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TUGNET



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INSIDE

Officers & Directors.....	2
Coordinators, Fine Print, Etc.....	3
Meetings continued.....	4
Special Interest Groups.....	8
Marian's Memos.....	10
Highlights of Past Meetings.....	12
Winners.....	23
Flash Memory Survival.....	24
Home Network.....	25
E-Mail Tracker Programs.....	29
Details in Your Backups.....	32
7 Steps for Protection.....	36
Tips.....	39
Help Contact.....	40
Monthly Calendar.....	42
Membership Application.....	43

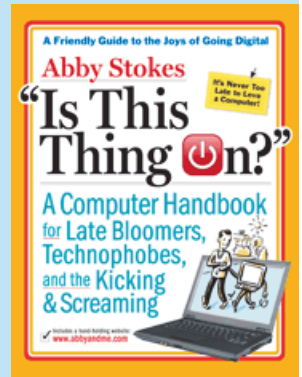
This Month

November 2

Is This Thing On?

Abby Stokes has demystified computers for over 100,000 people, mostly seniors, in the course of the past 15 years. Abby has taught courses

in basic computing at both Cooper Union and New York University's School of Lifelong Learning, as well as computer skills to private and corporate clients. She has lectured on the topic across the country. A firm believer that "if my mother can learn the computer anyone can," Abby is confident that everyone can master the computer and navigate the Internet.





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TUGNET is a non-profit computer users group. TUGNET's mailing address for membership information, submissions to the TUGNET Newsletter, or other club-related material, is TUGNET, 3926 Community, La Crescenta, CA 91214-2375.

We welcome your submissions, including technical questions or letters to the editor, on PC disk (in a popular word processing format), or by e-mail to Marian Radcliffe. **Hardcopy alone will no longer be accepted!! All submissions must be presented on disk or e-mail as described above!!** The number one rule when writing for us is: **Do not attempt to format your article**, except for bolding and italicizing. Instead, focus on writing a clear, organized, grammatically correct article. We'll take care of the rest. We reserve the right to edit as necessary for space considerations. Other non-profit user groups may reprint articles (except for those copyrighted) without prior permission, provided proper author, title and publication credits are given. Newsletter produced using Microsoft *Publisher*. Membership database is in Microsoft *Access*.

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More Meetings

Abby is the author of *Is This Thing On? A Computer Handbook for Late Bloomers, Technophobes, and the Kicking & Screaming*, *Dinner Party Disasters: True Stories of Culinary Catastrophe*, and *It's Never Too Late to Love a Computer*. She splits her time between New York City and Niantic, Connecticut.

Those who were present for her session at the Southwest Conference loved her, so we will have a wonderful meeting with Abby via Skype.

Those of us who missed her finally have a chance to get acquainted. I'm sure you'll love seeing and hearing her.

<http://abbyandme.com>

November 9 Social Media



Do you want to establish an online presence in social media (Twitter, LinkedIn, etc.), but you're concerned about the time it takes? With this presentation, find out how you can leverage technology and time management to create a successful social networking presence online.

We'll welcome Jennifer Beever who will explain why social media is an important tactic. Learn how to set up an inbound system that fits your resources and budget.

There have been many requests for a presentation dealing with the various social media sites, so be sure to come and "hear all about it." I'm sure we will all learn a few things - it's always worthwhile to be as up to date as possible in the fast-changing world of technology.

November 16www.tugnet.com

We will have a very special guest for this evening's meeting: Katherine (Kat) Koch. In case you don't recognize the name, Kathy handles our web site. Some years ago she moved to Redmond, Washington. We were dismayed when we learned she was leaving the San Fernando Valley! However, she said we needn't worry, she would continue as TUGNET's webmaster. Whew!

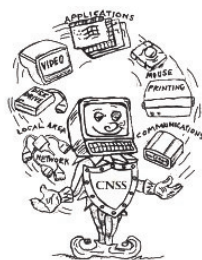
As you know, she has done an outstanding job for us and we have the awards to prove it from past years when we entered our web site into user group contests.

Kathy will not have a prepared presentation but is looking forward to seeing all those who have been around long enough to know her. I've asked her to discuss our web site a bit and she'll be able to answer your questions about how she does things. Maybe even why she does them. It will be a wonderful evening. You may even find out something about TUGNET's web site that you weren't aware of before. Be sure to come greet her.

November 23

Storage Options

Not so long ago we had a hard drive and one or two floppy drives. That was how we saved our documents.



There are many storage choices available to us now and Roger Radcliffe will be here to give us some ideas of what is currently available to us and what might be best to use in various situations.

November 30

eBay



As frequently requested, we will have a presentation showing the various possibilities available when using eBay.

Brian Orem, who has used eBay for both buying and selling for many years, will be here to review the positives of each as well as how the many recent changes have affected those who like to be eBay users.

December 7

Just Deals



Most of us will be shopping during the next three weeks or so and we will be hoping to find some sales with discounted prices. I think many in our group also do some, or maybe all, of their shopping on line.

We have not explored this before since it is quite new so it will be a pleasure to welcome the General Manager, Mr. Steven Apple. (No, not that Apple!) If you are a bargain shopper, you mustn't miss this evening's meeting. Do come hear what is available.

December 14

Aviation & Holiday Party



We'll celebrate the last meeting of the year with another appearance by Jimmy Weldon. We enjoyed his recollections of old time radio characters last year and he enjoyed being with us. Actually, he asked to come back with his history of aviation which he claims is equally exciting. This promises to be a delightful evening.

What You Can Bring to the Meetings

- **Recyclables:**

Cell Phones

Ink Jet Cartridges

Toner Cartridges

Drink Cans & Bottles

- **Your checkbook**

to renew your membership if the label on the back page of this newsletter shows your expiration date is near.

Why don't you check it now?

- **Your smiling face!**



Renewing Members

Richard Arroyo

Bill Susel

Pierre Plauzoles

Richard Maynard

Tom Vogel

Nina Van Leeuwen

Klassic Specialties

Check out Klassic Specialties at
<http://www.klassicspecialties.com/tugnet.html>

TUGNET members receive a 5% discount and TUGNET receives 5% of member's purchases.



Special Interest Groups

Specializing in the unique interests of our members

Real Estate and Investment

First Monday
@ 7:00 p.m.

