

mbug-pc newsletter

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**What will
Superman soon
be nostalgic
about???**



**Jack Letschuk reveals
all on page 3 .**

iLOVE IPODS

Come listen to Guest Speaker **Hillary Bennet** wax rhapsodic about all things **iPod**. **iPods** are small electronic devices used to listen to, store a large amount of, and play hours and hours of music on a single battery charge (it's that little thing you see people carrying in their hand or pocket with wires ending at plugs in their ears). **iTunes** is software that helps transfer and play music on iPods, **iPhones**, and computers. **iTunes U** (iTunes University) is the newest "mobile learning" section of the **Apple iTunes Store** where users search, download, and play course content from hundreds of colleges, universities, and educationally focused organizations, connected through iPods or iPhone from anywhere.

This is the meeting to attend if you want to know all about iPods (downloading music or study materials, using, buying, programming, playing, managing, etc.), and the latest things this e-world has to offer.

Hillary is eminently qualified to do this because she has been teaching about computers for over twenty years (fifteen of them at the **Pacific Grove Adult Education Center**). She has followed along as both Personal Computers and Macs have evolved, growing with them all the while and trying to find the balance between the "little house on the prairie" dream and the technology reality of the times. Hillary feels that using technological to enhance the quality of life, not detract from it, takes effort and commitment. She also thinks that constantly learning is fun and good for you and that computers and gadgets are yet another avenue to explore the world and learn more about ourselves and others.

Hillary is sure to bring music (and learning) to your ears! Questions in advance? Contact Hillary at bennethillary@yahoo.com. ♦

Friday, May 2, 2008 at 7pm

**Pacific Grove Adult Education Center
1025 Lighthouse Avenue, Pacific Grove**

FREE to MBUG Members and the General Public.

**Useful discussions, great coffee and snacks, and
smart, creative people!**

Open Volunteer Positions Available Now at MBUG !

Association of Personal Computer User Groups Representative
More about APCUG at www.apcug.org. Or e-mail Lee@leekeely.com
Meeting Reviewers and Columnists

Attend General Meetings or any other ongoing workshops and write 500-word-or-less reviews. Or become a regular or occasional columnist on any computer-related subject (hardware or software review, favorite website, etc.)

Workshop /SIG Leaders

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

E-mail or call President **Jack Lewtschuk** at blacklion@royal.net

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SUBSCRIPTION: See back cover for rates.

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NEWSLETTER AD RATES: Special rate for local business card ads (approximately 1/10 page) is \$30.00 for 6 issues or \$50.00 for 12 issues. Full and partial page ad rates are available upon request. MBUG will publish at no charge classified ads for individual subscribers who have computer hardware or software for private sale. For advertising information contact Regina at ReginaDoyle@aol.com.



Benefits of MBUG-PC Membership:
Free Computer Help (see page 11 for details),
Monthly MBUG-PC Newsletter,
and a 15 to 20% Discount on
Computer Books at Borders and
Waldenbooks with MBUG-PC Membership
Card (see Don Slaiter for a card).

THINGS, THINGLETS & THINGASSOS

S. Jack Lewtschuk
MBUG-PC
Columnist



photo: Mack Jacobs, MBUG-PC

PRESIDENT'S MUMBLINGS

As I've mentioned on several occasions, our first Special Interest Group, or SIG, was a success. Let's put our heads together and invent a few more. All you need is a subject, one or more leaders and six or more interested members. Let me know if you're interested in putting a program together on any aspect of computing, whether to solve problems, exchange ideas, or learn together about particular software, hardware, aspects of the Internet, or whatever you like.

THINGS, THINGLETS & THINGASSOS

Turn Off Recently Used Programs in Vista

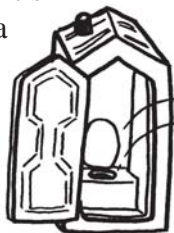
Windows Vista maintains a list of files and programs you accessed recently in the "Start" menu. To disable this feature, right-click any empty portion of the Taskbar, click "Properties," and select the "Start Menu" tab. Deselect the "Store And Display A List Of Recently Opened Programs" checkbox and click "Apply."



illustration:
Regina Doyle,
MBUG-PC

Cable Modem Self-Installation

Many cable service providers let you save an installation fee if you set up your cable modem yourself. Because it's an external installation, even a computer novice can usually handle it smoothly. But there are problems you may run into during installation. If you can't get your new cable modem up and



running, make sure all the cable connections are tight. For example, make sure the Ethernet cord is snapped into the modem all the way (you'll hear a snap), and that the coaxial cable is tightened securely. Reboot your system and reset the modem. Even if you're doing the modem installation yourself, you may need to call your cable service provider during the process. They'll need the serial number and MAC address number of your specific cable modem so it is allowed to synchronize with their network.

