Twitter Redux - See How To Use It In Real Life

This month, we're going to take a personal look at Twitter. Call it Part 2 of our exploration of Twitter.

Does it "work" in any meaningful way? People you know use Twitter as one of their tools for gathering information and keeping in touch. Several PCC people will demonstrate and share the Twitter experiences that they have found useful. Hashtags are just one of the tools that organize what can seem like Twitter's tower of Babel. Sites such as Tweetcloud.com and Twitscoop.com, which track the hottest topics on Twitter, are like police scanners for social media networks. They offer a real-time, filtered glimpse into what people are buzzing about.

If you have not yet fallen into the Twitter trench, here's your chance to see how people you know make use of it. You'll see what you need to get on Twitter and take advantage of its organizing tools.

As always, there'll be good food, good fun, and good friends all around. Tweet your friends and tell them to come to the Main Meeting!

Landmark! PCC's twenty-fifth Anniversary Coming Up!

Time flies when you're having fun! It's hard to believe, but we are approaching PCC's twenty-fifth anniversary!

The anniversary will be celebrated at the September Main Meeting. Preparations are in progress for our quarter century mark celebration.

We promise not to have too many long winded speeches but will concentrate on having fun instead. Don't miss this celebration coming up at the September Main Meeting!

What's Inside:

PCC
PC Community

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Deadline: Copy must be submitted no later than the second Saturday prior to the Main Meeting. Check the Newsletter calendar for the date. Submissions should be made by e-mail to the Editor, **lcms@pacbell. net**. Advertising rates are available from the Editor.

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Adobe InDesign CS2 is used to publish PCC News

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Clubhouse Information

PC Clubhouse has been closed indefinitely. Refurbished computers are still available on request. Please contact PC Community, 26799 Contessa Street, Hayward, CA 94545.

About
PC Community

PC Community is a computer users group for people who wish to expand their knowledge and experience of personal computers and software. This is accomplished through monthly general meetings of the full membership where major industry vendors present information, and through smaller focus groups (Special Interest Groups, or SIGs) where members meet to share common computer interests. The group's monthly Main Meeting takes place at Calvary Baptist Church, 28924 Ruus Road, Hayward, at 7:30 P.M. on the first Friday of each month.

PC Community is dedicated to community service, providing enabling technology to people with special needs, working in the community to obtain computer equipment, and working with other computer groups to help people extend their lives through computer technology.
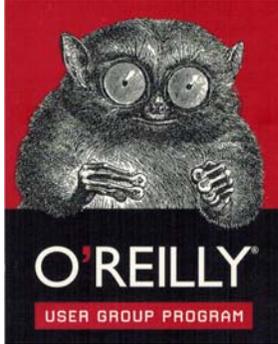
PC Community has a Web site at **http://www.pcc.org**.

Membership dues are $40.00 per year. Dues for educational and seniors (65 and over) are $25.00 per year. Call 510-213-8421 for more information, or write to PC Community at the address on this page.

APCUG
Medium Sized Groups
2nd Place
2007

*PCC is a member of the Association
of Personal Computer User Groups
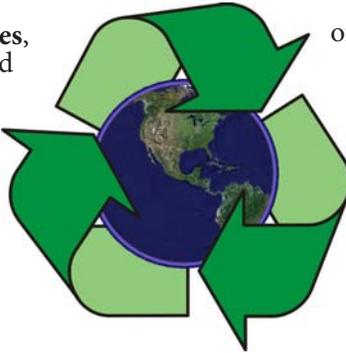(APCUG)*

PCC Announcements

PCC is registered in the O'Reilly User Group Program, qualifying us to receive review copies of O'Reilly, Microsoft Press, Pragmatic, No Starch, Rocky Nook and SitePoint products. User group members also qualify for savings of 40% off print and 50% off ebooks. E-mail Elsie Smith, lcms@pacbell.net, for discount code. All orders over $29.95 qualify for free shipping. Purchase at www.oreilly.com/store. O'Reilly also donates books and other promotional items to PCC.

What books would you like to see on our door prize table? Go to www.oreilly.com and pick the book that interests you. Then e-mail Elsie Smith, lcms@pacbell.net, with the entire title so I can request it from O'Reilly.

O'Reilly Media, Inc.   -   http://www.oreilly.com   -   (800) 889-8969

PCC Recycle Program is Back, Bigger and Better!

Your used **toner cartridges,** old **cell phones**, used **inkjet cartridges**, old **PDAs** and defunct **iPods** are valuable. Don't toss them in your trash to be used as landfill. They are worth something to PCC and other groups, either in the form of exchange or as discount on products at some local retailers. This not only helps PCC, but also helps our community. You can drop any of these items off at a Main Meeting or an EC Meeting. Do your part for PCC and your community! Keep the environment clean by taking a few extra moments to recycle these items with PCC.

contact:
Chuck Horner
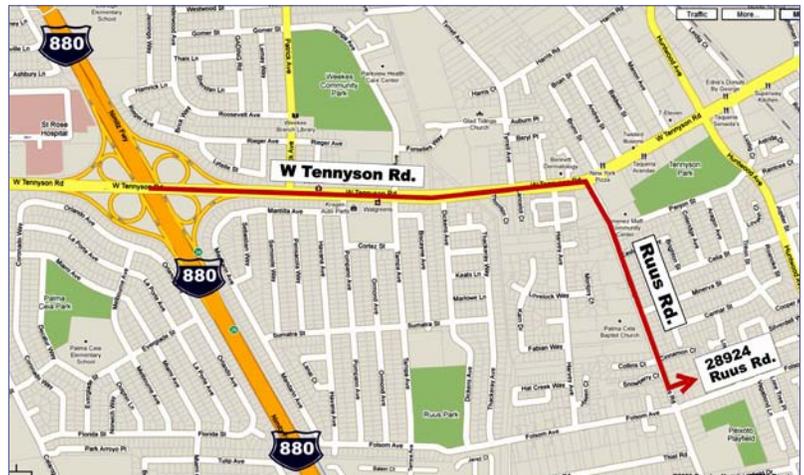**churck@comcast.net**
510-589-9677

Directions to the PCC Main Meeting

From All Directions: take 880 to the Tennyson Road exit in Hayward. Take the exit toward the hills. Proceed northeast on Tennyson Rd. about 0.7 mile to the 5th stoplight. This will be Ruus Road.

