



mbug-pc newsletter

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Need computer HELP?

Feel FREE to
PUSH OUR
BUTTONS!



Computer acting funny?
Got a new program you
don't understand?
Thinking about buying
something but don't know
how to go about it? Our
F1 for Help Guys are
available exclusively to
MBUG-PC Members.

Details on page 11!

Preserve Past Memories: Convert Videos, 78/45rpm Records to Modern Media

If you're of "a certain age," you probably have a closet full of family VHS videos—weddings, new babies, holidays with friends and family, cherished movies of people who are no longer with us. And other relics probably sit silently in your entertainment room or the garage—great music mutely pressed onto 78 and 45 rpm records or etched on quiet little cassette tapes.

Andy Marken of **Marken Communications** will explain how he converted his family's sailing and diving videotapes to permanent DVDs, and also made copies for his children, and their children to enjoy into posterity. He'll show us how he converted his record collection into fresh-sounding CDs, and how his son helped him put the "golden oldies" into an **iPod** for his wife.

Andy has been marketing and promoting video and storage programs for more than ten years. He modestly says he's a long way from being a techie, but his passion for the subject will go a long way to help the rest of us non-experts understand the subject. And Andy *does* know how to use **ADS Tech DVD Xpress DX2**, **Instant Music** and other conversion programs. He'll show us how easy it is for even new users to go from making pretty good video/audio content to making fantastic music and movies, and preserving old VHS tapes, 78s, 45s or cassette tapes by converting them to formats that can be enjoyed on **PSPs**, **MP3s**, **iPods**, **Zen Visions**, or DVD players.

Join us in what is sure to be a useful meeting and find out how to preserve and relive the wonderful sights and sounds of yesterday. Learn something new, and maybe get some great ideas for end-of-year holiday gifts for family, your friends and yourself! Questions? Contact andy@markencom.com ♦

Friday, November 3rd 2006 at 7pm

Pacific Grove Adult Education Center

1025 Lighthouse Avenue, Pacific Grove

As always, FREE and open to the General Public.

**Meet new friends, have some great coffee, and take
away some fantastic food for thought!**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THESE GREAT MBUG-PC POSITIONS!

Program Chair

Find and schedule First Friday General Meeting Guest Speakers.

Publicity Chair

Publicize MBUG in local publications and to members on the Listserv.

Workshop /SIG Leaders

Share your knowledge: run workshops or Special Interest Groups monthly/bi-monthly/quarterly

Meeting Reviewers

Attend General Meetings (or any other ongoing workshops) and write 500-word-or-less reviews.

Hospitality

Provide coffee service at First Friday General Meetings
(store equipment and supplies, bring the needful and set up for coffee and goodies).

E-mail or call Vice-President **Don Slaiter** at slaiter@pacbell.net ☎ (831) 655-4443 and 657-4154

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MBUG-PC benefits: Computer Help, the Newsletter and 15 - 20% Discount on Computer Books at Borders and Waldenbooks with MBUG-PC Membership Card (see Don Slaiter for card).

CAROLYN'S VIEWPOINT

Carolyn Lake
President



photo: Bill Hysler, MBUG-PC

HAPPILY SCAN-DALIZED

MBUG member **Eileen Begley**, owner/principal trainer of **EZ Tech Training**, made a fascinating presentation at our October 6 General Meeting on the ins and outs of choosing and utilizing a flatbed color scanner. She brought home to us the importance of correct scanning to generate files with details that may not be obvious in the source material.

As with many other computer-related products, developing technology makes available a wide range of prices and features at lower cost. A decent scanner with multiple features can be found for under \$100, but if high quality digitized files from slides and film are needed, prices can easily jump to the \$2500-\$3000 range.

How to choose? To get started, Eileen recommended first thinking through your purpose: will the scanner be used mostly for business office applications or will it be used for graphic arts and photo applications? If the emphasis is mainly on business needs, look for productivity features, such as automatic document feeder (ADF), optical character recognition (OCR) software for creating editable documents, and helpful software for file management and conversion. For example, the full Adobe Acrobat program to create PDF files may be included in the box.

If your main interest is in graphics, pay attention to technical specifications, especially for hardware resolution, bit depth, and density range. Eileen discussed these points. For tutorials on resolution, see www.spyderbytes.com. For photo scanning, resolution should be at least 1200 dpi, but better scanners now commonly have 4800 dpi. Be wary of the figures for high resolutions based on "interpolated" settings, which add pixels but arbitrarily select colors to use; this is not useful for working with photos to increase photo size.

Eileen emphasized two other parameters as important when selecting a scanner for graphics work. The old bit depth standard of 24 bits total (8 per channel) is being replaced by 36 bits total, and all high end scanners should be 48 bits total. The higher the better, as better scans with more shadow detail and tonal range will be possible. The density range number also indicates what can be expected in catching detail and tonal range, and should be at least 3.0, but for films and slides, a higher range of 3.4-3.6 or more is needed. Lens quality should also be considered, with the CCD (charge-coupled device) sensor card being the preferred photoelectric device. Also, check the connectivity available; generally, you will want a USB 2.0 cable to your computer, but consider if a firewire connection will suit you better for the added speed, if your computer has that capability.