By the way, **Comcast**, the largest US cable television operator, said in March that it has started offering a super-fast Internet service that allows customers to download a high-definition movie in ten minutes. The new premium service was launched in the Twin Cities area of Minneapolis-St. Paul and marks a leap in connection speeds for Comcast. The new service offers speeds starting at 50 megabits per second, compared with the previous fastest connection speeds of 16 megabits per second.

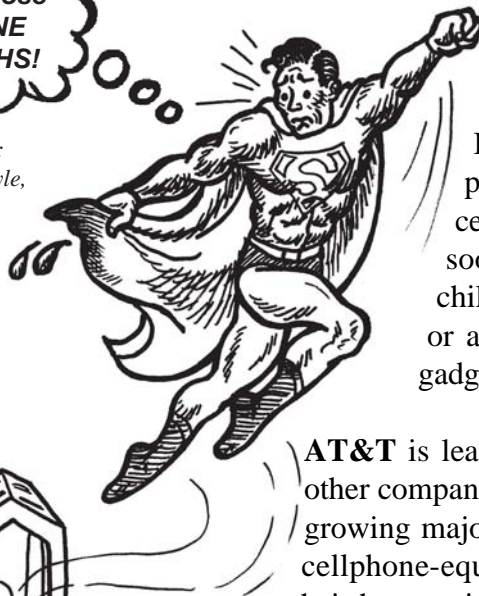
Did You Miss It? (Nostalgia 1)

Just a little trivia—after 145 years, **Western Union** discontinued its telegraph service on January 27, 2006. The Western Union telegraph service started in 1861 (I remember it well), but it slowly became obsolete after long-distance telephone service, fax, and e-mail offered more convenient forms of rapid communication.

The Pay Phone – Another Chapter in History (Nostalgia 2)

If you happen to run across a payphone ... quick! Draw out your cellphone and take a picture! Pretty soon, your grandchildren and their children may have to go to a museum or antique store to view that ancient gadget.

AT&T is leaving the pay phone business and other companies are sure to follow. A very fast, growing majority of the US population is now cellphone-equipped, and many have replaced their home-wired phones with cellphones. What is Superman going to do? (Use the porta-potty, I guess).



How Many Megs Do You Have?

Customer: “Do you people sell them megs?”

Salesperson: “Uh sure, how much do you need, sir?”

Customer: “100!”

Salesperson: “I can only give you 64.”

Customer: “Well, can’t you throw in 36 more?”

Local Area Network

Pioneered as a way for desktop computers to connect to other computers and laser printers, the first local area network (LAN) was installed at a New York **Chase Manhattan Bank** in December of 1977 (almost four years before computers became available to the general public).

What About All Those Temporary Files

If you run “Disk Cleanup” periodically (by going to “Start,” clicking on “Programs/All Programs,” then clicking “Accessories,” “System Tools,” and finally “Disk Cleanup”), you will be able to get rid of most temporary files, among others. Are they all gone now?

Well ... maybe not.

Go to “Start,” “Search,” “Files and Folders,” and type in: *.tmp*.chk~*.* Chances are, you will be surprised. Now the question is should you just hold down the “Ctrl” key and click the “A” key (to highlight all you have found) and “Delete” the files? Is this safe? Since “Disk Cleanup” didn’t take the risk of getting rid of them, should you?

99 times out of 100 you’ll be just fine. An appropriate compromise before deleting any file you’re not sure of is simply to rename it, move it to a different location, burn it to a CD or a floppy disk, leave it in your “Recycle” bin for a while, or leave it on your external hard drive which you use for backups (you DO have one, I hope—remember that death, taxes and hard drives going bad are all facts of life). This way if you later find that you needed that file, you can restore it.

MBUG’s own **Star Reier**son of **Computer Power** (see her ad on page 13) suggests we delete all files that have dates older than the same, current one. I have used this maneuver since 2005 (when I first mentioned it in the Newsletter), and have found Star’s advice to be sound.

NOVICE CORNER

Enlarging the Print on Your Screen

This tip does not apply for MBUG members—yet. But some day when the fonts on the websites seem to be shrinking ... on your desktop keyboard press the “Ctrl” and the “+” key on the number pad (the light under “Num Lock” will come on). On notebooks or laptops turn on the number pad by pressing the “Fn” key and another “F” key (check the manual for your particular computer).

Hold down the “Ctrl” key and turn the wheel of your mouse away from you for larger print (or toward you if you want the fonts to look smaller for any reason).

