 minutes long, file size 130 MB. Your download may take a few minutes, the upload took one hour, let me know if it worked for you, and how many minutes the download took. Click/type to view <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=969n0v5vyXA>

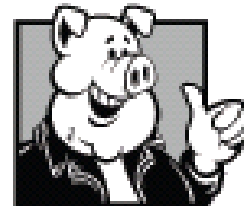


John putting parking ticket on dashboard

photograph via Motorola Xoom Android Tablet

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!



Free coffee & tea at the October meeting!

Donuts \$1/Each & Cookies \$.50/Each

No Freebies!

Put your dollars & coins in the collection can.

FREE AD SPACE

If you are an 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.

LIGAS

Microsystems

Custom systems built, Repair, Sales, Training

714-544-3589

jsanders@ligasmicro.com



News:

The campus restaurants in Argyros Forum are now open!

WOW is open Sunday 10:30 am to 8 pm.

Jamba Juice is open Sunday 10:00 am to 9:00 pm. There are other restaurants on campus, for more info click/type:

<http://www1.chapman.edu/dining/>



Your business card would look good here too!!

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.

Publication Information
 Orange Bytes is published monthly by:
 North Orange County Computer Club
 P.O. Box 3616, Orange, CA 92857

All opinions expressed herein are those of the individual authors only and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the NOCCC, its officers, Board of Directors, the Orange Bytes newsletter or its editors. The NOCCC does not guarantee the accuracy or the correctness of advertising or articles in the Orange Bytes, nor does the NOCCC intend to endorse, rate, or otherwise officially comment on products available. Therefore, the readers are cautioned to rely on opinions presented exclusively at their own risk.

Trademarks/Copyrights — The mention of names of products in this publication without trademark or copyright symbols does not imply that they are not so protected by law. All trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

Production — Orange Bytes was produced with Adobe In Design® and Microsoft Word ® using the True Type fonts Arial, Bodoni and Times New Roman.

Printed by: Creative Technology
 5959 Palmer Blvd.
 Sarasota, FL 34232—28
 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

Discounts: 3months=10%, 6=15%, 12=20%
Deadline: Tenth of the month

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*

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: <https://mmm1427.rapidsite.net/citivu/noccc/order3.html>
 Send e-mail address changes to membership@noccc.org

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!

Membership Level (\$)	1 Year	3 Years
Individual Member	35	90
Each Additional Family Member	15	45
Full-Time* Enrolled College Student	20	
Enrolled High School Student	15	
*Minimum 12 Semester Hours		
Business Member + Ad (Business Card)	180	
Business Member + Ad (¼ Page, ½ Page)	465	800
Business Member + Ad (Full Page)	1,475	

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

QUICK MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone (_____) _____ - _____

email _____

Fees: see this page 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 No. _____ Expires _____

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

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




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

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SANTA ANA, CA
PERMIT NO. 1588

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

Dated Material Please deliver by October 1, 2011

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 even-month meetings, in which members can sell or buy all kinds of computer & software 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 numerous interesting assignments available. As an all-volunteer organization, you can join with other members in a variety of activities: solicit newsletter ads, write articles for our newsletter, conduct a seminar, run a SIG, give a Main Meeting presentation, 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 Reviews/ 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. Parking is not free on Sunday, even if the gate is up. **However, the permit vending machine is about 100 feet south of the entry area. There are other machines elsewhere in the lot.** Find one, buy a permit, and put it on your dashboard. Do not park in any other lot, in a reserved space, or back into a space.

Free street parking also 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. For more information, see the Transportation Information section.