Turn right on Ruus Road and proceed southeast for about 0.4 mile. Look for Calvary Baptist Church on your left.

Turn left into the driveway into the parking lot. Parking is available anywhere from the driveway to the back of the lot.

Look for the PCC signs.

PCC News Goes All Digital!

Notice! The last printed Newsletter was mailed in December, 2012. At the November, 2012 Main Meeting, the cost of printing the Newsletter was discussed and the Executive Committee decided to discontinue the printed version in order to remove that expense. Members now receive an e-mail the week before the Main Meeting with a PDF version of the Newsletter as an attachment, and a Web link with a link to the Newsletter on the PCC Web site (http://www.pcc.org/index.php/newsletters) for those who have problems with e-mail attachments. To continue receiving PCC News, be sure that we have your preferred and current e-mail address. You can do this by using the e-mail link on the PCC Web site (http://www.pcc.org/index.php/contact-pcc) that sends an e-mail to the Executive Committee. Make sure it includes the e-mail address where you would prefer receiving the Newsletter.

acer Aspire M5 Touch Laptop Computer

by Bayle Emlein, PCC Secretary

The Acer Aspire M5-481PT-6644 is a laptop computer with an Intel Core i5-3337U 1.8GHz CPU, 6 GB of RAM, a 20 GB SSD and 500 GB hard drive, a Millennium DVD drive, a 14" LCD touchscreen, Dolby Home Theater sound, Web cam, 1 GB/sec.. LAN, 802.11a/g/n wireless, and bluetooth. Software is Windows 8, a trial version of Microsoft Office 2010, and 22 Acer applets.
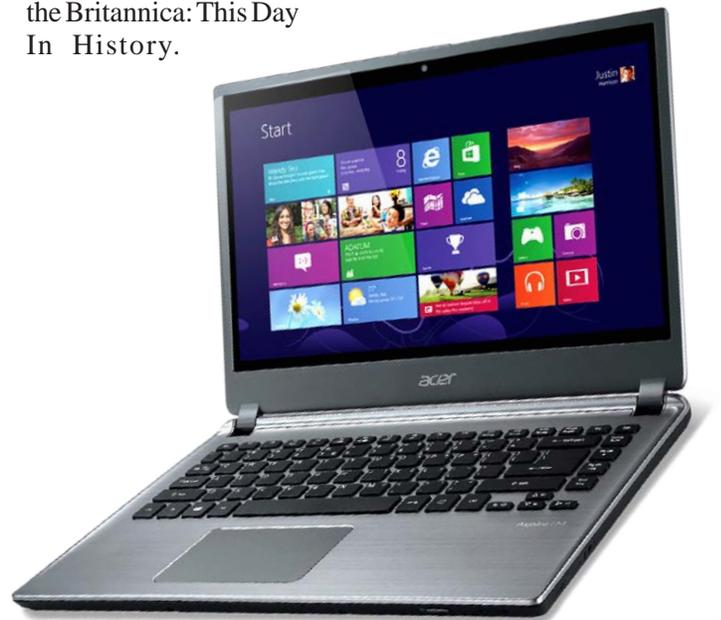
What's in the box: Acer laptop computer, 3 cell Li-Polymer battery, Power Brick, Power Cord, Quick Start Guide in English, French, and Dutch, spec sheets in same 3 languages, cheat-sheet tips for starting and exiting Windows 8, International Travelers' Warranty Passport, 10 pages in each of 3 languages (the fine print).

I have been living with this computer for half a year now, forever in the life of a device, and I m still in love. There are times when a tablet, phablet, or mega-screen supersmart phone is just not enough. The Aspire is enough computer to meet these needs. In a pinch, I can even get it into either of the purses I use for traveling. The 4.6 pounds adds a bit more weight than either of my tablets, though it s close when you include an added Bluetooth keyboard.

What does the M stand for in the product name? Millennium. Acer used a special optical drive that writes to long-lasting DVD s as well as to the standard kind. They thoughtfully included a sample of two, onto which I immediately recorded my Rescue discs. I am not planning to stick around for another millennium to verify the accuracy of the claims. In reality, I m hoping that I never need to find out anything about their durability or interoperability.

It s a bit hard to keep Aspire features sorted out from Windows 8 features. For example, the touch screen is the provenance of the device, while Windows 8 makes operating it both easier and more sensible. Having had less satisfying experiences elsewhere, I'm pretty sure that Acer is responsible for the responsiveness to touch clear up to the edge of the screen. I find the screen response just about right: it's sensitive to my taps and drags, but doesn't jump at every dust mote. The Aspire also came with 22 Acer Apps pre-installed, though I d hardly give Acer credit for anything other than the effort of adding commonly-used free apps and saving me the trouble of doing so. I m already addicted to some, like Skype and Evernote; I hadn't tried some, like NewsXpresso. But I do enjoy the Britannica: This Day In History.

That and StumbleUpon will get me through more than one staff meeting.

When the included trial copy of Microsoft Office 2010 expired, I did go to the trouble of downloading LibreOffice; it seemed easier than dealing with Microsoft. I got the Aspire with Windows 8 because it comes with Windows 8, though that would not have been my first choice since my usage is so text-intensive. I have changed my mind and my way of working. It s wonderful to want to go *there* in a document and just tap to get there. Problems mousing into an Excel cell? Not when I just point my finger and get in. Pinch out to read the fine print on a Web site, pinch back into regular view to refocus on the page. The only problem is, now I am poking holes in every other monitor

Acer Aspire M5 Touch

I come in contact with, literally, trying to get it to respond. Amazing how quickly the expectation of interactivity became embedded in my motor planning.
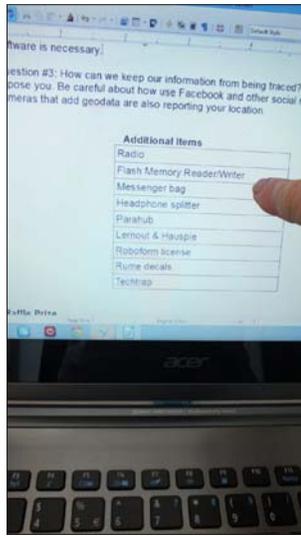
One feature that is clearly all Acer is the keyboard. The full-sized keys are white letters on black, the combination recommended by vision experts for typists who peek at their fingers while typing.