Dell Support and Information Alerts

If you have a **Dell** computer, have you checked the **Dell Support Center** lately? Try going to www.support.dell.com/content/topics/global.aspx/services/en/dsc_home?c=us&l=en&s=gen

Caps Lock Sound

Do you type the way I do? When I type a lot, both fingers get tired. Since the likes of me tend to watch the keyboard more than the screen, when I type, I have a tendency to hit the “CapsLock” key with the three useless fingers and when I finally look at the screen, my award winning novel IS ALL IN CAPITAL LETTERS! Very annoying.

Here is a little tip: go to “Start,” “Control Panel,” click on “Accessibility Options,” “Keyboard,” and check “Use Toggle Keys,” and click on “OK.” Now you will hear a sound whenever you click on the “CapsLock” key warning you that the useless fingers of your left hand went astray again. Now click on the “CapsLock” key again and a lower sound will tell you that you rectified the problem.

By the way, this works for the “NumLock” and “ScrollLock” keys also if you want to enable a warning sound to tell you when you accidentally turned them on.

PS

“Everything that can be invented has been invented.”

Charles H. Duell, Commissioner,
US Office of Patents 1899

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HAVE DIGITAL CAMERA, WILL TRAVEL

photos: Nelson French, MBUG-PC



Our April General Meeting Guest Speaker was MBUG Member **Dan Presser**, (*the Indiana Jones-ish guy at left*), who gave insights into travel to Africa with a digital camera.

Dan not only owns **Four Winds Travel Agency**, and personally leads tours all over the world, but has been involved in advocating awareness of the fragility of endangered species and promoting their protection among tourists and local populations. In February last year Dan gave MBUG a presentation on **Traveling with**

MBUG President Jack Lewtschuk (standing, left) addresses a rapt audience prior to introducing travel expert and photographer, Dan Presser at the April General Meeting.



Your Digital Camera, which included breathtaking images he took in Costa Rica, Argentina, Fiji, and Borneo with his five megapixel **Olympus C-5050 Zoom** and six megapixel **Olympus SP-500 Ultra Zoom**.

This time, as well as how to take good shots of anything one might encounter on a trip to Africa, he advised what to take, how to protect equipment and supplies, and how to take good shots, process, review/playback, backup, and download, as well as how to better organize your files. He also treated us to an armchair trip to **South Africa, Zimbabwe, Namibia, and Botswana**, with a focus on **Victoria Falls, Robben Island (Nelson Mandela's prison for 18 years), elephants, birds, and other wonderful critters**.

If you want to arrange a trip, discuss more about travelling with your digital camera or possibly acquire some of the photos Dan showed us, contact him at (831) 622-0800, e-mail info@fourwindstravel.com, or visit www.fourwindstravel.com. ♦

Register with MBUG Listserv: Cost-free & Spam-free!

Join MBUG Listserv—send messages to all other Members and have them reach you **securely** (monitored to ensure computer-related, virus-free messages sent by Members only).

Get current MBUG announcements (workshop dates, cancellations, additions), **up-to-date virus and scam warnings, ask and answer computer-related questions, and make computer-related announcements** (donate, trade, or ask for obsolete stuff)

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



HOME NETWORKS

photo: Bill Hoyer, MBUG-PC



by **J. H. Asling**
MBUG SIG Leader

Joe Asling and Jeff Helms led two Special Interest Group meetings on Home Networking, and will lead SIG 3 in May (details p14). We summarize discussions as follows:

What are the commonest applications of a home network?

Multiple computers accessing the Internet via one connection, file sharing, printer sharing, common drives for backup or archiving.

Should I have a wireless or wired network?

A wired LAN is faster and more secure than wireless.

Use wireless if your computers cannot be connected directly because of distance, walls, etc. If you use wireless, be sure to activate the built-in scrambling system. There are devices which use house wiring or other wiring to connect computers, but these are slower and may cause interference. (The simplest network is to connect two computers directly, but you need to buy a custom cable with one connector's endings reversed).

Does each of my computers need an Ethernet connector?

Yes. Most modern motherboards have Ethernet built-in. The three commonest speeds for a home wired network are 10 baseT (a theoretical transfer speed of 10 mbits/sec), 100 baseT (100mbits/sec), and gigabit (1000mbits/sec). Your actual

speeds will probably be about half that. Your choice will probably be influenced by how fast your motherboards' Ethernet connectors are. Use Cat5 cable for 100baseT. Cat 5e and Cat6 are for gigabit speeds. 10 baseT is just about obsolete, but it is fast enough for DSL internet or messaging. 100baseT is the current home network standard—it is adequate for cable Internet, printers, and most file transfers. Use Gigabit if you are editing video across a network, or need to transfer huge files, or backup large partitions.

