

Volume XXII, Issue II.

"The All Types of Computers" Club

April, 2006

We meet at the Simi Valley Public Library, Wednesday, April 26th 7:30 pm.

Meetings are for beginners through advanced computer users and are free and open to the public.
For info.email: <mailto:info@svcug.org>, or website: <http://www.svcug.org>.

Wednesday, March 26th, 7:30 pm

Computer Q & A



SVCUG member **Michael Sugar** present **MICROSOFT DIGITAL IMAGE SUITE 2006 (DIS)**

DIS is a Microsoft product designed for those using Windows operating systems to process photographic digital images. It is a multi-purpose program that is designed for both beginners and more advanced users. Digital Image Suite 2006 is the latest version, which has some enhancements making it a respectable contender among the digital image programs available in the consumer marketplace.

DIS has a very powerful "organizer", the digital library, that allows you to collect and catalog images on your computer. You can then sort images in a variety of ways, according to the way you prefer to work. All your images can go into a large "library" or can be shown according to the files they are stored in. It catalogs both still and video files. You can also use it to catalog photo cds, such as those produced by Kodak. It does not store your images, but merely makes a thumbnail catalog of where they are located on your computer. You can use the "Library" organizer feature to sort your files, based on criteria you determine. You can easily catalog files in order to quickly locate them.

Just as powerful and versatile is the editor included in DIS. It has simple, one button corrections for those who prefer to make simple adjustments only. For the more advanced, it provides a variety of tools offering great flexibility in correcting, adjusting or composing

images. Images can then be stored in a variety of formats. It also has a feature allowing you to work on different "layers" in an image, expanding your creativity. You can touch up, alter or distort images, according to your preference.

You can add text and special effects to images. You can "batch" process images, changing exposure or correcting color in addition to editing images individually. And you can classify, rate or rename your images. Images can be resized to send them over the internet, post on-line or send over the internet to be made into prints by commercial print processors.

The program can be used to produce and present slide shows. It also provides for production of cds for storage or archiving of images.

There are features to permit production of greeting cards, calendars, brochures, business cards or other "creations". For all images, you can add special effects, change borders or edges, and apply a variety of "filters" allowing for interesting interpretations of your images.

A well organized book is included, making it easy to learn to use DIS. There are even chapters to teach photography basics and how to use a scanner.

If you are involved or want to become involved in digital photography, come and see this program demonstrated. It is one of a few programs that is comprehensive and will meet your needs as your digital image experience grows.

**Refreshments, Raffle, and Special User Group
Prices will be offered at the meetings.**

*For further details of next meeting presentations,
check the website <http://www.svcug.org>,
or your eMail.*

*Please, send eMail to info@svcug.org
if you haven't been receiving email announcements*

Wipe Out Windows Annoyances

Part II.

Security Setbacks

Protect Your PC During Reinstalls

The annoyance: A hard disk failure forced me to reinstall Windows. In order to complete the job, I had to go online to download SP2 and other patches. In its newly restored, unpatched state, my machine was defenseless against the Web-connected army of zombie PCs infested with spyware, worms, and Trojan horses targeting any Windows system--including mine. My PC was toast.

The fix: Before beginning the installation, physically isolate the PC from the Internet by disconnecting the network cable or phone line. Next, perform the Windows XP installation. Then log on to Windows, go to Control Panel, launch Network Connections, right-click the network connection through which you access the Web, and choose Properties, Advanced. Check Protect my computer and network by limiting or preventing access to this computer from the Internet, and click OK. Now the PC will be safe enough from incoming attacks to visit the Windows Update site (Start, All Programs, Windows Update) and download SP2. If you have multiple PCs, consider burning a copy of SP2 (its file size is about 178MB) to disc.

Modify User Accounts

The annoyance: Windows XP keeps a tight rein on who can do what by way of its user account groups. But running my PC as part of the default, all-powerful Computer Administrator group is risky; any malware that infiltrates my system may inherit the same privileges. Switching my account to the only other level available in Control Panel's User Accounts applet--Limited--ain't so great,

either. When I attempt to install an app or perform other administrative tasks from a Limited account, I'm constantly stymied.

