

Volume XXI, Issue IV.

"The All Types of Computers" Club

May, 2005

We meet at the Simi Valley Public Library, May 12th and May 25th 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, May 12th, 7:30 pm

Computer Q & A

by Dennis Atherton



**Simi Valley Police Department
Crime Prevention
"Identity Theft"**

*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 received email announcements*

**Refreshments, Raffle, and
Special User Group Prices**

Wednesday, May 25th, 7:30 pm

Computer Q & A

by Dennis Atherton



Build Your Own Computer – Part I of II

We will be looking at the different components that comprise a PC today, and a range of selection criteria for purchasing the best components for YOUR purpose.

Why Build?

You can customize your PC to match your needs. Building it yourself familiarizes you with the details of your PC, and computers in general. This helps you down the road with Maintenance, Troubleshooting, and Upgrades. You're sure to avoid proprietary designs that sometimes limit your choices when you want to upgrade your system, or need spare parts.

It can often save you money.

It's FUN! Building it with someone else can be an enjoyable shared learning experience.

Where to buy!

Selecting your components
Processor, Chipset, Motherboard, Memory, Hard Drives, Optical Drive / Burner, Floppy Drive, Graphics Card, Case and Power Supply

Next Month (June 22nd) we will do Part II which will be a workshop on building your computer using the kit of parts provided by PC Club for \$999.

Protecting Your Internet

by Gene Barlow

[mailto:gene@ugr.com]

User Group Relations Copyrighted April 2005

The internet plays an important role in our lives today. Almost everything we do has an internet possibility to it. We can access our bank accounts over the internet. We can pay our bills and loans using the internet. Every business that we have an account with lets us access our account and update our records over the internet. We can purchase airline tickets, reserve hotels, and rent cars over the internet. Each of these offers us personalized accounts to make these tasks easier to do. We can even buy groceries, tickets for movies, and order our prescriptions over the internet. How much easier it is today to do all of these things with our internet access. Of course, having access to these internet accounts requires that we set up a private ID and password for each of them. A typical user may have 20 or 30 of these account IDs and passwords to keep track of. So, while the internet has made our life easier in many ways, keeping track of these security codes has gotten harder to do.

Some users will try to bypass these methods set up to protect their privacy and personal information. To avoid keeping track of many codes, some individuals will use the same ID and password on all of their accounts. This is certainly not very secure. Once these common codes are discovered, they open up the hacker to all of your personal accounts. Others will write their codes down on yellow sticky notes and paste them to their computer display. This is also not very secure. Anyone that walks by your computer will see these codes and be able to get into your private accounts without any problem. The real solution is to set up difficult and different passwords for each of your accounts and keep these in a very secure place. That is exactly what WhiteCanyon's MyPasswordVault helps you do.

MyPasswordVault is a database program that stores its information on your computer in an encrypted format so that nobody can find this file and see all of your codes. You still need to remember a password to gain access to MyPasswordVault, but all of the rest of your codes are guarded safely inside the vault. So, when you need to access an account on the internet, you simply open up MyPasswordVault, find the ID and Password for that account, and copy and paste it into your account access fields. You will be able to safely and quickly access the many accounts that you have set up on the internet. This is a great software utility that will let you safely and quickly enjoy all of the advantage of using the internet for your financial transactions.

MyPasswordVault is offered by WhiteCanyon software at the list price of \$25. You can purchase this valuable product at the user group discount price of just \$17. Look for it in our User Group Store at www.usergroupstore.com and click on any of the yellow "Buy Now" buttons to get to our secure web order form. Complete the form including the special user group code of UGNL0405 and submit it. You may share this discount offer with your immediate family and close friends. These prices are not available to others not involved with a user group.

I hope this month's newsletter has made you aware of an exciting new software offering from User Group Relations

to make your computer usage more productive. Let me know if you have questions about anything in this newsletter by sending me a note to gene@ugr.com. Thank you for your attention.

Gene Barlow is the president of User Group Relations, a consulting firm specializing in promoting computer products to the user group community. He has over 40 years of experience with computer systems. He worked for IBM for 34 years in various technical and marketing positions. He managed IBM's user group support organization when IBM introduced the IBM PC till he retired 14 years later. In this role, he helped hundreds of user groups get started and is sometimes called the Father of User Groups for his involvement. He was the first sponsor of the Association of PC User Groups and was a guiding influence on this organization for many years and funded many special projects for them. When he left IBM, he set up his own consulting firm and has represented many software clients to the user group community the past 9 years. He currently represents Optimal Access, Acronis, WhiteCanyon, and Spearit software companies and their exciting products. He is an outstanding speaker, writer, and helper of end users and loves working with user groups. He may be contacted at gene@ugr.com



F.Y.I.