What's the best way to set up a LAN?

We suggest you set up your LAN with a router. Home versions usually have 4 ports but if you plan to have a lot of common devices, you may want one with 8 ports. You can also piggyback a switch onto your router to add ports. A router is like a minicomputer—it adds security and efficiency. It comes with a CD and is programmed from one of your computers. It should have an Ethernet port to attach to a modem. Most home routers are 100baseT. If your computers have gigabit Ethernet, it

might be worth the extra money to get a gigabit router (they start at about \$125).

A good router has a built-in hardware firewall: Stateful Packet Inspection (SPI), Denial of Service (DoS) protection and Intrusion Detection, URL key word and content filtering, logging, reporting, and real time alerts are part of the router's security system. You can use a simple switch instead of a router, but it will not have any hardware security. Regarding your modem, if you have DSL or cable, your ISP probably gave or rented you a modem.

How do I set up a LAN?

Put the router CD in your main computer's tray and run it to configure the router. You will be setting up local area IP addresses. Every piece of

Glossary of Network Terms

TCP/IP Protocol to transmit data across networks; it is the standard for the Internet, and for most LANs. It is not Operating System specific. With a TCP/IP network Windows machines, Apples, and Linux boxes can talk to each other.

LAN Local Area Network

DHCP Server which assigns IP addresses

DNS Domain Name System, which translates names to IP addresses

Ethernet One type of network hardware. The connectors look a lot like phone cord connectors, but are not compatible with them.

MAC an identification code unique to each piece of hardware

Workgroup and Domain Ways to identify which computers can communicate with each other; workgroups are simpler and should usually be used for home networking.

Subnet Masks These restrict the range of permissible IP addresses. You will almost always use 255.255.255.0.

TCP/IP networked hardware has an IP address in the form xxx.xxx.xxx.xxx where xxx is a number between 0 and 255. They can be permanent (“static”) or assigned for each session by DHCP servers. There are public addresses: for example, 192.150.18.117 is owned by adobe.com. Your router has two IP addresses, of which one is public, usually assigned by your ISP.

Some addresses (“private”) are reserved for LANs: 10.0.0.0 to 10.255.255.255, 172.16.0.0 to 172.31.255.255, and 192.168.0.0 to 192.168.255.255. Your router also has a private IP address such as 192.168.0.0 (also known as the “default gateway”). Each computer of your LAN has an IP address assigned by a DHCP server in your router (usually something like 192.168.0.100).

The router reroutes data from the URL’s IP address to your local IP addresses. Outsiders never see your private IP address—this is part of the router’s security system. After finishing setup, you can communicate with your router using your web browser at <http://192.168.0.0> (or whatever IP address your router has assigned itself). You should see a status page (software will vary with brand of router).

Make sure your modem is on and connected to the Internet. You should now be able to try browsing with **IE** (or better yet, **Firefox** or **Opera**).

Regarding MAC addresses (physical addresses), every piece of Internet hardware has one. You can increase security by telling your router to allow input only from known hardware. This makes it difficult for someone to come in with a notebook and connect to your LAN.

Now, how do I set up my LAN so that my computers can see each other?

This will depend on your Operating System. **Windows XP**, and **Vista** have excellent networking capability, but **Win98** and older systems do not. The **Windows 2000** setup is kind of basic. To set up computers for networking with XP or **Win2K**, connect and turn on all hardware. With XP, run the Wizard (“Control Panel/Network Setup Wizard”). The third panel is “Select a connection

method.” Choose the option “Connects to the Internet through a residential gateway or another computer on my network.” Choose a name, description, and workgroup name (it defaults to MSHOME or WORKGROUP and must be reset every time you run the Wizard). Make sure all your computers have the same workgroup name. Turn on “file and printer sharing.” Don’t worry about the warning. In the last panel, you don’t have to create a network setup disk unless one of your computers is running Win98. Otherwise select “Just finish the Wizard”.

How do I share a printer on another computer?

First make sure the printer is turned on and that you have enabled sharing on the local computer by right-clicking on the printer icon and selecting “sharing/share this printer.” Run the Wizard in “Control Panel/Printers” and “Faxes/Add Printer.” Use the option “A network printer, or a printer attached to another computer.” You may need to install printer drivers on each computer. An alternative is to buy a network printer (these have Ethernet connections) or connect your printer directly to the router via a printer network adapter (make sure you get a parallel or USB adapter as appropriate).

How do I communicate with my other computers?

