

User Friendly

AUGUST 2010



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General Meeting

As this August 2010 issue went to print, it was not possible to confirm a presenter for this meeting. Instead, if a presenter is not confirmed, we'll have some things to show you and you can bring your questions or problems and we'll try to give you some solutions.

Charlie

Come learn with us. Bring friends. FREE admission.

Fellowship Hall, 8065 Emerson Avenue, Westchester

Note: An informal Computer Forum meets from 6 to 6:50 PM to answer individual questions. All are welcome.

More info at <http://www.lacspsc.org> or Telephone: 310-398-0366.

After the meeting there's a "social" gathering at Dinah's Family Restaurant (Sepulveda at Centinela). All are welcome

HELP WANTED!



It would be nice to have a few persons who will write notes about General Meetings for publication in User Friendly. If you wish to write a polished article that is fine, but if you can only provide an outline or notes that is OK too, as I can write an article from them.

Thanks a whole bunch.

Charlotte ♥

BLURRING THE BACKGROUND OF A PICTURE USING PHOTOSHOP & PICASA

Jerry Schneir, LACS

Recently a student asked for some help with their camera. They were having trouble getting a sharp image and were convinced that their camera was malfunctioning. They were trying to take a picture of a grandchild at play from about five feet away. The camera had been placed in the "portrait mode" so that objects in front of and behind the subject would be out-of-focus while the subject should have been in sharp focus. What they didn't realize (nor remember) was my discussion about the portrait mode on some cameras. Some cameras deliberately put the subject slightly

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out-of-focus so as to minimize any facial blemishes on the subject. In the “old” days, film photographers went to great lengths to produce “soft focus” portraits, close-up images of people that were ever so slightly out-of-focus. Modern digital cameras can do this easily and several deliberately do so when in the portrait mode.

But that is not what we all want, sometimes we really do want a sharp image of the subject with the foreground and background out-of-focus, deliberately blurred. How to do this with modern digital cameras? First off, do not shoot in portrait mode if your camera has an aperture priority setting. However, there still can be a problem even when you shoot with your lens wide open. The problem of not having a blurred background or foreground is due to the small sized sensor found on most point and shoot cameras. The small sensor means that these cameras produce images that have great depth of field even when shooting with the lens wide open, a very large aperture.

The Two-Layer Blur Method

There is a Photoshop solution to this problem, a relatively simple solution, and one worth spending a little bit of effort learning. Before going on, make sure the **LAYERS** palette is displayed along with **UNDO HISTORY**. Click on the **WINDOW** button at the top of the Photoshop screen. If these windows or palettes are not displayed. Then left click on **LAYERS** and on the **UNDO**

HISTORY lines. A check mark should appear on each of those lines indicating that those palettes will be displayed. Open the selected picture, the one you want to work on, in Photoshop Elements. Create a **duplicate layer** by clicking on the letter “J” while holding down the **CTRL** key.

You are now going to select the subject by using the **QUICK SELECTION TOOL**. This tool will allow you to select the subject very easily. Pay attention to the top of the screen. You will be adding to the selection if you have the middle box of the 3 options selected. The right box, the one with the minus (-) sign, will deduct from the selection. Once you have finished selecting the subject click on the **REFINE EDGE** button. This tells Photoshop how exact the edge of the selection will appear. This is very subjective and will require some degree of “playing” with the image. Sometimes you will want the edge to be very exact while other times you may want the edge to have a less distinct look. Try different settings to find what looks right to you. Click OK when you get it the way you want it to appear. Remember to have the **PREVIEW** button checked so you can see the changes.

Now you are going to want to go to the **SELECT** button at the top of the screen and then click on **INVERSE**. What you are now telling the computer is that any changes you make to the active window will be applied to everything you did not originally select. You will be applying the blur to the background and not to the subject which is why you inverted the selection.

Now go to, **FILTERS>BLUR>GAUSSIAN BLUR**. Adjust the settings until the background looks less distinct, more blurred. Remember to have the **PREVIEW** button checked so that you can see the change. You can drag the image to see other parts of the scene. Click **OK** once you have the amount of blurring you feel is appropriate. Remove the selection outline by using **CTRL+D**

You have one more thing to do before flattening the image and that is to control **OPACITY**. Opacity controls how much of the bottom layer shows through to the upper layer. Opacity is shown just above the layers and is part of the layers mini-window. In this case click on the triangle at the end of the opacity button. This causes a drop down slider to appear which you can drag to whatever value you find correct. What you are doing is allowing some of the bottom layer to show through to the top layer. This mitigates some of the blurring that you applied to the top layer and gives a “more natural” effect. Now you will **FLATTEN** the image by going to **LAYER>FLATTEN**. This command merges both layers into one layer.

Now all you have to do is to save the image. I prefer using the **SAVE AS** command and indicate in the picture file name what was done to the original image. In this case I named the file (a JPG file format) with the title of 2009-11-06-blur. This is a file I can easily find and tell the original from the corrected image.

But this is not the only way of blurring the background (and foreground) of a picture in

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Photoshop. There are other approaches, some of which the reader may find to be easier and just as good for their purposes. The following is an explanation of three other ways.

One Layer Method

In place of creating a new layer (background copy) upon which the blurring was done, the opacity adjusted, and then flattening the two layers, the one layer approach has all the work done on one layer. The selection including **REFINE EDGE**, inverting, and then applying the Gaussian blur to the background is all done on one layer, the original image itself. Adjusting opacity is not an option using this method thus you lose this one added method of making the picture look more "normal". Great care must be used in saving the image lest the original is obliterated by the newly created blurred image. Of course, this same caution is valid for all the methods explained. The downside to using the single layer method is the loss of a final adjustment, that of opacity. For some people, that is a small price to pay for a simpler solution.

2 LAYERS USING THE ERASER TOOL

This starts out the same as the two layer method first discussed. You created a 2nd background layer and work on that layer using the **ERASER** tool. Place the cursor on the **ERASER** and hold there. The drop down window shows the 3 types of eraser tools. I suggest using the **ERASER TOOL** itself and not one of the variations. At the top of

the screen you will note the ability to change the size of the **ERASER**. If you left click on the **triangle to the right** of the number, a slider will open that allows you to change the size of the erasing tip. The tip itself is controllable by left clicking on the **triangle to the left** of the word **SIZE**. The drop down window shows some of the options you have available for the type of erasing. **Opacity** is another control you can use to get the image you want. Use it as you did in the first section using two layers.

Remember to go to **LAYER>FLATTEN** to merge the layers and then save the image as a **JPG** image using the **SAVE AS** command under the **FILE** tab.

Another variation on the 2 layer method is after outlining the subject with the select tool you simply delete the subject from the 2nd layer. You do have the ability to use **REFINE EDGE** as discussed in the original two layer method. Remember to Invert the selection so that any other changes will be applied to the remaining part of the background. Then apply the Gaussian blur to the remaining picture, adjust the opacity, flatten the layers and save the resulting image.

