

NEWSbits

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WHAT'S INSIDE

Page 2
Back to Basics
Article: We Miss You!

Page 3
President's Corner

Page 4
May 7 Reunion Meet

Page 5-8
Article:
Acronis True Image
Home 2009

Page 7
CCUG-PC Help Desk
Kim Komando --

Page 8
The Deals Guy

Page 9
We Miss You (Cont..).
Member Classifieds

Page 10
Kim Komando --
Rotate Your Videos

Page 11
Q. & A
CCUG-PC Online

Page 12
Chuckles Cartoon
CCUG-PC Online
Websites of the Month



"CCUG-PC HOLDS MEETING REUNION"

by Elaine Pitre

Chalmette Computer Users' Group is alive and kicking. Chalmations/St. Bernardians are a strong group of people as we saw on Saturday, May 7th when a group of CCUG-PC members met for the first time since Hurricane Katrina hit on August 29, 2005. All were hard hit and fled from their homes to safer grounds, hoping not to go through a disaster like this ever again.

Members came from different areas of Louisiana (Denham Springs, Hammond, Loranger, Harahan, Kenner, Lacombe, Slidell and Mandeville, Abita Springs) as well as, Mississippi (Carriere, Foxworth and Diamondhead). Garland Hilton received top honors for travelling the furthest, coming from Foxworth, Mississippi, near Hattisburg.

Coming: November 14: Fall Reunion



Group Organizer, *Elaine Pitre* greets attending members at May 7 Reunion



Piccadilly Cafeteria in Covington was the setting for the luncheon. They were extremely accommodating and we can't thank them enough. Everyone agrees that they want to do this again and decided we would have a luncheon in August.

We had a respectable twenty members attend the luncheon and are hoping the next one will have more.

E-mails will go out occasionally to keep you abreast of our group. Jerry is starting Newsbits again and will attempt an online forum through a link from the group's official website: www.ccugpc.org. Coos to everyone attending. *EP*

Help us by contributing an article periodically for the newsletter. Short or long, it's fodder for a newsletter!

Upcoming Event

PICCADILLY CAFETERIA
69008 Hwy...
190 Service Rd...
Covington, La.
985-892-9994



Tentatively, CCUG-PC will meet for a luncheon at 11:30 a.m. on August 8 and November 14, before the holiday break. As usual CCUG-PC members love their meetings and we'll hope to continue the luncheons at the bequest of members who wish to meet and share tips, ideas and experiences with the group. *C'Ya!*



by Jerry Montalbano

The hurricane, more than any other bonified reason for leaving St. Bernard has separated CCUG-PC members so far apart, and somehow many of us are still able to communicate and meet with each other once again, regardless of distance.

CCUG-PC has been challenged in obtaining any members who have had to change e-mail and phone numbers. If you know of any that you can share that we may or may not have, please let us know. Organizations are gauged by its membership and we want to be able to get info to the many displaced members so that we can post them with group info about meetings

Back to BASICS



The Newsbits staff has kept this tiny corner to remind of us the good times we spent in Back to Basics. Margaret Wynn led this superb gathering each week with presentations, Q. & A and loads of fun and excitement.



Please keep Margaret in your prayers as she presently is challenged with her illness and wish her speedy recovery after operation and malady. If you cannot

offer her well-wishes personally at a meeting, do write to offer her any kind words, at melody43@bellsouth.net. Get well soon, Margaret! Our prayers are a rock to your recovery!

and Newsbits distribution to them as available.

Some who are getting this newsletter would be thrilled to know that by now we've continued group activity. Reunion meetings are held 3-4 times annually to keep in touch. We each were handed a similar fate and share a handbook of horror stories from St. Bernard Parish or the greater New Orleans area, no doubt. Presently, we have found it "healing" to have started frequent gatherings of Chalmette Computer Users' Group in the form of Luncheons. This format appears easier for the gathering, considering our set of circumstances, but we won't rule out a possible move around from the North Shore or elsewhere at some juncture.

We hope all who are now reading this newsletter can understand our new mission statement, though unofficial: *Get thee to a CCUG-PC gathering!* At this past May 7 meeting, attendees had no idea how rewarding it would be or how "normalized" they would feel by attending.