In “Explorer,” open “My Network Places/Microsoft Windows Network/Workgroup Name” and you will see all the computers on the network whose power is on. If you have a “My Network Places” icon on your desktop, you can also access each computer on your network from it. Double-click on the other computer’s icon and you should get a “log on” prompt. You need to log in with the other computer’s user name and password.

To see files across a LAN, you need to enable file sharing. You do this in each computer whose files you wish to share. In “Explorer,” right-click the folder(s) you wish to share. In the context menu, click “Sharing and Security.” Check “Share this folder on the network.” If you wish to be able to move files to or from it or to edit or delete them, also click “Allow network users to change my files.” We recommend you enable sharing for only a



limited number of special folders (such as “downloads” and “move”) to minimize the chance of “crackers” having access to personal files. Although you can, Windows XP does not like you to share an entire partition or disc. It is better to share the folders that you want access to. There is also a folder called “Shared Documents”—look for it below the “Control Panel” icon in “Explorer.” Any files copied to that folder or its subfolders are shared (you have to move the actual file there—shortcuts don’t work).

How do I repair my connection if it goes bad?

First, check all your connections and cables. If they’re OK, turn everything off for a few minutes. Now turn on the modem, give it a couple of minutes to initialize, and then turn on the router and give it a few minutes. Finally, turn on a computer. At our SIG, a member suggested that if you have cable, you should turn things on in this order: computer to router to modem; this may reset the cable modem with the computer’s connection specifications.

Next, go to “Control Panel/Network connections.” Double-click the “Local Area Connection” icon and you will get a status window. If you click the “Support” tab at the top, you will find a “Repair” button which resets all your connection numbers. You can also get a lot of information about your connection in these windows.

Here’s a little DOS program to look at your network settings: open a “command” prompt (“Start/Programs/Accessories/Command Prompt”). Type in: *ipconfig*. To get more information, type *ipconfig /all* (note the space between *ipconfig* and the backslash). This will tell you things such as your computer’s IP address, the router’s IP address (default gateway), and the MAC number. To find out all the options type *ipconfig /?*.

You can use this to create a trick for resetting your computer’s network. Right-click a vacant spot on your desktop to get the “context” menu, then choose “New/shortcut.” In “Type the location of the item,” type *ipconfig /renew*. Name it *ipconfig*. When you double-click the icon, it will renew your computer’s network settings.

Another diagnostic program is **Ping**, which you run from the DOS command prompt (“Start/Run/cmd.exe”). Ping

sends little round trip messages to see if connections are functional.

First “ping” your own computer with “ping localhost”. The computer sends 32 bytes of data four times and counts how long it took to get a reply. If you don’t get the pings back, there’s probably something wrong with your TCP/IP setup. Now ping your router and the other computers on your LAN, using their LAN IP addresses. Finally, ping external websites (try “ping www.example.com”). If all packets come back in about the same time, your TCP/IP connection is OK. If some packets time out, the route between you and the website has problems. If all time out, either your TCP/IP settings are bad, another computer on your LAN has problems, or the website blocks pings.

If you still don’t have a connection, it’s time for F1!

Can you recommend further resources?

- <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/813936>
- <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/network/default.aspx> (Microsoft tells you more than you want to know, as usual)
- <http://find.pcworld.com> (select “How-to” in the menu bar at top for a “quick and dirty” network troubleshooting guide)
- <http://pangea.stanford.edu/computerinfo/windows/network.html> (this gives setup instructions for several generations of Windows—just don’t use the Stanford.edu connection instructions)
- www.practicallynetworked.com/sharing/troubleshoot/: (to dig into TCP/IP)
- www.practicallynetworked.com/sharing/troubleshoot/specificproblems.htm (for a list of problems)
- http://compnetworking.about.com/od/homenetworktroubleshooting/Home_Network_Troubleshooting.htm (for lots of tutorials, less techie than the other references above)◆

jhasling@comcast.net

In addition to being a co-leader of the Home Networking SIG, Joe Asling is Coordinator for the MBUG Video Project. He has helped produce “This is MBUG” for us, and “Point Pinos Lighthouse” for the Pacific Grove Museu of Natural History.

Hasta la VISTA

Customize Your Data Locations in Vista

by Lee Reynolds,
Broward PC
Association Member,
Florida

I'm told the literal meaning of "hasta la vista" in Spanish is "until the seeing." Or maybe a more adequate translation is "see you later." But in this column, I'm using that phrase to invite you to take a look at **Microsoft's** latest version of **Windows Vista**.

If you take a look at the new **Vista Start Menu**, one change from **Windows XP** you will see is that there is a link at the top which is your account name. If you click on that, you will open up a **Windows Explorer** window, which shows all your user folders, such as Documents, Music, Pictures, Desktop, Favorites, etc.

