



# The Databus

Newsletter of the Dayton Microcomputer Association®

Volume II (New Series), Issue 7 — July 2011



## July Meeting ... MARTIN ARBAGI: IBM's Symphony Office Suite Tuesday, July 26, 7 P.M.

**All DMA General Meetings are *free* and open to  
the public — bring a friend!**

IBM'S FREE SYMPHONY SUITE is an often-overlooked competitor both to Microsoft and Open Office. Join us at July's general membership meeting as DMA Secretary **Martin Arbagi** gives a quick overview of Symphony's features. He'll start with three complex Microsoft Office files — a long Word document with footnotes; an Excel spread sheet featuring numerical, text, and logical data, median and mean functions, *eighteen-level* nested @IF statements (!!), conditional formatting, and frozen panes; and finally, a humorous (but complex) Power Point presentation. He'll convert each file to its corresponding format in Symphony to see what's lost and what stays intact. Many users complain about how long it takes to save files in Open Office, so Martin will conclude by making some changes, then saving each file to see how quickly Symphony can do so.

Please join us at 7:00 P.M., Tuesday, July 26<sup>th</sup>, at the **Miami Valley Educational Service Center — Regional Division, 4801 Springfield Street**, about a mile west of the Air Force Museum — meeting. Parking is free. Click [here](#) for a map.

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# The Dayton Microcomputer Association<sup>®</sup>, Inc.

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ESTABLISHED IN 1976, DMA is a group of Dayton–area professionals and hobbyists in the field of computing and information technology. General membership meetings are usually on the last Tuesday of each month. DMA has a number of Special Interest Groups (SIGs) in areas ranging from digital photography and genealogy to the Linux operating system. Each SIG meets according to its own schedule. DMA is a member of APCUG and ASC. (Click on any of the logos — including our own — to go to that organization’s Home Page.)

## Officers and Board of Trustees



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### Submissions ...

THE DATABUS welcomes compliments, complaints, suggestions, and especially articles. We can accept articles in ASCII, or as attachments in Microsoft Word or Works, Open Office Writer, Word Perfect, or even WordStar! No PDF files, please. Send e-mails to:

[Editor@DMA.org](mailto:Editor@DMA.org)

All articles are subject to editing for spelling, grammar, usage, and space. Always retain a copy of your work, as THE DATABUS cannot be responsible for loss. When articles are of roughly equal quality, those by paid-up DMA members receive preference.

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**The Miami Valley Educational Service Center —  
Regional Division  
4801 Springfield Street,  
about a mile west of the  
Air Force Museum — site  
of our July  
meeting. Parking is free.  
Click [here](#) for a map.**

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## DMA NEWS

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2011

# DMA Picnic

**\$3.00 (cheap!)**

**Saturday, August  
27 (*earlier than  
usual*), Noon to ??**



The 1911 DMA Picnic — that's Jim Ullom standing on the left in the straw hat and A-shirt.

- Shelter #1 (electricity available), Indian Riffle Park, Kettering
- Click *here* for a map — it's convenient to I-675.
- *We* supply hamburgers, brats, hot dogs, rolls, condiments, bottled water, & pop.
- *You* supply a covered dish, or soft drinks other than pop.
- *No* alcohol or glass containers, please.

**Tickets on sale at Tuesday's meeting.**

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Dayton Microcomputer Association<sup>®</sup>, 6 June 2011.

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 P.M., by Glady Campion, President.

### TRUSTEES PRESENT (alphabetical order):

Glady Campion (President), Nancy Christolear (Treasurer), Grant Root (Vice-President), Jim Dalley, Ken Phelps.

### OFFICERS WHO ARE NOT TRUSTEES PRESENT:

Martin Arbagi, Secretary

### VISITORS:

George Keen.

### ABSENT:

Wynn Rollert, Gary Turner (excused).

### OFFICERS' REPORTS

#### PRESIDENT (Glady Campion):

Jim Dalley has agreed to chair the Nominations Committee.

Glady and Jim Ullom have registered for the APCUG Conference in Cleveland.

