



mbug-pc newsletter

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The MBUG General Meeting can make your phone smarter!



How Apple's iPhone, Google's Android, and Research in Motion's Blackberry operating systems are changing computing—forever!

Mobile computing is changing the way the world computes, forever. Companies like **Apple**, **Google**, and **Research in Motion (RIM)** are leading the way while traditional hardware and software giants (**Microsoft**, **Dell**, and others) appear to be losing the race. We welcome **David Book**, mobile software developer, database engineer, and entrepreneur, to our General Meeting on August 11 as our newest guest speaker for an interesting and educational discussion about:

- * Flip Phones, Feature Phones, and Smart Phones
- * Web Apps, Native Apps, Hybrid Apps
- * Mobile application distribution
- * Mobile application development
- * Mobile applications in the enterprise
- * Mainstream mobile applications
- * Gaming in the mobile space
- * Mobilized retail transactions
- * Education + mobile
- * The future of mobile

David's firm has spent the last decade developing and deploying web-enabled software solutions for several enterprise-sized companies and organizations, such as the Dollar Thrifty Auto Group and the California Association of Realtors. He is a founding partner of **buzztouch.com**, a new and exciting web 2.0 portal that is helping thousands of churches, schools, businesses, and organizations create their very own mobile apps for Apple's **iTunes** and Google's **App Market**.

David has spent the summer volunteering as project manager and resident expert on a summer-long project that aims to help the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District better understand massive amounts of school district data. The **iResult** project is a collaboration between CSU Monterey Bay, the Dare to Dream Fund, Imagine College, and the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District.

This is a meeting you don't want to miss—an exciting opportunity to hear all the latest on mobile computing and mobile phones.

For questions in advance, contact David at dbookpg@gmail.com. ♦

**General Meeting Wednesday August 11, 2010
7:00-9:00 PM at Hilltop Park Center
871 Jesse Street, Monterey**

Volunteers Critically Needed at MBUG !

Program Director

Contact and schedule speakers for monthly General Meetings.

Workshop /SIG Leaders

Run workshops or Special Interest Groups monthly/bi-monthly/quarterly.

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.

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

☎ (831) 757-0123

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SUBSCRIPTION: See back cover for rates.

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: Bill Hyley, MBUG-PC

THINGS, THINGLETS & THINGASSOS

The Department of Stuff

I am sure that you noticed that many stores stock some smaller, flashy merchandise on shelves you encounter on the way out. The merchants know from experience that many shoppers may see an interesting item while waiting to check out and will throw it in their basket. This is called “IMPULSE SHOPPING.”

Many of us, while surfing the Internet, run across an applet or program, often free, that makes us think: “I can use that,” so we download it, just in case. After weeks, months, or years, we have forgotten about this applet, probably because we just did not have the need to use it.

In time, if all these accumulated gadgets are in your startup file, your computer slows down, the hard drive is getting full, it takes a long time to reboot, and you may even run out of memory (RAM).

Solutions:

Take your time before you decide to download, but even better:

1. Create a file on your desktop or anywhere else handy and visible.
2. Call it “STUFF.”

3. When you spot something that you think could be useful in the future, create a shortcut.

4. Drag and drop the shortcut into your “STUFF” file.

5. Periodically, when you have nothing better to do, open the STUFF file and look at your collection.

6. Do you really need all of this stuff?

7. Start deleting.

Stuff Follow-up

On the other hand, now that you have created a STUFF folder, you might look at sources for some applets and decide if the shortcuts to a few might be fit to hang around in that folder until you decide if they are really appropriate to find a more permanent home on your hard drive.

Decisions, Decisions, Decisions

Microsoft offers seven flavors of Office 2010:

*

Office 2010 Starter: Available only pre-installed on new PCs, Starter includes limited versions of Word and Excel—and that’s it. Users will get it free but will have to put up with embedded advertising. No need to extend this one.

*

Home and Student: With Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and OneNote, this edition is licensed for noncommercial use only. Buyers will, however, be allowed to install it on up to three machines.

*

Home and Business: This version adds Outlook.

*

Standard: Adding Publisher and Office Web Applications, Standard is available only via Microsoft’s volume-licensing program—you will not find it on store shelves.

*

Professional: It will be available in stores and contains the entire suite of core applications: Word, Excel, PowerPoint, OneNote, Outlook, Publisher, and Access.