NON-PHOTOSHOP SOLUTION

But what if you don't have Photoshop or are reluctant to use it, are there other methods of blurring the background? Yes, you can do some degree of blurring by using the free photo editing program from Google called Picasa. The people who know me or have taken my courses know that I am a dedicated fan of Picasa.

Open the picture in Picasa by double clicking on the image. Click on the rightmost tab in the editing mode called **EFFECTS**. The effect you want to produce a blur is called **SOFT FOCUS**. Left click on the soft focus effect. A new window appears that has two sliders, one for amount of blurring and the other for the area excluded from being blurred. You should also notice that a small target cross hair appears on the photo. You can drag this target to any place in the picture. You can achieve a respectable blurring of the parts of the picture you want by manipulating the two sliders and moving the target around the picture. The results are NOT as good as what can be achieved in Photoshop, but the resulting image can be quite good. Remember to save the image using the **SAVE AS** command and give the image a name indicative of what has been done.

But why blur parts of a picture?. Our eyes tend to focus on parts of a picture that are sharp and have bright colors. Thus by rendering parts of a picture blurred the eye will pay greater attention to the parts of the picture that are not blurred, the parts of the picture that are "sharp". It is one way of adding a little more "oomph" to a picture. It can turn a nice OK picture into a great shot, one that is worthy of enlarging and framing and placing on a wall in a prominent place.

And to my friends who think all this manipulation is some type of cheating, so is photography itself. We open the aperture so as to have a very short or narrow depth of field or we

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increase or decrease the shutter speed to avoid or have blurred motion. We increase or decrease the sensor sensitivity (ISO) to better obtain these effects and adjust white balance to overcome color imbalance in the final photo. Photography is an art form and as such, the photographer has the final say in what he or she is saying with their picture. ♥



CASH FLOW

Charlotte Semple,
LACS Treasurer

For The Month Of July 2010

Current Liquid Assets

Fidelity Money Market
Cash Reserve Acct. \$9,735.66
Bank Of America
Checking Acct. 3,896.49

Total Liquid Assets 13,632.15

Gross Receipts

Dues \$672.00

Total Gross Receipts \$672.00

Expenditures

Westchester UMC
Facility Rental \$60.00
Charlie Semple
Extra Projector Lamp 225.40
Creative Technology
June 2010 User Friendly 226.25
Copyland, Balance Due .40
Leah Clark
Welcome Expenses 25.99

Total Expenditures \$538.04

Net Surplus \$88.96

WELCOME ALL

Gene Jacobs, LACS
Database Manager

New (2)

Stanley Epstein
Susan Umeda

Renew (13)

George Andrews
Henri Blits
Paul Cooley
Glorya Dixon
Frank Elston
Lee Freehling

** Heshmat Laaly

Jack McGruder
Stavros Olympios

*** Ida Riordan

Charlie Semple

*** Dick Smith

Bob Swarthe

** Supporter

*** Benefactor

DIGITAL PHOTO SIG REPORT

Elliot Silverstein, LACS



Sixteen people attended the June 28, 2010 meeting of the Digital Photo SIG, at the SMC Bundy Campus.

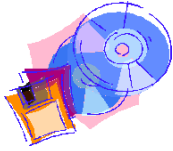
Jack Koonan started the meeting by showing a slideshow, with musical accompaniment, featuring pictures he had taken at the Southwest Computer Conference in San Diego in early June; He showed scenes from a number of the venues, and he and others at our meeting discussed the subject matter of some of the individual sessions.

Then Gilbert Ialongo showed several photos he had taken, and he asked the group to comment on these photos and to make suggestions on how editing might improve them; He then showed a photo in which a very bright scene was viewed through a rather dark tunnel; Using the Layers feature in Photoshop Elements, he demonstrated one method of editing the photo to increase the brightness of the tunnel and create a more pleasing photo: First he made a selection of the dark area. Then he copied the selection to a new layer -- he chose an adjustment layer -- and he then increased the brightness of this layer, which contained only the dark areas of the tunnel; Then, merging the adjusted layer with the scene layer beneath it, he obtained the desired result, a pleasing photo with reduced brightness mismatch between the foreground and background areas.

Following this, Gilbert showed how to use equally spaced black and white bars to achieve a 50 percent gray level on a monitor. He demonstrated how this 50 percent gray level can be compared with a screen filled with the gray resulting from equal values of red, green and blue. He then showed how to calculate the system gamma from the RGB values needed to match the brightness of the 50 percent gray screen; If r is the ratio of the value of the matching RGBs to their maximum value (normally 255), then r raised to the exponent gamma is equal to 0.5. The resulting gamma should turn out to equal 2.2 for a well calibrated PC monitor. ♥

BEGINNERS SIG REPORT

Kim Stocksdale, LACS



Nineteen members attended the July 12, 2010 meeting of the Beginners SIG at the SMC Bundy Campus. .

The Sig started with a discussion of email by Sig leader Kim Stocksdale, and a simple flow-chart model of how an email gets sent and received from one person to another. Then the model went a little deeper and described how an email forwarding service can provide a “permanent” email address which can be given to others, an unchanging email address that can be configured to always forward to your present email address (unknown to others), whatever your present address may be.

We discussed the despicable “spam” email, and compared spam email to the junk mail sent to your house address. The one thing that makes spam email so plentiful is that spam email is so easy to create and virtually free to send out. For those who send spam email, a response rate of only 1 out of 10,000 can be quite lucrative (\$). We discussed spam email filters, including the ones built into Yahoo, AOL, Outlook, Gmail, etc. Spam email filters have two main challenges to overcome: 1) sometimes spam sneaks through the filter into your inbox. 2) Sometimes “good” emails get filtered into the spam folder.

Karl Springer demonstrated the capabilities of most POP email clients such as Outlook, Outlook

Express, Thunderbird to filter and organize your email. More capabilities than offered by webmail such as Yahoo Mail or Gmail (Google’s email service). Carl showed how he set up a folder on his POP email client so all emails from LACS postings automatically get directed to that email folder.

Jim McKnight discussed his recent purchase of an Epson 810 all-in-one printer. He expressed surprise that the multiple connections made to his home network, wireless and wired, as well as driver installations all went flawlessly. ♥

DAYTIME SIG REPORT

Jim McKnight and
Charlie Semple, LACS



Eleven members attended the July 20, 2010 meeting of the Daytime SIG held at the Felicia Mahood Senior Center.

Milt Ash commented that his PC was giving him a warning about a malicious website. He was not sure what program gave the message. We asked him to save the image of the error using Print Screen and email it to us for analysis. We discussed several ways to save and email a “Print Screen” image.

