Orange County PC
Users Group

nibbles
& bits

ANDROID VS iOS

presented by Bill Bowman

COMPARISONS
of phones & tablets

PLUS **TIPS**

what smartphone or tablet
is best for your needs?

Android vs iOS

what operating system and device
do you want?

Most people either have a smartphone or tablet, or they want one! For these reasons, users and potential users will find Bill Bowman's April 9 presentation comparing iPhones and iPads to Android phones and tablets to be interesting and helpful.

Besides giving you an overall look at the features in each system, Bill will tell you:

- How to setup and change settings on different systems
- How to get Apps
- How to download music and videos
- How to send pictures and videos
- Pros and cons of 4G and Wi-Fi connectivity
- How to text
- How to switch carriers and still keep your phone

Android

Android is the world's most popular mobile platform. With Android you can use all the Google apps you know and love, plus there are more than 600,000 apps and games available on Google Play to keep you entertained, alongside millions of songs and books, and thousands of movies. Android devices are already smart, and will only get smarter, with new features you won't find on any other platform, letting you focus on what's important and putting you in control of your mobile experience.

iOS

Apple makes both the hardware and the operating system for iPad, iPhone, and iPod Touch, so everything is designed to work together. Apps take full advantage of hardware features such as the Retina display, the Multi-Touch interface, the accelerometer, the three-axis gyro, accelerated graphics, and more.

You know how to use iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch from the first time you pick them up. That's because the revolutionary Multi-Touch interface in iOS was designed for your finger. And the simple, beautiful Home screen is the easiest place to start. From built-in apps to over 800,000 more apps and games available on the App Store. From making a FaceTime call to editing a video with iMovie. Everything you touch is easy, intuitive, and fun.

feedback

LARRY KLEES
ORCOPUG, CALIFORNIA

Leo Laporte "The Tech Guy" has a radio show on KFI am 640 Saturday & Sunday from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. PST. The show can also be streamed on the internet at http://techguylabs.com/

Chris Marquardt is a professional photographer in Germany. His podcast, Digital Photography Tips from the Top Floor, presents tips and tricks about photography, mainly digital photography, in episodes normally ranging from 5 to 15 minutes in length and covering topics from image composition to post processing. http://www.tipsfromthetopfloor.com/

FRANK BOLLINGER
ORCOPUG, CALIFORNIA

Firefox 19 has a problem with PDF files that affects how Nibbles and Bits displays and prints.

Quickly seen among the problems in the PDF are the title of the article on page 2 and most of the club information in the top half of the last page. There are problems like these throughout the newsletter.

I just found a solution on the Internet while composing this email, but it's a problem that doesn't seem to affect Chrome or Internet Explorer. The problem seems to have begun with v 19.0. The solution is to tell Firefox to use a PDF plugin (Such as from Foxit or Adobe) instead of the built-in PDF viewer. I wouldn't have known to do this without reading about it and got it wrong the first time I tried.

It may be time for me to write a "Goodbye Firefox" article.

(In fact, Frank subsequently wrote the article and it appears on page 21! —LG)

Below is a scene from the video, *How the Internet Works*, showing how an image is sent in email from Los Angeles to England. Fascinating facts you probably didn't know.

JUDY TAYLOUR, PRESIDENT
SCVPCG, CALFIORNIA

Hilarious and Awesome Computer Ads from the Golden Age of PCs — http://io9.com/hilarious-and-awesome-computer-ads-from-the-golden-age-461802690

LARRY GUTMANN
CONNECTICUT

How the Internet Works — This is done so well. It is definitely worth the minute to watch. You will appreciate what goes on behind the scenes.

Click to view full screen.

Helps to understand why the 'Net sometimes slows down. http://www.wimp.com/internet-works/

www.wimp.com/internetworks/

Favorite Shot

PHOTO BY NEIL LONGMUIR, WPCUSRGRP, CANADA

In late March I was out taking pictures when I ran into a old friend whom I have not seen in about 30 years. He worked at the University at the same time I did. He was also the photographer at the University of Manitoba's Delta Marsh. He was taking pictures of the mallard ducks at one of my favourite locations, Sturgeon Creek, just five minutes away from our house.

He was using a Nikon D4 with the latest Nikon 600 mm f4 lens on a Gitzo carbon fibre tripod and a gimbal tripod head. We talked for a few minutes and he said I just have to stand up and walk because I've been crouched down on the snow for an hour or so and I'm starting to get stiff. Then he asked me if I would like to put my camera on his 600 mm lens. I was carrying my Nikon D300 so I said yes. He removed his camera, put my lens on his camera and the put the D300 on the 600 mm lens. Because the D300 is a DX camera with a 1.5 crop factor this gave me the equivalent of a 900 mm lens.

I took 325 images over a period of an hour with all but the first half dozen being just so-so images; the rest were all keepers. The only thing keeping me from buying this setup is cost —$10,800 for the lens and another $1000 for the tripod and gimbal tripod head. To be honest, this was by far the best tripod lens setup I've ever used, it's incredible. Here's one image from that photo shoot.

WORD
centering a table

by Allen Wyatt, Sharon Parq Associates

By default, Word automatically left-justifies a table in your document. If you want to quickly center the table between the page margins, follow these steps:

1. Right-click on the table. Word displays a Context menu.
2. Choose Table Properties from the Context menu. Word displays the Table Properties dialog box.
3. Make sure the Table tab is selected. (See Figure 1.)
4. Click on Center.
5. Click on Close.

The above steps won't work if you are using Word 97. If that is the case, then you should follow these steps:

1. Position the insertion point somewhere within the table.
2. Choose Select Table from the Table menu. This selects the entire table.
3. Choose Cell Height and Width from the Table menu. This displays the Cell Height and Width dialog box with the Row tab selected.
4. Click on the Center radio button.
5. Click on OK.

This tip at http://word.tips.net/T001733_
Centering_a_Table.html applies to Microsoft Word versions: 97, 2000, 2002 and 2003.