Bluetooth is the name given to a new technology using short-range radio links, intended to replace the cable(s) connecting portable and/or fixed electronic devices. It is envisaged that it will allow for the replacement of the many proprietary cables that connect one device to another with one universal radio link. Its key features are robustness, low complexity, low power and low cost. Designed to operate in noisy frequency environments, the Bluetooth radio uses a fast acknowledgement and frequency hopping scheme to make the link robust. Bluetooth radio modules operate in the unlicensed ISM band at 2.4GHz, and avoid interference from other signals by hopping to a new frequency after transmitting or receiving a packet. Compared with other systems in the same frequency band, the Bluetooth radio hops faster and uses shorter packets. For more information, see <http://www.palowireless.com/infotooth/tutorial.asp>

submitted by Emerald Jones
mail to: ejones@vcnet.com

Cables: The Missing Part of Upgrades

By *Timothy Everingham*, TUGNET,
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When you are in the process of building a new computer or upgrading one; you may just think you have to only buy the component parts such as CPU, motherboard, case, power supply, RAM, video card, hard drives, and CD/DVD player or writer. However, what a lot of people don't think about are the cables to connect all of these together. Many people have gone to the computer store or swap meet and when they get to install a part they realize they don't have the cable or adapter needed and have to take the time to go out again to buy it. Thinking through your computer purchase cabling needs before you leave home, or at least before you leave the computer store, can save you the hassle and time of making that additional trip. If you have to order from a catalog and have it shipped to you days may be lost before you can complete your installation.

These days motherboards do come with a lot of cables, but are they the right ones for your application and are there enough of them? We are in a transition from the EIDE interface for hard drives and CD/DVD players and writers to the SATA interface. With EIDE cables you have up to two drives on a parallel cable that are flat ribbons or twisted into a round cable; but SATA drives are connected via thin serial cables that have one for each drive connecting directly to the drive controller, usually on the motherboard. If you have a floppy drive you will need a cable for that too. So far I have only been talking about data cables, not power cables. SATA drives also have different power cables than EIDE drives. Also CD/DVD players and writers some times have different power connectors than EIDE hard drives, sometimes using a floppy drive type power connector. Also, if you have

a mid to high level 3D video card you may have to plug in one or two power connectors because they need more power than what they can get from the motherboard, and the power connectors for PCI Express video cards are different than those for AGP video cards (There are two different type of connectors for AGP cards too). Then there are the different connectors for case fans.

Also a lot of newer motherboards are connected to the power supply via a 24 pin connector instead of the more traditional 20 pin. Some 24 pin motherboards can have you just plug in a 20 pin plug, but others do not recommend that. Then of course we get into the audio cables for your CD/DVD player/writer to plug into the sound card or sound circuit on the motherboard. You also may need USB or Firewire (IEEE 1394) cables for within the case to get them from the motherboard to the sockets or external ones to get them out to your devices.

So how do you find out what cables you need? If possible you can look at the parts themselves or the box they come in. There is the visual of the connectors and information on the part or box about what the part needs. Be wary however on just taking it from the visuals. Some cables that have the same type of connectors at their ends are rated differently on speed or other factors. An example of this is EIDE data cables. Typical rating for these cables is 33, 66, 100, or 133 MHz. In with EIDE components hooked together it is the slowest component that sets the data the data speed on the EIDE bus. If the EIDE drive controller cannot communicate with the drives at one speed because the cable is not capable of handling data transmission at that speed without errors, the controller will drop the speed of the entire EIDE data bus. As such having EIDE components rated at 133 MHz and connecting them together with a cable only rated at 66

MHz greatly increases the risk of the drives data transfer operating below 133 MHz. You also get into issues of it may be the right type of cable; but has the wrong connectors at the ends, which you can run into with Firewire (IEEE 1394), USB, and other cables. Other sources for this information are the manufacturer's website or those of online retailers that sell the part. You may have to look at the parts manual to find information about its power connectors. However, how do you get to see the manual before buying the part? Many manufacturers have the manual to their parts on their website in PDF format so you can just download the manual. This is sometimes the only way you can easily find out whether a motherboard needs a 20 or 24 pin power connector or it can take either. From these same sources you can also find out what cables come with a part.