REMINDER: In Windows, Pressing the PRINT SCREEN key captures an image of everything on your display and “parks” it in the clipboard. You can then open some other document and paste that image into the

document. Try it a few times to get used to it. A variation allows you to copy a desired portion of the screen by placing your cursor in the area (usually a dialog box or a picture) you want, then hold down the ALT key while you push PRINT SCREEN. The copy of the selected area has now been “parked” in the clipboard and is available to PASTE in another document. This particularly useful when an error message or confusing instruction must be communicated to someone when you are looking for help or when you are writing an article for User Friendly.

Mike Everding asked about Power Pack (AC Adapter) replacement for devices. Here are the four considerations:

1) PLUG SIZE; The power plug size and shape must match the device EXACTLY. If you look at 2 or 3 example plugs you will notice some of them are slightly different and will not all fit the device you are working on.

2) POLARITY; Each device (printer; scanner; has a symbol near its power input jack identifying whether the polarity of the center conductor should be + (plus) or - (minus). This must match the new power pack EXACTLY.

3) VOLTAGE; Each device should have a voltage listed near its power jack. The voltage of the new power pack must match the device EXACTLY.

4) AMPS; The current rating in Amps or Milliamps of the power pack must be enough to satisfy or exceed the current required by the device. The current rating is NOT listed on the device. It is only on the old Power Pack or in the user manual for the device. NOTE: Some Dell

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Powerpacks have some kind of "Smart" circuitry inside and a non-Dell Power pack may not work. I suggest an exact Dell part number replacement.

Leigh Benderle asked about installing a new Printer. The general advice is to follow the "Getting Started" poster sheet that comes with each new Printer. If it has been lost, usually you can get a copy of it to download from the mfr's website. As with other USB connected devices you should ALWAYS install the Printer software using the CD that comes with the new printer, BEFORE plugging the new printer into the PC. Also, be sure to test the printing for each and every application program to make sure all is OK. If the CD that comes with the printer has been lost or damaged, a copy can usually be downloaded from the mfr's website. After the printer has been correctly installed, it is a good idea to print a test document from each of your applications. Just type a line or two &/or a small image in a fresh document and print that. You'll quickly be able to check that your printer works with the applications you use.

Jim also demonstrated a few utilities. Some of them can be found on his website www.jmopi.net in [http://www.jmopi.net/PDFs/Word Utilities1.pdf](http://www.jmopi.net/PDFs/Word%20Utilities1.pdf) ♥

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Election time has come around again.

Lee Freehling, (leefreeh@aol.com), heads the Nominations Committee this year, assisted by Leah Clark (leahjc@sbcglobal.net), Gene Jacobs, gene-jacobs@ca.rr.com and Stephanie Nordlinger, nordlacs@aol.com.

The offices to be filled are: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and three Directors.

Note that candidates for President must have served 6 months as an Officer or Director.

LACS members are urged to come forward to serve as Board members; the Officers serve one year; the Directors serve two years. The Board of Directors meets on the last Tuesday of the month. The meetings last about one and one-half hours; sometimes less; not often more. Please contact a Nominations Committee member if you would like to serve, or know of someone who might like to serve.

Thank you,

The Nominations Committee ♥

NETWORKING FOR DUMMIES**Part 1 of 2**

Ron Hirsch

Boca Raton Computer Society
www.bracs.org

This is part 1 of a 2 part article on this topic. Now, before anyone feels that I'm out of line for referring to someone as a dummy, I want to make it clear

that I was the networking dummy in question, for many years.

While I build and repair my own computers, and have written considerable software, I was always very weak on networking. However, lately I've graduated from dummy school, thanks to some good hardware and software, and more experiences with my home network. And, I thought I'd share my old and new experiences with you, as they've come from a good many years of frustrating activities associated with my home wireless network. This article will not go into the complete aspect of all types of networks, but is limited to home networks, which are what many of you already have, or are possibly contemplating having in the near future. The usual purpose of a home network is to allow multiple computers to share the internet connection which is being used. Most homes use either the local cable company, which is Comcast here in Boca Raton, or a DSL (digital subscriber line) from the landline phone company (AT&T here in Boca). My Internet Service Provider (ISP) is Comcast.

A secondary purpose can be accessing stored files on other computers on the network, or sharing devices such as printers installed on other computers.

Most home networks use a wireless router. This is a unit which allows multiple devices (usually computers) to be plugged into it, and also provides a wireless signal which broadcasts in all directions, so that computers which have a wireless adapter (either via an internal card, or a

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USB plug-in wireless adapter) can connect to the Internet

First, here's a commentary of what occurred some years back in my first brush with home networking.

MY NETWORKING TASK & TROUBLES BACK IN 2002

I decided that I wanted a wireless network, as I had 2 computers, and I wanted both to have Internet access. Since it would have been very inconvenient to run an ethernet cable from my main computer's router to the second computer, I opted for a router that also incorporated a wireless capability. I purchased a Linksys wireless router, since Linksys was one of the biggest names in this product area. I installed the router, and then connected my main computer via an ethernet cable, which uses RJ-45 connectors. These connectors look like the connectors on telephones, but they are larger.

I connected my Adelphia computer modem to my new router, and just assumed that all would work right away. Of course, nothing worked to start off. There was no installation CD disc, but there were many pages of manual instructions on what one had to do to set things up. But the complexity of the instructions was mind boggling. So I called Linksys support - which was in the Philippines. Tech support worked by rote. They followed various sets of instructions, and most of the support staff really was not that capable. I also called Adelphia tech support, and finding a "network knowledgeable"

someone there was also quite difficult. But after several days of back and forth calls, and speaking to quite a number of different persons, I finally got my main computer (which was hard wired to the router) online and working properly with my Internet connection.

Next came getting my #2 computer connected to the router, via the wireless capability. I had bought a Linksys USB wireless adapter. It also had nothing much in the way of info on how to use it, and no install CD. I connected the wireless adapter to machine #2, and guess what - nothing happened. So, it was back onto Linksys tech support. I must have spent 8-10 hours fumbling around while talking to Linksys support. We tried everything, but we could not get the second computer to connect to the Internet.

Finally, the Linksys tech support person advised me that he could only suggest one final step. There was a free program available on the Internet, called "Boingo" - some name! He gave me the URL to that page, which was not a Linksys page. He suggested that I download and install it, and it would get my wireless adapter connected up. So I did, and amazingly 5 minutes later, I realized success. So why couldn't Linksys have some similar software included with the wireless adapter?

TASK NOT QUITE FINISHED YET

I noted that when my #2 computer finally made it on line, that the received wireless signal was quite weak. Out of a possible 5 bars of signal strength, it hopped back and forth between one and none. So I did some investigating, and learned that the

large distance between my wireless router, and the #2 computer was right at the max usable distance. Checking around, I found, on the Linksys site, a "booster amp", that was designed to work with my router. There were even four recessed holes on the top of my router, to hold the four feet of the booster amp.

