

User Friendly

December 2003



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LACS General Meeting Annual LACS Holiday Party

Come One, Come All!!

Tuesday December 9, 7 P. M.

Fellowship Hall, 8065 Emerson Ave., Westchester

Bring your friends, relatives, acquaintances, neighbors, someone you don't know. What (to bring): Your favorite fun party finger food. Any kind will do. They can even contain vitamins! Please have your goodies table-ready, which means —arranged on a plate, ready to serve. Home baked goodies will receive a Gold Star. We do not have an organized Program as such. But, who knows? We might have a surprise. There will, of course, be no Forum meeting at 6:00pm. If you have any questions, please contact Lee Freehling at <leefree@aol.com>. . Information: 310-289-7177 or <http://www.lacspc.org> ♦



November Meeting Report

By **Edie Ditmars**, LACS

Upon President Charlotte Semple's invitation, visitors, some from as far away as Redondo Beach and Santa Clarita, introduced themselves.

Lee Freehling invited everybody to bring victuals to the Holiday Party on December 9. Volunteers are needed to set up and organize and to pack up after the merriment.

Stephanie Nordlinger announced that the Computer Faire is scheduled for Saturday, February 21, from 10:00 - 4:00; Volunteers are invited to arrive early and stay late. There will be

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LACS Dues Change

By **Charlotte Semple** President

Your Board of Directors has decided, after much discussion at the November 3rd Board of Directors Meeting, that the time has come to change the annual Regular Membership dues from \$36.00 to \$40.00, beginning January 1, 2004. It has been about 12 years since the Regular Dues have changed. During the past two years, at least, some of LACS' basic expenses have increased and are expected to continue increasing.

For the past year or so, LACS

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(NOVEMBER MEETING REPORT)*(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)*

a planning meeting at Helen Karagozian's on November 30 at 12:00 noon.

Charlie Semple requested that SIG leaders and members get the neighbors out to the Faire! Several computers and projections will be placed at various stations at the Faire.

Charlie also announced a small increase in club dues due to the simultaneous decline in membership and increase in costs. Member dues will increase from \$36 to \$40, associate dues will remain at \$12, effective upon the New Year. Those who renew by Jan 2 may take advantage of the existing rate. Treasurer Patsy Bellah will be happy to provide a report of LACS expenditures to anyone who is interested.

PRESENTATION

A full house attended the Gene and Linda Barlow presentation, "Backing Up Your Hard Drive and Avoiding Identity Fraud."

Gene, who represents White Canyon Software and PowerQuest of Orem, Utah, told us that the Symantec buy-out of PowerQuest should conclude by end December, 2003. Symantec's *Ghost* and PowerQuest's *DriveImage* will merge.

What does this mean to us? "This," Gene confided, "may be your last chance to buy these products at a user group discount."

Gene began the evening's paranoia with the tale of those MIT whiz kids who revealed what we give away when we sell or donate our computers: enough personal data to warm the heart of

any cyber crook. Nary "delete," nor recycle bin dump, nor hard drive format, nor defrag will save us. *WipeDrive* ("the bulldozer") and *SecureClean* ("the vacuum cleaner") will.

WipeDrive, a stand-alone DOS program, totally overwrites the hard drive. *SecureClean*, a Windows program, "leaves the walls and furniture in place." It eliminates only those portions deleted. *SecureClean* is one of the only products that will access and delete email folders. Files can also be opened and reinstated, although recovery is not the main purpose of the program.

GOING BACKUPLESS?

Gene reiterated the need to religiously do that #\$\$@! backup. "Backup," he told us, "is a simple concept" copy all the files and store the copy away from the computer. The clear, intuitive products Gene represents can take the sting out of the procedure. The alternative, rebuilding the hard drive, is a punishment too gruesome to detail here.

External hard drives (over internal or other storage mediums) are the storage media of choice. They are quick, easy, inexpensive and easily can be stored off site (see a detailed discussion in November's User Friendly, "The Value of Removable Hard Drives"). In a multiple computer system, however, each computer can function as an "external hard drive" for another. For a laptop computer, an external hard drive is attached to the USB port or to the FireWire port. To accommo-

date more speed, additional ports or a PCMCIA card can be purchased. Gene displayed that new gadget called a "thumb drive," a small external drive that plugs into a USB port and can be used as an additional backup drive for small amounts of data.

DEMONSTRATION

Gene demonstrated *DriveImage* on a laptop computer with a partitioned hard drive. The utility first extracts, then compresses, then images the partition or files selected. When needed, the utility reverses the process to restore the data. If the entire hard drive crashes, the *DriveImage* CD includes a bootable image of Windows (Windows DE). Gene also demonstrated a system of cross-backups between two built-in hard drives. He recommended three months' worth of backup to insure against potential surprises: a corrupted backup, a deleted item that might need to be recovered, a dormant virus lurking, or a given backup that does not restore properly.

INCREMENTAL BACKUPS

While *DriveImage* creates a full backup of each drive or partition, *V2iProtector* can, in less time and space, create "incremental backup images," or images of only the changed portions of the hard drive. Incremental backups can be done every 10 minutes, if desired. The *V2iProtector* Backup Job Wizard makes "hot" backups, running in the background while the user works. The incremental backup demonstration was completed in an in-

stant, leaving Gene just enough time to demonstrate how to restore data.

CD AVAILABLE

A new CD that Gene published just last summer, "Backing Up Your Hard Drive, complements *DriveImage 7.0*. Simple, uncluttered screens illustrate two hours of Gene's easy-listen, easy-understand voiceover instructions.. ♦



Welcome To You All

NEW MEMBERS (9)

Elizabeth Bissell
Henry Bissell
Bob Burnett
Anthony Cantisano
Chris Kaye
Neal Koss
Carole Mann
Larry Mann
Joan Wilder

RENEWING MEMBERS (14)

Gilbert Barela
Bruce Burns ♥
Ros Cirlin
Kent Francisco
Bill Ganz
Roger Kohn
Stephanie Nordlinger
Susan Orenstein
Jack Peters
Madeleine Rungaitis
Richard Steinberg
Lavonne Swyter
David Wallace
Dona Williams

♥ Contributing ♦

(LACS DUES CHANGE)

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

has operated at a small but perturbing average monthly deficit. Increased costs are not the only reason for this situation. User Friendly advertising revenue has virtually disappeared as companies have reduced or eliminated their advertising budgets.

COSTS HAVE INCREASED

Costs of publishing and mailing User Friendly have increased. Meeting Hall rent has been raised the past two years. Our insurance premium has increased. Like many other Computer User Groups, LACS' membership has waned.

Some computer user groups have simply "gone out of business." We hope you will agree that we don't want that to happen to LACS. This modest increase of \$4 per year has been very carefully considered by your Board of Directors. We hope that you understand and agree with the worthiness of this change.

