User Friendly

April 2015



IN THIS ISSUE

April General Meeting	1
March General Meeting Report	2
From Your Editor	3
Digital Photo SIG Report	4
Basics & Beyond SIG Report	5
Technology Trends for 2015 - CES	6
Everything Google	6
Mac Tips of the Month	7
Welcome All	8
General Meeting Presentations	8
General Meeting Snack Schedule	8
Calendar	9
Members Helping Members	10
Officers, Directors & Leaders	11
Travel Routers	12
The HDR Book, Second Edition	16
Windows 8/8.1 Corner	17
Membership Information	19
Map and Directions	20

Member of



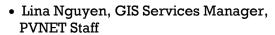
An International Association of Technology & Computer User Groups

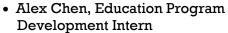
APRIL GENERAL MEETING

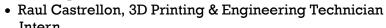
EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES: UAVS & 3D PRINTING FOR ROBOTICS AND GIS

Speaker: **Ted Vegvari**Owner and President of
"Palos Verdes on the Net"

Presenting with Mr. Vegvari will be:







- Sher Shah, Oculus Rift Virtual Reality Intern
- James Yen, Programming Intern

They will be demonstrating emerging technologies: 3D printing, Oculus Rift Virtual Reality, Leap Motion Technology, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) for GIS research, and 3-D Printed Terrain Map (the first in CA by a municipality)

In 1994, Ted Vegvari set up a computer learning center, PVNET, a non-profit organization to teach youngsters and oldsters and everyone in between how to work with new hard-ware, software and the Internet. It was a natural fit, given the approximate 14 years in the audio recording/production industry and 15 years in the IT industry.

The first things PVNET did was to provide support, training, and use of mail servers and Web servers to the four city agencies on the Palos Verdes Peninsula; to work with the school district to establish a program to provide students with elective credit internships, to create websites for every organization on the Peninsula, and to register their domain names as a gift, to register the domain names of the local cities for community use, and to provide free Internet and computer classes. PVNET has transitioned many South Bay residents to the computer age.

Tuesday, April 14, 2015, 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.

MARCH GENERAL MEETING REPORT

By Leah Clark, LACS
How Large and Reliable Is the Internet?
Speaker: John Heidemann

President, Maurice Stephenson, opened the meeting by thanking Jim McKnight and Paula Van Berkom for demonstrating the transparent computer that LACS had donated to the students at the Magnolia Science Academy. Everyone then sang Happy Birthday to Linda LaRoche. Maurice gave an update on future presentations. (See page 8)

Maurice introduced our speaker,

Prof. John Heideman, from USC's Information Science Institute located in Marina del Rey. He has been carrying out extensive research on determining the size of the Internet, Internet reliability, and on de-



tecting Internet outages. This started with an idea which led to research to prove the idea. This led to engineering to make the idea practical.

A **TraceRoute** is used to identify how information travels from one computer to another to track and identify problems. Ping is used to test the networks for IP addresses. A Routing Table is a set of rules that is used to determine where data packets traveling over an IP network will be directed. The goal is to Ping every ISP address, then to quantify for sources of error. There are about four billion IP addresses. The whole Internet, all active IP addresses, can be probed in about two months. The IP addresses are probed in blocks of 256 addresses each. Four million blocks can be probed for outage detection every four minutes. It took about seven years to answer the question, "How big is the Internet?"

What kind of impact are we seeing, and are we using this data efficiently? The data is given to many researchers at different institutions, and is used to determine the impact on us and others. The challenge is interpreting the results and probing politely.

About one percent of the Internet is surveyed every 11 minutes. If we Ping a network it, tells

about the reliability of the network. During hurricane Sandy in New York, power outages were shown, as was the recovery. If people turn off their computers, it's not an outage, so if some are up in a block it's not an outage. If all computers go dark in a block, then it is an outage. Blocks of addresses are looked at as a whole to find outages. Work is being done to make all the data public, and to allow people to audit their Internet Service Providers (ISPs).

Basic Inference is used to determine how many probes need to be tried to declare a network out. Mathematical algorithms sum up each response. A **Trinocular** auto response system is

- Principled: probe only when needed
- Precise: outage duration +/- 330s
- Parsimonious: only +0.7% background radiation

Hurricane Sandy happened before Trinocular was used. But, by using survey data of 1% of the Internet, they could run Trinocular-like algorithms. Time when networks go down and their locations are plotted. Outages during the Japanese earthquake in 2011 were plotted. During the Egyptian revolution, also in 2011, President Mubarak shut down the Internet in Egypt. In 2014, Time Warner had a nationwide outage when 11 million people lost the Internet for two hours.

We can see the effects of people going to sleep around the world. When tracking outages we must also correct for sleeping networks. In the U.S., Broadband must always be on, but that is not true in other parts of the world. The Internet is everywhere there are people, including the North Pole!

The Information Science Institute is working with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to figure out how outage detection fits in with their mandate to understand U.S. telecommunications.

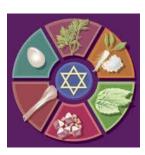
Prof. Heidemann's presentation was very interesting, but quite detailed, with lots of graphics. This is just a short synopsis. You may read his technical papers, see many of the graphics, and learn much more at www.isi.edu/ant. You may even be able to find your own home computer! To hear the podcast of this presentation go to www.lacspc.org/podcasts.