The What, Where, and How of Financial Investments.

AJCamou@aol.com

Basic Computing

First Thursday
@ 7:00 p.m.

This is designed to help novices get up to speed. If you have a question as to how to do something, here is where you can get an answer.

Nancy Cook
cook8@aol.com

Media

Meets With Basic Computing

Questions regarding recording music and video are discussed. Contact Chris Castillo if you have any questions.

s1vrbear@socal.rr.com

Imaging

Second Thursday
@ 7:00 p.m.

If there is a project anyone has in mind, bring it in and we'll try to work on it as well.

Contact Susie Phelps
sidecarsusie@earthlink.net

Web Design

Third Thursday
@ 7:00 p.m.

Those attending will learn about adding new features to the web sites they have created.

David Wendt
davedt@juno.com

The Above Listed SIGS
are held at
Nancy Cook's home
818-349-1542

Linux SIG
First & Fourth Thursday
@ 6:30 p.m.

Easier Living SIG
Second Saturday
@ 2:00 p.m.

**No Info Regarding
November Meeting**

**No Meeting in
November**

Join the throng to see if you are interested in adding Kubuntu to your partitioned system, ask questions and get good answers from an expert.

Attendees at Linux Kubuntu SIG explore the vast 23,000 file collection for new and useful items

Bill Tracy
tracium@sbcglobal.net
818-618-8741

**Ideas for Healthy, Vibrant,
Easier Living after Age 25**

How to's in cleaning everything
What to ask your doctor
before surgery
What vitamins, etc., are better

Fun Stuff:
What to use for this, that and the other thing

Meets at Nancy's Cook's home

Doris Richards
dorisrichards@dslextreme.com

**Check with SIG leaders
to confirm SIG meeting
locations**



Discount to TUGNET members

Marian's Memos



MARIAN'S MEMOS MARIAN'S MEMOS MARIAN'S MEMOS

COMPUTER REFURBISHING PROJECT

As our volunteers get together to work on the computers at our Canoga Ave. facility, they have already assembled several systems so that they are now in working order, a really exciting accomplishment.

This is a very rewarding activity and some participants are learning more about the “insides” of computers as they check out all the components. There is plenty to keep everyone busy for quite some time. As more systems are completed, Kiwanis will make the decision as to the deserving organizations who will receive them.

Chris Castillo (contact info can be found on page 3) announces her schedule for work times every week. If you haven't yet gotten involved in this project, be sure to get your name on her list and be notified when the “Refurb Shop” will be open.

Thank you, Chris, for your hard work and the many hours you are spending to make this project succeed.

TUGNET ELECTION

We have had a great 2010 Board of Directors who have worked very hard to keep TUGNET on track. And although I'm sure you are sick and tired of all the talk about elections, guess what? It is time to remind all our members that we have our own election coming up in January.

Nominations are being received for the open offices: President, Secretary, and two Director seats.

You may nominate someone you think could fill one of the open spots, or you can nominate yourself. Send an e-mail to our Election Chairman, Robin Winkelstein: Robin Winkelstein - robin-wink@sbcglobal.net - that's all it takes to get a member listed on the ballot. All who have been a TUGNET member for a year are eligible. Being on the Board only means one extra meeting per month, and we make it a very pleasant dinner meeting at the Horseless Carriage Restaurant in North Hills, convenient for everyone.

DELIVERY FAILURE E-MAIL NOTICES

Hopefully you are aware of these dangerous e-mails which will be circulating again as the holidays make us more vulnerable.

Now in circulation, an e-mail carries the subject line "USPS Delivery Problem NR#####" (numbers appear in place of the # signs). Victims receive an e-mail supposedly from the United States Postal Service along with a packet number. The message says it was unable to deliver a package sent to you on such-and-such a date. You are requested to print out an attached invoice copy in a file called USP-SLabelDoc.zip. **Don't open the zip attachment to print it out.** It contains a malicious .exe file. The .exe file, if executed, attempts to infect the user's system with malicious code.

We are being warned of a new wave of spam emails distributing the **Oficla trojan**, which pose as package delivery failure notifications from the United States Postal Service (USPS). What sets these emails apart from other Oficla distribution campaigns is the use of an image instead of plain text to deliver the message. This technique attempts to trick simple anti-spam filters.

The same type e-mail will mention UPS, FedEx, and any other delivery. Be very careful - **do not open any of them.**

Thanks to Linda Gonse, Orange County IBM PC Users' Group, for the reminder.

Highlights of Recent Meetings

Forest Recovery After the Station Fire

(September 7)

Corina Roberts was here to show and tell us about the Angelus National Forest during the year since the dreadful Station Fire which burned from August 26, until October 16, 2009, when it was finally totally contained. You probably remember that it was the largest wildfire in Los Angeles County's history, having burned about 250 square miles. Since the fire the forest has been closed to the public due to falling rocks and trees, debris flow and the unstable ground.



With the intensity of the fire burning creek beds, chaparral and every type of tree, some areas had nothing but black ash and burned ground to be seen. The rains we had last winter were a god-send to the forest and are, in large part, responsible for much of its recovery. With the ground now swathed in the sunshine that had been denied due to the trees shading it for many years, and the ash providing necessary nutrients, growth began anew. Many types of flowers bloomed this spring that hadn't been seen in the area for more years than anyone could remember. Much of the chaparral has come back from the base in spite of the totally burned branches remaining. New growth can be seen on many of the trees. Even pine tree seedlings have finally begun to grow - promising a new forest in the making!

This is the story of how fire can be a beneficial agent, in fact a very natural occurrence, to keep renewing nature's birth/death/rebirth cycle of our forests. The pictures Corina has been taking showed us the progression of regrowth over these last months from the lower altitudes to the high forest. So along with being beautiful, they are a history of an area after a devastating fire.

Thank you very much, Corina, for spending your evening with us so we can all know that a new forest is in the making.

Living Legacies

(September 14)

Ellie Kahn created Living Legacies in 1988 after having worked as a psychotherapist and journalist. Because of her expertise as an Oral Historian, she was asked by Steven Spielberg's Survivors of the Shoah Foundation to interview Holocaust Survivors for their project.