The fix: Fortunately, other user types exist between these arbitrary extremes, and Windows XP Pro lets me use them (these steps won't work in Home Edition). The Power Users group has fewer rights than the Computer Administrator group, making it safer, but it can still install more applications than Limited accounts. To add an account to the Power Users group, open Control Panel, Performance and Maintenance (if you're in Category View), Administrative Tools and launch Computer Management. In the left pane, double-click Local Users and Groups and select Users; in the right pane, double-click the user name whose rights you want to modify. Select the Member Of tab, and click Add. Type Power Users in the 'Enter the object names to select' list box, and click OK.

Desktop Disarray

Be Still, My System Tray

The annoyance: I can access some of my favorite utilities only through the system tray; but when one of these icons has lain idle for a while, XP "helpfully" hides it.

The fix: You don't have to put up with XP's unwelcome assistance. Clicking the arrow that shows hidden icons can be frustrating because, shortly after you click it, it collapses again. It's tempting simply to make Windows always show all of the icons. To do that, right-click the Start button or taskbar, choose Properties, uncheck Hide inactive icons in the 'Notification area' section, and click OK. Unfortunately, that approach could lead to a huge system tray that squeezes out program icons on the rest of the taskbar. I prefer to use the Customize button instead of unchecking 'Hide active icons'; then I set the hiding behavior for individual icons to suit my needs.

Have Explorer (Mostly) Your Way

The annoyance: I was getting a headache from configuring Windows Explorer to provide the file and folder information I wanted instead of its default view, every time I opened a new folder.

The fix: Fortunately, you can make Explorer remember your preferences instead of its own. First, tweak Explorer to your liking, specifying which details (or attribute columns) it displays, what type of view (thumbnails, list, details, or the like) it opens in, and whether and how files are grouped. To make your custom view Explorer's default view, choose Tools, Folder Options, select the View tab, and click Apply to All Folders. Voilà--all done. I also like to see the folder tree structure (instead of the default task panel) in the left-hand pane and the currently selected folder contents in the right-hand pane, because this arrangement offers the easiest way to drag files from one folder to another. For some annoying reason, though, Explorer refuses to remember this feature, always reverting instead to displaying the task pane. Longhorn will fix this by moving task links to a new horizontal toolbar.

Get Instant Desktop Access

The annoyance: I keep important stuff that I use frequently--including program icons, downloaded files, and the Recycle Bin--on the Windows desktop. But as soon as I launch a program, the desktop icons on the Quick Launch menu disappear because other elements crowd them out of the visible part of the menu, or because the Quick Launch menu itself isn't visible.

The fix: No worries: You can add an icon to your taskbar that will show the desktop in one easy click. First, enable the Quick Launch toolbar, right-click an empty spot on the taskbar, and select Toolbars, Quick Launch. The Quick Launch toolbar should display the Show Desktop button by default. If the Show Desktop button in Quick Launch doesn't appear, it may have been pushed off onto the menu's pop-up overflow (indicated by the double-arrow icon) to the right.

To keep it handy, drag and drop it onto the visible part of the menu. You can also get instant access to desktop icons without minimizing windows, by adding the Desktop toolbar to the taskbar. Right-click a vacant area of the taskbar and choose Toolbars, Desktop.

Point My Documents to Yours

The annoyance: Like its predecessors, XP encourages me to keep my files in the My Documents folder. That may be convenient for Microsoft's developers, but it's not for me. I prefer to keep my files elsewhere so that they're easier to browse to, back up, or access from other versions of Windows.

The fix: XP is fairly obliging about letting you change the location of My Documents. Right-click the My Documents folder, choose Properties, select the Target tab, and click Move to transfer your current My Documents folder and its contents to another location. To make My Documents point to an existing folder, click Find Target instead of Move.

Put Your Documents at Your Fingertips

The annoyance: Windows puts a link to My Documents on the Start menu so I can open an Explorer window to my files quickly. But if what I want to do is open a particular file ASAP, I have to click, click, and click again to launch it. What a pain.

The fix: If you like the way the Start menu's submenus unfold automatically, make My Documents work the same way. Right-click the Start button, click Properties, select the Start Menu tab, click Customize, and select the Advanced tab. Next, scroll down the 'Start menu items' list to the 'My Documents' section, select Display as a menu, and click OK. Applying the same operation to some of the other Start menu items listed, such as Control Panel and My Computer, can expedite access to those parts of Windows, as well.

