

README.DOC

January 1998

Newsletter

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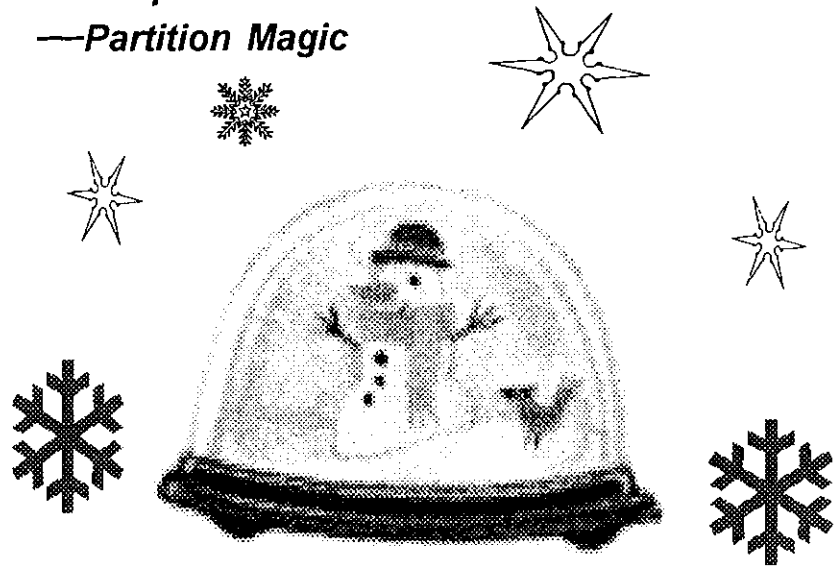
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***The December 20, 1997, 9:00 a.m.
General Meeting will feature:
Thomas Maps
Cognitive Dynamics***



***The January 31, 1998 9:00 a.m.
General Meeting will feature:
Powerquest
—Partition Magic***



Happy Holidays



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Readme.Doc is published monthly by the Orange Coast IBM PC User Group (OCIPUG), an independent California nonprofit organization. The intended purpose of OCIPUG is to provide a forum for exchange of information and assistance, thereby helping our members obtain maximum benefit and enjoyment from the use of their computers.

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All items submitted for publication are subject to editing. We reserve the right to refuse any material submitted for publication.

Send all submissions to the Editor, on or before the deadline.

The *Readme.Doc* copy deadline for the February issue is January 5

1. Upload to the 25-*Readme.Doc* files area of the OCIPUG Bulletin Board.
2. Upload as an attachment to Editor in the 10-*Newsletter* Message conference of the BBS.
3. 3.5" disk mailed to the Editor in time to meet the deadline:

OCIPUG

Editor - *Readme.Doc*

1500 Adams Ave. #105-121

Costa Mesa, CA 92626-3894

**The deadline for SIG Topics to the
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February issue is January 10**

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Preston Hill

Tempus fugit! We are already one-quarter thru the new term beginning 1 September 1997. Much has been accomplished in making the transition, but much remains. Many of the former team have become so involved in expanding business or personal activities that they have had to reduce support of OCIPUG. Thus, volunteers are still needed to fill many committee and SIG positions — members as well as leaders.

We are not alone in facing this problem. Many other user groups are finding many would-be volunteers are too busy with new full-time jobs and family responsibilities. We don't want our present volunteers to "burn out" so put your skills — extensive or limited — to work and help those already doing so.

Wayne Ali, Richard Black, Tony Dopazo, Larry Pearce and I represented OCIPUG at round tables, as APCUG (Association of PC User Groups) called discussion groups, on 15 and 16 November in Las Vegas. We split our forces so as to cover as much as possible. On Saturday, I met other presidents, got ideas about publicity to increase community visibility, discussed how to communicate better with members, and listened to ideas to improve leadership and organizational growth.

Of great interest was the success of several groups whose newsletters are nearly self-supporting. In fact, they have to turn away advertising. We should emulate them so please volunteer to help Dean Sowers and Tom Tersigni find new advertisers.

On Sunday I attended the session with the APCUG area advisors who are available to help us. Also, several vendor representatives have formed a group to better interact with user groups. APCUG is summarizing the many questions posed to the vendors and will report the results in the APCUG Reporter that is sent to user group officers and newsletter editors.

User group representatives had a diversity of opinions as to posting newsletters on the Web. Most considered hard copies to be

desired, even if posted on the Web. Many are discontinuing their BBS and relying entirely on the Web for member communications. Others consider a group BBS to be vital. What is your opinion? Please let me know.

In addition, different vendors sponsored breakfasts, lunches, and dinners with presentations of their latest products. Most donated gifts such as JBuilder by Borland, CleanSweep by Quarterdeck, PhotoDeluxe by Adobe, Drive Image by Powerquest, and similar items by IBM, Centaur Technology, Microsoft, Intuit, Corel, Lotus, Symantec, 3COM, and Adaptec. Tony and I had obtained media badges to Comdex and were invited to attend a magic show by Lance Burton. He was fabulous with the usual illusions, a juggler, and even making a car levitate and disappear.

WANTED

Program Committee Members

Webmasters and Helpers

Community Service Committee Members

APCUG and the Las Vegas user groups ran an efficient operation for which they are to be commended. All APCUG activities were concentrated at The Orleans Hotel a few blocks west of the southern part of the famous (infamous?) Strip. Buses for APCUG attendees shuttled us from there to the Comdex exhibit sites at the Sands Hotel, Convention Center, and the Hilton Hotel. Over 250,000 people attended Comdex. If you took one minute at each exhibit, it would take you four months to see them all. It was huge — but well organized — with good walking shoes a necessity.

Watch for reports in *Readme.Doc* wherein each of us will summarize our experiences and what we learned that could benefit OCIPUG.

Of critical importance to OCIPUG's future is building a strong and effective Program Committee to carry on the excellent job performed for several years by Alan Liebschutz and his team, several of whom are still with us. Jim Kirkpatrick is working hard and effectively, but needs help. Thanks to his efforts to date, along with contacts made at Comdex, he is well on the way to getting presenters for several months ahead. But still much must be done to contact potential speakers and donors, keep records, and set up for General Meetings. He especially needs someone to assist him in the miscellaneous duties of a chairperson and who can act in his stead as needs arise. Please contact Jim if you can contribute an hour here or there.

Our Web page must be revitalized! Most user groups at the APCUG meetings consider a Web page to be essential. Bob Basaraba devoted so much time and effort to build and maintain the fine OCIPUG page that it is a pity his business workload has overwhelmed his ability to keep it going. As a result, the Executive Board considered our extremely tight budget constraints and decided to temporarily withdraw the Web page until volunteers come forth to maintain an up-to-date page. Please contact me and/or Richard Black if you have any experience with WEB pages or are willing to learn.

Allen Ashley is doing an outstanding job teaching little children to use computers at the C.A.N.O. Head Start program in Santa Ana. A TV crew interviewed him recently and the photo clip was shown on KOCE's Real Orange program. I was able to capture the video on tape and will show it whenever we can get a VCR and place. Probably as a result of the publicity, C.A.N.O. has received 70 386 class computers with monitors and keyboards. Allen needs help in installing serviceable units to replace the old 8088, XT, and 286 machines now being used by the children and their parents. Do share the enthusiasm of the little children and their parents by helping him.

Membership Information

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Judy Ali
Barbara Grady

Art Flex Jr
Sue Oelson

Lori Flex
Francine Pinheiro

Chad Felix
Linda Locke

Natalie Felix

We hope your association with us proves very rewarding. OCIPUG is based upon *sharing*. You will have many opportunities to learn from, and to share your knowledge with, other members. Don't be timid about asking advice. The only stupid question is the one not asked! No one of us knows everything.

OCIPUG is unique among user groups in that we have our own facility with specialized rooms to fit our special needs such as Special Interest Group (SIG) seminars. So come join us at one or more of the SIGs described in the SIG Guide insert to Readme.Doc.

You get out of *your* club what *you* put into it. Volunteers make our club successful, effective, and *fun!* Your participation on a committee is encouraged and most welcome. So please contact any official to offer your services in whatever capacity you can.

Your membership badge will be available at the membership desk at the next General Meeting. A New Member kit is also available. This kit summarizes the various activities and resources of your club. A diskette contains several useful shareware programs. You are introduced to the use of the OCIPUG electronic bulletin board system (BBS) at (714) 751-3242.

EXPIRING MEMBERSHIPS

If your name is on the list, won't you consider renewing your membership and use the features and advantages of OCIPUG. If you see the name of a friend on the list, won't you encourage your friend to renew. If you have renewed recently, we thank you.

Please renew early so as to save your club the expense of mailing a renewal notice.

December

Fred Baldwin	Paul Neil	Louis Gehring	Mike Stewart	Jim Kennedy
Beverly Blakeley	Louis Pappas	Bernie Goldware	Ned Stewart	Jim Kirkpatrick
Robert Blakeley	Larry Pearce	Pamela Greene	Jim Stolp	Don Krueger
Dale Blank	Nita Pearce	Dave Gryvnak	Nancy Swan	John Kruse
Randy Boelsems	Thomas Renock	Dave Gueldner	Ethel J. Watts	Alan Liebschutz
Joseph Brugman	Cynthia Riedel	Paul D. Johnson	Lloyd Yang	Robert Lynch
Edward Butler	Raymond Ross	Ann Lee	David Yap	Berenice Maltby
Marge Butler	Barry Schooley	Max Lockie	Carl Yost	Pamela Mang
Michael Butler	Roger Stumm	Sunny Lockie		Terence Mang
Paula Castanon	Tom Sutro	Jerome Man	<u>February</u>	Dennis Martin
Richard Castanon	Neil Swan	Devon McRorie	Suzann J. Bennett	Roger Mendenhall
Rex Combs	Dale Warnke	Joyce McRorie	Marsha Best	Jerry Neumann
Allan Crocoll	Morton Weinberg	Tom McRorie	Marshal Boslow	Milton Nielsen
Wally Cruttenden	Dale Wendland	George Mefferd	Richard Brainard	Robert Olea
Michael De Falco	Donald Wilgus	James Mitchell	Loretta Brainard	Dino Panicacci
Bill Demayo	Clifford Williams	Douglas Nowlin	Fredric Crosby	Carol Peterson
Donna Demayo	<u>January</u>	Wendy Ochi	Donald Crow	Jack Plotner
Betty Bell Feldman	Raymond V. Adams	Ward Tom Olsson	Paul Delke	Mary Plotner
Cindy Foley	Wayne Ali	Camilla Powers	John Despot	Robert Rank
Clay Glenn	Jesse Bequette	Evelyn Powers	Frank Disparte	Victor Rivera
Lowell Goar	Norm Bergman	Joseph Powers	Adele Elliott	Arthur Saltzman
William Goldwag	Larry Bordes	Katia Powers	Joanne Farley	James Samuelson
Arthur F. Green	Charles A. Bracher	Mae Powers	Warren Frandsen	Robert Sayres
Harv Haight	Roy Burke	Mark Powers	J. Donald Franklin	Edward Sharman
Robert Jahncke	Mike Cang	Shirley Price	John E. Fuller	Gerald Sinykin
Howard Jones	Bernard Carns	Steve Riddle	Jim Fulton	Rena Smith
Stuart Koziol	Mike Conway	Martin Ruby	Gary Granat	Francis Smith
Stanley Matsui	Nino Cotela	Jean Rudenski	Chris Hansen	Michael Springer
Russell Merrifield	Anthony Dopazo	Roland Schinzinger	Marvin Hoffman	Donna Springer
Max Miller	Bernard Egbert	Anthony Smith	Bill Hoyland	Barbara Stamp
Glenn Nakadate	Joe Falcon	Dean Sowers	Lucille Hunter	David Wade
	Patricia Ganz	Dennis Sprang	William Jennings	Paul Waggoner

January Program

January 31, 1998 9:00 AM at the Orange Coast Science Hall

Jim Kirkpatrick

Random Access	8:30 - 9:00
President's Address	9:00 - 9:15
PowerQuest	9:15-10:15
Announcements	10:15-10:30
Break	10:30-10:45
IBM	10:45-11:45
Mini Auction	11:45-12:00
Drawing	12:00-12:15

PowerQuest

(<http://www.powerquest.com>)

Added a gigabyte hard drive to your system lately? Did you find that it won't hold all the files that you thought? You may be losing up to 40% of your disk space from large clusters and don't realize it. Find out more about this cluster problem and what you can do to fix it by attending our January General Meeting. Our guest presenter will be Gene Barlow from PowerQuest Corporation, the makers of Partition Magic. Gene will cover the cluster problem and other important hard disk organizing techniques that will make your system perform better and safer. He will also introduce us to PowerQuest's newest products, Drive Image and Drive Copy.

Partition Magic is the winner of numerous awards, including the 1995 Best of Fall Comdex for utilities. Organizing the partitions on your hard drive is so easy anyone can do it in minutes, a fraction of the time it used to take. You'll wonder how we got along without this product for all these years.

From the makers of Partition Magic comes the recently announced Drive Image, the ultimate solution for duplicating your hard drive. Drive Image copies your current hard drive to your new drive while keeping every setting and byte of data safely in place. You can copy individual partitions or the entire drive. Its patent-pending SmartSector™ technology works up to two to three times faster than straight file-by-file or sector-by-sector methods of copying, thereby saving you much time, money, and aggravation. Upgrading your system is finally fast, easy, and safe.

Drive Copy features a simple user interface, supports every major operating system and allows you to copy the entire contents of one drive to another drive within the same computer.

