

User Friendly

FEBRUARY 2014



Member of

An International
Association of Technology
& Computer User Groups

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FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING

Bitcoins and Crypto-Currencies

Speaker: Jonathan Nowak

Jonathan got his first computer in 1983, an Atari 800. Since then, he has been a self-proclaimed "geek," as this sparked his interest in computers. For the past 20 years, Jonathan has provided technical support for large corporations.



Jonathan has been a member of Toastmasters since 2010, and an active member of the District One Speakers Bureau since 2013.

He will be combining his passions for Computers and Public Speaking, and discussing Bitcoins and Crypto-Currencies, a new emerging trend in both computers and world finance.

This may be a topic that most of us have heard about, but don't know much about. Come and learn!

Tuesday, February 11, 2014, 7 - 9 PM

Fellowship Hall, 8065 Emerson Ave., Westchester 90045

An informal Computer Forum meets from 6:00 to 6:50 P.M. to answer individual questions. All are welcome.

After the meeting some members may meet at Dinah's Family Restaurant at Sepulveda and Centinela. This will be announced after the meeting.

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

JANUARY GENERAL MEETING REPORT

Elliot Silverstein, LACS

DATA PRIVACY DAY

Judy Taylour was the presenter at the January 14 General Meeting. She is the President of the Santa Clarita Valley Computer Club. Her presentation was related to Data Privacy Day (DPD), January 28, 2014, and its implications.



(Continued on Page 5)

WELCOME ALL**Charlotte Semple**

Acting Data Base Manager, LACS

New Members (4)

Guy Clark

George Mulak

Elliot Stern

Rich Waters

Renewals (13)

Loling Beckman*

Patricia Downing

Jim Fimiani

Judith Garellana

Allen Greenberg

Henry Harris

Robert Hoffman

Gilbert Ialongo*

Carol Johnson

Monique Marie

Ray Laaly

Stephen Marsh

Ann Trank

* Contributor

**FROM YOUR EDITOR****Roster**

An updated LACS member roster is in the center of this issue. You may pull it out to keep and to make it easier to contact other members.

**E-Mail Lists**

If you are a new member, or you are not yet on an LACS mailing list, please follow these instructions to join the lists:

To subscribe to the two primary LACS mail lists, send your request via an e-mail with your name in the message body to each of the following addresses. Since all LACS mail lists are for members only, your name will be checked with our membership data base before your subscription request is approved:

lacslist-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

lacspsc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Send questions to: mail_lists@lacspsc.org

User Friendly In Color

You may go to the LACS website at www.lacspsc.org to see *User Friendly* in color. You can also click on any of the website links to open them directly without typing them in.

Check your e-mail regularly to be sure the SIG you are planning to attend will be meeting.

LACS really needs some members to learn what the Database Manager and the Treasurer do. If members start learning these positions now, there won't be a panic when someone can't continue. If several members are familiar with each job there won't be so much pressure on one person.

CASH FLOW

December 17, 2013 -

January 20, 2014

Charlotte Semple,

Treasurer, Pro Tem, LACS

**Current Total Liquid Assets**

Bank of America Checking \$13,182.82

Gross Receipts

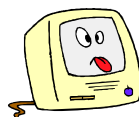
Member Dues \$182.00

Holiday Dinner 504.00

Total Gross Receipts \$686.00**Expenses**

General Meeting 90.96

Newsletter 264.00

Total Expenses \$345.96**Net Surplus \$341.04****FIX YOUR PC FOR FREE?**

Jim McKnight has an open offer to all LACS members to diagnose, repair, disinfect, or up-grade member's PC's for free. There are certain limitations to Jim's offer, so see the details by clicking the "Fix my PC for Free?" link at www.jimopi.net.

Non-members can wisely invest in a one-year LACS membership (\$40.00), and Jim will fix your PC problem, too.

FIELD TRIP INTERNATIONAL PRINTING MUSEUM



The International Printing Museum features the Lindner Collection of Antique Printing Machinery. See their website at www.printmuseum.org.

This is a dynamic museum with operable machinery, devoted to bringing the history of books, printing and the book arts to life for diverse audiences. The staff and volunteers take one of the

world's most significant collections of antique printing machinery and interpret it for today's audiences through working demonstrations.

Emil Rozek, an LACS member, is a docent at the museum. He has arranged a personal tour for us which will include the Gallery Tour, the Books Arts Lab and a special video, "Linotype: The Film."

DATE: Saturday, March 1, 2014

TIME: 10:00 A.M. to about 2:00 P.M.

WHERE: 315 W. Torrance Blvd
Carson CA 90745

COST: \$10:00, including lunch with the docents. You may pay at the door.

RSVP: By February 26 by e-mail to Emil at erozek@la.twcbc.com or call 310-823-3811 or 310-503-7364

They need to know how much food to provide.

You may bring guests.

The facilities have easy handicapped access and plenty of free parking.

Please mark your calendars and watch for further information. ♦



SOFTWARE SIG REPORT

Leah Clark, Stephanie Nordlinger, and Paula Van Berkomp, LACS

The Software SIG met at Santa Monica College Bundy Campus on January 6. Paula Van Berkomp explained the annual Data Privacy Day, and Stephanie Nordlinger discussed the legalities of reasonable search and seizure.

In January the United States, Canada and 27 other countries of the European Union celebrate Data Privacy Day. This is designed to raise awareness of, and to generate discussion about, data privacy rights and practices. Paula touched upon a few ways to protect yourself while on line.



Cookies

First, Paula showed us a video explaining Cookies. A link to it can be found on <http://staysafeonline.org/data-privacy-day/>. A cookie is a small piece of data sent from a website and stored in a user's web browser while the user is browsing that website. Every time the user loads the website, the browser sends the cookie back to the server to notify the website of the user's previous activity.

Cookies are essentially text files that contain information your browser saves in one of its folders for some websites that do send out cookies. By themselves, cookies pose no risk since they do not contain viruses. Nor do they spy on your PC content to compromise security. Cookies enable sites you've visited to remember who you are and your preferences. Sites like Amazon can recommend a book for you based on the genre you looked for in your last visit.

You can specify your cookie options in Firefox 8.0 by selecting Tools>Options>Privacy. In the Privacy box, you can disallow websites from tracking you. Also you can delete individual cookies or delete all cookies with one click. Every browser has similar options available.

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(Software SIG Report)

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Viruses

Viruses are harmful computer programs that can be transmitted in a number of ways. They are designed to spread themselves from one computer to another to give the criminals who create them access to those infected computers.

Spyware

Spyware and Adware can download themselves onto your computer without your permission, and make your computer do things you don't want it to do, like steal your password.

Botnets

Botnets are networks of computers infected by malware and controlled remotely by criminals from anywhere around the globe. Many are designed to harvest data such as passwords, social security numbers, credit card numbers, addresses, and other personal information.

