

This is going to be a short newsletter. The flash drive I keep all my information on detached itself from the tether I keep it on. I think it is in Grants Pass, OR. At least that is the last place I used my lap top.

Bloomsday was great—all 12K (or 7.49 miles) of it. Each “runner” has a personal timer attached to a shoe. I actually walked it 12 minutes and some odd seconds faster than I did last year. At the end I had to stand in line to get my finisher t-shirt. My knees (especially the left sprained one) didn’t like that at all. Their protest was painful. I thought I would never make it back to the car. The funny thing is that all that exercise and stress actually helped my sprained knee heal. Go figure.

The start times are staggered by how fast you are. The wheelchairs actually start first—they really whiz going downhill. The elite runners are next, etc, etc, etc. My group didn’t start until after the fast folks had finished. The stroller brigade starts last and are required to walk. Anyone running with a stroller is disqualified. Many of the racers get to the line up area at 6 am so they can be the first in their group. There are a couple of traditions. One is to bat beach balls around while you’re waiting. It actually helps you stay warm. The other is tossing

your jacket into the trees lining the staging area. The closer you get to the start line the more laden with clothes the trees are. It gives a whole new meaning to the phrase “clothes trees”. The second hand stores do a brisk business in jackets before race day and get a lot of them back the day after the race. The trees are actually picked clean after all the racers have started and before the street is reopened (around noon). I was going to stitch my photos together, but a few individual shots will have to do. Just use a little imagination to see the whole street.

Tomorrow I’m off to the Computer Conference in San Diego. It is truly an all platform event—as you can see by the workshop schedule. Everyone gets a welcome bag with goodies in it and at least one door prize. All meals are included. The companies providing the food also do presentations which just might end with free software. I have advanced notice of some of the discounts which I can and am sharing with you. I was planning to enter the digital photo contest but ran out of time. I guess it will have to wait until next year.

This month Dennis will talk to us about cell phoned and downloading music.

—Beth



2010 Workshop & Technical Presentations

Southwest Computer Conference

June 4-6, 2010

San Diego, CA

Picking the Best Backup Approach for your Computer

Gene Barlow, President of User Group Relations

Backing up your hard drive is the most important thing every user should do on their computer. Today, users are catching on to this need, but unfortunately, there are lots of different ways to do backups. Deciding which one is best and what ones to avoid is not easy if you listen to how these many products are promoted. They all make you think that their product offers you the best backup approach available. Unfortunately, many of these are only partial backup approaches and will leave you hanging if your hard drive crashes and you are not better protected. This session will explore the various ways to do backups and which ways are good and which ones will only partially protect you. By attending this session, you will be able to make informed decisions as to how to best backup your personal computer. Don't miss this session.

Gene has worked with computers for over 50 years and is one of the most informed individuals in the nation on backup systems. He has worked with PC user groups for nearly 30 years and is sometimes called the Father of PC User Groups for his long term involvement helping user groups get started. He presents to over a hundred audiences each year on backup approaches and published a popular technical newsletter on doing backups. He is not only a very knowledgeable individual, but an interesting speaker. He has thousands of fans in the user group community. You will want to attend his sessions to learn all about backup systems.

Communications – Helping you keep in touch

Terry Currier, President, WINNERS

Cheryl Wester, Program Chair, Temecula Valley CUG

There is more than just email to keep in touch with your friends. Yes we will touch on some of the email choices out there. We will also show you some of the video chat options that are out there. Skype is not the only program for video chatting. How about connecting your computer to a friend's who needs computer help, or demonstrating how to do something. We even discuss a couple of programs where you can take over their computer – remote access.

Digital Scrapbooking

Elaine Bryskar, Member, Temecula Valley CUG, California

Digital Photography has changed how we exchange memories with loved ones. Get a giggle from family and friends by creating a Digital Scrapbook. It's simple and quick, using free software. Tell a story, save your fondest memories of vacation trips, first birthday, first child, and other special occasions. Email it, burn it to a CD. Come and have some fun.