So I bought this amp, and finally the install went smoothly. Since it was nothing but an amplifier, there were no settings or adjustments. It did improve the signal strength slightly, and I now had a solid one bar reading. This was good enough to maintain Internet connectivity, but did give me a very slow connection.

So after about 10 days of stumbling around, I finally got my system working.

MOVING AHEAD IN TIME

In mid April 2009, I suddenly started having problems with my main computer's Internet access, and then my wireless computers' access. After reviewing the symptoms, and running a few checks, I became convinced that my Linksys router had developed a problem. Because of its age (7 years), and the fact that it was an older 802.11b model, I decided that the simplest approach was just to get a new router. And, if I stayed with the Linksys WRT54GL, which was an 802.11G unit, I could have the faster speed of the G series. And, the new router would accommodate my old booster, since it had the same mating holes to mount the booster.

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By this point in time, I had my main desktop computer hard wired to the router, and 2 other desktops and a laptop wirelessly connected to the router. And yes, as I added computers 3 and 4 some years back, all things did not go smoothly. My laptop was the easiest. When I got it in 2004, it already had a wireless adapter built in. When I turned it on, it immediately found the wireless network, and was connected.

The #3 desktop also had a built in wireless card. But getting it online was a struggle similar to the first wireless connection. But finally, I did get it working, without having to resort to BOINGO. In part 2 of "Networking for Dummies", I'll relate my experiences in installing the new Linksys router, and then getting all four machines running smoothly there. I was dreading going through what I'd been through in the past. This was a night and day difference from my first experiences in 2002. The router came with an installation CD. And it installed the router and my main computer, "as smooth as silk".

When I started on the installs of the three wireless computers, there were a few hiccups. But I then went on line, to check out a program called "Network Magic". It was touted as being the way to go when installing and configuring networks. They offered a free 7 day trial, which allows the user to install the software on up to eight computers, and let Network Magic do all the work for you. Since Network Magic was created by Cisco, and Cisco now owns Linksys, if

you were using a Linksys router, most of the important software features would continue working forever, at no cost to the user.

If you did not have a Linksys router, you could buy the lesser standard (up to 3 computers), or the Pro version (up to 8 computers), for \$29.99 and \$39.99 respectively.

This is the end of part 1 of "Networking for Dummies". Next month, the second part of this will cover installing my new router, and getting all 4 computers online, and talking to each other. This was indeed a real eye-opener for me. I was most happy to see that the setup and configuration had gone from a terrifying experience to a "walk-in-the-park". ♥

SOLUTO**Anti-Frustration Software Improves Boot Time****Ira Wilsker**

Director, APCUG

iwilsker(at)apcug.net



In several past columns I have written about utilities that can speed up the computer boot process. As cluttered as it was, my old XP machine could take up to five minutes to boot; my newer Windows 7-64 machine boots in under two minutes, considering the multilayered security that is installed on it. Traditionally, the ways of speeding the boot process on a PC were to defrag the hard drive, and clean up the programs in the startup that load when the computer is first

turned on. When someone tells me that his computer takes forever to boot, my typical responses are, "is your hard drive defragged" (defragmented), and "how many little icons do you have on your task bar adjacent to your clock?" There are several excellent startup managers available (including Windows "msconfig" feature), both independent utilities and components of utility suites, that can easily control what programs load at boot. Simply unchecking unwanted and unnecessary programs at boot is an accepted way of improving boot time. Likewise, there are several excellent defragmentation utilities available, including the simple one built into Windows, that can do a credible job; by defragging the hard drive, it does not have to work as hard when reading files and data, thus providing some improvement in load times.

While these two methods are well accepted and proven to speed up the boot process, a new concept in utilities was recently released that goes an extra step in controlling the boot process using a software "genome" and community experiences to determine what is loading in the computer at boot, how long each item takes to load, displays what is required or optional to load at boot, and gives the user control of what loads and when it loads during the boot process. Wanted, but low priority items, can be set to load after the computer has fully booted, and is sitting idle, thus not degrading the boot process. Unwanted items can be stopped from automatically loading, but set to load upon demand.

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AUGUST 2010 into SEPTEMBER 2010

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 AUGUST Software SIG 7 PM	3 Luncheon SIG Noon	4	5	6
9 Beginners\ Internet/E-Mail SIG 7 PM	10 General Meeting 7 PM Forum 6 PM	11	12	13
16 Hardware SIG 7 PM	17 Daytime SIG 1 PM	18	19	20
23 Digital Photo SIG 7 PM	24	25	26	27
30	31	1 SEPTEMBER	2	3
6 Labor Day Holiday	7 Luncheon SIG Noon	8	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 asked to join LACS. To inquire about a SIG, please call, or e-mail, the **contact** person in advance. SIG Coordinator: Charlie Semple, [sig.coord \(at\) lacspsc.org](mailto:sig.coord@lacspsc.org).

SIG	Contact	Telephone	When and Where
After General Meeting	All Welcome		Dinah's Family Restaurant
Beginners/Internet/E-Mail	Kim Stocksdale	310-358-7122	2nd Monday, 7 PM, SMC Bundy Campus
Computer Forum	Beginners Welcome		2nd Tuesday, 6 PM, before General Meeting
Luncheon	Richard Harmetz	310-277-5659	1st Tuesday, Noon, Fu's Palace
Daytime	Leader Wanted		3rd Tuesday, 1 PM, Felicia Mahood Sr. Center
Digital Photo	Elliot Silverstein	310-670-1544	4th Monday, 7 PM, SMC Bundy Campus
	Nancy Cattell	310-452-2130	
Hardware	Charlie Semple	310-398-5052	3rd Monday, 7 PM, SMC Bundy Campus
Software	Leader Wanted		1st Monday, 7 PM, SMC Bundy Campus

Addresses

Dinah's Family Restaurant, 6521 Sepulveda Blvd., LA (just south of Sepulveda and Centinela)

Felicia Mahood Senior Center, 11338 Santa Monica Blvd., WLA (at Corinth)

Fu's Palace, 8751 W Pico Blvd., LA (one block east of Robertson Blvd, NW corner, parking in back)

SMCBundy Campus, 3171 S Bundy Drive, LA (1/2 block south of Airport Avenue)

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 \(at\)lacspsc.org](mailto:editor@lacspsc.org) or call Charlotte Semple at 310-398-5052. 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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9	Hershman, Irv	310-397-9453	310-397-9453	11 AM -	11 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
33	Kierulff, Cap	310-472-9206	310-472-9206	9 AM -	9 PM
34	Clark, Leah	310-677-2792	310-677-2792	9 AM -	5 PM
43	Semple, Charlie	310-398-5052	310-398-5052	9 AM -	10 PM
46	Martin, Todd	818-766-1151	818-766-1151	10 AM -	10 PM
50	Silverstein, Elliot	310-670-1544	310-670-1544	10 AM -	10 PM
52	Semple, Charlotte	310-398-5052	310-398-5052	10 AM -	6 PM
53	Beckman, Loling	310-471-7893	N. A.	10 AM -	6 PM
55	Strate, Steve	310-450-7478	N. A.	9 AM -	5 PM
56	McKnight, Jim	310-823-7829	310-823-7829	8 AM -	7 PM
57	Ialongo, Gilbert	310-641-7906	N. A.	9 AM -	5 PM
58	Schneir, Jerry	310-451-4140	N. A.	9 AM -	5 PM
59	Van Berkom, Paula	310-398-6734	N. A.	9 AM -	5 PM

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(SOLUTO)*(Continued from Page 8)*

The process may sound complex, but it is very simple with the information provided by this new utility, "Soluto Anti-Frustration Software (beta)".