Gene Barlow is the Director of User Group Relations for PowerQuest and has worked with user groups for over eighteen years. In the late 1970's, Gene was the President of an Apple user group in California and later the Vice-President of a PC user group. Shortly after IBM announced the IBM PC, Gene moved to Florida to manage IBM's User Group Support program. He continued to guide IBM's efforts in the user group community until the first of last year. He retired from IBM and joined PowerQuest Corporation as their key user group person. Obviously, he is no newcomer to user groups and loves working with them.

Gene is an informative and entertaining presenter. You will come away from this meeting with a much better understanding of your hard drive and how to tune it for best performance.

VIAVOICE GOLD

(<http://www.rheise@earthlink.net>)

IBM is considered by many people to be the leader in voice recognition products. First there was VoiceType which provided discrete dictation capabilities on 486 machines and sold for \$999. Then there was VoiceType3 for use on P100 machines with Windows 95. This provided discrete dictation and command capabilities using Word 7 and sold for \$699. Next there was Simply-Speaking Gold. These products handle discrete dictation on P100 machines and the Gold version has command capabilities throughout Microsoft Office95. These applications now sell for \$49 and \$99 respectively.

The next product, ViaVoice requires P166 capabilities with 32Mb RAM, but provides continuous speech recognition capability for dictation at a price of \$99.

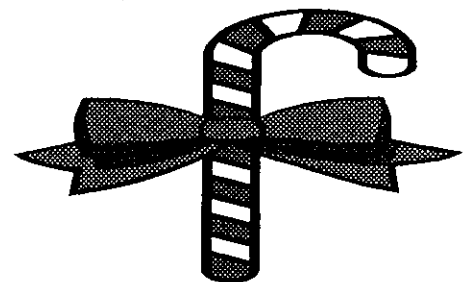
The latest product, introduced at the end of November 1997 is ViaVoice Gold. It requires the same computer qualifications as ViaVoice. It will do continuous speech dictation and command throughout using Windows95/NT, Office 95, Office 97, Lotus Smart suite, and Word Perfect. It comes with its own version of Internet Explorer with full speech enablement at a price of \$149. It will also playback aloud to you what you have input.

Each of these products spells correctly and uses the correct "to", "too", or "two" depending on the usage in your sentence. Each product includes a quality microphone and earphone headset and comes with a 22,000-word vocabulary and the ability to add at least 40,000 words. In addition you can obtain unique vocabularies for law, various branches of medicine, and journalism.

More than one person can use any of these products on a single computer.

The ability of these programs to understand dictation macros produced by the user enables the user to produce a complete form letter by speaking a single word.

Chris Heise, who lives in Huntington Beach and is a member of OCIPUG, will present these products. He is an independent consultant who also serves on IBM's BESTeam presenting IBM products. He says "ViaVoice Gold is the Premier Voice Recognition product in the software industry. No 'competing' product can do so much with such ease. Keep your mouse and keyboard for playing games."



154th General Meeting Report

Harv Haight

From 8:35 to 9:00 AM on November 22, Goru Michael Springer led an interesting "Random Access," prior to OCIPUG's 154th General Meeting.

President Preston Hill opened the meeting by asking for volunteers for the Santa Ana C.A.N.O. "Head Start" program. Allen Ashley, Committee Chair of "Community Outreach," presently is almost overwhelmed by his need to modify donated computers, and the pressure of his classes in keyboarding and simple word processing, whose goals are to teach computer literacy to needy children, and to upgrade their parents to keyboarding and WordPerfect skills. Preston also sought a replacement Program Committee chair to continue the excellent work of former chair, Alan Liebschutz.

In the opening technical presentation, Microsoft's Alisha Sigler first showed a fifteen-minute infomercial on Microsoft's goals and scope, and then demonstrated "Internet Explorer 4.01," the browser so prominent in the news today. This can be downloaded from <http://microsoft.com/ie> for free. The actual download is of IE4SETUP.EXE, which leads to a choice of 12 languages and the subsequent download of Internet Explorer 4.01 files from a Coaxion Corporation site, USA or overseas. Later in the weekend, a download took almost four hours on my 486DX4/100 with a 28.8K modem, using Netscape Navigator 3.0; it used over 12 MB of hard drive, and REALLY reorganized my hard drive, to my dismay. Fortunately, it could be uninstalled readily and smoothly. For detailed discussion of IE4.0, see Alan Liebschutz's program preview in November's README.DOC.

In addition to her demonstration of IE4.01, Ms Sigler also showed Microsoft Publisher 97, a new version with additional features that include a simple WEB page designer. This program goes for about \$80 on the street.

Announcements of topics and additional comments were made by SIG Leaders and

Committee Chairs. Ed Miller got a big laugh when he spoke of using Windows 95 in his next DOS/Utilities SIG on December 6.

In the second technical presentation, PGP's (Pretty Good Privacy) Director of Corporate Sales, John Norcross, discussed the lack of privacy of the InterNet, and how PGP programs enhance security of InterNet traffic.

Alan Liebschutz again covered the features of PGP in a Product Review in November's README.DOC (please continue your articles, Alan!). In addition to PGP freeware 5.5, available at no cost from <http://www.pgp.com/products/pgpfreeware.cgi>, commercial upgrades are available for both personal privacy and business security. John's LapTop was incompatible with the auditorium projection system, but his transparencies were adequate.

Jerry Man conducted the prize drawing after first beguiling members with another Microsoft joke. Tony Dopazo won an "Encarta" CD, and new member Barbara Grady won an "Arcade" game. OCIPUG thanks Microsoft for these donations. I owe thanks personally to Jerry Man and Preston Hill for the notes of the meeting, taken on my behalf. My wife was hospitalized Friday and Saturday with an angina attack (she's now OK).

Tech Tips



With MultiMedia assuming a greater role in computers for home and business use, a discussion of how humans hear might interest OCIPUG members.

Sound is gathered and directed through the resonant outer ear canal to the eardrum. Although the canal responds to sounds ranging from 20 Hz to 20 kHz, it is most sensi-

tive to a band between 2 kHz and 5 kHz, where much of speech information falls. The piezoelectric alarms so prominent everywhere issue tones close to a peak sensitivity at 2.8 kHz to assure prompt response by a listener.

The ear drum responds to changes of sound pressure and frequency, to activate middle ear bones that convert these fluctuations to mechanical energy with a gain of about 2.3 decibels. One of the bones — the stirrup (stapes), acts like a piston to compress or decompress fluid in the inner ear (cochlea). High frequencies are sensed near the middle ear; low frequencies at the apex of the cochlea spiral. A "basilar" membrane inside the cochlea is the support for over 30,000 microscopic hair cells of different lengths and thickness, each responding to particular frequencies. Pressure upon inner ear fluid affects the basilar membrane and thus causes appropriate hair cells to flex and connect to nerve fibers.

This in turn creates electrical impulses that travel along the hearing nerve to auditory neural pathways of the brain, to be interpreted as sound.

The above has been paraphrased from a release by the "House Ear Institute and Clinic" in a current news letter from the LA Section of the Audio Engineering Society. This release sought to warn members of AEC (like me, since 1971) of nerve deafness that results from overexposure to sound.

Hair cell damage from excessive sound levels can break contact with hearing nerve fibers, and the perception of a particular frequency range can disappear. A "noise notch" generally appears first close to 4 kHz. This frequency neighborhood includes many consonant sounds; speech may be difficult to understand. Damage is irreversible and hearing loss is permanent.

Because of individual perception of one's own voice, this can lead also to changes of speech patterns, a "voice change."

Noise or sound levels above 90 decibels absolute cannot be tolerated for long without damage. This level can readily be exceeded by headphones inserted into the ear. Levels in many theaters can exceed 105

Continued on page 6

Herb Huey is vacationing in Hawaii. This is a reprint of one of Herb's favorite topics.

Herb's Hangout

Herb Huey

THE COMPUTER WILL NEVER BE THE SERVANT OF MANKIND

Way back in the first Herb's Hangout (July 1991 issue of README.DOC), I declared that you could never convince me that the computer will be the servant of mankind because I knew that I was its slave! In fact I'll go a step farther and declare that our frail, puny bodies can't keep up with the monster that we have created. Computers are killing us! You might ask, "Aren't computers supposed to save us time and make our jobs easier?" Computers actually take away our free time, destroy our health and enslave us puny humans.

OUR FRAIL HUMAN BODIES

Computers punish our bodies. According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration 56 percent of all workplace injuries reported in 1992 are Repetitive Stress Injuries (RSI). The most publicized computer injury is carpal tunnel syndrome. This is a repetitive injury that causes inflammation of the tendons that pass through the carpal tunnel (formed by the wrist bones) of the hand. The tendons swell up and press on the median nerve causing partial loss of feeling in the hand. This injury is particularly common with people who spend a lot of time on the computer keyboard. A few years ago, nobody heard of carpal tunnel syndrome. Now there are committees teaching people who perform repetitive motion routines in their jobs how to avoid injury.

Why is this happening? People have been pounding away on their typewriters for years without an epidemic of wrist injuries. This is particularly true in the newsroom. In the old days, the reporter would pound away his story on the typewriter. The reporter edits the story by hand and then gives it to a copy boy who passes it to the editor. If approved, the editor would then send the



story on its way for retyping. Today, the reporter would write his story on the computer, and then send his story by E-mail to the editor. There would be some bickering of the story with the reporter and then the story is sent to the layout department. The reporter actually spends more time on the keyboard. Today's writer is actually a machine being pushed to the limits of his endurance.

Using the computer extensively brings on other problems; headaches, eyestrain, fatigue, and soreness in the neck, shoulders and back are a few other potential injuries. Meanwhile, monitor manufacturers are scrambling to get out products that meet the Swedish standards for low electromagnetic emissions. More than one study has suggested that electrical and magnetic emissions in the Very Low Frequency (VLF) and Extremely Low Frequency (ELF) ranges may be harmful to the human body. Of particular concern are the cumulative effects on pregnant women.

PRISONERS OF THE COMPUTER REVOLUTION

America is well known for achieving the highest productivity rates per person in the world. Higher than any other nation including the Japanese. I heard about some new software that controls large-scale PBX

switching gear for telemarketing companies. It seems that the computer can dial phone numbers continuously and directs each of the calls to the first available telemarketer. Now the telemarketer, instead of having to dial numbers and waiting to get someone on the line, can give his spiel repetitively to a new client without wasting any time. This software is extremely attractive to many business organizations. All you have to do is demonstrate that this software can double or triple worker productivity and it's an easy sell. Get out the ball and chain!

A well-known device of the 90s is now plaguing our offices, the pager. The idea of the pager is to always be accessible to other people. Pagers allow you to roam freely without missing a call. So now you are on 24-hour call every day from your virtual office. There are too many products of the computer revolution designed to squeeze the last ounce of work from the hapless human. There is software that allows employers to eavesdrop on users remotely on the network. Computers that have built-in microphones can be used by employers to eavesdrop on their conversations within their cubicles. A friend of mine is a supermarket checker. She told me that her employer evaluated her efficiency by checking on the number of items that are laser scanned per hour!

I remember when I was working in Florida eight years ago. My former company moved us out to a spanking new facility on the East side. One of the features of this new plant is the video cameras that cover every inch of the grounds outside. The plant supervisor bragged that soon video cameras will cover every square inch inside the plant as well! Also, our identification badges have a special computer chip that will help the company determine employee usage of various facilities. Big Brother has arrived at last! I can imagine every employee getting a computer printout at the end of the year. "You owe the company 156 hours this year due to the extra time you spent at the coffee station, the restroom and the extra long lunches that you have taken." I bet the printout will also have an up to the minute breakdown of all your frivolous activities.

The irony of all this is that computers are supposed to liberate office workers and allow them to work out in the field. This has

proved to be true since you can be reached anyway in the world with a laptop and a modem. This is liberation? Computers are supposed to save you time. Ha! When was the last time you were given time off because the computer saved you time? When was the last time your boss suggested that he doesn't need your services for 40 hours a week except just before he hands you a pink slip? This much is true. When the computer saves you time, your productivity will increase. However, when your productivity increases, this becomes the norm as far as your management is concerned. Turn in a superior report using the near desk top publishing capability provided by the usual office applications and that is what your boss will expect from now on.

Push the "fast" button on the human employees and they start to fall apart or they rebel and tear the place apart. When people are viewed as machines, job enrichment and their personal growth suffers. Too many employers take the attitude "Let's work the employees to death, replacements are always available. Who cares? Computers will make sure that the employees don't slack off on the job!"

So, let's drink a toast to the computer age! The age of the human is fading out. I can feel the welts from the computer's whips on my back. Get back to work, slacker!

Tech Tips

Continued from page 4

dBa at times. Levels at a pop concert have been measured higher than 120 dBa, close to the "pain threshold" (for the sound feedback performers sometimes demand, specially focused speakers often are present to overcome any loss of hearing commonly experienced.)

My wife claims my own partial deafness, that resulted from eight years at ALTEC SOUND a few decades ago, can be switched on and off when she wants something from me. Obviously, that is her misconception!

The Am5x86 Problem

Richard Hunter

For those of you that read my articles on upgrading my 486DX2-66 computer to an Am5x86-133, following information may be of interest to you. Likewise, anyone interested in upgrading to an Am5x86 processor may also want to read this article.

First, let me explain how I got into this problem. In mid October, my bootable hard drives crashed. That is something to be expected. But just like death, we all hope it never happens. Well, after a brief period of disbelief, I realized that I had to buy a new hard drive. The old drive lasted just more than three years, just beyond the warranty period.

After installing the new hard drive, I found that my startup disk didn't have the CONFIG.SYS and AUTOEXEC.BAT files with the entries for running the CD-ROM. I needed the CD-ROM to reinstall Windows 95 and to install the backup program. I had all the programs I need on various disks. However, when I tried to write to the two files everything got messed up — big time. I first thought I must have a virus on the start up disk, which in turn infected the hard drive.