The Affiliated Societies Council is sponsoring three events, two of which are connected with the annual Dayton Air Show: SOAR (before the Show) and A2 (during the Show). The third event is a seminar aimed at personnel working at the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

#### VICE-PRESIDENT (Grant Root):

Dayton Diode held an open house on May 28.

#### SECRETARY (Martin Arbagi):

Jim Dalley moved that the corrected May Minutes be approved. Nancy Christolear seconded. Motion passed.

#### TREASURER (Nancy Christolear):

Nancy passed out the financial report for last month.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### AUDIT (Glady Campion):

Glady now has enough figures for an audit of our finances for 2010. She asked for volunteers with laptops who could meet to verify the audit.

#### FUNDING (Chair vacant):

No report.

#### MEMBERSHIP (Glady Campion):

We have 121 Regular Members, 5 Associate Members, 3 Student Members, and 2 Life Members. There were 46 attendees at the April meeting, and we made \$23 on the 50/50 raffle.

#### NET ADMINISTRATION (Ken Phelps):

There was some discussion about the Dayton LANFest Web site.

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Continued on the next page.

**PROGRAMS** (Glady Campion):

Glady had spoken with Jim Ullom, who chairs the Program Committee. His schedule is virtually identical to the one he presented for last month, except that he has tentatively scheduled Steve Fry for September to do a presentation on 3-D printers.

**PUBLICATIONS** (Martin Arbagi):

*The Databus* came out on time, though barely so.

OLD BUSINESS

**DMA PICNIC:**

The Annual DMA Picnic will be held on 27 August in Indian Riffle Park in Kettering. There was some discussion as to whether we should have games this year.

NEW BUSINESS

**TIME AND PLACE OF THE JULY MEETING:**

Since the first Monday of July this year is the 4th, the next Trustees' meeting will be on the 11th. Panera Bread, or at least the one on Brown Street, is no longer reserving meeting rooms. Consequently, we'll revert to the Donato's Pizza parlor on Airway Road for the July Trustees' meeting.

**PYOHIO** (<http://pyohio.org/>):

There was some discussion about DMA's becoming a Sponsor of this event for programmers in Python. It will be held on July 30 and 31 on the OSU campus in Columbus. Jim Dalley moved that if DMA can get a place on the conference program for \$100, we contribute that amount. Nancy Christolear seconded. Motion passed.

GOOD OF THE ORDER.

- Martin Arbagi: No comment.
- Nancy Christolear: No comment.
- Jim Dalley: Take care!
- George Keen: Why not have the winner of the DMA Scholarship at the University do some work for us?.
- Ken Phelps: No comment.
- Grant Root: Back up your data!

ADJOURNMENT.

Nancy Christolear moved adjournment at 8:55. Jim Dalley seconded. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Martin Arbagi,*  
*Secretary*

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## Use Caution with USB Drives!

by MINDI MCDOWELL

<http://www.us-cert.gov/cas/tips/STYY-XXX.html>

NOTE: These tips have been previously published in other places, but are worth being reprinted to increase awareness.

**U**SB DRIVES ARE POPULAR for storing and transporting data, but some of the characteristics that make them convenient also introduce security risks. What security risks are associated with USB drives?

Because USB drives, sometimes known as “thumb” drives, are small, readily available, inexpensive, and extremely portable, they are popular for storing and transporting files from one computer to another. However, these same characteristics make them appealing to attackers.

One option is for attackers to use your USB drive to infect other computers. An attacker might infect a computer with malicious code, or malware, that can detect when a USB drive is plugged into a computer. The malware then downloads malicious code onto the drive. When the USB drive is plugged into another computer, the malware infects that computer.

Some attackers have also targeted electronic devices directly, infecting items such as electronic picture frames and USB drives *during production*. When users buy the infected products and plug them into their computers, malware is installed on their computers.

Attackers may also use their USB drives to steal information directly from a computer. If attackers can physically access a computer, they can download sensitive information directly to a USB drive. Even computers that have been turned off may be vulnerable, because a computer’s memory is still active for several minutes without power. If attackers can plug a USB drive into the computer during that time, they can quickly reboot the system from the USB drive, then copy the computer’s memory, including passwords, encryption keys, and other sensitive data, onto the drive. Victims may not even realize that their computers were attacked.