In "Details" view, this is handy since one column shows the "folder" path for each of these.

Most of the folders will be on your boot drive (normally, C:) in this path: C:\Users\AccountName (where "AccountName" of course is *your* account name).

There are several entries in this list which have the little "shortcut" arrow in their icons, for example: Application Data, Cookies, Local Settings, My Documents, Recent, Send To, Start Menu, and Templates.

Welcome New Board Member Tony San Filippo

MBUG-PC is pleased to announce that one of our members has stepped forward to become an active partner in the running of the Monterey Bay User Group. As **Assistant Treasurer**, Tony will provide back up services to **Treasurer Tom Streeter**. This news makes **President Jack Lewtschuk** doubly happy, because he's always asking MBUG members to volunteer, and because he's always reminding us to "back up, back up, back up!"



Tony retired after 30 years in the military as an officer and spent an additional 10 years in Europe working in a civilian capacity. He got his first laptop computer in the early 1990's primarily to maintain a record of his expenses and connect to the world via e-mail. After moving to the Monterey Peninsula in late 1998, Tony felt his computer skills were minimal (and humbly says they still are to some extent). A friend introduced him to MBUG, he started attending meetings, and before long he became a member. We're glad to have been there for Tony when he needed help and appreciate that he's now "paying us back" in direct service.

If you'd also like to help MBUG, check out our open volunteer positions at the top of page 2, or contact any Board Member to discuss what you can do to back up our Directors or Volunteers, or to help out every once in a while. ♦

If you click on any of these shortcuts (except "Recent"), you will immediately be presented with an error message, "<folder path> is not accessible Access is denied," then you have to click the "OK" button to dismiss the message.

All of those shortcuts are there for compatibility reasons, in order for the system to be able to access certain locations that were used in Windows XP. The actual path of each of those locations has changed in Windows Vista. For example the folder that was accessed in this way in Windows XP: (C:\Documents and Settings\AccountName\My

Documents), is now in Vista as, C:\Users\AccountName\Documents.

Backup and Partitioning

I like to backup my entire system periodically with a drive image program from **Acronis** called **True Image**. However, I also like to try and keep most of my data separate from the program files and windows system files making up the boot drive.

I took advantage of the built-in drive partitioning software of Vista in order to create several other partitions on my "C:" drive, and one of these is reserved for storing the



SHORTCUTS

by Mike Moore,
Bowling Green Area
Microcomputer User Group
Editor, Kentucky

contents of such folders as Documents, Favorites, Music, and Pictures. I did something similar for an old computer using Windows XP. This not only reduces the size of the backup image of my boot drive, it also makes it much easier to backup my rapidly changing data to CD-RWs or DVD-RWs.

In Windows XP, in order to move the data locations to another partition I was forced in some cases, to edit the registry. In Windows Vista, this is no longer necessary.

There is a Windows user interface to change folder locations of your user account profile. Just right click on your "Documents" folder, for example. Select "Properties" from the context menu, and then you will see a new tab in the folder properties window called "Location." Click on that tab, and you will now see this message: *"You can change where files in this folder are stored to another place on this hard drive, another drive, or even another computer on your network."* All you have to do is type in the new location, and click "OK." You will then be presented with a message asking if you want to move all of the files from the old location to the new location, and recommending that you do so, or else you will see two of the designated folders in your profile. ♦

LeeTutor@earthlink.net or
www.bpca.com

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Why do some icons on your desktop have a little white arrow embedded in the picture? These are **shortcuts** (sometimes called links). They are small files that represent and "point to" the real thing. When you double left-click on a shortcut icon, **Windows** reads the location of the file to open from within the shortcut file, and then opens the target file. Shortcuts are, in computer programmer lingo, symbolic links to actual files. They don't contain any of the file's information—they just point to it. In real terms: if Peoria, Illinois was a file, then its shortcut would be the map telling you how to get there.

Why do we use shortcuts? Why not just put the real, actual file on your desktop? There are several reasons. First, since a shortcut does not contain any of the target file's information, it can be deleted without damaging the file it points to. Therefore, placing shortcuts on the desktop or in any directory is safer. Accidental deletion of these links will not affect anything other than that you may lose track of where your file was!

The other reason is that you can have many shortcuts and place them anywhere you might need quick access to your file. For example, when we give away computers, we organize the software links in various

folders on the desktop. There's a folder for educational software and game software links and, for the software that is both educational and fun, we put links to the same program in both folders. You can rename shortcuts to anything you want and it won't affect the real name of the file they point to.