*

Professional Academic: This is essentially the same product as Professional but costs significantly less. It will be sold only through bona fide academic channels.

*

Professional Plus: Like the Standard edition, Professional Plus will be available only through Microsoft's volume licensing. It has all of Professional's components plus Communicator, InfoPath, and SharePoint support.

So, make up your mind!

Outlook Useful Shortcuts

Here are some keyboard shortcuts that are worth using with any version of Outlook; they will serve you very well if you move to Outlook 2010.

Ctrl + N: Creates a new item based on the folder you are in. If you are at "Inbox," it will make a new message. In "Calendar," it will make a new appointment.

Ctrl + R: Opens a Reply message to the current message

Ctrl + Shift + R: Opens a Reply All message for the current message

Ctrl + F: Opens a Forward message for the current message

Ctrl + Shift + M: Starts a new message regardless of the folder you are in.

Ctrl + Shift + A: Starts a new appointment regardless of the folder you are in.

Ctrl + 1: Jump to Inbox

Ctrl + 2: Jump to Calendar

Ctrl + 3: Jump to Contacts

Ctrl + 4: Jump to Tasks

Ctrl + 5: Jump to Notes

Tired of Spam?

Spammers have multiple sources of e-mail addresses. One source is "harvesting." Conduct a quick experiment:

1. Open Google.
2. Click on "Advanced Search."
3. In "all these words" type "e-mail electronic harvester" (without the quotes).
4. Click "Advanced Search."
5. Open and read a few of the over 1.5 million hits.

Suggestion:

1. Keep your e-mail private.
2. When forwarding/replying, remove ALL unnecessary addresses, including those in the body of the message.

Write a Hardware, Software, Service, or Website Review



Do you have a computer-related experience, good or bad, to share with MBUG?

Your hardware or software experiences with a favorite or most-hated website, program, OS, piece of peripheral equipment, cellphone, digital camera, or "toy" are welcome.

Contact Jim Hinwood,
Editor MBUG Newsletter
at ehinwood@sbcglobal.net

3. Use BCC (blind carbon copy; remember typewriters?) whenever possible.

4. Consider using a “throw-away” e-mail address when an address is required by a website.

In addition to spam, sending messages with multiple addresses (in address slots AND body of the message) will likely cause you to start receiving mail, in reply to your message, from people you don't know.

Weather Underground

No, it's not the Weather Underground Organization, an American radical left organization of the late 60's and 70's. This Weather Underground (<http://www.wunderground.com/>) provides weather information for worldwide locations, including current conditions, hourly forecasts, and radar and satellite maps.

And that's not all:

If you establish your login, you can save the weather report of any location on the globe where you have friends, relatives, etc., because it permits you to create shortcuts to many locations, right on its website. It offers hourly temperature, dew point, humidity, wind direction and speed, probability of precipitation, and cloud cover percentage for all saved locations of interest.

NOVICE CORNER

Cache

Pronounced CASH, this is a bank of high-speed memory set aside for frequently accessed data. Whenever data is accessed from or saved to main memory, a copy, along with the address, is saved in the cache. When the processor attempts to access an address, the cache checks its stores. If the memory cache holds the requested address (called a cache hit), it returns the data to the processor. If not (called a cache miss), a traditional memory access takes place.

Safely Remove USB Flash Drive

Reminder: To remove a USB flash drive without damaging its contents, follow this procedure:

- A. Confirm that all activity has stopped on the flash drive.
- B. Click on the “Safely Remove Hardware” icon in the system tray located in the lower right-hand corner of the screen.
- C. Select the drive you wish to remove
- D. When it is safe to remove the flash drive, a message box stating “Safe to Remove Hardware” will appear.
- E. Remove the flash drive from the USB drive and click OK to close the Safely Remove Hardware dialogue box.

Problem Opening Files

When you have a file that opens with the help of a program you do not want to use, save the file to your hard drive (maybe desktop); then right click on the file icon and left click on “Open With” in the menu that appears.

Choose the program you want to use from the list that shows up; you may have to scroll, and highlight your choice. Put a check in the box “ALWAYS USE THIS” and click OK.

(^) What is This?

It's a “caret” (^), the symbol usually found on the number 6 key at the top of the main part of a computer keyboard. Some programming languages use the caret as an exponential operator. For example, the phrase 4^2 means the number four to the second power, or four squared. In computer instructions, the caret is often used to represent the CTRL key on the keyboard.