Since 1988, Ellie has conducted hundreds of Oral History interviews, producing family histories for her clients that will last for many generations. Being an Oral Historian means recording stories so they won't be lost. She finds people tend to think their stories will be boring, but that is not so. She had us break up into pairs to share memories with someone we didn't know. This was an extremely interesting experience for all.



Thank you, Ellie, for proving that we all have experiences that should be saved and shared.

www.livinglegaciesfamilyhistories.com

Microsoft *Office 2010*

(September 21)



We welcomed our friend from Microsoft, David Lynn, using *Live Meeting* between Granada Hills and San Diego. Even though we may not use all the *Office* programs, it is interesting to see how this version differs from the previous versions that most of our members are accustomed to using. This is version 14 of the *Office Suite* and David

showed us the new features, some of which we might find useful.

Word 2010 provides improved editing tools with a new set of Picture Tools that enable you to transform your documents into artistically engaging documents. *Word* has added even more options to ‘Section View’ to save time and ‘Page Layout’ now has more Icons at the top of the page. *Word* will allow multiple people to work on the same document at the same time.

Excel uses data in the same way. If you have an *Excel* spreadsheet with a dozen companies, you can click on just one line to have access to thousands of documents plus data referencing information on just that one company. The amount of data that can be accessed and stored is massive.

David gave us a great overview of what we can do with *Office 2010*. Thank you so much David, for such a terrific presentation.

<http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/>



Let's Talk About Scanning

(September 28)



Our subject for this meeting was scanning and scanners. There were many questions connected with scanners:

- Have you thought about the advantages of a sheet-fed scanner vs a flat-bed?
- How important is the dpi?
- How does a “Photo Scanner” differ from the others?
- Should software bundled with scanners be important?
- Do all scanners have to be connected to a computer?

Judy Taylour talked about the many types of Scanners on the market. The models, prices, and information she gave us will help us to select the best for our needs.

The software associated with scanners was also discussed. It was agreed that *PaperPort* does an outstanding job of organizing scanned documents and makes it easy to FAX, print, as well as complete other tasks with the scanned documents.

The above-mentioned questions were discussed and answered. Those attending had many questions that were also answered while many had opinions that were also discussed.

Thank you, Judy, for bringing all the various types of scanners and giving a program from which everyone benefitted.



October –

National Cyber Security Awareness Month

Held every October, since 2004, this is a “national public awareness campaign to encourage everyone to protect their computers and our nation’s critical cyber infrastructure.” The focus is promoting safe computing practices so we did our best to give you the information you need.

We had two outstanding cyber security professionals presenting at October’s first meeting.

Computer Attacks and Forensics

(October 5)

Product Manager of Guidance Software, Anthony Di Bello, was with us for this meeting. Guidance Software is a provider of software solutions to conduct digital investigations of any kind of suspicious activity and to defend data assets. The company’s *Encase* platform uncovers fraud and criminal activity by concentrating on the data signatures of that type of activity. They provide professional training services as well as tech support and maintenance services, working with Government, Corporate, and Law Enforcement.



Anthony talked about the threats that are facing us now which are worse than in the past. In the past, the threats were from college kids and criminals but that has changed. We now face attacks on all Government Offices including Military Data Records, Bank Records, Hospitals, Power Plants, Traffic Control and Anti Virus Programs. These Cyber attacks could be preliminary before an actual physical attack. A large effort is being made, targeting special targets using Malware to discover information.

Anthony discussed not returning a hard drive to the manufacturer even if it is under warranty. He recommends placing a large magnet, such as a speaker magnet, on it over night to erase the data. However the best way is to physically destroy the drive. He also mentioned that if you find a Flash Drive or a CD, do not plug it into your computer - you might regret it.

www.guidancesoftware.com

Part 2

The second part of our meeting featured Tom Lenzo. Tom is a consultant and security specialist, working extensively with ID Theft. ID Theft was up 30% in the first half of 2010 and comprises 80% of crimes. Tom informed us that there are 40,000 Chinese fluent in English who are training to be hackers!



He also told us there are 2,000,000 laptops lost or stolen each year (did you count the 0's?). Often folks expose themselves to ID theft unintentionally - such as when somebody walks away from their computer when it is on.

Tom advised us to keep track of serial numbers and model numbers of our laptops. That gives us a chance to recover it should it be stolen.

This was such a worthwhile meeting. I hope everyone takes advantage of all the information we were given.

Thank you so very much, Anthony and Tom, for giving us a heads up on what we should do to keep ourselves from being victimized.

System Mechanic 10

(October 12)

Our guest speaker was Abbas Mehdi, Product Manager of System Mechanic at iolo technologies.

He began by explaining what his product does to make your computer run faster and better. It will repair errors, clean up and defrag the Registry. It will also repair corrupted hard drives. The product has an Anti-Virus, Anti-Spyware, and Data Removal to get rid of preloaded Adware on your hard drive. It's like having a computer repair expert inside your PC



One problem we have with *Windows* has to do with the Registry. It is continually expanding as you use your computer, causing system clutter. This causes the Registry to become fragmented which in turn causes the RAM to become fragmented, therefore resulting in memory problems. I asked the question, "Would the fragmented problem be corrected by the normal defrag of the hard drive?" The answer was no. However, one of *System Mechanic's* tools can make this repair.

We were introduced to something new in this version: Program Accelerator. This exclusive new tool jump starts sluggish programs which can take away a bit of the frustration in waiting for some programs starting.

Abbas suggests *System Mechanic* should be updated at least every other week because of its Anti-Virus and Anti-Spyware modules.

System Mechanic may be purchased for its tools to just fix problems. To keep the before-mentioned Anti-virus up to date, your license must be renewed annually.

A very generous discount offer was made available to TUGNET members. Thank you so much, Abbas, for your terrific presentation which made our members aware of this outstanding product.

www.iolotechnologies.com

Vipre

(October 19)

Hopefully, every one of you are keeping whichever anti-virus program you have up to date. All the computer security products have very frequent updates and if you aren't letting them install, you are not really protecting yourself.



Alex Eckelberry, CEO of Sunbelt Software, joined us from Florida via Skype and gave us a great presentation on the advantages of using *Vipre*. Sunbelt's core mission is to deliver leading-edge security technology solutions. That vision is supported through commitment to research and development, attention to delivering quality products that meet both the technological and economic needs of customers, all while maintaining the highest levels of customer satisfaction seen in the industry today.

