MEETING SCHEDULE  
Sunday, May 20, 2012

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<td>11:00 - 11:25 pm</td>
<td>PACC BOD Meeting</td>
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Introduction to Virtualization on Linux using Kernel Virtual Machine - KVM

Presented by Pat Barron - member of PACC and Wplug.

Did you ever find yourself thinking how nice it would be if you had a spare system around, or even a couple of spare systems? Systems that you could use to experiment with different Linux distros, or even tinker around with non-Linux operating systems like Windows? If you don't have any "spare" computers laying around, you may be struggling to decide if what you want to do is worth wiping out the Linux system you're already working on, which would mean you would have to reinstall or restore your system from backups after you've finished tinkering. Not an easy decision considering the time it would require, but is it really your only option? What if you could harness the "extra" capacity of your system that you're not currently using, to create the appearance of an entirely separate computer, without disturbing the Linux installation you're currently working with, and that can run simultaneously while your original system continues to operate? Using virtualization, you can do exactly that.

In this presentation, you'll learn what virtualization is, what it's good for, and how it differs from other strategies (such as emulation) that are intended to solve similar problems. You'll find out about KVM ("Kernel Virtual Machine"), a virtualization facility that is included with many popular Linux distributions, and how it compares to other "no cost" virtualization solutions that are currently available. Finally, you'll see a live demonstration in which we'll use KVM installed on a Fedora 16 system to install an entirely different Linux distribution on a "virtual system" which shares the same physical hardware, and that we can use while Fedora 16 continues to operate.

This a must see presentation PACCsters! Do yourselves favor and come to see it! You are also likely to see Windows 8 in virtual setup!
Recommended freebies:

Hotspot Shield
Winning many accolades from all over, this program is only 6 MB install file download.
You’ll get small 266 KB application installer named DM-338, which will proceed to install the application. Carefully read the install screen. It will try you get you to install a toolbar, just uncheck the box. Good luck!

From the AnchorFree website, as always, in their own words:
“Hotspot Shield VPN encryption secures your browsing session, detects and blocks malware, protects your privacy and allows you to access all your favorite sites.”
……. “Secure your web session, data, online shopping, and personal information online with HTTPS encryption. Protect yourself from identity theft online. Hide your IP address for your privacy online.
Access all content privately without censorship; bypass firewalls. Protect yourself from snoopers at Wi-Fi hotspots, hotels, airports, corporate offices.”
…… “Hotspot Shield protects your entire web surfing session; securing your connection at both your home Internet network & Public Internet networks (both wired and wireless). Hotspot Shield protects your identity by ensuring that all web transactions (shopping, filling out forms, downloads) are secured through HTTPS. Hotspot Shield also makes you private online making your identity invisible to third party websites and ISP’s.”
…… “Hotspot Shield creates a virtual private network (VPN) between your laptop or iPhone and our Internet gateway. This impenetrable tunnel prevents snoopers, hackers, ISP’s, from viewing your web browsing activities, instant messages, downloads, credit card information or anything else you send over the network.”

There is much more information on the web site. If you like it, consider buying the elite version for $30.00. This gets rid of the advertising and you will also get much more functionality and support. If you plan to use this extensively that is the way to go! PJK

Roadkil’s Disk Wipe 1.2
The download is tiny 47.2 KB from this web site:
http://www.roadkil.net/program.php/P14/Disk%20Wipe
From the web site:
“Securely erases the contents of a disk replacing it with random data or leaving the drive completely blank. Numerous passes can be performed to ensure data is totally unrecoverable. Program works on hard and floppy disks as well as USB/Flash drives.”

From the author who shall remain nameless:
“Welcome to Roadkil.Net. This site hosts my collection of applications written to benefit the internet community. All the programs on this site are provided completely free of charge for both personal or business use.”

At the web site are many programs all free, asking for donation. Take a look, there may be some goodies you’ll like.

WalkJogRun
I recommend to anyone interested in getting themselves into shape, whatever shape you prefer, to visit the WalkJogRun web site first, you almost do not need instruction, it is easy enough to follow the way others used the site. Check the routes in your location. See what others are doing.
You can also go to this web site and read their review and see the video:
http://www.appappeal.com/app/walkjogrun/

Some quotes from the web site:
“WalkJogRun.net is tailored to runners, joggers and walkers looking for a better way to plan their routes. The site features tools that allow users to make up their own routes based on Google maps. Other features are included to give the user a better perspective on how effective their route will be. Walk Jog Run presents a great way to discover a new route, which is especially important when old routes become stale”
……
“WalkJogRun Features:
Map out their next running, jogging or walking route anywhere. Check out routes submitted by other users in the Walk Jog Run community. Calculate pace and distance to estimate the time commitment of their route. Register to receive email updates. Monitor calories burned on Walk Jog Run routes.”
DuChemin, in his introduction states that the “subject of this book is the expression of vision or intent and not the vision itself.” DuChemin’s premise is that successful photographs “communicate a key thought or feeling.”