Available as a free download from www.soluto.com, this software is a "beta" or pre-release version, which by definition, is not a highly refined final "release" version. My 18 month old "new" computer booted very quickly when new, but now that I have a lot of security software and other utilities loading at boot, it was taking between a minute and a half, and two minutes to boot. After I downloaded and installed **Soluto**, and re-booted the computer such that Soluto could measure and analyze my boot process, my first modification of my boot process improved my boot time by almost 25%! Subsequent refinements of my boot process with Soluto, and input from the "community" have helped me to shave off about another 10% of my boot time.

After being installed, Soluto monitors what loads at each boot. During the boot process, the bottom left corner of the desktop turns up like the corner of a page and displays each item as it is loading, while displaying the elapsed time to boot the computer. Information is gathered during the boot process, and added to what has been gathered at previous boots, to provide the data that is analyzed by the program. The data that is collected is anonymously added to the Soluto PC Genome, where the community can input recommendations that will assist the user in determining what can be

controlled at boot. According to Soluto, "This anonymous technical data is gathered and sent to Soluto's PC Genome, a one of a kind knowledge base containing statistical insights about PC software and hardware behavior, as well as remedies to alleviate PC usage frustrations. By putting this information into the light, the PC Genome will help consumers and vendors alike. Soluto employs another set of innovative algorithms to determine which remedies will have a positive impact on each Soluto user's unique PC system. These remedies are then shared with other relevant Soluto users." Soluto has found that by pausing when specific items load in the boot process, and reconfiguring some of the applications, boot time and overall behavior of the computer can improve dramatically. Soluto can also determine those programs that degrade computer performance, and provide the "frustrated" user with possible solutions to reduce or eliminate the source of frustration.

Soluto places a small icon on the task bar that looks somewhat like a smiley-face, and opens displaying the Soluto functions. By opening Soluto anytime after the computer has booted, the first screen called the "Boot Page" displays "Potentially Removable" items in an orange font, along with the boot time and sequence for each. By moving the cursor over any of the "Potentially Removable" items, a brief description of the software is displayed (if it is in the Genome). By moving over the "more" on the display, a recommendation may be shown, as well as a pie chart of what other users of that software have

done. The user is given the option to "Pause" or "Delay" the item in subsequent boots. "Pause" prevents the item from being loaded at boot, but the program can still be loaded upon demand; "Delay" postpones the selected program from automatically loading until the computer is otherwise idle, which means that it will not slow the initial boot process. Since Soluto (beta) has just been released, the genome is still in its infancy, and does not yet contain a comprehensive database of software. The user can easily click on the pencil icon "edit" and open a Wiki which enables the user to "fill in the blanks" about an item, which will then be verified, and added to the Genome. As more users complete the Wiki, the Genome database will become more complete. As the Genome improves through this community input, all of the users can benefit by the dissemination of the information.

The grey section of the main screen "Boot Page" in Soluto displays the "Required - cannot be removed" items that load at boot, in their boot sequence and with their boot time displayed. While most of the items shown are valid Windows components, with an explanation of what each does along with its boot time, some of the items are non-Microsoft files, and lack detailed descriptions. When I first used Soluto, the components of my MagicJack VoIP service (internet based telephone service) were listed as "Required", and could not be paused or delayed; I opened the Wiki and explained what they were, and

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(SOLUTO)

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then commented that I thought that these particular components should be moved to the "Potentially removable" section where their boot process could be better managed. As the Genome grows and improves, items like this will be better sorted into the appropriate category.

The blue section on the "Boot Page" shows the items that were "Paused" or "Delayed" at boot, and how much time was saved by not loading those items. Clicking on any blue item gives the user the choice of changing the status to boot, "Pause" or "Delay", which will be implemented the next time the computer is booted.

An interesting choice on the Soluto icon is "My PC just frustrated me", which opens the Soluto window, and analyzes the running processes, and tries to determine which program is causing the slowdown. Any information found during the "frustration" analysis is anonymously added to the Genome where it will be comingled with other data and potential solutions may be determined. If a solution to the "frustration" exists, it looks like it will be displayed to the user. When I clicked on the "Frustration" menu item, Soluto identified the beta version of a new security product that I am testing as the potential source of "frustration" but could not yet show any remedy to my "frustration".

While Soluto is still in the "beta" stage of development, I found it a very useful and worthwhile utility to improve PC

performance, particularly in the boot process, and for resolving potential "frustrations". Users should give Soluto Anti-Frustration Software a try. In my limited experience with it, I would give it my recommendation, as well as a rating of "two thumbs up".

Listen to Ira's "My Computer Show" on News Talk AM560 KLVI. Now streaming on the "net, Mondays, 6-7pmm Central Time, KLVI.Com. Also read his weekly computer and technology column in the Examiner, <http://www.theexaminer.com> Click on the "Front Page" image and scroll to my column. Ira can also be reached at iwilsker@sbcglobal.net. ♥

A \$2.50 PENTIUM 4 DESKTOP COMPUTER

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April 2010 Issue,
 The LVCG Journal

Boy what a beautiful day today was. The sun was shining, the birds were greeting, and the trees and flowers are coming into bloom. The terrific snow banks are gone, and today, believe it or not, all the flea market people were out at the Quaker-town Q-Mart outside.

Around 12 PM today, I came across a table with three CRT monitors, 2 keyboards, a tower PC, and an old Gateway computer, and the guy there said, "Give me ten bucks." I said, "I'll just take the computers." And then he said, "You can take everything for \$5 bucks." And so I did take the two computers,

not knowing exactly what I had gotten, or if they would work!

I brought the tower PC home, and took a look at it. I plugged it in, hooked up the keyboard and mouse, and noted the supplied network card, and plugged in my Internet router to it. When it booted up it had an XP operating system with service pack 2 on it with the updates shut-off. It had an Intel Pentium 4, 2.8 GHz, 500 Megs of RAM, and Intel motherboard (which I like best); 4-USB functioning slots, an 80 GB Seagate hard drive, a 50X CD player, 3-1/2" floppy, and Iomega floppy drive as well!