In talking with OCIPUG's computer guru, he said that he thought it was a hardware problem. So, I tried a new controller card, with no improvement. Next I tried a new controller to hard drive cable, and again no improvement. Then, since I had a 5¼ floppy drive, I tried the second floppy drive with the same negative results. Now, I was convinced that I had a virus. So, I tried several anti-virus programs without finding a virus.

At this point I was frustrated. Nothing I did seemed to correct the situation. Then I discussed the problem with the service technician at Fry's Electronics. He told me that there were some problems with the Am5x86 CPU. That was the clue that I needed. Going home, I switched to the old 486DX2-66 CPU. With this change, I could boot the computer and install Windows 95 and the backup/restore program.

With the computer working, I tried to restore my programs and data via the backup tapes. However since the tapes didn't contain the catalog at the end of the tape, I couldn't restore anything from the first three tapes. I believe the problem with the tape is due to the backup program. Finally, though, I was able to restore programs and data from an old set of tapes, which were a year and one-half old.

After failing to restore the most recent backup, I contacted Seagate, the backup software vendor, for help. My Connor tape backup system came with Arcada software, but Arcada was purchased by Seagate. They sent me some Connor Basic backup programs that didn't help, but in the process I found that I had more recent backup/restore programs. These programs, "Arcada Backup," had a feature for rebuilding the tape catalog. The problem was, though, that these two programs, one for DOS and the other for Windows 3.X were of a different format than was used with the Windows 95 version. Again contacting Seagate, they told me that they couldn't supply the program but that I could purchase it — another gotcha. After purchasing "Backup Exec" and installing it, I was able to restore all the files from my latest backup tape.

Now that I had my computer up and working, I could attack the major problem — why I could not write to the floppy disk. I downloaded the specification for the Am5x86 (19751c.dpf) to see why the CPU acted the way it did. Here is what I found:

4.4.1 Write-Through Cache

The standard 486DX-type write-through cache architecture is characterized by the following:

- External read accesses are placed in the cache if they meet proper caching requirements.
- Subsequent reads to the data in the cache are made if the address is stored in the cache tag array.
- Write operations to a valid address in the cache are updated in the cache and to external memory. This data writing technique is called write-through. The write-through

cache implementation forces all writes to flow through to the external bus and back to main memory. Consequently, the write-through cache generates a large amount of bus traffic on the external data bus.

When I used Write-Through, there were no errors in the DOS operation to the floppy disk. So besides changing the CPU, changing to the Write-Through mode is another option to getting the computer to work properly.

4.4.2 Write-Back Cache

The microprocessor write-back cache architecture is characterized by the following:

- External read accesses are placed in the cache if they meet proper caching requirements.
- Subsequent reads to the data in the cache are made if the address is stored in the cache tag array.
- Write operations to a valid address in the cache that is in the write-through (shared) state is updated in the cache and to external memory.
- write operations to a valid address in the cache that is in the write-back (exclusive or modified) state is updated only in the cache. External memory is not updated at the time of the cache update.
- Modified data is written back to external memory when the modified cache line is being replaced with a new cache line (copy-back operation) or an external bus master has snooped a modified cache line (write-back) of virtual memory.

Note: To maintain proper system timing, the HOLD signal must remain active for one clock cycle after HITM transitions active. Deassertion of HOLD in the same clock cycle as HITM assertion may lead to unpredictable processor behavior.

Well, certainly I had unpredictable results when I used DOS to write to a floppy. I had, on a 1.44Mb floppy, a file listed as 300 megabytes in size, file names were partially or completely overridden, and file names contained all sorts of strange characters. The problem was only with DOS when writing to a floppy disk. Here is an example of what

the DIR command shows after copying eight files, removing the floppy and reinserting it and again doing a DIR:

Volume in drive B is A",.ÄB.Äb.Ç.

Volume Serial Number is 10CF-1542

Directory of B:\

```
SPIN_LOG D 1,666,528,579 10-17-97
6:40am completed 1,662,333,251 08-17-97
6:08a
```

2 file(s) 3,328,861,830 bytes

696,832 bytes free

Not every floppy can store three hundred megabytes on a floppy and have room left over!

As noted above, I could solve the problem by using the Write-Through mode. I had no problems, though, in the Write-Back mode with hard drive operations, or with Windows operations, even when writing to a floppy. Furthermore, there is a real difference in performance with the two modes. Here then is a performance result, using Wintune97, for Write-through and Write-back.

Test	Write-back	Write-through
Dhrystone	143	51
Whetstone	32	21

Wintune97 uses the industry-standard Dhrystone benchmark to test integer CPU performance, and the Whetstone benchmark to measure floating-point performance.

I decided, because of the performance difference, to continue to use the Write-Back mode. The next time my hard drive fails I will know that I must change to the Write-Through mode to get my computer up and running. The change is simple: one jumper on the motherboard is changed from 3-4 to 4-5, and one change is the BIOS setting. That isn't a big deal.

Now, you are forewarned about the Am5x86 problem, and if you have any problems, you will know what to do. I hope I didn't scare you away from the Am5x86 processor. It is a good low-cost upgrade for a 486 system, even if it does have a little problem with DOS and writing to floppy drives.

Scanners Sizzle as Prices Plummet!

Ken Fermoye, TUG-NET

I can't believe the prices of scanners! *Computer Dealer*, a trade journal, reported in October that flatbed and sheet-fed color units had fallen more than 30 percent since January. Sale prices of \$99 aren't uncommon. Summer mail order catalogs offered the Hewlett-Packard (HP) ScanJet 5Pse at \$399; by early November it was down to \$299 in some computer stores. This new affordability makes a scanner an attractive option for any computer owner. You won't believe how helpful a scanner can be until you've used one for several months. Do you often have to retype copy (mailing lists, reports to be updated, articles for newsletters) to get it into your computer? Or maybe you don't bother but you sure would like to have the material available by stroking a few keys. With a scanner and the optical character recognition (OCR) software supplied with most models, it's a snap! Just scan the printed material into a file, which your word processor can read and you can edit or format as you like.

But it's in the handling of graphics and photos where a scanner really shines.

Do you have photos or printed art you would like to incorporate into letters, greeting or business cards, or a Web page? (Just remember to respect copyright laws.) Wouldn't you like to produce flyers that show pictures of products you make or sell? Wouldn't it be nice to be able to move patterns for craft projects into your computer so you could easily resize or alter them, then print them on your color printer? These are just a few of the many capabilities of even the most budget-friendly scanners.

Maybe you would like to sketch your own designs in pencil, then complete them with a graphics program in your computer. Professional artists and illustrators do it all the time.

If the above comments have tweaked your interest enough that you go to a computer store to look at scanners, here are some tips that will help scanner novices.

Nevermore

Don't let the jargon intimidate you: DPI, optical resolution, single pass, 24 bits or 30, scanning speed, maximum image size. Remember a few basics and you'll do fine. Zero in on flatbed models. They are more versatile and accurate than sheet-fed scanners.

Optical resolution is a critical measure of a scanner's capability and it's measured in dots per inch (dpi). You want at least 300x300 dpi or 300x600 dpi, the norm for scanners priced under \$200. Models in the \$300 to \$500 range may show 400x800 or 600x1200 dpi, but 300 dpi will suffice for many of us. As for interpolated or enhanced resolution, generally the higher the number, the better, but don't worry too much about it. Optical resolution is the important specification.

You will probably be printing your scanned images on laser or inkjet printers with resolutions of 300 or 600 dpi, which work best with images scanned at 100 to 200 dpi. (Images scanned for on-screen or Web use need even less resolution; most monitors display 72-80 dpi and the Web limit is 72 dpi.) If you enlarge scanned images, you increase the resolution required: if you double the size of an image when printing it and want it to have 200 dpi resolution, you must scan it at 400 dpi. Conversely, if you reduce the image to half-size for printing, you need only scan it at 100 dpi. If you expect you will seldom increase the size of your scans for printing, a 300 dpi scanner likely will do just fine.

Most scanners offered now are single-pass models. As the name implies, they complete a scan in one pass. Some older three-pass models might still be available at really low prices but a single-pass unit is worth the extra money because it is faster and more accurate.

A 30-bit scanner is generally more desirable, and expensive, than a 24-bit but a good 24-bit model, like the Hewlett-Packard 5Pse, may be preferable to a cheaper 30-bit unit. You may also see some 36-bit models. But save your money; they're overkill for our purposes.

Scanning speed is of less importance to buyers who will be using the scanner only a

SUPPOSE EDGAR ALLAN POE HAD USED A COMPUTER

Once upon a midnight dreary, fingers cramped and vision bleary,
System manuals piled high and wasted paper on the floor,
Longing for the warmth of bedsheets, Still I sat there, doing spreadsheets.
Having reached the bottom line, I took a floppy from the drawer.
Typing with a steady hand, I then invoked the SAVE command and
waited for the disk to store,
Only this and nothing more.

Deep into the monitor peering, long I sat there wond'ring, fearing,
Doubting, while the disk kept churning, turning yet to churn some more.
"Save!" I said, "You cursed mother! Save my data from before!"
One thing did the phosphors answer, only this and nothing more,
Just, "Abort, Retry, Ignore?"

Was this some occult illusion? Some maniacal intrusion?
These were choices undesired, ones I'd never faced before.
Carefully, I weighed the choices as the disk made impish noises.
The cursor flashed, insistent, waiting, baiting me to type some more.
Clearly I must press a key, choosing one and nothing more,
From "Choose Abort, Retry, Ignore?"

few times per day normally than it is for graphics professionals working against deadlines. I wouldn't worry too much about scan speeds; manufacturers specs don't mean much in the real world anyway.

Maximum image size for flatbed scanners usually ranges from letter-size (8.5x11 inches) to legal-size (8.5x14 inches). Having the larger scanning bed is nice, but it may be a luxury many of you will never need.

This article is meant to be only the most basic of primers. If you dig deeply into the subject of scanners, it can seem hopelessly complex. Take it one step at a time, learn as you go, and I'm sure your reaction in a short time will be like that of almost everyone I talked to in preparing this article: I don't know how I managed before I got my scanner; now I can't imagine how I could get along without it!

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With my fingers pale and trembling
 Slowly toward the keyboard bending.
 Longing for a happy ending, hoping all would be restored,
 Praying for some guarantee
 Timidly I pressed a key.
 But on the screen there still persisted words appearing as before.
 Ghastly grim they blinked and taunted, haunted, as my patience wore.
 Saying "Abort, Retry, Ignore?"

I tried to catch the chips off-guard —
 I pressed again, but twice as hard.
 I pleaded with the cursed machine: I begged and cried and then I swore.
 Now in desperation, trying random combinations,
 Still there came the incantation, just as senseless as before.
 Cursor blinking, angrily winking, blinking nonsense as before.
 Reading, "Abort, Retry, Ignore?"

There I sat, distraught, exhausted by my own machine accosted
 Getting up I turned away and paced across the office floor.
 And then I saw dreadful sight: a lightning bolt cut through the night.
 A gasp of horror overtook me, shook me to my core.
 The lightning zapped my previous data, lost and gone forevermore.
 Not even, "Abort, Retry, Ignore?"

To this day I do not know
 The place to which lost data goes.
 What demonic nether world is wrought where data will be stored,
 Beyond the reach of mortal souls, beyond the ether, into black holes?
 But sure as there's C, Pascal, Lotus, Ashton-Tate and more,
 You will one day be left to wander, lost on some Plutonian shore,
 Pleading, "Abort, Retry, Ignore?"

Author Unknown

Contributed by Richard Hunter

Virus Hoaxes 1997

Over the past couple years we have seen many messages about viruses in e-mail and on newsgroups. This is a HOAX.

Reading E-mail (or newsgroup postings) cannot activate a virus. For a virus to spread, it must be executed. Reading a mail message does not execute the mail message

Trojans and viruses have been found as executable attachments to mail messages, but they must be extracted and executed to do any harm. The act of just reading e-mail cannot activate malicious code in or with the message.

If you receive an e-mail message with any of the following subjects and it has a "file attachment", it is recommended that you simply delete the message along with the attachment.

If you receive just the message, delete the message.

The Hoax Virus List
 3b Trojan (alias PKZIP Virus)
 3 Cents to Cancer Society
 April Fool's Joke
 AOL4FREE
 Bad Times
 Bang
 Cancer Chain Letter
 Death69
 Deeyenda
 Bud Frogs
 End-All
 Free Money
 Ghost
 Good Times
 Hackers Riot
 Hackenburg
 Independence Day
 Irina
 Join The Crew
 MEME or Anti-CDA
 MMF (Make Money Fast)
 Moment of Silence
 Naughty Robot
 Penpal Greetings
 Red Alert
 Red Baron
 Returned Mail
 Valentine's Greetings
 Yukon

*Bits & Bytes Sept/Oct 1997
 South Jersey IBMPC User's Group*

OCIPUG SUPPORT

The members listed below have generously offered to serve as resources for other members in need of assistance with specific hardware or software problems. They are there for you, but please bear a few things in mind:

≥The times listed are when these volunteers are available to assist you. Please respect their times by limiting your calls to the hours indicated.

≥Your questions should be specific and reasonably brief. Consult your manual, tech support, etc., first, so as not to take up their time needlessly.

≥All of our volunteers have expertise in the areas shown, but nobody knows everything, so be understanding by not expecting them to know everything.

≥This service is free, available to our members only. Our volunteers are not doing this for personal gain, but as a service to benefit their fellow PC users, thereby making OCIPUG a stronger organization.