To get a better handle on what all these terms might mean, I found it helpful to comparison window shop at www.epson.com. Under "Products," click "Scanners" to see pictures and prices, and check the "Specifications" and "Features and Benefits" of several scanners at low, middle, and higher price levels to compare the features that are important either for business or graphics work. For example, the \$800 version of the **Epson 4490** offers 4800 dpi, 48-bit total bit depth, and 4.0 density. Other good vendors such as **HP** and **Microtek** probably have similar comparative information.

Eileen suggested checking out the free software included with the better scanners in addition to the basic operating software. Epson provides **Digital ICE Technologies** software for automatically removing dust and scratches, and some packages include **Adobe Photoshop Elements** or the full **Photoshop** application.

The demonstration reviewed effects of various adjustments made in the scanning process to optimize the outcome for the digitized files. A key concept is selecting the applicable resolution to match the intended file use. If the end product is for on-screen viewing only, 72 ppi will suffice, but for printing out photos, 300 ppi is recommended. Other adjustments such as cropping, and contrast/brightness can be made. Making adjustments at the scanner will provide more data to work with in Photoshop. Eileen's tip that made my day: use pieces of drafting tape to hold items in position! ♦

lakelyn@ix.netcom.com



THINGS, THINGLETS & THINGASSOS

S. Jack Lewtschuk
MBUG-PC
Columnist



photo: R. Binsacca, MBUG-PC

CREATE HYPERLINKS IN OFFICE DOCUMENTS, QUICKLY

Office programs enable you to create hyperlinks to external websites. Here's a quick way to insert a website address:

- Highlight the text you want linked and press "CTRL" + "K".
- In the "Insert Hyperlink" dialog box, making sure that the insertion point is in the "address" box
- Start your browser, and open the website to which you want a link
- Switch back to your Office document (the website address will automatically appear in the "Insert Hyperlink" dialog box, so there's no need to type it in or copy and paste from your browser)
- Click "OK"

NOTE: *This does not work in MS Publisher and only works in MS Outlook if you use MS Word as your e-mail editor.*

IT'S TIME FOR A REMINDER

Why is it important to remove e-mail addresses from forwarded messages? If a long list of e-mail addresses is intercepted, it's a gold mine for spammers. Secondly, many people, myself included, like to keep their addresses private. Also, who wants to scroll through all of those other addresses to get to the good stuff?

When you forward a message, forward it as **inline text**, not as an attachment. The original text will be included in the body of your e-mail. Then highlight the addresses in the body of the e-mail. Click "delete", and they're gone. You can also remove subject lines and the like. You may need to set your software to forward messages as inline text:

In Outlook (*Outlook Express automatically forwards messages as inline text*)

- Click "Tools", then "Options"
- On "Preferences", click "E-Mail Options"
- Click "Advanced E-Mail Options"
- In the box beneath "When forwarding a message", select "Include original message text"
- Click "OK", then "OK".

In Thunderbird

- Click "Tools", "Options" and "Composition"
- Under "Forwarding Messages", select "Inline" and click "OK"

WHERE TO GO FOR HELP

IF YOU THINK YOU'VE BEEN SCAMMED

If you provided personal or financial information in response to an e-mail request and, after thinking about it, believe you may have been a victim of fraud, call the company that appeared to request the information immediately. If a thief gained access to their network or network services by posing as your bank, credit union, or other financial institution, your institution should freeze your accounts to protect your funds. You should also report the incident immediately to the **Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)** at www.ic3.gov.

IDENTITY THEFT

If you think you've become the victim of identity theft, another useful source of information is: <http://www.identitytheftfixes.com>.

SPAM ALLERGY

Has spam (unsolicited commercial e-mail) affected your health yet? Just in case you haven't heard, there *is* something you can do about it, other than by *not* clicking on a spam message (don't open anything if you're not sure who the sender is, especially if it has an attachment), by *not* doing business with companies or individuals who send spam, or by taking **Valium!**

Complain about spam messages by calling: 1-877-FTC-HELP (382-4357); by writing to the **Federal Trade Commission**, CRC-240, Washington DC 20580; or at [h t t p s : // r n . f t c . g o v / p l s / d o d / w s o l c q \\$. s t a r t u p ? Z _ O R G _ C O D E = P U 0 1](http://h t t p s : // r n . f t c . g o v / p l s / d o d / w s o l c q $. s t a r t u p ? Z _ O R G _ C O D E = P U 0 1). Forward spam to the FTC by sending it to spam@uce.gov.

MAJOR GEEK

Here's a website with more utilities and other programs than most I have seen, and many are free. I'll bet you can find something you never knew you could live without at: <http://www.majorgeeks.com/page.php?id=3>.

