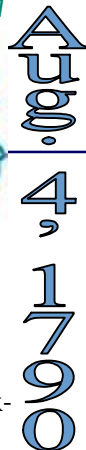




Point, Click, Catalog



The July meeting started with a couple of disappointments. The first was, we re-scheduled from the 1st Sat until the 2nd due to the July 4th Holiday weekend, we were unaware that the OVC was conducting their annual recycling program on the second Sat. So, parking was available only on the grassy area and at a premium.

The second disappointment was the projector wouldn't marry up with Herman's notebook. Bear and I fiddle-faddled with it and finally, after about 15 minutes into the meeting, got it to work

After that, things went smoothly.

Herman Jordan gave us some of his methods for cataloging and refining photos that he takes. With a large extended family of grandkids, he takes a lot of photos. However, since his family is spread out around the US, he needs to identify all the faces on the photos.

After loading pictures onto his computer he opens each one and notes who the principals are in the image. Then he loads them into MGI PhotoSuite, a full graphics package.

Not sure which version Herman was using but Roxio now owns PhotoSuite and version 8 retails at their site, www.roxio.com, for \$30.00.

Herman then refines them by cropping, adjusting brightness and contrast and then saves the file with the same name preceded by the letter T and a number, i.e. T001-Hanapepe This identifies it as a test photo. Since the first refine-

ment may not be the last required, the T and number tells him how many times he's worked on that particular photo. Once he's satisfied with the results, he saves it in another folder for cataloging.

Finished photographs from each trip or event are put into their own folder so they can be easily combined for burning to a CD or DVD to distribute to the family.

Probably the most important thing to remember is to retain the original photo by making a copy to work with since the original will be in the resolution set by the camera. If you save the photo in another format, .jpg, .gif, etc. you'll lose the original structure.

The original photo will be larger in physical size than a .jpg but you can manipulate the original whereas you lose a lot of resolution when saving it to a .jpg. Next time you take a photo, put it on your computer and check the file size. Then save it as a jpg and check it's size. You'll see the difference. Jpeg files are smaller and much more convenient if you are going to be emailing the photos.

Cataloging is as simple as creating a new folder and giving it a name and then dragging and dropping the photos into it.

Once you've separated the photos into their individual folders you can open the graphics package you normally use to work on each.

There are many graphics software packages on the market. I use Paint.net. It's a free open-source code application that has all the

features that most amateurs would need. It is not as complicated at Photoshop, or Photoshop Elements. Corel Draw is another professional grade package. Find one that suits your needs and create your own photo albums.

Text, borders, tinting and other variations are available in all the software I mentioned.

You can add clipart, text boxes, captions or draw a moustache on Granny.

If you not in need of a full fledged graphics package, you may already have the tools on your computer.

Google's Picasa is a free download and will catalog all the images now on your computer automatically. Microsoft Office has a built-in picture editor also.

In both you can flip the image 90, 180, or 270°. You can crop the image, i.e. take out parts on the side, top and bottom to concentrate on the subject and to make the file size even smaller. You can resize images to make them larger, or smaller. Larger to bring out more detail, smaller to suit your needs.

Enhancing any image is just a mat-

(Continued on page 3)



Inside this issue:

July round up	1 & 3
Acronis True Image	2
Software terms	3 & 4

Ed. Note: The following is a copy of Gene's July 2011 newsletter, with permission.

Many of you purchased True Image when Gene and wife Linda were at our December 2010 meeting. Gene is making another discounted offer, see the details at the end of this article. Hurry, the offer is only good until August 15th.

Those of you who weren't at the Dec 2010 meeting might want to take advantage of the offer to protect your data.—Jim

Three Step Fix-up Process for Acronis True Image

*By Gene Barlow
User Group Relations
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Sometimes my customers will send me an email that their *Acronis True Image* system has been working flawlessly, but then it just stopped working. They want to know why it stopped working and what they can do to fix it. My answer to them is usually the same; you need to do my three step fix-up process. In this article, I will share this process with you to use. It's a great way to start to resolve problems with *True Image*.

Reset your Computer and Windows

The first step to fixing problems with *True Image* is to make sure your computer hardware system and Windows are reset from any temporary complication. Computers can get confused and end up doing strange things. To recover from this confusion, all you have to do is to shutdown the computer and then power it up after a few seconds. All devices attached to your computer should also be powered off and then back on again. This causes the computer hardware to do a physical reset and your Windows system to restart fresh. Once Windows is back running again, start *True Image* and see if you are still getting the problem you had before. This sim-

ple reset of your Computer hardware and Windows will often fix minor problems.