Abraxas

Kevin Post — Anytime..... 969-9495

AccPac Simple Accounting

Ron Collins — 6-10 p.m. M-F

Wkends after 9 a.m. 493-6520

Christian Malm — 9 a.m.-9 p.m. M-F

Anytime Wkends 966-5339

Ami Professional

Stan Sabin — 5 p.m.-9 p.m. M-F 968-7307

Richard Sinor — 6 p.m.-10 p.m. 951-1892

Approach

Maurie Seymour-9 a.m.-9 p.m. M-F . 633-2914

BBS (Bulletin Board Service)

Preston Hill - 9 a.m.-9 p.m..... 893-2403

Dean Sowers 10 a.m.-9 p.m. 531-0477

BASIC

Herb Huey — 6 p.m.-10 p.m. 525-1608

Borland Delphi

Maurie Seymour — 9a.m.-9p.m..... 633-2914

Champion Business Systems

Kevin Post — Anytime 969-9495

Clipper

Bob Wendorf—Anytime..... 892-1031

Corel's Ventura

John Goodman — 2 p.m.-12 mid.... 537-6400

(Preferred):...agoodman@earthlink.net

dBase IV

Preston Hill — 9 a.m.-9 p.m. 893-2403

dBase Programming

Tom Toner — 10 a.m.-8 p.m..... 537-9175

Disk & Memory Management

Harv Haight — 9 p.m.-11 p.m..... 546-0820

John Goodman — 2 p.m.-12 mid..... 537-6400

(Preferred):...agoodman@earthlink.net

Bill Krehbiel — 24hrs daily 645-8561

DOS

Harv Haight — 9 p.m.-11 p.m. 546-0820

Herb Huey — 6:00 p.m.-10 p.m..... 525-1608

John Goodman — 2 p.m.- 12 mid... 537-6400

(Preferred):...goodman@earthlink.net

Bill Krehbiel — 24hrs daily 645-8561

Excel

Herb Huey — 6:30 p.m.-10 p.m. 525-1608

Fortran

Herb Huey — 6 p.m.-10 p.m. 525-1608

FoxPro

Stan Hetrick — 6 p.m.-10 p.m. M-F

Anytime Wkends 774-3115

Genealogy

Stan Sabin — 5 p.m.-9 p.m. M-F 968-7307

Preston Hill— 9 a.m.-9 p.m. 893-2403

Hardware

John Goodman — 2 p.m.-12 mid .. 537-6400

(Preferred):...goodman@earthlink.net

Harv Haight — 9 p.m.-11 p.m. 546-0820

Bill Krehbiel — 24hrs daily..... 645-8561

Internet

Richard Armenteros—6pm.-11pm.... 378-9311

MAS 90

Christian Malm — 9 a.m.-9 p.m. M-F.....

Anytime Wkends..... 966-5339

Microsoft Word

John Goodman — 2 p.m.-12 mid... 537-6400

(Preferred):...agoodman@earthlink.net

Microsoft Works

Bill Krehbiel — 24hrs daily..... 645-8561

PC Tools

Preston Hill — 9 a.m.-9 p.m..... 893-2403

PageMaker

Preston Hill — 9 a.m.-9 p.m..... 893-2403

Paradox DOS/Windows

Jim Samuelson — 6 p.m.-10 p.m. 472-9822

PerForm

Richard Sinor--6 p.m.-10 p.m.M-F 951-1892

QModem/ProComm

Bill Krehbiel — 24hrs daily..... 645-8561

Quattro Pro

Preston Hill — 9 a.m.-9 p.m. 893-2403

QuickBooks for Windows

Cathy Hall — Anytime 434-7307

Max Lockie—6 p.m.-9 p.m. 720-8170

Quicken

Preston Hill — 9 a.m.-9 p.m. 893-2403

Ron Ross — 6 p.m.-10 p.m. M-F

Anytime Wkends 964-5137

Quickpay

Ron Ross — 6 p.m.-10 p.m. M-F

Anytime Wkends..... 964-5137

Real Estate Software

Stan Sabin — 5 p.m.-9 p.m. M-F ... 968-7307

Stacker

Harv Haight — 9 p.m.- 11 p.m. 546-0820

John Goodman — 2 p.m.- 12 mid ... 537-6400

(Preferred):...agoodman@earthlink.net

Bill Krehbiel — 24hrs daily..... 645-8561

Visual dBASE

Max Lockie— 6 p.m.-9 p.m..... 720-8170

Windows 3.x and 95

Richard Hunter—9a.m.9p.m.M-Sa 968-6362

Bill Krehbiel — 24hrs daily..... 645-8561

Bill Phillips—9 a.m.-9 p.m..... 281-8171

WordPerfect

Preston Hill— 9 a.m.-9 p.m..... 893-2403

Richard Baznik—9 a.m.-6 p.m..... 669-8974

Note: If you would like to be listed here as a volunteer to help with any PC-related subject, please call Preston Hill (714) 893-2403 or leave a message on the BBS. We need volunteers in many more software and hardware areas. The success of this program depends on your help.

Special Interest Group Guide



OCIPUG

Orange Coast IBM PC User Group

MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

January 1998

MEMBERSHIP & MEETING INFO

Voice Hotline (714) 662-2939
BBS (714) 751-3242

RESOURCE CENTER & HEADQUARTERS

1520 Brookhollow Drive Suite #38
Santa Ana, California

OUR MAILING ADDRESS

Orange Coast IBM PC User Group
1500 Adams Ave. #105-121
Costa Mesa, CA 92626-3894

J A N U A R Y	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	28	29 <i>Executive Board Meeting</i> A 7	30	31	1 New Years Day DeskTop Publishing No meeting	2 UNIX/Linux <i>Discontinued</i>	3 <i>BBS Workshop</i> E 9 New User/ New Mem. A 9 DOS and Utilities A 1
	4	5 WordPerfect A 7	6 Windows NT A 7	7 Publications Committee B 7 Genealogy A 7	8 Microsoft Office A 7	9 Internet A 7	10 <i>BBS Workshop</i> E 9 Programming A 9
	11	12 GeoWorks A 3 Windows 95 A 7	13 <i>BBS Committee</i> B 6 <i>BBS Workshop</i> E 7 Modem A 7	14 Internet Day A 9:30 am Investing A 7	15 Genealogy! A 1 Now, What Do I Do? A 7	16	17 <i>BBS Workshop</i> E 9 3D Studio A 10
	18	19 <i>AMI/Word Pro</i> <i>Discontinued</i>	20 <i>SIG Oper. Comm.</i> A 9 OS/2 A 7	21 Windows 3.1 A 7	22 Hardware A 7	23 OS/2 Warp Connect A 7	24 <i>BBS Workshop</i> E 9
	25 ACP Swapmeet	26 <i>Executive Board Meeting</i> A 7	27 <i>BBS Committee</i> B 6 <i>BBS Workshop</i> E 7 Pers. Finance A 7	28 dBase A 7 Network B 7	29	30 <i>Readme.doc</i> <i>articles due</i>	31 General Meeting OCC - 9 am Science Hall Program Comm. OCC - 1.5 <i>BBS Workshop</i> E 1
	1	2 WordPerfect A 7	3 Windows NT Workstation A 7	4 Genealogy A 7	5 DeskTop Publishing A 7	6	7 <i>BBS Workshop</i> E 9 New User/ New Mem. A 9 DOS and Utilities A 1

For DAYTIME SIGs being considered, call Preston Hill at (714) 893-2403
For latest meeting dates and topics check the following:

Hotline (714) 662-2939
BBS Bulletin #5 (714) 751-3242

To donate funds and/or equipment for our SIG facility, call:
Facilities Improvement and Maintenance Committee chairman,
Red Davidson, at (714) 548-0413

CALENDAR SYMBOLS

A SIG Room A
B SIG Room B
E Equipment Room
8, 9, 10 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 10 a.m.
1, 2, 7 1 p.m., 2 p.m., 7 p.m.
6.5, 7.5 6:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m.

Special Interest Group Meetings held at our Resource Center

3D Studio **3rd Sat Jan 17**
10:00AM Room A

Leader: David Carroll 714-775-3130

We discuss Windows NT based 3D Studio Max and review its capabilities. Call SIG Leader for specific topics and details.

dBASE **4th Wed Jan 28**
7:00PM Room A

Leader: Max Lockie 714-720-8170
Guru: Tom Toner 714-537-9175

Relational features and applications of dBASE database for DOS and Windows are discussed. Call SIG Leader for specific topics and details.

Desktop Publishing **1st Thu Jan 1**
No meeting

Leader: Charles Schreiber 714-377-0439

No meeting because of holiday.

DOS and Utilities **1st Sat Jan 3**
1:00PM Room A

Leader: Ed Miller 714-470-9319
Leader2: Richard Black 714-536-0036
Guru: John Goodman 714-537-6400

We will discuss encryption security using PGP (Pretty Good Privacy)

Genealogy **1st Wed Jan 7**
7:00PM Room A

Leader: Stan Sabin 714-968-7307

January will be GEDCOM, Merge, and further demo of other new Ancestral Quest 2.1 features.

Genealogy II **3rd Thu Jan 15**
1:00PM Room A

Leader: Chris Hansen 714-637-0102
Leader2: Preston Hill 714-893-2403

We will analyze updates and discuss all new versions of genealogy programs.

Geoworks **2nd Mon Jan 12**
3:00PM Room A

Leader: Charles Schreiber 714-377-0439
Leader2: Reg Roberts 714-642-5399

Questions, tips and demonstrations will follow a Beginners Q&A, including setup and configuration tips. Bring a disk with problems! Call SIG Leader for specific topics and details.

Hardware **4th Thu Jan 22**
7:00PM Room A

Leader: Leader needed
Leader2: David Yap 714-847-1517
Guru: Bob Basaraba

New computer hardware and peripherals are discussed. Bring your hardware related problems for possible solution. Call SIG Leader for specific topics and details.

Internet **2nd Fri Jan 9**
7:00PM Room A

Leader: Richard Armenteros 714-378-9311

This EVENING SIG demonstrates connecting to the Internet and using various tools to locate sites and handle data. Call SIG Leader for specific topics and details.

Internet DAY **2nd Wed Jan 14**
9:30AM Room A

Leader: Frank Disparte 714-960-7494
Leader2: Preston Hill 714-893-2403

This DAYTIME SIG introduces the Internet and demonstrates its many features such as e-mail, file transfers (ftp), using "telnet" and newsgroups, and browsing the WEB. You create HTML documents and your Web page. Call SIG leader for specific topics and details.

Investing **2nd Wed Jan 14**
7:00PM Room A

Leader: Tony (Mel) Mellini 714-536-8733

We discuss various computer programs for analyzing investment information and how to obtain it from the Internet. Call SIG Leader for specific topics and details.

Microsoft Office **2nd Thu Jan 8**
7:00PM Room A

Leader: Ken Kamber 714-637-4496
Leader2: Louise McCain 714-434-0784
Leader3: Alan Liebschutz 714-859-5815

Various features of the Microsoft Office suite of Windows applications are discussed. Call SIG Leader for specific topics and details.

Modem **2nd Tue Jan 13**
7:00PM Room A

Leader: Kim Kymlicka 714-495-1319
Leader2: David Yap 714-847-1517
Guru: Michael Springer

An extensive opening Q&A session is followed by discussion of special features of modems, especially as pertain to connecting to the OCIPUG BBS and to the Internet. Call SIG Leader for specific topics and details.

Network **4th Wed Jan 28**
7:00PM Room B

Leader: Leader needed
Leader2: Ken Kamber 714-637-4496

We review network basics with an overview of the various networking systems. Call SIG Leader for specific topics and details.

New User/New Member **1st Sat Jan 3**
9:00AM Room A

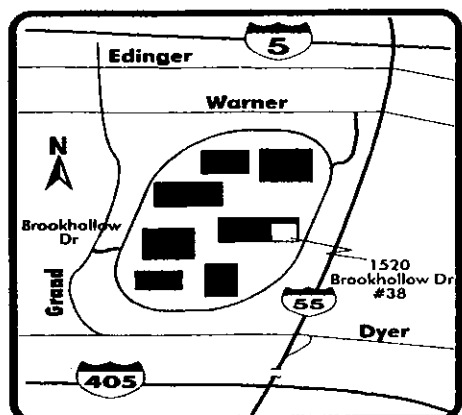
Leader: John Lunsford 714-995-0947

This is the first of a 4-part series starting from scratch to introduce you to the basics of computers and their effective use. Ask questions freely! You can begin with any part.

Now What Do I Do? **3rd Thu Jan 15**
7:00PM Room A

Leader: John Donan 714-633-6616
Guru: John Goodman 714-537-6400

Learn how experts in different areas solve present and future PC-related problems that you and others bring. We have an expert-of-the-month. Bring your questions, preferably on disk or paper, and a blank (1.44MB) diskette. Call SIG Leader for details.



Resource Center and Headquarters

Most SIGs are held from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at our Resource Center
1520 Brookhollow Drive, Suite #38
Santa Ana, California

The Brookhollow Office Park is easily accessible via the northbound and southbound Dyer Road exits from the 55 Freeway. Abundant, well-lit parking is available a few feet from the ground level entrance.

For late-changing information:

OCIPUG Hotline: (714) 662-2939
OCIPUG BBS: (714) 751-3242

Visitors are *always* welcome — please join us!

