

Orange Coast IBM PC User Group

README.DOC

September 1998 Newsletter Version 14.09

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News, Reviews and OCIPUG Events

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The August 29, 1998 9:00 a.m. General Meeting will feature:

Caere — OmniPagePro
Optical Character Reader

Trellix — Trellix
One Step Web Publishing

Installation of Officers and Directors

The September 26, 1998 9:00 a.m. General Meeting will feature:

TechMedia — Computer Hardware Retailer

Micro 2000 — Solutions to Y2K problems



Membership Information

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Betty Johnson

Laura Smith

Paul Smith

Pam Warner

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.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDERS

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 to save your club the expense of mailing a renewal notice.

August

Jim Allen
Dale Bruckner
Dennis Carroll
Charles W. Cook
Floyd Craft
Richard De Lapp
Farrell Eagle
Jack W. Ellis
Allan Forster
Steven Garner
Andrew Gilcrest
Fred Haney
Alvin Hart
Roger Hartman
Rusty Hupy
Bill Krehbiel
Les Matson
Bob McCracken
Roger Norris
James Olsen
Ken Post
Ron Ross
Robert Schmiedeke
Jeff Sinn
Thomas Skudlarski
Carl St. John

Art Stolins
Bill Taylor
Herbert Tellefsen
Donald Testa
Larry Thomas
Patricia Thomas
Patrick Thomas
Chuck Trom
Robert Walker
Yoshimi Zemba

September

Gerald Bangert
Richard Baznik
Richard Bentley
Norma Borden
Dale Budlong
James Clymer
Norman Commodore
James Creager
Paul Dotterer
Viola Ellington
Gary Falagrady
Jim Hicks
Russell Hoffman
Robert Johnson

Hank Kunczewski
Gary Minnis
Margaret Morgan
Ralph Morgan
Richard Nelson
Tony Nikae
Franklin Olson
Joyce Scott
Jenny Weddle
Josephine Wilde
Yvonne Young
Joe Zebrowski

October

Silveus "Si" Baker
Richard Black
Edwin Breitenbach
Janet Brown
Jim Chambers
Olivia Chambers
Debbie Crowley
Cynthia Denzler
Fabian Denzler
Hanspeter Denzler
Rosmarie Denzler
John Donovan

Annabelle Farago
William Gerow
Herbert Huey
Roger Hughes
Jane Lancour
Linda Locke
Price Locke
Paul Melton
Sumiye Onodera
Carl Paulson
John Petrouski
Kenneth A. Pollock
William Singleton
Ronald Spear
Seymour Spiegel
Rolland Thomas, Jr.
Robert Uglesic
Carlos Varela
Barto Wash
Jonathan Wash
Megan Wash
Ruth Wash
Paul Watanabe
Sue Weber
Bruce Williams
C. Edward Wolfe
Frank Yaeger

September Program

Orange Coast Science Hall
September 26, 1998 8:30am

Chris Lloyd

Random Access	8:30
President's Message	9:00
Techmedia	9:15
Announcements	10:15
Break	10:30
Micro 2000	10:45
Drawing	11:45
Adjournment	12 noon

Techmedia

Techmedia Computer Systems Corp has been selling monitors and other computer products in the U.S. since 1994. Today the company assembles and sells desktop and laptop computers, monitors, CD-ROM kits, DVD-ROM kits, laptop computer accessories, and a 3-in-1 wireless 3D joystick and mouse called 3DZoneMaster. Beginning with sales of \$10 million in 1994 and more recently achieving over \$200 million in sales, the company is now opening retail stores in Southern California, Miami, and New Jersey. Called Techmedia Computer Direct, the stores offer on-site service and technicians available for quality customer support. Techmedia's president, Andrew Park, is also the proud recipient of the 1998 Entrepreneur of the Year Award in technology. The speakers will be Chris Petersen and Angelo Rubalcava.