NOTE: SPECIAL CONSIDERATION:

The Board of Directors also decided that any member who wishes to renew and pay early for their renewal will be allowed to renew for one year at existing \$36 dues rate if the renewal and payment are received by the LACS treasurer not later than January 2, 2004. This will extend your membership 12 months beyond its normal expiration. ♦

Getting The Most From Your CD/DVD Burner

By **Dale Swafford** Alamo PC Organization, Inc

If you're like me, you only use about 5 to 10 percent of your CD burner's capability. Sure, most of us use it for a little data backup and do a favorites music CD once in a while. Just enough to get that smug feeling that we have mastered this electronics marvel called a burner. In actuality, we haven't even scratched the surface of all the capabilities of this diverse and wonderful machine. I decided to see just how many different CDs my current setup would burn.

DIFFERENT CAPABILITIES

1 Packet Writing

At the top of "my most useful list" is packet writing and I use Roxio's DirectCD software to format the CD-RW and archive data with the convenience of a giant 500+ MB floppy disk. Not because DirectCD is necessarily the best, But because I started with it many, many years ago and you can only have one packet writing system on your machine, and the different packet writing systems are not compatible with each other. It's great for storing important stuff and transferring data back and forth to my wife's computer (since I'm not ready to open that bucket of worms called a home network just yet).

2. DATA CD'S

The workhorse for archiving data is the CD-ROM. I'm not

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even going to count all the different configurations of file systems and modes available to burn. Most of us are happy to just set it up to do long file names (ISO level 2 file system, Mode 2/XA format, ISO 9660 character set, Joliet) and forget about all the many choices available. Joliet allows file names up to 63 characters long, and a directory path up to 120 characters long.

3 AUDIO CD's

Burning a great audio CD is probably the most satisfying experience you can achieve with a computer and a burner. The sheer power of extracting your favorite songs from all music sources and burning them to a CD, creates something that can give you pleasure for the rest of your life. I think it's what the originators of the Personal Computer (PC) had in mind when they created this wonderfully frustrating monster. Giving the individual PC user the power to create or modify something to their own personal specification is a rare experience in this life.

4 MP3 CD's

An MP3 CD can be a way to compile around 200 songs on a CD and enjoy them wherever you go with an MP3/CD player or play on your computer while doing your thing. No loud, annoying commercials or having to listen to those songs you can't stand. I sure enjoy it!

5 PHOTO CD's

Photo or picture CDs (based on the CD-ROM-XA format) have really started to become popular since most of us have connected a DVD player to our best TV. Imagine, compile all our favorite digital pictures and scanned photos in an album using a program like Dazzle On DVD, and burning a CD that will play in most DVD players. Then, sit back and enjoy the memories. Also, think of it as archiving those precious photos in digital format that will be easy to copy to the next popular digital format in 10 years or so.

6 VIDEO CD's

For those of you who have saved your memories on analog video tape, saving those precious videos to a video-CD (MPEG1) or super video-CD (MPEG2, but not DVD compatible) is a great way to save them in a low resolution digital format. Most movie camcorders come with a way to transfer the videos to your hard disk. If it doesn't, you can get a video capture card that will digitize the analog signal. It will also convert your favorite movies on analog tape to a digital format on your hard drive, ready to burn a VCD or SVCD with Roxio Easy CD Creator Platinum 5 or VideoWave and many more. These also do editing of your video and burn the CD. If you have a digital camcorder, you should hold off for a while longer till the price of DVD burners comes down to a more reasonable level. If you save your digital videos to VCD format (less resolution than the current VCR), you will lose the

excellent picture quality and will not get it back later when DVD or Blu-Ray burners are available. So just be patient and leave those digital home movies on the tapes that you captured them on or buy a big hard drive and save them in their original format. Be patient! The DVD competition is gearing-up and the prices should head south as soon as they start pumping them out in large numbers.

7 CD+G

The CD+G is a variation of the audio CD that allows you to burn audio and graphics (placed in the subchannels) simultaneously. You will probably recognize it by its popular name, karaoke. Not all burners support this function, but some do. It is characterized by the band music, without the singer's voice, but with song words scrolling across the screen. We use Dart Karaoke in our lab machines here at Alamo PC to remove the singer's voice from a song and sync the lyrics to the sound track.

8 CD+MIDI

Another variation of the audio CD is the CD+MIDI. The MIDI (Musical Instrument Digital Interface) controls are placed in the sub channels. MIDI is the interface between electronic digital instruments and the computer. It has created a new generation of musicians and original music.

9 CD Plus

The CD-Plus or Enhanced CD is a mixed mode CD that allows an ISO-track with the ISO file system (always the first track)

and an audio track. This will not play on an audio CD player. Most folks prefer the CD-extra format now.

10 CD EXTRA

The CD-Extra is a mixed-mode CD burned in two sessions. The first session can have up to 99 audio tracks and will play on audio CD players. The second session, not seen by audio CD players, but seen by CD-ROM drives, contains the ISO-track with an ISO-9660 file system and directories of CDPLUS and Pictures.

11 CD-INTERACTIVE

The CD-Interactive or CD-I is suitable for creating interactive multimedia applications that have parts of programs that can return to animations, video and audio sequences. Playing it requires a compatible playing device hooked to a TV screen. Creating this CD is difficult since most burners do not support it and creating it requires a great deal of skill and knowledge. I haven't actually tried to create one of these.

12 HYBRID CD

A hybrid CD contains files which can be used in Windows (ISO-9660) and another operating system (like the Mac HFS).

13 SELF BOOTING CD

A self booting CD is a great way to create an emergency start disc if you have a recent BIOS that will allow you to boot from a CD drive. The floppy emergency start disk doesn't have room for all the diagnostic programs that make analyzing a malfunction much easier.

14 RAW MODE

Raw mode is an essential burn-

ing quality if you ever need to make an archival copy of an existing CD. I will not buy a CD burner that doesn't do raw mode burning like Plextor or LiteOn, supports CD-text, has buffer underrun prevention, and has a Smart-Burn technology to set the burn to the fastest speed the blank CD will support.

NEW STUFF

No sooner did the DVD folks release a brand new 4X burn speed for the third generation of DVD burners, than Sanyo tells us they are currently developing an 8X chipset that should hit the market about September. Sounds like overkill to me, like the 52X CD burner. Smart burner makers are now concentrating on reducing vibrations and developing better speed controls.

Hitachi and Hitachi Maxell have announced they have jointly developed a new basic technology for multi-layer CD and DVD recording that allows terabyte-level storage on an existing sized disc. Seems like there was a limit at about five layers for reliable recording. By adopting an electro-chromic material in the recording layer and hitting it with a low voltage, they now can, theoretically, burn up to about 100 layers on the special discs for recording and play-back. Don't be scouring the shelves at Best-Buy anytime soon for a machine using this technology.