To accomplish this, photographers must first be clear in their own minds about their “intent” prior to making decisions about what to include or exclude. Only then can the more technical decisions be made to portray those chosen elements to communicate that vision or intent. The author compares the craft of photography to writing but with its own visual language and grammar.

Learning to use photographic language effectively allows photographers to communicate their intent to the reader, i.e. the viewer, in ways that evoke a response. After setting the stage in Part I, and making a case for his premise that “mindfully” determining your intent will lead to stronger images, DuChemin looks at how to use the elements of Visual Language along with compositional and technical aspects to communicate intent.

“Part II – “Visual Language” explores the Elements (words) that can be manipulated within the photographic frame and the Decisions (grammar) that determines how we visually present the elements to the “reader.” Each element (lines, repetition, contrast, color, etc.) is explored, individually and in depth, using the author’s photographs as examples of that particular element.

This is one of the real strengths of this book. The author not only shows us the picture, he describes what he did and why, but also what he wanted to communicate with the selected element. His descriptions are clear, articulate and are often accompanied by additional graphic examples or photographs on which he superimposes additional information to illustrate his example. He also, where it adds to the lesson, includes photographs taken immediately before or after and discusses, in the same depth, why they aren’t as strong and/or don’t communicate his intent as well as the selected photo. The same format is used to explore each decision that organizes and presents the selected elements – framing, placement, optics, focus, etc.

To assist the reader to explore each concept for themselves, each subsection ends with a suggested “Creative Exercise.” These are fairly simply, short exercises to trigger making an idea or technique part of your photographic thought process. For example, in the section on color, the creative exercise is “pick six of your favorite color photographs, rendering one of each into black and white.”

There are then a set of suggested questions to use when viewing the original and changed photos – what is the difference in your emotional response, does your eye travel differently when you view the photograph, does color add or detract, etc.

DuChemin suggests that photographers are often distracted by color and that it prevents them from looking critically at the elements in the photograph. He believes that the ability to see beyond the color and pay more attention to the elements prior to making the photograph will improve the decisions used to create the image.

I found that just reading and thinking about each “Creative Exercise” was very helpful in reviewing and driving home the concept being explored, and many of them are definitely on my “to do” list.

The last section of the book, Part III is a series of 20 photographs selected from the author’s work to represent the concepts explored in the book. Each is discussed in detail in terms of the elements and decisions used to make the photo, plus possible alternatives that might have made the photograph stronger. DuChemin challenges the reader to critically view each photograph – intent, subject, elements, decisions, etc. and actually write down their responses – before reading his description.

For each photograph, the format is similar to that of Part II – alternative photographs taken at the same time and graphic overlays to illustrate a concept present in the photograph. Careful viewing and reading of this section helps solidify the educational and practical material presented in this book.

Appended to the final photograph, “Candles & Prayers, Kathmandu, Nepal, 2010,” is a list of 19 questions to “mindfully ask” when viewing your own or other’s photographs. They include questions designed to elicit your feelings and emotional responses in addition to how decisions about elements (“words”) and decisions (“grammar”) affect the photograph and thereby communication with the reader. They are a very useful summary of the book.

In his conclusion, DuChemin cautions that while he has simplified the material for educational purposes, to fully integrate the concepts into your photographic workflow is anything but easy. Just like learning any new language, it takes time and conscious practice.

While this is the fourth book of a series DuChemin has written on photographic vision, it stands on its own and is eminently readable and usable without knowledge of the first three books. I have not read any of the others. I can enthusiastically recommend this book to anyone except perhaps a very novice photographer. A basic knowledge of focus, shutter speed, etc. and how these affect a photograph would definitely add to getting the most from the material.

The book is probably most helpful for someone who has mastered the technical aspects and now wants to improve how they create their “intent” within the photographic frame to increase the impact of their work. The author presents organized, well written concepts and information with appropriate images and detail and has caused me to think about how I approach photographs in a more thoughtful way.

My suggestion would be to read Part I, “The Photographer’s Intent” first but without getting too caught up in whether you agree or disagree with his “message.”

Read Parts II and III for the specifics and consider doing the “Creative Exercises” as you go along or pick and choose afterwards. Then go back and re-read Part I. This worked for me.

About: Photographically Speaking – A Deeper Look at Creating Stronger Images

Author: David DuChemin Publisher: New Riders Press

www.newriders.com


Price: $44.95, $24.94 @ Amazon, $19.79 Kindle
It seems no matter how carefully I configure my computers and other devices to work the way I want, there’s always some programmer just one step ahead of me. Just when I think everything is perfect, he or she manages to break it!

Example: after a couple of years of automatic updating, my browser of choice, Google Chrome, became sluggish. A Google search turned up a number of such complaints, but no solutions. Unable to find an answer, I switched to Firefox but noticed that some features I used all the time in Chrome (Duplicate Tab, for example) were missing. So I found and installed an add-on called “Tab Utilities Lite” that brought those features back. Problem solved — until this morning (Groundhog Day) when Firefox automatically updated itself to v10.0, thereby breaking Tab Utilities Lite!

