



# OMUG



<http://www.oly mug.org>

## News

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Olympia Microcomputer Users Group

June 2009

## IPMA: Dumb Terminals, Thin Clients & More!

**By Paul Braget**  
OMUG President

OMUG participated in the IPMA Forum ([www.ipma-wa.com](http://www.ipma-wa.com)) on Wednesday, May 20.

The Information Processing Management Association (IPMA) is a non-profit organization founded in the early 1960's to serve the Washington State Information Technology community.

Upon arriving about 8:30 that morning on the northeast side of Saint Martin's University Marcus Pavilion, I entered the building to observe Bill and Portia Smith setting up for this Forum. Being this was the first time I participated in such an event, my nerves were a bit tense. Our new treasurer and wife soon were able to comfort me with responses to some questions I had about the Forum. Portia Smith showed me the computer generated design on our display table which OMUG would be using. It was quite pleasing and interesting.

The IPMA Forum is an annual information technology seminar and trade show sponsored by the IPMA. For twenty-nine years, the Forum has proven to be an effective opportunity for vendors to demonstrate their products, for speakers to share their expertise and knowledge, and for state agencies and their employees to attend free seminars and product demonstrations. The Forum is one of the premier technology shows in the Pacific Northwest and the largest to focus on the public sector. It was



estimated that approximately 1,000 state, county, city and private sector employees would attend.

The purpose of IPMA's Professional Development Committee is to provide educational and networking programs and seminars for the IT community. The Committee works with corporate sponsors and state agencies to provide these programs at zero to minimal cost to attendees. The Committee also provides selected formal training and events to be provided on a fee basis. One display that caught my attention was the Groupware Tech booth located west of our IPMA booth. This group was demonstrating the Sun Ray Virtual Display Client. The first thing that came to mind while listening to a demonstration at this booth was the use of dumb terminals.

In IBM's OS/400 universe, many are familiar with the traditional non-PC workstation. It's called the "dumb terminal." The name itself

makes one wonder if this was used with computing technology. And to clarify this—it was. Dumb terminals are green-screen workstations. They present text-only information and were designed for data entry. Not the GUI (Graphical User Interface) that many of us are familiar with when using present day technology. The evolution of the "thin client," a workstation that gets all its programs and data from a server, has brought an increase in functionality. The unique Sun Systems device, the Sun Ray Virtual Display Client, would greatly improve something like local school class room environments in which a student would be able to actually carry with them complete course work to anywhere on or off campus. Sun Ray Virtual Display Client has a simple electronic identification card about the same size as a business card. Want to know more about Sun's Virtual Display Client? Here is one blogger's take on it: <http://tech.element77.com/2008/07/sun-ray-2fs-virtual-display-client.html> Or you can read more at Sun's website:

*Continued on page 5...IPMA*

### General Meeting: June 11 Program

Summer is coming! Join John Gerecht, fearless facilitator of the Digital Imaging SIG and Photoshop buff, for tips on how to get the most out of your digital picture taking and editing.





## EXECUTIVE BOARD

- President:** Paul Braget  
 president@olymug.org 413-6932  
**Vice-President:** Huldah Martin  
 vicepresident@olymug.org 486-4531  
**Secretary:** Larry Jensen  
 secretary@olymug.org 456-3555  
**Treasurer:** Bill Smith  
 treasurer@olymug.org  
**Newsletter Editor:** Sr. Dorothy Robinson  
 newsletter@olymug.org 438-1771  
**Webmaster:** Conrad Schuler  
 webmaster@olymug.org  
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 Omugdirector1@comcast.net 455-0180  
**Director at Large:** Vivian Forrester  
 director2@olymug.org  
**Director at Large:** Noral Baughman  
 director3@olymug.org  
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 pastpresident@olymug.org 503-954-1864

### KEY MEMBERS

- APCUG Representative:**  
 John Gerecht (see page 6 for email)  
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 Wim Verhoef  
**Budget Committee Chair:**  
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**Database Manager:**  
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**Special Activities Coordinator:**  
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**Visitors Coordinator:**  
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# Do You Excel?