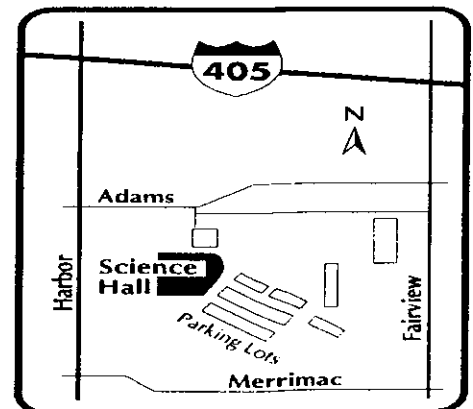
Visitors are welcome at all SIGs and monthly General Meetings.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>OS/2 3rd Tue Jan 20
 7:00PM Room A</p> <p>Leader: Steve Schiffman 714-531-0376
 Guru: Gary Granat 714-731-0457</p> <p>We will demonstrate various utilities and other features to help you manage OS/2. Call SIG Leader for specific topics and details.</p> | <p>Windows 95 2nd Mon Jan 12
 7:00PM Room A</p> <p>Leader: Frank Disparte 714-960-7494
 Guru: Rudy Wolf 714-5628-3715</p> <p>Share your problems and solutions for installing and using Windows 95. Call SIG Leader for specific topics and details.</p> | <p>General Meeting 4th Sat Jan 31
 9:00AM OCC Science Hall</p> <p>Leader: Jim Kirkpatrick 714-642-8795</p> <p>Gene Barlow (http://www.powerquest.com) will present PowerQuest Corporation's award winning Partition Magic and introduce their newest products — Drive Image and Drive Copy.</p> |
| <p>OS/2 WARP Connect 4th Fri Jan 23
 7:00PM Room A</p> <p>Leader: Steve Schiffman 714-531-0376</p> <p>Features of OS/2 Warp Connect are discussed with emphasis on connecting to the Internet and local networks, including generating HTML documents. Call SIG Leader for specific topics and details.</p> | <p>Windows 3.1 3rd Wed Jan 21
 7:00PM Room A</p> <p>Leader: Richard Hunter 714-968-6362</p> <p>We will have the usual questions and answers followed by a beginners session on Windows 3.x. Bring all of your basic questions as well as tips and tricks.</p> | <p>Chris Helse (rhelse@earthlink.net), OCIPUG member and IBM consultant, will present IBM's latest voice recognition product — VIAVOICE GOLD</p> |
| <p>Personal Finance 4th Tue Jan 27
 7:00PM Room A</p> <p>Leader: Max Lockie 714-720-8170</p> <p>A Q&A session will cover Quicken, QuickBooks and other DOS and Windows programs for managing your personal and small business finances. Call SIG Leader for specific topics and details.</p> | <p>Windows NTW 1st Tue Jan 6
 7:00PM Room B</p> <p>Leader: Ed Leckliter 310-540-1696</p> <p>This SIG will focus on Windows NT Workstation as an alternative operating system for stand-alone users of Windows NT and Windows 95 application software. Call SIG leader for specific topics and details.</p> | <p>Partition Magic
 Partition Magic organizes the partitions on your large (gigabytes) hard drive so easily that anyone can do it in minutes — fraction of the time it used to take with FDISK. Reformatting and reinstalling applications is avoided. Cluster sizes are optimized.</p> |
| <p>Programming 2nd Sat Jan 10
 9:00AM Room A</p> <p>Leader: Neil Swan 714-536-4385</p> <p>We discuss various programming languages and their applications.</p> | <p>WordPerfect 1st Mon Jan 5
 7:00PM Room A</p> <p>Leader: Jeff Sinn 714-775-2390
 Leader2: Richard Baznik 714-669-8974
 Leader3: George Austin 310-375-7213</p> | <p>Drive Image
 Drive Image copies individual partitions or the entire current drive to your new drive while keeping every setting and byte of data safely in place. Its patent-pending SmartSector technology works up to two to three times faster than straight file-by-file or sector-by-sector methods of copying.</p> |
| <p>UNIX/Linux 1st Fri Jan 2
 No meeting</p> <p>Leader: James Clymer 714-840-8238</p> <p>SIG discontinued because of loss of leader and insufficient interest.</p> | <p>WordPerfect 1st Mon Jan 5
 7:00PM Room A</p> <p>Leader: Jeff Sinn 714-775-2390
 Leader2: Richard Baznik 714-669-8974
 Leader3: George Austin 310-375-7213</p> <p>We review basic and advanced features of DOS and Windows versions of WordPerfect. Call SIG Leader for specific topics and details.</p> | <p>Drive Copy
 Drive Copy features a simple user interface, supports every major operating system and allows you to copy the entire contents of one drive to another drive within the same computer, even to a removable (e.g., IOMEGA ZIP, or SYQUEST) hard drive.</p> |
| | | <p>VIAVOICE GOLD
 IBM's latest voice recognition product — VIAVOICE GOLD — does continuous speech dictation and command throughout using Windows95/NT, Microsoft Office 95 and Office 97, Lotus Smart suite, and Word Perfect. It spells correctly and uses the correct "to", "too", or "two" as appropriate. It will also playback aloud to you what you have input. It comes with a 22,000-word vocabulary and the ability to add at least 40,000 words. In addition you can obtain unique vocabularies for law, various branches of medicine, and journalism. User created dictation macros enables the user to produce a complete form letter by speaking a single word.</p> |

Monthly General Meetings

Orange Coast IBM PC User Group (OCIPUG) meets in the Science Hall of Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa, California. Random access question and answer session begins at 8:30 am, and presentations begin at 9 am on the 4th Saturday of the month, unless otherwise noted. Ample free parking is available on campus lots off of Adams, Merrimac and Fairview (see map at right). All facilities and parking are handicap accessible.

Visitors are always welcome— please join us.



OCIPUG Membership Information

Orange Coast IBM-PC User Group (OCIPUG), a non-profit all-volunteer organization, was formed in 1985 and has grown to become one of the most respected user groups in the country. Our purpose is to provide computer enthusiasts with an opportunity to gain related knowledge and to offer assistance when needed.

An individual, family or student (verified 12 undergraduate units or 6 graduate units) membership includes:

- a subscription to *Readme.Doc*, OCIPUG's monthly newsletter
- discounts on public domain, shareware and commercial software
- access to OCIPUG's online services, a local bulletin board.
- Internet e-mail access through OCIPUG's bulletin board.
- eligibility for the drawing at the monthly General Meeting
- a Support Group Hotline

To become an OCIPUG member, complete the application below and mail it along with your check or money order to:

OCIPUG
1500 Adams Avenue #105-121
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

To request more information, call: (714) 662-2939

Benefits of OCIPUG Membership

OCIPUG is a valuable resource for computer users. Help is readily available to assist with software or hardware problems. You will get answers to your questions, learn more about computers or a particular program, attend Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings and exchange ideas and information on related issues.

OCIPUG monthly general meetings are a great place to see new product demonstrations and the latest releases of established products, often prior to initial shipment. At these meetings we often host the industry's top-of-the-line manufacturers such as Microsoft, Novell, Lotus, IBM and others who send their representatives to demonstrate their latest products. Some of our guest speakers provide significant insight into current hardware and software issues that affect the industry as a whole.

OCIPUG's online services include a BBS, (714) 751-3242, which runs at speeds up to 28.8K bps, and contains useful information about the group and its educational resources. We also carry a full line of public domain and shareware software available on disk at our general meetings and as downloads from our BBS.

OCIPUG publishes an award-winning newsletter, *Readme.Doc*, which contains insightful and informative articles and product reviews by OCIPUG members and interesting reprints from other user group newsletters from around the country.

OCIPUG has more than twenty-five SIGs that meet at various times during the month. These SIGs focus on specific areas of computing and often host speakers with expertise in that field. It would be difficult to find such an abundance of knowledge anywhere that is so readily available to all our members.

OCIPUG has it all! Why not join today?

Orange Coast IBM PC User Group

1500 Adams Avenue #105-121
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Today's Date: _____

Title: Mr. Mrs. Ms. Dr. Prof. Hon. (Circle one)

Membership: New Renewal (Circle one)

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: () _____ Work Phone: () _____ Fax: () _____

Occupation: _____ Company: _____

Individual Membership? Family Membership? Family Member(s) Names: _____

E-mail address: _____

.....
Annual Dues:

Make check payable to OCIPUG
and mail to the above address
or bring to the General Meeting.

Individual	\$45.00	\$ _____
Family	\$60.00	\$ _____
Full-time student	\$25.00	\$ _____
(U-grad 12 units; grad 6 units)		
Donation		\$ _____

* Requires signed Acceptable Use Agreement which will be mailed to you upon receipt of your application.

Total Amount Paid: \$ _____

.....
Have you been a member of OCIPUG before? _____

Type of computer: 8088/86 (XT) 286 AT 386 (Circle one)

If so, what was your membership number? _____

486SX 486DX Pentium Other _____

I heard about OCIPUG from: _____

Modem? _____ Printer: _____

I consider my skill level to be:

Beginner Intermediate Advanced (Circle one)

Fax Capability? _____ Type of Monitor? _____

PRODUCTS FOR REVIEW

Norm Bergman

The following materials have been received by OCIPUG for evaluation. Qualified members may try them out and upon submitting a satisfactory review to the editor will be given the registration materials and the product will become the member's personal property. The reviewer shall agree to observe the club's rules on not sharing software with others. One should keep in mind the wide range of interests of club members and if, upon inspection, the product does not coincide with one's own interests, it should be returned to be reassigned. The reviewer should keep in touch with the editor if he/she runs into difficulties or delays. The reviewer shall agree to return the product if, in the editor's judgment, the review is not submitted in a timely manner. A balanced evaluation should point out the product's good points as well as its shortcomings. The review becomes the property of OCIPUG and may be edited and reproduced by the product donor and other user groups. The reviewer's name will be used as author of the article. In accepting the product the reviewer agrees to these stipulations. The writer will be given a copy of *Guidelines for Product Reviews* to assist in preparing the report.

COMPANY	Note	PRODUCT	Received	Assigned	Due	REVIEWER
Connectix	*1	Agent 95	11/96	available		
Corel		Ventura 97	12/96	3/97	6/97	Larry Pearce
Coriolus Gp Books	*2	Graphics Programming	10/97	new item available		
CyberMedia		Oil Change	3/97	3/97	6/97	Ralph Adcock
DeLorme		AAA Maps	7/97	7/97	10/97	Ken Kamber
Deltapoint		QuickSite 2.5	7/97	10/97	1/98	Deb. Abernathy
Design Intelligence		i publish	7/97	10/97	1/98	Ken Martin
General Magic		Magic Cap	11/96	2/97	5/97	Stan Sabin
GreenSoft	*3	GreenForm	9/96	available		
GreenSoft	*4	GreenDesk	9/96	available		
Lotus	*5	ScreenCam 2	1/96	available		
Microsoft		FrontPage	11/96	3/97	6/97	Don Bakos
Murach		Lessons for Win95	1/97	3/97	6/97	Len Leonard
Powerquest	*6	Drive Image	12/97	new item available		
Symantec		Act! 3.0	11/96	3/97	6/97	Rex Combs
Single Track		Fine Print	5/97	8/97	11/97	Bill Bogart

- *1 Utility that monitors memory resources in Win95. Shows how much room you have to multi-task. CD.
- *2 1342 page book with CD. All of Michael Abrash's writings on graphics and performance coding for Windows. Advanced level.
- *3 Scanner program that lets you copy and fill in forms with your scanner.
- *4 Scanner program that lets you create a filing system of scanned images.
- *5 Adds captions and voice to presentations. Record movies of screen activity.
- *6 Copies the contents of one harddrive safely onto other harddrives

EDITOR'S NOTE: Most product for review articles are due 90 days from date of assignment. Many of the reviews listed above are **past due** and should be submitted to the editor as soon as possible. Your write-up need not be letter perfect but should be complete and comprehensible.

Notice to members whose copy is past due:

The Editor is calling on delinquent reviewers to submit their copy, or he is asking for the return of club materials as per our signed agreement. If you do not plan to turn in a review you may return the materials to the SIG space or make other arrangements with the editor or any club officer.

GOLDMINE 3.2 CONTACT MANAGER

Marshal Boslow

Goldmine 3.2 for Windows 95 and NT 4.0 is published by Goldmine Software Corp., located at 17383 Sunset Blvd., S-301 in Pacific Palisades, CA 90272. They can be reached at (800) 654-3526. The product sells for \$295 for a single user, and \$895 for a 5 user-network.

The program requires 8 MB HD space, Windows 95 or Windows NT 4.0, 386SX or higher, IBM compatible PC, VGA Monitor, 4MB RAM, or DOS 3.1 file and record-locking compatible networks. The product is backward compatible with previous Goldmine versions.

No third party books are available however, numerous third party add-ons are available.

This is the high-end product in the Contact Management Field. Whether for one person or a multi-person network, this product includes features such as: Internet e-mail, Multimedia Management, Web data management while integrating contact management, Activity planning, Document management, and Sales automation.

The product comes with three 3.5inch disks, and a fourth disk with a zip code database for the US. This disk allows you to import only CA zip codes or as much of the U.S. that you want to use. The instructions were wrong for importing this data, but it was easy to do through the Tools Menu. The Main program loaded flawlessly and took a minute or two (using a AMD K6 233MHz, 32MB RAM computer).

The documentation comes with a User Guide and a 2 Volume Reference Manual. The User Guide offers three sections: Getting Started, Using Basic Features and Using Advanced Features. Likewise, the Reference Manual Volume 1 offers Getting Started, Working With Contact Information, and Communicating With Others. Volume 2 provides Advancing With Goldmine, Administration, and Appendixes. The Reference Manuals provide the detail not dis-

cussed in the User Guide. If you have had previous experience with database management, learning new terminology will be less tiresome. However, if you're a first time user of a contact manager program, you have your work cut out for you. In flat file database programs you must maintain multiple databases to track information on prospects. However, Goldmine is a relational management program that integrates all information, whether quantitative, qualitative or freeform, in an accessible and useable format all in one database. For each contact with whom you have a relationship, you can track historical data, pending work and general contact information. All this "how to" information is contained in the Help Menu typical of Windows 95 programs.