NANOTECHNOLOGY

*Definition: Technology for microscopic devices
The art of manipulating materials on a very small scale in order to build microscopic machinery*

The **University of Texas at Dallas** recently used nanotechnology to create a miniature American flag. How miniature? 7 microns tall. Pretty tiny, considering that the width of a human hair is roughly 100 microns. *Things from science fiction novels are becoming reality!*

NOVICE CORNER

How to Alphabetize a List of Words

To alphabetize a list of words in MS Word, Outlook, etc., type in your words and press "Enter" after each word. When you are done with your list, select the words you wish to alphabetize by highlighting them. Then click on "Table", and click on "Sort", and, hey presto, the words are in alphabetical order!

Hubs vs Routers

A **hub** is used to link computers. If you have a few computers at home or work, you can hard wire them all into a hub. Then you can share files, printers and whatnot between computers. A **router**, on the other hand, connects networks to networks. So you need a router to connect a home network to the biggest network of all, the Internet. But you also need a hub. Most routers come with a built in hub. If you want to connect a home network to the worldwide web, buy a router/hub, not just a hub.

See, its simple stuff, really!

Bad Stuff (5): Ransomware

Just as thieves kidnap people and demand ransom, **ransomware** is an extortion scheme where thieves hijack computer files, then demand ransom so the victim can have their files back. For information go to: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ransomware>.◆

blacklion@royal.net

THE FRUGAL COMPUTERIST



by Bob "I Don't Do
Windows" Stephan

photo: Bill Hoyer, MBUG-PC

Another Way to Defeat Spam for Free!

I maintain a website for an organization I belong to. The website has an associated e-mail address for people who want to contact us. As you might expect, since the e-mail address is out in the open it tends to attract a LOT of spam! The ISP for that e-mail address does not have a very good spam filter, but they host our non-profit website for free, so I have been putting up with it, until now!

I have found a solution to the problem. Thanks to an e-newsletter than I subscribe to I learned about another method to deal with spam. Have you heard of GMAIL? As I learned from the e-newsletter, the solution revolves around Google's Gmail. Although Google doesn't advertise Gmail's use as a spam filter to be used with other e-mail addresses, it works beautifully as I can now testify.

First you have to get a free Gmail account, and this may not be easy. One way is to have an existing Gmail user send you an invitation. I was able to obtain such an invitation from the author of the e-newsletter but not all existing members are authorized to send out invitations (please don't ask me for an invitation because Google has not authorized me to send any). Another way that I obtained a second account is also now available, at least as of this writing, if you can receive text messages on your cell phone. Note that the account you will receive is a regular Gmail account. You don't have to keep using text messaging but you can read Gmail on your mobile



phone if you want to. Go to gmail.google.com and click on “Sign up for Gmail,” then follow the instructions to receive a sign-up code via text message.

You now have a perfectly good Gmail account that you can use for regular e-mail. You can either use it online from your browser or you can have your usual e-mail client retrieve the messages just as if you had an e-mail account with some other ISP. If that is all you want to do, that is all you have to do. Full instructions are available by clicking on “Settings” at the top of your account page, then on “Forwarding and POP”. To use Gmail with your regular mail client you just follow the POP (Post Office Protocol) instructions and you won’t have to use your browser to read your mail. Instructions for configuring your e-mail client are just a click away.

Now where does the spam solution come in? It turns out that Gmail has one of the best spam filters you will find anywhere. You can use your new account wherever you are reluctant to expose your real e-mail address and if that leads to more spam Gmail will almost certainly filter it to the spam folder where you can check it if you want to. If you leave it there for 30 days it will automatically be deleted.

An even easier method than using POP is to simply have Gmail forward your good mail to your regular e-mail address. When you click on “Forwarding and POP” as mentioned above, use the Forwarding option instead of the POP option. Gmail will filter out the spam and send the rest of it to your specified e-mail address. After forwarding you can have your messages either deleted or saved. Gmail will automatically keep an archive of more than 2-1/2 gigabytes of your e-mail messages, all without your taking any action! Should you want to look for an old e-mail message some months from now, you can do so easily.

Can you use Gmail’s excellent spam filter with your regular e-mail address? Probably. First you have to find a method of forwarding your e-mail to your Gmail account. There are two different methods that I know of for doing this, depending on the options available at your primary e-mail provider:

1. Check to see if your normal e-mail provider provides an option to forward all your e-mail to another account. If so, you have the solution.

2. Another method is the one I use, but I don’t know if it can be done for free. In previous columns I have mentioned **Spamarrest**, a service I subscribe to which filters out my spam. When it picks up the mail from a normal e-mail account, I can have it forwarded to my Gmail account. There may be other similar services available, possibly free, if you Google for them.

When you are able to get your normal e-mail into your Gmail account, you can manage your e-mail for all accounts from Gmail. You can set Gmail up with several account addresses and when you write or reply to messages, you can select which e-mail address you want it to be “From”. To do this, follow these simple instructions:

Click on “Settings” as mentioned above, then on the “Accounts” tab, and on “Add another e-mail address”. Enter one of your normal e-mail addresses in the text box, and click “Next Step”. Click “Send Verification”. A message will be sent to the e-mail address you entered to verify that you entered the correct address. Follow the instructions in the verification e-mail, and you can start using your Gmail account to manage e-mail for that and any other addresses you enter.