A version of this tip for the ribbon interface of Word (Word 2007 and later) is at http://wordribbon.tips.net/T010076_Centering_a_Table.html
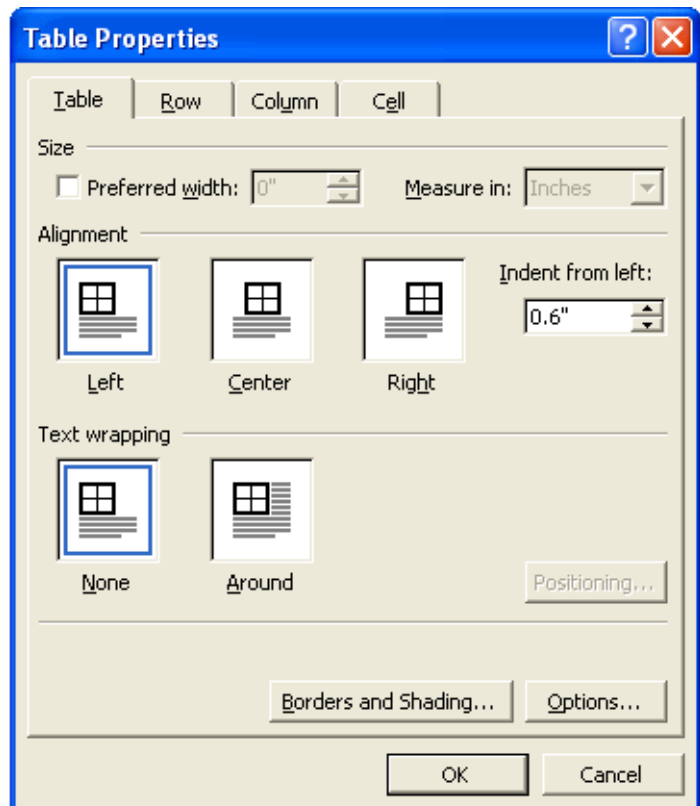

Figure 1. The Table tab of the Table Properties dialog box.

EXCEL

inserting symbols

by Allen Wyatt, Sharon Parq Associates

In some ways, Excel seems like a "poor relative" to Word. (Just in some ways, mind you.) One such way is evident when you want to insert a symbol into a cell. In Word, you can easily insert a symbol by choosing Symbol from the Insert menu. In Excel, there is no such comparable menu option.

So how do you get special symbols into Excel? One way, of course, is to switch over to Word and insert the symbol in the document. You can then copy the character and paste it into Excel. There is a better way, however, even though it is some what related. This involves using the old tried-and-true method of using the Character Map accessory in Windows itself. Simply start the accessory by choosing Programs from the Start menu, then choosing Accessories, and finally choosing Character Map. In the resulting dialog box you can pick any font and character installed on your system.

When you double-click on a symbol, or select a symbol and click on Select, the symbol is copied to the area at the top-right of the dialog box. When you later click on Copy, all the information in the box is copied to the Clipboard. At this point it is a simple process to return to Excel and paste the contents of the Clipboard (the symbols) to your worksheet.

What makes using the Character Map better than using Word in the long run is that the Character Map also shows the keystroke necessary to reproduce the character. (It is at the bottom-right corner of my version of Character Map.) These keystrokes will work in any Windows program. Some of them require holding down the Alt key as you enter a code on the numeric keypad. Others simply require typing a letter. In any case, you will need to make sure that the character you enter in this way is formatted using the typeface shown in the Character Map.

This tip http://excel.tips.net/T002046_Inserting_Symbols.html applies to Microsoft Excel versions: 97, 2000, 2002 and 2003.

Other tips on the Excel.tips.net website

Favorite Shot

Photo by Larry Klees, ORCOPUG

Leo Laporte and Chris Marquardt team up for a flickr.com group called Tech Guy at http://www.flickr.com/groups/techguy/ The purpose of this group is to give assignments to stimulate photographers to take new photos.

One recent assignment was back lit ice.

So I'm sitting in my motel room bemoaning the fact that frozen bodies of water — snow flakes and icicles — are incredibly hard to come by in Southern California. Suddenly it dawned on me… Duh! Every motel in the country has an ice machine and there is an ice bucket just a few feet from me. So I grab the bucket and run down to the ice machine. Then I run back up to my room and run back down to the ice machine with two quarters in hand (motel ice used to be free).

I put some ice cubes in a shallow transparent tray placed on top of a strobe and start shooting away. After a few uninspired shots the tray tipped the ice onto the carpet. I quickly gathered the spilt ice into a plastic cup and thought "what the heck" and poured in some pink grapefruit juice. Voila! This is the result.

ask leo!

by Leo A. Notenboom

Can you copy a program file to another computer and run it?

*C*an you copy a program file from a computer and run the exe file on the new computer? Like a game file (Diner Dash) on the hard drive C: and copy to another computer? Would then a double-click on the icon that just runs the game, would it work?

running an .exe file

Typically, the answer is no. If a program required a setup (in other words, if you had to install the program on the first machine), then copying the program file from that machine to another machine will typically not work.

Typically, it won't work because the setup process didn't happen. The setup process did things to the original machine that you wouldn't be copying if you copied just the executable file.

The kinds of things that it might be doing are:
- Making changes to the registry
- Adding information to the registry
- Setting up files and folders
- All sorts of different things depending on the kind of program that you're dealing with.

So the short answer is typically, no, it doesn't work like that.

install programs properly

The right answer is to go out and

get the installer for that program (get the installation media for that program if you have it) and reinstall the program on the new computer.

portable applications

I do want to mention that there are a class of applications that are called "portable." A portable application meets the criteria that you're looking for.

A portable application does not require a setup. You can simply copy that application from machine to machine; run it and have it work. Sometimes, it just works. Sometimes, it will auto install. But the fundamental premise is that no real setup process is required. Simply copying the .exe file as you've pointed out causes that program to work.

Most of the time, these days, those kinds of programs will explicitly call out the fact that they are portable. In fact, for many popular programs, there are even portable versions. For example, there's a portable Firefox. I think there's a portable Thunderbird.

So that's the kind of a thing... if you're looking for a program that can be moved around that way.

But if you've got an existing program that was installed on a PC, you need to run setup.

Source: http://ask-leo.com/can_you_copy_a_program_file_to_another_computer_and_run_it.html


Used with permission of Leo A. Notenboom, Ask Leo! http://ask-leo.com. Retired from Microsoft in 2001, Leo started Ask Leo! in 2003 as a place for answers to common computer and technical questions.

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march keyword explained

MASKME

MaskMe is an extension for the Google Chrome browser that helps you create masked emails, that is unique random email addresses that you have no affiliation with, whenever you need them. While you may still use your main email address when signing up on some sites, you get the option to create a new masked email address instead at other times.
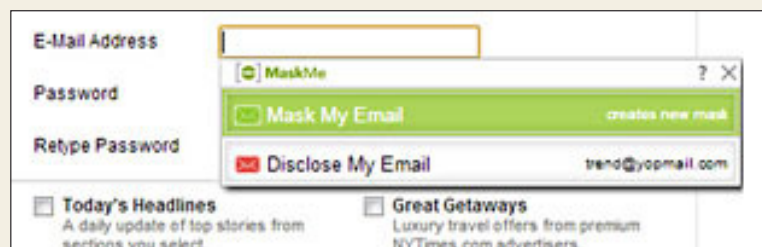
MaskMe displays a popup below the email field on registration pages. It gives you the option to register using your main email address, which you select when you create a MaskMe account after installation or a randomly generated, on the fly, unique address.