Members experienced *deja'vu* of the *old times* as if everyone just picked up where each left off.

So, today I wish to express a like-experience I and others have taken for granted in the pre-K years: Our missing our dear and close friends of CCUG-PC. We cannot forget that longing to see each other again—and on a frequented basis. To the portion of membership whom were unable to attend a few months ago, the words: We Miss You! are most appropriate. I'll now include in this article a few "photo memories"—ones that we can remember so vividly as we view our friends. Some who are either are no longer can attend due to health or distance factors. To the others whom are yet to decide upon attending (we pray that they can do so) we have scheduled a next series of meetings in the months ahead.

We Miss You, our dear and close CCUG-PC friends!



Jerry Serigni



Bob Faucheux



Laura Brunies

Continues on Page 9



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hi, CCUG-PC Members!

It's four years since our worst nightmare became reality. Because of the storm, CCUG-PC had to make a screeching halt in lieu of that bad experience.

Gladly enough, Elaine Pitre, Sue Wessing and other members sought to follow a new dream—that of gathering the remnants of our group's core to a "re-union luncheon" on May 7 of this year. During that meeting, what started as a "get-together" for old times sake led to this second reunion with a possibility that the establishment of several reunions on a regular basis becoming a reality. And here we are with an August 8 meeting arriving.

We missed our meeting place at the parish's government complex meeting room because it was without cost to us. It was comfortable, mostly reliable with excellent meeting conditions and a guest could arrive with total comfort as well in knowing a presentation would have efficient, proper meeting conditions. I suppose some of us took it for granted never once realizing a hurricane would quickly end such blessings.

I miss the comradery of members helping members, sharing great news about new technology we purchased. I miss the times of information we exchanged and questions with answers bubbling from our tongues as we had such enthusiasm to help those who were

at their wit's end trying to understand how and why software worked or had given us a hissy navigating around the programs. I miss the presentations and fun it gave each member as he/she learned what it could do to enhance their computer skills. I miss every aspect of the meetings—from Margaret Wynn's *Back to Basics* to the auctions which, for the most part, were items that might not have meant as much to donors as the items meant to the auction winner!

I especially miss the "after-meeting" outing many of us shared when the general meeting had ended, whether that luncheon brought us to Par 3, Piccadilly or a Chinese Restaurant with our presenters and members. I miss them all. Don't you?

Four years. It seems so long ago, yet after seeing members again after the loss, it appears that just a week had gone by without us knowing that a great deal of time was stolen in its wake. How surreal.

I miss you all, and specifically, I'll miss my dear friends who since, either are now deceased or have had to relocate away from our area by necessity—perhaps, I may never see them again. However, I sincerely will remember them dearly. To each, I say, "So long, friends until we can meet again."

I can empathize with what you all endured. We all had to recover quickly—immediately had to secure a computer. There was no let-up in the work we needed done, from *day two* thereafter. Some needed a fax machine, but surely a new desktop or laptop was the order of the day for contact purposes to family, friends, and agencies.

Now that we've come this far, perhaps now, we'll appreciate what we took for granted the day before Katrina.

I know I had. Yet, my faith with hope led me to this point of writing to you once again. How nice it feels!

Jerry Montalbano



ARTICLE CONTRIBUTIONS

NEWSBITS Newsletter is currently published Quarterly by CCUG-PC. Articles for publication *must* be submitted, typewritten and on disk to our newsletter staff by the **15th** of the month before a meeting date for publication. We welcome all articles of computing interest and we reserve the newsletter.

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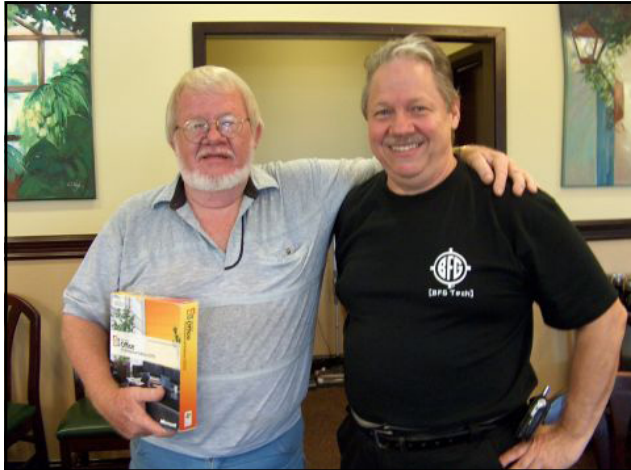
NOTICE!

