

SLO Bytes HardCopy

A publication of the San Luis Obispo PC Users' Group
Vol. 22 No. 9 September 2006

Alan's August 6th, 2006 General Windows SIG by Alan Raul

The August meeting began with a beautiful customized video by Don Jones of still pictures and movies shot at last month's July BBQ. This video will be available at the SLO Bytes web site in WMV format for you to download.

"**The Perfect Backup**" is a backup presentation by Gene Barlow. This is about a 24MB download so it's for people with high-speed connections.

<http://www.ugr.com/PBA/PerfectBackupApproach.htm>

Microsoft Virtual PC 2004 is a virtualization suite for Microsoft Windows operating systems. The software was originally written by Connectix, and was subsequently acquired by Microsoft.

Virtual PC emulates a standard PC and its associated hardware. Thus, it can be used to run nearly all operating systems available for the PC; Linux, Windows XP, Windows 98SE, etc.

<http://www.microsoft.com/windows/virtualpc/default.mspx>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virtual_pc

U3 is responsible for the development of a proprietary application design specification created for [Microsoft Windows](#) operating systems so that [applications](#) can be executed directly from a specially formatted [USB flash drive](#). Applications are allowed to write [files](#) or [registry](#) information to the host computer, but this information must be removed when the flash drive is ejected.

<http://www.u3.com/>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U3>

<http://www.everythingusb.com/u3.html>



August 6th, 2006 Main Meeting Review by William Avery

This meeting presented **Pete Gannon** of *Computer Stuff*, a multi-faceted computer business in San Luis Obispo, Paso Robles, and Arroyo Grande. They offer expert repairs, and also build custom systems right in the store, with a wide selection of parts, accessories, and services available, including network design and installation. Pete Gannon is a SLO Bytes member and has supported our group for many years. Pete addressed what's new in motherboards, CPUs, and various systems. He discussed the issues involved in computer replacement or upgrading. The computer related technical world is advancing and changing so rapidly a person most suited to keep up is someone making a living in the business, like Pete.

He reviewed Vista, the new Microsoft operating system, which is due out after November, 2006.

There are 8 versions of this product, which means you will have many choices to make, when and if you want to upgrade. Pete showed us some Vista capable systems, using both Intel and AMD processors. The motherboards are Asus, which is the largest and best manufacturer in the world. The new Intel chips are the fastest CPUs available, but AMD has lowered their prices, and created a new "M2" socket style which is very good for new designs. We will see these improvements continue on a competitive basis in the near future.

Unless you need the state-of -the-art computers, the average user will be quite happy with an architecture which is one or two levels below the latest super machine. If you are still running Win98, like me, we have less than a year before our systems will not have any support at all, somewhat like the time when Win 3.1 disappeared, if you remember that!

Heat issues continue to dominate CPU design, and Intel chips are also leading the way in this area. All the new designs are dual-core, with some talk of a quad-core design down the road. AMD is still a favorite for Pete, and he will probably recommend them for his newest motherboard, which had all the peripherals built-in, including USB ports and graphical outputs.

The future of computing is driven by what we expect our systems to do, and Pete has a very positive view of what is coming, as he noted in his closing remarks about the services which will be offered as high speed computing comes to your door.

I was not able to see this presentation, but Ray recorded it for my use, and it is a very detailed discussion, which you may wish hear as a review. If so, please let me know. See you in September -

Bill Avery - SLO, CA



Peter Stonehewer's Featured Speaker Programming Schedule

Lauri Sowa will be joining us as our featured presenter to demonstrate the ease of creating business cards, labels, flyers and additional artwork in **Microsoft Word** (and **Microsoft Publisher**).

Lauri will be inserting and modifying graphics and pictures along with offering design layout techniques and tips. Take the frustration away from inserting photos and see how to customize your own greeting cards and invitations for the holidays. Join us and master the art of design.

Lauri, will also introduce her recently published guide to your computer. [The Computer Cache](#) is simple, easy to follow explanations of common computer issues. It is an entertaining and practical approach that eliminates the techno-babble and takes the mystery out of computing.

Prior to the main presentation:

Alan Raul will moderate his Q & A session from **12:45 PM to 2:00 PM**

Bill Avery will conduct a Windows operating systems SIG for beginners in the same time slot.



Webmaster's Corner

I am pleased to announce the relocation of the SLO Bytes Bulletin Board. The original BB was hosted by BoardNation as a free service. That arrangement served us well for several years. In order to post to the bulletin board, one had to register first. Unfortunately, there was no provision for limiting who subscribed. Recently, the original board was besieged with spam. Many of you helped Alan Raul and me by notifying us when the spam appeared. All we could do was to remove spam after it appeared.