Organize Your Life with Evernote

Jim Perry, Internet SIG Chair, Prescott Computer Society

Are you disorganized? Is your file cabinet overflowing, or are your documents just not filed? Do you wish you had your information available anywhere there is a computing device? Evernote is a free product that makes it easy to remember things from your life using your computer, phone, and the web. Type notes, clip web pages, snap photos, grab screen shots, and scan documents. Everything you capture is automatically indexed and put into notebooks of your choice. Search for notes by keywords, titles, and tags. Get rid of your paper files, and sync your Evernote information to all of your computers - PC and Mac, and to your smart phone. Access your information from any web browser.

Excel Basics for those who feel they are Spreadsheet Challenged

Wil Wakely, President, Senior Computer Group

For those who have Microsoft Office Excel and have not yet discovered the power and versatility of this great program, a basic introduction to it will be presented, as non-technical as possible. We will create a simple spreadsheet and also present some examples of other applications to demonstrate how you might use it. Excel 2003 will be used, however, the newer Excel 2007 will also be shown, time and interest permitting.

Free Programs

Rosemary Lloyd, President, Big Bear Computer Club

Power your computer with free programs. There are many free software applications available on the Internet & many are similar to costly retail ap-

plications and provide features that make your computer more useful. Free is always great and this session will introduce you to many applications that are free.

ID Theft: Electronic Intrusion & Scams to Get Your Money

Wayne Widener, President, Lake San Marcos Computer Club

Just like you can't totally protect your home from burglars, you can't totally protect your identity or your finances either. However, there are things you can do which reduce the likelihood that you will be a victim of ID theft, hackers or electronic scams.

You will go home with information to help you be better protected against ID theft.

Insight Into Photography

Rick Edwards, associate of The Royal Photographic Society, official photographer, Kenya Wildlife Service

Rick will cover many aspects of photography during his presentation including showing a 15-minute slide show. Edwards is dedicated to developing the essentials that will help you add an extra dimension to your photographs.

Perfecting Your Photos Using Windows Live Photo Gallery

Bill James, Editor / Webmaster, Computer Club of Oklahoma City

Nothing spoils a photo like red eyes, poor exposure or a stranger who wanders into the edge of your shot at the last second. Fortunately, it is a snap to repair these and other common photo frights. All you need is Window Live Photo Gallery. This free program for Windows XP, Vista or Windows 7 lets you organize, share, and fix your photos.

The presentation will show you how easily you can make poor photos really stunning with a few clicks. One of the great things about digital photos is how easy it is to make a good photo great. We will show how easily you can fix your photos, create a panoramic shot and send your photos. You don't need fancy (expensive) editing software. With Windows and Windows Live, you're just a couple clicks away from fixing the most common problems. And once you've got the red eyes out and the image nice and bright, e-mailing your photos is also quick and easy.

Creative Photo Slideshows Using Windows

Live Movie Maker

Bill James, Editor / Webmaster, Computer Club of Oklahoma City

What home movies used to be, except you turn digital photos and videos into polished movies in minutes. Auto Movie adds a title, credits, transitions, and effects and fits it all together for you. Customize your movies with simple easy-to-use editing tools. Trim your video clips to show only the parts you want adding effects like panning and zooming. You don't need video to make a movie. Make great-looking slide shows using your photos making your photos come to life. Publish your movie to YouTube right from Movie Maker. Or share your movie with family and friends in a variety of other ways – including DVD. Download this program for free from Microsoft and we will show you how.

Put Your Life in a Comic

Lyn Morse, President, Let's Compute

Lyn will show you how Comic Life's easy-to-use interface integrates seamlessly with your photo collection. Drag in your pictures, captions, Lettering text ('ka-blam!') and speech balloons and your work is done! There's zero learning curve – so easy, you and your dog will be making comics in minutes. Comic Life gives you fun and professional templates for instant, impressive, photo layouts. Tweak your creations to your hearts desire! If you want to do fun things with your photos, this is the workshop for you. Comic Life supports both the Mac and Windows platforms.

Smart Computing

Smart Computing Team: Greg Suhr, Lindsey Albers, Chelsea Stallings

Are you frustrated with computer problems? Attend Smart Computing's tech session to get solutions from one of their very own SmartPeople tech support reps. They will take your questions and provide answers in plain-English! In addition, they'll show you solutions to some of the SmartPeople teams most common tech support questions.

Social Networking

Cheryl Wester, Program Chair, Temecula Valley Computer UG

Facebook, Twitter? Are these terms you have heard of but are not really sure how to use or if you want to. If so, this is the workshop for you. Come learn about social networking and have some fun. We'll even setup an account for you.