FROM YOUR EDITOR



Happy Easter

Happy Passover



It is now Spring, so we should all be energized!

Maybe part of your "Spring Cleaning" can include thinking of ways you can help to energize LACS? If you find useable, unwanted items, you may bring them to a meeting to share with other members.

Please check the General Meeting Snack Schedule on page 8 of User Friendly to know when it is your turn to provide meeting refreshments. If you can't attend on your night, please try to trade with someone else.

2015 Southwest Technology and Computer Conference

June 12-14, 2015 Kellogg-West conference Center & Hotel, Pomona, California

Attendees can expect everything they have enjoyed with the longest running User Group Conference:

- Informative presentations and workshops
- Door prizes, raffle items, a SWAG Bag filled with goodies

- Conversation with friends they see once a year, making new friends
- Up-close-and-personal time with sponsors
- Presentations, Seminars, a Vendor Expo.

The Southwest Technology & Computer Conference always brings new and innovative technology to its attendees. There will be something for everyone, regardless of your preferred platform or level of expertise.

You will have many networking opportunities with PC, Mac & Linux attendees, and with computer, tablet, and smartphone users. Take your pick of conversations!

Are you having challenging situations with your user group or computer club? This is the place where you can talk with others who might be experiencing the same challenges. You may find useful ideas from others to help.

The environment is relaxing and friendly PLUS the food is amazingly delicious!

2015 APCUG International Computer & Digital Technology Conference

September 25-27, 2015 Palace Station Hotel & Casino

Las Vegas, Nevada

Whether you are a computer or mobile device user, you will find sessions that will be beneficial to you. It doesn't



matter whether you are using a Windows-based, a Linux, and/or a Mac computer or an Android or Apple mobile device. Many programs and applications have cross-platform functionality: there will be something that piques your interest. LACS will have an opportunity to win a KINDLE for the group.

For more information about the conference, costs and registration go to:

http:--apcug2.org-node-1867

Conference reservations will be handled through Eventbrite at:

www.apcugvegas2015.eventbrite.com

Hotel reservations can be made at:

http:--tinyurl.com-2015APCUG-Hotel

DIGITAL PHOTO SIG REPORT

By Elliot Silverstein

Jerry Schneir presented an informal discussion of the use of **Aperture Priority** mode with digital cameras.

For certain special situations in which there is fast action, he recommends the **Shutter Priority** mode. This is usually availa-



ble when one chooses the **Sports** or **Children Scene** mode, which selects a fast shutter speed to capture the action. This often results in a large aperture (small f-number), with the resulting small depth of field, but for action shots, this is usually acceptable, even desirable. The **Landscape** mode almost always sets the aperture to a small size (large f-number) to maximize the region that is in focus.

But for many types of photography, a predictable depth of field is desirable. By selecting Aperture Priority, one can choose a depth of field appropriate for the subject matter. Setting a large aperture provides a small depth of field. This is often desired for pictures of people, where one wants the subjects to be in focus but the background to be somewhat fuzzy so as not to distract the viewer from the main subject. When one sets the f-number to a low value, say f:2.8, the camera senses the light level and automatically tries to adjust the shutter speed to provide the proper exposure.

For a photo needing a large range to be in focus, that is, a large depth of field, one should set the Aperture to a small size (a large fnumber). Here again the camera senses the light level and automatically sets the shutter speed accordingly. In Aperture Priority mode, the camera has a large selection of shutter speeds available before it has to change the ISO value (sensor sensitivity). If a very slow shutter speed would be needed, leading to possible blur caused by camera motion, the camera raises the ISO to allow proper exposure

at a reasonable shutter speed. With many cameras, it is possible to set in advance a maximum ISO value that the camera can select. High ISO values allow better exposures in low light conditions, but if the ISO is too high, the picture can become noisy, i.e., areas that should be uniform will appear somewhat speckled. The question of what ISO values are acceptable depends on the camera, on the subject, and on the anticipated use of the photo such as the size of the print. With small point-and-shoot cameras, Jerry suggested that ISO values greater than 400 may be suspect, but this can vary considerably. Users should test this on their cameras for various subject matter and enlargements.

Depth of field depends on several things: focal length of the lens, the f-number (f-stop), and the distance from the camera to the subject. Large f-numbers, (f:8, f:11, f:16) provide a large depth of field, with a large area in front of the focal point, and an even larger area behind the focal point. As a rough general rule, when the camera is focused on a subject, 1/3 of the depth of field is in front of the focal point, and 2/3 of the depth of field is behind the focal point. Selecting an appropriate aperture in Aperture Priority mode enable the photographer to adapt the depth of field to the photographic scene, and the camera then adjusts itself for the proper exposure.

An alternative for the more experienced photographer might be to use the manual mode if one is available. This allows the photographer

to be in complete control of aperture, shutter speed, and focus. However, this reduces the benefits of the



automatic features of the camera, and greatly increases the probability of error.

Twelve people were present at the February 23 meeting of the Digital Photo SIG.

BASICS & BEYOND SIG REPORT

By Kim Stocksdale, LACS

opics discussed at the March, 2015 meeting included:

- Windows 10 Coming Soon!
- SeatGeek.com Tickets Website?
- Movie Trailer Webpage

Windows 10 Coming Soon!

