

Volume XXI, Issue XII.

"The All Types of Computers" Club

December, 2005

*We meet at the Simi Valley Public Library, December 8<sup>th</sup> 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>.

*Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm*

## Computer Q & A

by

**Rod Grimes**



### *MOVIE starts at 8 or so*

Here are some new security tools from Microsoft:

Antispyware: <http://www.microsoft.com/athome/security/spyware/software/default.aspx>><http://www.microsoft.com/athome/security/spyware/software/default.aspx> (Submitted by Emerald Jones)

These are all beta test versions of what will ultimately become part of "Vista," the next version of Windows, although they probably will also be available to other versions of Windows. The whole idea, of course, is to be available to other versions of Windows. The whole idea, of course, is to button up Windows with more-or-less automatic security tools.button up Windows with more-or-less automatic security tools.

They're nothing astounding--- these offerings don't do anything that you can't do right now with many of the tools we discuss here on a regular basis. But you (says Fred of his newsletter subscribers), dear readers, are not "typical users:" you care about your PC security and are taking steps to stay safe. Alas, too many PC users run with little or no security tools at all, and still, even to this day, blithely open email attachments they shouldn't. If an email says "Click this--- it's funny!" they click, even if they have no idea what's inside. (Sigh)

These new security tools from Microsoft will help ensure that even the most passive or careless Windows users will have at least basic protection. That's a good thing. I also assume that the vendors of third-party security tools will step up to outdo Microsoft's tools, meaning that those of us who are trying to be careful with our PCs may have an even better crop of software to choose from. So, in all, this is a good thing.

And by the way, do check out the "Safety.Live.com" site. The scans are a little clunky now, but there's antivirus, port scan, cleanup, and tuneup tools, all available for free. Some of it's a little lame--- the "tuneup," for example, is just a defrag and a patch check--- but it's a promising start. (And about time, too! <g>)

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will be offered at the meetings.**

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# Internet Explorer

## Tips and Tricks

by Richard O. Johnson, TUGNET  
rj@theskillspool.org

**Internet Explorer, despite inroads made by Firefox and other browsers, overwhelmingly remains users' browser of choice (perhaps because it comes bundled with all new Windows computers). The following pointers are designed to help you get the most out of your use of Internet Explorer. They're written with IE6 in mind, although most will apply to earlier versions, and some may apply to other browsers as well.**

### Use keyboard shortcuts

My regular readers will know that to increase efficiency I strongly encourage the use of keyboard shortcuts in preference to the use of the mouse. Here are my favorite IE keyboard shortcuts:

- Use Alt-Home to bring up your home page.
- Use Ctrl-H to open or close your history pane.
- Use Ctrl-I to open or close the Favorites pane.
- Use Ctrl-B to organize your Favorites
- Use Ctrl-N to duplicate the active page in a new window.
- Use Ctrl-F to find a word, partial word, or phrase on the current webpage.
- Use Backspace (or Alt-Left) instead of the IE Back button, to navigate back.
- Use Alt-Right to navigate forward.
- Use F11 to toggle full-screen mode.
- Use Alt-D to move to the address bar.  
(Or use Ctrl-O, and you won't need the address bar! See "Other" Tip 3, below, for details.)
- Once in the address bar, use Enter to bring up the specified webpage or Ctrl-Enter to first surround what you've typed with "www." before and ".com" after, and then bring it up.
- Use F5 or Ctrl-F5 to refresh a page. It's a good idea when refreshing to routinely hold down Ctrl (whether you're using the keyboard or the mouse), to bypass the IE cache and give you a more effective refresh.

### Optimize the toolbar

Unless you maintain only a dozen or so Favorites, you'll want to take full advantage of the Links option for the IE toolbar, which you activate with the right-click toolbar menu. Drag the Favorites you'll want to have most prominent into

the Links section of the toolbar. Using the right-click Properties menu of each "Link," you'll probably want to assign it a unique icon and, to save space, rename it to a shorter form.

