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What is "CLOUD COMPUTING?"



The Stuff of Sweet
Dreams and
Angelic Computing?
Or Cloud-Cuckoo
Land???

(Sneak preview on page 5)

Photoshop CS3 with Jim Anway

Computer Consultant **Jim Anway**, a retired **IBM Manager and System Engineer**, will be presenting some of the interesting tricks he has learned to quickly get users of **Adobe's Photoshop CS3** and **Adobe Bridge CS3** up and running and having fun massaging their digital photos.

These easy setups and fast ways to quickly use some key functions and features in Photoshop CS3 and Bridge CS3 have allowed Jim to more quickly organize digital media, produce travel videos, and create "Web Photo Gallery" pages and "PDF Presentations".

Jim will give a demonstration of how to "protect" your photos while you mess around with them and how to customize keyboard shortcuts to make you more productive. Jim will also show you what he considers to be the three fastest image adjustment tools along with one smart filter that will allow you to quickly improve your photos.

Jim will also demonstrate how being able to record a group of operations that you perform, called an "Action," along with the Photoshop CS3 "Batch Command" allows you to automate the creating of web and e-mail size photos for hundreds of large megapixel jpg files in one operation.

Printing photos from digital images can be intimidating and frustrating for those of us who are just transitioning from film cameras to the digital world. Jim will focus on ways that make that task much easier. Also the use of the "Free Transform Tool" and the use of "Layers" will be used to demonstrate creating wide photo printouts and photo montages.

Time Changed to 7:30 PM

Questions? Call Jim at (831) 625-5618 or e-mail AnwayJ@comcast.net. ♦

FRIDAY September 5th 2008 - 7pm

Pacific Grove Adult Education Center

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Meeting Reviewers and Columnists

Attend General Meetings/any ongoing workshops; write 500-word-or-less reviews or write a regular column on hardware or software review, favorite website, etc.

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SUBSCRIPTION: See back cover for rates.

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Waldenbooks with MBUG-PC Membership
Card (see Don Slaiter for a card).

THINGS, THINGLETS & THINGASSOS

S. Jack Lewtschuk
MBUG-PC
Columnist



photo: Bill Hylar, MBUG-PC

PRESIDENT'S CONDOLENCES

Bob Brownlee

Bob was a long time member of MBUG-PC. In his active years he was a quiet but friendly, bright and cheerful guy who contributed a lot to our collective continuing education. Thanks to Bob's great suggestions and facilitation with Pebble Beach Corporation we have happy memories of MBUG Potluck Picnics at Indian Village. His enthusiasm and generosity will be sadly missed by all who knew him. Our sincere condolences to his widow **Lorraine** and their family.

Ken Roberts

Ken, a digital photography enthusiast, was active in MENSA, Gentrain, and other local societies, including MBUG. Many of us will remember him as a dedicated and active photographer well after his "retirement." Our sympathy to his loving companion **Ruth Swart** and to his family.

THINGS, THINGLETS AND THINGASSOS

Solid State Disks on the Attack!

Since early 2007 you may have noticed the appearance of flash memory-based solid-state disks. Most of us first took notice of the solid-state disks with the appearance of "flash" or "thumb" drives which started at a ¼ GB size, and progressed quickly to 4GB, 8GB, etc. Also, let's not forget the appearance of the **iPod (Nano variety)**.

Solid-state disks have since started replacing hard drives in laptops. That solid-state is replacing hard-disk shouldn't come as a total surprise—they're lighter, quieter, use less power and are sturdier than hard drives. The transition is being accelerated by fast price drops in the flash market. For example, an 8GB chip that cost

\$11.36 at the end of 2006, cost \$8.47 in 2007 on the spot market. That's a drop of 25 percent in six months. Some analysts now predict that 24 million laptops sold in the fourth quarter of 2009—about 60 percent of the anticipated market—will have flash storage, versus less than 1 percent in the last quarter of 2006.

A verification of this trend is that on display at the most recent **Computex** (a Taipei-based international Information Technology show) were a wide range of solid-state disks intended for the industrial sector. Such drives have been targeted at military and aviation applications and began replacing other storage methods several years before their entry into the PC market, thanks to the willingness of such customers to pay higher prices.

Text Alerts to Cellphones in Emergencies

Federal regulators have approved a plan to create a nationwide emergency alert system using text messages delivered to cellphones. The plan stems from the **Warning Alert and Response Network Act**, a 2006 Federal law that requires upgrades to the **Emergency Alert System**. The act requires the **Federal Communications Commission** to develop ways to alert the public about emergencies.