Upcoming Date to Remember

November 14, 2009 - 11:30 a.m.

Quarterly Reunion Luncheon
69008 Hwy.. 190 Service Rd.,
Covington, La. 985-892-9994

May 7 CCUG-PC Luncheon Reunion



Garland Hilton, winner of the Microsoft Office with Jerry Montalbano's congrats

A Meeting in Progress



Buster and Carol Matthews, Jerry, William (Shady) Schadwell and Joe Vilardo



Garland Hilton discusses computer issues while Alice and Jim Diggs focus on the problem



Charles Scott with member friends Shirley Bourquard and sis, Harriet Ordes



Member Elaine Pitre listens during a Q. & A session while Harry and Mary Cancienne, Sue Wessing and members listen attentively



Alice & Jim Diggs, along with Buster/Carole Matthews, Carolyn Wagner and Shady Schadwell enjoy their company *Continues on Page 7*

Acronis True Image Home 2009

*By Gene Barlow
User Group Relations
Copyrighted July 2006*

Automatic Backups with Acronis True Image Home 2009

*Copyrighted June 2009
Download Document in PDF Format*

Backing up your computer's hard drive on a regular basis is the most important thing every user should be doing on their computer. The hard drive on your computer will eventually crash and when it does, you will be protected if you have a good backup. Without a backup, your computer will no longer function and all of your important files and pictures will be lost. Start doing backups today and be safe!

The best way to backup your computer is to use Acronis True Image Home 2009 and save your backups on an external hard drive. You should backup your main hard drive at least once a week including the entire hard drive and not just a few files or folders on the drive. I recommend a full backup image at the beginning of each month and then weekly incremental backup images during the month. See my article titled the Perfect Backup Approach at <http://www.ugr.com/nl0804.html> for more details on the best way to do your backups. You can order the latest version of Acronis True Image Home 2009 from us at <http://www.ugr.com/TrueImage.html>. Use the order code of UGNL0609 when completing the order to get an excellent discount price.

Many users start with a great determination to do their backups on a regular basis, but after a couple of weeks of doing backups they tend to forget to do regular backups. I have found that it is

best to automate your backups, so that you don't need to remember to do this very important task. Let the computer remember to do its own backups when they need to be done. That way, your backups will get done on the weekly basis, so that you are properly protected. The purpose of this paper is to help you set up automatic backups on your computer.



Acronis completely redesigned the end-user interface to True Image 2009 to make the product easier to use. The automatic backup function was also completely revamped. This new automatic backup function was not ready to release when the rest of the product was released in October 2008. It took Acronis a couple of extra months to complete and perfect this important function and it was then put in the product with follow-on builds of the software.

Before you start to set up an automatic backup on your True Image 2009, you need to update your True Image 2009 software to install the latest build (#9709) which became available on January 23, 2009. To do this, you must do three things: 1) set up an account on the Acronis web site, 2) register your product serial number in this account, and 3) download and install the build from the entry on your registered product. Details on how to do this can be found on my web site at <http://www.ugr.com/AcronisQuestions.html>. The

rest of this paper assumes that you have upgraded your system to this latest build in order to work properly.

Before we begin the detailed steps to set up your automatic backup, let me suggest a calendar change that needs to be considered. I recommend a full backup at the beginning of each month and then weekly incremental backup images at the end of each week during the month. The problem in doing this is that every month has a different number of days and begins on a different day of the week. So, setting up a rule to do exactly this schedule is not possible. A better approach is to adopt the 13-month calendar of exactly 4 weeks that many businesses use. That would give you exactly a full backup followed by 3 weekly incremental backups 13 times each year. This approach is more regular than trying to fit a regular backup schedule into our irregular monthly calendar. So, in this paper, I will be showing how to set up a 13-month approach.