We discussed the status of Windows 10, the future successor to Windows 8.1. The first



question that comes to mind is what happened to Windows 9? Well, there will be no Windows 9; Microsoft skipped 9 and will go straight to 10. The present planned release date for Windows 10 is "late 2015." As for the cost, the update from Windows 7 or 8.1 will be free for the first year after release. You should not have to update your hardware to run Windows 10; Microsoft says that if your computer runs Windows 7 or 8.1 OK, then it will run Windows 10.

A "beta" version of Windows 10 is presently available for those who want it. Called the "Technical Preview" version of Windows 10, it is recommended for more advanced users who can deal with the quirks of an operating system that still has bugs. As of this writing, the Technical Preview version was still missing two of the important features that will be part of Windows 10:

- Cortana, Microsoft's "personal assistant,"
 which is a similar concept as Apple Siri or
 Google Now. Cortana will offer voice control of many PC features as well as anticipate and suggest what you want from your computer, before you ask for it.
- 2) **Spartan**, a new web browser integrated into Windows 10 and Cortana that replaces Internet Explorer.

SeatGeek.com Tickets Website?

SIG leader, Kim Stocksdale, demonstrated how to find great tickets online, at great prices, for all popular events. Concerts, family events, sporting events are all available at the Seatgeek.com website. SeatGeek combs the Internet to find available tickets from a variety of different ticket vendors, and appraises each ticket



seat, then returns a seat score that evaluates the asking price for the seat location.

Kim demonstrated how to find tickets to an upcoming LA Lakers game. At the top of Seatgeek.com click Sports, then NBA, then a submenu opens with all the NBA teams listed. Click the Lakers and a calendar of upcoming games appears. Click the game you want, then you are whisked away to a diagram of Staples Center showing seating along with a listing of available seats. On a separate window pane are SeatGeek's evaluation of best seats for the best price. For our Lakers game, SeatGeek found tickets available for \$15 with face value of \$42. Click on the seat map and SeatGeek also provides a view of the basketball court from the seat you can buy!

Two videos were also shown on how to use Seatgeek. Enter "SeatGeek Demo" into the YouTube Search field and you can see how the SeatGeek website works.

TrailerGods.co

Want a quick overview of movies out at theaters, or soon to be out? We looked at trailergods.co (not .com) with a near endless supply



of movie trailers to view. In fact there were so many upcoming movies you may wonder where all the theaters are that can play these. The website is pretty simple, not much else is offered beside movie trailers, so if you have a lot of time this is a website where you can watch movie trailers to your hearts content.

There were 12 attendees at the March 9 Basics and Beyond SIG held at the Santa Monica College Bundy campus.

TECHNOLOGY TRENDS FOR 2015 FROM CES

By Sandy Berger, CompuKISS

Sberger (at) compukiss.com www.compukiss.com

very year at CES, which many know as the Consumer Electronics Show, thousands of new products



are exhibited, and major trends start to appear. This year was no different. Here are just a few of the trends that you can expect to see affecting your life soon.

Connected Home

We now have the knowledge to connect just about everything to the Internet and we saw a wide variety of ways to do that. While I personally, might not be ready to put Internetconnected door locks (Kwikset, Schlage, and others) on my home, I would love to have some of Lowe's Iris home connectivity devices, especially the one that turns the water off when a leak is detected. I personally am not much interested in an Internet-connected toothbrush (Kolibree), but I think it is a great tool for teaching kids to brush their teeth properly. I loved the TempTrag band-aid for babies and children that monitors their temperature and sends it to your cell phone. I was also pretty impressed with the light bulbs that play stereo music (Sengled).

Wearable Tech & Health

Watches, pins, and wristbands that count your steps, and monitor your sleep were everywhere at CES this year. Many of these devices even coach you to achieve your goals. Expect to see more of this technology this year.

Drones

There were over a hundred different types of Drones. Everyone is looking for uses for these flying wonders that fit into our everyday world.

3-D Printing

They continue to find uses and new materials that can be used with these printers. Specialized filaments let you print in materials that look and feel like bamboo, copper, and brass. Whether you want to print a shower head or a cup for tea, you can do it with a 3-D printer.

4K Ultra TVs

Do you really need a TV that gives you more resolution and better color than your current HDTV? No, you probably don't need one, but when you see them you will want one. Even though prices have already plummeted, standards are still being set and there are several competing technologies, so you may want to hold off until much later in the year before you take the plunge.

Automated Vehicles

Cars were everywhere at CES this year. They have plenty of connectivity and helpful additions like parking assist. The Volkswagen Golf Touch has three display screens that you can control by moving your hand in the air. It can also park itself right on its charging pad and it's available now for about \$35,000.

This year more of the devices we saw at the show were already available or will be on the market soon. So expect the electronic stores to be filled to the brim with new devices in the next year.

EVERYTHING GOOGLE

By Jim Cerny

2nd Vice President, Sarasota TUG, FL Sarasota Technology Monitor, January 2015 www.thestug.org

jimcerny123 (at) gmail.com

hy consider Google at all? Google never seems to sit still. They are constantly offering new free tools and actively improving the ones they already provide. Using what Google has to offer has many advantages, here are the "pluses" in my book and I am sure there are many more. You can find out more about any of them by, well, "Googling" them!

I started by converting my email to Gmail. Gmail helped me forward my old email to my new Gmail address and copied over my contact list as well. But the sweet thing was, now that I had a Google account (your Gmail address is your Google account) I now had access to everything Google.