Tip: You can save additional space by shortening the "Links" title on the toolbar. Unfortunately, simply renaming the "Links" folder won't work. You'll need to open the Registry Editor, by choosing Run from the Start menu and typing regedit. After pressing Enter, drill down to HKEY\_CURRENT\_USER > Software > Microsoft > Internet Explorer > Toolbar. On the right-hand side you'll see LinksFolderName="Links." Change the word within the quotation marks to a one-character name you'd like to use instead, perhaps "." or "+," and close the Editor. (Use extreme caution, as making a wrong entry in the Registry Editor can have dire consequences!)

You should unclutter the toolbar by instructing it to "Remove" nearly all the toolbar buttons. These not only occupy valuable space but can actually interfere with efficient browsing (by discouraging use of the keyboard shortcuts described above). You get to the Remove command via "Customize," on the right-click menu. Of the built-in IE toolbar buttons, the only ones I recommend displaying are those for Size and Back. All the other button functions can better be facilitated via the keyboard or by other means. (For a complete list of IE keyboard shortcuts, go to <http://snipurl.com/bskn>. The reason for keeping the Back button is its associated pull-down menu.)

### Keep IE secure

It goes without saying that you need to keep IE fully patched, perhaps with the use of Windows Update or Microsoft Update. But what of the Internet Explorer security settings (accessible via Tools > Internet Options > Security)?

In the "Internet Zone"—the default zone for a webpage—it's prudent to be more rather than less restrictive. (Better safe than sorry!) The easiest way to go is simply to move the "Default Level" slider to High. Or you could use the "Custom Level" to make a determination for each setting. In that case you may want to consult a guide such as the one at [www.techspot.com/tweaks/ie6/ie-5.shtml](http://www.techspot.com/tweaks/ie6/ie-5.shtml).

Remember that if your security restriction interferes with the proper viewing of a page, Windows will let you know—although most often you'll be able to view the page just fine notwithstanding what Windows says. To remove the restriction for a given page, you can add that page to your "Trusted" sites, against which the restriction won't ordinarily apply. (You may have to refresh the page after adding it.) To simplify moving webpages to your trusted list, a free program is available at [www.geeksuperhero.com/zones.shtml](http://www.geeksuperhero.com/zones.shtml).

An alternative method does not require you to move all such sites to the Trusted zone. For this you'll need the laudable Push the Freakin' Button software, available at modest

cost at [www.tlhouse.co.uk/PTFB.shtml](http://www.tlhouse.co.uk/PTFB.shtml). With PTFB in place, use IE's Custom Level to choose "Prompt" instead of "Disable" for every feature except any that you're absolutely sure you'll never want to use. Then instruct PTFB to push the "No" (disallow) button when the prompt appears. Should you decide to permit the feature in question, you can with a double click disable PTFB, and just as easily re-enable it when done.

A good (free) test to assess your IE vulnerability may be found at <http://snipurl.com/ietest>.

### Other tips

1. To execute a link in a new window, hold down Shift.
2. Is IE acting strangely? You can often fix it by using the IE Repair utility accessible via Add/Remove Programs (in the Windows Control Panel), upon selecting "Microsoft Internet Explorer" and then "Add/Remove."
3. You can dispense with the address bar, by using Ctrl-O to open a webpage or other location. You can then completely hide the address bar (using the IE toolbar's right-click Customize function) or shrink it down to its title only (having first "unlocked" the toolbar, also with the right-click menu). Losing the address bar will eliminate the temptation to go there with the (less efficient) mouse, and can free up space that may be better put to other use. On the downside, you'll also lose the functionality of the Ctrl-Enter address bar shortcut (see Keyboard Shortcuts, above).
4. You might be able to save considerable time if you bypass your home page (start page) when you don't need to see it. Here's how: Enter "about:blank" [without the quotes] in the IE address bar, to create a blank quasi-webpage. Then use Right Click + F to turn that page into a Favorite, and drag the new Favorite's icon into the Quick Launch section of your Windows task bar, before deleting the Favorite. You may want to assign a different icon to your new IE shortcut with the use of its right-click Properties menu. (You can use this same technique to set up a "secondary home page" instead of a blank page.)