Alex explained how *Vipre Antivirus* is high-performance software that doesn't slow down your PC like older, traditional security products. It has cutting-edge proactive protection against malware threats including; viruses, adware, spyware and rootkits. It includes full protection against email-borne threats; ideal for Netbooks that need malware protection.

The “Professional” version includes a firewall. However, Alex explained that he feels *Windows 7's* firewall gives good protection so the “Professional” version is really more than we need.

Everyone is glad to know they do not have an automatic credit card charge each year! However, the latest updated virus definitions will no longer be downloaded so your protection will be limited.



Alex answered everyone’s questions regarding virus attacks, what is happening with malware, are we catching spyware, etc. He also recommended downloading *Malwarebytes* (www.vipre.malwarebytes.org) for a scan if you want to double check your computer.

Sunbelt says, “The most common spam e-mails targeted users of business networking site LinkedIn. Users who opened the emails and followed the links within ended up downloading and installing the Zeus Trojan on their computers. Zeus collects banking information from users for cyber criminals to use. Other common subjects included pharmaceutical spam and fake job opportunities

Everyone is glad to know they do not have an automatic credit card charge each year! However, the latest updated virus definitions will no longer be downloaded so your protection will be limited. By the way, another feature on their web site you should be aware of is the opportunity for instant communication with customer support, meaning conversation with a representative. You type your problem and they will answer you on the same screen. Ray says, “I know this because I have *Vipre* and have used it.”

Thank you so much, Alex, for your outstanding presentation. We’ll look forward to seeing you again.

www.sunbeltsoftware.com

MailWasher Pro

(October 26)



Judy Taylour was our presenter this evening, showing us the new version of *MailWasher Pro*. Since none of us like to see unwanted e-mail coming into our computers, this is a must-have program. It is by far the easiest and most powerful way to stop Spam and its cousins (unwanted messages) from ever getting to your 'In' box.

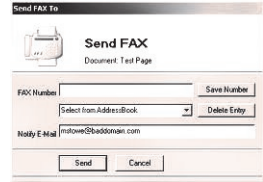
Since Judy did not have it installed on her laptop, we downloaded it from the Internet and installed it within a few minutes. Some port settings must be entered manually if *MailWasher* isn't able to pick them up from your installed e-mail program. Usually it is able to do so since it works with most POP and IMAP e-mail clients (not Internet-based e-mail like Yahoo and Hotmail).

It takes a bit of training at first as you mark the Spam e-mail that you do not wish to download. This approach stops all the graphics, ads, and such files from entering your computer. They stay, you know, after you delete the e-mail that has brought them in. Once you click "Spam" on an incoming message, it will never again need to be clicked but will automatically be classed as such. When you are satisfied that all the messages displayed should be downloaded, you click "Wash" and your e-mail program is automatically opened. The unwanted messages will have been deleted and you just download as usual - except that only messages you want come in.

We saw the brand new version of *MailWasher Pro* which was totally rewritten from scratch. It sells for \$29.99 **but** Nick Bolton, whom many of you met when he came for a visit, is giving us a terrific deal - only \$10.00! And, that's not all! It can be installed on two computers! Since Firetrust is so confident that you will want to

continue using *MailWasher Pro* after the 30-day free period expires, they offer a 100% refund if you are not satisfied. Plus, you will receive a free upgrade to the 2011 version when it is released. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/MailWasherPro> for the discount.

www.firetrust.com



Windows Fax

After the break we went through the process of how to use the built-in *Windows* fax program. It is very easy to both send and receive faxes – but you do need to have a phone line plugged into your computer. All recent versions of *Windows* have this ability. A fax can be sent from your scanner or from almost any word processor. A discussion ensued on programs to organize your scanned documents, with *PaperPort* being preferred.



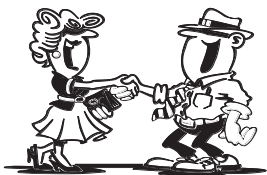
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Door Prize Winners



September 21

Adobe Jacket: Donna Whalen
Windows 7 - Up and Running (Book):
Werner Freund
Movie Theater Tickets: Marv Harris
“Proud to Be an American” Bag: David Hirschfield

September 28

Hallmark Card Studio: Ron Forbes
Ubuntu for Non-Geeks (Book): Dwight Randall
“Super Mouse:” Helaine Cummins
Villa Antinori Toscana: Chris Christopher
Iomega Reusable Bag: Maury Wills

October 5

FM Auto Scan Radio: Leo Gattenio
Nolo *Stopping Identity Theft* (Book): Jim Swavely
Ream Multi-Purpose Paper: Barbara Benjamin
Living In Digital Times Reusable Bag: Kathy Krogh

October 12

System Mechanic 10: Wendell Greenlee and Mel Ader
Novell Dinosaur: Ed Jameson
Kodak Reusable Bag: Sue Kennedy

October 19

Reusable Bags:
Everyone received a copy of *Vipre* with a one-year subscription

October 26

Confessions of a Public Speaker (Book): Marv Harris
4-Port USB 2.0 Hub: Helaine Cummins
DIVX Carbineer w/compass: Bill Tracy
Intersil Backpack Bag: Chris Castillo
MaiWasher Pro: Marian Radcliffe and Bill Cowdin

Article

Flash Memory Survival

by William Tracy

TUGNET Member

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Just how tough is an HP 1GB Flash Memory Drive? In Glendale, a unit has been tested. In August 2010, Bill Tracy left an HP in his Dockers when he washed his clothes. Could the HP survive this kind of abuse?

The HP was in his front-right pocket when it endured the mishandling. The Speed Queen commercial washer was set in Normal Permanent Press so Dockers were washed in hot water at 110 Degree F. using 1 cup of Tide Detergent powder. Following the wash and rinse cycles, the trousers also went through a full high-speed spin cycle to wring out the wetness.

Then the Dockers were thrown into a Speed Queen Commercial dryer where it collided with steel surfaces. At some point the HP escaped the Docker pocket and endured harsh crashes inside the Dryer.

When the Dryer stopped, all the clothing was removed but the defiant HP stood up leaning against the wall like John Wayne after a gun fight. The solitary figure was immediately identified and removed from the Dryer.