Carriers' participation in the system, which has strong support from the industry, is voluntary with cellphone customers able to opt out of the program and exemption from charges for receiving alerts.

Three types of messages, according to the Federal rules, would be:

- A **national alert** from the President, probably involving a terrorist attack or natural disaster
- An **imminent threat warning** that could include natural disasters like hurricanes, tornadoes or university shootings
- **Child abduction** (or "Amber Alert") messages

These cellphone alerts may be delivered with a unique audio signature or "vibration cadence" and could be in place by 2010.

MS Outlook Tips (1)

If you have **Microsoft Office**, you have **Microsoft Outlook**. I've been using MS Outlook for many years and prefer it over **Outlook Express (Microsoft Mail in**



Vista), because of its versatility (Outlook Express/Microsoft Mail is part of Windows; Outlook is part of MS Office).

If you are using Outlook or are thinking of using it in the future, stay tuned. I will include a few tips about it off and on in this column, starting with this example:

I'll Reply to That Later

Do you have an e-mail message in MS Outlook you know you need to reply to, but don't have the time right now? I know you hate to leave messages sitting there because let's face it there's a very good chance you'll completely forget about it. So what can you do to ensure you address the situation on time?

Well I can think of a couple of things. First, you could set up an appointment for the message. Yep, that's right; I said "appointment." You can turn that e-mail into an "appointment" so that Outlook reminds you to take care of the situation in a timely manner.

To create an appointment for your message, simply drag and drop it into the "Calendar" section on the "Outlook Bar." A new appointment will open up with the body of the message already there. Next, simply complete your normal steps for setting up appointments (don't forget to set enough reminder time for yourself to get the job done) and hit the "Close" and "Save" buttons. With the appointment set you'll be reminded to handle the message just like you're reminded about any other appointment you create.

A second way to get Outlook to give you a helping hand when it comes to messages you don't want to forget is to use "message flags." To "flag" a message, select it and right click. The rest is self-explanatory. **Office 2007** is slightly different from the older software, but not much.

Ground Yourself!

I think that most of us know that when we decide to pull maintenance on our computer and open the box, we should ground ourselves to prevent damaging sensitive parts (of the computer) with static electricity. Touching a bare part of the box does not completely do the trick because for obvious safety reasons, we unplug the power cord.

I solve this problem by taking an old power cord and, on the "male" end of the plug, snip off both round prongs, leaving only the flat, "ground" prong. I replace the regular cable with the "castrated one" and the problem is solved.

Just don't forget to replace cables when you're done!

NOVICE CORNER

Taskbar

By default, the "Taskbar" in Windows rests at the bottom of your screen; however you can move it to any location on your screen or resize it. When you hover your cursor over the edge of the Taskbar, it should change into a double arrow. If you click and hold while the cursor is a double arrow, you can drag the Taskbar to its new location and/or resize it.

One thing that will prevent the use of this handy feature is the "Lock Taskbar" command. If you are using **Windows XP Home Edition**, your Taskbar might be locked by default. To undo this, right-click a blank area of the Taskbar and choose "Lock the Taskbar" from the pop-up menu. When this option is unchecked, your Taskbar will not be locked and you can move it wherever you please.

Alternatively, right-click your Taskbar and select "Properties" from the pop-up menu. In the "Taskbar and Start Menu Properties" dialog box remove the check mark next to "Lock the Taskbar" (this dialog box is also accessible through your "Control Panel"). ♦

blacklion@royal.net

RUN YOUR OWN SIG!

Second and fourth Wednesdays are available for **Special Interest Groups (SIGs)** which focus on a specific computing topic. Present topics and introduce speakers of your choice and interest.