The random email address forwards all emails to your main email address until you block the process in the management console. You get options to switch between forward and block as often as you want. You may want to keep forward enabled for instance until you receive the verification message. Once you did, you can switch to block so that no mails get forwarded anymore to your main email address. http://bit.ly/Z2Fhrx

turn your old laptop into a
digital photo album

by Pamela Tabak, Computer Tutor

Don't give away or throw away your old laptop, when you decide to buy a new one or your old laptop crashes. Yes, you can re-use your laptop even when it crashes despite the advice that you may have been given. You can turn it into a Digital Photo Frame which can run constantly.

To turn your old laptop into a Digital Photo Album, follow the steps below:

1. Find the restore discs that came with your laptop and insert them in the CD/DVD tray.

2. Restart your laptop and watch for the message to 'click on any key to boot from CD.' Then tap any key to start the process.

3. Just follow the prompts and the computer will go through the motions to bring your laptop back to the state it was the day that it was purchased.

4. You will not need any extra software or Antivirus protection because you will not need to connect your laptop to the internet.

5. When the laptop has finished installing all the drivers and software necessary for your laptop to run, it will be ready for you to install all your family photos that you would like to run in your new Digital Photo Album. If you have saved your photos on an external drive or CD/DVD insert it in the laptop and copy the pictures to your Pictures folder.

6. Then Right Click anywhere in a space on your desktop and select 'Personalize' from the pop-up menu in the Vista or Windows 7 operating systems. For Windows XP click on "Display." This will open the Screen Saver settings.

Use the 'down-arrow' and select 'Photos' and set the wait time to one minute so that the slideshow begins as soon as the computer boots up.

Click on 'Apply' and then on 'OK.'

Place your laptop in a place where you will be able to view your Photo Album. You can leave it running all day and enjoy memories of your holidays and family pictures. Just remember not to press any keys or touch the mouse buttons because this will stop the slideshow running. If you do touch the keyboard you just need to wait one minute and the slide show will begin again.

Send your computer-based questions to Pamela Tabak, pamela@computertutorinc.net or visit www.computertutorinc.net

reverse pin hoax

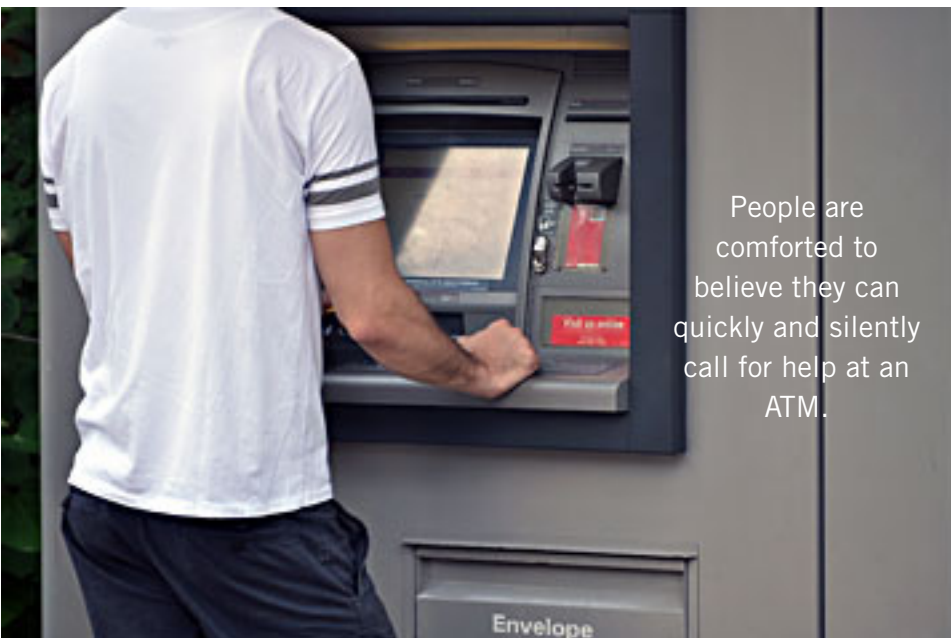*by Darry D Eggleston, darryd.com*

"Contrary to popular rumors, entering your PIN in reverse at any ATM will not call the police," reports OMGFacts, http://t.co/HqAjkrfl.

"In September of 2006, an online rumor that entering one's Personal ID Number (PIN) in reverse at ATMs will give one the money requested but also contact the police gained prevalence.
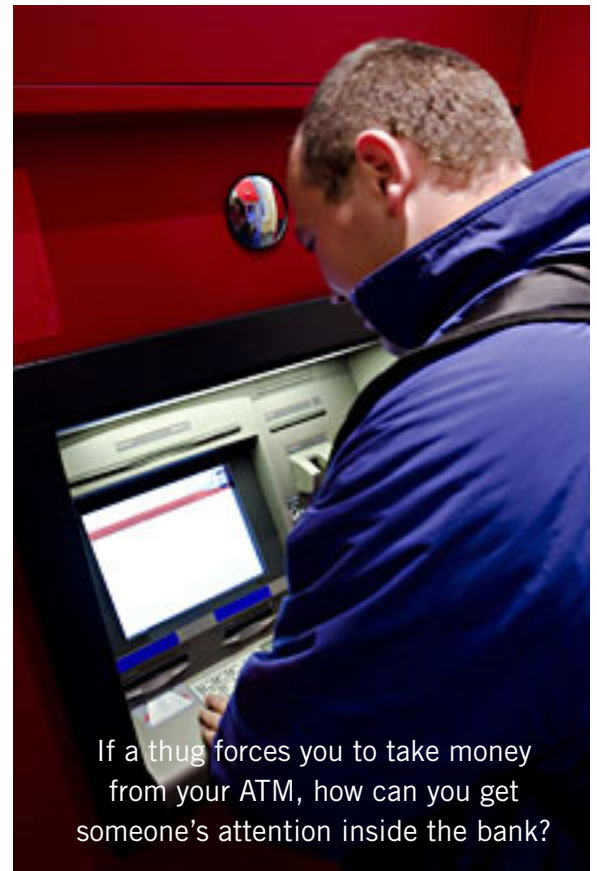
"People were so comforted by the idea that if someone was forcing them to take money out of their ATMs, they could quickly and silently call for help; that they didn't bother to confirm whether or not it was true.

"The Credit Card and Accountability Responsibility and Disclosure Act of 2009, forced the Federal Trade Commission to provide an analysis of any technology (existing or in development) which would allow an ATM user to send such a signal.

"In response to the command, it was stated in FTC's 2010 report that; 'respondent banks have reported that none of their ATMs currently have installed, or have ever installed, an emergency PIN system of any sort,'" OMGFacts also said.