Most of the big DVD drive labels have decided to jump in the DVD dual format (DVD±R/RW) pool. LiteOn, TDK, Verbatim, and Cendyne have an-

nounced they are bringing new dual DVD format drives to market. It's about time! Sony has had the pool to itself (and held the price at \$350) for some time. I wonder how many will use the Sony drive in their new machines. If our DRU-500AX is any indicator, it's a great drive. Maybe the competition will improve on the software bundle, and some are planning to include all five DVD formats. Let the good times roll!

DVD FAIR USE COIES

The folks at 321 Studios (that brave little start-up from the Show-me State that took on the whole movie industry in court), were not satisfied to just re-release the only really great DVD-video copy software, DVD X Copy v.1.5, capable of making a "Fair use" archive copy of your personal DVD video before the kids got their hands on it. Just released is DVD X Copy Xpress that will take a video that was recorded on a multi-layer DVD that previously required two DVD-Rs to copy, can now with Xpress, be squeezed on one DVD-R. If that isn't enough big magic, Xpress will now do the copy faster and better than previous versions. At the time of this writing (1st of June), the court case to decide if this software violates The Digital Millennium Copyright Act (working around the CSS copy protection) has yet to be decided.

TIP

Burning tip of the month: Been having a problem with an NT based operating system (NT, Win2000, XP) working with your burner? Might want to check out your Advanced SCSI

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Programming Interface (ASPI layer). What's an ASPI layer? What's that you say, is it like a rash? No, but it can be a pain if it doesn't work right. Its purpose in life is to act as an interpreter of the commands from your burner software to the burner. It started out to be an interpreter for SCSI drives, but when IDE drives became popular, they decided to use it. There's also a pretty long list of burner software that rely on the ASPI layer. The problem got worse when the NT family of operating systems decided not to include an ASPI layer. Then Adaptec/Roxio, long the prime source for the best ASPI layer, decided to get proprietary on us. The current version seems to only recognize real SCSI drives in most WinXP setups. So, how do you fix it? First, go to <http://www.cd-rw.org/> and read "Installing a working ASPI layer" in the articles section. My guess is one of the three suggestions will work for you. It did for me. The ASPI check utility will tell you if you have an ASPI layer and the version number. Then, you can decide what course of action to take.

Dale Swafford is the local Alamo PC CD recorder expert and SIG leader, and has written several articles for PC Alamo about creating CDs. He has also built 4 computers from scratch. This article originally was in the July 2003 - Alamo PC Organization, Inc. magazine San Antonio, TX USA Copyright© 1996-2003. Reprinted by permission.

Archiving Genealogy Information In A Generic Fashion

By **Richard T. Robusto**
Las Vegas PC Users' Group

Most of us in the genealogy field find ourselves with large amounts of information on our relatives. It challenges us to find a way to preserve it in a manner that in the future, near and distant, our descendents will be able to access this data in a timely and understandable manner.

When I first started my genealogy project, I had the mistaken idea that I could put away the program and all the data files so that it could be accessed years from now. Boy, was I naive. I was using Windows 98 at the time. Later I upgraded to Windows ME and then to Windows 2000. At this point the program would not work at all with the new system. Of course, I got the updates and finally got it working, but it really got me to thinking that there had to be a better way to preserve information so that it can be used in years to come without difficulties.

PRINTING

Of course, the first thing that comes to mind is that you should have a printed copy of everything. This I did on good acid-free paper. There are different results that can be achieved. For instance, you can print out a fan type chart. I did that first. It took close to 65 pages of standard letterhead size paper. Then these had to

be meticulously trimmed and taped together making a large five foot square. Another method was to print out a horizontal "format" chart. This involved the same number of sheets and after assembling them together, made a chart that was three feet wide by twelve feet long. This requires an empty wall in order to display it. As far as preserving them, it poses quite a problem. How long would something of this nature last rolled up and packaged? As we all realize, time is our enemy.

PAPER LIMITATIONS

In 1999, my wife and I took a trip to Italy with my son and his wife. We went to the mountaintop village that my parents came from in the early 1900s. We went into the commune (town hall) to get information about the family, birth and death dates, etc. It turned out to be quite interesting in the information that we were able to acquire. When we went into the commune and asked, they took down a ledger about 10 by 18 inches with about 20 pages of paper inside. When they opened the book and turned the yellowed pages, you could hear the sheets crinkling, almost as if they were leaves from a tree. The thought that went through my mind is that we didn't get there any too soon. I am sure that in a few more years, those sheets will deteriorate and be unreadable. On top of it all, I was not able to find any digital or photographic record of the information that was in that ledger. Coming away from this experience left me with the resolve that records need to be digitized and photographed as much as possible. I know that

this is happening in some parts of Italy, but in this rural area, it is a long ways away.

ARCHIVING PROBLEMS

So the problem of archiving has to be faced. Sure, we could leave all the information on an individual hard drive with the program itself. But the future holds many uncertainties. Will this drive be able to be accessed with Windows 4000 or Linux Extradense 4500? Sure, everyone says that it can always be brought up to date with current technology. But what if this item were to be put in a safe place where no one saw it for a long time. It would become a relic and probably unusable.

ONE SOLUTION

In trying to solve this dilemma, I have tried one or two things which I would like to discuss. The first is the *FlipAlbum* which can be used to produce what is called an "E" book. This can be any number of pages and can be put in the order desired. To set this up, I captured the pages out of my genealogy database converting them into bitmaps. I also added all the necessary photos, being able to superimpose descriptions over any part of the photos. When they were finalized and put in the proper order, then the *FlipAlbum* can be shown on any computer. The program puts a small file in the beginning of the book so that it can be shown on any computer without the necessity of having the program installed. The pages can be set and automatically timed to be seen as a slide show or can be turned manually as desired. The advantages are that it can be viewed on any computer and there is no limit to

the number of pages that can be inserted. There is also a provision to add MP3 music playlist, plus it will accept most standard images and multimedia formats. The pages can be viewed in centerfold and double page mode to view photos better. Included also is the ability to print the entire album or individual pages or photos.

I have constructed a couple of *FlipAlbums* with the first and second generation of my genealogy. Next I intend to revisit the project and add every page from the genealogy that I have and make a complete *FlipAlbum*. When this is complete, then it is an easy matter to copy the discs so that the members of the family can have their own copy, assuring the permanence of availability of the information.

ANOTHER SOLUTION

The second idea that I had was to take the same sheets that I had used in the *FlipAlbum*, and use them as individual files. Then, using a program such as Ulead *DVD Picture Show*, set them up as a slide show which can be shown on any TV using a DVD player. The files are big enough to fill the TV screen and that allows you to read the text on the data sheets. The photos come out well as they fill the screen also. The only drawback with this is that the timing of the files has to be set for approximately 15 seconds so as to have enough time to read the data. Unlike the *FlipAlbum*, the timing cannot be changed once the disc is made. This

program will also allow audio tracks to be added. I have an idea of narrating all the information as it is shown, but I haven't got that far yet. I found out that I do have to sleep somewhat at night. For the first ones I made I added a music background. I also made a cover sheet that is shown first with the name of the families and the author's name. The only disadvantage to this is that you are limited to the capacity of the disc which is 700 MB. But as soon as I acquire a DVD writer, then I will be able to incorporate the whole genealogy section into one disc.