Google Drive (formerly Google Docs) allows you to create, from scratch, new spreadsheets, documents, presentations and more, all



(Everything Google)

(continued from page 6)

for free, and saved on the Google Drive in the "cloud". Their tools are every bit as good as Microsoft's and easy to use. When you create a file on Google Drive it is available to you anywhere on any computer via the internet. These files are now also available to anyone else (who also has a Google account) to access them if you give permission for them to do so. It is an easy way to share files and photos with others. You can also give them permission to update or change the files if you wish. And no one has to purchase any software. If you (or anyone) already has files (spreadsheets, documents, presentations) in Excel or Word or PowerPoint you can copy them to your Google Drive and it will convert them to the Google format. Likewise, you can copy a file from Google Drive and save it as a Microsoft file type.

Google Earth is really an amazing and fun exploration tool. It is great just to explore other cities, countries, or any place on earth. There are many options and ways to use



this app, but I just cannot get over how it amazes me. When it started, the images taken from satellites were wonderfully detailed and you could zoom in and see even people walking in the streets. But more recently Google Earth has improved to include 3-D images showing the differences in elevation of mountains and even individual buildings in cities. When you learn to use the easy controls (mouse or fingers on touchscreens) you can "fly" over the earth and zoom in on anything you want. If you zoom in close enough, Google Earth changes to "street view" which gives you views as if you were standing on the street on that exact spot. If you are an engineer-type, you will enjoy learning how they did all this.

YouTube is a place to find videos. You will probably not find the latest movies here but most anything else you can.



Enter the name of your favorite entertainer and you will find many videos of them doing a show or their spot as a guest on another TV program. Want to learn how to do something? – enter a question such as "How do I replace a window?"

and get hundreds of videos showing you how to do it. Now think about this for a moment – you can ask YouTube "How do I create a group mail on Yahoo mail?" it will provide you with videos showing you how. It helps to be very specific with the product or version of what you want to learn more about. You can also view things such as classes recorded at major universities, cooking food, travel, movie trailers, old TV and radio programs, and, well, there is just no limit. Just think of YouTube as the "Google search" for just videos.

How many products, applications, and tools does Google have? I have no idea. Probably several more than they did a week ago. I think the key is to want to explore and find out. Get into the habit of "Asking Google" anything and you will be amazed. ◆

MAC TIPS OF THE MONTH

By Ernie Cox, Jr.

Computer Club of Green Valley, AZ Green Bytes, December 2014

www.ccqvaz.orq

ecoxjr (at) cox.net

- Create, Find, & Modify Notes with Siri in iOS http://osxdaily.com/2013/03/11/create-find-modify-notes-with-siri-in-ios/
- How to Format Text & Insert Pictures Into Notes in iOS

http://osxdaily.com/2014/11/20/format-text-insert-images-notes-ios/

- 50+ Tips & Tricks for the iPhone 6 & iPhone 6 Plus!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tlh-DudoPfI

- iPhone 6 Complete Beginners Guide https://www.youtube.com/watch? y=KSqOm6hW2Zw
- How to manage your iCloud security and Apple Pay settings from the Web

http://appleinsider.com/articles/14/11/29/how-to-manage-your-icloud-security-and-apple-pay-settings-from-the-web

WELCOME ALL

Gene Jacobs

Data Base Manager, LACS

New Members (0)

Renewals (9)

Giok Brandt

Irv Hershman

Robert Hirshon

Bruce Lane

Demetrious Liappa

Clarene Long

Jack McGruder

Sheila Moncavage

Karl Springer



NOTICE

The columns, reviews and other expressions of opinion in *User Friendly* are the opinions of the writers and not necessarily those of the Los Angeles Computer Society. LACS became a California non-profit corporation on July 17, 1991. It's predecessor was the "UCLA PC Users Group".

The Editor of *User Friendly* will accept contributions of any suitable length from members.

Articles should be sent to Editor@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 **18th of the month**.

USER FRIENDLY ADVERTISING RATES

Business Card, Member	\$10
Business card	\$15
Half Page	\$35
Third Page	\$25
Full Page	\$50
Two page spread	\$100

For further information on our advertising policy, please e-mail: editor(at)lacspc.org

FIX YOUR PC FOR FREE?

Jim McKnight has an open offer to all LACS members to diagnose, repair, disinfect, or upgrade members' 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 oneyear LACS membership (\$40.00), and Jim will fix your PC problem, too.

GENERAL MEETING PRESENTATIONS

May 12, AVAST Security Software June 9, Net Neutrality

This schedule is subject to change, but mark your calendar now.

GENERAL MEETING SNACK SCHEDULE

By Sylvia Q. Davis and Linda Williams

April T through Z
May A through C
June D through G
July H through K

LACS provides hot coffee, regular and decaf, tea and cocoa.

Please participate by bringing finger-food treats such as fresh fruit, veggies, nuts, cookies, brownies and the like. Bottled water and regular and diet soft drinks are appreciated, too.

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APRIL, 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	Good Friday	4 Passover
5	6 Smartphone SIG 7:00 PM	7	8	9	10	11
12	Basics & Beyond SIG 7:00 PM	14 General Meeting 7:00 PM	15 April 5	16	17	18
19	Board Meeting 7:00 PM	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 Digital Photo SIG 7:00 PM	28	29	30		



The April board meeting will be at the home of Maurice Stephenson, LACS President. This Calendar may change. Check your e-mail or with the SIG leader before attending a meeting. The SIGs and Board meet at the Santa Monica College Bundy Campus unless otherwise noted. We are scheduled to be in Room 235 through June 30, 2015.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs)

SIG meetings are lead by and for LACS members. Visitors are welcome to attend.