If a thug forces you to take money from your ATM, how can you get someone's attention inside the bank?

When you hear, read, or suspect such technology, make the time to Google it and find out the real facts.

Everyday, I'm exposed to stupid reports wanting me to believe the unbelievable — everything from President Obama wanting to take away our guns to the United Nations orchestrating wars, disasters, and financial crises so as to deplete the money and other resources of the U.S. to make us a Third World country. (We're doing the latter on our own, thank you very much.)

• It is not foolish to want to believe.

• It is foolish not to investigate and to ensure the validity.

• Just because your 'good friend,' Ida Nos, claims her third cousin's best friend's wife's co-worker knows it, does not make it so.

People are comforted to believe they can quickly and silently call for help at an ATM.
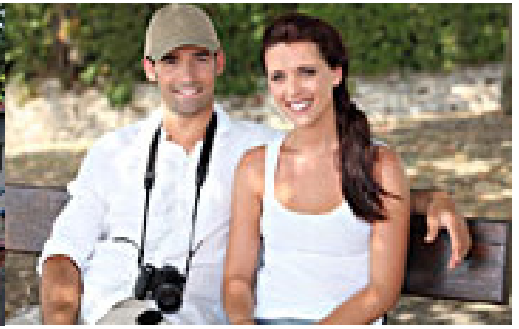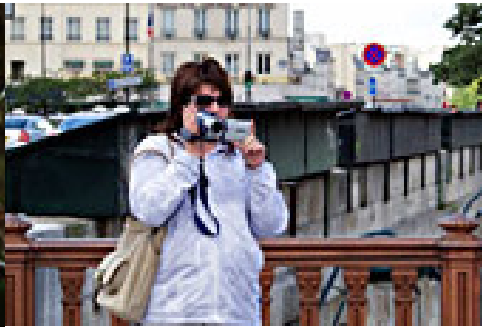
school of experience:
tips for photographers

by Neil Longmuir, WPCUSRGRP, Canada

I was talking to a friend of mine who just returned from Mexico with his Nikon D5000 in a large ziplock bag in a bunch of pieces including the lens. When I asked what happened this was his response.

"My wife did not like me carrying the camera around my neck because I looked like a tourist. Instead she said she would carry the camera over her arm with her purse. They also have a two year old.

"Well the inevitable happened she went to get something from her purse and the camera fell to the concrete breaking into multiple pieces."

Also, remember when you are carrying your camera over your shoulder, make sure the lens is against your body and not sticking out. (See who gets these tips right in the pictures around the page.)

I've been asked many times by users, "Why are some of my pictures a little unsharp?" If you knock the lens against something like a door frame you can knock the lens out of alignment thus explaining some of the unsharpness. Also don't carry the camera on your arm.

This is a Kodak camera strap from 1959. I still have a black version of this strap on my Rollieflex. The strap is about 2 inches wide and is really comfortable to work with.

internet censorship...my way

by Dave Lee, Retired, Alabama

When the words, "Internet censorship" comes up, many of my friends cringe and say there should never be any censorship and we should be free to say and do what we want.

I'm OK with that for whoever believes it, but choose to censor the Internet for myself. I have my own ideas about how to accomplish personal censorship of what I see and read. Here are just a few: (I'm sure you can list many more)

- If I get a message with forwarded links, I never click on them.
- If I get a message from you and it contains a Link with an explanation I will click and open it. However, if I receive a Forwarded message which contains a Link, I delete the message.
- I never expose names and addresses on "bulk" email messages. Instead, I always use Blind Carbon Copy (Bcc) to protect my friend's addresses from the "Bots" which harvest these and make them available to "spammers." I am very careful with my email address and rarely ever receive "spam" messages.
- If I open a website and it contains an "autoplay video," I immediately "X" out of that page. I want to choose my own videos to watch.
- If I visit a site which requires you to register and create an account, I immediately "X" out of that page.
- If I receive a message and the only personal note in it says, "Must read." I immediately delete it.
- If I receive a message with any political content in the Subject line my Message Rule sends it to the "Deleted Items Folder."

I have my own ideas about how to accomplish personal censorship of what I see and read.

google reader shutdown & finding an alternative

by Steve Costello, BRCS
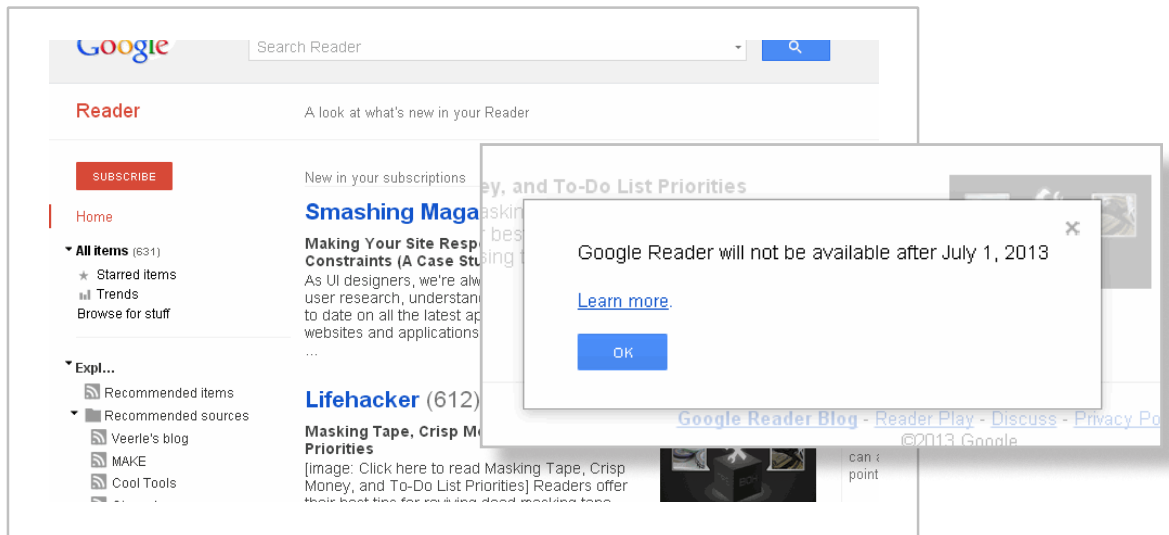
When I first opened up my Google Reader this morning I received the notice, "Google Reader will not be available after July 1, 2013."