Now you know: “^” is not “taller than” as in “<” or “>” ◆ blacklion@royal.net



THE FRUGAL COMPUTERIST

photo: Bill Hyley, MBUG-PC



by Bob
"I Don't Do
Windows"
Stephan

GENEALOGY

During a Random Access session at a recent MBUG-PC meeting there was a question about genealogy programs. While there were some brief suggestions given by members, it reminded me that I have not written about genealogy resources for some time. Perhaps it is time to broach the subject again and update information presented here previously. In doing this I found that there have been changes in URLs and phone numbers that have to be updated.

I have been doing genealogy for over 20 years. I have a database of over 8000 people related to me in one way or another. Many serious genealogists can have much larger databases. My wife and I have visited related families (e.g. 9th cousins) in Europe and obtained information in several countries there. Some of these cousins have visited us here. It has been a fascinating journey of discovery.

What does genealogy have to do with computers, you might ask. Nowadays just about everything. Computers and genealogy is a marriage made in research heaven. Prior to computers, maintaining such large databases was extremely tedious and prone to error. Now computers can maintain such databases effortlessly. Computers and the Internet have made genealogy research a lot easier but there are caveats. Doing genealogy on the net only is a dangerous business. There is a great deal of erroneous information on the net and there is no control over what people can put on it. Even if the information you find happens to be accurate, there is a good chance that it might be

undocumented and therefore questionable.

Don't talk to me about genealogy unless you are willing to dig in and document your facts with hard copy. While there is an increasing amount of valid data available on the net (e.g. censuses, church records, vital statistics, etc.) there is still a lot more information that has not yet made it onto the net. Unless you are willing to spend time digging into the paper trail your family history will be barren and poorly documented.

GENEALOGY RESEARCH RESOURCES

The #1 "must know about" resource is The Family History Center, 1024 Noche Buena between Kimball and Plumas in Seaside. Entrance from the parking lot is in the back of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. It is open and free to the public and no religious affiliation is necessary. Hours are Tues-Weds 9am-9pm, Fri 9am-5pm, Sat 9am-1pm but call 394-1124 to verify before going there. Expert free assistance is available for learning about and doing genealogy research. Extensive library on-site with additional access to worldwide genealogy records on film, fiche, CD-ROM, and the Internet.

Associate with like-minded genealogy researchers in the Monterey County Genealogy Society. MoCoGenSo meets at 7pm on the First Thursday of the month except July at the Family History Center (above). For more information visit the web site at <http://www.mocogenso.org>. Expert assistance is available from members.

National Archives and Records Administration, Pacific Region, 1000 Commodore Drive, San Bruno, California 94066-2350. All U.S. Census records are available as well as military service records for most wars, and more. For detailed information, hours, and directions visit the web site at <http://www.archives.gov/pacific/archives/san-francisco/> or call (650) 238-3501.

California State Library - Sutro, 480 Winston Drive, San Francisco, CA 94132 (behind the Stonestown Shopping Center). Hours Mon. - Thu. and the fourth Friday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. The Sutro Library has one of the largest genealogical collections west of Salt Lake City with extensive resources for states other than

California and basic resources for California. For more details see <http://www.onelibrary.com/Library/calslout.htm> or call (415) 731-4477. The California State Library has an online library catalog at <http://catalog.library.ca.gov>. In the Guided Search tab you can limit your search to the Sutro library collection.

Other area libraries also have genealogical resources such as the California Room at the Monterey Public Library or Local History Resources at the Santa Cruz Public Library <http://www.santacruzpl.org/>.

GENEALOGY COMPUTER PROGRAMS

There is one highly recommended FREE genealogy program available for the download. Check out Legacy 7.4 at <http://www.legacyfamilytree.com/>. In my estimation, Legacy is better than the more popular payware program Family Tree Maker. I think the best one of all is The Master Genealogist (TMG) which you can read about at <http://www.whollygenes.com>. Any genealogy program can transfer data to any other if you start out with one and decide later you want to change. For more reviews of 523 genealogy programs see <http://www.gensoftreviews.com>.

One program I am very fond of is GenViewer. This is a shareware type program with a FREE light version and an inexpensive full version. It is billed as “The fastest way to view, search, and analyze your genealogy files.” It directly reads GEDCOM; PAF3-5; TMG (see above) 4, 5, 6, 7; Family Tree Maker; Legacy and RootsMagic files. It can make self-viewing files for distribution to others. There is a free CD-ROM version that you can use to create family genealogy CDs and allow others to view family information. These programs have many more features that I don’t have space here to write about so take a look at www.mudcreeksoftware.com to get the whole story.