Shortcuts are also portable. If I know for sure that a program will be in a certain place on nearly every PC, I can e-mail a link to someone and tell them to place it on their desktop. Double-clicking on it should open that file on my recipient's PC. E-mailing a link is much more of a sure bet than e-mailing an executable file, because most e-mail servers just won't allow executables (files ending in .EXE) to be sent.

How does one create a link? Find the file you want the link to refer to and then single right-click it. This brings up a context menu where you can create the shortcut. Once the shortcut is created you can move it to any directory or to the desktop.

For creating desktop links, Windows provides a shortcut "Wizard" that allows you to create a shortcut for any file type including a web page or another folder. From anywhere on the desktop, right click and select "New" and then "Shortcut" to activate this Wizard. ♦

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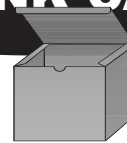
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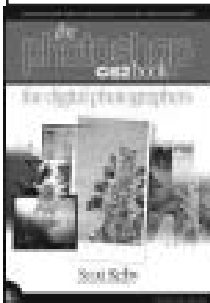
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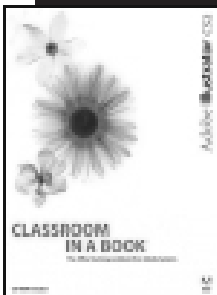
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Want to know more?

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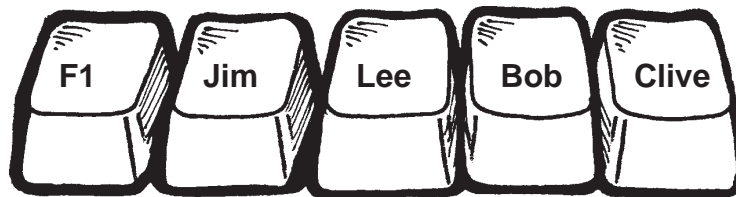
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A TIP FROM JACK: Before subscribing or renewing through the above, check if the publisher has a current special price (which happens periodically). ♦ blacklion@royal.net



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 stephan.bob@gmail.com
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!)

Computer Classes - Winter 2008



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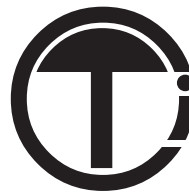
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Computer Consultant
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info@fourwindstravel.com

raffle items wanted

Cleaning House? Reorganizing? Getting A New PC?

- (1) Donate new or nearly-new computer-related items—books, hardware, or software—all gratefully accepted.* Call **Don Slaiter** (655-4443) if you have questions, or bring items to any MBUG function through October 10. (2) Contact, or tell us about, suitable vendors from whom MBUG might get raffle items. (3) Save your lottery ticket money and buy lots of tickets at raffles!

All proceeds benefit our educational activities.

**(Items will be sorted for the raffle, the "freebies" shelf, or responsible recycling)*



MBUG

BUY & BARTER

MBUG Members (dues up to date) can sell or trade computer-related gizmos, hardware, software and books here. Contact Newsletter Editor ReginaDoyle@aol.com with "MBUG B&B" in the subject line.

For Sale or Barter: Canon 3e Ink

I have several **Canon Ink 3e cartridges** which fit many models of Canon printers (various PIXMA, i series, S series, BJC series, Multipass 3000 and 6000 series, Multipass C755/F30/F50/F60/F80, and others). My printer recently went on the fritz and is not economical to repair. I replaced all four cartridges in hopes it might revive the printer. No such luck. My four cartridges are all brand new but the packages have been opened. In addition there are two (count 'em, two) new 3e black cartridges still sealed, and one partially used 3e cyan. Suggested price for the lot is \$40 *but this is negotiable*.

I Want to Buy or Barter: Canon Multipass F30

If you have a working **Canon Multipass F30** or similar printer, I would consider buying it. I liked that printer and was sorry to see it go bonkers.

For both ink and printer deals above, contact Bob Stephan at stephan.bob@gmail.com or (831) 646-1373.

MAY

HOME NETWORKING

SIG 3

Jeff Helms & Joe Asling

SIG Leaders

Wednesday, May 28

7:00 to 9:00pm, Canterbury Woods, PG



Jeff, Electronics Technician from the National Weather Service, and Joe, MBUG Video Projects Coordinator, have started a popular Special Interest Group. SIG 1 presented ideas on setting up a basic TCP/IP Network quickly, cheaply, and easily, discussion of wired and wireless printer sharing, security hierarchy, bridging routers, basic troubleshooting and common pitfalls.

SIG 2 followed up with tips, tricks, questions and answers. This session will focus on bridging, and even more sharing of user experiences and questions.