First, create a folder on your external hard drive to contain your backups. Name this folder after the computer and partition that you plan to backup in this folder. If you have one computer and one main partition on it, this folder may simply be named something like My Backups. If you have two computers to backup on the same external hard drive, set up two folders and name them after each computer. For example, name them My Backups HP Computer and My Backups Dell Computer. Now we are ready to start setting up the automatic backup process with True Image 2009.

Setting up Automatic Backups with True Image 2009

Run Acronis True Image Home 2009 on your computer and on the main screen, click on the Task Management button under the What would you like to do? heading. This will take you to the area in True Image where you set up and manage your

Continues on Page 6

automatic backups. Now click on the Scheduled Tasks tab in the middle of the screen under the calendars.

Below the tabs is an area where you will see all of the automatic scheduled tasks on your computer. At this point, you should see the indication, No items to display. Next, click on the Create Backup Task menu item near the top of the screen. This will begin the Backup Wizard which will guide you through setting up an automatic backup task on your computer.

The first window in the Backup Wizard identifies what type of a backup you want to do. Click on My Computer to do a full backup image of your computer's hard drive.

The next window identifies the partitions you want to backup. Most users will see two disks listed -- your main hard drive and your backup external hard drive. Check the box next to your main hard drive, probably listed as Disk 1. Do NOT check the box next to your external hard drive. Click on Next to continue.

The next window identifies your Target Backup Archive, which is where you want to save your backup image files. Near the top of this wizard are two options. Make sure the circle next to the item, Create New Backup Archive is selected. This will create a full backup image to begin your automatic backups. Next, click on the Browse button next to the Backup Location box to find your folder on the external hard drive where you will be saving your automatic backup images.

This will bring up a directory tree screen on the left side of the window. Find your external hard drive and the folder name where you want to save your automatic backup images. Click once on this name to highlight it. You will notice that the path to this folder is listed in the File Name box below. Now click on the Generate Name button at the end of the File Name box.

This will add a file name to your path on the external hard drive. Click on OK to return to the prior screen.

You will notice that the Backup Location box on this screen is now filled in with your backup path and file name from the prior screen. Click on Next to continue.

The Backup Wizard is now ready to identify the frequency of your backups. Click on the Weekly round button to select it. This will bring up additional information on this box to fill in. Under Run this task weekly, enter in the time of the day you wish to do your backups. While True Image can do backups while you are using your computer for other things, I prefer to run my backups in the middle of the night. So, I set 4:00am as my start time. Then I select which day of the week to run my backups. I picked Sunday as my backup day, but any day that is convenient to you can be selected. So, my backups will run at 4:am on Sunday morning, a time I am seldom at my computer working. I just need to remember to leave my computer running Saturday night when I go to bed. Leave the settings at the bottom of the screen unchanged for now. They will work just fine in most cases as they are listed. If I forgot and turned off my computer Saturday night, the backup will start when I power on Sunday morning. Click on Next to continue.

On the Backup Methods screen, you should have selected the round button next to Incremental backups. Then check the box next to Create a new full backup after heading. Below it, change the number to 3 to permit three incremental images between each full backup image. That will give you a total of four backup images (1 full and 3 incremental images) in each of 13 months that follow. Do NOT check the Remove old archives option as you want to save more than one month of backups on the external hard drive. Click on Next to continue.

The Files to exclude screen lets you

exclude certain files from your backup image. Personally, I want to include everything on my backup image, so I leave this screen blank and just click on Next to continue.

If you have followed my recommendations in the paper titled, Using Acronis True Image Home 2009 at <http://www.ugr.com/nl1008b.html>, you will have already set up your backup options and do not need to repeat it at this point. If you wish to change any of your default backup options set earlier for this automatic backup, you can do so on this screen. Otherwise, click on Next to continue.

The Automatically Consolidate Backup screen is new to True Image 2009. With past releases, when your backups exceeded certain limits, those over that limit were simply thrown away. With True Image 2009, you can now keep the older backups, but consolidate them into using a smaller space for storage. What will happen is that the oldest incremental backup will be merged into the full backup it is based on to make an updated full backup. Then if more space is still needed, the next oldest incremental backup will be consolidated into the full backup. Thus, all of the backups are kept, but they will be consolidated to take up less room. This is certainly better than just deleting the old backups all together.