### Add-ons

*Useful IE add-ons, free except as noted, include:*

- Google Toolbar, at [toolbar.google.com](http://toolbar.google.com), which enables too many useful features to even hint at here. Highly recommended.
- Favorites Search, at [www.dzsoft.com](http://www.dzsoft.com), which lets you speedily locate a Favorite, no matter how many you've stored.
- Y!Q DemoBar, at [yq.search.yahoo.com/splash/demobar.html](http://yq.search.yahoo.com/splash/demobar.html), which enables context-based searching. This can easily be squeezed onto the same line as the IE address bar.
- ieSpell, at [www.iespell.com](http://www.iespell.com), which will quickly spellcheck all the text you've entered in any Web form.
- AddaButton, at [www.harmonyhollow.net/aab.shtml](http://www.harmonyhollow.net/aab.shtml), which will let you fit more buttons onto the IE toolbar. These buttons

can open documents and applications (not just websites) and don't require space-consuming displayed names. Shareware, \$11.95

*Richard Johnson is a writer and editor, and founder/administrator of FREE FOR ALL The Skills Pool, a 29-year-old membership organization (<http://theskillspool.org>). He is a volunteer with TUGNET HelpContact for assistance with Internet Explorer, Outlook Express, and Gmail. He welcomes feedback, at [rj@theskillspool.org](mailto:rj@theskillspool.org).*



## "Point & Click"

Many of you are likely already familiar with Robin Miller, who authored the book, "**Point & Click Linux**", which Prentice Hall published a year ago, to help everyday desktop users to get up and running with Linux on the desktop. The book included a CD-ROM which contained bite-sized video tutorials showing Robin Miller demonstrating the cool Linux features.

Well, Robin Miller is back, with a new "**Point & Click OpenOffice.org**" book, which Prentice Hall will publish in early December. This is an exciting book, publishing right on the heels of the official release of OpenOffice 2.0, which is making headlines far and wide in the news and across the Internet more generally!

Robin's new book will have the same signature video tutorials on CD and chapters are written by both Robin and some of the leading experts in the industry. Here is the book page: [www.phptr.com/title/0131879928](http://www.phptr.com/title/0131879928)

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# Indexing the Web:

## *Spiders, Web Crawlers & Bots*

By **Brian K. Lewis**, Ph.D., Sarasota PC Monitor; Sarasota FL PC Users Group; [www.spcug.org](http://www.spcug.org)

Have you ever wondered how search engines such as Google manage to get the answers to your queries so rapidly? How could they search the web that fast, I mean usually less than one second to find the words you ask for? Well - They don't. Actually the searching goes on constantly, 24/7. And, the mechanism they use is just a modification of what you use for browsing the web.

Although you may have heard about spiders, web crawlers and web bots, they don't actually traverse the web any more than does your web browser (Internet Explorer or Firefox or whatever browser you use). Instead they download web pages that are then scanned and the significant words added to an index.

To simplify the terminology, I will refer to all the web searching programs as "spiders". (It takes less space and is easier to type.) These spiders are programs designed to find web addresses (URL's) and to download the pages. Some also do the indexing of the words on the page. However, Google uses a separate indexing program and stores the downloaded pages for future reference. Now if a single spider were being used to locate and download pages, the task would really be impossible. Sergey Brin and Lawrence Page, the originators of Google, published a paper while they were graduate students at Stanford that utilized three spiders. Each spider kept about 300 connections open simultaneously. With four spiders they could download about 600 pages per second. This paper referred to the prototype that became the commercial Google enterprise. Even with the prototype system they were able to download and index 24 million pages in a week. Their current methodology is proprietary and so is not

public, but it is probably a significant improvement over their prototype system.

We can use the original Google system as a model of what could be used by search engines to prepare the index and database of web pages that you access when you send a query. The first step is to send a list of URLs to the spider to download. This is done by a server that maintains a list of URLs. The spider will download pages and also follow any hyperlinks to other pages. Addresses of pages that were linked to the original search list are also sent back to the server to be checked to see if they were already on the list. If not, they are added to the URL lists. Not every spider uses a URL server. The spider will continue crawling the web until it reaches a dead end or a page with no further links.