Spam

Spam is the electronic equivalent of junk mail. There are ways to avoid spam. They include enabling filters in your email programs, reporting spam, and hiding your email address from online profiles.

Phishing and Spear Phishing

Phishing emails can look just like they come from legitimate financial institutions, government agencies or businesses. If you are unsure whether an email request is legitimate, contact the company directly.

Spear phishing is highly specialized attacks against a specific target to collect information or to gain access to systems. A cybercriminal may launch an attack against a business to gain credentials to access a list of customers. Since they have gained access to the company's website or network, the email they send may look authentic because the recipient is already a customer of the business.

Government Spying

After the break, Stephanie Nordlinger discussed privacy in the context of U.S. Govern-

ment (mostly NSA) spying. She provided some context – the text of the 4th Amendment and the kinds of “reasonable” searches traditionally permitted in the U.S. These include “probable cause” searches for evidence of suspected criminal activity and border searches when a person crosses a national boundary (including checkpoints that are nearby on transportation corridors). The third category is administrative searches that you volunteer for when you enter a different state like California (for agricultural products), board a plane or other mass transportation vehicle, enter a secure building or area, etc. These kinds of searches have been deemed “reasonable” and therefore lawful by the courts.

The National Security Agency's collection of vast amounts of metadata on Americans' domestic and international telephone calls and emails, etc. and its searches of these records are now being challenged as “unreasonable” and therefore unlawful. Stephanie referred us to two organizations that are leading legal and political fights against such surveillance of mostly lawful activity: the American Civil Liberties Union (www.aclu.org) and the Electronic Frontier Foundation (www.eff.org/nsa-spying).

Stephanie found on the EFF website a 17-page timeline of authorizations for investigations of and evidence of NSA spying, which she tried to print out. The first page was fine, but the remaining pages had only headers and footers! You are encouraged to go online for more information and perhaps to join either or both of these organizations to participate in our fight for privacy from unreasonable searches of our communications. ♦



CHINESE LUNCH SIG REPORT

Leah Clark, LACS

Six LACS members attended the Chinese Lunch SIG on January 7 at Fu's Palace. Even though the group was small, we enjoyed good food and conversation.



The food consisted of sweet and sour shrimp, Kung Pao Chicken, beef and Chinese Peas, Buddha's Feast (mixed vegetables), string beans, choice of hot and sour or egg-drop soup, chicken salad, egg rolls, tea, and fortune cookie.

The topics of conversation included the resignation of Sherif Baca, health care, climate change and the weather, animal welfare, cyber privacy, and LACS activities. There was even a little computer talk!

A relaxing time was had by those who attended. A break from a busy day is good! More members attending would have made it even better.

The restaurant may not be able to give us the private room if more people don't participate, so please consider checking it out on February 4. You may bring guests. ♦

(January General Meeting Report)

(Continues from Page 1)

An audio recording of her presentation is available on the LACS website, www.lacspc.org, under the heading "Podcasts, 2014, Data Privacy Day." Her comments on many aspects of computer privacy, malware, and security included the following:

Much information concerning computer security can be found at <http://www.staysafeonline.org>. It is probably worthwhile to look at this site to become familiar with its contents.

Always be sure your programs have the latest available updates. It is a good idea to keep up-to-date by selecting automatic rather than manual updates.

When possible, get updates or new downloads from the company that wrote the software, rather

than from third party websites. One of the benefits of this is that you are less likely to receive unwanted extra apps or programs during the download.

Java has been plagued with malware vulnerabilities for some time, despite their efforts to repair the site. Java is not needed for most online activities. Judy recommends deleting it if it's on your computer.

A lot of current information and commentary on computer security can be found on the site "Krebs on Security", at <http://krebsonsecurity.com/>. Among other topics, Krebs comments on the latest releases of updates from Microsoft and others.

An interesting suggestion is to send emails addressed to oneself, with any other recipients listed only in the bcc area, so their addresses don't appear in each others email headers. Then, if your email is hacked, the addresses of your other recipients won't be seen by the hacker. If you do not put any address in the "to" space, and only show the desired recipients in the bcc list, the emails will still be delivered.

In general, don't click on an email from eastern Europe unless you're quite sure it is legitimate. And if you see a story or warning that seems strange or unbelievable, check on it by looking it up on the internet in "Scopes" or "Urban Legends."

Use strong passwords, preferably different passwords for each site. You can use a password storing program to keep track of these passwords, but it's good also to write them down somewhere away from your computer.

Judy recommends Avast as your anti-virus program. Kaspersky is also very good.

Microsoft Security Essentials is not as good as it had been, Judy says Microsoft no longer recommends it as a primary anti-virus. She also recommends Malwarebytes as a manually initiated double-checking anti-malware program.

Judy said to be aware that banks don't send notices by email. An email that purports to be from your bank is probably fraudulent.

One can encrypt messages and other information. For example, look into

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www.Truecrypt.org.

Don't use debit cards online.

Mobil phones are susceptible to malware. If you are using a mobile phone, protect it with security software. And don't show your home address on your cell phone or GPS. If someone finds it, for example in your car, he could go to your home address, use the garage door opener in your car, and obtain entry.

Backup all important data onto an external drive, and keep this drive away from the computer. Also, disconnect this drive when it is not in use, so it can't be infected by malware.

Malware known as ransom ware is sometimes seen. The perpetrators lock all the information and programs in your computer, and offer to unlock it so you can access it, for a hefty fee.

A suggestion useful in protecting identity theft is to have the credit report companies (Experian, etc.) freeze your accounts so no one can inquire about a loan or open an account in you name without the credit company alerting you and requesting your approval. This would make it more complicated for you to buy an expensive item on credit (e.g., a car), but then an intruder can't buy it at all.

The presentation by Judy Taylour was quite interesting and informative, and perhaps a bit scary, but the audience appreciated all the warnings and advice. ♦

GOOGLE TRANSLATE**Bill Crowe, 2nd Vice President**

Sarasota PCUG, FL

PC Monitor, October 2013

www.spcug.org[editor \(at\) spcug.org](mailto:editor@spcug.org)

Google Translate is a simple mobile translation tool that supports more than 60 languages, and even speaks some of your translations aloud. With its dead-simple interface and variety of input options, it's perfect for pumping out translations in a pinch. To use Google Translate, select your input and output languages, then choose a method for entering your text. You can type text using your mobile device's keyboard or say the words aloud. The translation will appear quickly and in some cases it will speak the words in the translated language. The only drawback for this iPad/iPhone application, at this time, is that you must have an internet connection to use it. ♦

Editors note: Google Translate is also available online at <http://translate.google.com/>

**PROTECT YOUR LAPTOP****Kathy Frey**

Computer Club of Green Valley AZ

Green Bytes, October, 2013

www.ccgval.org[Freyrbgv \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:Freyrbgv@gmail.com)

Traveling with a laptop in tow? Then here are a few tips to keep it from being stolen.