Reset your Computer Hard Drives

The second step to fixing problems with *True Image* is

to make sure your computer's hard drives (both internal and external) do not have any hardware glitches on them. All hard drives, even new hard drives, can have glitches on them. Over time, additional glitches may develop on your hard drives. While most programs will not detect these glitches, *True Image* is one program that touches your entire hard drive as it runs. So, any hardware glitches on your hard drives will show up when running *True Image* and can cause it to fail and not run properly.



Gene Barlow

Cleaning off these glitches from your hard drive will fix any problem that is stopping *True Image* from running normally. Fortunately, this is easy to do using the Error Checking utility that comes with Windows. To run Error Checking on your computer do the following steps:

- Click on Start and then on My Computer (Computer on newer systems). This will bring up a list of all of the partitions on your hard drives.
- Right click on one of these partitions, say your c: drive, and then click on the Properties menu item that appears. This will display a new box on your screen.
- Click on the Tools tab to display another box on your screen.
- At the top of this last box you

will see the heading, Error Checking. Under it, click on the Check Now button to start the scan of this partition. This will find and fix any errors found in this partition.

When you complete checking a partition on any hard drive, repeat the same steps on another partition on your hard drive. Continue to do this till all partitions and all hard drives have been checked.

This Error Checking process should be done whenever you start to have errors running *True Image*. As a precaution, you might want to run this process about every six months on your hard drives.

Reset your True Image Software

The third step to fixing problems with *True Image* is to reset your *True Image* software installed on your computer. Over time, the installed *True Image* software may become corrupted in some way and no longer functions correctly. The following steps will install a fresh copy of *True Image* on your computer and also update you to the latest build of the software:

- Uninstall *True Image* from your computer using the Windows Control Panel Add/Remove Programs function (Programs and Features in newer systems).
- Access your Acronis account and find the entry for your registered copy of *True Image*. In this entry, you will find a download link to let you download the latest build of the version of *True Image* that you run.
- After the new build is downloaded, install it on your computer.
- Recreate the backup tasks that were on your failing *True Image*

system.

Test the newly installed *True Image* on your computer to see if this fixes your problems.

I have found that if you follow this Three Step Fix-up Process for *True Image* that about 80% of your problems will go away. If you still have problems after doing all of these steps, then my customers may contact me at support@ugr.com and describe your situation in detail and I will work with you to help you solve these problems.

Acronis True Image Home 2011

The best backup utility on the market today is *Acronis True Image Home 2011*. To order *True Image 2011* from us, go to <http://www.ugr.com/TrueImage.html> and click on the appropriate Buy Now button. We offer this excellent backup program at half the normal price you will find it elsewhere. Our summer special price of \$20 per license is good until August 15. Each computer you wish to backup should have its own license of the product to be legal. I not only provide you with a super price on this excellent software product, but I will try to make using this product

easy and effortless for you.

If you have questions about this article or the *True Image* product, send an email to support@ugr.com and I will try to help you with

Acronis often has a special summer price on *True Image*. Our user group discount price has always been less than their summer special. This year, we have decided to also offer our customers a special summer discount price on *Acronis True Image Home 2011*. From now until August 15, you can purchase a license to this excellent backup product for just \$20 per license. This is a great time to get a license for all of your computers and to get gifts for your family and friends.

To order, just go to <http://www.ugr.com/TrueImage.html> and click on the Buy Now button next to the product package you wish to purchase. These prices are only good until August 15, so don't wait to order. When completing your order enter the order code of UG-SUM11. If you have problems ordering contact me at support@ugr.com and I will assist you.

/s/ Gene

(Continued from page 4) *Software*

book, CD and Movie catalogers, photo album, business accounting, recipe databases, anything you want to put in a record can be found if you just look for it. You don't have to spend big bucks to find a specific software application that will serve your needs.

If you don't want to spend a lot of money on a software program, visit anyone of the sites listed in this article to browse through their libraries. You'll see a brief description of the application, cost if any and length of trial period, if any. The beauty part of this is, if you don't like the software, or it doesn't perform the way you want it to, just uninstall it. Most have links to the author's homepage to get a fuller description and to see what other applications they offer.

<http://www.libreoffice.org/> if you have an early version of Microsoft Office but don't want to spend the big bucks to get a newer one, download this free six-application office suite. It does everything Office does, except it doesn't include an email app, but you probably don't need that anyway. And, it is compatible with Office document files, i.e. doc, xls, etc.

www.freewarefiles.com – Tons of free, shareware and trial software in hundreds of categories. Home, office, games, music, photo, everything!