The HP End Cap was still attached! But there was serious doubt about any memory left in the unit.

However, when plugged into a Dell computer USB port, all the recorded data was still there. Nothing was missing. It had survived.

So now we know. HP Flash Memory Drives are indeed tough! Can any of the other manufacturers make that boast?

Article

Use Your Electrical Wiring for Your Home Network

by Ira Wilsker

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Several years ago I wrote about a promising new technology that offered the home computer user the ability to create a wired home network without running any cables throughout the house. Since then, many new products were introduced that offered wired home networking without running any wires, but due to performance issues and cost, they never really caught on. As wireless speeds and bandwidth increased, almost all new computers were manufactured with 802.11 compatible wireless capability, increasing in speed and capability through evolutionary change through a variety of standards, including the early “B” standard, to the faster “G” standard, to the current fast “N” standard.

Wireless generally works well as long as the distance to the wireless router is reasonably short, and the path from the transmitter to the computer or other receiver is unobstructed by radio opaque materials. Even in a frame home with sheet rock walls, there are often dead spots where the home wireless network seems weak or unobtainable. Since 802.11 wireless consists of a radio transceiver, with one or more connected components (computers, sound systems, video and TV systems) it is often sensitive to the directional orientation of the components, with some components purposely being highly directional in order to increase the signal strength. There have been published anecdotal reports, some of which have been confirmed through technical testing, that since other household items may be sharing the same frequency spectrum with the wireless network, interference or degraded performance may occur.

When 802.11 wireless was in its infancy, an alternative technology was being developed primarily for home use, which would use the existing household wiring to create a wireless network. While lack-

ing the portability of a wireless home network, a wired network offered the potential of greater bandwidth, higher speeds, and greater security. This wired home network did not require the running of any new cable between rooms, but could safely utilize the existing home electrical wiring accessible anywhere in the home that there was a power outlet, without blind spots. By simply plugging a specialized network adapter into an existing power outlet, a wired network would be accessible anywhere in the home.

*This wired home network
did not require the running
of any new cable between rooms . . .*

Several years ago, at the now defunct COMDEX international computer show, I obtained a sample kit that included all of the components necessary to create a home network using my household electrical wiring. One of the components simply plugged into the wall power outlet and connected via standard network cable directly to my existing router. The other component also plugged directly into any other power outlet in the house, and had a standard network jack, which also connected with a standard network cable to my notebook computer. With great trepidation, I had visions of 110 volts cursing down the network cable, and frying both my router and my notebook computer. After re-reading the literature several times, I was assured that the system was indeed safe to use, and did not present any unusual danger, so I cautiously connected everything, and nothing untoward happened except I had a very fast network connection (14 Mbps) using only these two small boxes plugged into power outlets and a pair of regular network cables. Being one who likes to experiment, I connected one of the four wired ports on my wireless router to the wall device, and then I had both wired and wireless internet throughout the house. While I never used it for connecting TVs in the house, I later read accounts of individuals who did, using newer equipment than mine, and it worked fine with standard TV, but was often inadequate to carry reliable HDTV signals.

Moving the clock forward to today, my original sample kit contains components that have long since been discontinued, and replaced by newer models with much greater speed (500 Mbps), bandwidth, and capacity. In mid-October, 2010, the IEEE Standards Association announced the approval of a new standard for home networks that use existing household electrical wiring, this standard carrying the designation “IEEE 1901™ Broadband over Power Line (BPL) standard” (standards.ieee.org/announcements/2010/1901.html).

*Being one who likes to
experiment, I connected
one of the four wired ports*

According to the IEEE, “IEEE 1901 will deliver data rates in excess of 500 Mbps.” In addition to carrying data, the network can carry a variety of entertainment throughout the entire house, including HDTV, whole house audio, “smart homes” power management, and games. This standard is international in scope, and will work with any household voltage, and transmission frequencies of up to 100 Mhz.

The new standard is not just for home use, but has identified applications in transportation (trains, busses, ships, aircraft), offices, power transmission and monitoring (smart meters and household appliance interconnectivity), and other creative ways. While the theoretical range of the signal is up to 1500 meters (almost 5000 feet), and the wired signal can possibly be picked up outside the house, the standard incorporates sophisticated encryption technology to protect the security of household information.

While it may be great to have broadband Internet, audio-visual, and gaming connections on a plane or train, my primary interest for this technology is home networking. A trade association, the Homeplug Powerline Alliance (www.homeplug.org) is actively promoting the

technology, and represents dozens of manufacturers of compatible products. Some of the better known makers of these products include Belkin, Cisco, D-Link, Netgear, and Sharp, which implies that the compatible products should become widely available through normal distribution and retail channels(homeplug.org/certifiedproducts) One manufacturer listing that I found interesting was one of the satellite TV companies that is offering “Homeplug” equipment under its brand name that is used to provide satellite TV access throughout the house without the need for additional wiring.

*... four explicit technologies that
are currently being targeted
for home use;*

According to the Homeplug Alliance, there are four explicit technologies that are currently being targeted for home use; these are Smart Grid / Smart Energy, HDTV Networking, Whole Home Audio, and Gaming. The Smart Grid / Smart Energy application can interconnect the power meter, household appliances, thermostat, heating and air conditioning system, electric car, and car charging station to the Internet, providing better control, management, software updates, monitoring, and other power saving benefits. The HDTV Networking can connect an Ethernet enabled HDTV to the Internet, enabling the growing IPTV (Internet Protocol TV) as a signal source. Whole-Home Audio allows high quality Internet-based digital audio to be received anywhere in the house utilizing the existing household wiring and a suitable Homeplug adapter connected to the audio device. The Gaming application allows the user to have a secure online gaming experience utilizing his existing Internet-capable gaming system connected to his HDTV, from anywhere in the house, without the limitations of a wireless gaming connection.

*(See **Home Network** on page 29)*

Article

E-Mail Tracker Programs

From Bill Cowdin

Via E-mail

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The man that sent this information is a computer tech. He spends a lot of time clearing the junk off computers for people and listens to complaints about speed. All forwards are not bad, just some.

He wrote:

“By now I suspect everyone is familiar with:

Snopes - <http://snopes.com>

Truth or Fiction - <http://truthorfiction.com>

for determining whether information received via email is just that: true/false or fact/fiction.