Join us at any stage, bring your networking questions, and own hardware if you wish. Questions in advance? Contact Joe at jhasling@comcast.net, or call 641-9560. ♦

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

photo: Nelson French MBUG



Don Slaiter
Membership
Chairman

THANKS FOR RENEWING

name	member number
Al Babbitt	969
Donald Blakeman	1163
Peggy Drury	1289
Mary Frost	1100

Ralph Games	884
Walter Gourlay	1164
River & Diana Gurtin-Case ...	1006
Arden Handshy	643
Elbert Hinson	1003
Bob Huettmann	967
Gary Kallweit	57
Joanne Kelly	970
Al Law	961
Dr. John Rhodenbaugh	1101
John Rowe	1223
Charles Scholl	1303
Bill Stockton	387
Cath Tendler Valencia	1268
David Thorp	1241
Harry Wareham	204
Ann & George Wilson	1304

Jack Wulfmeyer	963
Michael Zambory	1248



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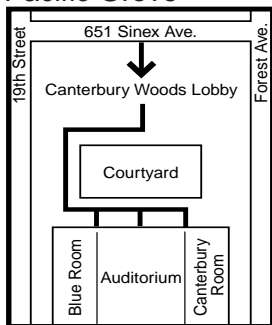
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Ralph Games	884
Arden Handshy	643
Elbert Hinson	1003
Gary Kallweit	57
Dr. John Rhodenbaugh	1101
John Rowe	1223
Bill Stockton	387
Harry Wareham	204
Jack Wulfmeyer	963
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MBUG-PC Calendar of Events - MAY 2008

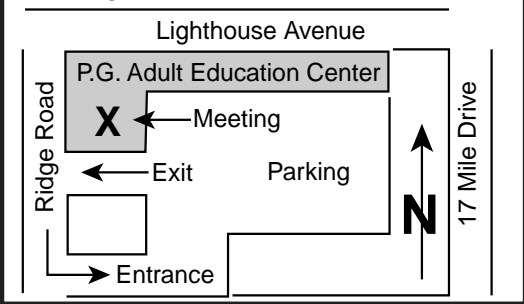
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 "iTunes & iPods" Adult Ed Center PG 7:00 to 9:00pm Hillary Bennett	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 MOTHER'S DAY	12	13	14 <i>This date is available for a SIG*</i>	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	*What's a SIG? How can you schedule one? See page 16 for details!		24
25	26 MEMORIAL DAY	27	28 "Home Networking: SIG 3" Canterbury Woods PG 7:00 to 9:00pm Jeff Helms & Joe Asling			29



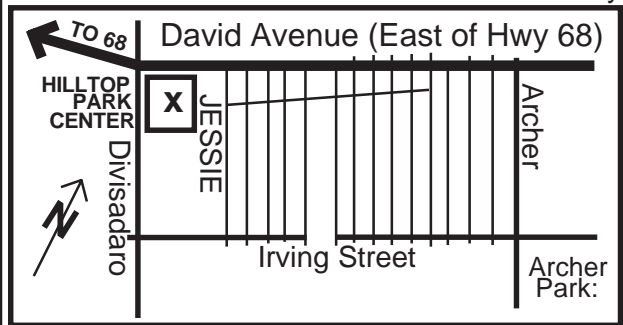
Canterbury Woods
651 Sinex Avenue
Pacific Grove



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



Hilltop Park Center
871 Jessie Street
Monterey



Tentative Calendar June 2008 *Check the June Newsletter for Final Schedule*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 DIRECTORS' MEETING Canterbury Woods PG Begins at 7pm <i>Everyone Welcome!</i>	4	5	6 General Meeting: Topic & Speaker To Be Announced Adult Ed Center PG 7:00 to 9:00pm	7
8	9	10	11 <i>This date is available for a SIG*</i>	12	13	14 FLAG DAY
15 FATHER'S DAY	16	17	18	19	20 SUMMER SOLSTICE	21
22	23	24	25 <i>This date is available for a SIG*</i>	26	27	28
29	30				GENERAL MEETING JULY 11th (second Friday) Topic/Speaker to be Announced AEC PG 7pm	



mbug-pc newsletter

Vol 27, No 5, May 2008

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WANT TO RUN A SIG?

MBUG has 2nd and 4th Wednesdays as "Available for SIG." **Special Interest Groups (SIGs)** focus on a specific computing topic with meetings over weeks or months. You can present topics and introduce speakers of your choice and interest.

Interested in running a SIG? Contact MBUG President **Jack Lewtschuk**, at blacklion@royal.net or Program & Publicity Chairperson **Carolyn Lake**, at lakelyn@comcast.net.

Monthly General Meetings will continue as usual. Additional meetings throughout the year depend on member participation—we hope to hear from you! ♦