You have three tests to do your consolidations -- the number of backup images, the age of the backups, or the size of the backups. I prefer to use the last option, the size of the archives. To use this, check the box next to Size of archive exceeds: and then set the number below it to about 80% of the size of your external hard drive. For example, if your external hard drive is 500GB, then you would set the size of this option to 400GB. That means that when you exceed the use of 400GB of space on your external backup hard drive, True Image will start some consolidation till the backup space used is below 400GB. For most users,

Continues on Page 7

this is the best option to pick. Click on Next to continue. You can place a comment in the Archive Comments screen if you want to. I seldom do, so click on Next to continue.

This brings you to the Summary screen where you will see listed the steps that your automatic backup will follow. If you have no objections, you can select Proceed to start the automatic backup task working. Do NOT click on the Run task now box. You will notice an entry under the Scheduled Tasks tab is now showing. This is the task you just completed. It will sit their quietly until the time when you specified you wanted to do your automatic backup. At that time, it will come alive and start either a full or incremental backup as you had specified. You can now exit True Image 2009 and let your back-ups run automatically.

In closing, let me suggest that you periodically look at the backup image files True Image is automatically making for you on your external backup hard drive. Use Windows Explorer to do this. After a few weeks, you should see a list of files something like this:

My Backups	(folder name)
MyBackup.tib	(full backup image of first month)
MyBackup2.tib	(incremental backup image of first month)
MyBackup3.tib	(next incremental backup image of first month)
MyBackup4.tib	(last incremental backup image of first month)
MyBackup(1).tib	(full backup image of next month)
MyBackup(1)2.tib	(incremental backup image of next month)
MyBackup(1)3.tib	(next incremental image of next month)
MyBackup(1)4.tib	(last incremental image of next month)
MyBackup(2).tib	(full backup image of current month)
MyBackup(2)2.tib	(incremental image of current month)

If they do not look similar to this, then you may have set up your automatic task wrong and you need to check it and edit it so that it is set up correctly.

I hope this helps you set up True Image 2009 to run automatic back-ups on your computer. If you have questions about this article or have problems setting up your automatic backup tasks, send a note to support@ugr.com and I will try to assist you. With a little care, you should be able to have your backups run automatically on your system. **GB**

(Editor note: Special discount for True Image 2009 given to CCUG-PC members at the August 8th Reunion Luncheon Meeting.)

DISCLAIMER

This publication is the monthly newsletter of the Chalmette Computer Users Group-PC (CCUG-PC). The CCUG-PC, its officers,newsletter editor, and contributors express absolutely no warranty for material published herein. This disclaimer extends to all losses, incidental or consequential, from its use, or inability to use any or all information contained in any issue of this newsletter. Opinions expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of the CCUG-PC.

More Reunion Pics, continued from Page 4



Margaret Wynn and friend comfortably smile during the luncheon



Harry Cancienne explains why members might be having computer issues



Members from St. Bernard discovered this religious symbol (St. Mark Charch) along frequent travels over the industrial canal into the parish. This "Cross of Faith" remained for weeks



**A u g u s t
2009**

Bob Click, Greater Orlando Computer Users Group

I've been writing the DealGuy column for 14 years and have not missed a month, but its time I took a month off, so don't look for the column next month. I need a break and thanks in advance for the opportunity. I'm finding less and less to offer anyway so a break is probably in order.



Worried About A Web Site's Safety?

A popular warning product for dangerous Web sites is McAfee's "Site Advisor" <<http://www.siteadvisor.com>>. I've read a couple of reviews that were not all that complimentary, but have not tried it myself. Another one that I have not read about either way is Site Hound. When you get there, these products warn you if a Web site is safe to visit. Site Hound is offered by Fire Trust <<http://www.firetrust.com>>. There is a free version, and also a pay version with more features for \$29.95. They also offer MailWasher if you want spam protection and it is a popular product with a one time price. There used to be free updates for life, but it doesn't look like that applies any more. Do your homework if you are interested in either of these. User group member discounts are available for Firetrust products through APCUG <<http://www.apcug.net>>. Your user group must be a member to have access to the Sharepoint page for that information.