At first I thought, this April's Fool joke is a bit early, then I checked the Google blog and saw the March 13, 2013 post: http://googleblog.blogspot.com/2013/03/a-second-spring-of-cleaning.html, which had the following to say:

"We launched Google Reader in 2005 in an effort to make it easy for people to discover and keep tabs on their favorite websites. While the product has a loyal following, over the years usage has declined. So, on July 1, 2013, we will retire Google Reader. Users and developers interested in RSS alternatives can export their data, including their subscriptions, with Google Takeout over the course of the next four months."

It seems that it is true.

As regular readers of the Boca Bits newsletter, and this blog, know I have started posting interesting links found during the month through Google Reader. Now I will have to find something else to keep track of the 200+ RSS subscriptions I check regularly.

google reader alternatives

I decided to check out some of my usual places for information about alternatives. The links to the posts I found are as follows:

- *Lifehacker:* http://lifehacker.com/5990456/google-reader-is-getting-shut-down-here-are-the-best-alternatives
- *CNet:* http://reviews.cnet.com/8301-19512_7-57574201-233/google-reader-is-dying-but-we-have-five-worthy-alternatives/
- *GHacks:* http://www.ghacks.net/2013/03/14/the-ultimate-google-reader-alternatives-list/
- *NirmalTV:* ttp://www.nirmaltv.com/2013/03/14/google-reader-alternatives/
- *Gizmodo:* http://gizmodo.com/5990540/8-google-reader-alternatives-that-will-ease-your-rss-pain
- *TechSupportAlert:* http://www.techsupportalert.com/best-free-rss-reader-aggregator.htm

I am sure there are many other places to check out, the above are the result of a very quick search of some of my favorite sites.

After reading these, feedly is the front-runner for me.

looking for suggestions

The feed reader I am looking for would be able to import from Google Reader; sync with all my devices—Windows and Android; as well as having online access. It does not necessarily need to be free or open source, but should have a free trial period to make sure it works for me.

What do you use in the place of Google Reader? Leave a comment, or visit the contact page of this blog at http://ctublog.sefcug.com/contact/ to email me directly with any useful information. *(Source: http://ctublog.sefcug.com/ – posted March 14, 2013, used with permission)*
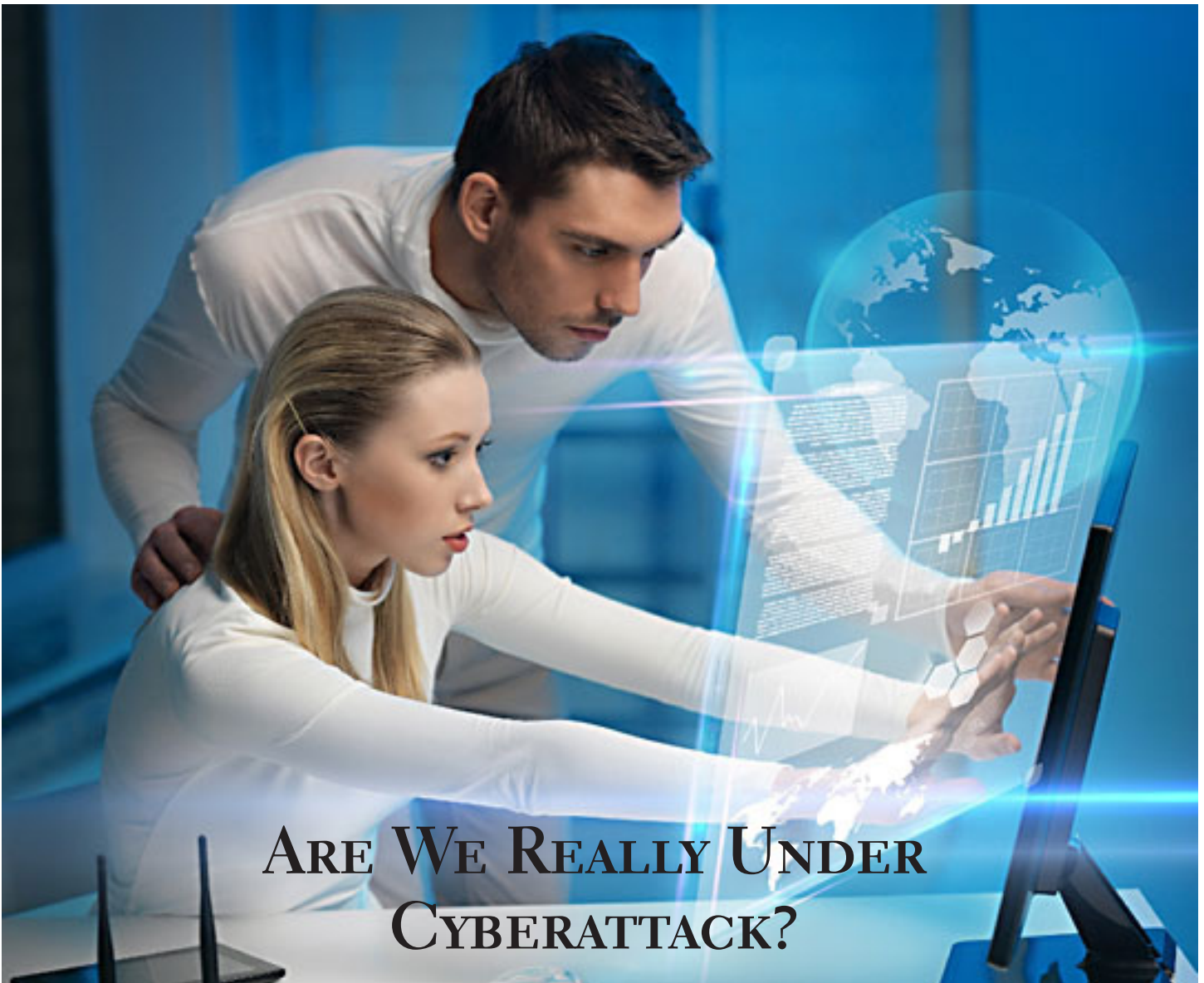
Are We Really Under Cyberattack?

by Ira Wilsker

Normally I write about issues that may impact us strictly as individuals, including how to secure our personal computers, where to get good quality free software, hardware reviews, and software reviews.

Many of us are blissfully unaware that our way of life is under cyberattack, which has the potential to adversely affect our quality of life.

Many of us can discuss the latest sports news with vigor, debate the crazy lifestyles of our favorite celebrities, and argue the fine points of politics and public policy, but are blissfully ignorant about how our dependence on the internet has made us vulnerable to attacks that can close our banks, disrupt our communications, shut down our utili-

ties, and otherwise lose much of what makes our life possible in the 21st century.

Buried in the news headlines over recent days are stories about how such icons as The Wall Street Journal, New York Times, Washington Post, and Twitter have been successfully attacked by hackers.