Micro 2000 Y2K solution

Micro 2000 is noted for their trouble shooting software to diagnose computer hardware problems. Jason Ferris will present Micro 2000's Centurion Card, a seamless uninterruptable operation with a permanent solution to the Y2k problem. With the Centurion by Micro 2000, there will no longer be a concern about whether or not a system will continue with the proper date into and beyond the year 2000. The Centurion will allow any IBM compatible PC to continue

Jason will also present "The basic PC learning Course." This takes you thru the steps of upgrading, building and diagnosing your PC. This is for the beginner to the above average computer literate, or even illiterate, person. The course includes videos, a book and software.

162nd General Meeting Report

25 July 1998

Preston Hill

With the passing of our eminent icon, Harv Haight, we are missing his excellent summaries of activities at our General Meetings. As he was unable to prepare a report for the July meeting because of computer problems, I will attempt to fill his *big shoes* this time.

I missed much of the initial Q&A session so leave it to your memories and trust that you got your problems resolved thru the good services of Mike Springer and your colleagues. So on to our speakers.

John Goodman discussed How to Survive the On-coming Tsunami of New Information technology.

John gave us the Good News and the Bad News — The Bad News is that change is coming even faster than before. The Good News is that you can learn what's coming, position yourself safely, and even influence the trend. (I have enough trouble keeping up now. It seems the faster I go the farther behind I get.)

John explained what is an ocean tsunami (Japanese for great wave, or something like that) — often called a tidal wave. An earthquake, undersea volcano or landslide in the ocean depths pushes the water up to create a "small" disturbance (wave) that then travels at a high rate thru the ocean until it reaches the shallows. At that point the wave

now grows to tremendous heights (some cases over 60 feet) and crashes ashore to destroy everything in its path. On 17 July this year a volcano close to the New Guinea shore created a tsunami that wreaked havoc before the residents could flee, as reported on TV. Many times you can be warned minutes, or even hours, in advance. *Heed the warning and get inland to higher ground as fast as you can.*

For personal computers, information technology changes are usually well hidden in the laboratories (or garages) until suddenly sprung upon the unsuspecting computer user. Effects of such changes usually seem very minor — until just before the new technology hits the marketplace. What you don't know seems unimportant — a *BIG* mistake! What appears minor may prove to be catastrophic to you and the *big* guys.

How do you distinguish hype from *buzz*? To help, John reviewed technologies of the "good old days" and their *simplicity* with usually few choices of input/output (e.g., keyboard, monitor, printer) and processing (e.g., CPU, RAM) hardware. He then contrasted the "simple" old days with the flood of new peripheral devices, memory and storage systems, and a plethora of processors — new and faster ones appearing almost daily, it seems. In the near future (months perhaps), we will see voice activated systems becoming more effective and accurate. Will this finally mean the end of the typewriter? (I'll be lost after 67 years of finger action!)

John emphasized the radical change in society at all levels because of the advent of the Internet. A few short years ago, who dreamed that you could talk to someone anywhere in the world for the cost of a *local* phone call? And, voice and video via the Internet is fast approaching!

How do we cope instead of quietly (or screamingly) going mad? John advised us to make a point to know what is coming. Keep up with trade journals, newspapers, and (for a blatant plug) John's latest book written in collaboration with Peter Norton.

Continued on page 13

Articles

THE MYTH OF THE PAPERLESS OFFICE

A few years ago with the advent of a new generation of easy-to-use scanners, the media was trumpeting that the "paperless office" is now upon us. Our own guru, Michael Springer, even wrote a series of articles in README.DOC about setting up a scanner and a virtual electronic office. I get a chuckle thinking about the concept of a paperless office since I truly believe that it is only a myth! While we have made great strides in reducing paper in many areas, many of us generate more paper than before.

Whenever you write a letter or send a fax, the first thing you want to do is print out a copy. In fact if you are working on a long report, a large spreadsheet or an awesome presentation to upper management, you will make multiple printouts to check out your progress. Let's face it, we don't enjoy trying to read a 50-page report or a 5000 cell spreadsheet on the computer monitor. If you are like me, you can get bug-eyed from the experience. When you have completed your project and are ready to present it to others, you will most likely print out multiple copies so that everyone can enjoy your masterpiece.