The touch is the best I have ever experienced. Very easy to depress but enough action to let my fingers and brain know what I've done. No embarrassing clatter to give me away when I'm doing research during meetings and other people's reports. Being part of the device, there isn't the hassle of carrying a separate keyboard, recognizing it and keeping it charged. Since I write the equivalent of a thesis or two each week, details of comfort for the long run are important. And though theoretically possible on an Android,

Move Cursor HERE!

hopping among a multiplicity of applications and sites in Windows doesn't demand the attention-grabbing focus that it does on a tablet.

The keyboard includes a large touchpad. I happen to like touchpads, so I definitely feel that the addition of a mouse, though possible, is contrary to the whole purpose of a laptop in my life, which is to be light and lean and productive. Though it is relatively large (4.5" diagonal) I bump into it or inadvertently activate it much less frequently than the touchpads on other devices I own. If I were to become involved in intensive graphics projects, I would probably want to add a pressure sensitive pen to the Acer and install a whole new set of artistic and graphics skills into the user.

The outside of the case is sleek, an important feature when I'm cramming it back into my purse or bag when hopping from session to session at a conference and after letting the TSA have a peek at everything electronic.

All the ports except the SD card slot and the headphone jack are on the back. Its convenient having the power jack center back, as I can flip the cord to either side and minimize tangling hazards. However, the USB ports are so close to it and to each other that the two USB 2.0 ports are effectively reduced to one in daily operations unless one is only adding an external keyboard and mouse or

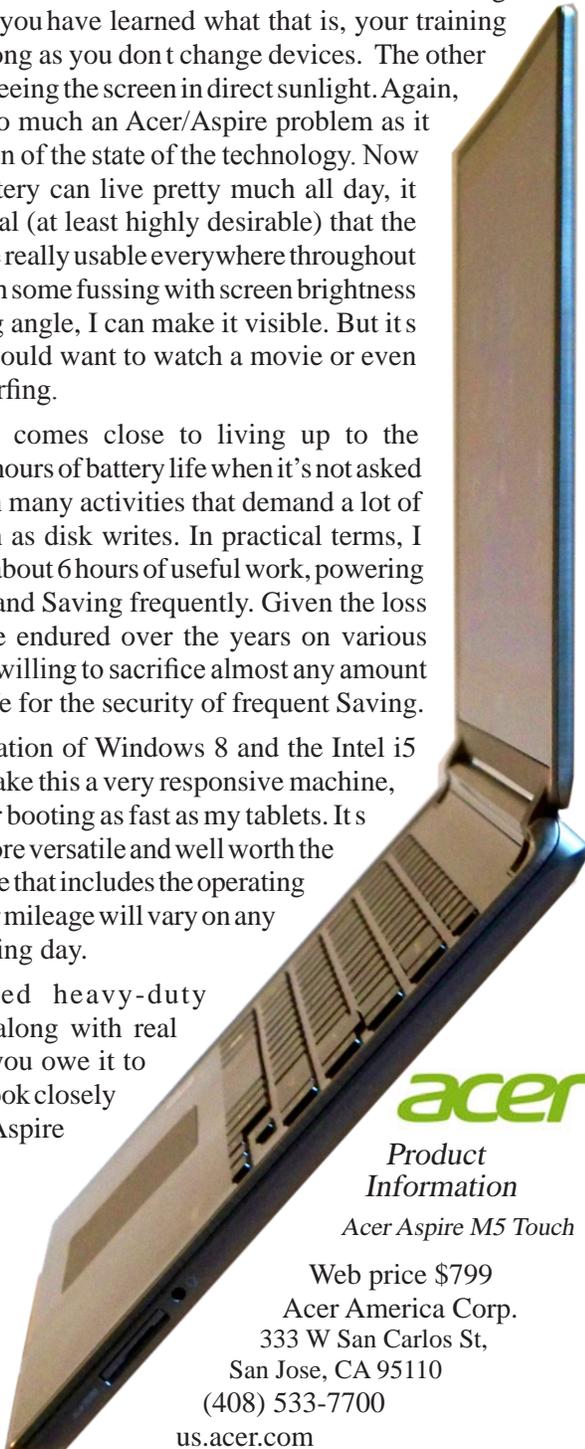both USB drives are of the super-small configuration.

Those cute USB icons, which help distinguish one USB stick from all the others definitely cover all the available space with a single plug-in. And when I'm in a hurry to Save to a USB drive, diving for the back of the computer and figuring out which port I want has been a hassle in dark rooms.

The other two problems I've had are finding the On button, which is tucked elegantly under the right front of the case. Every laptop seems to have a different location for turning it on. Once you have learned what that is, your training is good as long as you don t change devices. The other problem is seeing the screen in direct sunlight. Again, this is not so much an Acer/Aspire problem as it is a reflection of the state of the technology. Now that the battery can live pretty much all day, it seems logical (at least highly desirable) that the computer be really usable everywhere throughout the day. With some fussing with screen brightness and viewing angle, I can make it visible. But it s not how I would want to watch a movie or even do much surfing.

The Aspire comes close to living up to the promised 8 hours of battery life when it's not asked to engage in many activities that demand a lot of power, such as disk writes. In practical terms, I seem to get about 6 hours of useful work, powering on and off, and Saving frequently. Given the loss of work I've endured over the years on various devices, I m willing to sacrifice almost any amount of battery life for the security of frequent Saving.

The combination of Windows 8 and the Intel i5 processor make this a very responsive machine, waking up or booting as fast as my tablets. It s definitely more versatile and well worth the $750 list price that includes the operating system. Your mileage will vary on any given shopping day.