To inquire about a SIG, call the contact person in advance.

Basics & Beyond SIG	Kim Stocksdale	310-720-0603	2nd Mon. 7 PM SMC, Bundy Campus
Digital Photo SIG	Nancy Cattell	310-452-2130	
	Elliot Silverstein	310-670-1544	4th Mon. 7 PM, SMC, Bundy Campus
Smartphone SIG	Stephanie Nordlinger	323-299-3244	1st Mon. 7 PM, SMC, Bundy Campus

ADDRESSES

Fellowship Hall, 8065 Emerson Ave., Westchester 90045

Dinah's Family Restaurant, 6521 Sepulveda Blvd., LA 90045 (on Sepulveda, just S. of Centinela) Santa Monica College Bundy Campus, 3171 S. Bundy Drive, LA 90066 (1-2 blocks S. of Airport Avenue)

Our room number may change each semester. Look for it on a sign opposite the elevator on the first floor.

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@lacspc.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 an Inconvenient time.

America Online - 5	LA FreeNet - 6	Picasa - 14
Android Smartphones - 5	Lotus Word Pro, Approach - 12	Quicken - 3, 5, 9
Apple Devises - 15	Mozilla Firefox, Thunderbird - 12	QuickBooks - 9
Anti Malware - 12	MS Excel - 3, 15	Thunderbird - 12
Digital Imaging, Editing - 8, 14	MS Word - 3, 4, 10	Visual Basic - 13
Digital Photography - 8, 14	MS Outlook - 15, 5	Websites - 13
Dragon Naturally Speaking - 4	MS Outlook Express - 15	Win XP-Vista - 12, 16
Genealogy - 5, 7	MS PowerPoint - 15	Windows 7 - 5, 12
Hardware - 12	MS Publisher - 2, 7, 9	WordPerfect - 5
iPhone, iPad, iPod - 15	Open Office - 16	Yahoo - 9

No.	Name	Preferred Phone for Calls	From	То
2	Mercer, Bob	310-837-5648	9:00 AM	10:00 PM
3	Wilder, Joan	310-472-8445	9:00 AM	9:00 PM
4	Hershman, Irv	310-397-9453	11:00 AM	11:00 PM
5	Nordlinger, Stephanie	323-299-3244	5:00 PM	10:00 PM
6	Springer, Karl	424-646-3410	10:00 AM	10:00 PM
7	Clark, Leah	310-677-2792	9:00 AM	5:00 PM
8	Silverstein, Elliott	310-670-1544	10:00 AM	10:00 PM
9	Kamerman, Cora	424-442-9592	Noon	8:00 PM
10	Beckman, Loling	310-471-7893	10:00 AM	6:00 PM
12	McKnight, Jim	310-823-7829	8:00 AM	7:00 PM
13	Ialongo, Gilbert	310-641-7906	9:00 AM	5:00 PM
14	Jerry Schneir	310-451-4140	9:00 AM	10:00 PM
15	Van Berkom, Paula	310-398-6734	9:00 AM	5:00 PM
16	Johnson, Carol	310-372-8535	10:00 AM	9:00 PM

OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND LEADERS

m:41 -	N	Ш	Malaukana
Title	Name	Term	Telephone
President	Maurice Stephenson	2015	310-625-0450
Vice President	Vacant		
Secretary	Lee Freehling	2015	310-837-4022
Treasurer	Eliott Stern	2015	310-880-9891
Director	Leah Clark	2016	310-677-2792
Director	Lance Hegamin	2015	310-202-8926
Director	Heshmat Laaly	2015	310-838-7140
Director	Jim Louie	2015	310-473-4247
Director	Jim McKnight	2016	310-823-7829
Director	Paula Van Berkom	2015	310-389-6734
Director	Stanley Johnson	2016	909-782-0103
APCUG Rep.	Cora Kamerman		424-442-9592
Car Pools	Lance Hegamin		310-202-8926
Changes	Karl Springer		424-646-3410
	Gene Jacobs 310-39		310-397-8457
Corporate Counsel	Stephanie Nordlinger		323-299-3244
CCSC Computer Lab	Rosalie Kirsch		310-559-2244
Hospitality Chair	Sylvia Davis		213-924-4927
Asst. Hospitality Chair	Linda Williams		310-748-1694
Membership Database	Gene Jacobs		310-397-8457
Newsletter Editor	Leah Clark		310-677-2792
Program Chair	Maurice Stephenson		310-625-0450
Publicity	Mark Presky 310-398-0		310-398-0366
Quick Consultants	Leah Clark		310-677-2792
SIG Coordinator	Heshmat Laaly 310-838-71		310-838-7140
Web Master	Gilbert Ialongo 310-641-79		310-641-7906
Welcome Chair	Ida Riordan		310-837-9851

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TRAVEL ROUTERS

By Dick Maybach

Brookdale Computer Users' Group, NJ BUG Bytes, November 2014

www.bcug.com

n2nd (at) att.net

A travel router is a small, inexpensive wireless router.