Enjoy this fascinating hobby and make use of the tools available. ◆

Bob “I don’t do Windows” Stephan has over 40 years of computing experience. He welcomes comments and questions that The Frugal Computerist can respond to by e-mail to stephan.bob@gmail.com. Bob’s NEW home page is at bobstephan.com.

MBUG Computer Quiz

1. **True or false:** Experts recommend running at least two antispyware programs on a regular basis.

2. **True or false:** To be really protected, your computer should run at least two antivirus programs at all times.

3. **Circle** the larger figure: 1000 megabytes or 1.5 gigabytes?

4. **Put** the following processors in speed order (slowest to fastest):

Pentium 4- celeron- or i3

5. **Arrange** in chronological order:

SuperCalc Visicalc Lotus Excel

6. **Circle** those that are names of spyware / trojans / viruses:

a. Defense Center

b. Personal Antivirus 2008

c. Security Center Alert

7. **Name** a common program widely used on web sites—a program that does not run on the Apple iPad _____

8. For each pair, **circle** the one that came FIRST, chronologically.

a. floppy disk hard drive

b. flat panel CRT

c. thumb drive zip drive

d. keyboard mouse

9. What does **pdf** stand for?

10. What makes the **pdf** format so useful?

11. Give two synonyms for a **memory stick**:

1. _____ 2. _____

12. **Circle** the causes of slow computer operation:

a. hard drive is full

b. too little RAM

c. spyware

d. processor speed

13. Who has been **president** of MBUG for more than 6 years?

star@computerpowerstar.com



Coming in September

MICROSOFT OFFICE 2010

Debbie Jones

Guest Speaker

Wednesday, 8 September

7:00 to 9:00 pm

Hilltop Park Center, Monterey

Office 2010 has some great additions, for example, a file tab instead of that annoying, obscure Office button. MBUG member **Debbie Jones**, international speaker and trainer, will update us on this and other features of the new Microsoft suite of programs. Debbie has an enthusiastic style and is passionate about training. Her work has taken her throughout the United States and England, and she will be in Australia this fall, training corporations and holding public seminars in computer applications and business communication.

Debbie has been a supporter of MBUG for many years and presented many topics; most recently, she has been our representative at the Southwestern Computer Conference, where she has presented workshops on Office 2010 and 2007 for the past two years. See next column for her conference report, and page 3 in Jack's article for a comparison of MS Office 2010 packages.

Questions in advance? Contact Debbie at debbteaches@gmail.com. ♦



SWCC REPORT -2010

by Debbie Jones MBUG-PC
Word 2010 Workshop Leader

FUN IN THE SUN

I am very busy, actually, wonderfully busy. I attended the Annual Southwest Computer Conference, June 4-6, held at the Town and Country Resort in San Diego again this year as MBUG's representative. I was invited to speak about Microsoft Word 2010. Funny, as Office 2010 did not launch until after the conference, but I picked up a beta version to study and speak with experience.

The conference was wonderful. I met some great people; some recognized me from last year, which is always good for the ego. I met other incredible speakers; Bruce Aronson was my favorite; in fact, we hit it off so well that people thought we had known each other for years. He is very passionate about what and how he teaches his methodology. I took his

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first class on “How to Get 60 Minutes out of Every Hour.” It was a wonderful refresher on what I need to do to keep track of things and get quality back to my time.

Next, I took a social networking class; not much to say there, just how to join Facebook, and then things like tagging faces, posting on walls, even joining the farm (no, thank you), very basic items.

Microsoft hosted the lunch presentation on Saturday. I was hoping for more valuable information on Office 2010; they mentioned it but simply skimmed over the launch and focused on the online apps, the convenience of them. They spoke of “SkyDrive,” Microsoft’s version of “the cloud.” The largest topic was SharePoint, which is more for small to medium businesses, not for personal users.

Next, I attended a PowerPoint class; to discover what more I could learn. The other classes in this session were on lynx, UNIX, and something obscure. Bruce taught the PowerPoint class; he taught it in Office 2003; I answered the questions in the newer versions. It was mentioned I had a workbook for Office 2007, and I took three orders right there on the spot, sight unseen, pretty cool! Imagine what could have happened if I had remembered to bring my workbook with me. Bruce and I have the same teaching style; it was fun to play off of each other; it made it fun for the class, too.