If you need heavy-duty work tools along with real portability, you owe it to yourself to look closely at the Acer Aspire line.

acer

Product Information

Acer Aspire M5 Touch

Web price $799
Acer America Corp.
333 W San Carlos St,
San Jose, CA 95110
(408) 533-7700
us.acer.com

1C Company Shows Products Aboard USS Hornet

by Bayle Emlein, PCC Secretary

Special to PCC from the West Coast bureau, and correspondent Bayle Emlein whom you probably don't want to meet in a dark alley in any reality or empire.

"Good evening, Mr. and Mrs. North America and all the ships at sea. Let's go to press!" In the latest developments of World War II, 1C Company announces the Battle of Stalingrad. The latest in the IL*2 Men of War series is in early Alpha now and is promised before the end of 2013.

The announcement of the game commemorates the 70th anniversary of end of the five-month Battle of Stalingrad with the final German surrender in February 1943. There are various scholarly theories about why both Hitler and Stalin were willing to commit whatever it would take to taking this city. The results of the battle significantly depleted the German Axis forces of resources and personnel, affecting their effectiveness on the Western Front and the final outcome of the war.

Newly declassified documents added to developers' ability to create realistic and detailed scenarios. The graphics are stunning, particularly the depiction of the Soviet Ally, General Winter. The long, cold Russian winter affected food supplies and mechanical operations and makes a stunning backdrop for the battle scenes. New planes and vehicles add to the realism and sense of engagement that draw in players and keeps them engrossed. When planes are damaged or crash, they don't just uniformly explode. Instead, realistic damage is modeled.

Messerschmitt Bf-109 as depicted in upcoming Battle of Stalingrad .

capsules out of the ocean. Now she is a museum where you can stand on the deck where Richard Nixon stood to welcome US astronauts safely home in a gesture designed to restate the balance of power in the Cold War and to associate his personal fortunes with this technological victory.

But what if the Cold War had heated up to the point of nuclear implosion? That is the premise of Nuclear Union, another offering in the IL-2 Sturmovik line. Developed by Best Way Strategy games and distributed by 1C, this post-apocalyptic survival drama takes place in an alternate world where the Cuban Missile crisis was not defused and all-out nuclear war has devastated the planet, including the still-existing Soviet Union. In the intervening half century, things have gotten tough--as have the remaining people and the mutants have had time to mature, as have the unusual fire arms that never went into mass production in the Soviet Union that avoided the nuclear holocaust. Look forward to Nuclear Union, which is in Alpha in July of 2013, to be in the hands of players by the 4th quarter.

The final offering of the show was another in the Sturmovik series: Assault Squad 2. Too early in Alpha to be playable, the stunning graphic effects will support the demand for quick tactical problem-solving on a multi-player platform.

The evening of product sampling was enhanced by the opportunity for guided tours around the museum/aircraft carrier. No single tour covered the entire ship. Instead, museum

High level of detail in the upcoming Nuclear Union FPS game.

Appropriately, the aircraft carrier Hornet was the venue for David Tractenberg's annual West Coast presentation of new game offerings from 1C, the Russian software giant. The Hornet fought for the last 15 months of the Pacific war, accounting for shooting down record numbers of enemy planes. Then she stayed active long enough to fish astronaut

docents led small groups to areas that have been preserved and retrofitted with items from the Hornet's active days, including kitchen minutia.

All in all, an appropriate setting for 1C Company to show off its upcoming game offerings. Try 1C Company's games. You will find them challenging and entertaining.

Avoid & Recover From Hacking

Best Practices & Tips For Staying Secure

You may think that your usernames and passwords are safe, but hackers have ways of gaining access to your supposedly "secret" information. For example, your PC could have spyware with a keylogger installed that provides the hacker with info about everything you enter using your keyboard, including your login information.

O r, hackers can use a brute-force style of attack using password-cracking software that will attempt to log in using various combinations of words and numbers. These programs can try thousands of different combinations in seconds. And once the hackers break into a single account, such as your webmail, they can take a guess at your other login and password pairings to break into your other online accounts—or even steal your identity. We'll examine what you'll need to protect your digital life from intrusion.
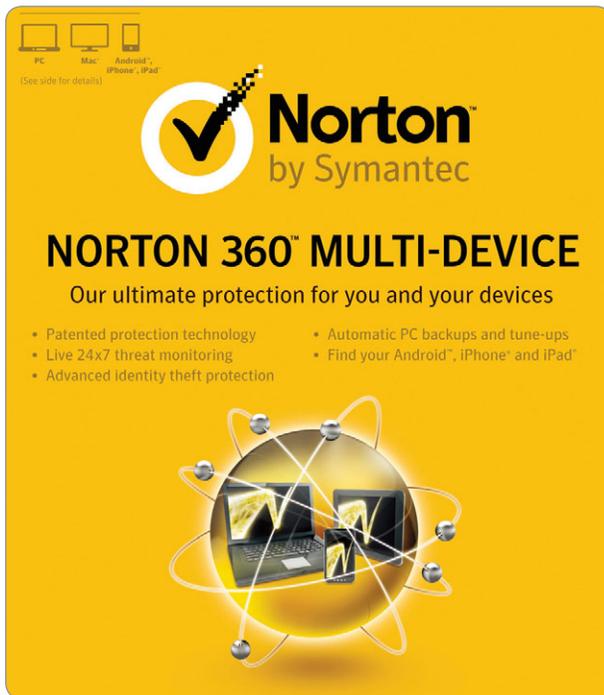
Security Starts At Home