In the recent Wall Street Journal hack attack, according to AFP reporter Rob Lever, writing on Friday, Feb 1, 2013, "The Wall Street Journal has become the second major U.S. media organization to accuse Chinese hackers of targeting its computers in an apparent effort to spy on journalists covering China. The

announcement on Thursday came a day after The New York Times said hackers, possibly connected to China's military, had infiltrated its computers in response to its expose of the vast wealth amassed by a top leader's family.

The Journal reported that the attacks were "for the apparent purpose of monitoring the newspaper's China coverage" and suggested that Chinese spying on US media has become a "widespread phenomenon."

Also on February 1, Washington Post reporters Craig Timberg and Ellen Nakashima wrote in the Post, "A sophisticated cyberattack targeted The Washington Post in an operation that resembled intrusions against other major American news organizations and that company officials suspect was the work of Chinese hackers, people familiar with the incident said.

Post company officials confirmed the broad outlines of the infiltration, which was discovered in 2011 and first

reported by an independent cybersecurity blog on Friday. But they did not elaborate on the circumstances, the duration of the intrusion or its apparent origin."

Twitter, a major social media network with over 200 million current users, was also the victim of a cyber attack, according to a February 2 Associated Press story by Terry Collins and Anne D'Innocenzio.

In this report, they wrote, "Twitter said in a blog post on Friday (February 1) it detected attempts to gain access to its user data earlier in the week. It shut down one attack moments after it was detected.

But Twitter discovered that the attackers may have stolen user names, email addresses and encrypted passwords belonging to 250,000 users they describe as a very small percentage of our users. The company reset the pilfered passwords and sent emails advising the affected users."

In the days and few weeks prior to the high profile newspaper and

Twitter attacks, there were countless attacks on major banks, financial institutions, power companies, and other components of our daily lives and critical infrastructure. In the recent "Gozi Trojan" case, a small group of eastern European cyber thieves infected over a million computers with the "Gozi Trojan Virus."

This virus which started stealing online banking information in 2007, and remained almost undetectable by most security utilities until 2012, which resulted in millions of dollars in banking losses over a five year period, making it (according to a New York U.S. Attorney). "…one of the most financially destructive computer viruses in history." *(Source: krebsonsecurity.com/2013/01/three-men-charged-in-connection-with-gozi-trojan)*

These cyber criminals employed countless "money mules," mostly innocent and out-of-work individuals, who were recruited through work-at-

home job scams. These money mules helped the cyber thieves launder stolen funds.

In addition to the more traditional cybercrooks, as in the NY Times and Washington Post cases above, cyber espionage is widely used to gather intelligence for political, industrial, and military purposes.

In terms of political espionage, the recent attacks on the major newspapers may have been used to intimidate Chinese nationals who might want to talk to western media outlets.

Mark Clayton, in a Christian Science Monitor article, February 1, 2013, " How large is China's campaign to control, intimidate?," he wrote, "China's apparent motives in infiltrating major news organizations, experts say, are to anticipate and respond to negative coverage of the country, and, perhaps no less importantly, to deter Chinese citizens from speaking openly with Western news organizations."

In terms of industrial espionage, Richard Clarke, the former cybersecurity and cyberterrorism advisor for the White House, said in a March, 2012 interview in the Smithsonian Magazine, that, "China has hacked every major US company."

According to Clarke, every major company in the U.S. is regularly infiltrated by Chinese hackers employed by the Chinese government to steal research and development data, plans, and information. According to Clarke, " "Every major company in the United States has already been penetrated by China. My greatest fear is that, rather than having a cyber-Pearl Harbor event, we will instead have this death of a thousand cuts. Where we lose our competitiveness by having all of our research and development stolen by the Chinese." *(Source: www.zdnet.com/blog/security/ richard-clarke-china-has-hacked-every-major-us-company/11125).*

Sadly, this cyber industrial espionage also has strong military and national security implications. According to a story in the Wall Street Journal, " Computer Spies Breach Fighter-Jet Project" *(online.wsj.com/ article/SB124027491029837401.html), U.S. officials have known at least since 2009 that Chinese cyber spies have " ... broken into the Pentagon's $300 billion Joint Strike Fighter*

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China's J-20 Stealth Jet Meant to Counter F-22, F-35, U.S. Analysis Says

By Tony Capaccio - Jan 6, 2011 5:43 PM CT

COMMENTS | + QUEUE

China's new stealth fighter likely was designed "to counter" the U.S. F-22 and F-35 jets, according to U.S. Navy intelligence analysts.

Photos of the J-20 aircraft have appeared on the Internet. Aviation Week & Space Technology reported Jan. 3 that the aircraft was in runway tests as a prelude to a first test flight.

Enlarge image

A Chinese J-20 stealth fighter prepares for a taxiing test at an airfield in Chengdu, Sichuan province, China, on Jan. 6, 2011. Source: Kyodo via Bloomberg

"The Chinese know the importance of developing an indigenous commercial and military aircraft design industry," said the statement yesterday from the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Information Dominance. The office includes Navy intelligence.

"They have indicated their intent to design a new generation of technologies/subsystems (such as radar, engines and weapons)," said the statement. "The employment of this fighter in numbers will be both a qualitative and quantitative improvement" in Chinese Air

project -- the Defense Department's costliest weapons program ever...."

Similar incidents have also breached the Air Force's air-traffic-control system in recent months, these people say. In the case of the fighter-jet program, the intruders were able to copy and siphon off several terabytes of data related to design and electronics systems, officials say, potentially making it easier to defend against the craft."

The result of this cyber espionage on our national secrets can be seen in the newly released Chinese and Russian fighter aircraft that were explicitly designed to defeat our latest generations of fighter aircraft. According to an article in Bloomberg, " China's new stealth fighter likely was designed "to counter" the U.S. F-22 and F-35 jets, according to U.S. Navy intelligence analysts."

In the same Wall Street Journal story about the Chinese cyber spies stealing our fighter aircraft designs is a chilling statement, " The latest intrusions provide new evidence that a battle is heating up between the U.S. and potential adversaries over the data networks that tie the world together.

The revelations follow a recent Wall Street Journal report that computers used to control the U.S. electrical-distribution system, as well as other infrastructure, have also been infiltrated by spies abroad."

Other, more recent reports indi-

Richard Clarke: China has hacked every major US company

By **Emil Protalinski** | March 27, 2012, 1:04pm PDT

Summary: *Cybersecurity advisor Richard Clarke is warning the U.S. that its major companies are being regularly infiltrated by Chinese hackers employed by the Chinese government to steal R&D.*

Richard Clarke, a former cybersecurity and cyberterrorism advisor for the White House, was a U.S. government employee for 30 years: between 1973 and 2003. He worked during the times of Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, and even George W. Bush. He may not be working under current U.S. president Barack Obama, but that doesn't mean he doesn't have something to warning about. He says state-sanctioned Chinese hackers are stealing R&D from U.S. companies, threatening the long-term competitiveness of America. We've heard this before, but the way Clarke puts it makes the situation look even more dire.

cate that China is greatly enhancing its cyberattack abilities to launch a devastating cyber attack on an adversary (the United States?) by shutting down its infrastructure using technical "cyber" methods rather than more traditional and violent methods.