The new bulletin board is more robust. It requires that the moderators, Alan and me, approve new members before they can join. I have already pre-subscribed all current SLO Bytes members to the new bulletin board but before you can post messages or respond to them, you have to set your password. If you do not wish to use the bulletin board, you don't have to do anything. The bulletin board does not send out e-mail messages. The listserv handles that task.

To learn more about how to activate your subscription to the bulletin board, see www.slobytes.org/joinbboard.html. To go directly to the new bulletin board, go to www.slobytes.org/bboard/

Ralph Sutter
SLO Bytes Webmaster



President's Message

At our 3 September, 2006 meeting:

At 12:45 PM, Alan will be moderating the Question and Answer session.

At 2:30 PM, Our speaker, Lauri Sowa will give her presentation.

Go to <http://www.slobytes.org/newsletter/push/0906/index.html> to see the 10 great **PUSH Articles for September 2006**. They came to me from **Judy Taylour of APCUG**, Editorial PUSH Committee Chair. Our Webmaster, Ralph Sutter uploaded these articles to our website. The PUSH Archive articles can be found at <http://www.slobytes.org/newsletter/push/index.html>

Take advantage of the four **learning CD's** "Learn Windows XP, Excel, Word & Power Point" available for our members to check out (at the Treasurer's table)

We also have **Adobe PhotoShop 7, learning CD's** to check out (at the Treasurer's table). These 5 CD's cover, in depth, the various program features in lesson format.

Continue to bring any **used ink-jet printer or toner cartridges** to our meeting. We collect them (at the Treasurer's table) and turn them over to "Make A-Wish Foundation" who generate much needed funds for their organization by refurbishing and selling them.

--Ray Miklas



Treasurer's Report

June 24, 2006 - August 24, 2006

Income

Renewing members	\$175.00
Refreshment sale	30.00

Expenses

Hall rent	75.00
Bar B Q expense paid	73.97

Bank accounts @ 7/31/06

CD #116	1,169.04
CD #1161	3,191.02
Saving acct bal	53.34
Checking acct bal	736.20
Interest – year to date	73.13

New members: none

Renewing members: Seven: Alan Raul, Janet Thatcher, John Simko, Rudy Spieler, Josette Farnum, Gloria Davis, Kenneth Stilts

Robert Mires, Treasurer



Club Information and Meeting Times

SLO Bytes, a PC Users Group dedicated to educate its members in the use of personal computers, digital devices and software, meets on the first Sunday of each month at the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) Hall at 520 Dana Street, San Luis Obispo. All meetings are open to the public at no cost. Special interest groups meet from 12:45 PM to 2:00 PM and guest speaker presentations begin at 2:30 PM. Contact Peter Stonehewer (929-1012, <stonepet@kcbx.net>) or visit www.slobytes.org for additional information about SLO Bytes and the scheduled presentation.

HardCopy is a monthly publication of SLO Bytes PC Users' Group located in San Luis Obispo, California. Information in this Newsletter is derived from both our own membership and other PC User Group Newsletters. The purpose of this publication is to inform our members of meetings and provide information related to the use of PCs and various Operating Systems.

Membership Dues are \$25 per year. Full membership entitles you to our monthly newsletter via e-mail, technical assistance, raffle gift drawing at the end of the meetings, a voice in the affairs of the club, and comradeships.

Article Submission Deadline for submission of articles is the 20th of each month. Articles should be E-mailed to the editor (rmiklas@pacbell.net).

Outside Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

HTML/Internet SIG normally meets at 6:30 PM on the Monday (following our Sunday's General Meeting) at Ralph Sutter's home in Arroyo Grande. Call Ralph at 489-8678 for directions.

Linux SIG normally meets at 6:30 PM on Thursday (following our Sunday's General Meeting) at KCBXnet [a.k.a. SLONET] Training Center, 4100 Vachell Lane, SLO.

Photography SIG normally meets at 7 PM on a third Monday of each month at Don Jones's home in Pismo Beach. Call Don at 773-5526 for directions.

SLO Bytes Officers/Volunteers

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Don Jones (Photography SIG)
Lou Pera (Contributing Columnist/Photo SIG)
Nancy Vrooman (Refreshments)
Ken Stilts (Set-up/Clean-up)
John Enos (Set-up/Clean-up)
Bill Palmerston (Set-up/Clean-up)

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SLO Bytes Website <http://www.slobytes.org>