We talked with Gerry Egan, Senior Director Product Management at Symantec, about how you can protect yourself from hacking. He told us, "The first step is to install security software on all of your devices, including your PCs, Macs, and mobile devices. Security software is often the first defense against online threats and can detect and block most threats before they appear on your device. It's also important to ensure that your security software is active and has access to the Internet to download the latest virus definitions. Thousands of new malware variants are discovered every day, so fall-

ing behind on virus definitions updates for even a day or two can put your system at risk."
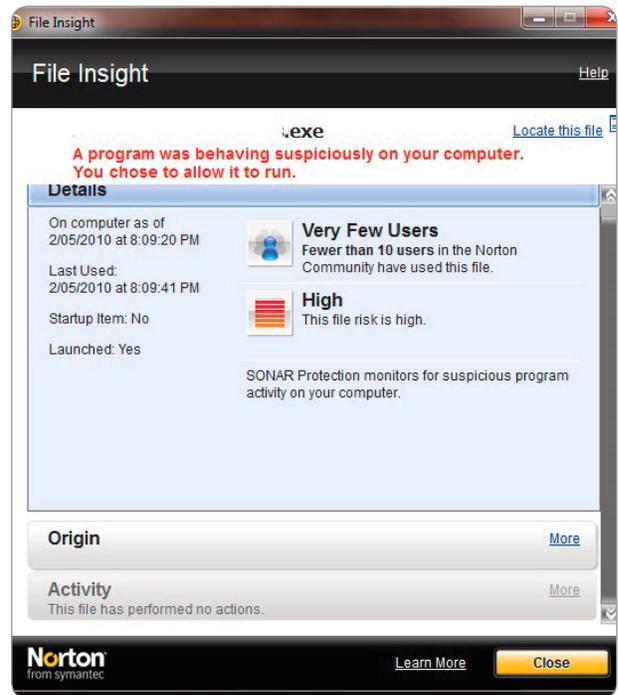
Note that to protect your PC, Mac, smartphones, and tablets, you'll want a security application designed specifically for use on both desktop *and* mobile devices. For example, Norton 360 Multi-Device (us.norton.com) provides protection for up to five devices running Windows (XP, Vista, 7 & 8), Mac (OS X 10.7 or 10.8), Android smartphones and tablets, and iPhones and iPads. Ensure that all of the applications on your computers and mobile devices are up-to-date, because software developers routinely fix bugs and vulnerabilities that hackers can use to infiltrate your PC. It's most important that you keep the operating system up-to-date, because it's the most common target for hackers.

Avoid Pop-Ups & Email Links

It may seem obvious, but be sure to avoid clicking on website pop-ups and also on links in emails from unknown entities—and even in emails that purport to be from someone you know. Egan told us, "Malicious software is commonly installed when users inadvertently install a program sent to them in an email."

Norton 360 Multi-Device works on all kinds of computers and mobile devices.

Symantec's SONAR technology uses behavior protection to actively monitor your PC for suspicious malware activity.
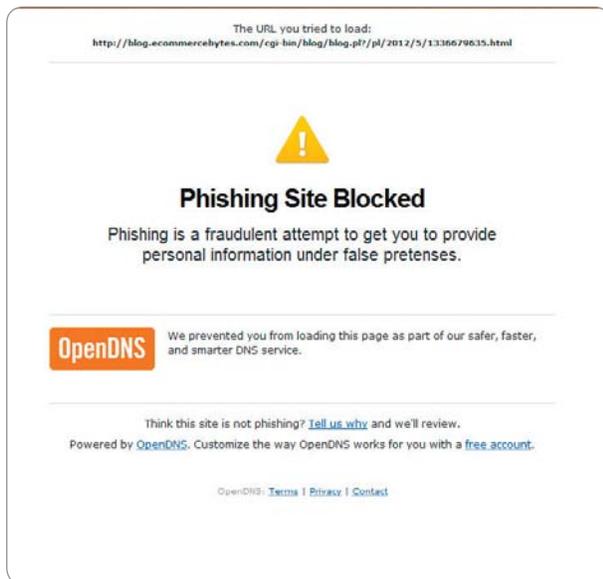
To prevent identity theft, it's best to limit the amount of information you make public on social networking websites. "While it may seem harmless, every bit of information about you can be valuable to a hacker trying to gain access to your accounts, particularly something that may give an attacker a hint as to one of your account passwords. Check up on your privacy settings as well, to make sure you know who has access to which information," says Egan.

Why You Want A Suite

Modern security suites offer more than just traditional antivirus protection; that's because today's threats require a more robust, all-around defense. For example, most security suites provide you with a firewall, a piece of software that determines which network traffic is allowed to enter and leave your PC, as well as providing protection against some forms of spyware and viruses. When comparing security software, check out the extras added by the software provider. Egan told us that Norton Internet Security offers "Vulnerability and IPS (Intrusion Protection) to look for signs of malicious activity deep within the network traffic entering

and leaving your computer to ensure that attackers are blocked from exploiting weaknesses in your computer's operating system and the software running on it. This defense technique is particularly effective at blocking web-based attacks, which have increasingly become the attack vector of choice."

Another technology found in Norton Internet Security is Symantec's SONAR technology, which monitors the regular execution of software applications on your computer by looking for signs of trouble that typically indicate the presence of malware. To avoid phishing scams, many security suites, including Norton Internet Security, offer the ability to block known dangerous websites and emails by scanning content before you open it. For instance, anti-phishing tools will look through links in emails to assure that they aren't taking you to malware-filled websites. "One up-and-coming threat is ransomware," says Egan, "an attack in which cybercriminals use malicious software to lock your computer and then demand a fine in order to unlock it. A strong security suite can prevent this locking software from ever installing itself on your computer, whereas a basic antivirus program would not."

Anti-phishing tools can help protect you by keeping your Web browser from accessing suspect websites.

You may need to reset your email password to prevent a hacker from sending out further emails.

Password Strength

Although a single word may be easy to remember, keep in mind that brute-force hacking tools often begin by going through common dictionary words. And because some Web sites require a number in the password, the automatic hacking tools typically add a single digit behind the common words and phrases. Thus, a password such as "home5" isn't any more secure than "home." Egan told us, "A strong password will be at least eight characters long and include upper and lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols. Remember that you are trying to make it as difficult as possible for someone else to guess or crack, so the longer the better."

The downside is that a random assortment of characters is difficult to remember, so a long set of mixed characters isn't really practical. Fortunately, there are a few easy tips for creating complex passwords that are memorable. One common method is to use the first letters of a favorite phrase or lyric. For instance, "I pledge allegiance to the flag and to the republic for which it stands" could become *Ipa2tFattRfwis*. In this example, we mixed the upper-case and lower-case letters by capitalizing the letters for "flag" and "republic," as well as replacing the word "to" with the number "2." The key is that the phrase must be easily remembered and that it fit within the prescribed password size and format requirements. Again, though, the longer the better.