Connection Conundrums

Banish Wi-Fi Pop-Ups

The annoyance: Several wireless networks I connect to have weak signals. The connection is usually there, but occasionally it wavers in and out of existence. Each time this happens, Windows notifies me (via little text balloons that pop up from the connection's system tray icon) that the connection has been lost and then reestablished. After 10 or 15 of these messages appear, I'm ready to live without a wireless network, if only for the freedom from incessant status updates.

The fix: Fortunately, I found a way to pop those bothersome balloons permanently. Right-click the connection's system tray icon and choose Open Network Connections. Right-click the connection there, choose Properties, uncheck both Show icon in notification area when connected and Notify me when this connection has limited or no connectivity, and click OK. This works with wired network connections, too.

Put ActiveX on Hiatus

The annoyance: I'm surfing along the Net with Internet Explorer, when suddenly hypertext links appear on a page that I'm sure didn't have them before. The culprit? Adware that surreptitiously installed itself on my PC, due to overactive ActiveX controls, which open the door to programs downloaded from Web pages.

The fix: The safest policy is to hobble ActiveX. Choose Tools, Internet Options, select the Security tab, choose the Internet zone, and click Custom Level. Scroll down to the 'ActiveX controls and plug-ins' section, and set 'Download signed ActiveX controls' and 'Script ActiveX controls marked safe for scripting' to Prompt--or get really tough and set them to Disable. (Prompt will generate dialog boxes asking you to approve ActiveX downloads. Disable will cause sites that require ActiveX not to work right.) Set 'Download unsigned ActiveX

controls' as well as 'Initialize and script ActiveX controls not marked as safe' to Disable (if they aren't already; this is the default in SP2). Legions of Firefox converts who surf daily without ActiveX don't miss it, and for the most part neither will you. If you can't do without a site that requires these settings, temporarily enable ActiveX for safe or signed controls. By the way, XP SP2 adds some protection against malicious ActiveX controls, and the forthcoming Internet Explorer 7 browser promises to make ActiveX safer when used under Longhorn by making the browser fully functional in a low-rights user account.

Media Mayhem

Burn It Now

The annoyance: Windows Explorer provides an interface to my CD-R/RW drive that lets me drag files to that drive in Explorer. But often I drag, I drop--and nothing happens. Rather than actually writing the files to the recordable CD, Windows merely queues them in a folder (using up hard disk space in the process) until I'm ready to write and close the CD.

The fix: First make sure you installed the packet-writing driver that came with your drive or PC (Roxio Easy CD Creator and Nero Burning ROM supply their own packet-writing drivers) by looking in the program's Start menu folder for a shortcut (for example, Roxio's is called Drag-to-Disc). Even if you have this driver installed, however, Windows may still queue the files for later writing. The solution is utterly counterintuitive. Right-click the CD writer in Explorer, choose Properties, select the Recording tab, and uncheck (that's right, disable) Enable CD recording on this drive. From now on, when you drag files and folders and drop them on the recordable drive's icon, the burner will write them to the disc immediately, using the packet-writing driver.



<http://www.pcworld.com/howto/article/0,aid,121773,pg,2,00.asp>

Week in review:

By Steven Musil

Staff Writer, CNET News.com

Published: April 21, 2006, 10:00 AM PDT

The future of television is coming to a screen near you, and you may not like what you see.

With Tuesday's launch of two HD DVD players from Toshiba, the public got its chance to decide whether that format or its rival, Blu-ray, is the rightful heir to the DVD. In the public-relations battle between the warring technologies, HD DVD scored a victory by getting to market first. Toshiba's HD-A1 (\$500) and higher-end HD-XA1 (\$800) players hit store shelves this week, two months before the first Blu-ray player is scheduled to go on sale.

This is a high-stakes game, and not just for the movie studios, electronics manufacturers or software companies with a piece of the \$24 billion home video market. Consumers could lose big by betting on the wrong technology.

Neither HD DVD nor Blu-ray can offer movie titles from all seven of the top movie studios. That means buyers of one disc player may be prevented from watching a movie from a studio that doesn't support the format.

For TV aficionados who like owning the top tube on the block, there are a few things to consider before buying. ([Click here for CNET.com's comments on HD players and read a CNET.com review of the Toshiba machine.](#))

At least one TV technology is getting a quick dismissal from some consumers, who weren't very happy with an invention from Royal Philips Electronics that prevents TV viewers from switching the channel during commercials or fast-forwarding past commercials when watching DVR content.