I don’t know what would happen if you forwarded messages to Gmail for spam filtering then had Gmail forward them back to your normal e-mail account. This could set up an infinite loop, but I expect Gmail has anticipated this and has some control to counteract it, but I have not been bold enough to give it a try. Since e-mail accounts are plentiful and easy to come by, I suggest setting up another e-mail address at your ISP to receive your forwarded, spam-free mail.

There are many other things you can do with Gmail. For example, you can import your contact list (address book) from your other e-mail program. Just browse the many different Help topics to learn more.

In summary, using Gmail has been completely successful in trapping the volumes of spam from that non-profit account. It did not take long after I posted the new contact address on the non-profit web site for spam to start arriving. Within days after I set up the Gmail account, there were 48 messages in the spam box. This was a

100 percent success rate with no false positives, and it has continued to be successful day by day. ♦

Bob "I Don't Do Windows" Stephan is an OS/2 enthusiast with over 39 years of computing experience. He welcomes comments and questions that The Frugal Computerist can respond to. He can be reached at bob@bobstephan.net.

Bob's home page is at www.bobstephan.net.

all about **BACKUP**

The Part of Backup Nobody Mentions *by Vinny LaBash, Sarasota Personal Computer Users Group, Florida*

Do you believe that your backup is a sound copy of your data? Would you be at ease if all your files

suddenly disappeared from your computer, and all you had was your backup to restore them? (If your confidence just fizzled to zero, what's the problem?)

You may have developed the most sophisticated and comprehensive backup scheme the computer world has ever seen, but you won't ever know if it's any good unless you test it. Without a valid method of testing, you can have no confidence in your backups. There are many things that can go wrong with a backup, some beyond your control, some not:

- One day you were in too much of a hurry, and you made a backup of one folder instead of your entire system as planned.
- Your backup disk got exposed to a magnetic field and scrambled all your data.
- The CD containing your data was left in the car, and excessive heat warped the media, making it unreadable.
- You encrypted your backup and lost the password to restore it.
- You upgraded your backup software, and now it can't read your old backups.
- Your new upgraded backup software program becomes corrupted, and you can't make a new backup or restore an old one.
- Your new backup program has a great innovative file compression scheme. However, it turns out that it compresses better than anyone expected.

FREE LOCAL e-WASTE DISPOSAL

Computers contain heavy metals, mostly in their printed circuit boards. When they reach the end of their useful lives they become "e-waste" which may not be put in the regular trash. It must be sent to a facility that has a permit for treatment (including recycling), storage, or disposal of hazardous waste.



The **Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority** and the **Monterey Regional Waste Management District** can now dispose of and recycle old electronics locally for free. Bring electronics (computer monitors, televisions, CPUs, laptops, printers, keyboards and cell phones) to:

SALINAS

Johnson Canyon Landfill, Sun Street Transfer Station and Jolon Road Transfer Station.

Madison Avenue Disposal Site accepts e-waste every Thursday from 0800-1700 hrs at 1120 Madison Lane, Salinas
Phone (831) 754-2500.

MONTEREY, PACIFIC GROVE, SEASIDE, MARINA
Last Chance Mercantile,
14201 Del Monte Boulevard, Marina



■ You upgrade your Windows Operating System and your backup software no longer works. (Rare, but it happens).

Let's stop before you get too depressed. What's important is to understand that many things can go wrong even with the best methods. The only true test of your backup is to do a restore and see if it works. Does this mean you have to erase all your files, and then run a restore from your backup media? No, there are less chancy ways of verifying your backup data. You can install a second hard drive and restore your data files to the second disk. If your original disk has enough capacity, you can partition it into two sections, and restore into one of the new partitions. Hard drives have become cheap, so this is not expensive.

Another thing you can do is make at least three backups and store them in three different locations for safety: one at home, but in a different room than your computer; a second copy at your office or a friend's house; the third copy in a safe deposit box or similar secure location.

If you feel that such measures are not necessary, ask yourself if you are ready to perform the ultimate test. Would you feel totally at ease erasing your hard disk today and restoring it from your backups? If not, then think again. ♦

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This article is courtesy of the Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), of which MBUG-PC is a member.

UNINSTALLING SOFTWARE

Say Goodbye to Stubborn Software

*by Tracy Baker
Used by Permission of
SmartComputing Magazine*

Installing a **Windows** program is much like getting a new roommate. They move in and leave their junk all over the place. When they leave (or get uninstalled), a lot of that junk gets left behind, only to be discovered later in the oddest places. The big difference is that finding a smelly sock behind the dryer months after your roomie is gone is gross at worst, but some of the debris Windows programs leave behind can cause serious problems. When programs are uninstalled from your PC it is important to eradicate every trace of them, which isn't always easy.