Ever Consider A Virtual Cover?* *(Here's an announcement, but edited)

Insofta Development has unveiled the newest version of Insofta Cover Commander, a tool providing the effective solution to quickly and easily create quality custom-designed three-dimensional virtual boxes for software, e-books, DVDs, manuals, CD-ROMs and screenshots.

Version 3.1 delivers a host of improvements.

Enhancements in the latest version of Insofta Cover Commander include support for batch processing from the command line, providing a perfect solution for creating a large number of similar virtual boxes, books, and many more. This is essential for those who create covers and boxes for on-line shops, catalogs and other large projects. The program also allows saving animation in SWF, GIF and AVI format.

The program enables creation of sophisticated and modern cover designs with very few mouse clicks; streamlining workflow. The program allows comprehensive customization of background color and transparency, gradient, shadow and reflection; what's more, the settings can be saved and used later. All the features are delivered in multilingual user interface (English, German, French, Spanish, Japanese, Hungarian and Russian).

Insofta Cover Commander is compatible with Microsoft Windows 98, ME, NT, 2000, XP and Vista, and costs \$48.30 for a single license, entitling a user to 1 year of free updates. Further information on the product, as well as its free trial version, is available from <www.insofta.com/cover-commander>. User group members get a 20% discount by entering the code ICC-RRDJ-DUG in the proper space.

Direct download link: <www.insofta.com/download/covercommandersetup.exe>

Company website: <www.insofta.com>



Problems?

A while back I mentioned the problem I had not being able to access the memory in my digital picture frame with either of my desktop machines, but I could with my new laptop. Nobody was able to tell me what was wrong, but Bob Balogh, a past president of the Boca Raton Computer Soci-

Continues on Page 9

ety <<http://www.brcs.org>>, sent me a suggestion for finding the answer <<http://www.blackviper.com/>> and I am sharing his advice with my readers who might have their own problems. I have not had the time to go there to research it yet, but hope to get it done soon. Bob's suggestion is below:

"The above is one of the best sites available for learning about your computer. The section on Windows Configurations, left hand side, is most helpful." Bob also writes a monthly help column, and has travelled to other user groups in his area to do presentations."

I always read Bob's column in their newsletter, Boca Bits, and here is something he recommended for their members. Bob likes to keep a monthly calendar on his desktop. This enables him to see the entire month at a glance. The one he suggests also has an array of other features that lets you enter events that are upcoming, etc.. It is called Rainlendar Lite, and it's free at <<http://www.snapfiles.com/get/Rainlendar.html>>.

That's it for this month. I'll have some more new product announcements on my Web site that didn't offer discounts. Meet me here again next month if your editor permits. This column is written to make user group members aware of special offers or freebies I have found or arranged, and my comments should not be interpreted to encourage, or discourage, the purchase of any products, no matter how enthused I might sound. Bob (The Cheapskate) **Click !!**



CLASSIFIEDS FREE *Classifieds*

Advertising Policy—Members are welcomed to place an advertisement for personal computer-related items in Newsbits at no cost. There could be limit-spacing on a first-come basis. Commercial ads from members and nonmembers are welcomed. For placement of member ads, e-mail: Jerry Montalbano, Editor at: jerryccug@cox.net

Missing you...



Where Y'at?

Continued from Page 2



Glen Menesses



CCUG-PC Members



Alvin Rooney



Virginia/Curtis McElroy



Mr. Megabyte Kirk Hargis



Jude Meyer



Ray Paternostro



Hester Manner



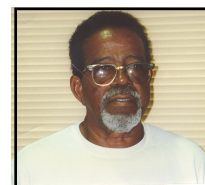
Sheila McElroy



John Lacoste
In Memorandum



Judy Favalora
In Memorandum



Pierre Charles
In Memorandum

Also missed: Ruth Fisher, Bill Manner, among others whom are no longer



9/11 Kaiser Flag



CCUG-PC Banner

—And to all our members whom are yet to or cannot join CCUG-PC's re-unions, We miss you!



Rotate Your Videos for Easy Viewing

by Kim Komando

Charlene uses her digital camera to take videos. She held the camera sideways when she shot some of her movies. That means the video is sideways when she watches it. She called the manufacturer, but it couldn't help her rotate the videos.