See you on Facebook! It's fun.

The DEL GATO Method: Learning the Tricks Executives Use to Make Fabulous PowerPoint Slide Shows

Bruce Carl Aronson, Free Lance Trainer

Get in on the tricks Six Figure Executives use to create fast and fabulous slide shows that will have your audiences paying attention and talking about you afterward. The DEL GATO Method is a series of seven easy steps that makes sure you get the job done quickly, thoroughly, and professionally, without "drowning in the details" of PowerPoint options. Folks who attended last time say that Bruce's presentation changed everything for them and made their PowerPoints far better and far faster to create.

The i's

Katie Gertz, Member, Sunland Village East Computer Club

We'll explore some of the many features of Apple's i's: iTunes, iPod, iPhone, iTouch and the recently released iPad! We'll also discuss all the cool things you can with your i's. This is one workshop you won't want to miss to get you up-to-date on the "i" products.

Personal Time Management: Getting 60 Minutes Out of Every Hour

Bruce Carl Aronson, Free Lance Trainer

Distilling down to its essence countless, expensive personal time management seminars and books, Bruce takes us on a fun tour of how to get control over our time and our lives. This is not another "how to jam more things into less time" presentation. This is about how to do what has to be done efficiently so there is a lot more time to enjoy the best things in life! Folks who attended last time still remember and use his techniques to get more done in less time and have more time for the good stuff!

What's in the Box

Jay Cunningham, Jay's Computer Shop

Not exactly sure what makes your computer work? All those parts seem too complicated to understand? You don't really NEED to understand the parts of the computer to use it. Just as you do not need to be an auto mechanic to drive a car. But understanding what the parts of the computer are and how they work, might make some of the software more understandable. Besides it is sometimes useful to understand what is happening inside your computer when something goes

wrong. This will be your opportunity to see the inside of a computer as well as take an up-close-and-personal look at the components as they are passed around the room.

What's New with Ink Products

Don Baker, Classic Specialties

Classic Specialties is based in Artesia, Ca. and was established in 1998. Classic was established based upon the premise of providing the BEST Customer Service and Highest Quality Imaging Products available at affordable pricing. To this end, they have attained a position as one of the primary suppliers for such events as; The Academy Awards, Miss Universe and Miss USA contests and many other significant activities. Classic Specialties, represented by Don Baker will be providing a presentation entitled "Latest Printing Developments" .

The Classic Specialties presentation will address areas of significance, as related to Inkjet printing and today's marketplace. The topics to be addressed will include:

An update of the current development trends and marketing scenarios of various printer manufacturers, and the related impact on consumers.

An overview of the various digital printing techniques and technologies, including;

- Laser Printers
- Thermal Bubble-Jet Inkjets
- Piezo-Electric Inkjets
- Various ink alternatives including Continuous Ink Systems
- Selecting media - what to look for in photo papers, and how they differ, also a sampling of various media and the resulting impacts.

Sing2Learn

Anthony Chang

Danica Morsin

Sing2Learn's mission is twofold: to equip every individual with unique skills so that they can accomplish meaningful things in their lives, and to help the whole world unite under one language system. Imagine how much easier life would be without language barriers!

To share this fun, effective way of learning with you, our Sing2Learn team has created songs that will help you learn a new language gradually, using a step-by-step process. We have also compiled and recorded an extensive list of over 1800

essential vocabulary words, phrases, and sentences that you can listen to and practice with!

3D TV

Walt Ordway, TUGNET

A couple years ago the movie industry started to show movies in the digital 3D format. The box office has been great and more digital 3D movies are coming. Around the same time, the TV industry went all digital, but now they also felt that they needed to be able to show various kinds of 3D content. However, there are many format, legacy and bandwidth issues which have created problems for the various parts of the TV industry. Yes, some 3D TV sets are now available in our local stores and 3D TV content will be available soon. But many of the issues are not resolved and the industry is working hard to get them resolved. Walt will give us the background on this subject, and tell us about many of the issues that the industry is still trying to resolve. He will also tell us that many of these issues have to do with the creation of "standards" that are needed.