Backing up your computer was next on my list of classes to attend; this was also a refresher; it gave many options of what and where to back up, either online or on other media. As it should, the class was very specific about the need to back up.

In the last session of workshops, I taught Word 2010. The class was packed and went great; there were folks in my class who were in it last year. They said they could not wait to get back to a class I taught as they learned so much last year and were able to put it directly to use. We mainly covered the file tab, which replaced the Office button, and identified the new features that came along with the new tab. The questions in the class ranged from office 2003-2010. I felt very fortunate to answer their questions and had the opportunity to open either Office 2007 or 2010 to illustrate the answers. The evaluations for my workshop came in 4’s, 5’s, and 10’s (the range was 1-5).

I enjoy the conferences; they are full of information and great people from other locations. I sold three copies of my book and didn’t even have it with me; I booked one other meeting in Napa. I look forward to going again next year and to teaching and learning even more interesting things. ♦
debbteaches@gmail.com

Answers to MBUG Computer Quiz

1. True: Two or more **antispyware** programs are ideal.
2. False: One and **ONLY** one **antivirus** program unless you prefer a seriously compromised machine.
3. 1.5 GB is larger than 1000MB.
4. Celeron, Pentium, i3
5. Visicalc, Supercalc, Lotus, Excel
6. Defense Center, Personal Antivirus 2008, and Security Center Alert--all fall into the category of malware, which includes spyware/trojans/virus.
7. Adobe’s Flash does not run on the Apple iPad.
8. Floppy before hard drive; crt before flat panel; zip drive before thumb drive; keyboard before mouse
9. PDF stands for Adobe’s “portable document format.”
10. Instructions and manuals can be “frozen” (unless someone **BUYS** the full version of Adobe Acrobat) and printed to any printer without having to write a printer driver for the thousands of HP, Brother, Panasonic, Canon, etc., printers.
11. Memory sticks are also called travel drives, thumb drives, ram drives, USB drives.
12. All items should be circled: A slow system can be caused by a full drive, too little RAM, spyware, and a slow processor speed.
13. Jack Lewtschuk has been President FOREVER. Thanks, Jack!

star@computerpowerstar.com



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Computer Consultant

Retired IBMer

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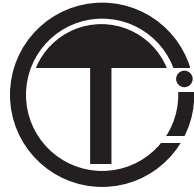
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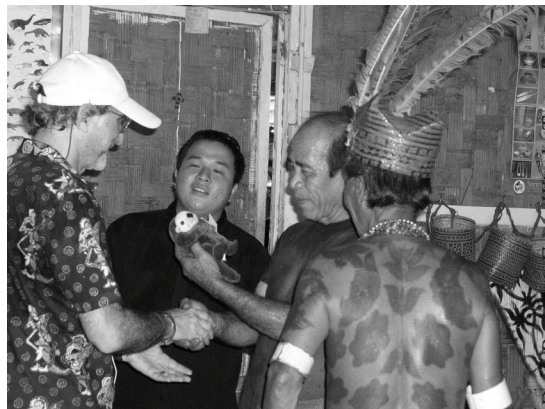
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FourWinds Travel



Where the good times begin SM



Dan Presser in Borneo discussing conservation awareness with a local Headman.

■ **Dan Presser, Owner**

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Carmel CA 93923-8757 ■ (831) 622-0800

Fax (831) 622-9467 ■ CST #1000683-40

info@fourwindstravel.com

raffle items wanted

Cleaning House? Reorganizing? Getting A New PC?

Donate new or nearly-new computer-related items (books, hardware, or software)*

Call **Don Slaiter** (655-4443) or bring items

to any MBUG function. **Contact**, or tell us about, suitable vendors from whom MBUG might get raffle items. **Save** your money and buy lots of tickets at raffles!

All proceeds benefit our educational activities.

