

Mouse Times

SBMUG Vice-President Ian Lessing is working hard with Webmaster Robert Winokur on the new SBMUG web site. Your editor asked Ian to contribute some notes about the project.

Migrating your website to new hosting.

It used to be that web hosting was highly variable and if you found a good hosting company you stayed with them. But in the last few years web hosting has become a commodity and now it's kind of crazy to pay big bucks for hosting if you have a relatively small website and modest needs.

This is the situation the SBMUG is in with its website and so we're in the process of moving the website from one hosting company to another.

If you can tolerate your website being off line for a few days then migrating to a new hosting is pretty straight forward. When you signup with your new hosting company tell them the domain name and sign off on the transfer of your domain to the new host. If all goes smoothly then the transfer should take place within a day or two. If it doesn't then you'll need to pester your new hosting company and or your domain registrar to get the transfer to take place. Your old hosting company is not likely to be of much assistance as you're obviously taking your business elsewhere. They have no incentive to help you out.

If you can NOT tolerate your website being off line then you've got to proceed a little more carefully. The approach we're taking with SBMUG is to get the new site all set up and running under a new domain name (sbmug.net) with the new hosting company and then when everything is ready then we'll transfer the DNS. A new domain costs \$15 or less these days so it's a cost effective way to proceed.

Here's a checklist of things to do:

Select a new hosting company. There is a ton of them to choose from. Ask around for recommendations. You want your new hosting

service to fill your needs but at an appropriate price. \$8-15 month for a small site is average these days. You can probably find cheaper hosting but will it be reliable? Do they offer tech support? The really low cost hosting may end up costing you more in frustration than it's worth.

Set up the new hosting service. This can often be done on line.

Upload all your "content" to the new server.

Create all the same same email addresses on the new server as you have on the old.

Test the new site thoroughly. As you test watch the URL in your browser to be sure that you haven't followed a link to the old site by accident. Be sure any web forms work as intended.

When all is ready then you can transfer the domain name to the new service. The old domain can be pointed to the new one. This is sometimes called "Parking." It allows people to reach your website using either domain name.

The approach described above is for sites where the web hosting provider is the same as the domain registrar provider. i.e. your web hosting provider also provides your domain registration and DNS service. That's the most common situation. But sometimes you might have your DNS and/or domain registration hosted separately from your Website. In this case you when you have the new website all ready to go you'll log in to your DNS hosting provider and either change the "Name Servers" associated with your domain or the IP address of the website.

This is not an exhaustive exploration of this topic but it should cover the basics.

SBMUG Meeting Schedule (at Goleta Library)		
<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Presentation</i>
April 20	6 PM	Genealogy
May 17 Wednesday!	6 PM	Social Computing (Blogs, etc.)

Mike Bishop has been working hard as the new Program Chairman. Here is a report on his plans for SBMUG's general meetings:

SBMUG April Meeting

April 20 at Goleta Public Library, we are fortunate to have Art Sylvester, President -Elect of the Santa Barbara Genealogical Society as our expert presenter. Art has been using Apples since the seventies, When the choice was between Kaypro and Apple II. Art will show us how to research our ancestry using Reunion, the most popular and highest rated Mac discovery software tool.

SBMUG May Meeting

Social media is radically transforming markets, marketing, and every day behavior. Individuals are using these tools to challenge the power and influence of Fortune 500 companies. Hear from an internet frontiersman how new "social computing" tools provide ways for everybody to get their ideas rolling, and adopted, quickly and at little or no cost.

Doc Searls weblog@ is the 16th-most linked-to 'blog worldwide (out of more than 10 million)*.

Online Journalism Review calls Doc "one of the deep thinkers of the blog movement." He is also Senior Editor of Linux Journal and co-author of The Cluetrain Manifesto -- a New York Times and BusinessWeek nonfiction bestseller that many credit with establishing a new canon for online markets and marketing. Doc and his family have lived in Santa Barbara since 2001.

OFF-TOPIC: Google from your Phone

SMS Google is so cool I had to mention it this month. If your cell phone can send SMS text messages then you can use the Google search engine from your cell phone. Google replies to your phone in seconds. There are some shortcut keywords for SMS text. Send text messages to 46645 ("GOOGL").

Example questions for Google:

pizza 93101
define genealogy
directions 93101 to 500 north fairview goleta ca
2 cups in liters
sine of .1

Get more info at <http://www.google.com/sms/>

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