At the TUG Windows meeting (separate from the regular TUG meeting) we routinely give away links to free software. There might already be something in our listings that interests you. If you are looking to see what programs our members have an interest in, visit our website www.the-tug.org/winsig and click on the WINSIG links; open the PDF files to see what we've covered over the past months. Enjoy.

(Continued from page 1) *Picture Perfect*

ter of a few mouse clicks. You can lighten, darken, set the contrast. Using the proper tool you can air brush, fill in, colorize, just about anything you want to do to change or enhance the image.

We'll cover some of these steps at future meetings as time allows and interest demands. So be sure and

bring up the subject if you want to go into further detail.

Test the picture editor that is already on your computer and see the neat results you can achieve with a little trial and error on your part.

Aloha,

Jim

Read and all of Lou's previous columns, @ *Oceanic Around Town*. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/363qew>

Da Prez Sez column is on hiatus until further notice. Lou and his column will return in the near future.

By now, those of you who own, or use a computer, know the term software means any application written in computer code to run a program, i.e. word processor, spreadsheet, email writer/reader, etc. But, do you know of the other types of 'ware' that are available? Here's a short primer on commonly used terms to describe various marketing of software. For the purposes of this article I'm going to be referring to application and software to mean the same thing.

Trialware – these are full-functioning applications that one can use for a given period of time before they are automatically disabled. Most are 30-day free trials. Before the end of the trial period, and you decide to keep it, you pay the author for a license key which activates the software and it is yours to use for as long as you like.

Shareware – is partially disabled software that you can use forever but you won't have access to all the features unless you pay the author. Once you pay the guy who wrote the code, you get a key to 'unlock' the rest of the software. These have proven to be the most popular since they cover just about every software category and they are inexpensive, usually in the \$15 to \$50 range.

Freeware – Economically, this is the best of the bunch because it's FREE to download and use as you see fit, with some distribution and editing restrictions, but yours none the less. If you like the software you can donate a few bucks to the author for the purpose of, as they like to say, improvement and enhancements for future versions.

Crapware – when you purchase a new computer you will see a lot of extraneous application icons. Games; utilities; trialware, and other stuff litter the programs list. Besides slowing down your computer they take up room on the hard drive but luckily, unless you

intend to use them, you can easily remove them. PC Decrapifier will do the job - <http://www.pcdecrapifier.com/download> Yeah, that's the name Decrapifier.

Vaporware – that is non-existent software that is given a lot of publicity about its impending coming and what it can do, but it never does get to market. A ploy sometimes used to gain advantage over a competitor or to obtain venture capital.

Malware – the bad guys. Malicious software falls in the categories of virus, Trojan, rootkit, and botnet. These rascals can be as innocuous as changing the home page of your browser, or as malicious as destroying everything on your hard drive, with varying degrees of mischievousness in between. If you keep your anti-virus, firewall and spam software up-to-date and enabled at all times you should be safe from these types. However, the criminals who write this kind of software are in it for the money and are constantly devising ways to temporarily defeat the protection on a computer. Once a new virus is effective the anti-virus makers have to devise a new defense for it, and this could take days. So, it is incumbent upon yourself to make sure you do a scan on a regular basis to find and remove any malware.

If you should find something on your computer that you suspect shouldn't be there, visit <http://www.spywareguide.com/index.php> and type the name of the varmint, or click on the *Access the Guide* button and do a search for it. If it is in their database the Spyware guide will tell you if it is safe, or not. The Spyware Guide List of Products is a continual list of spyware, adware, malware, keyloggers, trojans, dialers and more. If you are looking for information on an unfamiliar product you have found on your PC, this is the place

Pres—Lou Torraca

VP—Jack DeTour

Sec/Treas—Polly Leigh

Assistant—Sandy Wells

—Program Directors—

Herman Jordan and Bear Maher

Newsletter—Jim Fromm

Distribution—Rose Miller and friends

Contact info is on our web site

www.the-tug.org

to start.

There are a number of free internet security applications out there. If you have a commercial one already on your computer, you might want to look at the free ones when your subscription ends. All you have to do is a search using the phrase, "free internet security" (without the quotes) and read the fine print before downloading and installing. **Caveat Emptor.** BEWARE of "free" system scans. Some are bogus and will "find" dozens of problems with your computer and then offer to "clean" it for you – for a price. DO NOT fall for this. They will not clean the problems because the problems are not there to begin with.

Another way you can protect yourself is to download and install a password manager. RoboForm, Password Safe, and others, provide good password protection. The only password you need to remember is the one to open the password manager itself. These managers will generate secure encrypted passwords for you. You should NEVER use the same password for all your accounts. The reason should be obvious.

Within the shareware arena there are programs that will do anything you need to accomplish. There are home inventory, personal check

(Continued on page 3)