- Never leave it in your car.
- Keep it locked with a strong password and lock your case.
- Do not put it on the floor of a restaurant, meeting room, airport, etc. If you do, then

put your leg through the strap so you can feel its presence.

- Do not keep your password in or around the case.
- Do not leave it in the care of someone you just met so you can go to the restroom or talk to an airport agent.
- Turn on alarms if you have them so you can hear if someone is tampering with your laptop or laptop case.
- Check on the Internet for other ways to secure your valuables whether it be a laptop, iPad, iPhone or another device.

Treat your electronic gadgets like cash. ♦

I/O, I/O, IT'S OFF TO WORK WE GO**Phil Sorrentino, Past President**

Sarasota PCUG, Florida

PC Monitor, November 2013

www.spcug.org[philsorr \(at\) yahoo.com](mailto:philsorr@yahoo.com)

The work I'm talking about here is computer data transfer. I/O or Input/Output is a term used to collect all the ways you can move data into and/or out of a computer. (This may be a review for some, but there are a few new ideas that might make it worth the time.) For all of those that have been with computers from the beginning, circa 1980, the only way into or out of your computer, then, was through the serial and parallel ports (the keyboard, mouse, and display interfaces were really internal and were only used for their intended purposes).



Fortunately, the serial and parallel interfaces have been replaced with interfaces that are much faster and much more flexible and easier to use. Today, most of the I/O is conducted over the Universal Serial Bus (USB) interface. However, there are a few special purpose interfaces that have become basic to computer use.

Early on, audio was included in the computers bag of tricks so we now typically have an audio-in for a microphone and an audio-out for speakers. Many computers also have another audio-in, usually tagged as line-in. Audio-out is typically used to drive external speakers and line-in is typically used to input a stereo analog signal for use by audio processing software.

Also added early on was an Ethernet connection which has become the computer's on-ramp to the Internet. Yes, and Wi-Fi (*Wireless-Fidelity*) has certainly become the mechanism for all, laptops, netbooks, tablets, and smartphones to get on to the Internet. Wi-Fi is a wireless I/O and therefore needs no connectors or wires. It is all accomplished by the transmitter and receiver hardware and software within the computer.



There are two other wireless interfaces, Bluetooth and NFC. Bluetooth is becoming very popular as a way to easily connect various Bluetooth compatible devices

to the computer with no wires cluttering up the computer area. Bluetooth sets up a PAN (Personal Area Network) around the computer, usually within 10 meters. Bluetooth is also finding its way into many places like the living room entertainment center and the automobile.

NFC (Near Field Communications) is a very short range (less than 4 inches) wireless interface that may or may not be used on a computer but will probably be used with smartphones to help make the electronic wallet possible in the future.

Not so early on, around the time laptops became portable, rather than luggable, a video display output port started to appear. This became the very popular VGA (Video Graphics Array) output port (a.k.a. the RGB port because it provided Red, Green, and Blue analog video signals). The VGA port was typically used with an external display device like a larger display or a projector.

For a brief time, the DVI (Digital Video Interface) began to take over the job of moving digital video information from the computer to an external display device, but it was soon overtaken by a more comprehensive and versatile interface.

Today, the VGA and the DVI ports, are being replaced by a digital multi-media port, the HDMI (High-Definition Multimedia Interface) port. The HDMI port carries both digital video and digital audio signals from the computer to a digital display device. (HDMI is also used in most new digital entertainment centers and digital televisions. Many new digital TVs even provide multiple HDMI input ports, so you can connect cable boxes and DVD players to the TV.) HDMI is also being used on small devices such as smartphones and camcorders and as such is being made available in mini and micro sizes.

So besides audio and video, most of the digital data that is transferred to and from the computer is done via the USB ports.

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(I/O, I/O, It's Off To Work We Go)

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Modern computers usually have multiple USB connectors (laptops maybe 2 to 4, and desktops may have 2 to many). The USB port is a rectangular plug that is keyed so you cannot plug the connector in incorrectly. The USB connector also provides a limited amount of power to the device connected to it, which can be used to charge a battery or even power the device. Because the USB connector provides power to the connecting device, many smartphones and media players charge their batteries through the USB connector.



Currently USB is at version 3.0. (Early versions were 1.0 which was little used, 1.1 which was very popular but slow at only 12 Mbps, and 2.0 which was ubiquitous, and fast at up to 480 Mbps.) USB 3.0 devices began to appear in January 2010. USB 3.0 has a maximum data rate of 5 Gbps, yes, that's 5 thousand Mega bits per second. That is a maximum, and most data transfers will probably not be near 5 Gbps, but they will be very fast. Fortunately, USB 3.0 is backward compatible with both 1.1 and 2.0. Backward compatibility means that devices at any USB version can operate together, although the data transfer will only be at the speed of the lowest USB version.

USB 3.0 connectors usually have a blue center post to identify them as 3.0. Because USB is used on so many small devices, like smartphones and tablets, USB connectors come in Mini and Micro sizes. USB has become so fast and ubiquitous that it has just about eclipsed the other, almost popular, serial bus, IEEE1394 (a.k.a. FireWire).

There are a few other interfaces that may show up on a higher-end computer. These tend to be for special purposes or are extremely fast. One interface, for the purpose of connecting external hard drives, is eSATA (external Serial Advanced Technology Attachment). This interface is not as popular as it was before USB 3.0 became available, but it is still a way to extend the computer's hard drive capability.

Thunderbolt is another special purpose interface, rarely seen on typical computers, with speeds up to 10 Gbps. Thunderbolt can connect multiple compatible devices in a daisy chained configuration. DisplayPort is another special purpose Video Display interface that is very fast, it is advertised at up to 21.6 Gbps, and is designed for multiple displays.

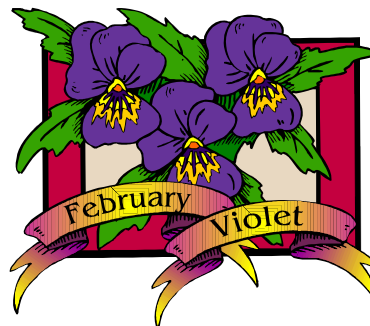






These very fast interfaces may be found on professional Display systems that require resolution and refresh rates far beyond those of HDMI. This type of display may be found in medical systems that may be used to display MRI Scans or X-Rays. DisplayPort may be found on some high-end machines, maybe gaming machines, and if resolutions beyond 1080p ever find their way to the home, you may find DisplayPort driving those display devices.