What's Cool, What's Hot, and What's Not in Consumer Electronics

Dave Whittle

Want to find the BEST and AVOID the worst gadgets, software, and goodies? Dave, with help from friends John C. Dvorak (PC Magazine), Steve Bass (PC World), Robin Raskin (Last Gadget Standing), Cheryl Currid (ABC TV), Jim Louderback (Revision3), and Chris Pirillo (CNN.com) shares the scoop on their Best Loved, Most Wanted, and Worst Letdown consumer electronics products, sites, and services.

Dave will also show you how you can get involved in the social revolution to easily help your friends and loved ones in sharing recommendations and product experience, so everyone involved can get the best and avoid the worst.

This session will be interactive, lively, and is guaranteed to be enjoyable. Dave will do a show and tell, featuring muvee Reveal 8 - Windows software that takes your digital photos and/or video clips and magically transforms them into a DVD slideshow or music video. What's more, the CEO of muvee will be on hand to answer your questions - direct from Singapore!

You'll also want to take advantage of the exclusive deals Dave has negotiated just for SW Conference and seminar attendees.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn about the

technologies that can change your life for the better!

Microsoft Tech Session

David Lynn

Woody Pewitt

Office 2010, Mesh, Office Live and Microsoft's new Cloud offerings

Get that new PC feeling with System Mechanic!

Abbas Mehdi, iolo technologies

If you use a PC, you have no doubt noticed that it slows down with time. But did you know the slowdown could be reversed and your computer could work like new again? iolo technologies, the PC tune-up software experts since 1998, will talk about PC tune-up and demonstrate the recently launched new version 9.5 of their flagship product, System Mechanic.

If you are not familiar with the concept of computer maintenance and #1 best-selling PC tune-up product in the US, Canada, UK, France and Benelux countries, the session will be a perfect introduction – explaining the need for and benefits of PC tune-up and demonstrating System Mechanic's rich feature set, one-click repair capabilities and automatic settings.

If you are already familiar with PC maintenance or have used System Mechanic before, the session will show you some tips and tricks on how to get the most of this in-depth program and get under the hood to fix even the most hidden causes of PC slowdowns and crashes, bringing your machine back to its like-new, optimal condition. It'll also highlight some of the brand-new and compelling features of the Windows 7-compatible System Mechanic 9.5.

Join us for this informative session, bring any questions and prepare to enjoy that new PC feeling again! Copies of System Mechanic will be available for purchase at the demo.

Anything Is Possible with Word 2010

Debbie Jones

We will take an active tour throughout Word 2010 and learn what is new as well as see how the new gadgets work. We will also see what has changed. This workshop will be full of information and shortcuts, giving you a better understanding of Office 2010 and how you will benefit (or not) from it! This will not be presented through PowerPoint but we will actively be in Word 2010, so bring your questions. If Debbie doesn't know the

answer she'll find it. And be ready to take notes, lot's of notes. Fun and informative, that is what this workshop will deliver.

Unknown source—Compare the cost of gas with the cost of flying by using the free calculator at www.fulecostcalculator.com.

2010 Sponsor Discounts

Southwest Computer Conference

June 4-6, 2010

San Diego, CA

These sponsors have generously provided Southwest Conference attendees special discount offers. These can be shared with club members and friends.

Iolo has a coupon saving 50% on all Iolo technologies and products, including System Mechanic. Use the coupon in your welcome bag or if ordering by phone or online use coupon code SWCC. This offer is good until December 31, 2009. <http://www.iolo.com/downloads.aspx>

askSam makes information useful. The askSam systems team is offering a 50% discount on their free-form database. Use code SWCC509 or go to https://www.asksam.com/online_sales/catalog.asp?req=swcc509

AI Squared is offering a \$100.00 discount on their popular ZoomWare software which has an MSRP value of \$149.00. When checking out after ordering use code SWCC09. <http://www.getzoomware.com>

LapWorks offers Southwest Computer Conference attendees and their club members, friends and relatives a 20% discount on all of their ergonomic products. Visit www.lapworks.net to make your selection and order online using Coupon Code APCUG20OFF. You may also order by calling 888.237.3936. Discount is ongoing.

O'Reilly offers a 35% discount on books to user group members whose group belongs to the O'Reilly UG program. Coupon Code DSUG. They also offer a discount on O'Reilly conferences. www.oreilly.com Discount is ongoing.