The worst thing you can do is to simply delete the folder where the program is installed, because it really isn't installed there—at least not entirely. There are shortcuts, Registry entries, system files, and an assortment of other files associated with the program scattered all over the computer, and deleting the program folder leaves all of these behind to take up hard drive space and possibly slow down or destabilize the computer. Completely getting rid of software requires using specialized uninstallation utilities, most of which are already available on your computer.

Built-In Uninstall

Always see if a program has its own uninstall utility, such as this uninstall method for **Ad-Aware SE Personal**, before using the “Add or Remove Programs” tool found in the Control Panel. The vast majority of Windows programs use an installation package such as **InstallShield** (www.installshield.com) to automate the install process, placing files where they need to be with little to no input required from you.

The best of these utilities are the ones that maintain a list of all of the locations where the files are stored, and they also come with an automated uninstall utility that lets users remove the software from their computer with just a few clicks. The uninstall utility opens the list of file locations, deletes everything referenced on the list, and thereby removes every single file that was placed on the hard drive during the initial installation.

Accessing this feature is easy, assuming the program comes with it. Click “Start”, expand “Programs” (or “All Programs” in **Windows XP**), and then expand the folder of the program you want to uninstall. Look for an entry that contains the word “uninstall” or “uninstaller,” click it, and follow the prompts.

Often the uninstaller asks if you want to keep certain files and folders, such as configuration settings, saved games, or the folder where the program was installed. If you plan to never use the software again, select the option that gets rid of these files. If, however, there is a chance you may install the program again at a later time, select the option that

retains these files and folders, so the next time you install the software you won't have to deal with the hassle of reconfiguring it.

Windows To The Rescue

“Add Or Remove Programs” in Windows XP tracks uninstall information for nearly every piece of software installed on the machine, including operating system patches from **Microsoft**. Not all programs have their own uninstall utilities, and that's where WinXP's “Add or Remove Programs” (or “Add/Remove Programs” in **Windows 98/ME**) utility comes into play. This utility is usually the only method you can use to remove most Microsoft programs and updates that are installed on your system. The “Add or Remove Programs” tool also taps into the individual uninstall utilities associated with programs on your computer, meaning it serves as a one-stop shop for uninstalling software.

To access this feature, click “Start”, click “Control Panel”, and click “Add or Remove Programs”. It may take a few minutes for Windows to scan the computer for installed software, but eventually a list appears containing all programs that came with an uninstall utility. Scroll down the list until you find the entry for the program you want to remove, highlight it, and then make sure that software is not currently running before you click the “Change/Remove” button. Shutting down the software is extremely important because files can only be uninstalled if they are not currently in use.

Once you are certain the software is not in use, click “Change/Remove”

and follow the prompts, which will vary from program to program. If an error message appears telling you the program cannot be uninstalled because files associated with it are currently in use, the program wasn't shut down properly. (Clicking the “X” in the upper-right corner of a window often will minimize a program back to the “System Tray”, but not completely shut down a program.) Check the “System Tray” located on the bottom-right side of the Windows toolbar. Make sure none of the icons there belong to the program you're attempting to uninstall. If you see the program you are trying to uninstall, right-click its icon to turn off the software. If there is no option listed that will turn off the software, double-click the icon and wait for the program's interface window to appear. See if there is an option listed that will let you turn the program off.

If none of these methods enables you to turn off the software in WinXP, hold down “CTRL”, “ALT” and “DELETE” on the keyboard to launch the “Windows Task Manager”. Locate the program in the “Applications” tab, highlight it, and click “End Task”. You may have to repeat this step several times to completely shut down the program.

System Restore

“System Restore” is a handy feature when trouble strikes, but it can leave program remnants all over your computer. If you don't see the program in the list of applications, click the “Processes” tab. This list shows all of the programs currently running on your computer, including software running in the background that doesn't have its own window,

“System Tray” icon, or other visual indicator that lets you know it's running. Click the “Image Name” cell to alphabetize the list and then scroll through it to find an entry associated with the program you're trying to uninstall. Highlight the entry and click “End Process”. Use a search service such as **Google** to look up any questionable entries and be sure to avoid entries that are necessary for the operating system to function properly, such as svchost.exe, System Idle Process, System, spoolsv.exe, smss.exe, services.exe, lsass.exe, dllhost.exe, rundll32.exe, and explorer.exe. Once the program or process is shut down, repeat the uninstall routine immediately—don't reboot the computer; doing so may restart the program you just turned off.

Remove Windows Software

Most of the software that comes with Windows cannot be uninstalled from the “Add or Remove Programs” list. In such an instance, you can click “Add/Remove Windows Components” on the left-hand side of the programs list. When the “Windows Components Wizard” appears, scroll down the list to find the Windows program you want to uninstall and remove the check mark from the corresponding checkbox to mark it for deletion. You can do this with as many programs as you like before clicking Next to complete the process.