Contact MBUG President
Jack Lewtschuk, at blacklion@royal.net
or Program & Publicity Chairperson
Carolyn Lake, at lakelyn@comcast.net.
We'd love to hear from you! ♦

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A Few Of the Newest Titles

- Essential SQLAlchemy
- Face to Face: Rick Sammon's Complete Guide to Photographing People
- Fashioning Technology
- Google Apps: The Missing Manual
- High Performance MySQL, Second Edition
- JavaScript: The Good Parts
- Mastering Dojo (Pragmatic Bookshelf)
- Painting the Web
- Programming Visual Basic 2008
- Take Control of Making Music with GarageBand '08 (TidBITS)
- Take Control of Recording with GarageBand '08 (TidBITS)
- Take Control of Screen Sharing in Leopard (TidBITS)
- The Art of Black and White Photography (Hard Cover) (Rocky Nook)
- The Art of Capacity Planning: Rough Cuts Version
- The Book of IMAP (No Starch)
- Wikipedia Reader's Guide: The Missing Manual
- Windows PowerShell Pocket Reference
- Your Brain: The Missing Manual ♦

Cloud Computing: the Future of Personal Computing?

by *Brian K. Lewis, PhD*
Member/Contributing Columnist
Sarasota PCUG, Florida

You may not have heard of it, but "cloud computing" is the latest buzz-word in computing circles. The question is, just what does it mean? The problem is that at this point, there is no really solid definition for this term. You can search for it and you'll find a number of interpretations. So, from all that I have encountered, I'll try to synthesize one for you.

Cloud computing is being able to access files, data, programs and services all via the Internet. You would have little or nothing stored on your computer, in fact, your computer might simply be a device, desktop or handheld, that can access the web and all of its services. In addition, cloud computing offers the services of enormous computer networks that function as if they were components of a supercomputer. These networks can process tens of trillions of operations per second compared to three billion operations per second for the most powerful desktop computer. This kind of computing power can be used for analysis of risk in financial portfolios, delivering personalized medical information, and powering immersive computer games. These networks use hundreds or thousands of network servers using PC-related technology.

I think an excerpt by **Stephen Baker (Business Week, December 13, 2007)**, aptly describes the computer cloud: "*What is **Google's** cloud? It's a network made of hundreds of thousands, or by some estimates 1 million, cheap servers, each not much more powerful than the PCs we have in our homes. It stores staggering amounts of data, including numerous copies of the World Wide Web. This makes search faster, helping ferret out answers to billions of queries in a fraction of a second. Unlike many traditional supercomputers, Google's system never ages. When its individual pieces die, usually after about three years, engineers pluck them out and replace them with new, faster boxes. This means the cloud regenerates as it grows, almost like a living thing.*"



Although some of these services may appear to be only of interest for corporations and their IT departments, services are also being made available for home and small business users. As you might expect, the availability of this Internet computer access depends on fast broadband access (an area where the US lags behind many other countries). In this country we think that having 10-15 megabits/sec on our broadband is really fast. However, in Japan, 50 megabits/sec is closer to the norm, even for home users.

a look at Desktop2. This is a free service that provides normal office applications: writer, spreadsheets, presentations, notepad, and a calendar. It also provides hard drive storage, e-mail, instant messaging blogs, MP3 player, RSS service and a website editor. The free version does come with ads as you would expect.

Google Apps is very similar in its offerings to the preceding services. However, it is more oriented towards business users. It does have a free version which might be useful for the individual user.

Zoho Office uses **Java** to run its applications on the web. Other services may use **Flash** or Java. Either of these allows applications to run in your browser and to operate at reasonable speeds. I have

tried out the word processing function and found it to be no different than using a word processor on my computer. This is true even though the speed of

my Internet connection is usually only 500 – 750 kilobits/sec. When you are using a wireless card modem it is only on very rare occasions that you can match fast DSL speeds. I'm sure that those of you on cable or fast DSL would have no problem using a web-based application, at least with regard to the speed of the applications response. However, if you are preparing a graphic-loaded presentation, then you might experience some slow down depending on the speed of your connection.

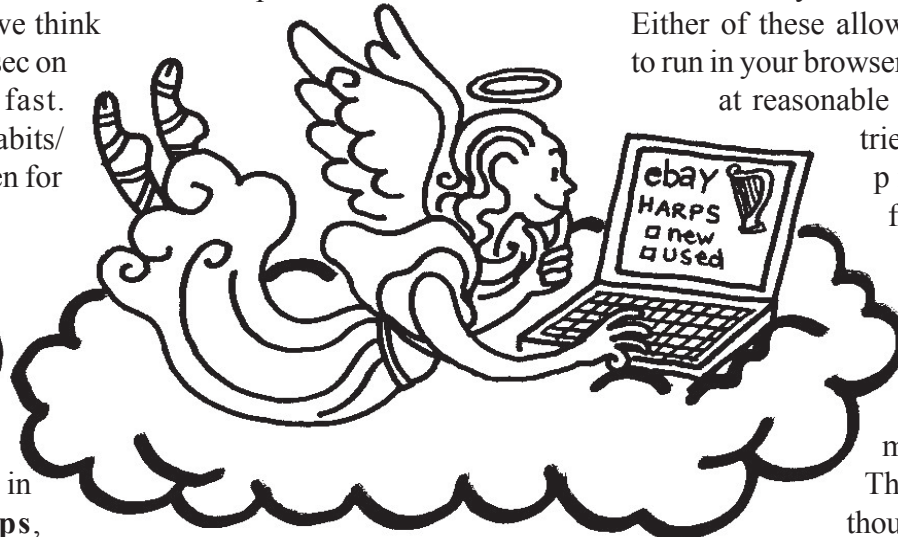
So Who Would Be Providing Cloud Computing?