Yes, I suspect the developer of Tab Utilities Lite will update his utility to work with Firefox 10, but why couldn’t Firefox have pointed out the incompatibility before delivering the update, instead of afterward, and let me choose to keep using v9 for awhile longer?

Thirteen months ago my otherwise excellent online broker, E*Trade, updated an online application called MarketCaster that I use for obtaining real-time quotes. It hasn’t worked correctly since — it now shows totals in the “gains/losses” column as “minus 100%” in all my watch lists. Their IT folks have acknowledged and apologized for the problem but for over a year now they have either been unable to fix it, or perhaps it’s not a priority — maybe other users don’t bother totaling their watch lists. Immediately after the update I asked, “Can I return to the previous version that worked?” “No, there’s no way we can do that,” they replied.

A few months ago my wife complained that Yahoo! had updated her online calendar requiring more clicks to get things done.

Recently my TomTom GPS started nagging me to update its maps. Thinking that could do no harm, I downloaded and installed the new maps. Before the update, I was able to drive for miles on the highway in peaceful silence. As I neared my exit, she (why is her name “Tom”?) would tell me to prepare to exit. But ever since the update, she chimes in at every exit along the way reminding me not to exit but to instead stay on the highway! So I can’t live with her anymore but I can’t live without her either. The workaround, of course, is to mute the sound — and risk missing the exit.

Intuit has now begun warning me that I need to update to Quicken 2012 by April in order to keep downloading data from my financial institutions. What will the new version break? I can hardly wait.

Facebook users can likely look forward to some nasty surprises when the company goes public and updates the user interface to better monetize the site for its shareholders.

Videoographers who rely on Apple’s “Final Cut Pro” for their livelihood are up in arms because some months ago Apple made sweeping changes to the program that severely disrupt their workflow. For the first time in over a decade I won’t be upgrading to the latest version of Samplitude, the wonderful audio software I use to make a living, because the latest version introduces new annoyances without addressing old ones. With installable software such as Samplitude and FCP, vs. “the cloud,” at least the user can choose to not upgrade but, unless you stay current, you lose a level of support and inevitable changes in the OS and hardware environment will eventually render the old version useless.

So, all I ask is to be LEFT ALONE! When it’s time to upgrade, bill me if you must, but let me keep working the way I want without spending needless hours trying to outsmart the programmers.

I realize we need to keep moving forward — the Firefox update, for example, may well contain some important improvements in security. But enough is enough! It’s not that each individual change is a crisis — although some are — it’s that we use so many different pieces of software these days, much of it embedded in various devices, that the totality of change can seem overwhelming.

Software developers might want to take a deep breath and ask themselves, “Is this change really necessary and what possible damage could it do?” — before adding another bell or whistle that might only cause more trouble.

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**Beginning Drupal — an amazing book!**

Review: by Gregory West, Vice President, Sarnia Computer Users’ Group, Canada, CEO, Alternatcloud.com  Gregory (at) alternatcloud.com

Beginning Drupal by Jacob Redding
Published by O'Reilly Media Inc. ISBN: 978-0-596-80660-6

This book is a must have for every webmaster.

There is no question that Drupal web creation software has a steep learning curve. I personally can vouch for this statement. While in the very early days of learning Drupal I quickly came across a stumbling block and found myself stuck. I could not create links to any of my webpages.

I have taken online Drupal courses, checked out YouTube video tutorials and I regularly visit the Drupal community and its forum for ideas and help. This time, even with the help of a fellow Drupal user in the forum, I came close to fixing my problem, however I just did not understand what it was the forum people were suggesting.

Armed with a bit on knowledge now, I opened up Redding’s “Beginning Drupal” book, went to the third and fifth chapters with the ease of a keyboard click in this eBook and there it was…Step-by-step to get me back on track with my website using Drupal.

The book itself is very well laid out for beginners like me who know very little about Drupal software. The author explains this book is for “people who want a robust website and are not afraid to get their hands dirty.” The book begins with a history and full explanation of what exactly Drupal is and where you can get extra help. From there Chapter 2 takes us right into the install stage. The final chapters cover advanced topics and a “preflight checklist” to ensure you are on track.

What I really enjoy about this book is two-fold. The first is at the beginning of each chapter is a list of “What you will learn!” and at the end there is an exercise of questions to make sure you got what the author was explaining. Also, there is a final statement of “What you have learned in this chapter.”

This book is well thought out and is the perfect reference book to keep beside your computer as it is definitely geared to ensure your Drupal journey is a smooth ride.

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**February 2012 issue, CPCUG Newsletter**

www.ctpc.org president@ctpc.org

By Walt Graham, President, Connecticut PC Users Group

Memo To Software Developers: LEAVE ME ALONE!