CCleaner

CCleaner is a powerful tool that can sweep out most of the debris left by uninstall procedures gone awry. If you are unable to locate the entry, it may be contained within another entry. For example, if you want to



uninstall Windows Calculator you need to select the “Accessories and Utilities” entry (don’t remove the check mark yet), click the “Details” button, highlight the “Accessories” entry, click “Details” again, and then remove the check mark next to “Calculator”. If you make a mistake and accidentally uninstall something (which often happens when you accidentally remove the check mark from a container entry instead of from an individual program), start the “Windows Components Wizard”, place a check mark in the correct checkbox, and click “Next”. You may need your Windows installation CD to complete the reinstall process.

Reinstall To Uninstall

WinXP comes with a feature called “System Restore” that creates restore points of your current computer setup at various times (such as when you install new software) and then lets you “roll back” the computer to a working restore point should something go wrong. This is an excellent feature when it works as intended. However, “System Restore” is often necessary after a program installation goes awry, and the process of rolling back can sometimes create a mess. For example, after reverting to an earlier restore point, Windows is no longer aware that software installed after that restore point was created exists, even though all of the files and folders associated with that program remain on the hard drive. This creates a situation in which there is no uninstall option in the “Add or Remove Programs” list, and any uninstall utility that came with the problematic software may not work. “Add or Remove Programs” entries

may also become unusable if shortcuts, uninstall data, or other important files are accidentally moved or deleted, leaving you with stubborn software that’s hard to remove.

Removing Windows components is as easy as removing the check marks from a few checkboxes. While it’s tempting to manually delete a program’s installation folder in these situations, the best solution is to actually reinstall the software, reboot the computer, and then uninstall the software using “Add or Remove Programs” or the software’s uninstall utility.

Reinstalling restores all “Registry” entries and other data that was lost or forgotten by Windows during the rollback or caused by moved or missing files, setting up the software for a clean uninstall procedure. The installation software may ask you if you wish to overwrite files or folders during this process, at which point you can click the “Yes” button to replace an individual file or the “Yes to All” button to let all files and folders be replaced with fresh copies. When you reinstall software in order to uninstall it, always choose the “Yes to All” option. Once the software is installed, reboot the computer and then use the uninstall utility that came with the software or use WinXP’s “Add or Remove Programs” utility to uninstall the application.

Clean Up the Remnants

Automated uninstall utilities aren’t perfect, and often program folders are left behind when software is removed. Be on the lookout for an option during the uninstall routine

that asks if you want to delete all files associated with the program along with the program folder. Be sure to select this option if you know you’ll no longer need those files.

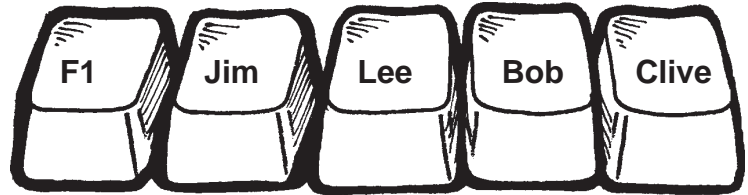
Scouring the hard drive for the remnants of uninstalled software is a job better left to an automated utility such as **CCleaner** (free at www.ccleaner.com). If you download this utility, make sure to deselect the checkbox that will add a **Yahoo!** toolbar to your Web browser during the installation (unless you want that feature). Run the software and click the “Issues” button. Click “Scan For Issues” and after the scan completes, click “Fix Selected Issues” to get rid of software remnants. You can also click the “Tools” button and then click the “Uninstall” button to access WinXP’s uninstall list and remove entries for software that has been uninstalled from the computer but still appears on the “Add or Remove Programs” list.

Also consider purchasing a third-party uninstall program, such as **Total Uninstall** (\$29; at www.martau.com), which jumps into action when a program is initially installed, tracking every file that is copied to the computer so that it can remove everything in one step if you need to uninstall at a later time. Third-party uninstall programs such as this won’t help you with applications that are already installed, but they can certainly reduce your need to rely on articles like this one in the future. ♦

SmartComputing Magazine
October 2006, Vol. 17, Issue 10
(pp 61-64)

Computer Help - Just a Click or Call Away with MBUG F1

You know you push the 'F1' button on your computer when you need help. But do you also know that you can call or e-mail **MBUG-PC "F1 for Help"** with your computer questions?



Our expert team of F1 Volunteers will share their experience on software and hardware. To get computer help:

- (1) Contact any of the people listed below; or
- (2) Ask questions during any MBUG-PC meeting break or Q&A session; or
- (3) Leave **Don Slaiter** (831) 655-4443/657-4154 a message; or
- (4) Broadcast a message to all members through the **MBUG-PC Listserv** mbug@listserv.redshift.com **in plain text only** (NO html, please)!

■ Jim Anway

STRICTLY Wednesdays & Fridays
from 2pm to 5pm at 625-5618

■ Lee Keely

Prefers e-mail at Lee@leekeely.com
or call 626-8033

■ Bob Stephan

e-mail to bob@bobstephan.net
or call only between 9am-5pm
646-1373

■ Clive Sanders

e-mail to simbacli@pacbell.net
or call only between 1pm to 9pm
phone (831) 375-5376 ♦

Services are free of charge

(with the understanding that MBUG-PC, its Board of Directors, and the F1 Volunteers themselves are in no way responsible or liable for the accuracy or the outcome of any advice or suggestions!)