The most obvious security risk for USB drives, though, is that they are easily lost or stolen (see *Protecting Portable Devices: Physical Security* for more information). If the data was not backed up, the loss of a USB drive can mean hours of lost work and the potential that the information cannot be replicated. And if the information on the drive is not encrypted, anyone who has the USB drive can access all of the data on it.

How can you protect your data? There are steps you can take to protect the data on your USB drive and on any computer into which you might plug the drive:

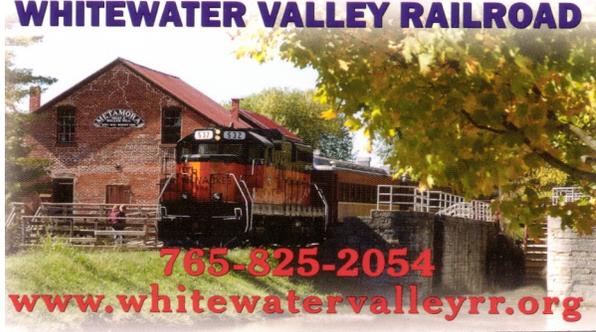
- **Take advantage of security features.** Use passwords and encryption on your USB drive to protect your data, and make sure that you have the information backed up in case your drive is lost.
- **Keep personal and business USB drives *separate*.** Do not use personal USB drives on computers owned by your organization, and do not plug USB drives containing corporate information into your personal computer.

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Continued on the next page.

- Use and maintain security software, and *keep it up to date*. Use anti-virus and anti-spyware software and a firewall to make your computer less vulnerable to attacks, and make sure to keep the virus definitions current. Also, keep the software on your computer up to date by applying any necessary patches.
- **Do not plug an unknown USB drive into your computer.** If you find a USB drive, give it to the appropriate authorities (security personnel, your organization's IT department, etc.). Do not plug it into your computer to view the contents or to try to identify the owner.
- **Disable Autorun.** The Autorun feature causes removable media such as CDs, DVDs, and USB drives to open *automatically* when they are inserted into a drive. By disabling Autorun, you can prevent malicious code on an infected USB drive from opening automatically. In How to disable the Autorun functionality in Windows, Microsoft has provided a wizard to disable Autorun. In the "More Information" section, look for the Microsoft Fix it icon under the heading "How to disable or enable all Autorun features in Windows 7 and other operating systems."

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## Mac Users Get a Taste of Window's World