**By Richie Cunningham**  
 OMUG Assistant Secretary

President Paul Braget opened the May 14 General Meeting shortly after 7 p.m. There were approximately 25 people present.

This being the first General Meeting under new leadership, President Paul Braget and Vice President Huldah Martin took the opportunity to express their interest in being of service to club members. Early in the meeting V.P. Huldah Martin invited members to contact her regarding any OMUG questions or complaints. Later in the meeting President Paul Braget invited members to call him regarding computer problems.

The meeting started with Paul asking questions regarding OMUG'S Reflector. Specifically he asked, "How do people sign up and use the service?" Pat Sonnenstuhl, the outgoing webmaster, responded explaining a few basic Reflector facts and that the Reflector is a place where members can ask computer related questions and get answers provided by other club members. Bill Smith, Treasurer, also took the opportunity to introduce himself and to remind members of their need to apprise the club of address changes. He explained that undeliverable OMUG News cost the club not only original

postage, but return postage as well. It is an unnecessary cost that needs to be kept to a minimum.

Huldah introduced the evening's speaker, our own Glenda Reed. Glenda is an active retiree spending some of her time working with the elderly as an ombudsman volunteer for the State of Washington, but also has used the Microsoft Excel Program extensively at home and in the office. Glenda distributed a handout listing the points she intended to cover during her Microsoft Excel presentation.

The objective of Glenda's presentation was to give attendees enough information to get them up and running in a short time. She explained the versatility of the program and showed its application in developing and maintaining an address book, making lists with accompanying budget calculations such as a grocery list or maintaining a check register. We are limited in using this program only by our own imagination.

She talked about setting up an application (a workbook), setting up and naming individual work sheets, using tool bar options, creating arithmetic formulas to do calculations, customizing the size of spreadsheet cells, using clip art and coloring columns to add interest to data displays etc.

She also pointed out that Microsoft has created ready sources of information for use with the Excel program. Microsoft Office Online includes Excel templates which can be

*Continued on page 5...Excel*

**Thanks for Renewing!**

Norman Gallacci  
 John Marshall  
 Arin Seldomridge  
 Edward Swan  
 John James  
 Bob Wing  
 Marilyn Gaylord  
 Bill Profit  
 Max Whipps  
 Norma Crouch  
 Joe Hiss  
 Don Hertzog  
 Bob Stimmel

**Welcome, New Members!**

Kym Davis

# Audit Done; July Program: Popcorn & Movie!

By **Larry Jensen**  
OMUG Secretary



**Present:** President Paul Braget, Vice President Huldah Martin, Secretary Larry Jensen, Assistant Secretary Richie Cunningham, Treasurer Bill Smith and Directors Noral Baughman and Vivian Forrester. **Absent:** Past President Max Whipps, Newsletter Editor Sr. Dorothy Robinson, Webmaster Conrad Schuler and Director at Large Arlene Kapner. **Visitors:** Pat Sonnenstuhl and Wim Verhoef.

Vice President Huldah Martin opened the May 21 Business Meeting at 7:05 PM.

Huldah reminded us that to send bulk mail, we need to mail at least 200 newsletters. With declining membership, this has become a problem. A librarian in Tumwater said if they had more newsletters, they could put them out with other brochures. Huldah suggests we mail them 15. She also suggests increasing the number sent to all libraries in the area. Vivian had talked to Olympia and they would accept more if they were hand carried.

The minutes from the April Board Meeting and the May General Meeting were approved.

Bill had copies of the annual budget which shows that we are doing fairly well in keeping within our budget. At the end of April, we had 135 Primary Members (27 less than last year) and 61 Associate members (10 less than last year) Total membership was 196, 37 less than last year.

Pat Sonnenstuhl continues to maintain the Reflector.