You should look at the power supply you are going to use or if you can't examine it, probably because you have not bought it yet, find out the specifications. There are different ATX standards for power supplies, with ATX 12V 2.01 being the latest (For additional information read "More Performance: The New Power Supply Standard, ATX12V 2.0" at Tom's Hardware Guide www.tomshardware.com. Look at what connectors it has and how many of each (20 or 24 pin, P4, and EPS motherboard connectors, 4 pin Molex for 5.25" format EIDE drives and some fans, floppy drive, SATA, auxiliary, and PCI Express video card. Depending on what you find and your needs you may need power splitters or adapters. Many older power supplies do not have SATA drive power connectors, but only those that are used for EIDE (Be aware that some SATA drive power adapters do not have a +3.3V connection, which is required by some drives). Only some of the recently introduced power supplies have a PCI Express video card power connector. If you have enough components in your

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Google speed bump draws scorn

By Stefanie Olsen,

CNET News.com Published on ZDNet News: May 6, 2005, 4:21 PM PT

Google has raised privacy and security hackles once again, this time by developing an application that accelerates Web surfing but can also delete pages or serve up password-protected content.

The complaints center on the search giant's Web Accelerator, which was released on Wednesday. Downloadable software for broadband users, Web Accelerator is intended to speed access to Web pages by serving up cached or compressed copies of sites from Google's servers.

Though the software can be useful to consumers who are in a hurry--broadband connections already deliver pages quickly--critics were quick to find a potentially damaging glitch. A flaw with Web Accelerator, which Google acknowledges, can serve cached copies of private discussion groups or password-protected pages to people using the software.

For example, using the software, a Web surfer might call up a discussion group page and see the name of another group member, making it appear as if the surfer is signed in as that user. Web Accelerator does not cache secure Web sites in the programming language "HTTPF" such as banking or credit card pages, however, so data such as financial transactions are not at stake.

Marissa Mayer, Google's vice president of Web products, said the company is working on a fix but downplayed the threat. "It looks worse than it is," she said. "We've cached the page with that user name on it. But you are not actually signed in; you couldn't operate as that person," she said, adding it has affected

only a small number of sites.

"We're committed to provide users the utmost of integrity in security and privacy, and we're working with urgency to solve this problem," she added.

More broadly, privacy advocates are concerned about the scope of data collected with the Web Accelerator, charging that Google's privacy policy does not address some important consumer issues. Critics say the tool's capabilities to monitor a person's travels across the Web feeds into an overarching worry that Google is becoming a massive market research firm capable of collecting oodles of information on millions of people.

Not a Google first

"The business they're in here with this new product is market research--they'll be looking at what people are doing on the Internet, what they're reading, what they're buying," said Richard Smith, a privacy and security expert who runs the Web site Computerbytesman.org. "There's potentially a lot of information just from the click-stream of the URLs people visit."

Google has run into privacy and security problems before when introducing new services. The company's free e-mail service, Gmail, roiled the privacy community for its practice of scanning the contents of e-mail to deliver related ads. Although the furor eventually subsided, Google's desktop search software, introduced late last year, contained a security glitch that temporarily exposed private data on the Web. And Google's latest toolbar was the subject of criticism for a feature that converted text on third-party Web pages to Google-designated links.

Google's Mayer said the Web Accelerator is not a market research tool. Rather, the company built the application to give people the same fast experience they have at Google--most search pages are returned in a fraction of a second--while surfing the Web at large. If the tool can help someone save two or three hours a month surfing the Web, that person might spend more time searching with

Google, Mayer reasoned.

Google states in its privacy policy that it does not collect or share personally identifiable information with use of the software. Still, privacy experts warn that the policy is silent about what click-stream data it collects and what Google does with the information.

"The tool offers a plausible consumer benefit. But it makes me uncomfortable because it's Google collecting yet more information about everyone and doing it in a way that's not necessary," said Ben Edelman, a Harvard University researcher who investigates software applications.

For example, he said, it's unclear whether Google will tie information collected from click-stream data to its cookies. Cookies are tiny tracking tags used by most Web sites to associate a specific computer or user with his or her activity online. Often, cookies are used to remember passwords or log-ins, as well as information such as the user's geographic location or past preferences to better serve Web pages.

"The most important issue they don't address is what click-stream data is tied to the Google cookie," said Computerbytesman.org's Smith. "My recommendation: Purge Google cookies and often."