Viewers would be released from the freeze only after paying a fee to the broadcaster. The freeze would be imple-

mented on a program-by-program basis, giving viewers a choice at the start of each one.

According to Philips' recently published patent, the apparatus could work inside a set-top box. It would use the standard Multimedia Home Platform to receive a first control signal and then respond by taking control of the TV. The MHP would also be capable of sending the payment information that would lift the freeze, as it does when authorizing pay-per-view content.

Reaction to the invention was decidedly negative, with some CNET News.com readers calling for a boycott of Philips.

"What kind of sadistic person would ever think of such a horrible device?" wrote one reader in the TalkBack forum. "That just hurts the viewer, and for me, puts any company using that off of my buy list."

Other TV news this week likely gave wallet-conscious consumers some hope. Competition in the cable TV market from phone companies could save consumers big bucks, according to a new study by an economist at the University of California at Berkeley. Professor Yale Braunstein analyzed data from the U.S. Government Accountability Office and the Federal Communications Commission, calculating that cable television subscription prices would drop 15 percent to 22 percent in California if cable companies competed directly with another wireline paid-TV provider, such as a telephone company.

Braunstein's report, which was commissioned and paid for by AT&T, is one of the first studies to quantify how much consumers could save if phone companies competed directly against cable operators in the video market. AT&T and Verizon Communications have already begun offering TV service in certain parts of the country.

Vista views, looking at Linux

As spring finally makes an appearance in Silicon Valley, we also get a few

hints at what we can expect at tech harvest time.

Microsoft plans to jazz up its music player in Windows Vista, the company's next operating system. But at least some of the new features will debut much sooner. The software, which will be built into Vista, is designed to offer better synching with portable devices, make it easier to scroll through long libraries of music and be tightly integrated with Urge, a new subscription and download music service co-developed by Microsoft and MTV Networks.

But while most people won't be able to get their hands on Vista until next year, consumers will be able to get some of the media enhancements sooner. Microsoft is on track to release a Windows XP version of Windows Media Player 11 before the end of June.

With the new media player, consumers will be able to "reverse sync," meaning they can send content from a digital device to a PC. That will allow users to transfer pictures taken with their camera phone, or music purchased on a wireless device. Other options include synching a player to multiple PCs and filling a device with random tracks--a la Shuffle in iTunes--according to a Windows Vista product guide that was briefly made available on the Internet last week.

This spring looks like a good time to get a deal on a PC--if you're willing to invest in technology that will look pedestrian in eight months. This year, there are some particularly interesting carrots dangling off in the future.

New products from both Microsoft and Intel are within sight, with the Vista operating system scheduled--as of now--for early 2007, and chips based on Intel's new Core architecture expected to arrive soon. Apple Computer is also in the midst of a transition, with plans to shift its iBook and Power Mac products to new Intel chips before the end of the year, following the MacBook Pro, iMac and Mac Mini.

But in the months before these products are ready, loads of PCs with Win-

dows XP and Pentium D processors, as well as some PowerPC-based Macs, have to go to make room for the new stuff. A surplus of inventory at Intel and other component manufacturers should lead to great deals on PCs in the coming weeks and months, according to PC analysts.

On the open-source front, efforts to bring glitzy new graphics to Linux are fueling an old conflict: Does proprietary software belong in open-source Linux? The issue involves software modules called drivers, which plug into the kernel at the heart of the open-source operating system. Drivers let software communicate with hardware such as network adapters, hard drives and video cards.

The use of such drivers is common with Linux, but it is all but necessary for the recent push to bring eye-catching graphics to the operating-system user interface. To deliver 3D effects and similar visuals for the desktop, the software taps into a computer's graphics chip. And although the Linux kernel is open-source software, drivers from dominant graphics chipmakers Nvidia and ATI Technologies are not.

Courting Apple

Apple Computer went to court this week to try to gain access to electronic records of Mac enthusiast sites that published leaked details of an unreleased product. Although a lower court ruled last year that Apple should be able to gain access to electronic records of the enthusiast sites, a three-judge appeals panel peppered Apple's lawyer with questions.

The judges wanted to know whether the information at issue represented a genuine trade secret, as well as whether journalists' right to protect their sources outweigh Apple's right to protect its trade secrets.

"You don't really claim this is a new technology?" the presiding judge, Conrad Rushing, asked Apple's lawyer. "This is plugging a guitar into a computer."