Vivian Forrester reported that the Olympian Source Book would be out in the first part of June. In some places the social hour is listed as 6 PM, in others 6:30 PM. After discussion, it was moved and seconded that General Meeting social hour should be 6:00 PM and all publications should reflect that.

The June program will be a presentation by member John Gerech on digital imaging. The July program is projected to be a popcorn and movie night. The movie will be "You Know Bill Gates, Now Meet Richard Stallman."

Huldah made contact with some vendors at the IPMA event which may lead to some programs. Paul suggested a program on Access if we could find someone to give it. Skype was mentioned as another possibility.

Wim presented the audit; it was accepted unanimously. He was very complimentary on the way the books had been kept and thanked Gary for his dedication and high level of work.

Larry reported that he had gone to the DOT office and gotten a copy of the Rest Stop paperwork. He gave one copy to the President and put one in the Secretary's file.

Since it was 9:00 PM, it was decided to table the rest of the New Business agenda until the next board meeting. These items are:

1. Schedule of group activities for balance of year
2. Rest Stop fund raising
3. Silent Auction (refurbished computer systems etc)
4. Potluck dinner
5. All member Picnic
6. Scholarship Recipient Announcements

The meeting adjourned at 9:00: PM. 🖨

**Invite a friend to an OMUG meeting.  
If s/he joins, YOU get 3 free months  
and they get the benefits of membership!  
Our next meeting is June 11,  
so bring your friend along!**

## OMUG Income & Expenses April 2009



### Income: \$148

(Membership Dues \$140, Raffle Sales \$6,  
Bank Interest \$2)

### Expenses: \$230

(Senior Center Donation \$50, Newsletter postage \$169,  
Public Relations Committee \$11)

### Net Decrease: \$82

### OMUG Treasury as of 5/14/09

<b>Savings Account Balance:</b>	\$2,873
<b>Scholarship Account Balance:</b>	\$2,012
<b>Checking Account Balance:</b>	\$ 460
<b>To Be Deposited:</b>	\$ 0
<b>Less Outstanding Checks:</b>	\$ 0
<b>Treasury Total:</b>	\$5,345

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# Panda Introduces Totally New Antivirus Technology – FREE

**By Ira Wilsker**  
APCUG Director;  
Columnist, The Examiner,  
Beaumont, TX; Radio Talk Show Host  
lwilsker (at) apcug.net

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Most antivirus software has become bloated and a drag on system performance. One major issue with most antivirus products is the time delay between the detection of a new threat, and the time it takes to push updates to users of the software. Thousands of new viruses and variants appear every day, and it is a major burden on the purveyors of antivirus software to keep their respective products up to date.

Regrettably, many users update their antivirus software daily, which is woefully inadequate, as most publishers of the antivirus software now send out updates several times a day, and in some cases, several times an hour! It often takes hours for updates to be created by the software companies and ready for users to update their software. This still leaves the users' computers unprotected from the newest threats during the lengthy time that it takes for new threats to be detected, analyzed, neutralized, and distributed to the users of the software. An analogy would be reading the printed daily newspaper you may have found in your driveway this morning; it may be today's newspaper, but it is really yesterday's news. That is the same way that antivirus updates work; the updates that you download and install right now, are viruses that were first detected hours ago, leaving your computer vulnerable to those threats during those hours. You may also have no protection from new viruses and other malware that have been detected in the wild, but not yet included in the latest updates. In the past, when many new viruses spread slowly, this time lag was not serious, but with the rapidly spreading threats of today, that delay can be deadly in a cyber context. We blissfully traverse the internet safe in the

knowledge that our just updated antivirus will protect us from whatever we may come across, but this blissful ignorance may fail to consider the new threats in circulation. Philosophically, if our antivirus and anti-malware software was so good, why do millions of computers that have updated antivirus software still get infected?