Mayer said that that click-stream data from Web Accelerator is not associated with the computer's cookie.

"To date, we're not doing anything with this data in terms of market research. We have no plans, but should that change we would aggressively notify our users and give them some escape hatch," Mayer said.

To address the security flaw, Mayer said the company is deactivating the mechanism that caches vulnerable Web pages. Mayer said the problem happens only on a small number of sites, typically discussion groups, because those sites are not passing the proper no-cache header information. She said the company is also contacting Web masters to work with them on that issue. In addition, Google is looking at possible mathematical algo-

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From Langalist 2005-04-14

Hi Fred: I recently came across a very impressive technological advance and tool, which can bring panoramic photography within reach of anyone with a digital camera. The tool is called AutoStitch and can be found at <http://www.cs.ubc.ca/~mbrown/autostitch/autostitch.html>

Actually, the download is a development prototype demo, not a finished product by any means, but to the extent that I've used it, it works as described on the website. The program automatically discovers and 'stitches' together overlapping photos from a group of photos, and creates a panoramic output file. It can combine photos horizontally and vertically.

It requires no installation, and the single executable is quite small (~700kb), considering what it does. The demo has a very simple user interface (except for the options, which can be ignored). It has three basic steps, select the input file group, display the options from the initial calculations, and calculate and produce the output image (pano.jpg in the same directory as the input). It takes only a few minutes to execute on a 300MHz CPU. The options screen is mainly for development,

but one option which might be useful controls the output file size.

As a test, I stood against one wall of a room and photographed the other three walls in a group of eight photos, four including part of the ceiling and four including part of the floor. The program stitched these photos together seamlessly, and the result had surprisingly little barrel distortion.

Check out the web site, but those with a dial-up connection should be prepared to spend a lot of time there - it's mostly all graphics. The Research page provides more technical details, and points to two documentation downloads - a slide presentation and a technical paper, both of which require a degree in advanced mathematics to understand.

There seems to be only two major requirements in taking the photos - they must overlap and they must be taken from a single point of view. The process will even work if some of the photos were taken with slightly different zoom settings!

I find it all rather amazing, and I'd like to see this functionality included in every digital photo work bench. -- Tom Mighill

[Fred responds] Wow--- you're right, Tom, this is impressive. This tool lets your PC do what used to take a supercomputer and a roomful of highly skilled technicians. Amazing!



Continued from page 3

system where your present power supply may not be able to handle the load, it might be better to get a new power supply which has the newer type of connectors you need.

One thing you also should consider is how your cables will affect airflow in your computer. Many people use round EIDE cables rather than flat because of this issue. The good use of cable ties can help with this problem. Especially if you live far away from a computer store, are using online retailers, or going to a computer swap meet that you would have to pay again to reenter it is especially important to be sure you have all the cables you need for your computer upgrade or building project. Researching what you need ahead of time can prevent wasting time and money and increasing your frustration. May you have the cables you need, and not buy cables you can't use.

Timothy Everingham is CEO of Timothy Everingham Consulting in Azusa, California. He is also Chair of the Los Angeles Chapter of ACM SIGGRAPH. Timothy is also part-time press in the areas of high technology, computers, video, audio, and entertainment/ media and has had articles published throughout the United States and Canada plus Australia, England, & Japan. Further information can be found at <http://home.earthlink.net/~teveringham>.



*My face in the mirror
Isn't wrinkled or drawn.*

*My house isn't dirty
The cobwebs are gone.
My garden looks lovely,
And so does my lawn.*

*I think I might never
Put my glasses back on.*

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by the 10th of each month to be appearing in the next month's issue.

Current Hoaxes and Urban Legends

By Ira Wilsker,

APCUG Director and Columnist, The Examiner, Beaumont TX
iwilsker@apcug.net

Some of us find them cute, entertaining, exciting, and fun, while others of us find them embarrassing, irritating, and a waste of time. Many forward them believing that they are doing good, or warning of harm, or forward them because they came from an allegedly reliable source. A few are so convinced of their truth that I am explicitly requested to put them in this column, or announce them on my radio and TV show. What I am referring to are the hoaxes and urban legends currently circulating on the internet that many of us seem to love to forward to everyone in our email address books. Many of these hoaxes and urban legends have a grain of truth or logic in them, while many others are totally lacking any basis in fact, yet many of us still enjoy forwarding them without a second thought.