Both are excellent sites.”

(Continued on Next Page)

(Home Network from page 28)

This new IEEE 1901 standard promises compatibility and interconnectivity between a growing number of devices and the Internet, without the need for a sophisticated new wired or wireless connection, as the entire system utilizes the existing household wiring and connecting devices that simply plug in to an existing household power outlet.

Many of the Homeplug devices require no configuration, and are “plug and play;” simply plug the Homeplug adapter into a wall socket, and connect the desired device to the Homeplug adapter, and the connection is made. It was precisely that simple with my now obsolete first generation device, and it will likely be that easy with the new generation of devices. The ability to easily connect HDTV, game consoles, household appliances, and other devices to the Internet creates staggering opportunities and possibilities.

Advice from snopes.com:

1) Any time you see an email that says forward this on to 10 (or however many) of your friends, sign this petition, or you'll get bad luck or you'll get good luck or you'll see something funny on your screen after you send it, or whatever — it almost always has an email tracker program attached that tracks the cookies and emails of those folks you forward to.

The host sender is getting a copy each time it gets forwarded and then is able to get lists of 'active' email addresses to use in SPAM e-mails or sell to other spammers. Even when you get e-mails that demand you send the e-mail on if you're not ashamed of God/Jesus — that is e-mail tracking, and they are playing on our conscience. These people don't care how they get your email addresses — just as long as they get them.

Also, e-mails that talk about a missing child or a child with an incurable disease — how would you feel if that was your child — are also email tracking. Ignore them and don't participate!

2) Almost all e-mails that ask you to add your name and forward on to others are similar to that mass letter years ago that asked people to send business cards to the little kid in Florida who wanted to break the Guinness Book of Records for the most cards. All it was, and all any of this type of e-mail is, is a way to get names and 'cookie' tracking information for telemarketers and spammers — to validate active email accounts for their own profitable purposes.

You can do your friends and family members a great favor by sending this information to them. You will be providing a service to your friends. And you will be rewarded by not getting thousands of spam emails in the future!

Do yourself a favor and **stop** adding your name(s) to those types of listing regardless how inviting they might sound! Or make you

feel guilty if you don't! It's all about getting e-mail addresses and nothing more.

You may think you are supporting a great cause, but you are **not**!

Instead, you will be getting tons of junk mail later and very possibly a virus attached! Plus, we are helping the spammers get rich! Let's not make it easy for them!

Also: E-mail petitions are **not** acceptable to Parliament or any other organization—i.e. Social Security, etc. To be acceptable, petitions must have a signed signature and full address of the person signing the petition, so this is a waste of time and you are just helping the e-mail trackers.

Tips for Handling Telemarketers:

Three Little Words That Work!

(1) The three little words are: "Hold On, Please..."

Saying this, while putting down your phone and walking off (instead of hanging-up immediately) would make each telemarketing call so much more time-consuming that boiler room sales would grind to a halt.

Then when you eventually hear the phone company's 'beep-beep-beep' tone, you know it's time to go back and hang up your handset, which has efficiently completed its task.

These three little words will help eliminate telephone soliciting.

(2) Do you ever get those annoying phone calls with no one on the other end?

This is a telemarketing technique where a machine makes phone calls and records the time of day when a person answers the phone.

Article

Maintaining Important Details in your Backups

By Gene Barlow
User Group Relations

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As an avid photographer, I have learned to take digital photographs at the highest resolution possible on my camera. By doing this, I capture the most details possible in my pictures. I have also learned to avoid certain photographic file types that lose resolution each time I copy the file. I don't want to lose any of the details in my pictures that I worked hard to get in the beginning. As I prepared to write this article, it dawned on me that doing important backups of your computer is very similar. You need to take frequent backups of your main hard drive to capture the most information possible about your hard drive. Taking a backup only once or twice a year leaves you with very little details about the thousands of changes that happen to your hard drive each week. Daily or weekly backups are the best way to capture the details you need in your backup system.

Most users may not be aware that they can lose details from their backup if they use a couple of optional features available in

(**Backups** continued on next page)

(E-Mail continued from page 31)

This technique is used to determine the best time of day for a 'real' sales person to call back and get someone at home.

What you can do after answering, if you notice there is no one there, is to immediately start hitting your # button on the phone, 6 or 7 times, as quickly as possible. This confuses the machine that dialed the call and it kicks your number out of their system. Gosh, what a shame not to have your name in their system any longer!

(Backups from on previous page)

Acronis *True Image Home 2011*. These are Image Consolidation and Differential Image backup. This article will show you how using either of these two features can cause important backup files to be removed and lost in your backup system.

I recommend using the 'Incremental Image' approach to doing backups. You start each month with a full backup image of your entire hard drive. Then each of the following weeks in the month, you make incremental backup images of just the changes to your hard drive since the last backup was made. The incremental images are much smaller than the full backup and complete in a much shorter time frame. When the next month begins, you start a new full backup with a new file name followed by weekly incremental images. This is the best way to capture the most details possible in your backups and still use a minimum amount of space on your backup hard drive.

After a few months of doing backups, you end up with many files on your external backup hard drive. Eventually, you run out of space on the drive and need to delete the oldest backups to make room for additional backups on the drive. A couple of years ago, Acronis introduced the ability to consolidate your backups into a smaller space. The full backup image and the incremental images that were associated with it were merged together giving just a consolidated full backup image in its place. This saves all of the space on the backup drive that was used by the incremental image files.

Consolidation was probably a good trade-off to totally deleting the entire old image file. At least you were left with a consolidated image instead of nothing. However, Acronis did not tell you that the consolidated image file lost details from the full and incremental image files it replaced. Valuable information could be lost from your backup images this way. This can happen in two ways - losing all of the drafts to an important document and losing the entire document itself.

Losing drafts to an important document can be a major loss to you. Let's say you are writing an important paper over several weeks. Each week, you backup the current status of the paper in an incremental backup image. At the end of the month you consolidate these images into one combined image. As you read over your final draft, you determine that it did not turn out as you expected. An earlier draft a couple of weeks ago was much better. However, since you consolidated your backups, you have lost all of these drafts that were available till the consolidation. All you are left with is the last bad revision you were not happy with at the end of the month. You have lost all of the drafts prior to that. They were consolidated out of your backups.