When it first booted up it was a little unstable. But most of the hard drive was open with few programs on it. It even had office 2003 on it, and when I opened up the IE 7 browser that was there, the MSN network came up beautifully, and the Internet runs perfectly on it. First I removed some of the strange looking programs that I did not need or care for. I took off the installed out-of-date Symantec virus checker, along with the "Live Update" which I do not like, and replaced it with the free AVG 9. I then used the free Eusing Registry Cleaner which took off 250 superfluous lines from the Registry, and then ran the Malware cleaner, and the anti-virus 9 that did not detect anything, and then defragged the drive.

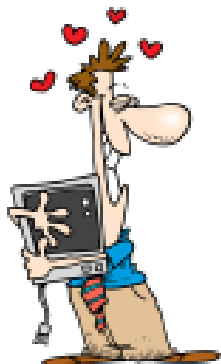
Here is a fine machine with an operating system installed, a hard drive, floppies, CD, and USB, Internet ready, with a little software to clean up, and it is ready to go! Something like this is much more powerful than a new \$300 Netbook, and even

(Continued on Page 14)

(A \$2.50 Pentium 4 Desktop Computer)

(Continued from Page 13)

powerful enough to run graphic programs of this vintage!



I do not know, but I am having more fun lately reviving the dead than buying the latest and greatest every minute. And with all the old parts and software around, almost anything can be replaced with a little patience and very low cost. It is certainly uncanny so much amazing technology is being ignored and discarded everywhere.

Why, when \$2.50 won't even get you into a computer show, how about buying a whole computer ready to go? ♥

THE CONTROL PANEL

Extremely Useful

Sandy Berger, CompuKISS

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Just as you can use a car without manipulating anything under the hood, you can also use a computer without changing any settings. However, at a certain point you will want to correct a setting, uninstall a program, change the way your mouse works, or add another user to your computer. All of these functions and many more are found in the Windows Control

Panel. Don't worry though; the Control Panel is much easier to navigate than the cables, wires, and mechanisms that you find under the hood of a car....and you can use the tools in the Control Panel without getting your hands dirty.

In geek-speak, the Control Panel is the central location for all of the Windows operating system configuration needs. In everyday terms, it's the place where you can work with the many tools that Windows offers to change and customize all of the settings. The Control Panel is part of the Windows operating system's graphical interface. As such, you will find that it consists of easy-to-understand icons that are each labeled as to their function.

The Control Panel has been around since the first version of Windows. Over the years, it has morphed into a very useful set of management tools for your computer. In a car you need to know where the hood release lever is, in Windows, you need to know how to access the Control Panel.

Windows Vista and Windows 7, you can access the Control Panel by clicking on the Start button and choosing Control Panel from the right column of choices. In Windows XP, you will click Start, then choose Control Panel from the left column. If you don't see the Control Panel listed, click on Settings from the left column and then click on Control Panel.

The Control Panel is a little different in Windows XP than it is in Vista and Windows 7. So let's talk about XP first. By default, the Windows XP Control Panel

appears in what is called "Category View". This means that various functions have been put into Categories. Previous versions of Windows showed a list of icons, one for each function, in Windows XP, this is called the "Classic View". When you open the Control Panel in Windows XP if you see several categories listed you are in "Category View". If you see a window full of individual icons, you are in "Classic View". You can change the view by clicking on the words "Switch to Classic View" or "Switch to Category View" which is on the left side of the screen. Check out these two options and see which one you like. You can switch between them quite easily at any time.

In Windows Vista, you have the same choices, but you may have to click on "Control Panel Home" on the left side of the screen before you can click on "Classic View" or "Category View".

Microsoft made some changes in the Control Panel in Windows 7. They have eliminated the name Classic View. In Windows 7 you will see the words "View by" on the upper right side of the screen. Click on the down arrow next to those words and you will have three views to choose from: Category, Large Icons, or Small Icons. This Icon view is really the same as the Classic View. I prefer to use the Classic or Icon view, but again, you can check out all the views and see which one you like best.

There are 45 icons in the icon view in Windows 7 and about the same number in previous versions. If you look at the

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(The Control Panel)

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Classic or Icon view, you will see that the icons have labels, like Display, Sound, Power Options, Mouse, Keyboard, User Accounts, Folder Options, and Devices and Printers. You can click on any of these icons to open a window that will allow you to adjust, correct, and/or customize the settings of these areas. Take a look around. Check out Mouse area first. When you click on the mouse icon a window with options will appear. It will have tabs at the top. You can click on each tab to see even more options. If you have never looked at these before you will be amazed at the number of things that you can do to customize your mouse. You can switch the buttons if you are left-handed. You can speed up and/or slow down the double-click speed. You can change the looks of the pointer. If you are using a mouse with a scroll wheel, you can even change how the wheel behaves.

Try a few things. The only caveat here is to document the changes that you are making so you can change them back if you want to.

Each of the items in the Control Panel allows you to change the settings in your computer. Look through and open up a few of them. There are hundreds of things that you can change and/or customize in the Windows operating system. Some of the Control Panel items are very useful for everyday tasks in Windows.

Be sure to take a look. ♥

THREE REASONS WHY YOU MIGHT GET TO LOVE WORD 2007

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May 2010 Issue
Sarasota PC Monitor

If you purchased a new computer recently and opted for any version of the Microsoft Office Suite 2007, Word 2007 was included. You probably had loved Word 2003 and were looking forward to an update. Then you opened the 2007 version and were shocked. What were all those blue boxes along the top of the screen? Where was the menu bar or standard toolbar? Where was the Print command?

Believe me, I know. I was in your shoes about 14 months ago when I installed Office 2007 and opened my favorite program, Word. In the first fifteen minutes, I used more expletives than I'd used in years. I avoided using the program for a month or two (I had kept a 2003 version on my computer) before I decided that I needed to find out what this program was all about if for no other reason than I might soon be teaching some classes about it. With the assistance of the Word Help tool, tutorials on the Microsoft.com website, a book from Barnes and Noble, and much gritting of teeth, eventually I began to appreciate the new command organization and the several new features that Word 2007 provides. Here are my top three reasons why you might want to give Word 2007 a chance:

The "Ribbon"

Once you grasp the organization of that large ribbon of buttons along the top of the Word 2007 window, it all begins to make sense. Understanding this structure is good because a similar Ribbon is found in the other Office 2007 programs, Excel, PowerPoint, and Access. The words that appear across the top of the window, which in the 2003 version comprised the Menu Bar, are now Tabs. Shaped like the tabs on a manila folder, each one represents a category of commands, such as Page Layout or Mailings. The Home Tab, which is open by default, contains the most commonly used commands as determined by the Microsoft researchers, who polled over a thousand users. Other Tabs with specialized commands appear only when needed. After you insert a photo into a document, for example, the Picture Tools Tab appears, showing all its commands.