Technical Support is available free for 90 days after registration with Goldmine. Goldmine "reserves the right" to charge after 90 days, but it doesn't say they will. It is more a function of abuse than use. Upgrade support is for installation only. Technical Support can be reached M-Th 8-5 and F 8-4:15 Pacific Time at (310)-454-6800. There is also a FAX-On-Demand at (310)-459-1222 and online at <http://www.goldminesw.com>.

Considerable data is available on the Main screen, but it is reduced to manageable proportions even though there is heavy reliance on numerous tabs on the main screen. You can scroll through your contacts using arrow keys or perform searches on large lists through drop-down menus. Toolbars can be configured to your preferences and be moved around the screen as you work. The user can customize built-in macros that help streamline repetitive tasks. The dialog boxes make data entry simple and can be accomplished quickly.

The calendar feature allows you to schedule several activities in a time slot or multi-day events and you can color code activities that can be displayed separately or in a detailed month view. Common things are available, such as multiple views, drag-and-drop, alarms, and recurring events. A Group Scheduling feature provides access to both individuals and resources by scheduling conference rooms utilities, and resolves conflict-checking with RSVP notification.

There is also a link to Microsoft Schedule+.

A unique feature called Gold-Alarm is an external utility that scans Goldmine when it is not running informs you when an event occurs and will automatically launch Goldmine. Several wizards are available, such as, Merge/Purge, Import/Export, and Global Replace. Duplicate records are identified easily with Merge/Purge that allows you to merge duplicate records or delete them entirely by using any number of fields as criteria. Import/Export makes it easy to import, export, and review data as long as it is .dbf, ASCII, or .sdf format. Sorry, Microsoft, .mdb doesn't work, but Microsoft will let you save it in an acceptable format. The Global/Replace allows you to update *en masse* quite easily.

Internet integration allows you to keep your information up-to-the-minute by synchronizing databases. You can merge all changes down to the field level (including notes and history). Data can be imported from remote users and Web sites. The Capture/Launch feature enters captured Web page data into Goldmine creating new contact records. Similar to other contact managers, Goldmine allows you to start Web sites and send e-mail from within records. To retrieve e-mail from the Internet you must have an account with an ISP that has true Internet mail access, such as Netcom, CompuServe, AOL, and Microsoft Network will not work with Goldmine Internet e-mail features. You must configure Windows 95 Dial-up Networking to connect to your Internet service provider. Also, you can send e-mail to alphanumeric pagers via your modem.

Similar to the Windows Help system is the Information Center but absent are hypertext links. The Information Center allows users to link photos, images, and sounds to contact records. Books, folders, and pages can be added to the database.

For the sales orientated crowd there is a market analysis tool in addition to statistical and graphical analyses. If you want it, it's here, However, it may take you a career to learn all that Goldmine has to offer. The more likely scenario is that you'll use those features that meet your needs and gradually assimilate the other features as desired.

On balance, there are less costly contact managers without all the bells and whistles like SideKick, for instance, but if you want the complete package then Goldmine is well worth the money.

Frame-it

Rich Kirkwood

South Jersey IBMPC User's Group

Frame-it is a nice program that was sent for review. It permits framing of pictures for scrapbook of photos, photo cards, etc. Frames all types of jobs. You don't have to use a publisher program to figure out how to make a frame. Frames can be printed in color, with text added or, you can design one or use an existing frame from the Dogbyte data base.

Dogbyte Development provides for three types of installation, normal, CD and full. The program comes on one CD-ROM. Since I have a limited amount of hard drive space, it was best to go with the CD installation.

The program works fast under the CD installation. When loading Dogbyte Application, it has several choices: help, readme, go to program, video training and registration. I checked them all out and found them very well done.

In fact, a child could use this program. The four video tutorials were nicely done taking you from start to final assembly.

There are over 2000 pre-designed templates for use in preparing pictures frames, envelopes, cards, scrapbook frames. Templates for design themes include those for holidays, birthdays, anniversaries, graduation and many more.

Frame-it has an option to import regular photos that can be imported or scanned into Frame-it. Many file formats can be imported, JPEG, JIF, PCD, TGA, PCX and more. Kodak Co. and the Seattle Filmworks offer photo's on CD's or disk which can be imported too.

The program comes with many extras, but the club received only the CD for evaluation. The complete package includes specialty paper, two compete photo albums,

instruction book and accessories for installation of framed pictures.

The program requires at least a 486/33 MHz, with 8 MB with 256 colors with a CD-ROM. Good idea to have a color printer for best results. I used Frame-it, with my 486-66 MHz with 16MB of RAM and a SCSI CD-ROM, and the program loaded and operated great. DOGBYTE Development did a great job with this program.

I would recommend this program to anyone. It has good operation and I had no problems with the program during all the operations I did.

The street price I was told is, \$49.95. Program is available from Dogbyte Development at 800936-4298 or from your local computer retail store. In examining the Dogbyte BBS, they have lot of downloads that can be used with the software. Their e-mail is dogbytedev@aol.com and URL is <http://www.dogbyte.com/>

Bits & Bytes Sept/Oct 1997

Jaz Disk Info

Dean Sowers

The following dates of manufacture should be avoided IF the letters and numbers below the date end with "MS":

March 13, 1997 through April 20, 1997

The date is lightly laser etched on the disk above the words "Iomega 1995 patents pending."

Users of the above disks "could experience performance and data degradation and should not use these particular disks."

Customers may call (800) 336-1314 between 6am and 9pm Mountain Time seven days a week to reach the hotline to receive a replacement disk. Customers may also send e-mail to iomega_jaz@support.iomega.com.

Although the number of affected disks is less than 100,000, the consumer might want to refer to this information when shopping for Jaz disks at swap meets and computer shows.

The Best Software Picks for Christmas

Teresa C. Henry

This year, there are many new titles just begging to jump off the shelves and into your CD-ROM drive. While DVD titles are starting to appear on the horizon, most software publishers are still only releasing CD-ROMs until DVD-ROM and/or DVD-RAM become better standardized (the war is on: is it VHS or BETA?) Most edutainment titles have websites with demos of their software, so that you can check it out for yourself, either playing online or downloading a shareware version.

Argos Software has gotten together with the National Wildlife Federation to release "Art Apart!"—a jigsaw puzzle with 140 different photographs from 12 of the nation's top wildlife photographers. As with most of the new jigsaw CDs, kids can select skill levels, so this one is appropriate for any age (child or adult) that can manage a mouse! In a fun way, the kids learn about all sorts of different wildlife and their habitats; plus, you can add your own digitized images to the game. If you've got a puzzle-maniac in the family, this is one of the best out this year. (The website to check this one out is <http://www.gameware.com>).

If you've got a kid who is into the seamy side of science, the hottest CD title out is "Grossology: The Science of Really Gross Things!" from SegaSoft. This takes kids' "instinctive love of embarrassing bodily functions" to new heights (or lows), and turns this fascination into a truly scientific learning experience. Admittedly, there were things I didn't really want to know, but the kids thought it was great—and they did learn a fair amount of human anatomy in the process! This one meets my criteria for "so much fun they don't have a clue how much they're learning," and SegaSoft has agreed to provide free demo CDs to those who call (888)-SEGASOFT (or you can check them out on the web at <http://www.GrossologyGames.com>).

Continued on page 20

Tech Tab

Prices for Christmas

L. Howard Nation, DataWay Corporation

Christmas is coming and prices are going.....down.

Hoping to deflate the hype surrounding the network computer (NC), refurbished computer specialist, *Recompute*, has **dropped** prices on its entry-level 486-based computers to \$299. For \$299, customers get a 486-based computer from a major vendor with 8MB of memory and a 170MB hard disk. A monitor and Windows-based operating system can be added for additional cost. The rapid upgrade cycle has also meant lower prices in the Pentium market. A refurbished Compaq Deskpro 2000 with a 133-MHz Pentium, 16MB of RAM, a 2GB hard drive, 8X CD-ROM, and Windows 95 sells for \$847. This price is less than most other 133-MHz Pentium systems still available at off the shelf retail sites, but are equaled and even surpassed by occasional closeout specials on equivalent systems. For instance a national discount dealer is currently offering a Deskpro 2000, featuring a 100-MHz Pentium with 8MB of RAM, a smaller hard drive, and no CD-ROM for \$729; this reseller is also hawking a 166-MHz Deskpro 2000 with 16MB of RAM and a 2.1 GB hard drive as well as a CD-ROM for \$899 or an AST Provo LC with a 166-MHz Pentium for \$999 with 16MB of memory, a 2GB hard drive, and no CD-ROM. As always, consumers need to read carefully. CompUSA is currently offering 166-MHz Pentium desktop from Digital for \$799. The system, however, does not include a hard drive, operating system, or CD-ROM drive.

Driving new prices down Intel announced price cuts on its processors ranging up to 40 percent, pushing high-end PC pricing down to the middle of the market and further intensifying competition at the low end. This brings personal computers with Intel's top-of-the-line chips below the \$2,000 price point in record time. Previously, this took years to occur. With the Pentium II it has happened in a matter of months. Intel has been aggressively trimming chip prices this year. Pentium II prices have dropped over 20 percent since the first quarter while

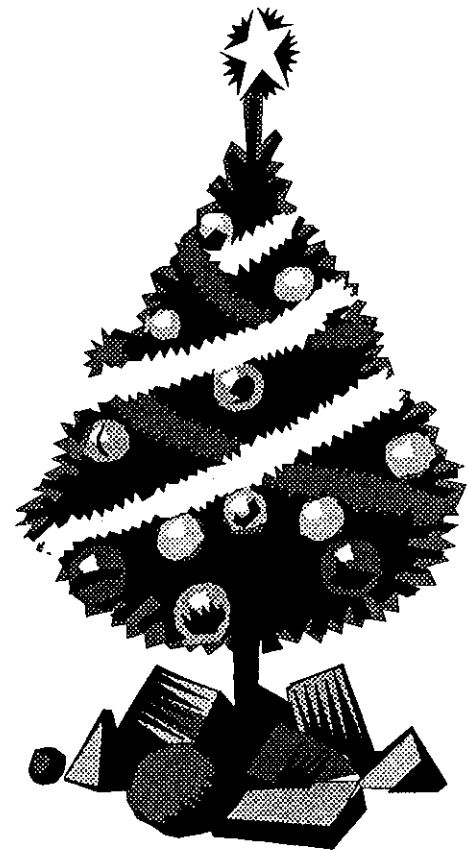
Pentium MMX prices have dropped over 60 percent. In addition to the explosion of the sub-\$1,000 PC market created by Compaq and Packard-Bell, high-end computers with the newest and fastest chips—historically costing well over \$3,500—are being pushed down to below \$2,000 in some cases. The phenomenon demonstrates a radical shift in PC pricing. Increasing customer demand for cheaper computers, combined with improved manufacturing efficiency, competition over market share, and accelerating processor price cuts from Intel and others are conspiring to raise the performance-price bar on a weekly basis.

The **good news** for consumers: it's likely to continue. While price cuts aren't new to Intel, discounting has clearly accelerated the trend in comparison to previous generations of Intel chips. At major, top-tier PC vendors, it took the 486 chip about three years to get into sub-\$2,000 computers and about two years for the Pentium to finally make its way to sub-\$2,000 systems, noted an Intel spokesman. Amazingly, with the Pentium II, Intel's newest chip, this has happened in less than six months. "The \$2,000 price point is kind of a driver" for the Pentium II market, said Jeff Moeser, vice president of the desktop group at Micron. "You will see some pricing action on 266-MHz Pentium II and 300-MHz Pentium II machines coming up." On one end of the spectrum, vendors such as Compaq, Hewlett-Packard and Digital have been cutting prices to get both business and consumer computers under \$1,000. Compaq Computer cut prices on its Presario line of consumer PCs by up to 25 percent; a move, which kicks off holiday PC sales. IBM is also getting into the act announcing low-cost consumer models for the first time. These reductions are being made to both desktop and notebook computers. Compaq is in the driver's seat in the consumer market. The world's largest PC manufacturer currently has 67 percent of the sub-\$1,000 PC market. A number of the direct systems vendors have also rolled out aggressively priced systems of late, including Dell Computer and Gateway 2000, which are offering high-end 300-MHz Pentium II systems for as low as \$2,500 with a monitor. Industry analysts say that price cuts are likely to continue throughout the Christmas season but the largest of the cuts

have already been made. This is primarily because no further price reductions in one of the most expensive parts of the computer, the processor, are expected until next year.

Notebooks are becoming less expensive too. Digital Equipment has introduced a line of HiNote VP notebook PCs and cut prices on its HiNote VP 500 notebooks by as much as 15%. The HiNote VP 700 line will be the company's midrange notebook line. Meanwhile, Digital also will drop prices on its HiNote VP 500 value line. Systems in that line will now be priced from \$1,799 to \$2,999, down from \$1,999 to \$3,499. Hewlett-Packard has dropped prices up to 13% in an attempt to continue gaining market share in the notebook market

Howard Nation of DataWay can be contacted by e-mail at hnation@datawaycorp.com.



Desktop Publishing

Rose Edwards.

President, Preston Hill opened the 11/6/97 meeting, he offered information about Bogus Virus scares being posted on the web and the trouble it was causing people. When this happens, it was recommended that we can find the IBM Anti-Virus on the web at the following address:

<http://www.av.ibm.com/insidethelab/bookshelf/whitepapers/wells/howtospot/....htm>

He also noted that it was everyone's responsibility to keep the meeting room clean by vacuuming and picking up trash, and also requested help from members on putting the *Readme.doc* together each month.

This effort has helped other people in the past to hone their desktop skills. People who are currently working on the newsletter will coach any new volunteers. When those volunteers are ready to take over the responsibilities the current staff will continue to oversee their work until they are comfortable with the work. This is a great way to gain experience and knowledge.