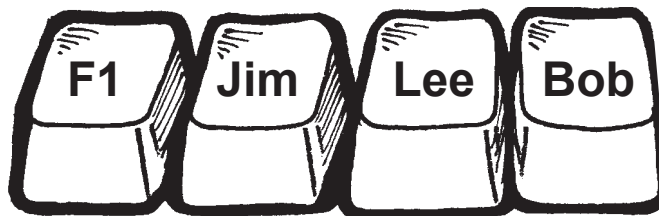
**Items will be sorted for the raffle, the "freebies" shelf, or responsible recycling*

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 meeting break or Q&A session;
- (3) Leave a message for **Don Slaiter** (831) 655-4443 (voicemail); call 657-4154; or e-mail mbug-pc@mbug.org
- (4) Send 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 233-6995

■ Bob Stephan

e-mail to stephan.bob@gmail.com
or call only between 9am-5pm
646-1373◆

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 - 2010



1025 Lighthouse Avenue
Pacific Grove CA 93950
(831) 646-6580
Fax (831) 646-6578

Classes and workshops designed for
the busy adult learner:

Picasa*, Beginning Photoshop,
Photoshop for Photographers, Digital
Cameras, Dreamweaver, MS Access,
Excel 1 & 2, Photoshop, Selling on eBay,
Genealogy Online, InDesign, Windows
Vista, and more.

Register online: www.pgusd.org

**See pages 8 and 14 for more about Picasa.*



Tips & Fun Facts

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What To Do When Your Computer Overheats

The desert landscape whirs by. Up ahead, dust devils swirl into the heat mirage on the horizon. Outside your car window, coyotes rig elaborate traps to catch road runners.

A pegged temperature gauge needle and a cloud of antifreeze later, you struggle to guide your vehicle off the road before it rolls to a dead stop. It's an old trope—your car's radiator boiling over on a desert highway—but the laws of thermodynamics don't seem the least bit embarrassed that the situation is such a cliché.

Your PC won't erupt with steam when it overheats like the family jalopy. That said, it does have a relief valve of a sort, much like the pressure cap on your jalopy's radiator.

In your computer's case, the "relief valve" for a CPU that gets too hot is an automatic shutdown mechanism. As long as this mechanism isn't disabled in the BIOS (Basic Input/Output System), the PC will turn off when the processor reaches a certain temperature, such as when its heatsink fan fails.

On the other hand, the rest of the devices and drives in your computer don't have any such safety nets. When a stick of RAM or a VRM (voltage regulation module) overheats, for example, you'll probably see error messages on-screen, if not a BSOD (Blue Screen Of Death). And if your video card overheats, expect to see graphical artifacts such as green lines or white blotches on your monitor. Heat-related problems generally show up a few minutes after you first turn on the system, after its parts have a chance to warm up.

Of course, long before things inside your PC get hot enough to go kaffloey, you may hear a loud, whirring sound. That's the noise of one or more fans, such as your CPU's, trying desperately to cool things down. Because some computer fans increase their speed as temperatures rise, you can tell when your system is working hard because your PC will get louder. The air coming out of the back of the case will be pretty warm, too.

The danger of an overheated computer (besides the possibility of getting a heat rash from your laptop) is that hot parts don't last as long as those that run cooler. From hard drives to motherboard chips to GPUs (graphics processing units) to CPUs, parts that overheat almost always have shorter life spans. In other words, you'll probably need to replace something costing \$50, \$100, or more in a nearer future than would otherwise be the case. And computers never seem to break down at a convenient time, do they?

Therefore, if you're the owner of a chronically overheating PC, you'd

best try to address the problem with our tips. The alternative is to avoid any tasks that tax the circuits, such as watching streaming video, playing games, scanning for viruses, transcoding files to play on a portable device—basically anything that's useful or fun.

Desktop PCs

Most computers rely on ventilation through their cases to keep heat from building up in their components. A typical mainstream desktop has an intake vent or fan on the front panel. On the back is an exhaust fan, along with the hot air outlet for the power supply's internal blower. Cases vary; some have fans in the side and/or top panels, for instance. Certain graphics cards are designed to move hot air out of the case, too.

One way to safely blast out heat-trapping dust in your PC is to use a compressed gas product such as Dust-Off (www.falconsafety.com). This Jumbo can sells for \$17.99.

The trouble is that just like the furnace ducts in your home, the path of the airflow through your PC can get coated in dust and pet hair. This debris covers the heatsinks and chips in your computer like a blanket, hampering their efforts to hand off heat to the passing airstream. Thus, it's important to blow out the cobwebs, so to speak, from time to time.

With your PC turned off, open its side panel. Use a can of compressed gas such as Dust-Off (www.falconsafety.com) to blast away the dust bunnies. If there are any filters on the intake fans or vents, remove

and clean them, too.