I'll bet your neck hurts from trying to watch those videos, Charlene! If it makes you feel any better, you're not the only person who's encountered this problem. Too bad your camera doesn't detect how you hold it and make the necessary adjustments.

Fortunately, there is a fairly simple solution. You just need to rotate your video in Windows Movie Maker. Open the program and drag the video clips from your hard drive to the clips area. Then, drag the clip to the storyboard at the bottom of the window.

Now, click Effects. You'll want to find Rotate 90 or Rotate 270. The one you need depends on which direction you turned the camera. Drag the effect onto your clip on the storyboard. Now you're ready to publish your movie. Click File>>Publish Movie. Follow the prompts to save your movie. You're good to go!

At this time of year, many of us dust off our camcorders and start shooting. We take videos of the kids in their Halloween costumes. We also take videos at family gatherings and holiday parties. Why not share these videos? You can put them online for friends, or make them into a gift for family members. I have plenty of fun tips on my site that will help you with this:

Getting your video ready to upload to Youtube

Mike in Washington wrote to ask for help with a slide show. He used Roxio CD Creator to turn the slide show into a video with music. The file is a huge 350 megabytes. He's stuck on how to share it.

In your e-mail, you mentioned YouTube, Mike. YouTube is the most popular video-sharing site. Provided your video is less than 10 minutes, you can post it on YouTube. You'll need to compress it, though. YouTube has a 100 megabyte limit. My tip will help you compress your video.

Also, your video must be in the correct format. YouTube accepts WMV, AVI, MOV and MPG formats.

I don't know what's in your video, but you may want to keep it private. Maybe you didn't know you could do that. However, remember, YouTube.com is one of the hottest sites on the Net. Millions of people flock to the site to watch videos created by amateurs. (Your material becomes public).

There are other ways to share your video, too. You can use a site like YouSendIt or MailBigFile. Once you upload your file, notifications are sent to friends and family. They can download it at their leisure. Again, you'll need to compress your video.

E-mail makes it easy to send photos and videos to friends and family. But it is rude to clog their inboxes with large files.

And don't even think of sending your photos and videos the old-fashioned way—your friends and family want to see them now! So try YouSendIt. You can send files of up to 1 GB. The files remain accessible for seven days or for 25 downloads, whichever comes first. They are then deleted. Cost is free: www.yousendit.com.

You don't have to resort to snail mail to send digital home videos to family and friends. There are online services that specialize in helping you send large files over the Internet. In fact, here's one you can use for free.

Mail Big File saves the files up to 1 MB to its Web servers for 7 days or 3 downloads. Then it lets you send an e-mail message along with a link to the file. They're convenient, but they're probably not suitable for confidential information like financial documents.



—Kim Komando



Q.. I am looking at new hard drive from Newegg.com. It (and most of the drives on their site) say that they are OEM. Would I have a problem using one of the drives in my pc?

A. No, If your computer is most recent (3 yrs or newer), your system should run it ok. The OEM (or Original Equipment Manufacturer) name just refers to the fact that a UNIT (hard drive, software, etc...) was built by the original company. Ie. a Seagate or Western Digital drive was built by that company and the product is registered .

OEM hardware is typically no different than retail hardware, with the exception of bulk pricing not available to the normal consumer, including all cables, software and manuals. The OEM, aka computer solution builder will include these materials in the finished product. The exceptions to this would be large manufacturers who will order specialized modifications to the equipment resulting in a specialized replacement parts niche.

OEM drives in this case would be “cheaper” than bought from the manufacturer and sometimes referred to as bulk for resellers, but not so much if bought in multiples.

You may get the drive packaged in a “Static-Free” bag (without any software or book), but works just the same. It’s always wise to check out the warranty by calling the manufacturer (if NewEgg doesn’t supply that info). Some might be 3-6 months, or 1 Yr. and even more 2 -3 yrs depending upon the manufacturer. I buy a lot of drives through NewEgg instead of a retail package off the shelf because of cost savings.

However, make sure you get the comparable on with connections. Many of today’s modern drives use what’s referred to as SATA which uses a single small, thin cable from the back of the drive to the motherboard. More older systems use a parallel or wider, ribbon cable that’s about 1.5 inches wide and gray.