Below each Tab are Groups of related commands. On the Home Tab, these include categories such as Clipboard, Paragraph, and Editing, all of which are labeled below their sets of command buttons. The commands with a high level of use have larger buttons than others, such as Paste in the Clipboard Group on the Home Tab. Most are represented by their familiar icons from Word 2003. Some Groups have a little diagonal arrow next the group name called the Dialog Box Launcher which, when clicked, will open a 2003 version dialog box with more detailed options.

It takes a little time to get used to the Ribbon structure, but what

(Three Reasons Why You Might Get To Love Word 2007)

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I found was that the increased visibility of the tools on the Ribbon promotes the use of a greater variety of tools. I know, for example, that the Change Case command, used to make selected text all caps or small caps, on the Ribbon was available in Word 2003, but I rarely bothered to dig far enough into the drop down menus and dialog boxes to find it.

The Office button

This large, but inconspicuous button at first eluded my attention. I thought it was just a decoration. Then when I wanted to save my document with a different file name, I clicked frantically through the Tabs looking unsuccessfully for "Save As" until I clicked in desperation the round button with a Windows logo in the top left corner of the Word window. Down dropped a menu containing the entire standard commands like New, Open, Save as, Print, most of which are the commands from the old File menu or Standard Toolbar.

Next to the commands list on the Office button is a list of your recent documents for easy access. Clicking a "pin" next each document will ensure this document will remain in this list and not get pushed off by newer ones.

The Office button also contains one of the most valuable areas in the program, the place to change program settings and preferences. It's a small button on the bottom of the Office button menu called "Word Options." Given its importance,

it's no wonder that the Office button is always accessible no matter which Tab you may be viewing.

The Quick Access Toolbar

Located adjacent to the Windows button, this toolbar is a highly customizable area which comes equipped with the default icons, Save, Undo, and Redo. It's easy to add or remove a command from this toolbar by right-clicking the button and choosing "Add to (or Remove from) Quick Access Toolbar."

The number of buttons you can put on the Quick Access toolbar is limited only by the length of the title bar, into which it encroaches as you add more items. The Quick Access toolbar can also be relocated to either below or above the Ribbon. It's a handy way to have instant access to commands you use every day.

The Ribbon structure isn't perfect. You can't add, change or remove commands on the Ribbon, Groups or Tabs unless you use programming code. You can't throw up your hands and get the Word 2003 menus back. You can't increase the font size of the Ribbon commands unless you reduce the screen resolution to a low level. Doing this will hide some buttons, which then can be viewed only after clicking an arrow. However, the new structure promotes a fuller use of the powerful commands in the Word program because they are visible more of the time. And despite that intimidating first impression of the complex-looking Ribbon organization, it really does have a fairly simple logic.

Above all, Word 2007 simplifies tasks. When I taught a

Beginning Word class last year, I found that nearly a quarter of the class had brought laptops with Word 2007, while the rest worked on lab computers with Word 2003. As I guided students through hands-on activities, I began providing instructions in both versions. To my surprise, I found that the Word 2003 instructions involved about a third more steps (clicks of the mouse) than those in Word 2007. So it might be time to give Word 2007 a closer look. ♥

STARTUPS...

Being There At The Beginning

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"Get in on the ground floor, put in a rough year or two and retire a millionaire."

"We're open to new and innovative compensation options."

"Play a key role in tomorrow's Amazon...FaceBook...oh heck, Apple!!"

You've heard these pitches.

You watched with amazement at the "ease" of funding, the fantastic company multiples thrown around and how "immediately" ordinary people were

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(Startups...)*(Continued from Page 16)*

transformed into multimillionaires, even billionaires.

They were just ordinary people with ordinary talents.

Just folks at the right place at the right time.

It could have been – should have been – *you*.

Maybe...maybe not.

There's an adrenaline high in building a new company.

There's a thrill in building something new from the ground up.

People need to be confident in their expertise, experience, certain they can make a difference.

There's a feeling of solid satisfaction in doing things the way they should be done and seeing the results of your efforts pay off for the company...and for you.

The dotcom bubble is nothing but a painful memory.

We once again have a rapid proliferation of new business opportunities.

Hardware, software, service, consumer products and special interest activities are being started.

Fueled by great ideas and a new influx of venture capital money the start-ups all have something in common. Starting salaries are low because of the stock options, benefits are reasonable, job security is nonexistent, hours are long and resources are in critically short supply.

Facing the Challenges

What the optimistic founders

don't tell you is that the chances of success are extremely slim. Actually less than two in ten survive after two years and only one in 20 will experience modest to major success.

For those who choose to join the startup it still means sharing used desks and chairs, troubleshooting your own computer, shortages of office supplies, long hours and tons of weekend work.

It also means adjusting their lifestyle to the reduced paycheck, carrying company expenses on their credit card, wooing investors and ridiculous deadlines. It also means understanding the uncertainty in knowing that a giant in the industry could roll over in its sleep and crush the fragile organization with better products/services, stronger distribution, greater visibility/credibility, more aggressive pricing.

Sometimes it means coming to the realization that the investors, not the individual or the founders are calling the shots pushing the company in a different direction. It means meeting arbitrary investor deadlines to keep the infusion of cash flowing.

But the options are still in front of you and you've been getting good press coverage.

Things are looking good.

Then it happens.

An investor pulls out.

A competitor beats you to the market with the same or slightly better product or service.

Key developers or personnel defect.

People underestimate the

difficulty and the time required to accomplish key tasks.

Product or key supplier delays force the company to delay the product/service launch.

Startups have a much narrower margin for error. The events that are outside of the individual's control can have significant repercussions.

Keeping the bad news inside the organization is one of employees' responsibilities. Keeping the investors happy is also their responsibility. Getting mediocre to lukewarm reception for the "almost ready" product or service is their responsibility. Not getting favorable coverage for the company's progress to date is partially their fault.

Suddenly, they are tainted. They are infected. They are fired.

Yes But...

Before people enter the promising world of the startup, they need to understand the odds. There are lots of statistics available. The bottom line is that very few startups are successful. Many of them fail spectacularly. Those that are successful are not necessarily incredibly successful, but they manage to keep their heads above water.

If you're still inclined to take the plunge, you should do your due diligence.

Ask questions:

Is there competent management?

What does the competitive environment look like?

How is the company being funded?

(Continued on Page 18)

(Startups...)*(Continued from Page 17)*

What are the company's contractual requirements to the investors?

Who are the key employees already on board?

How sound, realistic is the business plan?

How long before the company is profitable?

If people are going to join the company they should have an employment lawyer review the documents, especially the stock options package.

Options are lottery tickets. They aren't primary compensation; they are a fringe benefit.

If you look closely, many of the IPO "instant" millionaires/billionaires really aren't. Many vest over a period of years. In some instances the options can be counted (and taxed) as income. Typically these options can't be sold for six months to a year after the IPO.