Another issue with the bloated antivirus that many of us use is the large amount of system resources consumed by our antivirus software when running, and the degradation of performance that inevitably occurs. Many of us are unaware that the antivirus and anti-malware software that we may be using may be causing a significant slowdown in our computers' ability to process data, which is a frequent cause of degraded computer performance. Some of the more progressive publishers of antivirus software have addressed this predicament by releasing software that is easy on system resources, and does not significantly degrade performance, but these companies are in the minority; most antivirus software currently in use, including several of the most popular titles, are a drag on the system.

Panda Software, a well respected Spanish publisher of excellent quality system security software, recently released a free new product that is claimed to resolve the problems mentioned above. Using the concept of "cloud computing," Panda is now distributing its new product "Cloud Antivirus." In its simplest form, cloud computing takes advantage of the combined knowledge and processing power of large sectors of the internet, where networks synergistically and instantly work together to intelligently

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solve problems. Panda's Cloud Antivirus claims to capitalize on that power by using Panda's servers in the cloud, and is currently a free download at [www.cloudantivirus.com](http://www.cloudantivirus.com). By utilizing the power of the cloud, Panda claims that new virus and malware signatures can be available to users of Cloud Antivirus in as little as six minutes, closing much of the window of vulnerability from new threats. What makes Panda Cloud Antivirus such an interesting product is that it is very easy on system resources, as all of the work of protecting your computer is done in the cloud, rather than by the CPU in your computer, which does not degrade system performance while providing the maximum in protection. In addition to not degrading performance, it is designed as an "install and forget" product that removes the user from the loop of updates, system configuration, and decisions about threats encountered. Simply stated, Panda Cloud Antivirus can be downloaded and installed, and no further intervention or updates are necessary in order to have comprehensive antivirus and anti-malware protection.

It should be noted that as I type this, the version of Panda Cloud Antivirus that is available for download is described by Panda as a "beta" or pre-release version, but by entering an email address when downloading the software, Panda states that it will provide a free activation key for the final version when released, and that Cloud Antivirus will remain a free product.

*Continued on page 5...Cloud AV*

Continued from page 1...**IPMA**

<http://www.sun.com/sunray/sunray2/>

Many of us spent the day going from booth to booth and were able to observe present and future technology used by our local government offices and training centers. Near the end of the day, we were talking to each other as if we had known each others for years. I attribute this to the everyday use of computers that many of us have the pleasure to experience.

It was pleasant to see familiar faces of people who have been involved with OMUG for all these years. I found acquaintances that I have shared time with in college and many business associates I have worked with in this area on various projects in the past. It was quite exciting for me to find these same people attending this forum.

It was also exciting to meet new people who have a common interest in technology, such as VMware. Virtual Management Software is being utilized throughout present day technology. The concept of virtualization allows the user to run multiple operating systems on a single computer including Windows, Linux and more on a single desktop.

While walking around talking to the different vendors, ideas for possible presentations came to mind and some of these could be mobile phone uses, security for both the home and business, using simple computer software applications. One topic that came to mind is protection from ID theft. It has been presented before—but is important enough to do again.

While sitting in the OMUG booth an elderly gent came in and introduced himself as Gene Andrews. I have observed Gene at several of the General Meetings provided by our group in the three years I have been a member. While walking around I saw Gene sitting in the center of what was happening and receive a smile and a wave from him every time I walked by. It gave me a pleas-

ant feeling that out of all these years I am becoming familiar with the membership.

I would like to thank the following people for volunteering for the IPMA event. Special thanks go out to Bill (Treasurer) and Portia Smith, Larry Jensen (Secretary), Huldah Martin (Vice President), John and Kay Sanders (Members), Wim Verhoef (Audit Committee Chair), Richie Cunningham (Assistant Secretary), to our OMUG members who attended the event, and to IPMA's event manager Jim Andersen.

After ending the day, it became clear to me that I will be looking forward to many days as a participant and active part of South Sound's largest and friendliest computer group that has been around since 1986. ☺



Continued from page 2...**Excel**

downloaded instead of creating your own. They have created a template for virtually every purpose. And if it is a “how do I” question, online help and the available tutorials may solve those problems too. She also had a number of other helpful hints such as the regular use of “right click” for much information. Glenda's talk was well appreciated by those in attendance.