First Mac Malware Program May Have Affected Up to 120,000 Machines

by LINDA GONSE, Editor / Webmaster, Orange County PC Users' Group, CA

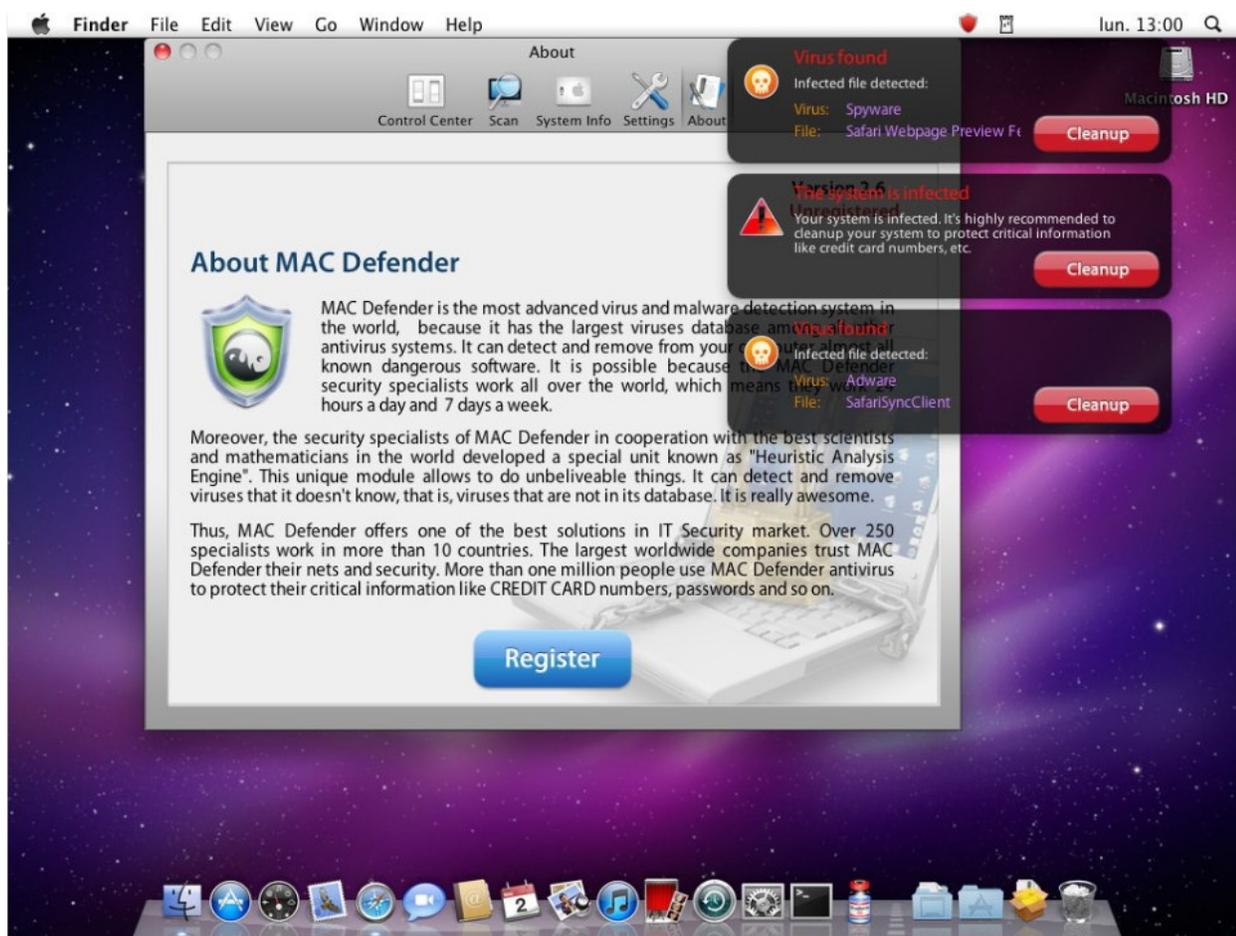
June 2011 issue, *Nibbles 'n Bits*

[www.orcopug.org](http://www.orcopug.org)

editor (at) orcopug.org

THE MACINTOSH, MANUFACTURED BY APPLE COMPUTER, has reached new heights of popularity, which has been confirmed by the recent success of malware called Mac Defender.

In April, unsuspecting Mac users, confident in their platform's supposed invulnerability to viruses, were jarred from their complacency by a pop-up alert that declared their Mac was infected! And it wasn't infected by one virus, but several. If they would click on a link, Mac Defender would clean out the machine.



Of course, there was a charge for this cleanup, so users were told to insert their credit card information before Mac Defender went to work.

Windows users will surely nod their heads at this point with a now familiar scenario and agree that the Mac user is in trouble — though not the trouble represented by the non-existent viruses the malware pointed out. Windows users have been scammed by several types

of malware just like Mac Defender. [Editor’s Note: One of my sons was tricked by just such malware a few years ago. It offered a free scan of his hard drive, then demanded that he send \$50. When he did not do so, the program interfered with his tasks, used up system resources, and even flashed pornographic pictures on his screen! I warned him not to send any credit card data, then removed the hard drive from his desktop, inserted it into my own computer, and scanned it using my own security software. Although that was dangerous, it did solve the problem. I was lucky, and would *not* recommend this procedure to others! The difficulty lay in my son’s misunderstanding of security software. Like most users, he received a free security suite from his broadband internet provider (the Comcast Corporation). However, he thought the suite was on the “cloud,” *i.e.*, it resided on Comcast’s server. In fact, although many reputable companies will provide a free scan from the “cloud” as a public service, most security suites must be downloaded and installed on the user’s machine.]

When users are in a state of panic and confusion, getting quick action to help is foremost in their minds. Inputting credit card information seems secondary to the important task of clearing viruses.

Unfortunately, the so-called virus detector the user buys isn’t really a working program. The entire goal of the malware was to separate users from their credit card information.