This book is well thought out and is the perfect reference book to keep beside your computer as it is definitely geared to ensure your Drupal journey is a smooth ride.
Adobe Photoshop Elements 10 & Premiere Elements 10
Reviewed by Clint Tinsley, Editor, Idaho PCUG
November 2011 issue, Bits and Pieces
http://idahopcug.apcug.org/
c_tinsley (at) msn.com

Not a lot has changed since our last look at the Photoshop Elements Family, version 8, in December 2009 and most of what we covered there is still accurate. What I will be covering here is what has been added since 2009 in versions 9 and 10. The four major additions to Photoshop Elements since Version 8 are:

1. Layer Mask Creation - You no longer have to create them manually.
2. Content-Aware Healing Brush - Now you can really make objects disappear, fix old photos, and fix defects by filling with background that is created from the surrounding area. This one feature alone is worth the price of Elements 10.
3. New in version 10, overlay guides have been added to aid you in cropping your photos using the Rule of Thirds and the Golden Ration. These guides allow you to crop your photos in such a way that the viewer is drawn away from the center of the photo by offsetting the primary focus of the photo against the background. These guides are a welcome addition to Photoshop Elements.
4. Also in version 10 are new guided tasks which include the Michael Orton effect, better Depth of Field adjustments using smart selection tools, and several other improved task oriented adjustments.

I will cover these improvements in some detail as they are definitely valuable additions to the Photoshop Elements family and are reason to consider upgrading to Version 10 from an earlier version if you are already a Photoshop User. I will also comment on the improvements to the Organizer and Adobe Elements Premiere.

The Two Photoshops

Photoshop CS and Photoshop Elements. Photoshop CS is Adobe’s Premiere Professional Photo Editing program and it comes at no small price. Photoshop Elements is sometimes referred to as its little brother as it inherits features and tools from its elder brother. CS is a powerful photo editor and with power comes complexity. Elements is for the photo enthusiast, a consumer level product, where the focus is on ease of use. Elements 10 benefits greatly from its Photoshop CS heritage.

Quick Edit Workspace

The graphic shows the Quick Edit workspace. As you can see, there are sliders for each of the adjustments you can make here along with the “Auto” smart buttons where Elements 10 will make its best guess at the adjustment. If you don’t like the Auto adjustment, you can undo the adjustment as well as reset all adjustments made here. On the left hand side of the screen are tools for cropping, red eye, teeth whitener, blue sky tool, and the Black & White High Contrast tool for turning a selected area into a high contrast black & white element. The High Contrast tool works by automatically creating a layer mask on the photo and a function from Adobe Photoshop CS to create the effect. Quick Edit provides an easy to use starting point for fixing your photos.

Full Edit Workspace

Not a lot has changed here from previous versions. On the left hand side of the work space, you fill find the many tools available to you. Note that many of the tools are actually multi-function as indicated by the little black pointer in the right bottom corner of each tool selection button. Also, on the menu bar across the top are all the different adjustments, filters, plugins and effects that Photoshop are known for. On the right hand side are the various panes such as layers and histogram.

Content-Aware Healing Brush

This new feature of the Healing Brush was introduced in Elements 9 and is used by selecting the “Content-Aware” feature from the Brush tool’s option bar shown above. This feature addresses a concern I have had in removing an object from a photo without leaving artifacts behind where the object was or having to do a lot of touch up to make the result acceptable.

An example: At the top of the next column is a photo of the author at Warm Lake, Idaho. Next to it is the same photo without the author in it. If you did not know where something was removed, it would difficult to know that this was not an original untouched photo.
Guided Edit Workspace

At left is a list of most of the tasks that can be performed using the Guided Tasks features. Many of these are an automation of features found in Photoshop CS and automatically create any layers needed as well as perform any adjustments needed to achieve the effect. In the full edit screen shot (above) are the resulting layers that were created when I applied the Lomo Camera Effect to my Stanley Basin Photo. The Guided area is not new to Elements but some new tasks were added that are worthy of mention include the Crop Photo and the Orton Effect. The Crop Photo function now provides overlays for Rule of Thirds and the Golden Guide. These overlays are composition tools that allow you to crop your photo in such a way the viewer is drawn away from the center of the photo by offsetting the primary focus of the photo against the background. The Orton Effect is a dreamy photo effect made popular by Michael Orton. http://www.michaelortonphotography.com/. The key to effective use is just the right amount of blur and brightness added to the photo using layers. Here is a flower photo I took at Lake Cascade, Idaho, with the dreamy Orton Effect applied and the layers it created.

New in Version 10 is a new feature in setting Depth of Field that allows you to set the focus anywhere and on anything in the picture where you want to maintain focus while softening the focus on the rest of the photo.

An extensive set of Photomerge tools are included in Guided Edit (See bottom of Guided Edits List). These tools are useful for merging bracketed photos with Exposure to create “HDR” photos as well as merging content from various photos as well as recomposing photos, even painting out objects in one photo that are not in the other photo. Photomerge is also available from the File menu as a new project including Panoramas. Style Match is where you can apply Photomerge “Styles” to other photos.

For your creative side, Elements 10 adds 30 new smart brush effects and filters along with a new Text on a Path tool where you can surround an object with Text.