Losing an entire important file is much worse. Let's say you worked several days one week on this important file. At the end of the week, you backed up that completed important file. Sometime between that backup and the last incremental backup you made of that important file, it was accidentally deleted from your computer. The last incremental image saves the deletion of that important file. When you consolidate your full and incremental images, only the last image of that important file will be saved. That is the one where it was deleted. Hence, you have totally lost that file by consolidating that month's backups. When you consolidate, all you end up with is what was in the final image of that file and nothing else.

Using the 'Differential Image' backups works much the same way as consolidation, only it is an on-going consolidation that occurs each week. Differential backup approach starts with a full backup image, just like the incremental backup approach does. As you do the weekly backup images, the changed files are consolidated into last week's differential image file. So, you are losing details from your differential image each week as you make your backups. This is much more destructive than consolidating images after several months. You are consolidating each week with the differential image approach. Only by using the incremental image approach is all of the details you saved in your backup protected from loss. This is why I recommend the incremental backup image approach provided by Acronis *True Image*.

Acronis *True Image Home 2011* continues to be the most powerful and flexible backup utility on the market. Used correctly, it will do an outstanding job for you in protecting the important files that you have stored on your main hard drive. To order *True Image 2011* at our holiday special price of just \$25 per license (half the list price of this excellent product), just go to www.ugr.com/TrueImage.html and click on the appropriate 'Buy Now' button. Enter the special code of UGHOLIDAY10 when you check out your order. If you have two computers to back up, order two licenses at this tremendous price. Just a reminder, you can order additional copies at this user group discount price to give as a holiday gift to family members and friends. They will welcome your gift and you will be protecting them from serious loss in the future. Act soon, as this price is only available till the end of the year.

This is one of a series of technical articles that I distribute to those that have subscribed to this newsletter. You can subscribe at www.ugr.com/NewsletterRegistration.html. Watch for them and learn more about your computer and its hard drive.

Friends,

As we enter into the holiday season, Linda and I want to wish you the best holiday ever and a happy new year. We appreciate your friendship and business over the years. Again, happy holidays and a great new year to everyone.

Gene Barlow
User Group Relations

Article

7 Simple Steps to Keeping Your Account From Being Hacked

By Leo Notenboom

Leo@ask-leo.com<http://ask-leo.com/newsletter.html>

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By far the most common reason accounts get hacked is that they had easy to remember and simple - sometimes even trivial - passwords.

In other words, the accounts have easy to hack passwords. Passwords like a pet's name, a friend's name spelled backwards, a favorite movie catch phrase, a significant other's name (or "iheart" followed by that name), and so on.

Hackers are extremely resourceful at guessing and ferreting out those all-too-common password schemes. And sometimes it's not even the hackers that end up with your passwords.

Here are seven key steps to keeping an account from being hacked due to simple and common password theft.

1 - Pick a good password. "iHeartSue" is bad. "qicITcl}" is great! The problem's pretty obvious, though - if it's easy to remember, then it's probably a bad password. Instead, use a blended approach: never use full words or names; mix upper and lower case letters, use numbers. Use at least 8 characters. A password like "ILoveWindows" is bad, but a variation - "1luvwind00s" could be very good. "CorgiDog," not so good, but "Igroc7Pup" might be ok. Get creative, using a technique you can remember that no one else could possibly guess.

2 - Keep your password safe. Tell no one. Even in a close and presumably trusting relationship - if anything ever happens consider the damage that the person could do knowing your password. Too many account theft scenarios begin with trusting someone just a little too much, and then having the relationship go bad. Your friends are your friends until one day they're not. Especially if someone is pressuring you or if there's the least little bit of doubt, don't share your password.

3 - Use a "secret answer." Most systems use the answer to a "secret question" as a way to recover or reset a password. Unfortunately many people choose answers that anyone can guess, or easily research on the Internet. Answers like where you were born or your pet's name are frequently easy to find out with a little searching. The good news is that your secret answer doesn't actually have to make sense. Pick something unrelated or bizarre instead; choose answers like "Pickle" as your city of birth, "Confusion" as your mother's maiden name, or perhaps "Flat Tire" as your favorite pet. As long as you can remember, it doesn't matter.

4 - Maintain that alternate e-mail address. An "alternate email address" is used by many mail accounts as a place to send you a password reminder or reset. Be sure to set up an account on a different email system for your alternate email address (any other free email system will do), and then use that address as your alternate everywhere else. Of course, keep the alternate account active so as not to lose it, since without it you may be out of luck

5 - Remember. Remembering sounds easy, but like we said earlier: if it's easy to remember, then it's probably a bad password. And yet remembering and being difficult to guess are both critical. You must remember your password, failing that your secret answer, and failing that your alternate email account. Forget or lose them all, and you're severely out of luck. If written down, be sure to keep it all in a secure place - not something like the almost cliché scenario of finding poorly hidden sticky notes containing passwords near your computer. It might be safe to keep something in your wallet, since you already treat that as secure. An encrypted file or password container on your computer might be another option.

6 - Don't get taken. There are shady services that will claim to be able to retrieve your passwords and account access. Many are simply scams to take advantage of you when you are vulnerable and only take your money or login information for another account that they can then breach. The only place trustworthy enough for password and account recovery help is the service you've lost access to itself. If they can't help, then neither can a reputable third party.

7 - Learn from your mistakes. Finally, if you now know that you have a weak password, if you've told it to someone you shouldn't have, or if you've not set up that secret question or alternate account, fix it. Now. Change your password to something stronger, set up the alternate recovery methods, and keep your information private. If you've been hacked and you don't have any of that set up, you're very likely out of luck. Make sure to take more secure care of your account password and information with your next one.

Get more free tech help and advice from Leo Notenboom by visiting <http://ask-leo.com> With over 30 years of industry experience, including an 18 year career as a software engineer with Microsoft, Leo gives real answers to real questions from ordinary computer users at Ask Leo! Subscribe to Leo's weekly newsletter now and receive a free ebook: Internet Safety - Keeping Your Computer Safe on the Internet, a collection of steps, tools and concepts you need to know to keep your computer and your information safe.