It provides the following functions:

- It connects to a wired Ethernet port and provides secure local wireless service. If your hotel provides it, wired Ethernet service is faster and more secure than wireless service.
- It connects to a wireless network and provides local secure wireless service to several devices. Since the wireless network sees only one device (the router) this will lower your costs if the hotel charges per device. Even if there is no charge, hotels often require that you register each device connected; using the router means you have to do this only once.
- If you use 3G/4G wire area wireless Internet service, the router accepts a 3G/4G USB dongle and provides service to a local secure wireless network.

It connects to a wireless network to provide local wired Ethernet service.

The photo shows a typical unit, a TP-Link TL-MR3020, which costs less than \$40.

This unit includes the 3 by 3 1/2" router, a power supply, and short Ethernet and USB cables (the latter to power the device). There are two routers in the picture; the one on the right is on its side to show the connections and mode switch. Note that the USB power cable has a Y configuration, which allows you to power the router from two USB connectors on your PC. (Two are needed to supply enough current as not enough is available from just one standard USB port. When using the power supply, one of these will dangle.) The TP-Link power supply accommodates both 110- and 220-volt AC power, which is important for foreign travel. The total weight is just 5.5 ounces, so you can probably find room for it in your suitcase.

The device's small size results in some limitations:

- Its internal antenna and limited radio power limit its wireless range compared to a full-sized router. Expect good performance only over a range of a few meters, plenty for a hotel room but don't expect to access it from poolside.
- This unit has only one Ethernet connector. If it's connected to a wired network, it can provide only wireless service; if it's connected to a wireless network, it can provide service to only one wired device.
- •The cables are short; if the AC power receptacle is more than four feet from the wired Ether-

net one, you'll need an extension cord.

Different manufacturers provide travel routers with different feature sets: some have two Ethernet connectors; some have none; some combine the power supply and router; some have higher power and external antennas to improve the range; and some have internal batteries. You will have to do some research to get a unit that suits your particular needs.

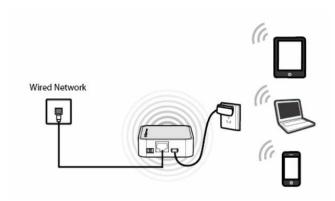
Modes of Operation

A router connected to a wired Ethernet port and providing local wireless service is operating in wireless access point (AP) mode.



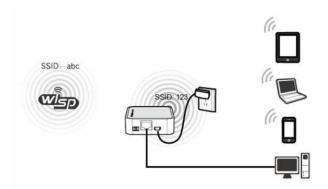
(Travel Routers)

(Continued from page 12)



Here, the wired network assigns network addresses to all the devices. Usually, the local wireless network is secured using WPA encryption so only your devices can see the traffic on it, and the router includes a firewall, which further protects you.

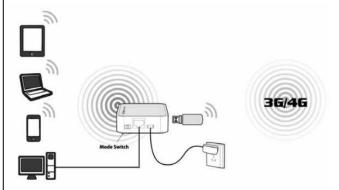
A router connected to an external wireless network and providing local wireless (and perhaps wired) service is operating in wireless Internet service provider (WISP) mode.



In the figure the external network has an SSID of "abc" and the local one has "123". Although the network shown has four devices, the external one sees only the router. The local traffic is encrypted, and the router has a firewall; however, all the data on the external network is visible to every device connected to it. If you set the local SSID to be the same as that of the external network and use the same password (which you would never do at a hotel), the router acts as a range extender. But the device's low power and internal antenna will limit its effectiveness here. Finally, in this mode the device can provide

wireless access to a PC lacking a working wireless adapter.

If you subscribe to wide-area 3G/4G wireless service and have a USB dongle for your PC, you can plug the dongle into a travel router to provide such service to several devices, as shown in the figure below.



As in WISP mode, you have both local wired and wireless service.

Configuration

Most travel routers are configured by using an Internet browser to access their administration page, usually at http://192.168.0.254 or http://192.168.1.254. A few require special software, at least for the initial set-up. This can be a serious limitation for Linux and OS X users if only a Windows version is available.

You should complete the configuration before you leave home. Expect to spend some time experimenting, especially because the manuals are frequently out of date. You don't want to be stuck in a hotel room, while your family is romping on the beach at Maui, or worse, you don't want to mis-configure your network so that it's not secure. At a minimum, you should change the administrator password, enable encryption of the local wireless network, and configure your devices to work with the router. You should also become familiar with the procedure to set up access to an external wireless network.

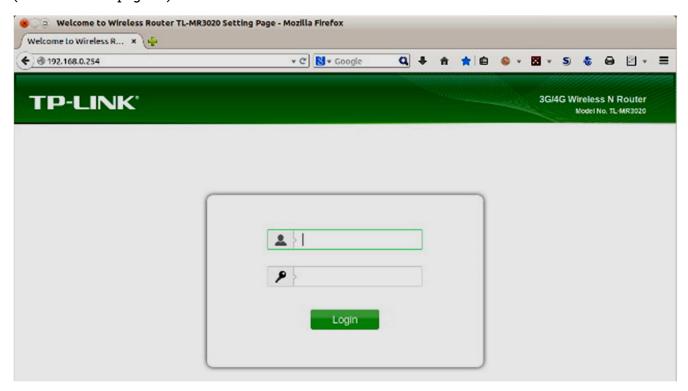
The screen-shot shows the administration page for my TP-Link TL-MR3020 router.