The job of moving digital data around is tough work, but these interfaces seem to be up to the job. I'm sure the ones that will come in the future will probably be faster, more versatile and even more capable. ♦

**"Fear less, hope more, eat less,
chew more, whine less, breathe
more, talk less, say more, hate
less, love more,
and good things will be yours"**

~ Swedish Proverb



FEBRUARY into MARCH 2014				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 FEBRUARY Software SIG 7:00 PM	4 Chinese Lunch SIG Noon	5	6	7
10 Basics & Beyond SIG 7 :00 PM	11 General Meting 7:00 PM	12  Lincoln	13	14 
17  Board Meeting*	18	19	20	21/22 
24 Digital Photo SIG 7:00 PM	25	26	27/28	1 MARCH Print Museum
3 MARCH Software SIG 7:00 PM	4 Chinese Lunch SIG Noon	5	6	7

Calendar is subject to change. Check your e-mail or with the SIG leader before attending a meeting.

* The Board will meet in a private home in January and February due to S. M. College holidays

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs)

SIG meetings are lead by and for LACS members. Visitors are welcome to attend up to six SIGs. meetings (three of the same SIG) before being asked to join LACS. To inquire about a SIG, call the contact person in advance. Acting SIG Coordinator: Heshmat Laaly, [sig_coord\(at\)lacspsc.org](mailto:sig_coord(at)lacspsc.org)

Basics & Beyond SIG	Kim Stocksdales	310-720-0603	2nd Mon. 7 PM SMC, Bundy Cam- pus
Digital Photo SIG	Nancy Cattell	310-452-2130	4th Mon. 7 PM, SMC, Bundy Campus
	Elliot Silverstein	310-670-1544	
Luncheon SIG	Richard Harmetz	310-277-6505	1st Tues. Noon, Fu's Palace
Software SIG	Volunteer Needed *		1st Mon. 7 PM, SMC, Bundy Campus

* To volunteer, please contact the President or Vice President.

ADDRESSES

Dinah's Family Restaurant, 6521 Sepulveda Blvd., LA 90045 (on Sepulveda, just S. of Centinela)
Fu's Palace, 8751 W. Pico Blvd., LA 90035 (one block E. of Robertson Blvd, parking in back)
SMC Bundy Campus, 3171 S. Bundy Drive, LA 90066 (1/2 block S. 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. Or you may use a Helper's e-mail address, found in your LACS Roster. 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(at)lacspsc.org) or call Leah Clark at 310-677-2792. More Quick Consultants are always needed. You may decline or postpone a call if it comes at the wrong time.

America Online - 20	Lotus Word Pro, Approach - 56	Open Office - 60
Anti Malware - 56	Mozilla Firefox, Thunderbird - 56	Picasa - 58
Digital Imaging, Editing - 50	MS Excel - 59	Quicken - 20
Digital Photography - 58	MS Publisher - 2	QuickBooks -52
Dragon Naturally Speaking -9	MS Word - 9, 53	Viruses - 46
Genealogy - 20, 34	MS Outlook - 59, 20	Visual Basic - 57
Graphics - 33	MS Outlook Express - 59	Websites - 57
Hardware - 55, 56	MS PowerPoint - 59	Win XP/Vista - 56, 60
LA FreeNet—24	MS Publisher - 52	WordPerfect - 20, 33

No.	Name	Daytime Phone	Eves/Weekends	From	To
2	Mercer, Bob	310-837-5648	310-837-5648	9:00 AM	10:00 PM
9	Hershman, Irv	310-397-9453	310-397-9453	11:00 AM	11:00 PM
20	Nordlinger, Stephanie	323-299-3244	323-299-3244	5:00 PM	10:00 PM
24	Springer, Karl	424-646-3410	424-646-3410	10:00 AM	10:00 PM
33	Kierulff, Cap	310-472-9206	310-472-9206	9:00 AM	9:00 PM
34	Clark, Leah	310-677-2792	310-677-2792	9:00 AM	5:00 PM
46	Martin, Todd	818-766-1151	818-766-1151	10:00 AM	10:00 PM
50	Silverstein, Elliott	310-670-1544	310-670-1544	10:00 AM	10:00 PM
52	Semple, Charlotte	310-398-5052	NA.	10:00 AM	5:00 PM
53	Beckman, Loling	310-471-7893	N.A.	10:00 AM	6:00 PM
55	Strate, Steve	310-450-7478	N.A.	9:00 AM	5:00 PM
56	McKnight, Jim	310-823-7829	310-823-7829	8:00 AM	7:00 PM
57	Ialongo, Gilbert	310-641-7906	N.A.	9:00 AM	5:00 PM
58	Schneir, Jerry	310-451-4140	310-451-4140	9:00 AM	10:00 PM
59	Van Berkorn, Paula	310-398-6734	N.A.	9:00 AM	5:00 PM
60	Johnson, Carol	310-372-8535	310-372-8535	10:00 AM	9:00 PM



OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND LEADERS

Title	Name	Term	Telephone	E-Mail Address
President	Stephanie Nordlinger	2013	323-299-3244	pres(at)lacspc.org
Vice President	Maurice Stephenson	2014	310-314-8489	vp(at)lacspc.org
Secretary	Lee Freehling	2014	310-837-4022	secretary(at)lacspc.org
Treasurer	Charlotte Semple	2014	310-398-5052	treasurer(at)lacspc.org
Deputy Treasurer	Vacant—Please Apply			
Director	Nancy Cattell	2014	310-452-2130	Please see the Roster
Director	Ray Crovella	2014	310-215-0076	Please see the Roster
Director	Lance Hegamin	2015	424-248-5262	Please see the Roster
Director	Heshmat Laaly	2015	310-838-7140	Please see the Roster
Director	Jim Louie	2015	310-473-4247	Please see the Roster
Director	Jim McKnight	2014	310-823-7829	Please see the Roster
Director	Paula Van Berkom	2015	310-398-6734	Please see the Roster
APCUG Rep.	Stephanie Nordlinger		323-299-3244	apcug_rep(at)lacspc.org
Changes	Karl Springer		424-646-3410	changes(at)lacspc.org
Corporate Counsel	Stephanie Nordlinger		323-299-3244	counsel(at)lacspc.org
CCSC Computer Lab	Lee Freehling		310-837-4022	secretary(at)lacspc.org
Hospitality Chair	Sylvia Davis		213-924-4927	Please see the Roster.
Membership Database	Gene Jacobs		310-397-8457	Please see the Roster
Newsletter Editor	Leah Clark		310-677-2792	editor(at)lacspc.org
Program Chair	Maurice Stephenson		310-314-8489	program(at)lacspc.org
Publicity	Mark Presky		310-398-0366	publicity(at)lacspc.org
Quick Consultants	Leah Clark		310-677-2792	editor(at)lacspc.org
SIG Coordinator, acting	Heshmat Laaly		310-838-7140	sig_coord(at)lacspc.org
Web Master	Gilbert Ialongo		310-641-7906	webmaster(at)lacspc.org
Welcome Chair	Ida Riordan		310-837-9851	Please see the Roster

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The Editor of *User Friendly* will accept contributions of any suitable length from members. Articles should be sent to the Editor, [editor \(at\) lacspc.org](mailto:editor(at)lacspc.org), as **plain text** in the body of an e-mail message or as a Word document. The deadline for submitting articles is the **20th of the month**. The Editor asks that articles be submitted **UNFORMATTED**.