George Riley, the outside attorney representing Apple, said the company maintained that the details and diagrams of a

product code-named "Asteroid," a music breakout box, which is used to plug a guitar into a computer, represented "a very serious theft."

The case could eventually answer an unsettled legal question: Should online journalists receive the same rights as traditional reporters?

Apple claims that they should not. Its lawyers say in court documents that Web scribes are not "legitimate members of the press" when they reveal details about forthcoming products that the company would prefer to keep confidential.

That argument has drawn stiff opposition from bloggers and traditional journalists. But it did seem to be sufficient to convince Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge James Kleinberg, who ruled in March 2005 that Apple's attempt to subpoena the electronic records of an Apple news site could proceed.

Meanwhile, the Mac maker was on the receiving end of a lawsuit, with Burst.com filing a countersuit against Apple, claiming that the iTunes software, the iPod and the QuickTime streaming software all infringe on patents held by Burst. The company is asking for royalties as well as an injunction, it said in a press release.

Burst has developed software that helps companies speed up the delivery of audio and video files over a network.

The company was involved in a similar patent infringement dispute with Microsoft last year that ended with a \$60 million settlement and a Microsoft license to the Burst technology.

CNET special report: Seismic science. On the centennial of the massive quake that shook San Francisco on April 18, 1906, many people are asking how a repeat rupture might affect the Bay Area today. A CNET News.com special report focuses on the technologies that help scientists predict quakes and determine potential damage--both central topics this week at a seismology conference in San Francisco.

Also of note

PC shipments increased by 13.1 percent in the first quarter, thanks in part to sales in emerging markets and to consumers...An appeals court upheld a ruling that Microsoft can't be sued for antitrust violations under federal law by consumers and businesses who did not buy their software directly from the company...Cascade Investment Group, a venture and investment firm funded by Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates, has finalized an \$84 million investment in Pacific Ethanol as the momentum for clean technology grows.

Membership Registration

Name: _____

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Type of computer(s) used: _____

Special Interests: _____

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Bring to: a meeting

Improving PC Performance Without Upgrading Your Hardware

Boosting up the performance of your PC doesn't have to be difficult or expensive. Here's a step-by-step guide on how to do it.

By Kevin J. Vella
Public Relations Manager
Uniblue Systems Ltd
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Nine things that Chip Manufacturers and PC retailers don't tell you!

The most common reasons for PC slowdowns are viruses, spyware, too many temporary files, software conflicts, residues from unwanted (and uninstalled) trial downloads and other applications, and, sometimes, just too many applications running at the same time hogging all or most of your computer resources.

The following are nine things that Chip Manufacturers and PC Retailers don't want you to know or how to perform. Following this advice will drastically increase your PC performance and help you regain your sanity while saving loads of money. And, if your PC is three years old and can't afford to upgrade yet, you will be able to squeeze out some more juice out of the old thing!

1. Know What You Are Running:

Sometimes slow downs occur because you have too many programs open at the same time. Shutting down those programs that you are not using will immediately boost performance.

2. Monitor Windows Processes:

If you press CTRL+ALT+DEL you will call up Tasks Manager which lists most of the processes that you are actually running.

Although limited, Task Manager will give you a reasonably good overview of what's running. But before ending processes to increase your performance please exercise extreme caution and learn what the processes do.

Look at the article Maximizing PC Security to get a good overview of how you can do this.

You will find that either there is too much running or there is something hogging your CPU and memory. With certain Windows Utilities you can even set-up your computer to run certain system configurations depending upon the type of application/s you are running at the moment. These utilities also give you an insight on resource allocation and, with the help of graphs, can help you identify which application and/or process is most likely to slow or crash your computer.

3. Have a Clean System:

One of the most common reason (probably the most common) for slow downs is viruses and/or spyware. Sometimes even spyware residuals that have escaped your anti-spyware products can plague you for months. I had a problem with MSAE.EXE which was not caught by three spyware scanners - I eventually figured out what I had running because of point #2 above!

Virus and spyware authors just love creating menaces that hog your system resources and the only protection you have is to have everything up-to-date.

Make sure your antivirus software is up to date with current virus definitions. Then scan your computer for viruses. Make sure your Spyware software is up to date with current definitions - because of the way spyware works you should try and use at least two different programs to scan your system (scanners are usually free of charge and Microsoft have a free Anti-Spyware product which you should use). Firewalls are

also an important security tool but beware as having an active firewall may slow performance.