Be careful to listen to snippets in the national and global news about such things as cyber attacks on Iranian nuclear facilities, such as happened in the recent past when the Stuxnet computer worm wrecked Siemens centrifuges.

Richard Clarke has written about attacks on the electric power grid, trains, and the stock exchanges; listen in the news for more stories about this continuing attack.

Almost daily, there are news stories about "denial of service" attacks that can effectively shut down the internet servers used by banks, credit card payment gateways, and the

name servers which direct internet traffic.

In an April 2009 story, "Electricity Grid in U.S. Penetrated By Spies," the Wall Street Journal reported that China and Russia had infiltrated the U.S. electrical grid and left behind software programs that could be used to disrupt the system, according to current and former national security officials (*Source: online.wsj.com/article/SB123914805204099085.html*).

Think about this the next time you hear about a major blackout for reasons other than a major weather event such as a hurricane.

Some cyberterrorism experts claim that the infamous August 2003 blackout that darkened much of Canada and the northeastern United States was due to cyberterrorism, a claim that was vehemently denied by government authorities, but still

discussed in hushed circles.

Al Qaeda documents indicate that they had been seriously planning to shut down our power grids, and evidence exists that there had even been surveillance on key components of the grid *(Source: www. tactical-life.com/online/news/al-qaeda-calls-for-electronic-jihad-cybe-warfare-video/).*

With the microcosm of information and sources referenced above, and now being more aware of the need to listen to contemporary news stories about cyberattacks and other cyberthreats, it should be evident that we are indeed now engaged in a cyberwar, and have been for several years. Do we really have anything to worry about? Sleep well tonight.

Ira Wilsker hosts "My Computer Show" a call-in tech support show on KLVI radio, 560AM, from 4-5 p.m. Mondays, Pacific time. The show streams live over the net at KLVI.com and on the free iHeartRadio app. His call-in number is 800-330-5584.

websites

-   https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cyberwarfare
-   http://news.yahoo.com/ny-times-says-chinese-hacked-070948978.html
-   https://krebsonsecurity.com/2013/02/source-washington-post-also-broadly-infiltrated-by-chinese-hackers-in-2012/
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Celebrating Its 20th Year!

southwest technology & computer conference has new location for 2013

After 19 years in San Diego, the Southwest Technology & Computer Conference has moved to Kellogg West Conference Center & Hotel at Cal Poly Pomona for the 2013 conference to be held June 21-23.

Kellogg West Conference Center & Hotel is uniquely located on a wooded hilltop overlooking cereal magnate W.K. Kellogg's former ranch estate.

The $85 Early Bird registration fee covers all meals (Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast, lunch and dinner and Sunday breakfast) and includes all workshops, Expo, Welcome Bag, and more.

The room rate in the recently renovated two-story hotel is $89 per night single, $95 double, $105 for four, and features many amenities.

In addition, there is free parking and free Wi-Fi in the Conference Center and Hotel rooms. For attendees who fly in, there is a free shuttle from Ontario International Airport.

The Kellogg West Conference Center & Hotel is located at 3801 W. Temple Avenue, Pomona, CA 91768. Check here for directions and local attractions, http://www.kelloggwest.org/kw-directions.aspx

For conference details and registration information go to http://www.theswcc.org/registration/registration.htm

goodbye firefox

by Frank Bollinger, ORCOPUG

Mozilla Firefox, my browser of choice for years, has let me down. The trouble began with printing problems a few months ago and Firefox is now raising havoc with PDF documents.

I have been a happy Firefox user since switching from Microsoft Internet Explorer a few years ago. The trouble started in mid-2012 when Firefox suddenly stopped printing my custom-sized Google Calendar. I carry a printed version of the calendar which requires using a custom paper size of 6" x 9". That process worked fine for over a year. Now Firefox pretends to accept the print command but nothing actually happens. Although it looks like it's working, it's as though the printout goes to some place where I can't see or hear it. My workaround has been to open the calendar in Google Chrome, where it prints normally.

I'm guessing the problem came with a Firefox upgrade but can't pin it down for sure. Since I rarely print the calendar more than once per week, I continued using Firefox for everything else.

The next shock came in February 2013 after upgrading to Firefox v 19. I post PDF files to a website a few times per month and discovered that Firefox no longer displayed the text. In one case, it showed gridlines, but still no text. At first, it seemed to only affect PDFs I created with OpenOffice (other PDFs were still displaying normally). I even tried using the similar LibreOffice, but got the same result.

Initially, there wasn't too much comment on the Internet so I felt the issue must be a new incompatibility between OpenOffice and Firefox. Then I looked at my latest issue of U.S. News & World Report (now distributed as a weekly PDF document) and found a lot of weird spacing and blanks where all the apostrophes belonged.

The final straw came with the March 2013 Orange County PC Users Group (ORCOPUG) "Nibbles & Bits" newsletter. It contained unusual fonts, dropped letters, funny spacing, and gibberish characters all over the place.

Note that Chrome and Internet Explorer were displaying all of these documents properly the entire time I wrestled with this problem. I got back on the Internet and now found lots of angry complaints about what Firefox 19 was doing to PDF documents.

I believe the issue is that Firefox implemented a built-in PDF viewer with v 19, replacing plug-ins from third parties such as Adobe or Foxit. Although it was, I think, a well intentioned attempt to escape from the many security flaws in current Adobe software, the built-in viewer mangles many PDF documents so badly that it is unusable.

While researching the problem, I found a workaround. It's possible to tell Firefox to still use a plug-in instead of the built-in viewer. I changed the Portable Document Format (PDF) "action" to use the Foxit plug-in. That fixed all the problems, for now.

Unfortunately, this entire episode has left a sour taste. It shouldn't be necessary to hunt for workarounds to perform basic functions. With frequent and unannounced Firefox upgrades, I'm concerned about going through situations like this repeatedly. Since Mozilla is about to drop support for my email program, Thunderbird, I'm wondering if this article shouldn't really be called "Goodbye Mozilla?"

victory for *first sale!*

In a landmark ruling, the United States Supreme Court affirmed that no matter where in the world something was made or purchased, you own it. This is a huge victory for students, libraries, retailers, and consumers of all sorts! The Kirtsaeng decision vindicates the foundational principle of "first sale" in copyright law and we believe that this is evidence that the conversation on copyright is changing as people are increasingly recognizing the need for balance.