Mercury news, <http://bit.ly/lcZ1E1>, [Editor’s Note: This site did not work at press time.] has reported that “the program, according to security firm Intego, is very well designed, and looks professional.” In addition, more variants of the initial malware program are showing up now. “The most recent one doesn’t even require the user to enter a password, as is typically the case when installing Macintosh software.”

Mashable.com, <http://on.mash.to/k8KYtq>, reported that “calls to AppleCare about the malware appear to be high. ZDNet estimates that anywhere between 60,000 and 120,000 Mac OS X users could have been affected by the Mac Defender attack.

“Apple has finally acknowledged the recent rise of a fake antivirus program for Mac OS X and has promised to deliver a software update to remove the malware.”

Jon Jones, editor of the North Coast Mac Users Group newsletter in Santa Rosa, California, said of the attack, “Well — it’s about time. It almost feels (in a sick, twisted way) as some sort of validation for Mac users, that they’ve finally found themselves in the crosshairs of malicious code villains, after having been kept out of the fray for so long on the premise that their numbers were so small, they just didn’t matter.

Click anywhere on the DMA Calendar icon on the right to go to the Calendar of Events on the main DMA Web site. ➔

Continued on the next page.



“Someone finally figured out that with a simple twist on the methods of attack, targeting Mac users (in general) could be like shooting fish in a barrel. I suspect that since Macs are, in some respects, targeted towards a market that embraces its approachability, ease of use, and highly touted technical security, there is a fairly large chunk of Mac faithful who tend to lack technological ‘smarts,’ and are likely a bit too naïvely trusting of content that comes through their devices, especially when it comes on the form of alerts, or deals with sensitive data. (‘Oh, I’ll just do what it says, because I don’t understand it, but it knows better what I need to do than I do.’)

“These attacks operate on less of a technical foundation, and more on a social engineering ruse, and it is the above noted users who are the prime target — and access to their credit card information the end reward. As these attacks continue to become more and more sophisticated, it is certainly even more of an imperative that Mac users who have enjoyed a false sense of security for too long, start to become a bit more savvy about how to manage their online activity and personal information.

“Thusly, every time the client sees a dialogue box instructing him follow the steps to surrender access of the machine to an unknown entity and then submit personal information and credit card numbers to same, he does it without questioning it because ... well, as it has often been said, you just can’t fix stupid.”

Some people think that Apple has been so innovative and cutting edge that it will develop a defense that kills future armies of malware and viruses that attempt to access Macs. No nonsense, to the point, and certain.

Jon’s answer to that is “It is very difficult to sense quite where Apple will go with this in the future, at least in terms of defensibility. It has long been considered among the more secure ‘out of the box’ OS environments — (some individual components and applications are another thing). Which is why the most successful malware attacks on the Mac are the ones that convince the users to dismantle their own defenses and install the malicious code themselves, while unaware of what they are actually doing. So in a sense, I think we are seeing some results of a coöperative bi-polarity. An abundance of built-in security has helped to foster an abundance of built-in corresponding abdication of personal responsibility for one’s own computing and surfing habits. It is very possible that the tighter Apple reins in OS security, the greater the lethargy for a significant portion of the user base regarding computer security.

“Balancing this against the ongoing necessity for Apple (all OS developers, really) to implement more dynamic cutting edge technologies and more robust feature sets into their systems to retain relevance in an increasingly competitive field often involves inclusion of technologies for which corresponding safeguards may yet still be in their infancy.

“If the last several years of Apple’s predominant efforts are any sign, I suspect the answer lies in diminishing development in desktop systems, and greater development in iOS across a wider range of devices.

“What was initially heralded as Dashboard Widgets on the Mac OS (and later Gadgets on Windows) seems to have been an early stepping stone in what later evolved into

the more fully featured mobile app platform we see today — namely a diverse range of mini-applications of very specific and limited utility residing in a dedicated sub-system,” said Jon.

“With this new trend gaining such widespread and intense popularity, it seems to foster some type of resolution for security issues that afflict the desktop OS (but not entirely) while keeping consumers satisfied with simplicity of use because functionality is generally spread around across a wide range of dedicated apps, giving most consumers the functionality they seek at a reasonable price, but Apple gets to impose a greater degree of security by locking down the OS, and providing a single portal through which vetted applications are made available.