Interesting Internet Finds

Steve Costello

President, Editor Boca Raton Computer Society
Boca Bits, October 2013

[http://sefcug.com/
president\(at\)brcs.org](http://sefcug.com/president(at)brcs.org)

In the course of going through the more than 200 news feeds, I often run across things that I think might be of interest to other user group members. Here are some items I found interesting during October 2013.

How risky will it be to keep running Windows XP?

<http://askleo.com/how-risky-will-it-be-to-keep-running-windows-xp/>

POP vs. IMAP: What Do They Mean and Which One Should You Use?

[http://www.ilovefreesoftware.com/31/
windows/pop-vs-imap.html](http://www.ilovefreesoftware.com/31/windows/pop-vs-imap.html)

Talk to your Navigating Device: Android or iPhone

<http://geeksontour.tv/2013/08/talk-to-your-navigating-device-android-or-iphone/>

Can You Really Be Anonymous Online?

<http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/can-you-really-be-anonymous-online/>

Why You Don't Need an Outbound Firewall On Your Laptop or Desktop PC

<http://www.howtogeek.com/172349/why-you-dont-need-an-outbound-firewall-on-your-laptop-or-desktop-pc/>

How To Use the New Google+ Photo Editing Tools

<http://www.groovypost.com/howto/google-plus-photo-editing-tools/>

Where to Donate Your Used Tech

<http://www.wonderoftech.com/where-to-donate-your-used-tech/>

How to Keep Your Internet Usage Private

[http://socialmediatoday.com/
socialbarrel/1765451/online-privacy-how-keep-your-internet-usage-private-infographic](http://socialmediatoday.com/socialbarrel/1765451/online-privacy-how-keep-your-internet-usage-private-infographic)

How to View and Work on Google Drive Files When You're Offline

<http://www.guidingtech.com/24186/google-drive-offline/> ♦

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Business card	\$15
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WE'RE on the WEB!

<http://www.lacspsc.org>

TINY COMPUTERS

Dick Maybach

Brookdale Computer Users' Group, NJ

BUG Bytes, November, 2013

www.bcug.com

[n2nd\(at\)att.net](mailto:n2nd(at)att.net)

Personal computers are vital appliances for most of us. We use them to balance our checkbooks, calculate our taxes, communicate with friends and family, store our memories, and keep us informed. This is much different than when they were first introduced, when we felt free to perform experiments using them that today are unthinkable because of the risk of losing valuable data. As a result, we have the ironic situation that as our PCs become more and more complex, we know less and less about them. A solution is to acquire a smaller and simpler computer just to play with. Ideally, it won't take up much space on our crowded computer desk and will be cheap to replace if something goes horribly (or wonder-fully, if you're adventuresome) wrong.

There are dozens of these tiny computers, but here I'll talk about just two, the Arduino and the Raspberry Pi. Both are supported by active on-line communities, both are described in several books, both are open source, which means you are free to make any changes you like to their software, and both are cheap – less than \$50. (You will probably pay more for a complete starter or experimenter's kit.) Both were developed by educators, the Arduino in Italy and the Raspberry Pi in the UK, for the purpose of helping people learn about computers and computing. However, the two are quite different.

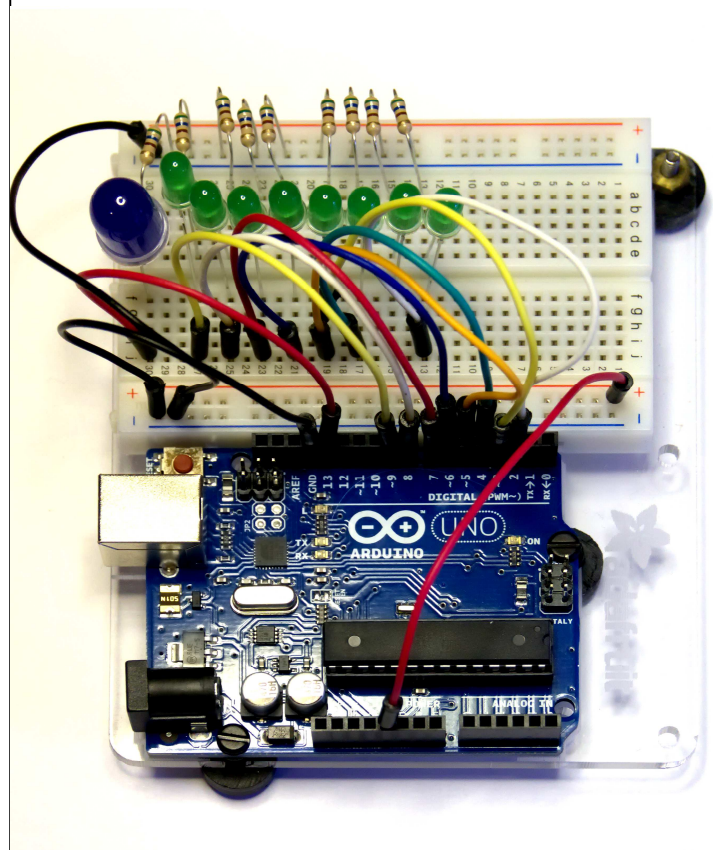
The Arduino is really a controller, about as smart as your washing machine, and its inputs and outputs are voltages on its pins. It runs only one program at a time, and once started, runs it forever. As you use an Arduino, you'll be learning programming and electronics.

The Raspberry Pi is a real computer that runs Linux and comes with a full complement of PC software, including a Web browser. Its inputs and outputs are a keyboard, mouse, graphical display, and Ethernet and USB ports. As you use the Raspberry Pi, you'll learn program-

ming, networking, and operating system operation and configuration.

Arduino

The Arduino (<http://www.arduino.cc/>), like the Raspberry Pi, is about the size of a credit card. In the photo below, the Arduino is the blue card in the foreground. Normally, it's programmed and powered through the USB connector at the rear of the left edge. Once, a program has been loaded, it can be powered via the black connector at the front of the left edge (for example by a 9-volt battery). This unit illustrated is mated to a solderless breadboard, on which you can build circuits just by pushing component leads into its holes. Jumpers connect the breadboard with the Arduino's input/output pins along its front and rear edges. The Arduino is almost always used as a circuit element, and many experimenter's kits are available to get you started. These usually include an Arduino, a breadboard, and a collection of jumpers and electronic parts, e.g., LEDs, switches, motors, and sensors. Make an Internet search, and you will certainly find many interesting



(Continued on Page 14)

(Tiny Computers)*(Continued from Page 13)*

products and projects. My favorite vendor is Adafruit, but it has many fine competitors.