As I mentioned earlier, a spider isn't just working with one page, but has hundreds of connections open to different pages. Given that there are billions of pages on the Web, even with thousands of spiders collecting information, only a small fraction of the entire web is scanned. Some web sites, such as those with news or rapidly changing information are visited hourly. Every spider has a re-visitation policy that determines how frequently a page will be revisited and checked for changes.

There is another general policy that is usually programmed into these spiders. That is called the "politeness" policy. This is used to prevent the overloading of web sites. After all, there is a finite limit to bandwidth and it would be possible to overwhelm a web site with visits from multiple spiders in a short period of time. This policy provides for an interval of time to elapse between accesses by a spider. This time interval seems to vary from 20 seconds to 3-4 minutes. This would be the case where multiple pages need to be downloaded from a single server. Revisiting indexed and stored web sites occurs at less frequent intervals.

However, even this politeness policy

is sometimes inadequate. Frequent visits by spiders may result in complaints being sent back to the owner of the spider. So it is also possible to enter code on a web page which asks the spider to not access or download a page or pages. This can be done by the addition of meta tags in the page header or by a robots.txt file placed in the root directory for the web site. This is especially appropriate for game pages. These pages use a dynamic format that changes when pages are viewed or links are followed. When a spider downloads these pages the game program may respond as if a very high-speed player were logged on. This can create problems for the program and may result in crashing the game server. So we now have the robot exclusion protocol being used by owners of web pages that do not want their pages included in the search engine indexing.

In the original Google system the web pages were sent to another program referred to as the indexer. This program sorts through every word on the page and stores them in a database. The exceptions are the simple words such as a, an, the. However, simply entering the words into a database is not sufficient. They have to be identified to the particular page from which they came, the location on that page and a relative ranking in importance. The frequency with which they appear on the page as well as the position on the page may be used in determining the weight or relative rank. Words in the title or near the top of the page may be ranked as more important. So the storage of the words include the URL, and a calculated weight in an encoded format.

The word database is then indexed to speed the retrieval of the information. This is usually done by the building of a Hash Table. Hashing evens out the alphabetical sections so that it takes no longer to find a "z" than it does a more popular letter like "m". It also separates the index from the actual entry for the word. This improves the efficiency of the storage of this infor-

*Continued on page 5*

mation. The indexing and the Hash Table also speed the overall retrieval of the information. The complete web page is also stored in a separate location. Once the indexing process is completed, the information is available for your query.

Given the size of the web and the continuing changes to web pages, the spider's search is never ending. It may also be one where we will never have every page indexed. One other aspect of the size of the web and the time required for the crawling process is that broken links will always occur. If a page is not re-visited frequently, it may still be in the index and the database long after it has been removed from its server. Another situation may be where the URL has changed and the new location has not yet been crawled. So, the process is not perfect by any means.

The other aspect of searching the web is the design of the query you want to submit to a search engine. As I'm sure you know, you can simply list a few keywords in the search engine and hope you will get a useful result. Many times you will also get results that have no relationship to the information you are seeking. In some of these cases, you need to try the advanced search or learn to use Boolean operators. Those most frequently used are:

AND - all the terms joined by "AND" must appear in the pages or documents.

OR - at least one of the terms joined by "OR" must appear in the pages or documents.

NOT - the term or terms following "NOT" must appear.

Quotation marks - Words between quotation marks must appear as a phrase.

Followed By - one of the terms must be followed by the other.

Near - one of the terms must be within a specified number of words of the other.

Generally, search engines can use these Boolean operators to provide results more closely aligned to the topic you are trying to locate.

Like everything else related to computers, web indexing and searching are

not static technologies. The search engine companies are researching "natural language" queries such as those handled by "Ask Jeeves". Currently, these queries can accommodate only relatively simple phrases. However, there is heavy competition to develop an engine that can work with much more complex queries. Another area that is being pursued is "concept-based" searching. This would use a form of statistical analysis to determine if the page fit your query. And, as you may have read, Google has plans to put the content of the world's libraries on the web.