CONCLUSION

I like the idea of making my own slide show with this DVD program. This can be shown a lot more universally without having the use of a computer. Plus the viewing is much more pleasant on a TV. And with the advent of HDTV, the views can only get better. And lets face it, the DVD image will be with us a lot longer than the current operating systems. So hopefully, many years in the future, our descendents will be able to see all this information and will appreciate the efforts that went into making these things as permanent as we could in this day and age. The author can be reached at Ricmar2@cox.net

This article is brought to you by the Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization of which LACS is a member, brings this article to you. ♦

Tips 'N Tricks

Compiled by **Charlotte Semple**, LACS President

AN EMPTY RECYCLE BIN EQUALS SPACE (W-'98)

You will be surprised with how much space Disk Cleanup saves by emptying your computer's Recycle Bin. Windows allocates up to 10 percent of each drive for the Recycle Bin. This method made sense when drives were measured in megabytes. But these days with drives measuring in gigabytes, you can set the amount as low as 1 percent for a large drive by right-clicking on Recycle Bin, choosing Properties, setting the new percentage, and clicking on OK.

WINDOWS SHORTCUT KEYS (W-'98)

Sometimes when you make a configuration change your window seems to stray outside the visible desktop area. You can bring it back to where you want it by using your keyboard. Pressing Alt-Spacebar opens the window's System menu, which typically appears in the upper-left-hand corner, but with your off-screen window, the menu appears as close as possible to it. Press M for Move and use the Arrow keys to bring the errant window back into view. Click Help from the Start menu and search the Index for more helpful shortcut keys.

INTERNET EXPLORER WINDOWS (W-XP)

You may find that Internet Explorer (IE) opens at a pe-

culiar size; too small, too large, too narrow. When you open a link in a new window, that window's size may also be wrong. To control the size of primary and secondary IE windows, start by closing all IE windows. Then launch IE, right-click on any link, and choose Open in New Window. Size the secondary window the way you want all such windows to be. Now close it by clicking on the X icon at the top-right corner while holding down the Shift key. Repeat this for the primary window that remains. You may have to repeat the process from time to time.

BASIC CALCULATIONS IN WORD (W-XP)

Word may not be a spreadsheet, but it can perform basic calculations in Tables. Click on Tables and choose the number of columns and rows you need. To sum the numbers in a row, enter numbers in all cells except the right-hand cell, click in the right-hand cell, choose Table | Formula, and accept Word's suggestion of =SUM(LEFT). To sum the numbers in a column, go to the bottom cell and accept Word's suggestion of =SUM(ABOVE). You can also enter basic spreadsheet-style calculations such as =A1*B2. Although the row and column headings aren't visible, the letters in cell references correspond to the columns and the numbers to the rows, just as they do in Excel. To update a calculation, select the cell with the sum and press F9. Or to update all the calculations in a table, select the table (or document) and press F9.

COOL AND CUSTOMIZED (MS-WORD)

Word comes with a number of unusual fonts. (These fonts usually end with "MT.") You can use these fonts to create cool bulleted lists that give your document a distinctive edge. Here's how: Create a document that uses Word's automatic bulleted list feature. With your mouse, select the entire bulleted list. Right-click the list and choose Bullets and Numbering from the shortcut menu. In the Bullets and Numbering dialog box, click the Customize button. Choose a custom bullet. You can click the Bullet button to pull in additional funky bullets from other Word fonts like Wingdings, Almanac MT, and others. Click OK. The bulleted list is reformatted with the new bullet style.

SOLVING THE MYSTERY FORMAT (MS-WORD)

You're scanning through your latest masterpiece when you notice — right there, mocking you — a paragraph that doesn't seem to fit. Something's amiss with the formatting, but what? A nifty trick to pull on any mystery part of your document is to press the Shift+F1 key combination. The mouse pointer changes to look like an arrow-question mark. Now, click any character in any word in any paragraph. Word describes exactly what the heck is going on with the formatting in the Reveal formatting task pane. (Press Shift+F1 again to deactivate this feature.) ♦

December 2003 into January 2004

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 December Board meeting 7 PM sharp	2 Daytime SIG <u>12 PM (lunch)</u> Office SIG 7 PM	3	4	5	6
8	9 LACS Holiday Party	10	11 WI-FI SIG 6:30PM	12	13
15	16 Daytime SIG <u>1 PM</u> Hardware SIG 7 PM	17	18 Membership Committee 7 PM	19	20
22 Digital Photo SIG 7 PM	23 Beginners/ Internet SIG 6:30 PM	24	25 Merry Christmas	26	27
29	30	31	1 January Happy New Year	2	3
5 Board meeting 7 PM sharp	6 Daytime SIG <u>12 PM (lunch)</u> Office SIG 7 PM	7	8 Membership Committee 7 PM	9	10

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs)

SIG meetings are run by and for LACS members. Visitors are welcome to attend up to six SIG meetings (three of the same SIG) before joining LACS. To inquire about a SIG, please call or e-mail the contact person in advance. SIG Coordinator: Charlie Semple, sig.coord@lacspc.org.

SIG	Contact	Telephone	When and Where, Notes
After Meeting	Cap Kierulff	310-472-9206	Dinah's Restaurant on Sepulveda, southwest of Centinela.
Begin./Internet	Dorothy Miliman	310-473-1391	4th Tuesday, 6:30 PM Culver City Comp USA
Computer Forum	Beginners Welcome		2nd Tuesday, 6:00 PM before General Meeting. Front of hall.
Daytime	Cap Kierulff	310-472-9206	First Tuesday, 12-1:30 PM, Golden China Restaurant, L.A
		capkierulff@MSN.com	Third Tuesday, 1-3 PM, Felicia Mahood Center, W.L.A.
Digital Photo	Nancy Cattell	310-452-2130	4th Monday, 7 PM American Legion Hall, 5309 Sepulveda
	Elliot Silverstein	310-670-1544	Bld., Culver City s-silverstein-7@alumni.uchicago.edu
Genealogy	Leah & Joe Clark	310-677-2792	Second Thursday, 7 PM once a quarter. leahclark@sbcglobal.net At Family History Center
Hardware	Charlie Semple	310-398-5052	Third Tuesday, 7 PM, CitiBank. csemple93@earthlink.net
Comp. Faire	Stephanie Nordlinger	323-299-3244	If interested, call or e-mail pastpres@lacspc.org.
Membership	Vacant		Third Thursday, 7 PM.
Office Suites	George Wolkon	310-459-2671	First Tuesday 7 PM. CitiBank. * wolkon.gbvolkon@verizon.net
WiFi	Leo Salazar		Second Thursday 6:30 PM Culver City Comp USA