Getting started with the Arduino is quite easy. Go to their home page, <http://www.arduino.cc/>, and download the Integrated Development Environment (IDE), which is available for Linux, Mac OS X, and Windows. (Linux users can also find it in their repositories.) Connect an Arduino board to a USB port and start the IDE. As you may be able to tell from the screenshot, the Arduino uses a variant of the C programming language. The example here is the program blink, which just cycles an LED on and off. This is the equivalent of the classic "Hello World" program that is almost every C programmer's first effort.

The Arduino's capabilities are quite modest – typically the processor runs at 16 MHz, has about 20 I/O pins (some analog, some digital), and is equipped with 32 kbytes of EEPROM (for programs) and 2 kbytes of RAM (for data). Normally, you would use the Arduino just to control the hardware and send any data it

collects to a PC for analysis. To make this easier, consider using the Processing language on your computer, available at <http://processing.org/>. It's very close to what the Arduino uses and has an almost identical IDE.

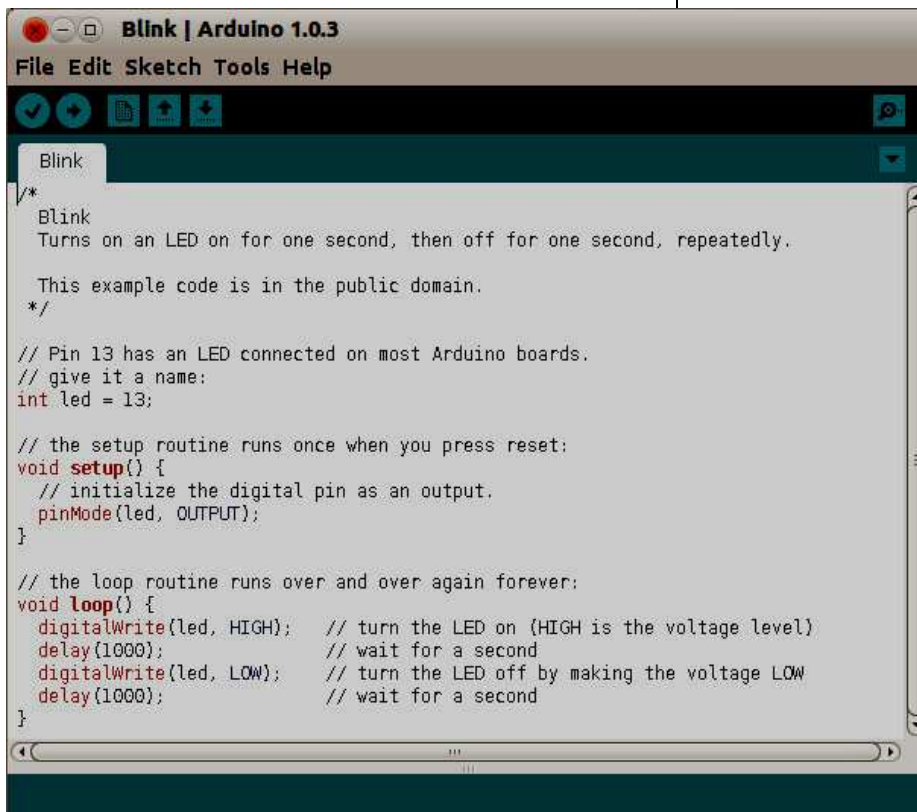
You should be able to get started using only information available from the Internet, but if you prefer a book, look at *Getting Started with Arduino* by Massimo Banzi. Many others are available, some for the beginner and others describing advanced projects.

Raspberry Pi

While the Arduino is a simple controller, the Raspberry Pi, <http://www.raspberrypi.org/>, is a real computer that uses the Linux operating system. The kit I purchased (from Adafruit) included a clear plastic case and a solder-less breadboard, but many projects won't need the latter. The Pi has two USB ports (silver connectors on the center right), an Ethernet port (silver connector on the front right), a HDMI port for the display (silver connector on the center front), a power connector (micro USB connector on the front left), a SD connector for storage (a SD card protrudes from the case on the left),

a collection of ports (connected to the breadboard by a black ribbon cable at the left rear), an analog video port (yellow connector at the rear), and a stereo audio jack (blue connector at the rear).