The Elements Organizer is a media management tool shared between both Photoshop Elements and Premiere Elements. Here is where you can manage all your photos and video content with tools to tag and group your content for easy access. Face and object recognition has been added in the version. Face tagging photos for Facebook is now provided. There are three new search options in the Organizer all built around this recognition feature. My photo collection stands at over 12,600 and I know I have a lot of duplicates but the Duplicate Photo Search did not produce usable results. The Visual and Object Search can result in mismatches and poor results as well. The Organizer Catalog only recognizes changes in content that the Elements applications make including importing photos and other media. If a folder or a file is renamed or modified outside of Elements in using other applications, it is pretty much lost to the Catalog and you have to rebuild the Catalog from scratch. The organizer also provides the ability to share content as shown in the graphic. Online Video Sharing uses Premiere Elements 10 for uploading content to YouTube. The Organizer can be a very powerful tool in managing your photos and videos.

Learning & Using Photoshop Elements 10

Given the popularity of Photoshop Elements as part of the Adobe Family and heir to many tools in Photoshop CS, there is a lot content available along with books to help you learn and use Photoshop Elements 10. Hitting F1 from within the program will bring up the 339 page user manual. Installed with Photoshop Elements is the Inspiration Browser where you can view videos and tutorials on how to perform tasks. On the bottom task bar in Elements, you will get little prompts like this:

Clicking on the prompt will start the Adobe Inspiration Browser and take you to the content however there is a small catch in using this resource. You must have an Adobe ID to use it, the ID is free and you will have many opportunities to create an Adobe ID. If you have a membership in the Plus program, you will have 20 GB for your photos on your personal photoshop.com gallery for sharing your photos.

Shortly after Photoshop Elements 10 was released, there were no less than 6 books available on Amazon specific to using this version of Elements, a real testament in that those books were written before the product was released.

Photoshop Elements 10 Final Thoughts

There is no question that Photoshop Elements 10 is a powerful tool for editing photos and getting creative with your photos. But if you already have Photoshop Elements 8 or 9, or another program that works well for you, then you have to make a decision which is made even

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more difficult if you already have Elements 9 which introduced the Content-Aware Healing Brush. In any case, you have to decide if the cost is justified in what is an increment upgrade.

Photoshop Premiere Elements 10

Premiere Elements 10 is the video editing side of Elements Family which opens a world of creative sharing of both photos and videos. It shares the all the new features found in the new Elements Organizer for managing, sharing and selecting the content to be used in your video production.

New Technology

Premiere Elements 10 is a technology release with wider support for more video formats including AVCHD disks. It also takes advantage of new facial recognition technologies in with its new Pan & Zoom tool feature where you can also pan between objects within a photo as well as across faces in a photo. You can easily import from a number of different devices.

Premiere Elements 10 now provides full support for 64-bit Microsoft® Windows® 7 with its own installation set of files. The 64 bit version does not work on Vista which still has to run the 32 bit version. Premiere Elements now provides SmartSound tracks on the Mac.

Making Movies

Premiere Elements 10 is a very powerful video editing system which can turn your photos into interesting movies with menus and titles along with effects and template driven Instant Movies. A new three-way color corrector in Premiere Elements 10 makes it easy to enhance color footage where it can automatically boost tone and vibrancy without affecting skin tones, or you can use sliders to adjust color with complete control. You can now make subtle color corrections by adjusting colors in specific areas, such as highlights, shadows, and mid-tones for perfect color throughout your movie.

Premiere is a non-linear editing system meaning you can add and remove content within a movie. It does not modify your original photos and movies, all the changes to the content made are made within the program. It provides two editing modes, a Sceneline mode where it you can easily drag and drop content in a very visual environment. The second mode is the rich Timeline mode where you have the ability to have and edit multiple video and audio tracks in addition to a Narration audio track and a Soundtrack.

Premiere Elements 10 continues to build on all the features it is known for including green screen effects where you can fly people and objects over other content and motion tracking.

Sharing Features

Premiere Elements 10 really shines when it comes to sharing in being able to create and burn a wide range of DVD, Blue-ray and AVHD disks as well as uploading to Photoshop.com, Facebook, and YouTube. And then it takes sharing to next level with its being able to export video to a wider range of cell phones including Apple devices, Smartphones, Mobile Phones, Pocket PC, plus Audio Podcasts, and the Sony PSP device. For each device, it supports different viewing formats and standards. There is also an online organizer by which you can share photos and movies between devices using iPhone and Android apps.

Getting Help

8

Q1. What can and can’t I do with my new Simple Touch Nook eReader? It has Wi-Fi connectivity.

A1. The Simple Touch Nook is a dedicated eReader. You can read books that are available from a variety of sources and you can read newspapers and magazines if you have subscriptions. With the Nook Friends feature you can send emails to share comments and recommendations and lend/borrow some books from each other. You can access Barnes and Noble’s bookstore via the Wi-Fi. Word meanings can be looked up and passages can be highlighted and bookmarks can be made.

You cannot play games or music as can be done with the Color Nook or the Nook Tablet.

Q2. Where can I get Help with my Nook features?

A2. On your computer, go to bn.com and click on the tab. Under Nook Simple Touch (or other Nook device if you have a different one), select Support. There are four video tutorials, a section of Frequently Asked Questions, a Chat with a Nook Expert Chat Now button, and the User Guides and Manuals that are also on your Nook when you get it, but it is much easier to search for information and read IT on the computer.