* CitiBank Community room (in the basement), 12101 San Vicente Blvd. (at Saltair), Brentwood, \$1/meeting donation requested for room rental at CitiBank and at American Legion Hall. ♦

Members Helping Members

LACS members volunteer to help other members solve hardware and software problems by telephone during the hours listed below. Select the topic from the list and then call a person whose number is listed next to it. We hope that you find this free service useful. ***If you are experienced in a particular program or topic, please volunteer to be a consultant.*** To volunteer for this list or to make corrections, please e-mail editor@lacspc.org or call Dick Smith at 323-294-3441. More Quick Consultants are always needed. You can always decline or postpone a call if it catches you at the wrong time. You perform a valuable service and often learn something unexpected! ♦

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7	Greenberg, Allan	310-576-1310	310-576-1310	10 AM	10 PM
8	Heller, Elmer	310-839-9764	310-839-9764	9 AM	10 PM
9	Hershman, Irv	310-397-9453	310-397-9453	11 AM	11 PM
14	Kamerman, Cora	310-472-7487	310-472-7487	10 AM	8 PM
20	Nordlinger, Stephanie	323-299-3244	323-299-3244	9 AM	10 PM
24	Springer, Karl	310-645-3410	310-645-3410	10 AM	10 PM
27	Rombouts, Tom	310-519-2941	310-519-2941	6 AM	11 PM
32	LaVere, Hy	310-837-6517	310-837-6517	10 AM	9 PM
33	Kierulff, Cap	310-472-9206	310-472-9206	9 AM	9 PM
34	McDonald, Len	310-836-8698	310-836-8698	9 AM	10 PM
36	Hage, Elias	310-815-8020	310-815-8020	9 AM	10 PM
37	Ganz, Bill	310-360-7088	310-360-7088	9 AM	9 PM
41	Engfer, Mark	N.A.	310-451-1942	5 PM	10 PM
42	Theodore, Carol	310-659-0604	N.A.	9 AM	5 PM
43	Semple, Charlie	310-398-5052	310-398-5052	9 AM	10 PM
44	Lang, Bobbi	310-454-9903	310-454-9903	10 AM	5 PM
45	Gibson, Merrill	310-785-9487	N.A.	9 AM	5 PM
46	Martin, Todd	818-766-1151	818-766-1151	10 AM	10 PM
47	Gold, Mike	N.A.	310-379-8321	6 PM	10 PM
48	Flores, Alexys	N.A.	310-306-8403	8 PM	11 PM*
49	Beckman, Loling	310-471-7893	N.A.	9 AM	5 PM
50	Silverstein, Elliot	310-670-1544	310-670-1544	10 AM	10 PM
51	Katz, Effie (Pager)	310-785-3313	310-785-3313	9 AM	10 PM

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HARDWARE SIG – Report

By **Jordan Burkhart**, LACS

INKJET PRINTER REPAIR

The evening's first patient was an Apollo 2200 inkjet printer, whose carriage, including the ink cartridge, would not move back and forth. A quick visual examination inside the printer revealed that behind the carriage and oriented right-left was a narrow film ribbon that appeared to be lying loose. After looking more closely at the ribbon, we could see that there was some kind of intelligence visible on the ribbon and that at each end of the ribbon was a square hole. It appeared that there were small metal protrusions on the interior rear of the printer that would mate with the square holes. We theorized that the ribbon functioned as an optical left-right location calibrator for the carriage if the ribbon were connected properly at each end so that it would be taut. After some difficulty the ribbon was reconnected to the metal protrusions.

We decided that it was now time to perform a self-test, without connecting the printer to a computer. Typically, the self-test function is activated by connecting the printer to a power source and pressing for 4-5 seconds on the button on the front of the printer that is not the power button. Bingo! The self-test produced a perfectly acceptable sample sheet. Our theory had been correct, and the carriage had simply been unable to move if it did not have the ribbon in place to

indicate to the carriage its left-right location.

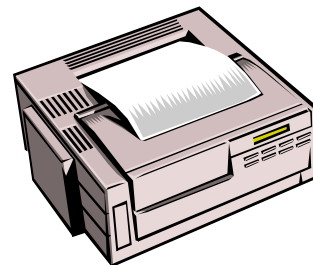
PRINTER/COMPUTER COMPATABILITY

The SIG next turned to adding this older printer to a newer computer. The printer had previously worked with this computer but had been uninstalled. It quickly became apparent that the computer was running on Windows 2000, and strangely there seemed to be no Apollo printer driver available on the computer's hard drive that Win 2000 would work with. After numerous attempts to locate a proper driver on the hard drive, we attempted to use a generic driver that presented choices for either pure text or Postscript. Wanting to be able to print graphics, we selected the Postscript option. Technically the printer now worked, but the output was mostly Postscript gibberish. The solution: the owner should insert the Win 2000 CD and try again to install a driver or go to the Apollo website (if it still existed) and download a Win 2000 driver for the printer.

EXTERNAL CD BURNER TO LAPTOP

The next challenge was to hook up to an IBM laptop a Liteon external CD writer that used a USB2 connection. However, the laptop had only a USB1 port. The owner had acquired

a USB2 conversion PC card for the laptop. The first step was to install the software for the card. Then the card was inserted into the laptop. The owner had already installed the Nero CD burning software for the CD writer, which was a necessary step before connecting this USB device to the computer. The purpose of connecting the CD writer was to allow the owner to transfer to CD a large amount of e-mail messages. After opening Nero, we recognized that we did not know where the e-mail files resided, as the owner had been using both Netscape and Outlook Express. Following was an almost bewildering series of attempts to locate on the computer the files containing the e-mail. By this time the evening was late, and people had become tired and occasionally cranky, so we shut down the meeting without finding the files. ♦



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Ink Cartridges And Razor Blades

By **Charlie Semple**, LACS

My printer died, (like 3 or 4 others in the last 2 years). I bought another BUT, I'm angry!

The printer manufacturers are now doing to us like the candy bar and coffee producers have been doing for the past decade or more, reducing the contents of the package. Ink cartridges seem to contain less and less ink. My most recently demised printer used a black ink cartridge that contained 28 ml. of ink. That cartridge cost about \$27. The printer I bought today (same manufacturer) uses a black ink cartridge containing 10 ml. that cost \$19. Without being really precise, the new cartridge provides about 1/3 the ink at a cost of \$1.9/ml compared to about 96 cents/ml for the old cartridge. A quick check of some other cartridges shows similar results.

We've suspected for some time that the printer manufacturers use a razor and blades philosophy; selling printers at very low prices and probably depending on ink cartridge sales for profit.

IS IT ANY WONDER THAT MANY OF US HAVE BECOME ARDENT CARTRIDGE REFILLERS?

Is it any wonder that the printer manufacturers are working very hard to prevent us from refilling? Is it any wonder that numerous alternate suppliers and cartridge refillers are appearing in the marketplace?