(See picture on page 15)



```

Blink | Arduino 1.0.3
File Edit Sketch Tools Help

Blink
/*
  Blink
  Turns on an LED on for one second, then off for one second, repeatedly.

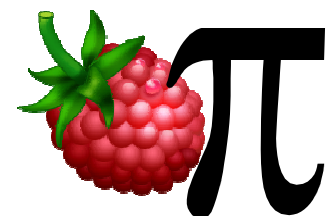
  This example code is in the public domain.
  */

// Pin 13 has an LED connected on most Arduino boards.
// give it a name:
int led = 13;

// the setup routine runs once when you press reset:
void setup() {
  // initialize the digital pin as an output.
  pinMode(led, OUTPUT);
}

// the loop routine runs over and over again forever:
void loop() {
  digitalWrite(led, HIGH); // turn the LED on (HIGH is the voltage level)
  delay(1000);             // wait for a second
  digitalWrite(led, LOW);  // turn the LED off by making the voltage LOW
  delay(1000);             // wait for a second
}

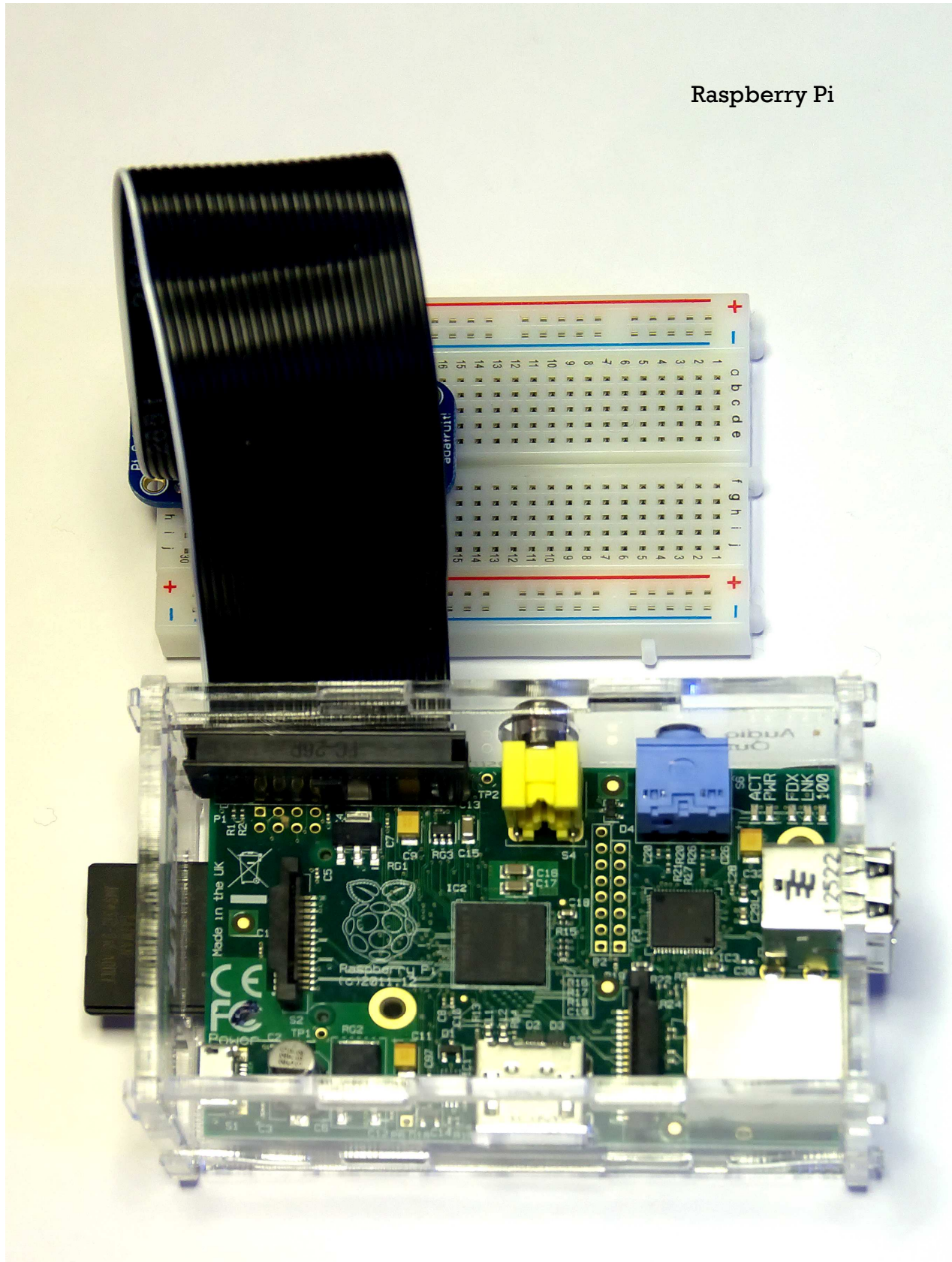
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(Continued on Page 16)

(Tiny Computers)

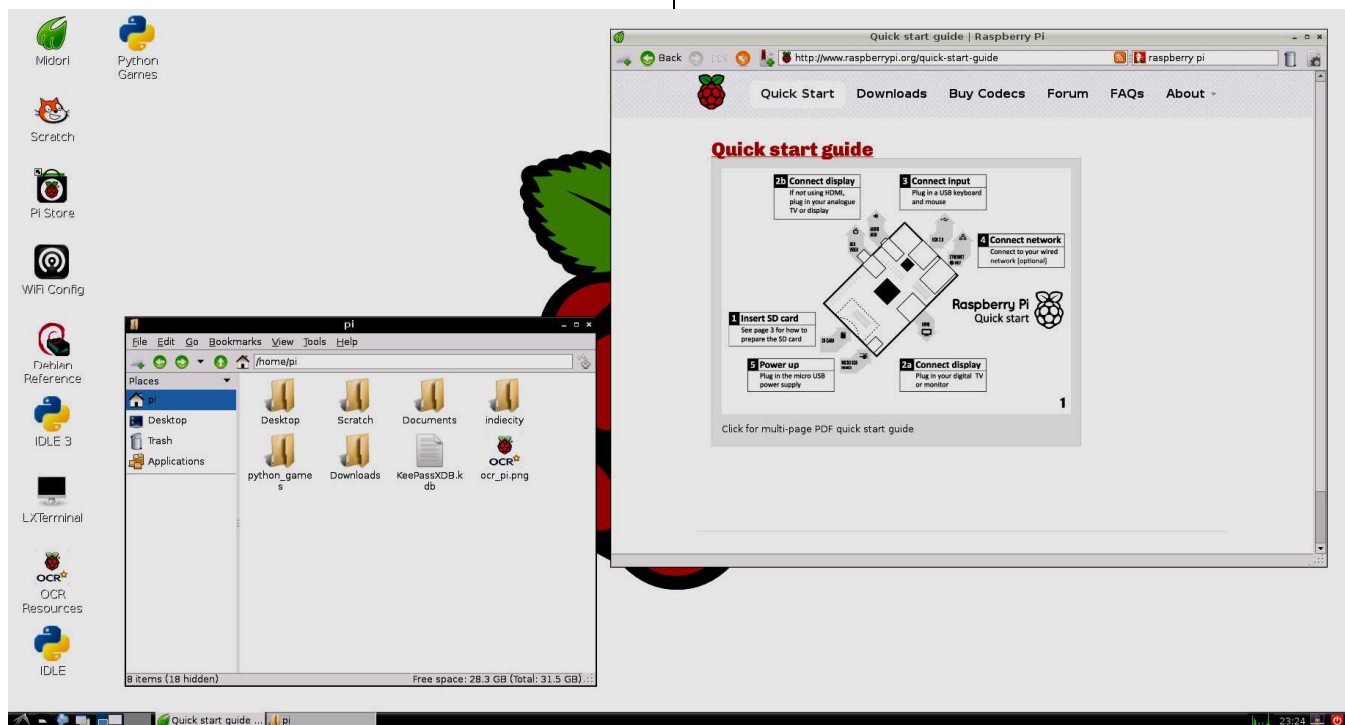
(Continued from page 14)



(Continued on Page 16)

(Tiny Computers)*(Continued from page 15)*

The Raspberry Pi is more powerful than the Arduino, with a 700-MHz ARM CPU and 512 Mbytes of RAM. (These specs are for the model B. The model A is much less capable and costs only a few Dollars less.) The processor is not Intel compatible; however, its overall performance is similar to a 300MHz Pentium 2, but with much better graphics. Clearly, it isn't an acceptable replacement for any modern home computer. However, it does act like a (slow) PC, as you can see from the screen-shot below, which shows the desktop with windows open for the Internet browser and file manager.



Getting a Raspberry Pi running is more involved than with the Arduino. Although it's powered through a USB port, PC USB ports can't supply enough current; you will need either a cell phone recharger or a powered USB hub. Be careful of cell phone rechargers though; many cheap units can't supply the current they claim. The safe approach is to purchase one from the vendor from whom you bought your Pi. You will need a USB keyboard and mouse. If you don't have an extra set, they are quite cheap. Hopefully, you

have a HDMI display, either for your PC or a flat-screen TV; if not, you could try an old analog TV set, but its resolution will be poor. Finally, connect any USB peripherals through a powered hub, rather than ask the Pi to power them. I bought a no-name 10-port hub that had good user reports on Amazon, and it can also power the Pi. Finally, unlike the Arduino, which comes with its control software installed, you must supply the SD card for the Raspberry Pi and install Linux and its applications on it. This requires a SD card burner, and unfortunately, many on the market aren't up to the job. Again, purchasing one from your Pi supplier is the safe approach.

As with the Arduino, you can probably get started with the Pi using only what you learn on the Internet, but there are also numerous books. The project has published Raspberry Pi User Guide by Eben Upton. There are numerous others, as well as magazine and Internet articles. I've seen descriptions of a media center, an Internet radio, a time-lapse camera control, a network file server, a firewall, and a wireless access point. (Many of these don't require a keyboard, mouse, or display once they are running, so you

(Continued on Page 17)

(Tiny Computers)*(Continued from Page 16)*

could disconnect these for use elsewhere once the project is on line.) You could even connect an Arduino to a Raspberry to obtain a portable sophisticated hardware control and data processing system.

Both these devices are ideal for experimenting. No matter how badly you screw up the software, you can just download a new program to your Arduino or reburn the SD card on your Raspberry Pi. Even if you manage to fry the electronics, you can replace either card for less than \$50. Both are wonderful platforms for introducing electronics and computers to young people. There are many Arduino projects that can be completed in less than an hour, including building the circuit and writing the program. The Raspberry Pi software includes Scratch, a programming language for children that builds animated graphics with sound, and Python, a more sophisticated language for older kids and adults. ♦

THE JEOPARDY ANSWER IS...WHAT?**Linda Gonse**

Editor & Webmaster

Orange County PC Users' Group, CA

Nibbles & Bits, October 2013

www.orcopug.org[editor\(at\)orcopug.org](mailto:editor(at)orcopug.org)

The final question on Jeopardy on its September 26 episode was based on the category "Internet." The question was "The animal for which this computer program is named is actually a red panda."

Do you have any idea what that program is? When I tell you the answer, you will shake your head — as I did — and you will say "What? That's not right!" — just as I did.

Are you ready? The answer is "What is Firefox (the internet browser)?"