(Continued on Page 14)

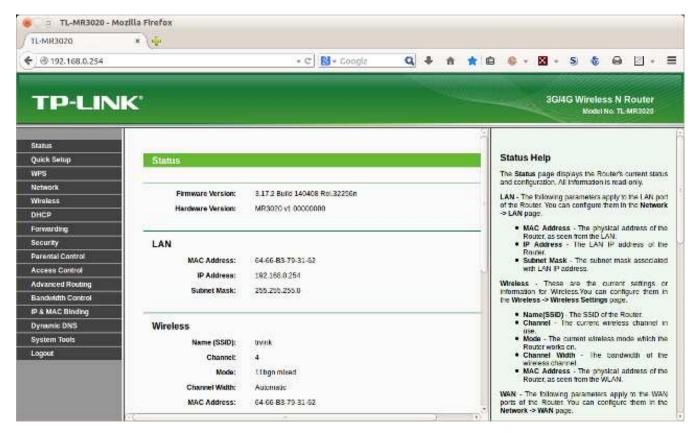


PAGE 14 U

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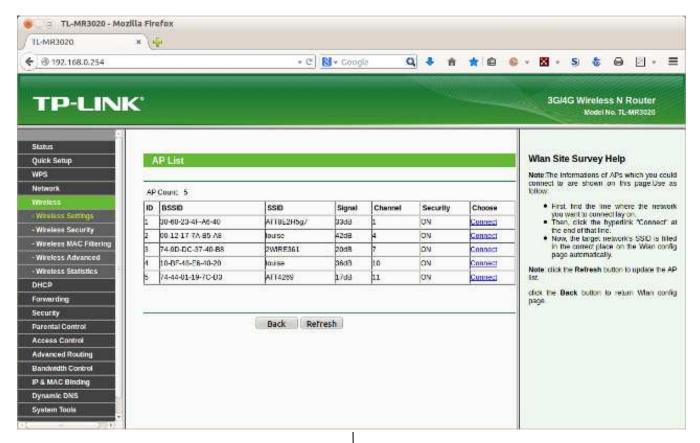
The default user-name is "admin" and the default password is also "admin"; of course, you'll change both before you leave home. Once you log in, you'll see the summary administration screen.



(Travel Router)

(Continued from page 14)

As you can see from the cursor bars, only a portion of the page is visible here. The left panel allows you to navigate among the various pages, and the right one provides help. The equivalent screen for your router probably has a different appearance, but the information will be similar. When you select a menu item in the left panel you will usually see sub-items, as shown in the screen-shot below for a menu accessed from the Wireless item.



This is a very useful page, as it shows all the available external wireless networks and their signal strengths. (Note that two items have the SSID "louise". These show the two APs in our house, one with a relative power of 42 and the other with 36 dB. The 6 dB difference is equivalent to a factor of four in power.) You would use this page to select the proper external network.

Before you leave home, you should update the router's firmware; on this unit, updating is one of the system tools. In my experience, the firmware supplied with a new unit is seldom the latest version. You depend on the router to provide security, and keeping it up to date is as important as for your anti-malware software, especially since you will often use it in a hostile environment.

Security

When you use a public wireless system, such as that in a hotel, all data packets are visible to everyone using that system. Each packet has an address, and normally, every station will ignore all the packets not addressed to it. However, software is available that captures every packet on the network, and when you use such a network you should behave as though someone is monitoring all your data, both sent and received.

Using a travel router in WISP mode prevents outsiders from seeing your PCs, but they still can access the data the router exchanges with the wireless base station. You should thus use Tor (see the article in the February 2011 Bytes, available at http://www.bcug.com) or a similar secure communication utility. On a wired

(Travel Router)

(Continued from page 15)

network, the only station receiving your packets is the one to whom they are addressed; similarly, only you can see the packets addressed to you. Thus, if your hotel provides wired Ethernet service, you should use that. In addition, wired networks almost provide much higher throughput than do wireless ones. Despite the higher security of wired networks, I recommend you use Tor (or something similar) on them as well.

Remember that you are operating in a hostile environment, even though your local wireless network is secure. You should increase the security of your PCs above that when you are operating at home. For example, on a Windows 7 PC, navigate Control Panel > Network and Internet > Network and Sharing Center and select the network you will use when connected to the travel router ("Network" in the screenshot below) and change this to "Public Network". Linux and OS X users may wish to tighten the settings of their firewalls.



THE HDR BOOK, SECOND EDITION

by Rafael "RC" Concepcion

Review by **Mark Mattson**, Editor Computer Users of Erie, Pennsylvania www.cuerie.com

cuerie01 (at) roadrunner.com

Tor those of you familiar with Kelby Training and Photoshop User magazine, RC Concepcion is most likely a familiar name. One of the top trainers at Kelby, RC is also an accomplished photographer and instructor. He brings his experience in these fields together in this second edition of his popular book dealing with one of the hottest styles in digital photography, that of HDR (High Dynamic Range) photography.

High dynamic range photography is a process whereby you can capture the entire range of detail in a shot, from the deepest shadows to the brightest highlights, and exhibit them as a photograph that closely mimics what your eye can see when viewing the actual scene. Your eyes can naturally see a wider contrast range than any film or digital camera can capture in a single exposure. By combining carefully exposed sequences of individual images, you can overcome this limit and more closely capture what your eyes can see.

As an example, think of yourself inside your home. You have some curtains drawn, so it's subdued lighting inside. But you decide to take a photo of a scene outside one window that is

(The HDR Book, Second Edition)

(continued from page 16)

open to the bright sunlight outside. The kicker is, you wish the interior of the room to be visible as well as the outside scene. If you take a photo normally out the window, and expose for the bright sun outside, it will look OK outside, but the interior of the room will be dark. Expose for the room, and the view out the window blows out to almost pure white.