Whenever my manager wants to look at my work, he tacitly wants to see a paper copy and not an e-mail or file sent to his computer. People like the feel of paper; it's solid and tangible. Whenever I complete a task, I get more satisfaction holding a paper copy in my hands than just knowing that the file is already on my computer. Believe me, I look forward to each issue of README.DOC so I can see how Herb's Hangout turned out.

Today, printers are selling in record numbers. The first peripheral that most people want after buying their computer system is a printer. In fact, many of us own a laser printer for good old inexpensive, black and white output and an ink-jet because we want color output. Most offices also can't survive without a fax and copier. All these machines require reams of specialized papers. I took a quick look at the OfficeMax catalog and found that the first 17 pages are entirely devoted to paper products. The paper industry is alive and well.

Most major newspapers have their own web-based editions. While it looks great on the

Herb's Hangout

Herb Huey



computer screen, I am sure my wife would never allow me to move my computer to the kitchen table to read the sports page. Even if I was allowed to place my laptop on the kitchen table, I don't think my laptop will survive a cup of spilled coffee. Anyway, it sure is hard to do the crossword puzzle in the learning laboratory from a laptop. What a laptop torture test that would be!

Internet access has provided a wealth of information at your fingertips. Just browse on the topic of your choice with some keywords and you can view dozens of items about your topic. You can save it on your computer but if you need the information right away you will most likely print it out. Get on a cool Web site with great color photos and you will most likely put that color ink-jet to work.

Many software developers have stopped printing thick paper manuals for their products. Remember when Microsoft was well known for the large amount of manuals that came with its software? Now most manuals are part of the software itself as Help files. Unfortunately, the result of this apparent shrinkage in paper use is the rise of the "How to Do" books cottage industry. I have multiple manuals on Windows NT and 95 as well as quite a few software applications. I've noticed that all these books occupy about 12 feet of precious shelf space.

Perhaps I don't fully understand the concept of the paperless office. I have two computers in my computer/den room. I have two

large bookcases completely filled with books and manuals. Magazines and paper piles are all around the room and the closet area contains filed papers and magazines. I do admire one tacit reason for having a paperless office. Important papers are sure easy to lose. Now where are my warranty papers for my camcorder? I got an idea for a future article in a magazine so I placed a Post-It in the pages but which magazine was it? Oh well, it seems to have disappeared. Perhaps I scanned it into the computer and filed it away. Now where is that file? Oh yeah, I stuck it in the G: drive but I just recently stuck it in the Recycle bin and emptied it. Funny, that sounds like paper terminology!

SIGNING OFF

While my daughter was with me, I bought her a new IBM Aptiva, powered by the AMD K6-2 3D Now Pentium II equivalent chip, from CompUSA. It is an impressive machine running at 300 MHz with 64 MB of SDRAM, 5.0 GB hard disk, 32X CD-ROM and a 56K voice/fax/modem. I added a parallel port Zip drive for a total price under \$1500. Since she will be a high school senior I bought her the Princeton Review SAT practice software, a college advisor CD-ROM and a book (with CD-ROM) about obtaining financial aid. I also included Microsoft Office 97 and a number of games to balance out her computer package. I also bought the three-year on-site extended warranty. If my daughter has a problem that can't be quickly resolved on the Help line then CompUSA will arrange an in-house appointment to diagnose and fix the problem.

Unfortunately, her mother and grandparents will not allow her to gain access to the Internet since they are afraid that she will hog up the phone line. I offered to pay for a year's Internet access to no avail. Her mother was also opposed to my buying her a new computer. She mentioned that a car would be a better use of the money. Fortunately, you won't hear about any OCIPUG members opposed to letting their children or grandchildren receive a new computer.