Actually, they already exist in the form of **Google Apps**, **Amazon Elastic Compute (EC2)**, **Sapotek's Desktop2** (www.desktoptwo.com), **ZimDesk** (www.zimdesk.com) and **Zoho Office** (www.zoho.com). There are also a number of companies providing these services and more to large corporations only. Sapotek claims to have 175,000 users of their Desktop2 and their servers can handle 8 – 10,000 of them at the same time. They have a partnership with **Sun** that will provide the equipment to handle as many as 350,000 users. Every time I look for more information on cloud computing I find new companies listed that are offering these services. It is a very rapidly growing industry.

So, if you wanted to take advantage of the services in the cloud, what could you expect to find? Let's take

ZimDesk is very similar to Desktop2. Its web applications includes pop3email, file manager, sidebar, RSS, browser, word processor, spreadsheet, calendar, tasks manager, accessories/widgets, web messenger, video conference, media player, Internet radio, web TV, games, zimcommunity, zimblog, and much more. It is also a free service that incorporates advertising. Like everyone else they have to support themselves somehow.

The third of these services is Zoho Office. On their home page you not only find a list of the services they provide, they are all available for trial simply by clicking on an icon. As with the previous services, the list of applications is quite extensive.



illustrations: R. Doyle, MBUG

Complete Computers in the Clouds

The idea of relying on web-based applications and storing data in the "cloud" of the Internet has long been

pushed as a way to do business on the road. Now software companies are making entire web-based operating systems. They present themselves as a complete computer in the cloud and are aimed at a wider audience. These browser-based services could help those who can't afford their own computer.

There are also those who are convinced that this is the future of computing. However, some security concerns should be considered. Unless you know how secure your data is when you use a cloud system, you should be cautious about what you share with the on-line servers. You need to know how your data is protected from other users of the "cloud". As a service provider they should be willing to undergo external audits and/or security certifications. Also you need to know what kind of data protection and data recovery procedures are provided. As has been demonstrated many times, computers do fail. Finally, you need to know what happens to your data in case the company fails or is sold to another entity. This is also not uncommon in the high tech industry. As is always the case, before allowing sensitive information to be used or stored on the web, remember "caveat emptor".

**What Computing
May Be Like When
"The Cloud" Becomes
Method of Choice**

Certainly there would be no need for computers to have all the bells and whistles we now associate with them. Just think about the possible

design of a system destined for use solely with cloud computing. It would only need a minimal operating system that would allow the computer to boot, then start the web browser which would connect to the Internet. Your cloud page would be your home page and display your chosen desktop. As for a hard drive, a 10 - 20 gigabyte solid state drive would probably be adequate. USB ports for printers, scanners, possibly other I/O ports would be included.

The one thing you would want to be high end would be the graphics system. This would allow display of high resolution graphics used in online games and for viewing videos. It is possible that the graphics processing unit (GPU) would be more powerful than the CPU (central processing unit) or it might even incorporate the CPU. This could all be contained in a one- to two-pound laptop or compressed further into a handheld computer/cell phone. Although some of these characteristics are found now in smart phones, the spread of cloud computing would enhance the features of these phones. For most

of us, the available screen size on these smart phones is not large enough, leaving a market opening for inexpensive laptops such as the **ASUS Eee PC** or the **OLPC (One Laptop Per Child)** an initiative to create educational opportunities for the world's poorest children (www.laptop.org). In neither case would we need an operating system as massive as **Microsoft Windows**.