Norm Bergman, editor, offered additional information on how the *Readme.doc* is assembled. He said "it is a team effort to gather material, pass it out for editing and correction." He stressed that help is needed on layout of the SIG guide, as well as circulation and ideas are needed to increase circulation. He noted that two teams would be ideal so that each team could alternate the work every other month.

The meeting was then turned over to Charles Schreiber who acted as moderator and presented the new desktop publishing program called **I-Publish - Desktop Publishing for the rest of us**. This program was set-up by artistic type people who have created templates which put together good designs those who are not familiar with creative designing and how it goes together. It was also noted that the program is well integrated with web templates that correspond to WEB.

Some features were noted as follows:

Icons at Bottom of Screen - Alerts you to overcrowding of photos or copy on the page

Split Screen - Left side is a browser or Control Panel, the right side is the sheet your working on.

Converts Doc. to Web Pages

Ability to work back & forth with the Web - Design-Intelligence.com

Next up was an entertaining Audio/Visual Presentation which covered other features such as:

Pageart Brochures Presentations

ClipArt Reports Web Pages

Fonts Newsletter Catalog

Fliers

It was determined that the I-Publish program would be a great program for "Amateur Designers". It specializes in design and has already done the work for you. If you were to contract a designer you might say this program has already done the design work for you.

Discussion took place about the limitations imposed by the previously designed work on the reports. To change some of the design already in place requires more work such as spacing, etc. For people who want to work on their own, another program may be more suitable. However, for those lacking basic design techniques, this program would be advantageous.

Discussion of different types of scanners, their cost & value and where the best places to shop for them took place next.

It was determined that I-Publish does flow and lays out the text vertically.

Next, we worked on inserting & deleting graphics & changing the size of the dimensions.

President Preston Hill noted that this program could be used for publication of the OCIPUG Newsletter and once again appealed to attendees to volunteer to help produce the newsletter. He said the decision needs to be made as to whether the newsletter should be award winning for its design or easy to read and informational. The group agreed that familiarity promotes readability.

Back to I-Publish - Inserting graphics proved to be relatively simple, however, making changes to the graphics proved very difficult and turned the meeting into real fun group participation. It was finally suggested by Preston, that we invite the creators of I-Publish to the next Desktop meeting for a demonstration. He also stated that these are not "lecture classes" so if anyone in the group has any input to offer on different programs, they are welcome to arrange for demonstration time at a future meeting.

Genealogy

Nov. 5, 1997

Richard Baznik

Special Annual Beginners SIG

Before the meeting started Stan put two special e-mail addresses on the blackboard: stansabin@usa.net (Stan's permanent e-mail address) and rodbush@sprynet.com (Rod Bush publishes a weekly genealogy news letter). You can e-mail him requesting that you be put on his list. Say "Stan Sabin referred me to you." or some such language.

The room was over-filled to the point that there was not even standing room left..

Stan mentioned a letter from a grateful reader of a genealogy SIG report in an OCIPUG newsletter which contained a tip on how to locate people on the Internet. She found her long lost father-in-law whom her husband had never known. The article led her to the Internet web site (locateme.com) which (for a fee) actually located him. In addition, locating him facilitated locating more distant family members. The words of gratitude brought tears to Stan and Joy's eyes.

Genealogy software greatly facilitates organization of material gathered. Through Internet contacts the computer also aids locating individuals.

Stan said that the primary emphasis tonight will be on Ancestral Quest (AQ). Years ago the group initially voted to go primarily with PAF. Since the advent of Microsoft Windows, the group again voted to migrate from

Special Interest Group (SIG) Reports

PAF to Ancestral Quest. Family Tree Maker will also be referred to this evening. Any one of about four programs qualifies as a good program to do the job. Roots is not one of the four because it requires continuous application to learn and remember; it is too comprehensive except for the professional genealogist.

One big advantage to Ancestral Quest is that it uses the same database as PAF, making for an easy conversion to the graphic user interface. It was recently announced that there will be a companion to PAF 3.0 that will allow a person to print using Windows printer drivers and make it easier to get into PAF 3.0. (But PAF 3.0 will remain a DOS program operating in a "window".) Stan actually used PAF and Ancestral Quest at the same time, both based on the same database.

Since the first beta version, Stan has been a beta tester for Ancestral Quest. Stan has been given permission to disclose features of the new version not yet released to the attendees tonight.

Family Tree Maker is available in many different versions ranging in price from approx. \$29 to \$89. The Best version comes with nine CD's including the Social Security Death Index.

Ancestral Quest also provides demo versions to let prospects try it but the demo won't allow one to print. Ancestral Quest is also available in many versions. Stan then went into some history of Ancestral Quest; when they were getting on their feet financially. InfoBase was one company that paid Ancestral Quest to allow them to issue a special LDS version different from the regular Ancestral Quest. But the LDS version did not keep up with all the new features Ancestral Quest was adding to their regular version.

Stan's disclosure this evening of the new Ancestral Quest will be the first public presentation ANYWHERE. For new buyers, \$29.95 for LDS floppy, \$39.95 for regular version, CD version is \$49.95, with Hammond's Atlas of the World and Centenia which gives changing European national borders from about the year 1500 to 1993. For upgrades from Incline version \$14.95 diskette plus \$1.95 s&h. Start-

ing today, if you buy the current Incline version, you may upgrade to the new floppy version FREE.

Stan then proceeded to demonstrate the installation from a CD in Windows 95. On the wall Stan had an extensive display, mostly graphic examples, of output from Ancestral Quest and Family Tree Maker including Picture Pedigree Charts, Family Group Sheets (with pictures), Scrapbook pages, and many other types of printouts which can be made with the two programs.

When Ancestral Quest is opened, it will search your computer for data bases it can use. This would include your existing PAF database if you're "upgrading" and switching applications.

Stan then started fresh, putting a brand new data base into Ancestral Quest. At this point he gave some insight into strategy. Most importantly, use *just one database* if for no other reason than if your family and your wife's family eventually overlap, you won't know it if you're in two different databases. Also, by all means, make a backup of your existing data base and hide it somewhere. You just never know.

Stan then began by entering the first individual in a new database. He clicked on Tools on the Menu Bar and then Preferences where you can configure the program to your liking including screen colors, presence or absence of LDS info, fonts, multimedia information and even password protection. After individual entry, Stan went to "two headed" icon under the menu bar which indicated the dialog box for entering family information. Also in family dialog box is a search feature for connecting with others already in your data base. Stan distinguished between the RIN, MRIN and ID numbers. Stan recommended that you don't start your pedigree chart with yourself but with one of your children, the oldest, to get both sides of your family going from the git-go. As he went along, he touched on various features that make the program easy to use.

Clicking on the Binoculars icon, he took us to the Search for Individual window, sortable by either RIN or alphabetic sort options.

After demonstrating the initial individual entry procedures, Stan switched to his own huge database for further demonstrations. In this new "full" database, he pointed out the small white triangle in the upper right hand corner of each name box, indicating the fact that there are notes on that individual, and the additional square in the triangle that indicates graphic (picture) inclusions. Stan had 1,000 pictures taking over 600 megabytes of space. To conserve space on his hard drive, he had them all put onto a CD, changing the default path for graphics to the new location on the CD. He also demonstrated adding a new, additional picture to an individual's listing. (Adding the photo was one of three options: photo, sound clip or video.) Any number of these attachments may be ascribed to any individual (hard drive space permitting). Captions and descriptions appended to the pictures print out on scrapbooks and such. Sequences of pictures may be presented as a slide show, etc. Photos in the new version may be cropped with the mouse rather than having to specify dimensions verbally. All sorts of documents may be scanned, not just photographs.

Stan recommended "Internet for Genealogists", by Barbara Rennick and Richard Wilson as a *must have* book for genealogists who use the Internet.

Stan also spent considerable time on the use and selection of color printers, scanners, etc. One must differentiate between the dot resolution of the initial scan and the "interpolation" of photo processing software that may increase the effective resolution to a much higher figure, resulting in a smoother reproduction. He also discussed printers and the use of their consumables which can strongly affect the final costs. He also was specific regarding some stores that offered particularly good buys. The Cannon Inkjet, for instance, sells the various replacement color ink cartridges *separately!* so they may be replaced individually as each color is consumed, rather than having to replace the entire cyan-magenta-yellow cartridge when only one color has been consumed.

During his presentation, Stan circulated an endless stream of examples illustrating the many features of the programs and equipment under discussion.

Genealogy II

Len Leonard
11/26/97

Stan also encourages everyone to show (publish) his genealogy information wherever and whenever he can. And speaking of publishing, the new Ancestral Quest v. 2.1 features an expanded list of icons under the Menu Bar at the top of the main editing screen. The last icon on the right enables one to create his own genealogical web page! without experience. Many options of details to be included on your web site are offered by simply clicking on check boxes for them to be included. The program, of course, allows one to preview the web site appearance. A very presentable web page is made possible without knowing any HTML code or having other technical knowledge. And it is all done in SECONDS!

At the end, a question from the floor, was asked on how to keep track of information sources. Stan said there are different ways to do it but his favorite way is to simply insert the source information at the end of each set of notes.

The balance of the session was devoted to Stan's fielding numerous questions on a wide variety of subjects. Most of the people finally let Stan close up after 10 PM. He wants to thank all who participated and helped him close up after the meeting.

GENEALOGY II

Chris Hansen

The daytime Genealogy SIG met on Thursday, November 20 at 1 PM with approximately 20 attendees. The subject for this session was targeted at beginners and novices and was titled "Where do I start?". The session covered both basic genealogy and basic computing. The first suggestion was to join a computer user group and a genealogy society. The meeting times and places for both OCIPUG and the Orange County California Genealogy Society were in the handout.

In genealogy research, the place to start is with yourself and your immediate family, working backwards, generation by generation. The time to start is now, before valuable information is lost. Sometimes a tape recorder will intimidate older relatives, so also take notes. Question them about vari-

ous events that happened during their lifetime to jog their memories. Search family records such as: bible records, diaries, scrap books, photo albums, baby books, deeds, diplomas, newspaper clippings, obituary notices, and account books if your ancestors were in business.

Correspond with living relatives in your home-area by first writing a letter before calling, especially if they have not heard from you in many years. Most will not be interested in your genealogy project, but a brief letter explaining your goals will help. In the first letter compile a questionnaire, but keep your request short and to the point. Save the small talk for later when you phone them. Mail your letter in a # 10 envelope and enclose a stamped, self-addressed # 9 envelope for the reply. Telephone if a reply is not received in a reasonable time or to thank them and verify information that they may have sent. Most will not part with old photographs, therefore a trip to their homes to copy the photographs may be necessary at a later date.

Some time was given to a discussion of local sources of genealogical data. The addresses of the National Archives and Records Administration in Laguna Niguel and the LDS(Mormon) Regional Family History Center in the City of Orange were distributed. The Internet is an excellent source of genealogical data, and the December meeting will be an on-line demonstration of Internet sources.

The above discussion was followed by a discussion on which computers to buy - not necessarily the brand, but rather the functions the computer will be required to perform. We discussed Lap Top versus Desk Top and older DOS machines versus new Win 95 systems.

A brief discussion of genealogy database programs concluded the meeting with a more detailed coverage of these programs to follow at the January 1998 meeting.

In summary, the recommendations were: join OCIPUG, join OCCGS, acquire a computer, acquire software, start collecting data and enjoy!

The meeting opened with a Q&A period covering genealogy in general, genealogical data sources, genealogy programs, scanning and related topics.

Chris Hansen discussed dating of old photographs. Nearly all attendees agreed that they were as guilty as their ancestors in not marking photos with identification of those pictured — location, occasion and date. **Do Not** use a ballpoint pen to write on the back of photos — the impression comes through and marks the photo side. The Sanford Sharpie in fine or ultra fine point or similar pens are recommended.

It is usually possible to date a photo within a ten-year period by looking at clues as noted in *Unlocking the Secrets in Old Photographs* by Karen Frisch-Ripley, published by Ancestry:

People and Features in Photo — Birth and death date of subjects; location where photo was taken, clothing or uniform styles, furniture and architecture styles, lighting styles, transportation (cars, etc), and firearms.

Photo Types — Professional studio (cabinet photos) often were sepia or charcoal toned, thin photo mounted on cardboard, studio name embossed on photo and address frequently on the back (check city directory for dates of business).

Snapshots — These go back to the introduction of roll-film and inexpensive cameras (probably 1920's earliest), many snapshots in 1940's & 1950's had wavy edges, the borderless prints started in late 1960's or early 1970's, Polaroid photos were popular in the 1960's & 1970's.

Mixed media — Head photographed but clothing sketched.

Stereograph (3D cards) — Two identical photos and optical viewer.

Lantern slides — Glass transparencies, positive not negative.

Photo Postcards — Very popular photos from booth setup like current day mini-photos.

Film Types

Daguerreotypes (on copper plates) 1840 -

Internet Day

John Woolston

1860, Ambrotypes (wet glass negative) 1854 - 1881, Tintypes/Ferrotypes (emulsion coated metal) 1856 - 1920, Pannotypes (leather & oil cloth) 1854 - 1860, Calotypes/Talbotypes first negative/positive system (allowed multiple prints, poor detail), Albumin Prints (used egg white, salt and Silver Nitrate) first precoated paper.

Chris also discussed scanners & scanning.

Scanner Types

Hand scanner (small, about 4" wide, portable) — limited for practical purposes to snapshots or small (5" x 7" maximum) photos. "Stitching" of multiple passes on large photos is advertised but often is not too successful.

Page scanner (maximum scan size about 8.5" x 14") — New small units run photo around a cylinder and scan it. Cylinder may be removable (and used like hand scanner) for items that can't be fed through the normal path, e.g. large items or books.

Flat-bed scanner (maximum scan size limit about 8.5" x 14") — Office type device that looks like a small copier. This type is highly recommended, but may be quite expensive for a good one although prices are dropping rapidly.