Just imagine what it would be like if we didn't have these search engines to help us find information on the web. So good searching and I hope you find what you are looking for.

*Dr. Lewis is a former university & medical school professor. He has been working with personal computers for more than thirty years. He can be reached via e-mail: bwsail at yahoo.com.*

## Humor: *Life in these USA*

Which windshield wiper blade always quits first? That's right – the driver's side.

This happened to me one day while driving home in the middle of a blinding storm. Unable to see, I pulled over and tried to figure out a quick fix. I found it in a yellow cotton work glove lying on the floor.

I wedged the cloth hand under the wiper arm. It did a great job keeping my windshield clear.

Not only that – you'd be surprised at how many people waved back.

v

On my way to a picnic, I stopped at a takeout place to order a quart of potato salad. "We don't sell it by the quart", the clerk snapped.

"Okay, then give me two pints, please," I replied.

I'm proud to say I held my tongue when she asked, "Do you want it in one container?"

## Be a pro- It's a snap

By Nick Summers

As digital photography prices fall and features improve, more amateur shooters are upgrading to pro-caliber cameras. By 2007, the market is expected to more than double for digital SLRs, or single-lens-reflex cameras, now that their prices have dropped below \$1000. These heavies feature interchangeable lenses and a bewildering array of manual settings – so many that their instruction booklets are often inadequate. Ditto for most photo software. The new question facing SLR owners: how the heck do you use these things?

To learn more about your new camera's mechanics, try the Magic Lantern books (\$20; amazon.com) or the JumpStart Guides on DVD (\$30; adorama.com). The "Teach Yourself Visually" series (\$25; amazon.com) explains advanced computer editing. Head to the Web for help with aesthetics: [moosepeterson.com](http://moosepeterson.com) has essential tips on composition and lighting for wildlife and nature photography. And if the promise of breathtaking shots tempts the semipro in you, visit [santafeworkshops.com](http://santafeworkshops.com) and [leppinstiture.com](http://leppinstiture.com) for info on weeklong courses (\$895 to \$1,050). Now snap away.

# Network Your Home or Office Internet

By **Ira Wilsker**, APCUG Director; Columnist, *The Examiner*, Beaumont, TX; radio & TV show host  
WEBSITES: <http://www.homeplug.com>

On my weekly radio show (KLVI 560AM 1-3pm Saturdays) I am frequently asked questions about connecting an internet source to a home network, such that several computers can simultaneously share the internet connection. This type of home networking is typically only practical if there is a broadband source, and generally impractical if the source is dialup, and a voice phone line is to be shared for internet access.

Basically, there are three good options available, and each has its relative advantages and disadvantages, and varies in terms of cost effectiveness based on individual circumstances. The three basic methods or technologies available for home or small office networking are wired, wireless, and "homeplug".

Wired networking is a viable choice if it is practical to run a network cable between computers. The cable, which can be relatively inexpensive if purchased in bulk from electronics or home/hardware stores, but somewhat pricey if purchased in pre-cut sections at retail stores. Cable can be run through an attic, suspended from cup hooks along a ceiling, run along baseboards, or other methods that comply with appropriate safety and electrical codes. Other than running the cable, the installation of the network is fairly simple, and requires readily available and generally inexpensive hardware, manufactured by countless companies. A device called a router is connected to the broadband input, and the computers are connected via network cable to the router. Most wired routers come with a floppy or CD with simple configuration utilities that allow the network to be setup and functioning within minutes of con-

nection. Wired routers can be purchased from discount stores, electronics stores, office supply stores, and a variety of other sources. Since almost all contemporary computers, both desktop and notebook, come with an integral network connector, generally no other hardware is required other than the router and cable. In terms of security, wired is generally the most secure method of networking. Many of the inexpensive wired routers include some type of hardware firewall to protect the network from intrusion, but it is still generally a good idea to have a software firewall on each computer.