PeachPit offers a 30% discount on all of their books (providing your group is a member of their UG program). Coupon code is UE-23AA-PEUF (case sensitive). www.peachpit.com Discount is ongoing.

iPhone for Boomers

By Sandy Berger, CompuKISS
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www.compukiss.com

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According to the data from the International Communications Union, the world now has more than 2 billion cell phone or mobile phone subscribers. While some business and high tech users are using their phones for email and the Internet, I venture to say that most of those 2 billion users are only using their cell phones to make calls and to text message. In fact, I am sure that many users don't know how to do much more than that, even though their phones are capable of much more.

The reason is that up until now, cell phones with their tiny buttons and complex menu systems

have frustrated many average users. The recent introduction of a fast, stable, and more affordable iPhone is poised to change all of that.

While the twenty- and thirty-something's are flocking to the iPhone as the latest status symbol, the forty-, fifty-, and sixty-something's are acquiring iPhones because there are no tiny buttons and no complex menu systems. In fact, the large bright touch screen, big icons, and the on-screen keyboard make the iPhone extremely easy to use. One button brings up the Home screen of icons. The screen is clear and uncluttered. The icons are all easily identifiable by their picture, so the iPhone experience is very visual. The four most used icons are placed on the bottom of the screen. By default, they are Phone, Mail, Safari

(the Internet browser), and iPod. You can put whatever you use the most on the bottom row. You can also rearrange all the icons to suit your taste.

The way you rearrange the icons is indicative of the ease of use of the entire gadget. To rearrange the icons on the Home screen, you simply press any icon and hold your finger down until all the icons start to wiggle. Then you drag the icons from place to place. To put an icon on the second page of the Home screen, you simply drag it off the screen to the right. The second page will appear with the icon on it. To return to the first screen of the Home page, just drag your finger across the screen in a leftward motion. To stop the wiggling and confirm that you are done moving the icons around, you simply touch the Home button. You can't miss it because while other cell phones seem to have a million buttons, the Home button is the only button on the surface of the iPhone.

As you can tell by this explanation, the iPhone is also very tactile. You can move things around the screen with your finger. To make a web page larger, you simply flick your two fingers apart on the screen. Bring your fingers together and the web-page gets smaller. Double-tap the screen and the page fits the screen. To take a picture, you press the camera icon, aim the camera on

the back of the iPhone and press the icon on the bottom of the screen. It is so intuitive that it is actually fun!

On top of that Apple has added a Apps store to its iTunes Online Store. They have over 500 applications that you can add to your iPhone. Many are free. Others cost \$1. Most of those which you have to pay for are under \$10. Some of these applications are just for fun, some are for productivity. For instance, if you download an application called Recorder, you can turn your iPhone into a voice recorder. But you can also choose an application that turns it into an a light saber or one that lets you pop bubbles on the screen. At \$199 for the 8GB model, the iPhone has a lot to like. To use it you must subscribe to AT&T for two years. That is not unusual for a cell phone service contract. You also have to have an additional data plan that costs \$30 a month. While this might seem costly, you get a lot for your money.

Not only is the iPhone intuitive, visual, and tactile, but it has access to the Internet and lets you send and receive email. It is like having a mini-computer in your hand. For many it will replace the laptop they drag along when traveling.

The iPhone is also a full-blown iPod that plays both music and video. Since it has its own speaker, you don't even need earbuds or headphones as you do with most other music players. Oh, and did I mention, it has the best audio quality of any cell phone I've ever used. Am I hooked? You bet I am..... And the same thing will happen to many others who try the iPhone. It is poised to change the way we use cell phones.