To round out the evening the drawing was won by Gwen Stimmel.

Huldah announced next month's presentation will feature John Gerech with a discussion on the use of Photoshop and other photo editing programs.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. ☺

Continued from page 4...**Cloud AV**

Cloud Antivirus works by using a small, resource sparing dashboard on the user's desktop. This dashboard connects your computer to Panda's data center, which tracks anything that may be even slightly suspicious, with Panda's data center stopping the threat before it can become active on the computer. By instantly combining the real-time threat “intelligence” from thousands of computers, Panda can better detect and react to threats than more traditional antivirus software. Panda's CEO Juan Santana says that Panda's cloud, “harnesses the knowledge of Panda's global community of more than 10 million users to automatically identify and classify new malware strains in real-time.” In terms of the rapid growth of cyber threats, “PandaLabs detected more malware in 2008 than the previous 17 years combined, representing a major tipping point for both consumers and the antivirus industry as a whole,” said Santana.

In addition to being reactive, this intelligence can also be proactive, allowing Panda to predict evolving threats, and be ready to deal with them before they become an active threat. By using the power of the cloud, rather than the power of the user's computer, there is no drag on system resources, while the computer is protected from the latest threats with minimal lag time.

Panda's Cloud Antivirus is a fascinating new technology that holds great promise. It may take a paradigm shift not to download frequent updates, and scan everything opened and run on the computer, which consumes great amounts of processing power and slows the loading and execution of programs and data. If this new technology is proven as reliable as I hope it initially appears to be, Panda may be a bigger threat to its competitors than malware will be to us. ☺

## Notes from the VP

At each General Meeting, we have a technology-related presentation after our social hour. Due to current economic times the big name presenters that OMUG has had in the past are hard to get. Sadly, it also seems that economics and busy schedules contribute to decreased attendance at the meetings.

It seems to me that the greatest value of OMUG is that it can *connect us as a community*. It is amazing how the mutual joys and frustrations of SIG explorations can forge such a wonderful sense of camaraderie. It is this sense of camaraderie, with your help, that I would like to see blossom again at the General Meetings.

How can we do that?

If you haven't attended a meeting for awhile, plan on attending a few (even if it isn't your "favorite" subject!)

Share your ideas on presentation formats, topics, and where to find folks to give presentations. Please, feel free to contact me at [vicepresident@oly mug.org](mailto:vicepresident@oly mug.org) or by phone at 360-486-4531. I would love to hear from you.

Participate by sending in questions for our presenters. They are happy to find answers for you or to point you to an appropriate resource.

I would like to try a meeting where we have break out groups on different topics. If you have something fun/cool to share let me know.

For my part, I will work to: understand what you really want to know; incorporate your suggestions; find fun, informative programs; keep you on your toes!  
—Huldah Martin, VP

## OMUG Supporters

We are thankful for the many people, organizations and businesses who support OMUG.

Below is a list of a few who have given back to the community by assisting OMUG in its mission to help computer users help computer users and their community.

Our supporters provide services and discounts, give of their time, provide space for OMUG activities, introduce OMUG members to new products, share knowledge and expertise, provide OMUG with software and hardware, or provide educational opportunities. All of them are appreciated.

Senior Services for South Sound  
Olympia Computer Central  
IPMA  
Adobe  
Microsoft  
Cartridge Care, Inc  
Ubuntu  
Canonical, Ltd.

**Idea for a new SIG?  
Tell any OMUG board member!**



## MEETING LOCATIONS

**Capital High School:**  
2707 Conger Ave NW  
in Olympia. Follow the signs to the computer lab from the lower parking lot.

**El Sarape Restaurant:**  
1200 Cooper Point Road  
in West Olympia near Staples and the Post Office.

**The Olympia Center:**  
222 Columbia Street NW  
in Olympia.

**Note:** The computer lab at the Olympia Senior Center is on the second floor behind the boutique.