Barnes and Noble help can also be reached by phone M-F 7 a.m.-10 p.m. and weekends 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. by calling 800-843-2665. I’ve had two chat sessions and both “Experts” were very helpful. Also, the Barnes and Noble book store folks have been very knowledgeable and helpful.

Beyond Bullet Points:

Using Microsoft PowerPoint to Create Presentations That Inform, Motivate, and Inspire

By Cliff Atkinson, Microsoft Press / O’Reilly

Reviewed by Greg West, Vice President, Sarnia CUG, Canada
APCUG Advisor, Regions 6 and International
Gregory (at) alternatecloud.com

All of us have had, or were forced, to sit through a PowerPoint presentation wishing we were somewhere else. The speaker was so boring, the presentation slides were cheesy and extremely confusing, and our insides screamed for us to get up and leave the room.

Beyond Bullet Points is designed in such a way that this will never

(Continued from page 7)

number of videos and web based tutorial pages. From the opening splash screen are links for Getting Started, Community Help, Tips, Tricks & Tutorials, Adobe TV and their Forums.

System Requirements

- 2GHz or faster processor with SSE2 support; dual-core processor required for HDV or AVCHD editing and Blu-ray or AVCHD export.
- Microsoft Windows XP with Service Pack 2, Windows Media Center, Windows Vista® (all applications run native on 32-bit operating systems and in 32-bit compatibility mode on 64-bit operating systems), or Windows 7 (Adobe Premiere Elements Editor runs native on 32-bit and 64-bit operating systems; all other applications run native on 32-bit operating systems and in 32-bit compatibility mode on 64-bit operating systems).
- Color monitor with 16-bit color video card.
- Microsoft DirectX 9 or 10 compatible sound and display driver.
- Windows Media Player (required if importing/exporting Windows Media formats).

Usage Thoughts

There is a lot of technology in Premiere Elements 10 and powerful features means that powerful computing platforms are needed. Even on the fastest computers, you may find yourself waiting on sluggish controls and processing time. Another complaint is that Adobe has not made this product laptop friendly; you have to a bit of scrolling at times to get to choices and controls. I had to move Premiere Elements (as well as Photoshop Elements) 10 to the big screen to capture some of my screen shots. As with Photoshop Elements 10, this is an incremental release, a technology release as I referred to it; There are some new technology and features that make it a worthy upgrade, particularly if you your current video editor doesn’t support the latest video formats or makes it painful in exporting your content to your cell phone. Being able to burn Blue-ray content to DVD disks is a definite plus in creating High Definition content.

(Continued from page 12)
Q3. How do I get books loaded onto my Nook from Barnes & Noble?

A3. Books can be purchased from B&N by pressing the Quick Nav button at the bottom of the Nook and tapping Shop on the Quick Nav Menu Bar that appears across the bottom of the screen.

If you want to look for free ($0.00) books, tap the Search Shop button in the upper right corner. The next screen has a keyboard and search bar into which you type either the title or author of the book or the price and then tap the Search button in the lower right corner of the keyboard.

Scroll through the titles by either sweeping a finger up or down on the screen or tapping the up and down arrow points at the bottom of the page.

If you know a title you’re looking for or to see an overview, tap on the cover picture. If it’s a free book, tap on the Free button, then Confirm and the book is immediately downloaded directly to the Nook. If the book has a more significant price, click on the Buy button and follow the instructions; it will be downloaded to the Nook. This has to be done where you have a Wi-Fi connection.

Q4. I’ve heard that on Fridays, Barnes & Noble offers a free eBook to be downloaded. How do I find it?

1. Go to bn.com and type in the Search bar — “Free Fridays” (without the quote marks). This will take you to B&N Community, the NOOK Blog and the free book will be listed there.
2. You can also type or copy the address below in the browser address bar:

To get the Free Friday book, it’s necessary to download the book to the computer and then transfer it to the Nook. Do the following:

1. Click on the title of the book. The link is in blue text and when the mouse pointer is hovered over it, the pointer changes to a hand with a pointing finger.
2. The link takes you to an overview of the book and a Download Now button. If you think you want to read the book, click on the Download Now button.
3. Navigate to the folder where you want the eBook to be saved and click Save.
4. Attach the Nook by the USB cable to the computer. Windows will recognize the Nook as a Removable drive and assign it a letter.
5. The next step is to Copy the file and Paste it into the Nook folder named Books.
   a. Right click on the filename and select Copy
   b. Click on Computer, double click Nook, double click My Files, double click
6. Disconnect/eject the Nook as you would a flash drive by clicking on the Safely Remove Hardware and Eject Media icon in the notification area of the computer screen and then selecting Nook from the menu. Wait until you see the message that says it’s okay to remove the device.

Q5. How do I move from page to page in a book?

A5. There are three ways to move from page to page:

1. There are two “buttons” or bars on each side of the Nook. The top ones (either side) move to the next page and the lower ones move to the previous page when you press on them.
2. You can Fast Page through the book by pressing and holding down these buttons. The buttons are not very easy to press. Swipe across the screen with one finger in either direction to advance or go back a page.
3. Gently tap on the right edge of the screen to advance or tap on the left edge to go back.