Location. One important point: The cooler the air the PC breathes, the cooler its parts will run. In other words, that chilly guest room is a better location for your computer than the basement with the wood burning stove.

Oh, and if you've cooped up your system in a desk compartment with a door, keep it open to reduce hot air recirculation. Better yet, bring the PC out into the room.

Fans. If your computer case has extra mounting holes precut, you can add another fan or two (about \$2 to \$40 each). We recommend fans that move a lot of air without making a lot of noise. In technical terms, you should look for a reasonably high CFM (cubic feet per minute) rating, such as not less than 25CFM, at a relatively low dB (decibel) sound level, such as not more than 30dB.

Case fans are sold by their height/ width in millimeters, such as 80mm or 120mm. Use a metric ruler to measure your case's fan cutout so you know which size to buy. Fans that automatically change speed as temperatures fluctuate are the best kind, but we don't mind the type that comes with a manual speed knob, either.

Once you have the fan, look for an arrow on its outer edge. This indicates the direction the fan blows. The idea is to mount the fan so that it matches the PC's existing path of airflow (usually front to back and bottom to top). Use the included screws to do so. Finally, attach the fan's power connector to the motherboard or the power supply, and you're done.

If your case doesn't have a spare fan cutout, consider buying a slot fan. This shrouded blower installs in an unoccupied expansion card slot and vents warm air out the back of the PC.

A replacement heatsink can keep your processor much cooler than its original heatsink and at a lower level of noise. You would need to make sure your case has enough space for a tower-style cooler such as this Scythe Yasya (\$60; scythe-usa.com).

New heatsink. In certain situations, such as a small case, your CPU's heatsink and fan may not be able to cool the processor as effectively as they should. Consider buying a bigger heatsink that can do a better job, such as one with a larger fan.

Heatsinks are sold by their compatibility with particular CPU sockets, such as Intel's 1,366-pin for the Core i7 or AMD's 462-pin Socket A for old Athlon XPs. To determine which socket your PC uses, look at your motherboard to find its model number and then look up its specifications on its manufacturer's Web site.

Be aware that some heatsinks are too tall to use in small cases. Don't buy any 'sink with a height (in mm) greater than the distance between the CPU socket and the side or roof of your case.

For heatsink replacement instructions, refer to our online tutorial at tinyurl.com/39htobr.

Notebooks

Many of the things that help a desktop PC cool down would also work for a laptop—at least in principle. In practice, it's difficult to open a notebook's case, let alone replace its processor's heatsink. Without voiding the warranty, your options may be limited to cleaning the laptop's intake and exhaust vents with compressed gas.

The quick fix for a notebook prone to overheating is to set it on a laptop cooler such as the SilverStone NB01B (about \$43; www.silverstonetek.com).

That said, a simple notebook stand can work wonders. A stand lifts the laptop off your lap or desk, allowing ventilation underneath. A notebook stand with some built-in cooling fans is an even better investment.

Chill Pill

A cooler PC will run more quietly and last longer, all else being equal. And that means your cold cash can remain in the bank because you won't have to write a hot check for new PC parts. ◆

by Marty Sems



MBUG RAFFLE: WIN GREAT PRIZES!



General Meeting

Drawing During the Break

Wednesday, 14 July

7:00 to 9:00pm

Hilltop Park Center, Monterey

Attend General Meeting (see front page or calendar), buy as many tickets as you want, and test your luck with a chance to win any or all of these fantastic prizes:

- 1-1 Logitech Webcam C-250
- 2-1 4GB Flash Drive
- 3-1 2GB flash Drive
- 4-1 ream of Paper
- 5-1 Ream of paper
- 6- 1 Monitor Wipe
- 7- 1 Dust Destroyer
- 8-1 USB Hub
- 9- 12 CD-R Disks
- 10- 6 CD-RW Disks
- 11- 1 doz Pens
- 12- 1 Bottle of hand Sanitizer

Tickets are a great deal at only \$1 each, or 6 for \$5, or 15 for \$10. All raffle proceeds benefit MBUG's educational activities, so you can't lose! ♦



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Want a preview of a Peachpit book before you buy it?

Check out new books on offer from the **MBUG Lending Library** (see page 13).

For books, e-books, training aids, reviews, and more, go to www.peachpit.com.

New Meeting Schedule August-December 2010

Hilltop Park Center

871 Jessie Street, Monterey

7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

In the Community Room on the second Wednesday of each month.