"Fire fox," in Chinese, is another name for the red panda.

In fact, Mozilla launched a website called "Firefox Live" in November 2011 to educate and

raise awareness of the endangered red panda species.

Live videos of three baby red pandas, Bernadette, Dolly, and Winston, that were sheltered at the Knoxville Zoo, were streamed on the Firefox Live website until March 2012. When the babies reached maturity they were sent to breed and become part of the animal families at the Virginia Zoo (Norfolk, Virginia) and the Zoo Boise (Boise, Idaho). Subsequently, the Firefox Live website was retired.

If you'd like to find a red panda in a zoo near you, go to http://redpandanetwork.org/red_panda/find-a-red-panda-near-you/ ♦



Image from Wikipedia



Mozilla Firefox Logo

808 HEADPHONES - A REVIEW

George Harding, Treasurer
Tucson Computer Society, AZ
TCS eJournal, www.aztcs.org
[georgehardingsbd \(at\) earthlink.net](mailto:georgehardingsbd@earthlink.net)

Our mobile devices usually play sound, especially music. Most cell phones and all MP3 players come with earbuds, which are convenient and easy to carry.

But cords often get so tangled that using them is too much trouble. The earpieces may not be the right size or may be irritating to one's ear. An elegant solution to these problems is a set of headphones, but the best ones are quite expensive.

808 Headphones are reasonably priced and give you all the advantages over ear buds.

They are elegant in design, being smooth in appearance. They fit snugly over your ears, so there's no problem with fit or irritation. The ear pads are very comfortable. Each ear pad is adjustable so as to fit different head sizes and shapes.



Probably the best feature is the sound quality. You get very good bass response as well as treble (although my ears are too old to benefit from those high notes!). The rated frequency response is 20 – 20K Hz. The power capability is 20mW, 60mW maximum. The headphones come in a very nice flexible case with a zipper closure.

One of the ear pads folds in so as to fit compactly in the case. There are two cables supplied with the headphones, stowed in a net pocket inside the case. The company describes them as "tangle-free," and they appear to be so. One is a plain cable with 3.5 mm plug on each end. The other is a flat cable with a control for play/pause, for those devices that permit that. A 6.3mm adapter is also supplied.

These are really nice headphones and are reasonably priced.

About 808 Headphones

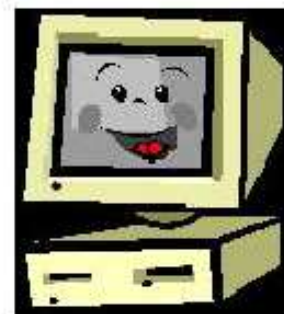
Vendor: 808 Headphones

www.808headphones.com

LAUGHING OUT LOUD

All I Need To Know About Life I Learned From Computers

- Get with the Program!
- There's no speed limit on the Information Superhighway.
- It's ok to have a mouse in the house.
- Don't byte off more than you can process.
- It's better to be hard than floppy.
- It's okay to act SCSI (pronounced "scuzzy") every once in a while.
- Some people just can't hack it.
- "Spell Checker" is the best thing since sliced bread.
- You're only as popular as your homepage.
- You can judge a person by the peripherals they keep.
- You can never tell when you're going to crash.
- Keep a font manager with you at all times.
- If you've a lot of Internal Drive, you'll probably go far.
- Some mornings it's just impossible to get Booted Up.
- Keep your hands off other people's gigabytes.
- Don't forget how much memory you have.
- It's okay if you need a little tech support now and then.
- In Cyberspace, no one can hear you scream.



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Annual membership Dues:

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

A 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*, but may read it on the LACS website or on Yahoo Groups.

Students must prove their full-time status.

In addition to 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 by phone from Members who are Quick Consultants listed in *User Friendly*.
- ◇ Get help by e-mail by using our LACSLIST Yahoo Group Mail List. Simply address your e-mail questions to [lacslist\(at\)yahogroups.com](mailto:lacslist(at)yahogroups.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."
- ◇ Information on training, swap meets and trade shows.
- ◇ Occasional product discounts, special offers, etc.
- ◇ Free software and computer books (if you review them for *User Friendly*).
- ◇ Rewards for Recruiting Members: LACS will extend your membership for three months for each new Regular member you recruit.

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For more information:

Telephone (310) 398-0366 ◆

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Please bring your dues and this form to a meeting or mail them to:

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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.

Westchester United Methodist Church,
 8065 Emerson Avenue,
 Los Angeles CA 90045