Not what you wanted. So it's now HDR to the rescue. Following the techniques and hints in this volume, you'll learn how to set up and expose a sequence of frames that, when combined in software, will give you exactly what you wanted: a perfect view of both your yard out the window, and the softly lit room inside.

HDR is not a hard process to learn. In fact, most of the book is taken up with screen captures illustrating the text... there is not so much reading to be done as there is learning by example. This is a very nice change of pace from some of the intensely technical books that use more words than images to get points across.

The book has thirteen chapters, eight of which author RC calls 'Projects'. These are actual projects you can download his files for and follow along and practice with actual HDR sequences, to learn how the processes work. This is a really nice feature that not too many authors consider putting in their books.

Besides the projects, RC gives you basic information on the HDR proces, how it works, and what you need to do to make your own, from equipment and software to what scenes and situations make for great HDR images.

The HDR Book, 2nd Edition, runs 240 pages. You can get it in either print format or as an eBook. It's only been on the market since April, so it contains the cutting-edge of information on the subject.

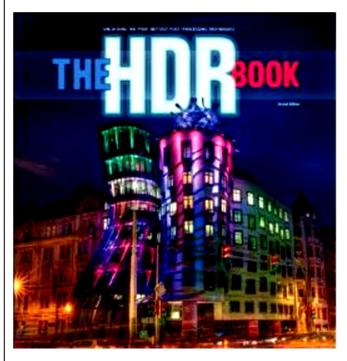
Published by Peachpit, it is available directly from their website, or through resellers like Amazon. Here are links to the web pages for each vendor:

http://www.peachpit.com/store/hdr-book-unlocking-the-pros-hottest-post-processing-9780321966940

http://www.amazon.com/The-HDR-Book-Post-Processing-Techniques/dp/0321966945/ref=dp ob title bk

List price on Peachpit is \$44.99, but if your User Group is a member of the Peachpit UG discount program, there is a 35% discount.

Amazon lists the title at \$26.01.



In any event, if you want to create stunning, unique images like you've always wanted to, this would be the first book to turn to so you can learn how to do it best.

Windows 8/8.1 Corner

Advanced Functions – Power Menu
By Rosita Herrick, Yahoo Forum Moderator, Sarasota Technology User Group, FL
http://thestug.org/

Rosita (at) thestug.org

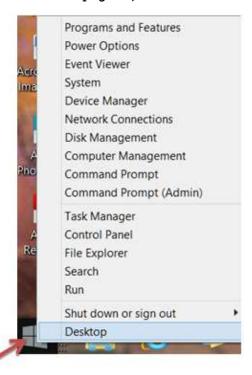
This article is for users that are by now familiar with Windows 8/8.1 and are trying to use more advanced functions.

One of the options to manage your computer is the capability to **right** click on the start icon in the lower left corner of the screen in order to display the power menu.

As you can see, from here you can navigate to quite a few pages that used to take 3 or more clicks (if you remembered).

(Windows 8/8.1 Corner)

(Continued from page 17)



Here are details about some of the options to use to manage your system.

System

Click on this link to find details about your system like amount of RAM, Windows edition, 32 or 64 bit based processor. You also have a link on this page to the Device Manager.

Disk Management

This link loads the configuration of all the disks accessed by your computer, their partitions, capacity, etc. Here is an example:

Disk 1 is a Toshiba USB 3 external hard drive.

Task Manager

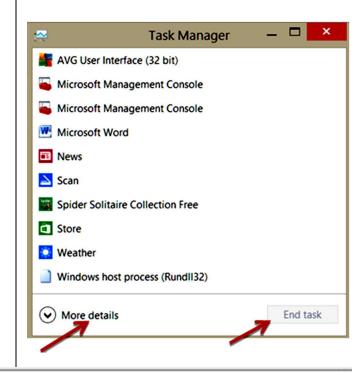
You can still access the Task Manager by

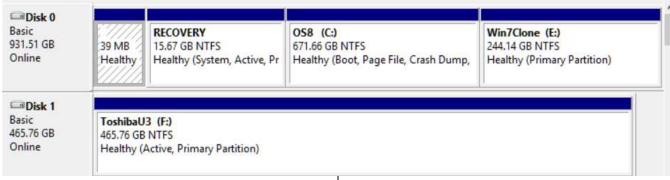
pressing Ctrl+Alt+Delete. But clicking on the Power Menu link is easier and it starts the Task Manager immediately. The initial display is of the programs and/or apps running. To see more details, click on the More details link. To cancel any item that possibly has stopped working and does not respond, click on the End task box. As you scan the Power menu you will see the quick option to shut down or sign out.

The Search link gets you to the Search. You also have a fast link to the following:

- Control Panel
- File Explorer
- Device Manager, etc.

In conclusion, the Power Menu makes navigation to Windows internals faster and easier to the user. •





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Annual membership Dues:

Regular	\$ 40
Family-Associate	12
Students	18
Contributing	50
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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.

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- Get help by phone from Members who are Quick Consultants listed in Use Friendly.
- Get help by e-mail by using our LACSLIST Yahoo Group Mail List. Simply address your e-mail questions to lacslist (at) yahoogroups.com
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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.