Q6. How can I look up a word for which I want the definition?

A6. Gently press your finger tip on the word and it will become highlighted with a vertical rod at each end. A text selection Toolbar appears at the screen bottom. Tap Look Up.

Q7. If I’m doing research and I want to highlight text or make a note about it, how do I do it?

A7. Press a word at the end or the beginning until it’s highlighted, then drag the appropriate rod to the other end of the desired text. Tapping Add Note brings up the keyboard. Tapping Highlight appears to put underlines under the highlighted text. Tapping the highlighted text will also allow you to remove the highlight or add a note.

To see material that’s been highlighted or notes made about, tap on text that’s not highlighted; that brings up a Reading Tools Menu. Tap Content.

Q8. How do I make a bookmark?

A8. To place a bookmark on a page, tap in the upper right corner of the page and a dark bookmark will appear. To see the pages bookmarked, tap to open the Reading Tools Menu and tap Content.

Q9. How do I Find specific words in a book?

A10. Tap in the middle of the text, tap Find on the Reading Tools Menu, type the word you are looking for in the search box, and tap the Search button on the bottom row of the keyboard. Tap Close when finished.
Q10. How do I change the size of text and margins?

A10. On the Reading Tools Menu, tap on the text button. This opens a Text Dialog Box.

Tap on the A of the desired text size to make the change; tap on the desired line spacing, and the desired margin. There are also six font styles from which to choose. Just tap!

Q11. What is a Nook Friend, and how do I Invite someone to be my Nook Friend?

A11. A Nook Friend is a friend who has a B&N account, an email address in your contacts list, and has accepted your invitation to connect as a Nook Friend. Nook Friends can lend each other books and request books from each other for a loan of 14 days. A book can be loaned only once. This requires a Wi-Fi connection:

Press the Quick Nav bar, tap Settings, tap Social and set up each of the items below.

1. To enable Sharing features, you must be Linked to B&N via either Google Gmail, Facebook, or Twitter. Tap on this feature and follow the prompts to sign in. Tap the Grant Access button.

2. Tap on Manage my Contacts. Tap on the drop down arrow beside All Contacts and select Nook Friends. Tap Add Contact.

Tap in each box and fill in First Name, Last Name, and email address (doesn’t have to be a Gmail address), then tap Invite as Nook Friend. Tap Save at the bottom of the keyboard. Tap Close.

If the friend’s email is already in your contact list, just tap on the name and tap Invite. Tap Send. Tap Close.

3. When your friend accepts the invitation, the name will be listed under Manage my Nook Friends. Tapping the name will show the books they can lend to you. Tap Details for info.

4. Visibility of LendMe books is controlled by tapping the Show/Hide button.

Q12. What formats are compatible with the Nook?

A12. The Nook supports ePub and PDF formats for books and .jpg, .gif, and .png for screensavers.

You don't have to have a Nook to download books from B&N, you can download an app for your PC, laptop, or smartphone.

**Convert Books for eReaders**

*By Len Nasman, Editor, Bristol Village Computer Club, Ohio*

*January 2012 issue, BVCC newsletter*  
*www.bvcc.org*  
*bvclub (at) bvres.org*

It was not exactly a Christmas present, but I now have a new Kindle Fire. We had accumulated a bunch of reward points on our PNC Bank account, and I discovered that unused points were expiring every month. Looking through the rewards catalog, I discovered that I had enough points for a Kindle Fire. So, since the price was right, I ordered one.

It seems that if you are more than 21 years old, how to use these new-fangled things is not instantly obvious.

The Kindle Fire seems to assume that you already know how to use it, so no instruction Manual was included. Of course there is a manual available on the Kindle, but until you know how to use the Kindle, you cannot read the manual.

Anyway, I eventually got to the point where I was ready to look for free books on the Internet and add them to the Kindle.

**Free Books from Project Gutenberg**

My first step was to go to the Project Gutenberg web site to look for free books.

The good news about Project Gutenberg is that they now have file format options for ereaders, including
Once a book file has been downloaded to a folder in the computer’s hard drive, the question is how to copy into the ereader.

Using Calibre to Move Books

Fortunately, I discovered a free program called Calibre http://calibre-ebook.com/ that makes it almost easy to convert books and send them to different eReaders like Kindle, Nook, Android and others.

Before you start using Calibre, you need to create (using Windows Explorer) an empty folder for storing the book files you will be using with Calibre.

After your empty Calibre book folder has been created (using Windows Explorer), the Calibre installation process will ask you what eReader you have and what folder you will use for your Calibre book list.

The upper left corner of the Calibre window has a tool for adding books. If you downloaded books from Project Gutenberg, you locate the files and add them to your Calibre list.

Calibre provides an option for downloading cover art and information for the books on your list. Calibre refers to this as ‘metadata.’