One of the most popular methods of home or small office networking is wireless, often referred to with its industry standard designation, 802.11, with a letter suffix, such as an "a", "b", or "g". The suffix indicates which version of the standard hardware complies with in terms of frequency, and bandwidth. Generally, the least expensive and most widely used type is the 802.11b, which shares the same 2.4 GHz digital frequencies of many cordless phones and other household electronics, which may possibly cause some interference with the wireless connection. Under ideal conditions, 802.11b can transfer data at a rate of up to 11 megabytes per second (Mbps). The newer 802.11a and 802.11g standards offer higher transmission speeds, and will likely encounter less interference from household appliances, but some interference is always a risk.

To connect computers to a wireless network requires a wireless router, and a device called an "access point" for each computer. The main advantage to a wireless network is the ease of installation, and the flexibility of not being connected to a wire while surfing the net. The wireless router is connected to the broadband input, and an antenna on the router broadcasts the signal to the access points. Range is a function of building construction and interference, but at typical household and small office distances and construction, a single router is typically adequate. Users should be

sure to follow the instructions included with the router in terms of placement in order to maximize the signal. Many wireless routers include some form of hardware firewall, but again a software firewall on each computer is generally recommended. "Access Points" are generally small devices that attach to a computer either through a USB port, or to the network input on the computer. As they are radio transceivers, placement will affect performance. It is imperative to note that unless the integral encryption and other security options offered by the router and access points are implemented, there can be some serious security issues with wireless connections, in that it is easy for unauthorized persons to access the network.

Wireless routers and access points are readily available wherever electronics are sold, including discount stores, warehouse clubs, office supply stores, and other retailers. As the technology has been improving, prices have been plunging. Some provisos are in order at this point; first, be sure that whatever wireless hardware is purchased, be sure that it is compatible, in that the suffix "a", "b", or "g" match, although much of the hardware available today will work with any standard, often listed as "a/b/g". A second proviso is the "weakest link" factor, in that a wireless (or any other network) connection is only as fast as the slowest segment. If a broadband connection is running at 2Mbps, a faster wireless connection may be wasted unless files or hardware (such as printers or video) are being shared among the network. It should also be noted that many of the new home theater devices now coming on the market utilize the same wireless interconnectivity and hardware as computers, and may require the newer and faster standards of connectivity.

There is a third technology available for home and small office networking that is still in its infancy, but holds a promising future, and most of the major networking hardware manufacturers such as Belkin, Linksys, GigaFast, IOGear,

Netgear, and others are producing compatible hardware. This technology is called "Homeplug" ([www.homeplug.org](http://www.homeplug.org)) that can safely utilize the existing household electrical wiring as an already wired network. Homeplug compatible hardware is priced about the same as wireless, but is not yet as readily available as traditional wired or wireless hardware, but it may be worth the effort to shop for it. The standard, which meets UL and other safety requirements, is possibly the easiest to configure, has a 14Mbps bandwidth, and is more secure than wireless. To connect broadband to Homeplug, the broadband input is plugged into a Homeplug input device (similar to a router), and that device is then simply plugged into a standard wall electrical outlet. Any computer in the home, as well as many of the newer entertainment devices, are then connected to any other electrical outlet in the house via an adapter that connects to the computer with a traditional USB or network plug. In terms of security, the broadband signal does not typically pass through the household junction box, making it extremely difficult for neighbors and others to access the connection or network. As with all other forms of networking, a software firewall is still necessary on each computer.

If a user is bearing the cost of broadband, and has more than one computer in the home or office, then one of these networking technologies may be a useful method to connect those computers to the internet.



Two dogs were out for a walk. One dog says to the other, "Wait here a minute. I'll be right back." He walks across the street and sniffs a fire hydrant for about a minute, then rejoins his friend. "What was that all about?" the other dog asks. "Just checking my messages."