Scanning techniques

Large portraits — Chris suggested that they be photographed and then a print made in a size dependent on the scanner being used, 5" x 7" is usually a good size, and scanned.

Bill Holder, an Orange County California Genealogy Society member, does this photographic copying and provides a negative and print. He can be reached at (714) 891-7421.

Small portraits - Scan these directly with a hand, page or flatbed scanner. Use a presentation folder with a clear acetate front cover to hold photos for hand-scanning. These are available at office supply stores for about \$1. Much cheaper than the \$25 ScanAlign tool. The bound edge of the acetate cover is used as a guide for your hand scanner. Use a paper with lines in the folder to properly align the photo. The clear acetate cover protects the photo from scratches.

We started out our November 11th meeting on Wednesday at 9:30 AM with random access questions, which covered a very informative discussion of Internet Service Providers and the Internet browser software. We also covered e-mail questions. This lively Q&A was led by Frank Disparte and Preston Hill.

David Yap demonstrated GeoCities Personal Home Page Program — How to build your own Personal Home Page. The following information is from Geocities Personal Home Page Program as it applies to David Yap's personal Home Page:

Your Member Name is: KH6ban

Your Neighborhood is: Silicon Valley/Lakes.

Your Address is : 1840

Your Current Password is: *****

The URL for your Personal Home Page is: <http://www.geocities.com/siliconvalley/lakes/1840>

To change your password use our editor at: <http://www.geocities.com/homestead/homeprof.html>

At this location you can also make all other changes to your account profile, including changing your member name and directory listing.

To begin building your personal home page, you may use one of three Home Page Editors, or you can submit your files to EZ File Upload Utility, or FTP. You can read about all of these features at: <http://www.geocities.com/homestead/>

The purpose of the free Personal Home Page Program is to give people the ability to create a home on the World Wide Web that reflects their interests, hobbies and background. For home page samples you can take a look at some of the other pages in GeoCities to get some ideas on creating your own home page.

Here are some important things to know about your GeoCities home page:

*They do not allow sponsorship banners or any link exchange type of banners in GeoCities, with the two sole exceptions of

the GeoCities GeoRewards program and the Internet Link Exchange. You can read about the Geocities GeoRewards program at: <http://www.geocities.com/georewards/>

*Your page must be personal in nature, and not commercial. For information about Commercial Page Program, Please go to: http://www.geocities.com/BHI?comm_info.html

Cable Modems Soor

Cable modems are nearly ready to explode across the country. And they are more ready since Microsoft invested \$1 billion in Comcast earlier this year.

Cable modems connect a PC to the Internet through the same coaxial wire or fiber-optic cable that delivers cable-TV programs. Cable lines have thousands of times more capacity (bandwidth) than telephone lines.

The actual speed you would get depends on several factors, including the type of PC and the current volume of traffic on the cable.

Cable companies say cable modem users can get up to 10 megabits per second (MBPS), which is 10 times the speed of most of the best corporate networks. In suburban Washington, DC users have reported 1 MBPS to 5 MBPS.

One of the problems currently is that cable modems are not yet standardized. Microsoft's deal with Comcast is an effort to push for a standard.

The lack of standards means PC makers don't yet build cable modems into computers. So cable companies currently charge about \$100 to send a technician to install the modem and the software in your system.

Watch for the situation to improve rapidly over the coming months. Please let us know if you get the service so we can write about it here.

Bits & Bytes Sept/Oct 1997
South Jersey IBMPC User's Group

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

November 24, 1997

A quorum being present, the meeting of the Executive Board of OCIPUG was called to order by President Preston Hill at the Resource Center, 1520 Brookhollow Drive, Suite #38, Santa Ana, California, at 7:05 p.m.

Officers present

Preston Hill	Tony Dopazo
Wayne Ali	Larry Pearce

Directors present

Richard Black	Chet Brisco
John Gallie	Richard Hunter
Chris Lloyd	Reg Roberts
Arlene Solomon	Dean Sowers
C. Edward Wolfe	

Absent: Ken Kamber, Alan Liebschutz

Guests: Dick Baznik, Red Davidson, Chris Hansen, Kevin Moser

Approval of Minutes

President Hill noted Jeanne Zepeda's name was misspelled. Tony Dopazo moved, seconded by Richard Hunter, that the minutes of October 27, 1997, be approved incorporating the change.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Ali reported on correspondence received. The resource center mail boxes now include the Property Committee.

Director Liaisons need to submit their lists of committee chairs and members.

Review of software received for evaluation. Tony Dopazo will log in the copies of Drive Image and Partition Magic. Drive Image will be delivered to the Editor for member review. Partition Magic will be retained for group use. Dean Sowers will handle.

Secretary Ali extended his thanks to Jody Ali, Morris Fier, and Dean Sowers for their assistance in preparing the Board package while he was at Comdex.

CFO/Treasurer's Report

CFO Pearce reported on our income and expenses to date. Garden of Eden is current in payment for advertising. Ed Miller

requested reimbursement for a non-budgeted SIG expense. Reimbursement will be from the contingency account. Thanks to Kevin Moser for his donation of \$5.17 to cover the expense.

We have successfully coordinated the replacement of our insurance carrier with no lapse in coverage or added expense.

Liaison Reports

Communications (Black) reports the Internetworking Committee needs a chairperson. Some interest was generated by the BBS posting.

Chet Brisco moved, seconded by C. Edward Wolfe, that the Web page be discontinued effective November 30, 1997, and that we explore alternative providers up to \$5.00 per month.

Discussion followed. Dean Sowers has the Web page information on our Resource Center server. Richard Hunter will download all of the page with all its links.

Mr. Brisco felt the Web page was more important than the BBS to maintain. Mr. Wolfe felt it was better to discontinue the page until staffing and a more affordable provider could be found. The motion carried. Richard Black will prepare a cancellation letter for President Hill's signature.

Special thanks to Bob Basaraba for all his work on the Web page. His personal workload precludes his ability to sustain his work on the Web page at this time.

Library (Bob Blakeley) reports 180 new freeware/shareware programs are available. Games, screen savers, utilities and more have been downloaded, scanned for viruses, and labeled to raise funds at \$2/disk or \$5 for 3 disks.

Membership (Hunter) reports he is pursuing a Membership Promotion chairperson. We need volunteers for the coming ACP swap meet. We have had no response from "Microtimes" or "Computer Currents" on placing OCIPUG in their user group listings.

Membership Accounting (Hansen) reported 17 renewals and 9 new members. About

one third of expiring memberships are not being renewed. John Gallie is working on member recruiting and retention.

Marketing Committee (Gallie) reported that he distributed our tri-fold fliers to his class members. Henry Gutentag will be joining the committee. Mr. Gallie thanked Richard Hunter for his support. Mr. Gallie is still working on the issue of additional tickets being made available for the General Meeting drawing. President Hill mentioned that fliers and newsletters were considered good advertising by attendees at the Association of PC User Groups meeting he attended at Comdex. Distribution of the tri-folds should be widespread.

New Member Kit - Mr. Dopazo reported Kevin Moser and he will complete the kit by December 1.

Facilities (Wolfe) reports Red Davidson and he are recruiting members to assist taking an inventory. Tony Dopazo is following up on recovering outstanding resource center keys.

Activities (Lloyd) reports he is working with the program committee to survey members for program topics. Our membership is mainly business oriented and novice users.

SIG Operations (Hill) is still looking for a chairperson. He plans a meeting of all SIG leaders in the future.

Outreach (Solomon) was asked by President Hill to prepare criteria for certificates of appreciation for Executive Board review.

Operations (Brisco) reports the By-laws committee has met and is preparing their report. Kevin Moser is now in charge of the Policy and Procedures committee.

Newsletter (Sowers) reports Richard Armenteros has resigned as Publications chair. Mr. Sowers will coordinate a meeting of the publications committee. Mr. Sowers will also coordinate a meeting on advertising to discuss some contacts he has made.

Bob Peringer, Mr. Sowers and Mr. Hill are investigating the number of Readme.Docs

Minutes and Article

to print. Mr. Hill discussed use of the Readme.Doc to advertise and recruit new members.

Committee Reports

BBS committee — Recognition was given to Dean Sowers for his work over the weekend to restore e-mail service. Our provider moved without giving us notice.

New Business

Richard Hunter moved, seconded by Tony Dopazo, to accept the revision 03 of the Policy and Procedure manual as posted on the BBS and incorporating any revisions approved by the Executive Board. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Edward Wolfe moved, seconded by Chris Lloyd, that OCIPUG acquire 2 copies of Visual dBASE 5.5 for club use in the most expedient and least costly way. Discussion followed on the use of the programs for inventory and membership accounting. OCIPUG committees could also check out the software for their use. The motion carried unanimously.

Chris Lloyd brought up the operation of a consignment table for books and unopened software. President Hill asked Mr. Lloyd to discuss the topic further with Bob Blakeley, Mr. Wolfe, and interim Program Chair Kirkpatrick.

Appointments

George Mefferd and Henry Guttentag were appointed to the Financial Review and Marketing committees respectively.

Jim Clymer has resigned because of heavy business workload and is hereby relieved as the Linux SIG leader and Webmaster on the Internetworking committee.

Richard Armenteros has resigned because of heavy business workload and is hereby relieved as Publications chair.

Adjournment

Richard Hunter moved, seconded by Tony Dopazo and carried, to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Board will be December 29, 1997, 7:00 p.m., at the Resource Center. Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Ali, Secretary

The Best Software Picks for Christmas

Continued from page 13

For those who loved Sid Meier's "Civilization II," (or those who have yet to discover this marvellous title) there is a phenomenal new add-on: "CIV II Fantastic Worlds." This is a true edutainment title: a game that teaches strategy painlessly. While "Civilization II" is based on historical earth, "CIV II Fantastic Worlds" is based on fantasy and science fiction: You can build a civilization on Atlantis or Mars, Camelot or your own mythical world. It includes 15 new scenarios—which become unlimited when you include your own with the custom scenario creation/editing tools at your disposal. Do note that "CIV II Fantastic Worlds" requires "Civilization II" in order to work—it is an add-on, rather than a complete game. If you don't have the original yet, you might want to get both. (Check them out at <http://www.microprose.com>).

Those like me who are a bit tired of the Tomagotchi craze might like "Creatures," a simulation by Mindscape, or "finfin" from Fujitsu. (Unlike Tomagotchi's, you can turn these off—without having wasted your money by killing it!) "Creatures" gives you a chance to raise a Norn, a fuzzy cross between a tribble, a squirrel, and a chimp. And, you're not just raising one but a whole—flock, school, herd? Anyway, you start out with just one, but you are not only parenting an independent critter with personality, you're learning genetic basics as well as you breed them for desirable traits. This was not designed as a game for little ones, though—you have to participate pretty actively in the "breeding" process. But if you've got an active teenager who is dying for a bevy of "virtual pets," this may be the way to go. (Look for this one at <http://www.creatures.mindscape.com>).

With "finfin," however, there's nothing to distress cautious parents, and you have "a pet that won't make a mess!" Using fancy artificial intelligence software, your "pet" exists in real time—experiencing day and night, changing seasons, and even bad weather! The neat thing about this program is that it is voice activated, so your "pet" will respond to your voice, obeying your

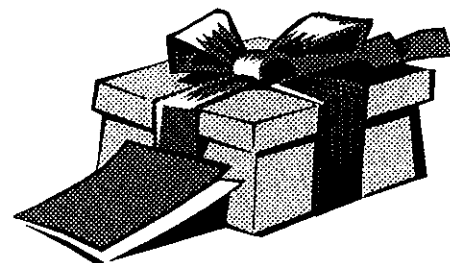
commands on the screen. (Yes, you have to teach the program to recognize your voice, but this is pretty easy to do and doesn't take much time.) There is also a "windowed" mode, in which—you guessed it—there is a window about 1/3 to 1/4 of the screen which lets you talk to your "pet" while working in other programs. (You can see a demo of this at <http://www.finfin.com>).

For the little ones, Microsoft has come out with a series that I hope they extend to older students as well. "My Personal Tutor" is geared for preschool to first grade. This title includes four separate CDs, and covers all the basics pretty well. What I especially liked is the fact that it keeps track of what your child knows well, and what he/she needs a little help with—and, not only does it keep track, but it explains the concept being taught in several ways, until the child can grasp it fully. Skills are built sequentially, so that instruction is targeted to be the most effective. This is truly designed to conform itself to your child's style of learning—rather than the other way around—with tons of storybooks, songs, and games to give your kids hours and hours of fun with learning. Microsoft is offering a free trial copy via the internet. Download it from <http://www.microsoft.com/mypersonaltutor/>.

Any of these titles would be a good choice this Christmas. And, as much fun as they combine with learning, none of them will be the "one-day wonders" all parents dread.

Teresa Compere Henry is the mother of three, the Educational Software Coordinator at Computer King in Knoxville, a dedicated Web surfer, and now an award winning columnist.

This article appeared in The PC REGISTER newsletter of the East Tennessee Computer Society. December, 1997



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C. Edward Wolfe	1999	646-5608

OCIPUG Information & Resources

Bulletin Board	751-3242
OCIPUG Information & Message Line	662-2939
OCIPUG Emergency Line	662-2539

People and Numbers to Know

(Subject to change)

Advertising	Tom Tersigni	546-2472
BBS Committee	Ed Miller	470-9319
Calendar Specialist	Maurie Seymour	633-2914
Community Outreach	Allen Ashley	537-4608
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* For numbers not listed above please contact:

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28 March 1998

Dr Aubrey Pilgrim—

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SIG Topics deadline to SIG Guide Coordinator is January 10, 1998
Please renew 45-60 days early to save costs of renewal notices. Check label for expiration date.

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