One thing is certain, anytime you try to predict the future you usually miss the mark by a mile. So it will be interesting to see what reality brings about over the next few years. ♦

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and www.spcug.org

Dr. Lewis is a former university and medical school professor of physiology. He has been working with personal computers for over 35 years, developing software and assembling systems.

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**Write Your Own
Hardware, Software, Service
or Website Review**



Do you have a computer-related experience, good or bad, which you would like to let others know about? We invite you to share with fellow MBUGers your hardware or software experiences, whether with a favorite or most-hated website, program, OS, piece of peripheral equipment, cellphone, digital camera or "toy."

Contact **Regina Doyle**, Editor MBUG Newsletter at ReginaDoyle@aol.com.



Going GREEN

Power Saving Options for Your Computer

by Jerry Grommes,
Past President,
Sandwich Computer
Users Group, Illinois

During a recent SCUG Illinois program there was quite a discussion about whether to leave your computer on versus shutting it off when not in use. I personally like to leave my computers running so they are kept up-to-date with auto updates and scheduled backups. These tasks are done in the early morning so my computers are fully functional when I sit down to use them.

However, others asked why not just leave them on on the nights that the backup runs instead of 24/7? I didn't think I was using much energy by running 24/7 but decided to check it out and run some tests using my "Kill-A-Watt" meter (electric usage monitor from **Convenient Gadgets**, www.cgets.com which measures watts, amps, hours, "kill-a-watt" hours, etc.).

I started with my newest computer which is approximately two years old, and probably the most efficient. This machine is running **Microsoft Windows Vista** and I had the "Power Options" set to turn off the monitor after 20 minutes and put the computer to "sleep" on "never." With these settings the computer was

drawing between 110 and 140 watts of power with a total average of 2.63 KWH ("kill-a-watt" hours) per day. Cost per day was 26 cents (\$7.87 a month), based on my most recent bill.

I then changed the "Power Options" to turn off the monitor after 20 minutes and put the computer to sleep after 2 hours. The watts dropped from between 110 and 140 while I was using the computer to 6 while in the sleep mode and my total average KWH dropped to 0.65 per day. My cost is now down to 6 cents a day (\$1.94 a month).

With my current "Power Options" settings, the computer will "wake up" and get updates as well as run scheduled backups. So with this simple change I was able to reduce my power consumption by approx 76 percent and save \$5.93 per month without affecting my user experience.

I plan on testing my other **Windows XP**-loaded machine next to see what it is costing and to see if my energy levels can be reduced. ♦

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This article has been provided by the author solely for publication by APCUG member groups. All others require the permission of the author.

When to Turn Off Your PC

A Consumer's Guide to Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy by the US Department of Energy

If you're wondering when you should turn off your personal computer for energy savings, here are some general guidelines to help you make that decision.

Though there is a small surge in energy when a computer starts up, this small amount of energy is still less than the energy used when a computer is running for long periods of time. For energy savings and convenience, consider turning off:

- **the monitor** if you aren't going to use your PC for more than 20 minutes
- **both the CPU and monitor** if you're not going to use your PC for more than 2 hours



Make sure your monitors, printers, and other accessories are on a power strip/surge protector. When this equipment is not in use for extended periods, **turn off the switch on the power strip** to prevent them from drawing power even when shut off. If you don't use a power strip, **unplug** extra equipment when it's not in use.

Most PCs reach the end of their "useful" life due to advances in technology long before the effects of being switched on and off multiple times have a negative impact on their service life. The less time a PC is on, the longer it will last. PCs also produce heat so turning them off reduces building cooling loads. For cost effectiveness you also need to consider how much your time is worth. If it takes a long time to shut down the computer and then restart it later, the value of your time will probably be much greater than the value of the amount of electricity you will save by turning off the computer.

"Power-Down" or "Sleep" Mode Features

Many PCs available today come with a "power-down" or "sleep" mode feature for the CPU and monitor (as mentioned in the article on the facing page). **Energy Star**® computers power down to sleep modes that consume 15 watts or less power, which is around 70 percent less electricity than a computer without power management features. Energy Star monitors have the capability to power down into two successive sleep modes. In the first, the monitor's energy consumption is less than or equal to 15 watts, and in the second, power consumption reduces to 8 watts, which is less than 10 percent of its operating-power consumption.

Make sure you have the power-down feature set up on your PC through your operating system software. This has to be done by you, otherwise the PC will not power-down. If your PC and monitor do not have power-down features (and even if they do), follow the guidelines above about when to turn the CPU and monitor off.