E-Mailing Photographs

By Richard Kennon, Editor, Amador Computer Users Group, CA

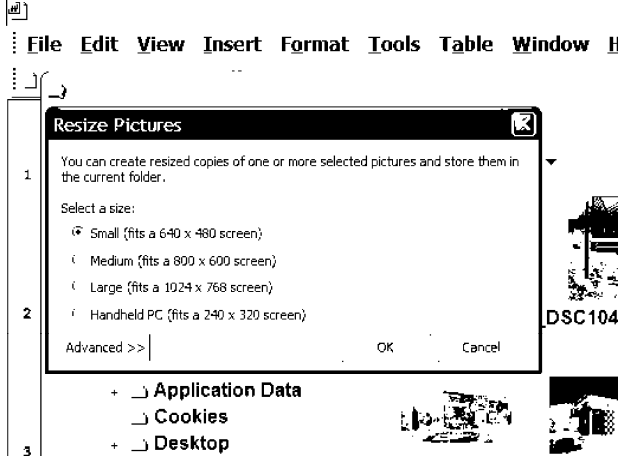
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First, we **must** understand that photograph (image) size in the camera and in the computer is measured in **pixels**. These are the basic dots of color that make the picture. **Do not** pay any attention to anything that says "inches" or "pixels per inch." These terms are meaningless when we are considering a picture either in the camera or in the computer. They may come into play later if we want to print the photo on paper. But, that is another subject for another time. For now, we think only of pixels. Most cameras record too many pixels to e-mail. For instance a 6 megapixel camera will make a picture about 3000 pixels wide by 2000 pixels tall and the file size may be several

megabytes. Our screens are usually only about 1000 pixels wide (some are larger and some smaller). So, if we e-mail the native picture, it will be wider than the screen for the recipient and the file will be so large, it may take "forever" to download to the recipient's computer. It is possible the service provider will not even accept it.

There are two things we must do to make a photo e-mailable. The first is to **resize** or **resample** the picture. We want to change the picture width from 3000 pixels to 800 pixels, for instance. This process is called resizing or resampling. We have to pick the best 800 pixels out of the 3000 to represent our photo. Well, no, that is not exactly correct but it simplifies things to think of it that way. We don't have to worry about it because a lot of very smart programmers have developed ways

(algorithms) to help us. Just remember, you want to resize or resample to get the photo down to a size convenient for e-mailing. I usually use 800 pixels or 900 pixels width for pictures I attach to e-mails.



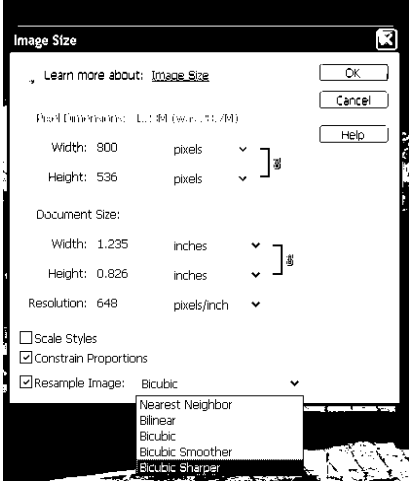
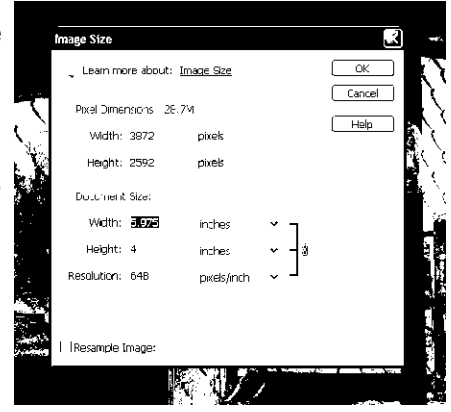
The second thing to do to make a photo e-mailable is to save it in **JPEG format (.jpg)**. That is a format that reduces file size a lot and picture quality a little so the picture can be downloaded more quickly and still be nice to look at. Some software programs give you choices of compression amount with numbers ranging from 1 to 10. One will result in a very small file but the picture quality will not be good at all. A 10 will give the very best quality but with a very large file size. A reasonable compromise is to use 5 or 6. I usually use 6

How do you do this? First, I will describe how to do it with a free Microsoft program. Then I will try to look at some other programs.

Microsoft Power Toys for XP has a **Resize Pictures** toy that is slick and easy but feedback says it only works on XP. It can be downloaded at <http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/downloads/powertoys/xppowertoys.msp>. Right click on an image name or thumbnail in Explorer or My Computer and choose **Resize Pictures**. You are limited to four specific sizes but they are good choices. They don't tell us what compression they are using but the results look OK. Unless you tell them under **Advanced** to replace the image in the file, it will make a copy. That's good. They will add the word, "Large", "Medium" or "Small" to the end of the name you have chosen.