Why You Shouldn't Repeat Passwords

Do you use the same password for all of your online accounts? Many do, but it's not a good practice. Even if the password is very complex, once a hacker steals one password, he can use it on the rest of your accounts. "Everyone is aware that it can be disastrous if cybercriminals gain access to your banking accounts, but it can be equally harmful if email and social networking accounts are left poorly protected, since they can be used to verify other accounts and to reset passwords. You should make sure the passwords for those accounts are complex and that they are changed every few months," said Egan.

The problem is that it's tough for us to remember the all the different passwords we need, or even which passwords correlate with a given Web service. And storing the passwords somewhere—whether it be on a sticky note or a spreadsheet on your PC—isn't advisable because someone who broke into your home would have access to all your passwords. Egan recommended that readers "consider using a password manager, such as Norton Identity Safe, which will save you the hassle of remembering the password for each site. It's also a good idea to log out when you're finished accessing sensitive accounts."

Once the password manager has your usernames and passwords stored, the software will automatically and

Password:	••••••••••••••	• Minimum 8 characters in length
Hide:	☑	• Contains 3/4 of the following items:
Score:	85%	- Uppercase Letters - Lowercase Letters
Complexity:	Very Strong	- Numbers - Symbols

Additions		Type	Rate	Count	Bonus
🔵	Number of Characters	Flat	+(n*4)	13	+ 52
🔵	Uppercase Letters	Cond/Incr	+((len-n)*2)	2	+ 22
🔵	Lowercase Letters	Cond/Incr	+((len-n)*2)	9	+ 8
🔵	Numbers	Cond	+(n*4)	2	+ 8
❌	Symbols	Flat	+(n*6)	0	0
✅	Middle Numbers or Symbols	Flat	+(n*2)	1	+ 2
✅	Requirements	Flat	+(n*2)	4	+ 8
Deductions					
✅	Letters Only	Flat	-n	0	0
✅	Numbers Only	Flat	-n	0	0
⚠️	Repeat Characters (Case Insensitive)	Comp	-	4	- 1
✅	Consecutive Uppercase Letters	Flat	-(n*2)	0	0
⚠️	Consecutive Lowercase Letters	Flat	-(n*2)	7	- 14
✅	Consecutive Numbers	Flat	-(n*2)	0	0
✅	Sequential Letters (3+)	Flat	-(n*3)	0	0
✅	Sequential Numbers (3+)	Flat	-(n*3)	0	0

Ensure that you're using strong passwords for your email accounts.

Security Settings

Secure Browsing	Secure browsing is currently enabled.
Login Notifications	Text message notifications are enabled.
Login Approvals	A security code is not required when logging in from an unknown browser.
Code Generator	Code Generator is enabled.
App Passwords	You haven't created app passwords.
Trusted Contacts	You don't have any trusted contacts set.
Recognized Devices	You won't get notified or have to confirm your identity when logging in from these devices:

IE on Windows	May 30, 2013 · Remove
IE on Windows	May 21, 2013 · Remove
IE on Windows	May 14, 2013 · Remove
Firefox on Windows	May 7, 2013 · Remove
Facebook for iPhone	April 3, 2013 · Remove
upstairs computer	April 2, 2013 · Remove
ios	April 2, 2013 · Remove
Internet Explorer work	January 15, 2013 · Remove
work	January 15, 2013 · Remove
home	January 13, 2013 · Remove
iOS	September 22, 2012 · Remove
Skype	May 12, 2012 · Remove

[Save Changes] [Cancel]

Active Sessions	Logged in from Lincoln, NE, US and 7 other locations.

Deactivate your account.

out   Create Ad   Create Page   Developers   Careers   Privacy   Cookies   Terms   Help

ebook © 2013 · English (US)

The Security section of Facebook allows you to find out when and where Facebook has detected logins.

securely log on to the sites you enter by automatically filling in the open fields. Besides reducing the burden of remembering the credentials, this method also helps to defeat hackers who use keyloggers to monitor the keys you press. Some password managers also feature a random password generator, which is a great tool for creating highly secure passwords. After a password is generated, the software will save the password and associate it with the website and username you prefer, so you'll never need to remember the complex sequence.

What To Do If You're Hacked

"If you suspect that your accounts have been hacked, take action immediately by shutting down or changing the password for any affected accounts," said Egan, "Notify your account provider and give as many details as possible. Let your friends and family know you've been hacked and that they shouldn't click on links in suspicious emails from you or posts on social networks. Also, run a security scan on your computer to make sure no malicious programs have been installed."

Most websites that require a login, including Outlook.com, Gmail, and Facebook, include detailed instructions about what you should do if your account has been compromised. Most online services offer some form of account recovery options, so you'll be able to reset the password or gain access to the account through an alternate email or mobile phone number if the hackers has changed the password. Some websites also have an account history, so you may be able to determine when your account was logged into. Check regularly to see if hackers are logging into your account.

Egan told us, "If your account has access to your financial details, like your credit cards, check your banking and credit reports carefully. The sooner you catch fraudulent behavior, the easier it will be to refute."

A Final Check

In addition to changing your password and examining your account recovery, check back through your email account settings to make sure nothing has been changed. It's possible that the hacker configured your account with a forwarding rule, so he can continue to monitor your email account. Once you're changed the password and examined your account settings, you should be able to return to your online accounts with relative confidence in the new security. ●

Special Interest Group Meetings

Del Parton - *retired the* ***Hardware SIG***. *Del's Hardware SIG, now 27 years old, is the oldest SIG and has been held continually since the inception of PCC. Del thanked the Smiths at the September Main Meeting for hosting the SIG in their house for the past 13 years.*

Dan Dolgin - *(510) 895-8845*
dandolgin7@comcast.net
3rd Monday of the month:7:30pm
http://www.pcc.org/mobile

Bud Gallagher - *(510) 269-3623*
budgall@comcast.net
2nd Saturday of the month:1pm

Jan Fagerholm - *(510) 213-8421*
pcc4me@gmail.com
Last Saturday of the Month:2pm

Door Prizes

Congratulations to all the members who won door prizes at the Main Meeting!