Note: Screen savers are not energy savers

Using a screen saver may in fact use more energy than not using one, and the power-down feature may not work if you have a screen saver activated. Modern LCD color monitors actually don't need screen savers at all. ♦

www.energy.gov/forconsumers.htm

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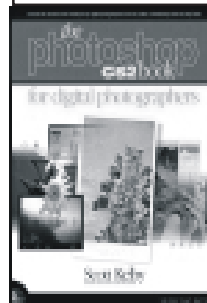
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**UPDATE:
MBUG-PC
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now get
35% off all**



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Our Members can now get a 35% discount on all books from O'Reilly as well as their "No Starch", "Paraglyph", "PC Publishing", "Pragmatic Bookshelf", "Sitepoint", "Syngress," and "YoungJin" publications. Use the same code "DSUG" when ordering books online or by phone at 1-800-998-9938. We still 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!

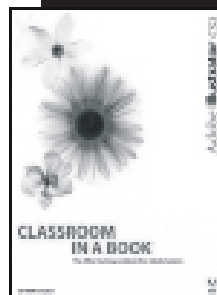
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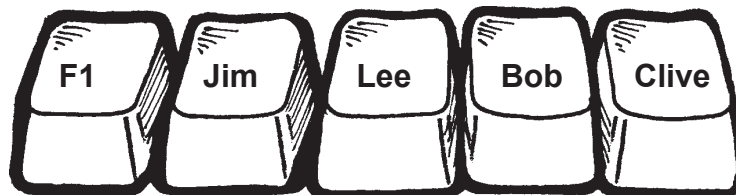
Jack Lewtschuk

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;
- (2) Ask questions during any MBUG-PC meeting break or Q&A session;
- (3) Leave a message for **Don Slaiter** (831) 655-4443 (voicemail) / or call 657-4154;
- (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
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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!)

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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. (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*



Concepts & Tools

Teaching Computing to Older Adults

by Elizabeth B. Wright
Member, Computer Club of Oklahoma City

One day in the near future there will be no computer “beginners” at adult level. Children born into the world as it is today are exposed to computers from conception. After birth, many have very sophisticated hands on use of the machines from the minute they can reach out from their parent’s lap and touch the keyboard. There is no mystery for them.

But while there are still older adults who want computer knowledge, someone has to be available to instruct them. And adults do not learn the same way that babies and children do.

Sometimes, when leading a groups or teaching class, it is difficult to explain why students need to understand the difference between how a computer or a program works and how to make it actually do something. In my opinion, concepts are far more useful in the long run than specific techniques, especially when dealing with someone using a computer for the first time or who has gone just beyond the basics.

But how do you teach a concept?

First, accept the fact that it will take more time in the beginning to teach concepts, but it will save time later

on. The real trick is to make the process interesting and easy to understand.

The simple fact that a computer is basically thousands of off and on switches, the same as a light switch, seems to be information that many people find irrelevant. But once a student gets some idea of the actual simplicity of the machine, much of the mystery is removed from the learning process.

Second, concepts, once understood, are usually far easier to remember than techniques. Anyone who “gets the idea” of a computer fundamental can usually find the tools later to accomplish the end result, even if the specific steps are not used often enough to remember them

in sequence.

Many first session lesson plans skip computer functionality and plunge straight into using

software. As an example, the concept of organizing files on a hard drive seems to be much harder for new users to comprehend than teaching them to open the “file manager,” (e.g., **Windows Explorer** or some similar program). So many teachers go through the cumbersome task of showing people how to open the file system, only to become bogged down in the steps needed to find a particular file, then later to continually have people complain they have lost a file and firmly believe it has disappeared from their machine. Most new users find it difficult to make the connection

between finding a file on the computer and why understanding how to find it is important. It is the instructors’ job to help make connections. The concept of hard drive storage is not easy to absorb, so instructors must make it easy. Also many new users find it difficult to transfer keystrokes learned in class to computers at home. The reason is that no two computers are exactly alike, so steps learned on one may or may not work on another. But if students comprehend the idea behind digital file storage, the keystrokes will begin to make sense, regardless of the computer they use. In my opinion, rote learning is not the best way to become even moderately proficient on a computer. Real understanding of basic computing processes is vital.

Since many new users have little idea of the hardware on their own computers, talking about C:\ and other drives in relation to specific files means little to them. But a well developed discussion of what basic hardware can possibly be on a computer and how it works is not a waste of time, answering questions along the way. Many new users won’t see the value in a technical discussion, so it is important to present hardware demonstrations using common sense terms rather than obscure technical language.