Until the company is sold or goes public the stock is nothing more than expensive wallpaper.

If you're being recruited to a startup, have an exit plan.



What will you do if the company fails?

What happens if you get tired of

the heavy workload, long hours and low pay?

What happens if you don't meet the company's expectations or the company doesn't meet your expectations?

Have a written agreement covering your leaving the company, especially if you've got a piece of the action.

The options may or may not be worth something over the long haul but the pressure cooker environment of a startup isn't for everyone.

Believe in YOU

Once you've made the commitment, you must believe in yourself.

Listen to the inner voices. Be intuitive.

If it feels like management is cutting too many corners or is shady in some of its dealings, listen up. If something tells you management is desperate and has hit a fiscal or physical stone wall, listen.

People should pay attention to their gut feelings. They are probably right.

Over the past 25 plus years we've collected more wallpaper than we care to admit as a consultant to startups. We've justified in our own minds each of these times that we could make a difference, we could overcome the situation, we could help turn things around.

It hasn't worked...yet.

But who knows. Maybe your next startup will be the one that changes the world.

Wouldn't it be great to play a part in making it happen?



Maybe...just maybe ♥

DO A FAVOR FOR A FRIEND, LACS, AND YOURSELF

Anon

Most of your friends have a computer. Some of them would surely benefit from membership in L.A.C.S. If one of them becomes a regular member, your membership will be extended by three (3) months. Several LACS members have already reaped the reward: Paula Van Berkom, Jim Mcknight, and Mark Presky, to name a few, have brought in several new members.

How about you? ♥



Membership Information

Annual membership Dues:

Regular	\$ 40
Family/Associate	12
Students	18
Contributing	50
Supporter	75
Benefactor	100

Subscription to *User Friendly* is included with membership.

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.

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

- ◇ Monthly printed Newsletter *User Friendly*. We publish your article submissions or free classified ads to buy or sell your computer items.
- ◇ Get Help via phone from Members and Quick Consultants listed in *User Friendly*.
- ◇ Get Help via e-mail by using our LACSLIST Yahoo Group Mail List. Simply address your e-mail questions to [lacslist \(at\) yahoogroups.com](mailto:lacslist(at)yahoogroups.com)
- ◇ Receive important news and announcements via LACS's "Yahoo Group" e-mail lists.
- ◇ Special Interest Groups (SIGs) to help solve your problems regarding selected topics.

- ◇ Eligibility to win door prizes in the General Meeting's "Lucky Draw".
- ◇ Occasional swap meets and information on trade shows.
- ◇ Periodic product discounts, special offers and group purchases.
- ◇ Free software and computer books (if you review them for *User Friendly*).
- ◇ Rewards for Recruiting Members: LACS will give you a three month's extension of your membership for each new Regular member you recruit.

Change of Address

Send E--mail address changes to [changes \(at\) lacs.org](mailto:changes(at)lacs.org)

For more information:
Telephone (310) 289-7177

LACS

Membership Application

May 27, 2010

Please return this form with applicable fees to:

Los Angeles Computer Society, 12228 Venice Blvd., #504, LOS ANGELES CA 90066-3814

Please PRINT CLEARLY

Renew Regular - \$40.00 Associate - \$12.00 Student (Full Time Only) - \$18.00

New Contributor - \$50.00 Supporter - \$75.00 Benefactor - \$100.00 Other

Name: First _____ Last _____ Name of Associate: First _____ Last _____

Company: _____ Your Title/Occupation _____ Retired?

Address (Home): _____

City, State, Zip + 4 _____

Phone: (Home): _____ (Business) _____

(Do not Publish Phone No. in Roster)
e-mail address: _____ Who Invited You To Join LACS? _____

USER FRIENDLY

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Los Angeles Computer Society
 12228 Venice Blvd., #504
 Los Angeles CA 90066-3814
 Voicemail: 310-398-0366
<http://www.lacspc.org>



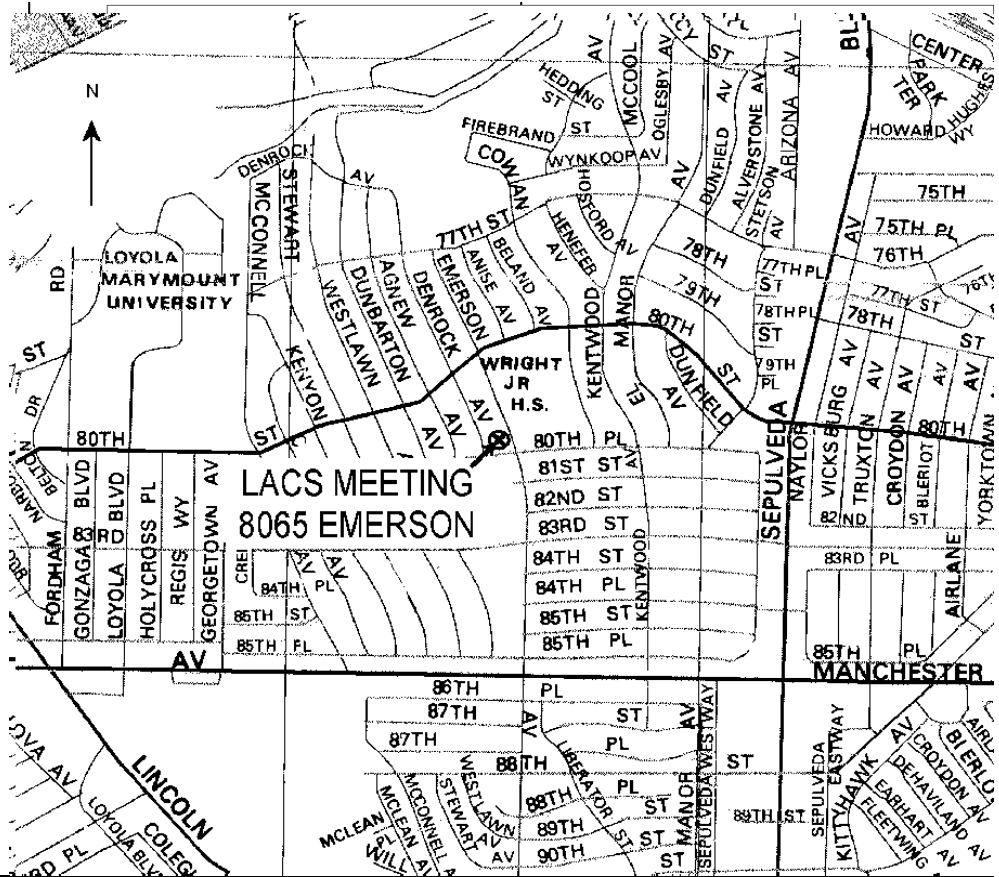
DIRECTIONS TO GENERAL MEETING

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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