What you may do once you are 100% sure that your system is clean is turn off your security only when not connected to the Internet. This should help you increase your performance too. But remember to switch everything on before going online. Otherwise, you will be immediately at risk.

4. Update Your Operating System

Having the latest updates of Windows may not generally increase system performance. However, Microsoft are continually patching up any security loop holes or performance related glitches. So in the long run, your system will be better off with the latest OS updates.

5. Disk Clean-ups

Defragging and disc repairs are also extremely important. Defragging is the process of locating and consolidating your files and folders sitting on your hard drives. This can be done automatically by Windows and as a result your system can access these files and folders (and new ones) more efficiently and quickly. Regular defrags and disk repairs will keep your computer running at optimum levels.

6. Temporary File Management:

Cleansing your temporary files including your Internet history including cookies gives you a larger amount of hard disk space to work with. This, in turn, gives more space for Windows virtual files (Page File memory). I go as far as limiting how much space Windows uses to create temporary files. For example, my setting is 1 Mb. In other words, at any point in time Windows is only allowed 1 Mb of space to store cookies, activeX controls etc..

7. Start-up Management

Next time you start up your PC just time

how long it takes to boot and let you start using your applications. If you are lucky, start-up times should be no longer than seconds. In most cases, however, it takes minutes.

The Windows Startup Folder tells you most of the more visible processes that are running in your system. However this is not enough - many installed applications start up processes at boot up that you don't even know about. Not that these are harmful, they're probably useful and required. However, by monitoring what is starting up, you have a good chance of finding out what should and what should not be started. Such utilities as performance optimizers (see #9 below) will automatically identify your start-up files and allow you to disable some or all of them. Again, exercise caution here. Be sure to disable only those start-up processes that are superfluous. My start-up times (and as a result my CPU and MEM Usage) were very short until I installed a particular program which I needed. However I made the mistake of setting up the server version when I don't really need it - I confess, it wasn't a mistake it was a program that impressed me so much that I decided to install the server version because I thought that I would have more visible functionality. However I was wrong. To cut a long story short, I had some system files installed on my system which were needed if my PC were actually a server (and not a client). One particular process hogged my system and used a constant 10,820 K of my memory when working in the background. Reinstalling the version I needed improved my performance without my having to spend as much as one penny.

8. Caution: Download in Progress

Be honest, whatever they tell you about security (although very true and serious), you just can't resist downloading and trying out new products and utilities. It's fun! I just love scour-

ing the Internet looking for some new utility to try out. A few weeks back I needed software that lets me sort out the myriad of documents I have on my PC. Thing is I didn't want to spend too much money so I started looking at Open Source products that are free of charge. Well, I must have downloaded and installed at least 10 different programs. I liked none so in a second round I found the one I wanted. However, when uninstalling all the programs I tried, I had to be very careful. The uninstall operation of most applications or programs almost always leaves residual files or folders in your system. No uninstall operation will leave your system the way it was - dlls, processes such as schedulers that kick in at start-ups, and other legitimate processes that, with the main program being uninstalled have no specific function except to hog your system unnecessarily.

What I usually do after I uninstall and reboot my machine is use a Windows Utility (WinTasks) to help me identify the processes which are unnecessary and just block or delete them. Again exercise caution when doing this - make sure that you have all the program and its sub components uninstalled, then reboot, then try the manual clean up. If you are unsure, it is better to leave them in your system but making sure that they are blocked.

9. Use Performance Optimizers

Finally, if either you don't want to perform many of these things manually or you have exhausted all possible avenues, you may want to consider a Performance Optimizer.

Even the more experienced users cannot manage to fully control and monitor all that is happening within their system without a small toolkit of software utilities that generally includes a sturdy performance optimizer.

If anything these utilities do the work automatically. I use performance optimizers because they can do the

job better and in as little time as possible. When I use a computer I am either working or playing some game - I just don't want to hassle myself tweaking and looking under the hood of my PC. Performance optimizers have been designed to inch their way into the system and help you boost your PC performance drastically. These utilities usually don't cost more than \$25 to \$30 and give you much more value than investing in RAM simply because they seek and solve slowdown problems rather than mask it.