It is never necessary to impress new students with what you know, but rather to make the information as easy for them to understand as possible. With practice, a teacher or presenter can develop the dialog necessary to convey essential information and still keep the listeners engaged. Students



illustration: R. Doyle, MBUG

appreciate being encouraged in the idea that they may not know much to begin with, but they will leave each session armed with useful information and techniques that will build a good basic foundation for them. Biblically we were taught not to build our houses on sand. Why are the pyramids still standing? Because underneath all that sand there are foundations built on bedrock. Good computer skills begin the same way.

Nearly all programs are far too comprehensive to be taught in detail to beginners. But if the most basic use of the program (the program's concept) can be presented in a way that is useful to students, they will

get their feet wet. From there they can then be encouraged to not only attend study groups and advanced classes, but to explore their favorite programs on their own. Again, the difference is between teaching new users the fundamental use of the program itself as opposed to teaching them to use specific program "tools."

Obviously some techniques need to be taught in early sessions, but teaching the use of most tools is best done in intermediate and advanced classes. When people have a need for or enjoy using a software they will continue to explore and expand their knowledge of the program. How long did it take you to figure out that

the "d" in d:\ stands for any non-specific "drive" when dealing with program instructions (often installation procedures) and not specifically for the "d" drive on your personal computer? Admit it—there was a time when you didn't know this. Just think how confusing the term is to new users. There is a concept here if you can find it. ♦

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and www.ccokc.org

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Windows XP Expires by Sandy Berger, CompuKISS

On June 30th 2008, **Microsoft** started the death march for **Windows XP**. As of that date Microsoft stopped shipments of Windows XP as a stand-alone shrink-wrapped product. So after supplies are exhausted you won't be able to go into a store and purchase Windows XP. Microsoft also stopped most sales to PC manufacturers, so **Dell**, **Lenovo**, **HP** and others will not get any new copies of Windows XP to install on their mainstream computers.

However Windows XP, Microsoft's longest-lived and best-loved operating system, isn't going to vanish overnight. Copies of XP software and/or computers with Windows XP will be in stores until inventories are depleted. **Microsoft has made important concessions that will keep XP alive:**

- Microsoft will support Windows XP until April 2014 (they will offer updates, security patches, and technical support until that time)
- Smaller local PC makers can continue to sell PCs with Windows XP until January 2009
- Computers with limited hardware capabilities, sometimes called ultra-low cost PCs (ULCPC), can sell with Windows XP Home until June 2010
- With the purchase of **Windows Vista Business** or **Windows Vista Ultimate** (the two most expensive versions of Vista), customers will be able to move back to **Windows XP Professional** via what Microsoft is calling "downgrade rights" (details on how this will be handled have not be clearly defined to the public at this

time—it is even possible that different manufacturers will handle this in different ways)

To home users this all means very little, unless you need a new computer and are violently opposed to Vista. To business users it means that they will be able to keep their fleets of Windows XP computers running for several more years. Microsoft has announced that **Windows 7**, the next version of Windows, will be available in 2010 so many businesses will be able to skip Vista entirely instead to Windows 7. **Intel** has already announced that they will do just that.

What this means for everyone is that Microsoft, while not writing off Vista, has made it an "interim" operating system. Microsoft is still pushing Windows Vista. They recently announced that Vista now



supports 77,000 printers, cameras, speakers and other devices and components. They also brag that more than 140 million copies of Windows Vista have already been sold, making it the fastest selling OS in Microsoft history. So Vista is not a flash-in-the-pan like **Windows ME** which was quickly replaced by Windows XP.

In my opinion, Vista is both better and safer than XP and if you are already using Vista or plan to, it is not a bad choice. Yet it has become a lame duck. Microsoft definitely has a dilemma on their hands. The only way out of this is if they can get Windows 7 out quickly while making it faster, safer, and easier to use. They also need to give it a good name and get members of the press behind it. I'm not sure if the lumbering giant can pull that off—especially if **Apple** and/or **Linux** find a way to take advantage of this Microsoft predicament! ♦

sandy@compukiss.com and www.compukiss.com

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SEPTEMBER

NETWORKING & SECURITY SIG 6

**Jeff Helms
& Joe Asling**

SIG Leaders



Wednesday, September 24

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

Jeff (Electronics Technician, National Weather Service) and **Joe** (MBUG Video Projects Director) will lead a discussion on remote connections (e.g., **Remote Desktop**, etc.), and **Star Reiersen** will talk about **GoToMyPC**. Users at all levels can share experiences, ask and answer questions. Specific issues or suggestions? Contact Joe jhasling@comcast.net, Jeff kook@mbay.net or Star star@computerpowerstar.com. ♦