First select a book and then click on the Edit Metadata tool. There is a button in the Edit Metadata window for downloading data. When this is selected, Calibre searches the Internet for info about your book. When it finds book info in more than one location, it shows a selection list for you to pick from. You will also have the option to choose a book cover that will be displayed in your Calibre list and, in my case, eventually on the Kindle Fire list.

You also can read a book on your computer. Double clicking on a book in the Calibre list will open an eBook viewer right on your computer screen. (This is an option for those who travel with a laptop computer and want to use their laptop as an eReader.)

After the Calibre book list is in place, it is time to send the books to the eReader. In the case of the Kindle Fire, a USB to mini connector computer cable was not supplied. Rather than buying this from Amazon, I got one on eBay and for a couple of dollars (including shipping).

When the Kindle Fire is connected to the computer, it appears in Windows Explorer just like another disk drive. However, Windows Explorer is not used to move books to the Kindle. This is done directly from Calibre. Calibre talks directly to the eReader through the USB cable. There is a tool in Calibre that will show your eReader book list.

If you download a book from Project Gutenberg in the Kindle format, you are ready to go. If not, Calibre provides an option to convert book files to the MOBI file format that Kindle uses.

When you are ready to send books to the eReader, select the Calibre Send to Device tool. That’s it. Happy reading.
Do you text?
By Claudia Horack Bristow,
President, Hilton Head Computer Club, SC
September 2011 issue, Island Computing
www.hhic.org

In what seems like a relatively short period of time, cell phones have become ubiquitous. There are no age limits for cell phone users. Seniors and more senior seniors use them. Our children and grandchildren seem never to be parted from their phones, which is frequently a good thing. Not only is it fun to chat with the grandkids, calling a grandchild is sometimes the only way I can reach my son!

Some people can’t bear to be away from their phones; others only want them for emergencies or travel. Many people I know, and most of my kids, have foregone landlines in favor of cell phones. Some uses are appropriate; others are inconsiderate or dangerous.

Since my kids always have their phones with them, I figured I would be able to reach them more easily. Nope! Kids don’t answer their phones these days. However, all is not lost. They respond well to a text message.

Following the principle “if you can’t beat them, join ‘em,” I purchased a cell phone with keyboard. The results have been very gratifying but there is a problem.

It is all those abbreviations my son uses. Half the time I didn’t have a clue what he meant. Some were fairly obvious, like LOL (“lots of love”) but wait, it turns out that LOL can, and usually does, mean “laughing out loud.” So much for a mother’s feel-good interpretation.

As the texting continued, the use of texting slang increased. At first I just asked my son what the acronym meant. But then it occurred to me that I was ruining my “cool” texting image by revealing my ignorance of the language. I began Googling unknown “words.” Through Google I discovered that ROFL stands for “rolling on the floor laughing”; BRB stands for “be right back”; BTW is “by the way”; IK is “I know”; AMOF, “as a matter of fact”; HTH, “hope this helps” to name just a few.

By far the quickest way to interpret texting slang is to Google the word but there are also online texting “dictionaries” and articles that are fun to browse.

Here are a few texting slang sites. Check one or two out:
http://www.webopedia.com/quick_ref/textmessageabbreviations.asp

Pick out a few of the interesting ones, slip them in your next text, and WOW your kids and grandkids. GL and HF.

(Continued from page 8)

From the Exec. VP ..
.. Editor’s desk
Hi PACCsters!

Required reading list:
Introduction to Virtualization on Linux using Kernel Virtual Machine - KVM PAGE # 1
Windows SIG - Recommended freebies: Hotspot Shield, Roadkill’s Disk Wipe 1.2, WalkJogRun PAGE # 2
Photographically Speaking
Review by Marlene Martin PAGE # 3
Memo To Software Developers:
LEAVE ME ALONE! By Walt Graham PAGE # 4
Beginning Drupal – an amazing book!
Review by Gregory West PAGE # 4
Adobe Photoshop Elements 10 & Premiere Elements 10 Review by Clint Tinsley PAGE # 5
Beyond Bullet Points: Using Microsoft PowerPoint to Create Presentations That Inform, Motivate, and Inspire
By Cliff Atkinson PAGE # 8
NOOK Q & A By Mary Phillips PAGE # 8
Convert Books for eReaders By Len Nasman PAGE # 10
Do you text? By Claudia Horack Bristow PAGE # 12

I will see you all on Sunday May 20, 2012. PJK

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You will learn how to use the graphics you already have on your computer, and how to get graphics from “Stock Photography Web Sites”.

Your PowerPoint presentation comes together in Chapter 9: “Delivering Your...Presentation”. The amateur presenters are separated from the professionals. This chapter prepares you for the delivery of your presentation. Here you are shown the basic ground rules for removing distractions, prompting a dialogue and how to enhance your presentation effectively.

A real treat is found in Appendix A where ground rules and checklists act as an overview ensuring you have created a very professional presentation. Added features: This book comes with website links for “Companion Content” with key tools and a bonus Chapter 11, introducing a “Visual Improv,” PDF version of the ground rules and checklists. You also get a voucher for your free online version of this book. For anyone who is serious about their presentations, this book is a keeper.

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NEXT MEETING: May 20, 2012

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