"We are glad that the Supreme Court recognized and prevented the harm that could have been done by the decision of the lower court. This is a big win for the public interest, students, libraries, retailers, and consumers of all sorts who will be protected by this decision," said Sherwin Siy, Vice President of Legal Affairs, Public Knowledge.

"The fact that these arguments made it to the Supreme Court is unsettling. We were almost in a situation where anyone that held a garage sale or loaned a book to a friend could be in violation of copyright law. We believe that this is evidence that a larger conversation about copyright reform is in order, to restore the balance of the law between the interests of authors, copyright holders, and the public."

— *Public Knowledge, http://bit.ly/XbpFoZ*

a quick guide to the current **phone unlocking bills**

There are currently three different proposals to make sure that you can unlock your phone. Bill names and sponsors are "Unlocking Consumer Choice and Wireless Competition Act," by Senator Leahy, and companion bill by Representative Goodlatte; "Wireless Device Independence Act" by Senator Wyden; and "Wireless Consumer Choice Act" by Senator Klobuchar, companion bill by Representative Eschoo.

They each have strengths and weaknesses. (See chart below.) A permanent fix to the phone unlocking problem is needed. One with few loopholes for carriers, software makers, and hardware manufacturers. Ultimately, broader changes to an anticircumvention law to prevent abuses is also needed.

— *Sherwin Siy, Public Knowledge, http://bit.ly/16jIQO2*

	Leahy/Goodlatte	Wyden	Klobuchar/Eschoo
Permanent fix?	No	Yes	Yes
Allows services to unlock phone for you?	No	No	Yes
Closes software licensing loophole?	No	No	Yes
Doesn't require phone carrier action or cooperation?	Yes	Yes	No
Prevents hardware & software lawsuits?	Yes	Yes	No
Makes broader DMCA reforms?	No	No	No

email addresses

Bollinger, Frank
frbollinger@earthlink.net

Boutwell, Lloyd
Boutwell65@yahoo.com

Gonse, Linda
editor@orcopug.org

Jackson, Walter
wvjaxn@charter.net

Kaump, LeRoy
leroy_kaump@hotmail.com

Klees, Larry
larryklees@yahoo.com

Loehr, Lothar
lothar@orcopug.org

Lyons, Mike
mike@orcopug.org

Moore, Charlie
charlie@orcopug.org

Musser, Dave
dmusser@worldnet.att.net

Westberg, Carl
carl@orcopug.org

Wirtz, Ted
twirtz@pacbell.net

time
for renewal?

MARCH 1	Ken Sineri
APRIL 1	Lothar Loehr
MAY 1	Lloyd Boutwell
JULY 1	Gary Covington III
	Walter Jackson
AUGUST 1	Stan Leese

submitted by Charlie Moore

BRING USED INKJET PRINTER CARTRIDGES to meetings for our ongoing fund-raising project: Hewlett Packard, Canon (BC-02, BC-05, BC-20 or BX-3), Lexmark, Dell, Compaq, Kodak, Samsung, Sharp; or any laser printer cartridge.

We miss you, Mike! Get well soon.

thank you!

We are grateful to our member presenters: Ted Wirtz, Larry Klees, Bill Bowman, and Program Chairman, Lothar Loehr.

Through their volunteerism and efforts at a critical time, our ship ORCOPUG continues to sail!

We hope you will sign up to do your presentation, too! Contact Lothar or Ted to set the date.

march raffle winners

Wibos 8 book	**Value $25**
Leroy Kaump	Winner
Mixcraft 5	**Value $39**
Larry Klees	Winner
Mixcraft 5	**Value $39**
Bob McDonald	Winner
Poser 9	**Value $50**
Lothar Loehr	Winner
Mixcraft 5	**Value $39**
Walter Jackson	Winner

submitted by Charlie Moore

Give Your Computer A Gift...*become a member of ORCOPUG!*

membership application

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Expired members are not eligible to win raffle prizes or to access the Members' Only web page.

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Nickname _____

Mailing Address _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Home Phone ( ) _____ Work Phone ( ) _____ E-mail Address _____

Areas of Interest/Comments _____

Make checks payable to: ORCOPUG — Dues are $25 per year

ORCOPUG, P.O. BOX 716, Brea, California 92822–0716

Meetings are the second Tuesday of every month. See www.orcopug.org for more information.

For about $2 a month you can be a member of our user group!

Orange County PC Users Group

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ORCOPUG
Post Office Box 716
Brea, California 92822-0716

714-983-2391 • www.orcopug.org

President, Mike Lyons	*mike@orcopug.org*
Treas/Membership, Charlie Moore	*charlie@orcopug.org*
Editor/Webmaster, Linda Gonse	*editor@orcopug.org*
Programs, Lothar Loehr	*lothar@orcopug.org*
Membership, Carl Westberg	*carl@orcopug.org*

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our website has everything you need!

benefits of *User Group Membership*

- **Product & "How To" demos**
- **Free raffles and magazines**
- **Help from other members**
- **Newsletter and web site**
- **Special offers & discounts**
- **Monthly meetings**
- **Affiliation with worldwide group**

User groups represent the spirit of the frontier, a community getting together to do things that no individual ought to have to do alone. The pioneers of the American west got together for barn raisings, cattle roundups, and the occasional party. The pioneers of new technology get together for installfests, new user training and support, and just plain fun. Being part of a user group is the best way to get more out of your computer, and lets you make friends while you're at it.

Tim O'Reilly, President
O'Reilly Media

where are the meetings, when are they held?

next meeting: Tuesday, April 9, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. — Coco's Bakery Restaurant

Regular meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. at Coco's Bakery Restaurant, 1011 North Harbor Blvd., Fullerton, CA. Meetings are free and the public is welcome!

Planning meetings *are held the second Wednesday after the regular meeting every month at 6:30 p.m. at Carl's Jr., 3240 Yorba Linda Boulevard, Fullerton, CA 92831. All members are welcome to attend planning meetings!*
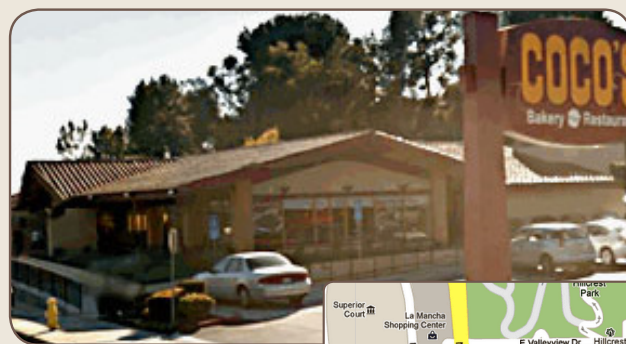
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