## Blind Copies

**This excellent message ABSOLUTELY applies to ALL of us who send e-mails. Only forward emails in the To address box to your self, send all others as (BCC) Blind Copies.**

Do you really know how to forward e-mails? 50% of! us do; 50% do NOT. Do you wonder why you get viruses or junk mail? Do you hate it? Every time you forward an e-mail there is information left over from the people who got the message before you, namely their e-mail addresses & names. As the messages get forwarded along, the list of addresses builds, and builds, and builds, and all it takes is for some poor sap to get a virus, and his or her computer can send that virus to every e-mail address that has come across his computer. Or, someone can take all of those addresses and sell them or send junk mail to them in the hopes that you will go to the site and he will make five cents for each hit. That's right, all of that inconvenience over a nickel! How do you stop it? Well, there are two easy steps:

1) When you forward an e-mail, DELETE all of the other addresses that appear in the body of the message. That's right, DELETE them. Highlight them and delete them, backspace them, cut them, whatever it is you know how to do. It only takes a second. You MUST click the "Forward" button first, then you will have full editing capabilities against the body and headers of the message.

If you don't click on "Forward" first, you won't be able to edit the message at all.

2) Whenever you send an e-mail to more than one person, do NOT use the To: or Cc: columns for adding e-mail address.

3) Always use the BCC :(blind carbon copy) column for listing the e-mail addresses. This is the way that people you send to only see their own e-mail address. If you don't see your BCC: option click on where it says To: and your address list will appear. Highlight the address and choose BCC: and that's it, it's that easy.

When you send to BCC: your message will automatically say "Undisclosed Recipients" in the "TO:" field of the people who receive it.

So please, in the future, let's stop the junk mail and the viruses!

*submitted by Volney Burrese  
mail to: [burrese@pacbell.net](mailto:burrese@pacbell.net)*

## Cross talk

You're on vacation in China, trying to get directions to a hotel, when you realize you've left your Mandarin phrase book on the plane. Fortunately, you have your Pocket PC, equipped with IBM's Multilingual Automatic Speech-to-Speech Translator. MASTOR recognizes both Mandarin and English, automatically translating what it hears into the other tongue, so two people who speak different languages can have a conversation. In a TIME test, when told the phrase "I would like to rent a motorboat." MASTOR translated it audibly and flashed a picture of a boat onscreen. Although in its infancy – right now it can handle only English, Mandarin and a bit of Spanish and Arabic – the software is a pilot program. Systems featuring MASTOR may crop up at airports, banks and hospitals in the next few years.

# 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

1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:marika@ez2.net) by the 10<sup>th</sup> 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

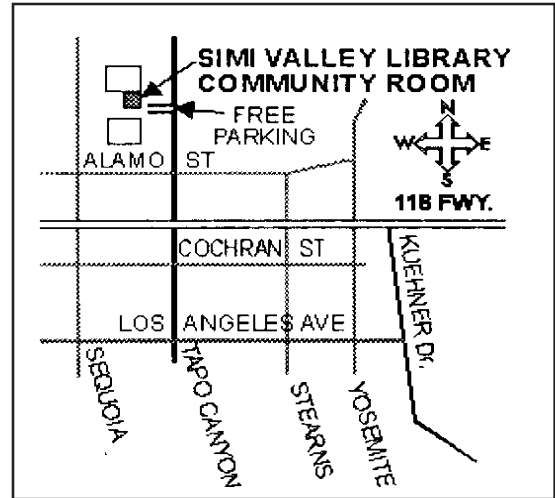
Make checks payable to "SVCUG".

Mail to:

Mike Portanova, PO Box 472 AGOURA, CA 91301

or

Bring to: a meeting



## User Group Officers

President	Barbara Cott	<a href="mailto:barbara@dslextrreme.com">mailto:barbara@dslextrreme.com</a>
Vice President	Howard Engel	<a href="mailto:engelh@adelphia.com">mailto:engelh@adelphia.com</a>
Treasurer	Mike Portanova	<a href="mailto:novanikon@aol.com">mailto:novanikon@aol.com</a>
Secretary	Marika Panczel	<a href="mailto:marika@ez2.net">mailto:marika@ez2.net</a>

## Simi Valley Computer User Group

2718 Kadota Street  
Simi Valley, CA 93063

### December Meetings

Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>

Computer Q&A  
by Rod Grimes



Movie at 8

**Happy Holidays!**

No meeting on  
Wednesday, December 28