General Drawing:

AARP radio	John Cordeniz
Bayone Flash Memory Reader/Writer	Paul Rogers
CUE messenger bag	Michael Wong
Kidzgear headphone splitter	Bill George
Intelligent Parahub	Joy Somerville
Lernout & Hauspie tee shirt	Lola Hunter
Roboform license	Judy Rogers
Rume decals	Yorkman Lowe
Techtrap	Bayle Emlein

Raffle Prize:

ADADA 32 GB micro SDHC card	Bayle Emlein

Membership Dues

As of January 1, 2013, our Membership Dues have changed. There is an increase in dues as follows:

Regular...$40.00
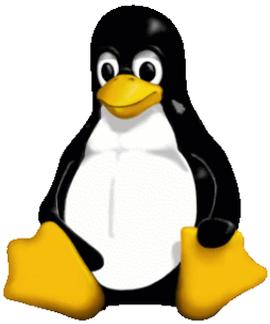Seniors/Students.............................$25.00

Make a check payable to PC Community in the amount listed above to:
PC Community
26799 Contessa Street
Hayward, CA 94545-3149

Dues Expiring This Month!

The following members dues expire this month:

**Congratulations -- No
Membership Dues
Expiring This Month**

The Penguin Partition
Linux for Human Beings

by Jan Fagerholm, PCC Penguinista

Meanwhile, Back on Earth. . .

This penguinista is embarked on a major foray into Android territory. After long consideration, I got an ASUS Google Nexus 7 (that's its real full name) tablet computer.

The "long consideration" part was largely engendered by the practical consideration, "do I really need this?" The honest answer is "no", but the coolness factor and gadget attraction turned out to be irresistible. That, and a price that made it easy to give in.

I've looked at everything from the $69 Fry's specials (4-point multitouch screens, slow CPUs, small memory, poor response to inputs) to the Apple iPad (smooth, slick interface, responsive, great screen, gazillions of apps in the Apple Store). I also looked at the ASUS MeMO Pad, which is the device on which the Nexus 7 is based. It is cheaper than the Nexus 7 and it has a micro SD card slot, which the Nexus 7 does not, but it is saddled with a 1024x600 screen, which looks decidedly chunky alongside the Nexus 7's 1280x800 screen. I also looked at several 10" tablets, but I really prefer the 7" form factor despite the smaller screen.

The clincher, though, is the fact that the ASUS Google Nexus 7 is the reference platform on which Google develops its version of Android. (Google is the creator of Android.) Android is open source, which means that anyone can pick it up and adapt it to their device, and many people have. Android devices now have about 40% market share to Apple's 32%, much to the consternation of Apple, who invented this category. It also means that there is a certain amount of mediocre devices out there, and you are dependent on the hardware manufacturer for system updates. The ASUS Nexus 7 is the reference platform that Google uses for updates and development, so it is the first to get updates and improvements to Android.

There are many tablets out there that are presently selling with Android 4.0 (Ice Cream Sandwich) and 4.1 (the "old" Jellybean). The Nexus 7 is presently running Android 4.2.(still called Jellybean) which the developers nicknamed "butter" in reference that the "new" Jellybean

was directed at making the interface smoother and more responsive rather than adding features. It went along with a hardware refresh in March to make a new, improved Nexus 7. As many reviewers have pointed out, the latest Nexus 7 is not just a Kindle Fire killer, it is an iPad killer: equal quality experience at half the price.

I've picked up many tablet computers over the last few months and scratched my head figuring out how to navigate them. With dozens of years being trained by conventional computer interfaces, I have had a tough time un-training myself of computer expectations and adjusting myself to the way that tablet computers work. They require a very different mindset than conventional computers. Closing applications is not part of normal operations (though it may be done) and saving documents is automatic; apps do not have a "Save" button. Everything stays there unless you choose to delete it. This points out to two of my favorite features that Android has that I prefer over the iPad. One is that the Android's navigation buttons are on-screen, so that when you rotate the screen to a new orientation, the buttons go with it and remain on the bottom of the screen. (The iPad has a single hardware Home button, so when you rotate the screen the button is in a different orientation relative to the screen.) Second, the iPad has Siri, its voice recognition software, that allows you to speak commands to the iPad, but Siri is cloud based and does not work if you do not have an Internet connection. That makes the wireless version of the iPad useless for dictating notes in many of the places you are likely to take it. Android's Google Voice is in the tablet, which means it works even if you are not connected to the Internet. This makes it a great note taker, as the Nexus 7 comes out of sleep mode instantly; one tap on the screen and its ready to listen.

I bought the Nexus 7 as a toy, but I am rapidly finding it useful in all sorts of situations where it would be impractical to fire up my laptop. It gets used every day.

Google Play only has half a gazillion apps to Apple's gazillion, but Google Play has hundreds of useful free apps to Apple Store's near-zero, so it is possible to try out several apps to find the solution you are looking for.

More on the apps business later on.

PCC Main and Executive Meeting Highlights

Secretary — Bayle Emlein
pcc@ix.netcom.com

Treasurer — Tom Smith
smith-tf@pacbell.net

Main Meeting Highlights

July 5, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7:37 p.m. by President Chuck Horner. See Lola Hunter at the ticket table for raffle tickets, door prize tickets, and 3" x 5" cards to write questions for discussion/answers at the end of the Meeting. Get at least one $5 raffle ticket for this month's raffle prize, a 32GB microSD card.

Michael Wong renewed his membership and brought several friends, Jennifer, Dana, and Alex. Paul Rogers, Sally Holt, and David Graham also renewed. Chuck acknowledged Sally for the wonderful raffle prizes she has obtained.

Chuck will follow up with Sid Jordan about Heald College's offer to donate 30 computers.

SIG announcements:

The Spectacular Linux SIG meets the last Saturday of the month in Hayward. They will be looking at the technical aspects of PEAR Linux, a clone of iOS 10.6.

We need someone to help with programs and someone to help with publicity. If you can help in any way, let a member of the Executive Committee know.

Anyone present who did not receive a newsletter? Two people did not. Diane suggested that they check their Junk Mail or Spam folders.

Presentation:

Jan Fagerholm started off by distinguishing between tablets and desktop/laptop computers. Windows does not lend itself to the tablet interface. Steve Jobs developed the graphical interface and then scored another innovation iOS designed for the multi-point capacitive touch screen. One of the advantages that Apple has had historically because they develop both the hardware and software and integrate them well.