Sometimes RAM is necessary. But, I believe that following these nine steps and principles you can get much more out of your PC. Plus, performance optimizers go the extra mile because they improve your system's overall operation beyond any level that you can manage on your own steam; simply because operating systems are getting more complex by the upgrade and it is almost humanly impossible to keep track of all that goes on in your computer.

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<mailto:marika@ez2.net>
by the 10th of each month
to be appearing in the next
month's issue.

Local Computer User Groups

Appleholics Anonymous

Chuck Baca 805-650-7503 / Tony Pizza 805-482-3453
2nd Sat 9:30 am 3169 Telegraph Road. Ventura

Conejo Valley Genealogical Society

Albert Richardson, Chairman (NEW)
(805) 492-2029
<mailto:bf140@gte.net>

CVMUG (Mac club)

Susie Herrera 805-484-2259

<mailto:sherrera@vcnet.com>

General Meetings are: *1st Thursday* of each month
at the Cowan Conference Center, Camarillo Airport,
550 Airport Way at 7 p.m.

1st Wednesday of each month

at the Meadows Elementary School in Thousand Oaks,
2000 La Granada at 7 p.m.

Our *novice group* meets during the school year on the
2nd Tuesday of each month at Monte Vista Middle
School, 888 Lantana, Camarillo at 7 p.m. In the library.

Our *intermediate group* meets the 4th Monday of the
month at 7 p.m. During the school year - it's at Monte
Vista in the library. During the summer, (June, July and
August) we meet at the Cowan Conference Center.

Commodore 64/128 Users

Rolf Miller: 805-643-6666

General Meetings: 1st Sat., 10 am

Cal Fed Bank, 430 Arneill Road, Camarillo

Tech Meeting: 2nd Sat, 10 am

Boys-Girls Club, 126 E. 7th Street, Oxnard

Channel Islands PC Group

David Harris - President; [.president@cipcug.org](mailto:president@cipcug.org)

Website: <http://www.cipcug.org>

Meetings on the fourth Saturday Morning of the month,
from 9:30 AM to Noon, at the Camarillo Boys and Girls
Club. There are occasional times when the fourth
Saturday is not available and the Index page for CIPCUG
has six months dates posted for your quick reference. The
address is 1500 Temple Ave. in Camarillo. (Southeast
corner of Ponderosa Dr. and Temple Ave.)

Gold Coast CUE of Ventura County

Tim Rainville, 805-525-3873

Days vary, 4 pm Camarillo area or local school

<mailto:rainvilt@vcss.k12.ca.us>

Leisure Village Club

Neil Iven, 805-383-0016

<mailto:lniven1@juno.com>

1st Friday, 10am Camarillo /

1st Monday, MAC group

2nd Friday, Communications

3rd Wednesday, Novice

Simi Conejo Linux User Group

Website: <http://sclug.org>

Meets every other Saturday at 3 pm

InstallFests start at 2 p.m Simi Valley YMCA

[mailto: sclug@sclug.org](mailto:sclug@sclug.org).

MacValley Users Group

Daphne Gruberman (818) 998-7025

1st Wednesday

Wilkinson Senior Center

8956 Vanalden Street, Northridge

Simi Valley Computer User Group

Barbara Cott 805-2181-0909

<mailto:barbaracott@dslextreme.com>

Website: <http://www.svcug.org>

Main meeting: 2nd Thurs 7:30 pm

Hardware/Software Meeting: 4th Wed, 7:30 pm

Simi Valley Library

Thousand Oaks

Personal Computer Club

Karen Warren - President president@topcc.org

805-497-9612

Website:<http://topcc.org>

4th Thurs: 6:30pm Jan-Oct

3rd Thurs: 6:30 Nov-Dec

Goebbel Sr Ctr or T.O. Library

TUGNET

Website: <http://www.tugnet.org>

meets every Tues, 7pm

Granada Pavilion

11128 Balboa, Granada Hills.

Ventura Beginners PC Users' Group

Howard Wilson 805-647-0360

3rd Sat, 10 am

Club House

BenaVentura Mobile Home Estate, 11407

Darling Road

Need Help?