In order to avoid embarrassment I strongly recommend that everyone tempted to forward such emails should check out their validity prior to another mass send to all we know. There are several excellent websites that compile information on these emails, and a quick check can save us from the embarrassment of sending out a hoax, and preserve our personal credibility. If we find that the interesting email is indeed true, we should still consider not forwarding them to everyone, as many of our intended recipients may not find our interests to their likings, and may even be offended that we consumed their valuable bandwidth and time. Typically, when I receive one of these from an acquaintance, if I am not already familiar with it, I check it out; if it is true (a minority of the time), I may choose to selectively forward it only to

those that I think may be interested in the topic, but I never send it to everyone in my address book. If it is false, I usually reply back to the sender that it is indeed false, and include a link documenting the falsehood. Some emailers are so humiliated that I caught them in an inaccuracy that they reply in anger back to me, despite the incontrovertible fact that it was they who had sent the bogus email.

To verify the authenticity or falsehoods of these oft forwarded emails, I use two primary, and several secondary resources. Primarily I use the excellent and comprehensive urban legends resource of Snopes, at www.snopes.com. Well organized in an easy to navigate menu format, along with a competent search engine makes Snopes an excellent choice to check out the validity of questionable emails.

My other primary resource for checking the legitimacy of potential hoax emails is urbanlegends.about.com. This site is frequently updated with the latest hoaxes in circulation, and can reliably document their validity.

A common topic of these questionable emails is virus warnings. For this reason, most of the major antivirus software publishers also compile lists of hoaxes, mostly virus related, on their websites. I utilize these sites as secondary resources. It is also notable that old hoaxes and virus warnings never seem to die out, and periodically reappear. One that has been documented to be in circulation for over six years, but is again currently making the rounds in mass emailings is the "It takes guts to say Jesus" virus hoax. This email, in several iterations, warns that according to CNN, AOL, McAfee, and other reputable resources, that there is an email circulating with a virus that can not be detected by contemporary antivirus software and that if you open the email, your computer will be effectively destroyed. Every one of the hoax and antivirus websites list this as a hoax, yet

countless copies are being forwarded by well intentioned people trying to warn their acquaintances. Some of the variations even go on to state that while it may be false, it is so important that it is being forwarded anyway. Another similar email warning that does have some validity is the one that says "I've Got Your E-mail on My Account". It goes on to warn that someone is using "your" email account to spread a virus, and I have received 10 copies of it, all with your email address and ISP in the header. The email then says, "I have copied all the mail text in the windows text-editor for you & zipped then. Make sure, that this mails (sic) don't come in my mail-box again." Attached to this dire warning is a file, commonly named "your_text.zip". If opened, the file will infest your computer with the Sober.N worm. If it infects your computer, Sober.N will terminate the antivirus and firewall software on your computer, rendering it vulnerable to further attack, and then forwarding itself to everyone in your address book! This Sober.N warning is the exception to the rule that most warnings of this type are bogus.

Another dire warning, which I am receiving multiple copies of, is the warning that a directory of cell phone numbers is being compiled to enable telemarketers to call us on our cell phones, consuming our valuable supply of limited minutes. This hoax, which is now circulating for the second time, is listed by several sites as one of the top hoaxes in circulation. The grain of truth in this is that most cell phone carriers are instituting a "411" directory service of cell phone numbers, this list will emphatically not be for sale to telemarketers.

To see the latest hoaxes in circulation, as well as the ones in widest distribution, check out the hoax and urban legend websites, or the website of your favorite antivirus software. You may find some of the hoaxes actually quite entertaining, and wonder how intelligent people could fall for such silly emails.

rhythms to prevent the caching from happening in the future.

Yet another contingent, Web designers, has criticized the application for deleting Javascript commands or pages of their sites within the software environment. That means that people using Web Accelerator may not be able to hit the back button to return to a previous page. Google spokesman Nate Tyler said the company is also looking into that issue.

Web acceleration tools were popular years ago during the dot-com heyday, when most people accessed the Web with dial-up connections. Internet service providers such as America Online have offered them for free to their dial-up customers as a means of improving the surfing experience. Market research firms such as ComScore Networks have also used the tools as a means to entice new subjects for research panels, watching their behavior online to estimate the

popularity of Web sites, for example.

But in an era of widespread broadband usage--more than 50 percent of households in the United States have a high-speed connection--the value of such tools has diminished. Peter Christy, co-founder of market research firm Internet Research Group, said that despite that perception, a good Web accelerator can mitigate packet loss, or latency, as information is sent from router to router. It can also optimize how an object-heavy Web site is compressed and sent to a visitor.