One last thing, make sure you have the same kind of drive that you have a cable for because the OEM usually may not come with a data cable. It’s just the drive as I’ve mentioned (and thus cheaper cost for the drive). If you have a SATA cable to the motherboard, (or if one is supplied with the motherboard, but not in use) then get a SATA type drive. (and the same if you only have a ribbon-Parallel-type cable. You can do a search for SATA if your mother board supports one and you didn’t get one with the computer/motherboard)—or, if you have a SATA cable already and want to see what it looks like.

Q.. I have a seven-year old HP Pavilion computer that all of a sudden is getting no power. Any ideas what might be wrong, and might it be something I could fix or could take it to a computer store without costing a lot?

A. Whew! A 2002 system still in service. You might start some simple troubleshooting. Begin at the wall socket and make sure it is live, checking it with a lamp or similar. If you’re using a power strip or surge suppressor, check it with same light. Some power strips have circuit breakers--did it pop? If so, reset it and see if that solves the “no power” problem. If not, try substituting the computer’s power cord with a known good power cord. If still no luck HP has troubleshooting help at <http://welcome.hp.com/country/us/en/support.html> Find your model computer and search for “no power” or “dead” for advice. Follow the steps to see if you can pinpoint the cause. HP also includes advice on replacing the power supply yourself if that turns out to be the problem. The cost for someone to repair runs about \$30-75 for the part (if you are not technical) and \$60-\$80 for a one-hour service.



**Yahoo
Online**
**Help from
CCUG-PC!**

Any of you who haven't joined the CCUG-PC Yahoo Online Group are doing yourself and your PC a disservice.



With all the things that are packed into a limited time frame for the monthly meetings we can't possibly answer all your questions fully or tell you: the latest news and virus alerts, software bugs and patches, scams, trojans, spywares, new technology,

workarounds, new software, great sites for pc resources, hardware and software bargains, the many MS bulletins that come out each month and more.

There's no time limit on our CCUG-PC Yahoo Online Group. We have over 400 members from all around the world who will take all the time needed to get your questions answered and your problems solved. You can post anything pc related and if it needs a reply check back at your convenience and see if anyone has one for you.

It also takes some of the stress off of Jerry and other techs as they can respond when time is available and not have to rush to something else to keep on schedule.

This is the best Free Support you'll find anywhere and you can do it from work or home! Try it, you'll like it.

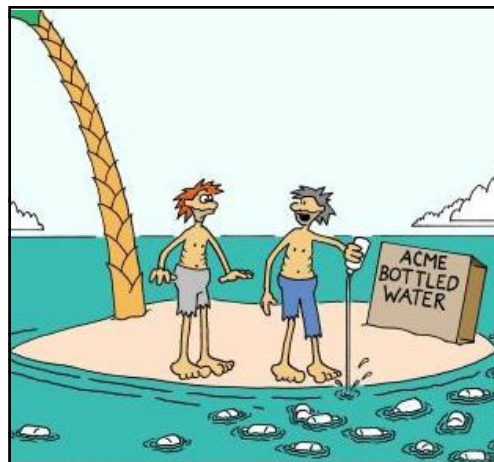
Buster Matthews, Yahoo Group CCUG-PC Online Moderator
Worldwide CCUG-PC Yahoo Club:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ccugpconline/>

Where are we today?

Four years later begs the question, "where are we today" with our computer knowledge, careers and interests? Have we grown technically, professionally, and skillwise concerning these matters? Have we taken advantage of the Internet, reading materials and courses, user groups, and other choices which help us to better the usage of these marvelous pieces of technology? Perhaps some have added more tools of technology such as mobile devices (Apple iPhone, iPod, SmartPhones) as well as portable laptops, satellite phones, and peripherals. Just where are we, today?



CCUG-PC CHUCKLES
"Laugh til' you chuckle"



"I was going to wake you up, but then I remember you saying that bottle water is a stupid idea!"

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<http://www.archives.gov/genealogy/>



Genealogists/Family Historians

The National Archives offers insight into the lives of people, their families and our history. Because the records at the National Archives come from every branch of the Federal government, almost all Americans can find themselves, their ancestors, or their community in the archives. Knowing how a person interacted with the government is key to a successful search.

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