VOLUNTEER COMPUTER COACHES/TEACHERS NEEDED

**Sally Griffin Senior Center
in Pacific Grove**

is in need of additional "computer coaches" and instructors for their

Technology Access Program for Seniors.

The center provides older adults an opportunity to learn and practice their technical skills in a small lab, working one-on-one and in a small class format.

If you have the time, ability and patience to tutor beginners in a relaxed setting, contact **Kimberle Herring** at the Sally Griffin Senior Center at (831) 375-4454 or e-mail kherring@mowmp.org

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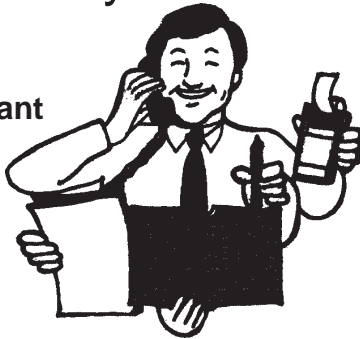


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Retired IBMer
Computer Consultant

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E-mail: simbacli@pacbell.net

lakelyn
graphics

Carolyn S. Lake

798 Lighthouse Ave, #194
Monterey, California 93940

phone: 831-643-2023
email: lakelyn@ix.netcom.com

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ARE YOU A REGISTERED MBUG LISTSERV MEMBER YET?

Join the MBUG listserv and send messages to all other MBUG Members
and have other Members reach you with important information:

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- **You get current MBUG announcements** ■ **You get up-to-date virus & scam warnings**
 - **You can ask and answer computer-related questions**
 - **You can make computer-related announcements**

Register at www.mbug.org or go to <http://listserv.redshift.com/mailman/listinfo/mbug>

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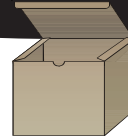
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Recycling empty computer ink cartridges through MBUG helps prevent non-degradable plastic and metal waste from polluting our landfills. At the same time we make money for our education programs by selling them to a local (Monterey) ink-refill company. We make it easy for you, too: just drop your empties (any brand, any type) into the brown box or give them to any Board Member at General Meetings or workshops. ♦ ellias@msn.com



MBUG-PC Members get 30 to 35% O'Reilly Discounts

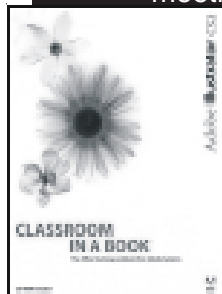


Our Members get a 30% discount on a single book or 35% off two or more on all books from O'Reilly as well as their "No Starch", "Paraglyph", "PC Publishing", "Pragmatic Bookshelf", "Sitepoint" and "Syngress" publications. Just use code "DSUG" when ordering books online or by phone at 1-800-998-9938. We get free ground shipping on orders of \$29.95 or more (in the US). Go to www.oreilly.com/store/ and see what's new!

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Contact:

Jack Lewtschuk
blacklion@royal.net



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NOVEMBER

MICROSOFT UPDATE



Jim Anway

Workshop Leader

Wednesday, November 8

7:00 to 9:00pm

Hilltop Park, Monterey

MBUG-PCs own **F1 for Help** guy will update us on **Internet Explorer 7** and review some aspects of **Windows XP**. In addition, Jim will lead a timely discussion on **Windows Vista**: what it is, how it differs from existing Windows programs, salient features, and how to prepare for it with your existing or a new PC. Questions? Bring queries on these and other Microsoft topics to the meeting; or contact Jim in advance at AnwayJ@comcast.net; or call STRICTLY Wednesdays and Fridays from 2pm to 5pm at 625-5618. ♦

LAST ADOBE ILLUSTRATOR SIG

Carolyn Lake

SIG Leader

Monday, November 20

10:30am to 12 noon

Carmel Foundation, Carmel



This is the **last meeting** of this Special Interest Group on Illustrator CS. It's been a great learning experience for those of us who actively use this powerful program. If you haven't been attending, come along and see what you've been missing: previous knowledge of Illustrator is not required. We're a friendly bunch and will share what we know. Interested in seeing this group continue and want to know how to take over as Group Leader at the Carmel Foundation? Call **Carolyn Lake** at (831) 643-2023 or e-mail lakelyn@ix.netcom.com. ♦

GENERAL MEETING RAFFLE PRIZES



Get Lucky on November 3rd

- ◆ Canon BJC 70 Color Bubblejet Scanner
- ◆ Canon BJC 80 Color Bubblejet Scanner
- ◆ Command Communications ComShare 750 Telephone Line Sharing Device
- ◆ Command Communications ComSwitch 3500 Telephone Line Sharing Device
- ◆ Norton AntiVirus 2006
- ◆ Spy Subtract Pro 2 (spyware, trojan, droneware, dialer, keyboard logger, trackware, adware, and profiling cookie remover)
- ◆ ... and more!

All proceeds benefit MBUG-PC educational activities.