Addressing the privacy issues, Christy said there's always a basic trade-off between getting a service and getting absolute privacy.

"If you look at Google, this fabulously useful company, they make their money by selling people ads," he said. Besides search, "the way Google becomes useful is in building some model of who I am and what I'm interested in and delivering me ads. That's either really useful or very sinister."

Morse code trumps SMS in head-to-head speed texting combat

Okay, the world title for fastest text messaging is still raging in the streets. The victor in the most recent contest was a bit of a dark horse — 93-year-old telegraph operator Gordon Hill delivered a resounding ass-whoopin' to his rival, 13-year-old Brittany Devlin, using Morse Code. Of course, Mr. Hill does have nigh on 80 years



of practice under his belt, which was enough to help him triumph even despite Brittany's liberal use of texting slang (Mr. Hill transmitted the chosen phrase verbatim). The showdown was sponsored by the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney, Australia, and the rivals had to transmit the following message: "Hey, girlfriend, you can text all your best pals to tell them where you are going and what you are wearing." Damn straight! Screw the T9, Engadget's switching over to Morse from now on.

Posted May 6, 2005, 1:45 PM ET by Barb Dybwad
<http://engadget.com/entry/1234000463042528/>

Three things to do with your old PC

Protect your home network

Sure, a \$50 Linksys box will protect your home network. But how about something a bit burlier? If your old system has a Pentium processor, 64MB of RAM, a hard drive, and a CD-ROM drive, it's painless to build a pretty serious network firewall, called a SmoothWall.

What you'll need

You'll need at least two Ethernet cards: one to connect to your Internet source, and a second to connect to your home network.

How many computers are you protecting?

You might want a hub if you want to connect more than one PC to the firewall. You could also use this as extra protection between the Internet and a wireless access point such as the Apple AirPort Express.

What you'll do

1. Download the SmoothWall Express ISO from SmoothWall.org.
2. Burn it to a CD-R as image data. Don't burn as a file.
3. Make sure your old PC will boot from the CD. You may have to do this in the BIOS.
4. Reboot from the new SmoothWall CD you've created.
5. Follow the onscreen directions to install the firewall software.

Just plug the Internet and your new PC or network into your old PC; now your home network has some serious protection.

Turn it into a Linux learning lab

Wondering what all the fuss is over the Linux OS or FreeBSD or any other non-Microsoft OS that will run on a PC? Head straight to LinuxISO.org. There you'll find ISO files that you can burn to a CD and use to install a Linux distribution, such as SuSE, onto that older system.

Not sure you want to wipe out that old install of Windows 90-something? Try Knoppix, which runs from a CD and won't touch the files on your hard drive.

Donate or recycle it

You'd be shocked at how outdated the systems are at many schools; call yours to see if they can use your PC. If you're a supergeek, volunteer to help keep it running, too.

At the very least, have that PC properly recycled--there's some nasty stuff in there. If you use Dell's recycling program, you might even earn credit toward a new PC.

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>

General Meeting: 1st Sat, 9 am Camarillo Airport

OS/2 Corner: 2nd Sat, 9:30 am

805-604-7538

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

General Meeting: 1st Sat, 9 am Camarillo Airport

OS/2 Corner: 2nd Sat, 9:30 am

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@dslexreme.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

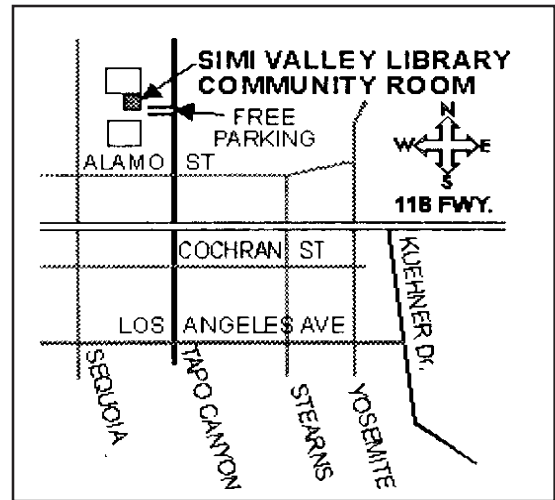
Make checks payable to "SVCUG".

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

May Meetings

Thursday, May 12th

Computer Q&A



Simi Valley
Police Department
"Identity Theft"

Wednesday, April 25th

"Build Your Own Computer
Part I of II"
by Dennis Atherton