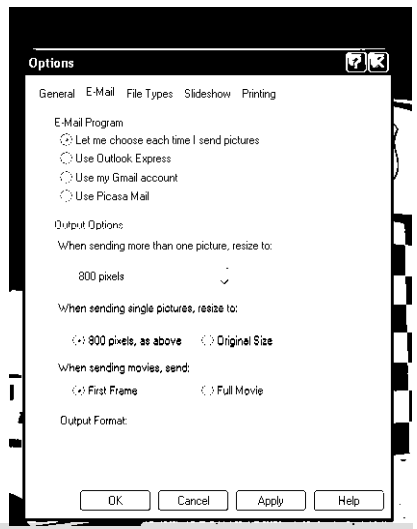
If you are happy with this solution, then read no further. But, if you want to use a picture editing program, maybe this will help.

In Photoshop Elements 5, click on **Image>Resize>Image Size** and this window will pop up. Note that there is some garbage at the bottom about "inches" but we will ignore that. First we will click the **Resample Image** box. That puts the Pixel Dimensions in play and that is what we want. I selected the Width box and changed the width to 800 pixels. Since the **Constrain Proportions** box is selected, that is all I have to do.

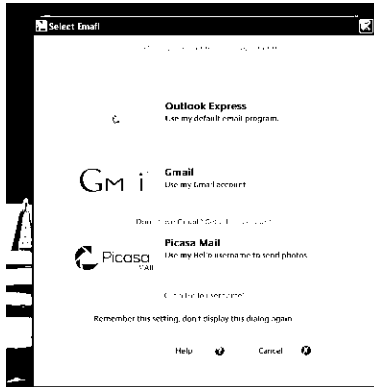


Note, down at the bottom, that we have several choices of sampling algorithms. This is frosting on the cake. I read somewhere that I should use **Bicubic Sharper** when downsizing so that is what I do. Most programs don't

give us all these choices. Then we should click on **File>Save As** and give the photo a new name. I often just use the same name and add "_800px" so the next time I will know it is ready to e-mail. Here we can choose the **JPEG format** and the compression amount. Photo-shop Elements



6 is out now and sells for about \$100. If you are able to spend that much and want one of the best editing programs, I highly recommend it.



Let's look at Picasa2. It is a free program from Google and looks really good but I do not have much experience with it. By all means, try it first because the price is right! When it comes to e-

mailing photographs, it is a little more automated but not any easier to use than Elements. First, click on **Tools>Options>E-Mail**. Then select the width you want in pixels. There are six choices. Then click on **Apply** and **OK**.

When I clicked on Outlook Express, an e-mail page popped up with the photo attached. At this point we can write something else on the e-mail and send it. I recommend this so the recipient will know it is really from you and not something sent out by a virus. When I receive e-mails that only say "Attached", I **Delete** them without looking at the attachment. This saved me one time when I received a virus from my sister-in-law that she did not know she sent. She spent weeks and dollars getting her computer back up. Oh, I digress. If you want to send more than one picture (and, who doesn't?), you must select the picture and click on the Hold button near the bottom of the screen. Do this for each photo you want to send and they will

all be attached to the e-mail. The program automatically chooses JPEG format and a compression ratio but does not tell you. That is OK as the pictures I tried looked good. Picasa2 has considerable capability for editing photos in many respects. Try it!

There are many other editing programs that I haven't mentioned and have no experience with. In all cases you want to change the picture's size in pixels by resizing or resampling. Pay no attention to anything that says "inches" as that will have no meaning for this process. Sometime later we will talk about printing pictures and then we will use inches.

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Registry Cleaners: Snake-Oil or PC-Panacea?

Many of our customers report advertisements for so-called "**registry cleaners**" popping up all over the web these days. These cleaner-programs are cleverly positioned as the one-click cure to any number of creative computer ailments, from general annoyances to outright machine failure.

Savvy iolo customers routinely ask for our opinion about registry cleaners. Our response is simple: Yes, cleaning the registry is an important part of overall PC maintenance, but it is far from a **complete solution**, and by no means the cure-all it

has been made out to be lately.

More importantly, iolo Labs testing has shown that simply cleaning your registry and skipping the other critical steps, as so-called "registry cleaners" do, can actually make your PC **slower than before**, because the cleanup process fails to account for the bloat and fragmentation left over after removing orphaned data. Without a total solution, your registry just becomes a larger block of swiss cheese with more holes each time you clean it.