What if a printer manufacturer

offered a "family" of printers that all use the same cartridges and those cartridges contained 40 or 50 ml. of ink and were priced about \$42 - \$45 each? I, for one, would be more attracted to buy those instead of refilling 8 or 10 cartridges/year.

Until printer manufacturers treat us users in a more reasonable and enlightened manner, I predict that more and more of us will refill more and more cartridges and alternate suppliers will become increasingly attractive. ♦

Legal Bytes: File Sharing — The Pot Continues to Boil

By **John Brewer** Oklahoma City PC Users Group

Napster took the cyber-community by storm. The concept of file sharing across the Internet, in spite of the inherent risk, became very popular. The computer literate generation thought that sharing MP3s over the Internet was fun and harmless. The big guns in the media industry thought otherwise.

THE SAGA CONTINUES

A July article of Legal Bytes explored the current assault by DirecTV on defendants who are accused of possessing equipment that permits interception and decryption of the digital television transmissions of DirecTV.

Reps. John Conyers, Jr. (D-Mich.) and Howard Berman (D-Calif.) have introduced a new

bill in Congress that would impose a prison term and a fine for uploading a single file to a peer-to-peer network. They said the bill is designed to increase domestic and international enforcement of copyright laws.

PROPOSED CONGRESSIONAL BILL

Wired News reported the introduction of a congressional proposal. The bill, called the Author, Consumer and Computer Owner Protection and Security Act of 2003, or ACCOPS, would allocate more money to the Department of Justice to investigate copyright crimes: up to \$15 million a year, compared with the current budget of \$10 million. The bill would also enable information sharing between countries to help in copyright enforcement abroad.

The bill "clarifies" that uploading a single file of copyrighted content qualifies as a felony. Penalties for such an offense include up to five years in prison and up to a \$250,000 fine. In addition, filming a movie in a theater without authorization would immediately qualify as a federal offense.

"We're giving notice that this is something we want specific attention paid to," said the aide. "The current law is very general."

ACCOPS also mandates that file-sharing websites must get consent from consumers to search their computers for content or to store files. In addition, those who provide false information when registering a domain name could also be

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(LEGAL BYTES — THE POT CONTINUES TO BOIL)

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charged with a federal offense.

ANOTHER BILL

Last year, Rep. Berman introduced a bill that would protect copyright holders from liability if they impaired or disrupted the unauthorized distribution of their content on P2P networks. The bill is still being debated.

Wired News further reported that "Jason Schultz, a staff attorney with the Electronic Frontier Foundation, called the bill "a sign of desperation" by the recording industry and Hollywood as they try to hold on to their business models. Schultz said ACCOPS shows that the recording and movie industries "don't care what kinds of collateral damage they create. Sufficient laws are in place to punish those who violate copyright law," he said.

Schultz stated, "the poorly written bill sets up an unnecessarily wide dragnet. It criminalizes the placement of any copyrighted work on a computer network. If you have a file stored on your computer and your computer is connected to a publicly available network, you may not even know that you are committing a felony, but this law could put you in jail.

"There have been hearings, year in and year out, and consumers have not complained about anything that is going on in this bill," Schultz said. "The

only people complaining are the content industry folks. The content industry is asking the public to fund this kind of an effort against themselves."

THE FIGHT CONTINUES

This is a fight that will not go away. The rhetoric gets very intense. Are file swappers a national security risk? Apparently there are members of Congress who think so. In a recent meeting of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Senator Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) gave his personal opinion about file sharing. According to a report on MSNBC, Hatch said, "By the end of the session, the only committee member in attendance, chairman Orrin Hatch—himself a songwriter who sells CDs on his personal Web site — zeroed in on what really bugged him: people sharing copyrighted songs on the Internet without paying for them. Then he ran an idea by one of the panelists: what if you had a system that could detect whether people were getting songs without paying for them and could warn those infringers that what they were doing was wrong?"

And then, if they didn't stop, the system would remotely "destroy" their computers. "No one's interested in destroying people's computers," said the panelist. "Well, I'm interested in doing that," said the senator. "Warn them, do it again, and then destroy their machine! There's no excuse for anyone violating our copyright laws."

Is it possible that the equivalent of a cyber cruise missile

would target the offending computer and blow the computer to smithereens? I never knew that P2P file sharing could be life threatening.

RIAA SUBPOENAS

The MSNBC website also states that the RIAA (the Recording Industry Association of America) sent out hundreds of subpoenas recently to individuals and Internet service providers. Carey Sherman, president of the RIAA, says the time for patience is over. "We've reached a point where we have a legitimate marketplace for downloading music, and we want to give it a chance," says Sherman, referring to the spiffy services like Apple's iTunes Music Store, the new Buy.Com store and subscription services like Rhapsody. But the game is just starting, and the best way to make sure that these services come up with compelling innovations is to match them off against the Kazaas of the world, which are far from perfect (the quality is erratic, they put spyware on your computers, they're loaded with porn). You can compete against free — ever hear of bottled water?"

Eventually, there will be a variety of legal digital music that one will be able to download over the Internet. Until then, the maneuvering of the "powers that be" is fun to watch.

John Brewer practices law in Oklahoma City, is a member of the Governor's and Legislative Task Force for E-Commerce, and enjoys issues relating to eBusiness and cyberspace. Published in the August 2003 Okla-

homa City PC User Group Newsletter. Comments and questions are welcome and can be emailed to johnb@jnbrewer.com This article is brought to you by the Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization of which LACS is a member. ♦

Read this book!

Review — Cisco Networking Simplified

Reviewed by **Douglas Mechaber**, LACS, CCNA (Cisco Certified Network Associate)

Cisco Press publishes self-study books for Cisco certification exams, as well as other books about the intricacies of configuring and maintaining really big routers, switches, intrusion detection systems, firewalls, and other Cisco equipment. Think of Voice over IP, streaming video, and so on. This book represents a departure for Cisco Press, as it is geared for the beginning networker, explaining many of the concepts that would appear on the CCNA or CCDA (design) exams, but at a level a beginner could follow. The book includes excellent four-color illustrations that really explain complex networking processes for novices, another first for Cisco Press.

WHY YOU SHOULD READ THIS BOOK

Have you ever wondered why the complex addressing scheme for Internet addresses

works as it does? Or why there is concern that we will soon run out of addresses? When a member mentions setting up a Wi-Fi router, do you understand what he means by NAT (Network Address Translation) or why security is an issue for wireless networks? Do you know the fundamental difference between a router and a switch? If you think that these issues don't concern you, you are wrong. Are you connected to the Internet? If so, this book is for you. Understanding the above will allow you to intelligently configure your firewall, instead of accepting default recommendations.

If you understand basic networking concepts, you are in a better position to configure your desktop computer for security and Internet access. As we heard at Comdex, even Adobe is now reading MAC addresses at installation to prevent illicit software copying. Where is your MAC address, how is it assigned, and do you ever need it? If you network at all, then you really need this book. What does a DoS—denial of service—attack do? How might you prevent a spoofing or snooping? For those who have no Internet access, this book is beyond your level of knowledge.

CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

For many of the main concepts I have listed above, the authors provide a key section: "Why do I care about ___?" They explain the technology or concept and discuss practical applications, even for a desktop user. The authors also discuss other issues more likely to be

of concern to managers and other business folk: SANs (Storage Area Networks) vs. NAS (Network Attached Storage), Fibre channel and IP, large campus environments, data center operations, traffic engineering, and so on. Some of the book details how computer communication benefits the business world. All of these topics are clearly illustrated, as seemingly every other page has clear diagrams explaining the points made in the text.

Other intricate topics, seemingly of little interest, are shown to be totally relevant. These topics include content networking, QoS, DSL and other broadband technology, high availability (does your ISP follow strict guidelines?), call center operations, and disaster recovery.

What I liked best about the book are some of the explanations. For example, How IPv6 is constructed and why it will be useful and the de facto standard is both very clear and timely. Other explanations, such as the OSI model (Open System Interconnection) though not the clearest I have seen, are understandable to beginners. There follows a great explanation, in text and pictures, of subnetting, port assignments, and IPv4 (our present scheme) addressing. The section on Security and Identity Management reads:

IDENTITY AND NETWORK ACCESS CONTROL

You can define identity terms of authentication and authorization:

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(REVIEW — CISCO NETWORKING SIMPLIFIED

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15)

- A computer or computer user identifies itself to the network or network resources.
- Authorization occurs after authentication. After the computer or user successfully identifies itself, the network or server authorizes the individual or computer to perform certain things with a certain level of access.

802.1x is a link layer protocol used for transporting higher-level authentication protocols defined by the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE).

One form of authentication occurs through the exchange of passwords. This form is generally a one-way transaction in which a user or computer identifies itself to a network or server.

A popular method for securely identifying a machine or individual uses digital signatures. For example, if you send an e-mail to someone, he might want to verify that you were indeed the originator of the e-mail. Algorithms such as Secure Hash Algorithm (SHA), Message Digest 5 (MD5) (similar to checksum), and triple Digital Encryption Standard (3DES) encrypt and securely "sign" the message. Then, the sender and receiver match public and private keys. The combination of these methods allows both parties to trust (or not trust) each other when exchanging information.

CONCLUSION

Most LACS members would do well to read this book from start to finish. For those at the Wi-Fi SIG, or who only have more than one computer at home, even if you network via PNA, you will need this book's level of knowledge, now or later. Having it now will simplify your computer problems. As the Intel representatives told the assembled APCUG crowd at Comdex, "...the future is digital networking. All your electronic devices will communicate in the digital domain (wirelessly) via computer networks....."

Cisco Networking Simplified

By Paul Della Maggiora and Jim Doherty. Illustrated by Nathan Clement. ISBN: 1-58720-074-0, 288 pgs. www.ciscopress.com. \$29.99. ♦

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What is VCD?

By **Charlie Semple**, LACS

Video Compact Disc is a conventional CD with video recorded on it. Video quality is about the same as conventional video recorded on a VHS tape. VCD is old technology from the mid-1990s and has been very popular in Asia. Only in recent years has it been popularized in North America.

Normal VCD uses MPEG-1 video compression and can store about 80 minutes of full-motion video on a 700 Megabyte CD-R. Many, but not all, DVD players and drives can play VCDs.

SVCD (Super Video CD) provides better video quality but can only squeeze in about 40 minutes to an hour of MPEG-2 compressed video with two audio tracks on a CD-R disc.

Many CD recording programs include VCD recording ability. Lots of information about VCDs and DVDs is available at <http://www.vcdhelp.com/> or <http://www.dvdrhelp.com/> ♦

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Beginners/ Internet SIG
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Wi-Fi November SIG

By **Leo Salazar**, LACS

The November meeting of the Wi-Fi SIG met at the CompUSA training room to discuss several topics, including the new 802.16 WiMax technology with its 30-mile hotzone ranges, and the recent roaming agreements that will add so much mobility between hotspot venues. However, the evening's first topic --- the new 802.1X standard for protected wireless transmissions --- created discussion lively enough to last until the break, and the clinic portion afterward continued through the rest of the evening, with the remaining discussion topics deferred to a future meeting.

802.1X AUTHENTICATION

802.1X is a new version that specifically enables the authentication of remote users wishing to access their corporate networks. Even the credential exchange portion of the wireless transmission can be encrypted, as well as encryption for the virtual pipe line transmission itself. And activity at the authentication server, confirming the applicant's credentials and then generating encryption session keys, can be physically removed from both from the hotspot venue and the separately-located corporate network that is being protected. But the process has several requirements: Mobile-user Wi-Fi software that is compatible with 802.1X, an 802.1X access point at the hotspot venue, and a RADIUS-type (Remote Authentication Dial-In

User Service) authentication server.

At the mobile-user point, Windows XP has been shipping with built-in 802.1X support for some time, though the new Mac OSX 10.3 'Panther' platform now also offers such compatibility. And now TMobile --- the largest Wi-Fi internet provider in the USA, mainly in Starbucks and Borders Bookshops --- has announced that it will upgrade its several thousand hotspots to 802.1X readiness.

This is no small undertaking, since it requires individual physical upgrading at each venue. It's expected that this will generate matching action by hotspot Internet providers such as Sprint, Verizon, Wayport and others. But the real significance seems to be that TMobile is starting to look past the road warriors alone... the mobile professionals seeking blazing fast internet connectivity --- to now target the jittery IT managers themselves at their home offices, still apprehensive of Wi-Fi's initial bad reputation for weak transmission security. TMobile even says that users able to take advantage of the 802.1X security platform will find it offered as part of the basic service, rather than as a separately charged value-added option. Perhaps a continuing demonstration that, at TMobile, anyway, security concerns are taken seriously.

BEYOND THE ROOM NETWORK

After the break, the usual brief clinic we use for testing members' laptops against the room network unexpectedly expanded to fill out the remainder of the evening. Enhanced

sniffing software was present tonight, and we were now detecting more transmitters than were actually with us in the training room. Finally someone remembered that we were meeting in a large computer store with perhaps many Wi-Fi devices displayed near our entryway. Checking around the screens in the room, and even on one visitor's Wi-Fi PDA, we realized we were picking up transmitters on the store shelves, providing another graphic example of just how easy it is to sniff out broadcasters in an unprotected mode. A good security demonstration for future meetings.

GROWTH OF THE WI-FI SIG

Our meetings so far have centered on following industry trends, discussing their meanings and predicting their consequences, interspersed each month with brief testing of members' laptops within the room network. That is, we have been much more a talking than a walking SIG, and our little clinic time has admittedly been the weakest part of each meeting. But in November a small change occurred. The clinic portion became more animated, there was more walking around reading each others' screens, and discussion quality seemed to rise above prior clinics.