I have been using PointCast at work to keep track of the news, financial markets and weather. I just got around to downloading it on my home computer. You can click on the PointCast icon to receive information that

you can tailor to your interests. I also like to leave it running in the background as a tickertape. This is where cable modem shines since I don't hog up a telephone line. The software is free and can be downloaded from www.pointcast.com

As I was sending out this column, I learned that Harv Haight had passed away. As a fellow engineer, Harv once remarked that I was one of the few members that appreciated his Tech Tips column. I even took a few friendly jabs at Harv from Herb's Hangout. When I had some problems at work, Harv shared with me his insight and experience. I will miss him but at Harv's service his eldest son remarked that Harv is rolling up his sleeves and taking care of God's computers. That is the way I will always remember Harv Haight.

GUARDIAN ANGEL RECALLED

Richard Black

Have you ever heard of a software recall? Until recently I hadn't.

PowerQuest, maker of PartionMagic (version 4 is now in beta), Drive Image, and Guardian Angel among others, has recalled Guardian Angel. The official line is — only a few people may have problems, but they don't want to take chances.

I was first alerted to this by Gene Barlow, PowerQuest's user groups liaison. A few days later I received a letter from PQ User Groups Relations making it very official. There is a problem.

If you have experienced problems or have not yet installed Guardian Angel, it is suggested that you call the company to receive a refund and learn how to return the material. If you ordered Guardian Angel at the general meeting that Gene presented you probably have also received notice. In any case, be forewarned.

According to Mike Kunz, Project Marketing Manager at PQ, "Although the problems with Guardian Angel affect only a few of our us-

ers, they are serious enough that we felt it was necessary to recall the product. The most serious problem is that certain hardware drivers conflict with the Guardian Angel software causing the machine to lock up. If this happens, there is the possibility that you will need to reinstall your operating system. PowerQuest recommends that you not install the software until we have re-released it. In the meantime, you may arrange for a full refund of the purchase price by calling 1-800) 379-2566 or 801) 437-8900."

To the point. I like that. "We have a problem. We will correct it. If you have a problem with it, call us."

A recall with a full refund and a toll-free number to accomplish it. Amazing! Not only do they produce quality products, but they act like a quality company. "Ooops, we have a problem Captain." "Beam the product back and send them their money." In today's age that is very refreshing.

No, I do not work for nor do I have an interest in PowerQuest (other than their products). This is just one man's opinion. My feeling is, when you meet a company that makes quality products that you can use and that company takes full responsibility for problems, back that company. Software, hardware, computer related or not, I prefer the old fashion way "we make and back quality." That certainly beats some companies that are loaded with, but don't admit to having, bugs. They have "issues". Issues which can bring a computer to its knees.

ATTENTION MS OFFICE 97 USERS

Richard Black

Did you get the Free Enterprise Update? No? Tch Tch. If you haven't you may be in for a surprise someday, especially if you count on Excel to count.

I have talked with people who wouldn't, or couldn't, get the full update, but downloaded the SR-1 patch from MS's Web site. Better than nothing.

Just read an interesting article that suggests that, if you prefer to use the patch and if you are switching to Windows 98...Should I tell them? Hmmm.

O.K. If you prefer to use the patch and if you are switching to Windows 98, put the patch on BEFORE switching to Win 98. If you don't, the patch will NOT update Office and it will not tell you that it failed. Interesting! MS wrote the patch; MS wrote the new operating environment and the first won't work in the latter. But, B.G. still giggles to the bank.

Four solutions to the problem: (1) install the patch BEFORE installing Win 98; (2) uninstall and reinstall Office 97 then **immediately** apply the patch; (3) get the Enterprise Update (which still calls for uninstalling 97 then installing the update.); (4) don't "upgrade" to Win 98.

Here's a Catch 22: MS apparently has included a warning in two text files that come with Win 98; general.txt and programs.txt. Problem is that the files are available only after Win 98 is installed. If you have installed Win 98 check out the files.