Parking is available on Jessie Street and Divisadero Street and in the parking lot behind the building, accessible from Jessie Street. The Community Room is on the Divisadero St. end of the building; enter through the double doors. See map on Calendar page.

SCHEDULE AUGUST-DECEMBER 2010

MONTH	BOARD Thursdays	GENERAL Wednesdays
August	5	11
September	2	8
October	7	13
November	4	10
December	2	8

The Board of Directors will continue to meet at Canterbury Woods at 7:00 p.m., but on Thursday nights in the Canterbury Room as scheduled above.

RUN YOUR OWN SIG! *

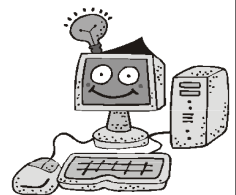
4th Wednesdays
are available for **Special Interest Groups (SIGs)**.

See calendar on page 15.

Present topics, conduct discussions, or introduce speakers of your choice and interest in the format of your choice: lectures, demonstrations, tutorials, or discussion of general computer-related topics.

Contact **Jack Lewtschuk**, blacklion@royal.net or **Carolyn Lake**, lakelyn@comcast.net.

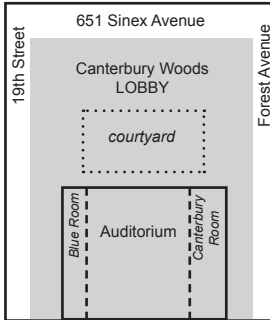
We'd love to hear from you! ♦



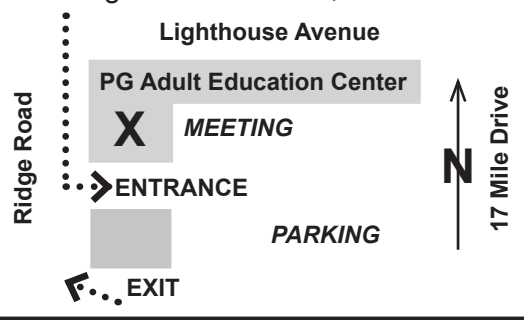
MBUG-PC Calendar of Events - August 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5 Board Meeting at CBW, 7:00 p.m.	6	7
8	9	10	11 General Meeting "Smartphone Mobile Computing"- Hilltop Park Center 7:00-9:00 PM	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Open for SIG at CBW, 7:00-9:00 p.m.	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Canterbury Woods
651 Sinex Avenue
Pacific Grove

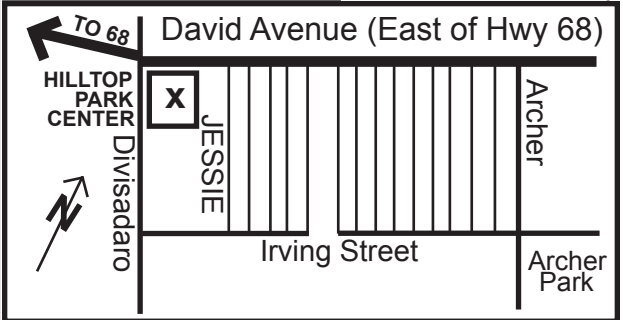


General Meeting Location
Adult Education Center, PG
1025 Lighthouse Avenue, Pacific Grove



New General Meeting Location!

Hilltop Park Center
871 Jessie Street
Monterey



Tentative Calendar September 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Board Meeting at CBW, 7:00 p.m.	3	4
5	6	7	8 General Meeting: Microsoft Office 2010 at Hilltop Park Center 7:00 9:00PM p.m.	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 Open for SIG at CBW, 7:00-9:00 p.m.	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



mbug-pc newsletter

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 PO Box 51611 / Pacific Grove
 California 93950
 mbug-pc@mbug.org



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Don Slaiter
 Membership
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Tom Streeter.....	1062
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If you are an MBUG Member, you are entitled to **JOIN MBUG'S LISTSERV.**

This allows you to:

- Send messages to all MBUG Members on Listserv** (guaranteed to be secure, computer-related, and virus-free)
- Receive current MBUG notices, virus and scam warnings**
- Ask computer-related questions**
- Make computer-related announcements** (regarding donations of or requests for computer-related items)

Register at www.mbug.org

or go to

<http://listserv.redshift.com/mailman/listinfo/mbug>.

photo: Bill Hyler, MBUG