Google has been looking to expand into their touch screen. Google is a software company based on Linux. They focused on the software for touchscreens and license to various hardware manufacturers. Right now, Samsung is one of the best implementers.

Inexpensive tablets are usually 4-point rather than 10-point touch, less memory, and are relatively slow. The tablet maker is responsible for software updates; the buyer is dependent on the manufacturer staying in business and providing current updates.

The Kindle reader can be considered a tablet. The older ones have reflective screens, requiring an external light source. The screen display uses about 50% of the power, so turning it off during activities like Navigation saves battery.

The Google partnerships with Motorola was not terribly successful, mostly because of Motorola's failure to market well. The partnership with Samsung is more successful because of marketing. Jan likes the form factor of the Asus Google Nexus 7. That is a personal choice. He also likes that it has satellite GPS so that he can get maps anywhere, whether or not there is phone or WiFi coverage.

There is a learning curve with tablets. Input is touch/gesture based. Apple made a significant dent in the piracy by making music and many apps so inexpensive that piracy is not worth the trouble. Because it is based on open-source Linux, Android has many more free apps, many of them quite good.

The Nexus has a 16:9 ration, which matches movie and current TV displays. The iPad Mini has a 4:3 ratio, which gives a bit more screen real estate. The Nexus has a quick-launch button on the home screen that makes it easy to access the most-used features.

On the Nexus, all the buttons are soft. So when you rotate the device, the buttons all stay in the same relationship. And it has a Back button. Siri (on Apple) requires an internet connection for voice input. Google Voice works locally. The form factor for both allows for two-thumb typing and the keyboard is big enough to accommodate large thumbs.

The Android can multi-task. This is particularly convenient for keeping up with navigation. Files and notifications can be closed by swiping the title to the right.

Diane George showed her Nook HD+ with 32 GB of storage. She thought of it as a ebook reader, but was happy to discover that it is also a tablet. With a connector, she

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Main Meeting Highlights
Continued

can output to the projector or to a TV. It can take up to 32 GB SD card. She took the card from her old Nook, and the new device recognized all her stored material. It also has a Settings button on top. She found out that it will connect with a Bluetooth headset only if the headset does not have a microphone, since there is a built-in mike. Because content is all stored on the cloud, when she had to reformat the Nook, all but one of her apps was available without a hitch or any need for her to do anything.

The Nook does not have a camera, which Diane does not miss. She does like the USB charger; the USB cable can be connected to her computer and files can be moved by dragging.

Chuck Horner pointed out that the Android has a graffiti app. It works a lot like the Palm interface, for people who are used to that.

After the convivial break, Don Trimble's questions were considered. He has a problem burning a DVD using RealPlayer. Nero and Ashampoo. A search on CNET's Downloads.com for free burners was suggested.

Question #2: How can he reduce the files size of a picture? Andrew Tews suggested downloading Picture Reducer from Microsoft. There are a lot of free programs to look for.

Sally Holt asked about reducing the size of videos. Separate video editing software is necessary.

Question #3: How can we keep our information from being traced? Any WiFi or GPS will expose you. Be careful about how you use Facebook and other social media. Be aware that cameras that add geodata are also reporting your location.

Thank you to George Kornbluth for taking care of refreshments.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bayle Emlein, Secretary

Executive Committee Meeting Highlights

July 20, 2013

The Meeting was called to order at 2:38 p.m.

The June minutes were approved as distributed.

Members present: Bayle Emlein, Chuck Horner, Elsie Smith, Tom Smith. Absent: Jan Fagerholm, Diane George, Sally Holt, Sid Jordan.

Old Business:

The EC will be on vacation in August. Pressing business will be handled via email.

Chuck will find the format for the business card that he developed and print a set to hand out at the August 2 Main Meeting.

Chuck will check with his son Aaron about working with Sally in developing a promotional YouTube video.

President's Report - Chuck Horner: Chuck verified the list of members who renewed in the last month. He will follow up with people who are not listed as current. The memory of all present was that PCC is no longer comping dues credit for service to PCC.

Executive Vice President - Sally Holt: No report.

Treasurer - Tom Smith: As of July 20, 2013

　　　　　Checking Account $799.83.

Secretary - Bayle Emlein: Nothing special to report.

VP Clubhouse - Sid Jordan: No report. Chuck reported that Heald donated 30 CPU's and a few monitors.

VP Marketing - Vacant

VP Membership - Jan Fagerholm:

We have a total of 39 members as of July 20, 2013.

VP Newsletter - Elsie Smith: Submission deadlines

August 25, 2013, Saturday midnight, September Newsletter.
September 21, 2013, Saturday midnight, October Newsletter

Special Projects - Bayle Emlein: No report.

Webmaster - Diane George: Calendar: Check the website for the latest updates.

Programs: August: Part 2 of Twitter, with a view from the personal side from Elsie Smith.

September: PCC 25th Anniversary. The EC authorized up to $25 for a cake. Chuck and Diane George will work out details.

Raffle Prize:

August: Gift card from Fry's, $20 card with tax = 21.80 value.
September: Phillips Universal remote.

New Business:
APCUG photo and Web site contest deadlines are August 26. The annual meeting will be held in Ohio in September.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:23 p.m.

Date and Time of Next Meeting:

Saturday, Saturday, September 21, 2013 at 2 pm; 28924 Ruus Road, Hayward California.

Respectfully submitted,
Bayle Emlein, Secretary

August 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Check the calendar at **www.pcc.org** *for up-to-date information!*		*See Page 6 for SIG Meeting information.*		**1**	**2** **7:30 pm** *Main Meeting*	**3**
4	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10** Windows 7 SIG on Sabbatical
11	**12**	**13**	**14**	**15**	**16**	**17** 2 pm-Exec. Committee Mtg. On Vacation
18	**19** Mobile Computing SIG on Vacation	**20**	**21**	**22**	**23**	**24**
25	**26**	**27**	**28**	**29**	**30**	**31** 2 pm-Linux SIG

The **September 2013 Main Meeting** will be at 28924 Ruus Road, Hayward CA, on **September 6, 2013** at 7:30 P.M.