OCTOBER

G-MAIL for E-MAIL

Krystlyn Giedt

Guest Speaker

Friday, October 3



7:00 to 9:00pm

Adult Education Center PG

Time Changed to
7:30-9:30 pm

MBUG's newest professional guest speaker, **Krystlyn Giedt, Website Developer at Byte Technology**, will present e-mail and other applications available through **Google's** online "G-Mail," including document storage, editing, and calendar features. She will demystify what it is, what the difference is between G-Mail and other e-mail, how to use G-Mail and webmail and will answer questions as time permits. Byte Technology is a local website design firm (located at Ryan Ranch, Monterey) with a dream team of project managers, graphic artists, developers, web designers, and search engine optimization experts.

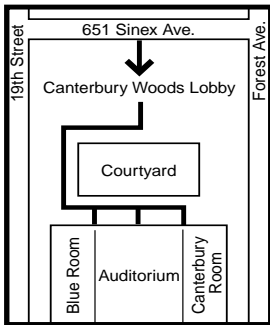
Questions? Contact Krystlyn at (831) 656-9178 or kjiedt@byte-technology.com. ♦

MBUG-PC Calendar of Events - SEPTEMBER 2008

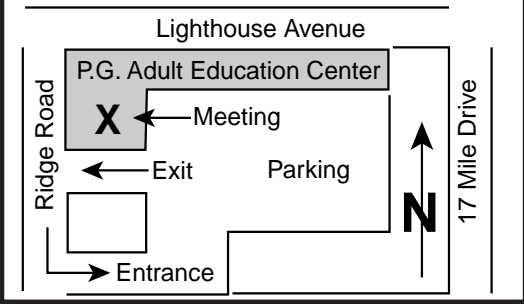
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Labor Day	2 <i>DIRECTORS' MEETING</i> Canterbury Woods PG Begins at 7pm <i>Everyone Welcome!</i>	3	4	5 General Meeting "Photoshop CS3" Adult Ed Center PG 7:00 to 9:00pm Jim Anway	6
7	8	9	10 <i>This date is available for a SIG *</i>	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	
21	22	23	24 <i>"Networking & Security SIG 6"</i> Canterbury Woods PG 7:00 to 9:00pm Jeff Helms/Joe Asling	25	26	27
28	29	30 <i>DIRECTORS' MEETING</i> Canterbury Woods PG Begins at 7pm <i>Everyone Welcome!</i>	PLAN AHEAD! Friday, October 3rd: "G-Mail for E-Mail" General Meeting with Krystlyn Giedt (details page 14)			

NOTE- Time Change Now 7:30 to 9:30 pm

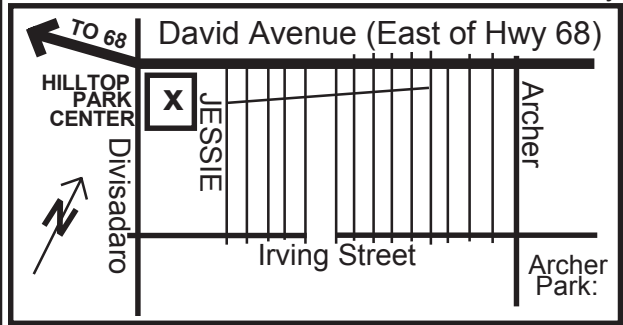
Canterbury Woods
651 Sinex Avenue
Pacific Grove



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



Hilltop Park Center
871 Jessie Street
Monterey



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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 General Meeting "G-Mail for E-Mail" Adult Ed Center PG 7:00 to 9:00pm Krystlyn Giedt	4
5	6	7	8 <i>This date is available for a SIG *</i>	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	What's a SIG? How can you schedule one? See page 4 for details!		16
19	20	21	22 <i>This date is available for a SIG *</i>	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

NOTE- Time Change Now 7:30 to 9:30 pm



mbug-pc newsletter

Vol 27, No 9, September 2008

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

photo: Bill Hyler, MBUG



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