Unlike other LACS groups, the Wi-Fi SIG has been hampered from the start by the absence of members with strong technical strength in our area of interest, due mostly to the extreme newness of the field itself. Without a core of veteran users to draw upon, and with only a few

(WI-FI NOVEMBER SIG REPORT)*(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17)*

members actually possessing Wi-Fi equipment, our clinic time has restricted itself to the nuts and bolts of equipment set-up, data security, station sniffing, and so forth. But now, in our sixth month, there is renewed interest in greater hands-on activity, and suggestions are being offered for achieving this. These include experimenting with networks beyond the spoke-and-wheel connections to the access point, such as the ad hoc networks self-created by the mobile stations sensing each other directly. Another member suggested a small network file sharing project with data distributed around the room,

allied to yet another project: testing basic firewall configurations within this safe environment. And Cora Kamerman pointed out that a couple of extra Wi-Fi cards might be added inducement for members to bring other laptops in, using the spare cards to let everyone participate.

Some of these things may take a bit of implementing, but the renewed hands-on interest itself is significant. Combined with the industry changes speeding toward us as well, such deepened interest suggests that our second six-month period may be a time of growth in many ways, and all members are invited to participate. ♦

Meeting Reporter STILL Needed

Volunteers are needed to write a brief report each month on the LACS general meeting. It's easy and help in formatting and editing will be provided. **Volunteer now** by sending an e-mail to: editor@lacspc.org or call Dick Smith at (323) 294-3441 and leave a message. ♦

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Contributing and higher categories of members may attend all SIG meetings without charge, including those where a contribution is normally expected. A corporate membership includes ten individual memberships including free SIG attendance. Associate

members are people who live in the same household or work for the same company as a regular member; they do not receive their own subscriptions to *User Friendly*. Students must prove full-time status. If you have a question, please call our Voice Mail at 310-289-7177.

In addition to LACS monthly general meetings, members enjoy these special benefits:

- ◇ Monthly Journal *User Friendly*. We publish your submissions! Free classified ads to buy or sell your computer items.
- ◇ Eligibility to win our presenters' door prizes.
- ◇ Special Interest Groups (SIGs) to solve your problems.
- ◇ Occasional swap meets and information on trade shows.
- ◇ Product discounts, special offers and group purchases.
- ◇ Free software and computer

books (if you review them for *User Friendly*).

- ◇ Network with people sharing your interests.
- ◇ Members and Quick Consultants to call when you need help.
- ◇ **Rewards for Recruiting Members:** LACS will give you three extra entries for drawings for each new member you sign up. You may use any or all of them at any meeting within six months. While you may not win two prizes at one meeting, if your name is drawn twice, you may swap the first prize for the second one if you wish.
- ◇ Members receive LACS announcements and members' Q & A info via LACS e-mail lists. **Send requests for subscription changes with your e-mail address to:**
changes.form@lacspc.org ◆

LACS

Membership Application

Please return this form with applicable fees to:

Los Angeles Computer Society, 10410 Palms Blvd., PMB 13, LOS ANGELES CA 90034-4873

Please PRINT Clearly

- Renew
 Regular - \$36.00
 Associate - \$12.00
 Student - \$18.00
 New
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Name: First _____ Last _____ Name of Associate: First _____ Last _____

Company: _____ Your Title/Occupation _____ Retired?

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City, State, Zip + 4 _____

Phone: (Home): _____ (Business): _____

(Do not Publish Phone No. in Roster)

e-mail address: _____

- I Think I am a:
- Beginner
 Intermediate
 Advanced
 Programmer
 Professional
 Hobbyist
- I am willing to : (at least one, Please)
- Serve on a Committee
 Assist the Editor
 Help at the Meetings
 Join a SIG
 Other _____

User Friendly

Los Angeles Computer Society
 10410 Palms Blvd. PMB 13
 Los Angeles, CA 90034-4873

Voicemail: 310-289-7177
 Web site:
[http:// www.lacspc.org](http://www.lacspc.org)

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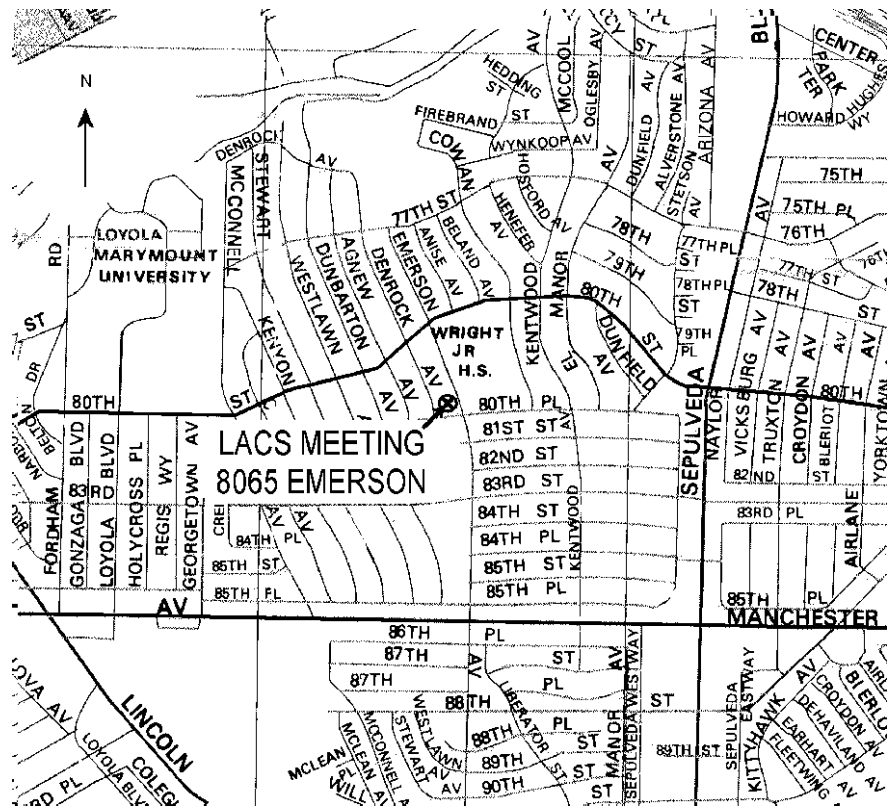
DIRECTIONS TO GENERAL MEETING

From the North: Take Sepulveda Blvd. SOUTH to W. 80th St. Turn WEST/right and go about one mile to Emerson Ave. Turn SOUTH/left and go one long block to W. 80th Place. Fellowship Hall is on the Northwest corner of Emerson and W. 80th Place.

From the South, East or West: Take Manchester Ave. to Emerson Ave. Turn North and go about eight blocks to W. 80th Place. Fellowship Hall is on the Northwest corner of Emerson and W. 80th Place. There is plenty of street parking and a small parking lot West of the church. ♦

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