Dennis Atherton

hardware - Windows 9X, ME, NT, 2K, XP
Networks - home and business
<mailto:datherton@affinitygroup.com>

Steve Carter

OS/2 - <mailto:scarter@vcnet.com> 805-598-8455 til 9pm

Barbara Cott

desktop publishing, Excel, Photoshop, web pages
<mailto:barbara@dslextreme.com> 805-581-2495

Howard Engel

Word 6, programming in PASCAL or ADA
<mailto:engelh@adelphia.com> 805-523-7602 9 am - 10 pm

Gordon Huff

modems, Telix, FDISK
<mailto:wa6fmx@worldnet.att.net> 805-499-3494

Mike Portanova

Recording off the internet, Photo retouching
- <mailto:NOVANIKON@aol.com>

Gaylord Trubey

DOS internet, WIN 3.x, WIN 95, software hardware
<mailto:gaylordt@juno.com> 805-526-2077

Dick Uhlman

Most DOS operations; Windows operations v3.0 to XP Most utilities, for DOS & Windows;
WinWord and Excel, most versions. Internet access and searching; Hardware upgrades
<mailto:duhlman@sbcglobal.net>
805-583-2174 & 805-583-2804 5pm - 8pm

Karleen Volz

BASIC questions, DOS WIN 3.11, WIN 95 WIN NT, basic hardware questions
<mailto:kvolz@juno.com> 7pm - 9:30pm & weekends

Open letter to Simi Valley Computer User Group members

Dear members!

Our Newsletter is an open forum for you to voice your opinion, experience and knowledge. This letter is a reminder to take advantage of this opportunity and become a contributing writer on subjects like:

- reviews on hardware, software and books
- tips and techniques you would like to share
- computer related personal experience
- Questions & Answers

Please, send your writings (about 300 words or less) to the editorial office marika@ez2.net by the 10th of each month to be appearing in the next month's issue. Thank you,

Marika Panczel, *Newsletter editor*

Simi Valley Computer User Group

is a non-profit special interest group for the benefit of anyone interested in learning more about computers and how to use them. Meetings are held twice a month. The General Meeting meets at **7:30 pm on the second Thursday of each month**, the Hardware / Software Meeting is held at the same time on the **fourth Wednesday of each month**. The meetings are held at the **Simi Valley Public Library**, in the Community Room.

If you need further **information** about the meetings, call Barbara Cott at 805-218-0909, <mailto:barbaracott@dslextreme.com>. Further information can be found at <http://www.svcug.org> or send email to: <mailto:info@svcug.org>. Visitors are welcome to come and see what our group is all about without obligation to join. However, if you find our meetings to be beneficial to you, we hope you will join and support our group. Dues are \$24 per year or \$13 for 6 months.

It has to say this: Simi Valley Computer User Group (SVCUG), consisting of its officers and membership, is not affiliated with any computer hardware or software manufacturers. Articles contained in this publication may not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of SVCUG. SVCUG makes no warranty of the suitability or inability to use any product or service.



Membership Registration

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

\$13.00 for 6 months \$24.00 for 1 year

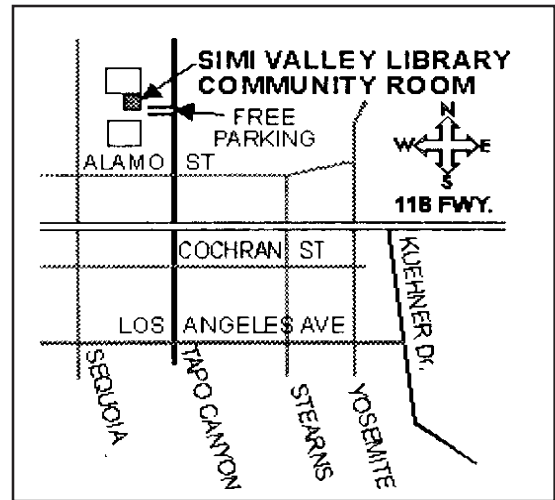
Make checks payable to "SVCUG".

Mail to:

Mike Portanova, PO Box 472 AGOURA, CA 91301

or

Bring to: a meeting



User Group Officers

President	Barbara Cott	mailto:barbara@dslextrreme.com
Vice President	Howard Engel	mailto:engelh@adelphia.com
Treasurer	Mike Portanova	mailto:novanikon@aol.com
Secretary	Marika Panczel	mailto:marika@ez2.net

Simi Valley Computer User Group

2718 Kadota Street
Simi Valley, CA 93063

April Meeting

Wednesday, March 26th

Computer Q&A



SVCUG member

Michael Sugar present

**MICROSOFT
DIGITAL IMAGE
SUITE 2006 (DIS)**