Silvers Summit at the 2011 CES

The largest growing population of Internet and social-media users are not the kids. They are the 450 million-plus boomers worldwide. Whether they're enjoying a video conference call with the kids, remote controlling their homes, staying connected while traveling, or just keeping fit [both brain and body], these "more mature" technology users have their own unique set of demands.

Tips from *Smart Computing*

Printing A Web Page In IE

In *Internet Explorer*, you can make a number of adjustments to change how Web pages will print, so the Web page can better fit your printouts. Open *IE*, click the File menu (you might need to press ALT to display the File menu option) and select 'Page Setup.' You can change the values in the Margins fields, and you can also set up the page to print in either Landscape (horizontal) or Portrait (vertical) mode. It's also possible to configure *IE* to print specific Header and Footer information.

Update Your Applications

To improve security and functionality, most programs offer an 'update' feature that allows the application to search for and download the latest version from the manufacturer. Many programs can be configured to check for updates each time you open the program. For best results, make a list of the applications you regularly use and, once a month, open the applications, select the update feature, and allow the application to update itself.

Flashy Backups

Flash drives are great for traveling because they are small, lightweight, and easily tucked into your pocket or briefcase. Unfortunately, they're also easy to lose because they're small, lightweight, and easily tucked away. Before leaving for a trip, take the files you've put on your flash drive and e-mail them to a Web-based e-mail account such as Hotmail, Yahoo! Mail, or Gmail. This way, your files will be safe, even if you lose your laptop and flash drive.

Remembering Joseph Skipper

He gave us a wonderful program on Google Maps
He will be missed by his TUGNET friends and
his co-workers at JPL

Are You Experiencing Technical Difficulties?

HelpContact is a **FREE** service to members of TUGNET only. The following volunteers have offered to field questions with software and hardware listed. Please be considerate of the volunteer you are contacting. **If you'd like to have your name added to the list, call or e-mail the editor.** Need help on a subject and there's no name listed for it? Try calling one of the SIG leaders.

DOS

Jim Burton
jimbo1928@pacbell.net
818-344-5300

Photoshop (and related products)

Helaine Cummins
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818 891-2568 or cell: 818 523-6650

Hardware Installation

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818-362-8015

Quickbooks Pro 5

Rich Kimmell
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Internet Explorer

Jay Cunnington
(See Hardware Installation")

Windows

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818-594-1272

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Outlook Express

Jay Cunnington
(See "Hardware Installation")

Marcie Green
(See "Word")

Print Artist

Jim Burton
(See "DOS")

Susan Kennedy
flamingfury@intergate.com

DOOR PRIZE POLICY

Only members are eligible to win a door prize. Members must also attend the full presentation in order to qualify for that night's drawing. This is the arrangement that the vendors who donate the door prizes expect and that is the policy we will follow for all meetings. To reduce the distraction of the seated audience and the presenter, registration and the distribution of name badges will cease at the start of the presentation. Those members not yet registered, but who are present at the start of the presentation will be registered and given their badges during the break. Members arriving more than ten minutes after the presentation began have not met the attendance requirement and will not be eligible for the drawing.

Why Join TUGNET?

There are many reasons why you will benefit from a TUGNET membership. Here are a few of the most obvious:

Weekly Meetings where you'll see the latest and greatest computer products presented by well-known, as well as lesser-known, industry representatives.

Special Pricing often offered only to TUGNET members.

Door Prizes at the weekly meetings.

Other Special Offers that regularly come to us .

Monthly Newsletter, *Keywords*, delivered to your mail box.

Special Interest Groups on a variety of subjects.

Help with computer-related problems, both at the meetings and via our "Help Contacts."

Products that become yours when the editor accepts your written review.

Late-breaking information and offers e-mailed to members only.

Volunteer opportunity to help with the many activities that keep TUGNET a viable organization.

Is that enough? Okay, you'll find a membership application on Page 43 in this newsletter!

November 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 SIG Meeting: Real Estate & Investment	2 Abby Stokes: "Is This Thing On?"	3	4 SIG Meeting Basic Computing	5	6
7	8	9 Social Media	10	11 SIG Meeting Imaging Veteran's Day	12	13 No SIG Easier Living
14	15	16 www.tugnet.org	17 Board Meeting	18 SIG Meeting Web Design	19	20 Newsletter Dead- line
21	22	23 Storage Options	24	25 No Linux SIG Thanksgiving	26	27
28	29	30 eBay				
December	7— 14—Holiday Party	Watch E-mail for December SIG meetings		All meetings begin at 7:00		

TUGNET Membership Application

New Renewal Update

I hereby apply for membership in The Users' Group Network. I understand I will be entitled to attend meetings, receive the monthly newsletter and be eligible for special offers that become available from time to time.

Badge Name _____ First _____ Last _____
Please Print

Address _____
City, State, Zip +4 _____

Phone: Home _____ Work _____ Date: _____

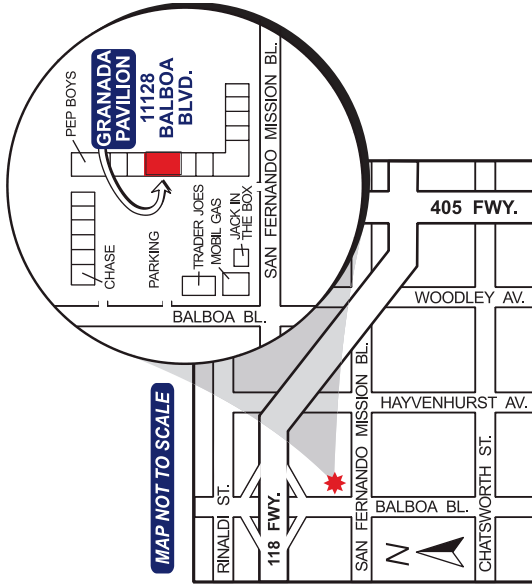
E-mail **Please Print:** _____

Signature: _____

Annual Membership	\$45.00	Gold Key Membership	\$100.00	Please return this form with the Correct amount to: TUGNET 3926 Community Avenue La Crescenta, CA 91214
Annual Husband/wife	\$75.00	Gold Key Spouses	\$130.00	
Three-year Single	\$120.00	Newsletter Subscription	\$15.00	



3926 Community Ave.
La Crescenta CA 91214-2375



Tuesday meetings at Granada Pavilion,