“Is this a perfect or even marginally ‘open’ and freely configurable solution that will work for everyone? Certainly not. But with increasingly productive development in this arena, and its rapid embrace by a consuming public, I suspect that expanded iOS development will be Apple’s next major step in helping mitigate user victimization against increasingly sophisticated malware attacks,” Jon said.

### Three Step Fix-Up Process for Acronis TRUE IMAGE

By GENE BARLOW  
User Group Relations  
Copyrighted© July 2011

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

#### Reset your Computer and Windows

The first step to fixing problems with True Image is to make sure your computer hardware system and Windows are reset from any temporary complication. Computers can get confused and end up doing strange things. To recover from this confusion, all you have to do is to shut down the computer and then

Continued on the next page.

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power it up after a few seconds. All devices attached to your computer should also be powered off and then back on again. This causes the computer hardware to do a physical reset and your Windows system to restart fresh. Once Windows is back running again, start True Image and see if you are still getting the problem you had before. This simple reset of your Computer hardware and Windows will often fix minor problems.

#### Reset your Computer Hard Drives

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

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

- Click on Start and then on My Computer (Computer on newer systems). This will bring up a list of all of the partitions on your hard drives.
- Right click on one of these partitions, say, your C: drive, and then click on the Properties menu item that appears. This will display a new box on your screen.
- Click on the Tools tab to display another box on your screen.
- At the top of this last box you will see the heading, Error Checking. Under it, click on the **Check Now** button to start the scan of this partition. This will find and fix any errors found in this partition.
- When you complete checking a partition on any hard drive, repeat the same steps on another partition on your hard drive. Continue to do this until all partitions and all hard drives have been checked.

This Error Checking process should be done whenever you start to have errors running True Image. As a precaution, you might want to run this process about every six months on your hard drives. [Editor's Note: The Error Checking utility will not operate on the drive containing the operating system unless you schedule it to run at startup. Also, prepare yourself for a long scan — it can take more than an hour, depending on the size of your drive.]

#### Reset your True Image Software

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

- Uninstall *True Image* from your computer using the Windows Control Panel Add/Remove Programs function (Programs and Features in newer systems).

- Access your Acronis account and find the entry for your registered copy of *True Image*. In this entry, you will find a download link to let you download the latest build of the version of *True Image* that you run.
- After the new build is downloaded, install it on your computer.
- Recreate the backup tasks that were on your failing *True Image* system.
- Test the newly installed *True Image* on your computer to see if this fixes your problems.

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

#### Acronis *True Image* Home 2011

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

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

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This is one of a series of technical articles that I distribute to those that have subscribed to this newsletter. You can subscribe at:

<http://www.ugr.com/NewsletterRegistration.html>

Watch for them and learn more about your computer and its hard drive. If you do not want to receive these newsletters, simply reply and ask to have your name removed from the list and I will do so immediately. User group newsletter editors may print this article in their monthly newsletter as long as the article (between the two horizontal lines) is printed in its entirety and not cut or edited. Please send me a copy of the newsletter containing the article so that I can see what groups are running the articles.

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GENE BARLOW has spoken to the DMA on a number of occasions.



**DMA Membership Application/Renewal**

PLEASE ALLOW UP TO THREE WEEKS FOR APPLICATION PROCESSING AND INTERNET SET-UP

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I wish to have my name and address published in the club roster: YES  NO 

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

Name of DMA member who recruited me: \_\_\_\_\_ (only new regular memberships)

Are you a current or recent DMA Member? Yes  No  Change of Address only?  Today's date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

If you are renewing, please give your Membership Number (from your membership card) \_\_\_\_\_

**Type of Membership**Application is for: New Membership  Membership Renewal  Associate Membership\* If applying for free student membership, please give school name and student ID number: Available only for students under 22 years old. (Student Members *cannot* vote in DMA elections.)

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

\* A family or associate membership is an additional membership for a member of your immediate family or someone else who is living in the member's household. If this is a family or associate membership, give name of regular member:

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Total — Lines 1 and 2 (+ 4 if checked) 5) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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