Donations in cash, and of software, equipment or supplies for raffle are also welcome!

Contact lakelyn@ixnetcom.com

RUN YOUR OWN SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (SIG)!

Do you know a computer-related subject that you'd love to teach to others?

Or, do you just want to get together with other users of a particular program or piece of hardware to share ideas and solutions, or work through guidebooks and tutorials, or practice in a hands-on, group setting?

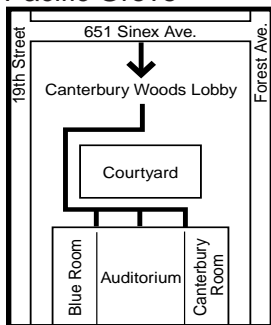
MBUG has 1st/2nd/4th Mondays available from 10:30 to 12 noon at the Carmel Foundation Computer Lab which is equipped with computers, a projector and screen in a classroom setting.

For information on fees, schedules, available hardware/software, etc., contact Carolyn Lake
lakelyn@ix.netcom.com.

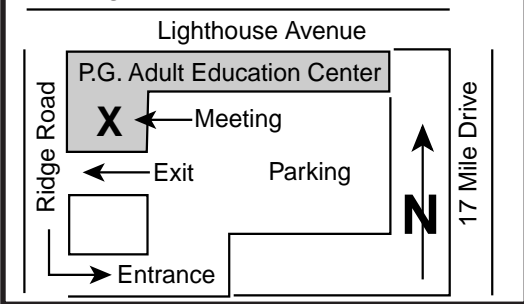
MBUG-PC Calendar of Events - November 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 <i>"Convert Video to DVD"</i> Adult Ed Center PG 7:00 to 9:00pm Andy Marken	4
5	6	7	8 <i>MS Windows Update</i> Hilltop Park Monterey 7:00 - 9:00pm Jim Anway	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 LAST MEETING! <i>"Adobe Illustrator SIG"</i> Carmel Foundation 10:30am to noon Carolyn Lake	21	22 <i>HOLIDAY BREAK:</i> NO WORKSHOP	23 HAPPY THANKSGIVING	24	25
26	27	28 <i>DIRECTORS' MEETING</i> Canterbury Woods PG Begins at 7pm <i>Everyone Welcome!</i>	29	30		

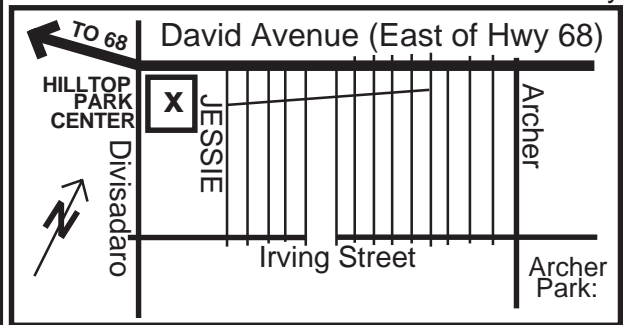
Canterbury Woods
651 Sinex Avenue
Pacific Grove



General Meeting Location
Adult Education Center, PG
1025 Lighthouse Avenue, Pacific Grove



Hilltop Park Center
871 Jessie Street
Monterey



Tentative Calendar December 2006 *Please Check the November Newsletter for Final Dates & Times*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 <i>"Topic and Speaker To Be Announced"</i> PG Adult Ed Center 7:00 - 9:00pm	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 <i>"Topic TBA"</i> Hilltop Park Monterey 7:00 - 9:00pm Speaker TBA	14	15	16 First Day of HANUKKAH
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS	26	27 <i>HOLIDAY BREAK:</i> NO WORKSHOP	28	29	30



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Vol 25, No 11, November 2006

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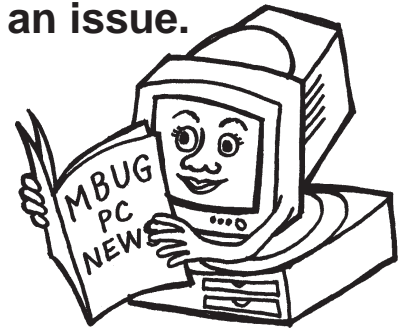
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Raffle Items Wanted



CLEANING HOUSE OR OFFICE? CLEARING OUT CLOSETS? BUYING A NEW PC?

MBUG-PC is always happy to accept **new** or **gently used, working** computer software, hardware, supplies, peripherals or furniture for fund-raising raffles or auctions.

Call ahead to determine if your unwanted items can be put to use.

Contact **Carolyn Lake**
lakelyn@ix.netcom.com

MEMBERSHIP REPORT



Don Slaiter

Vice President, Assistant Treasurer, and Membership Chair

THANKS FOR RENEWING

name	member number
Ray Airone	1278
Joyce L. Elisha	1218
Dick Gamble	1132
Bob Hawn	911
Ron Hensley	1273
Milt Kegley	976
Vaughn McIlrath	342
Sean L. McCabe	1186
Jay Muther	429
Donald Slaiter	1016

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