Sure there is more. But why ruin a nice day? For information on getting the Enterprise Update, check out: www.mcc.au/xsr1/getting.htm.

To directly order Enterprise Update SR-1 call MS at 1-800) 370-9272. Have the original disks handy; you will need the key number to prove ownership of Office 97. Enterprise Update is/was absolutely free, including shipping/handling costs, and is the same product you would get if you purchased Office 97 today.

If you are not using Office 97, forget everything above. It isn't relevant to you. If you are using Office 97 get Enterprise Update SR-1. Accept no substitutes if possible.

If you are considering installing Win 98 and you are using Office 97, patch first!

The above information came from Woody's Office Watch, a free weekly epistle. Check out www.wopr.com/ for information.

Reminder: SR-2 is coming soon (within a few weeks). SR-2 installs over SR-1. One is needed for two.

Have a nice day.

KEN'S KORNER

Design Do's & Don'ts--How to Look Good in Print

Ken Fermoye

Some people seem to think that making print material look good means getting fancy with design tricks, fonts and splashy graphics. Not true! Especially when you aren't a trained experienced professional. Often, as in so many areas, less is more, simpler is usually better than complex. This is certainly true for those who now have impressive publishing tools as close as their computer keyboards, but have not been schooled or worked professionally as designers or layout artists.

These thoughts surfaced recently while preparing for a Desktop Publishing/Word Processing SIG meeting of my home group (TUGNET, in California's San Fernando Valley). They were solidified by comments made and questions asked during the session, which also covered many of the basics of designing for print. I decided to consolidate those basics into a sort of "Ten Commandments of Design" and share them with you.

I've synthesized the following do's & don'ts from years of experience in publishing and many sources, including *Looking Good in Print*, a classic book on the subject by Roger C. Parker (Ventana Press). Thanks also to Nancy Cottrell, editor of *The MUG Monitor* (Macon PC Users Group) and partner in Cottrell Computer Services, who generously shared with me a presentation of the same name.

Most of these fundamentals apply to Web publishing as well as to printed material.

1. Don't use more than two different typefaces in a given document or publication. For variety, use different sizes (10, 12, 14 point, etc.), weights (light, regular, bold or heavy), and styles (normal or roman, italic, bold, small caps, and drop caps). Experts often recommend using a serif face (e.g., Times Roman or Garamond) for body copy, a sans-serif face (e.g., Helvetica or Arial) for headlines, subheads and captions.

2. Don't use underlines except in very special cases. Underlining was one of the few means we had to emphasize words or phrases with typewriters. Now we can use italics, boldface or small caps for emphasis, and so we should.

3. Do be very careful of overprinting type on a colored background, or reversing type out of a colored tint block. Light blue type overprinted on a dark blue or black background won't cut it; too hard to read. Type reversed out of a background should be in a very light color or, preferably, white. Strong, bold, sans-serif faces work best.

4. Don't try to cram too much material onto a page. White (or negative) space is a valuable design tool; use it well. That means allowing adequate margins and gutters (the space between columns) as well as leading (space between lines). It is very important to keep spacing consistent! Uneven spacing between heads and body copy, or between paragraphs, can be distracting to a reader.

5. Do use lead-ins, subheads and lift (sometimes called pull quotes") paragraphs liberally to break up large blocks of type. Subheads and short summaries or lead-ins can provide a transition between headlines and body copy. Subheads also break up body text into sections, and identify the subject of those sections. Lift paragraphs consist of text pulled from the body copy and placed in a screened box or between rules, usually in a font heavier or otherwise distinct from the body type, to break up a "gray" page.

6. Do eliminate widows and orphans. Widows are very short lines, one or two words, at the bottom of a paragraph. Orphans are shortlines at the top of a column. Usually minor editing, adding or cutting a few words will eliminate the line or pad it out to almost full column width.

7. Do use clipart and other graphics to brighten up your pages, but don't go crazy with such art. The old "too much of a good thing" adage definitely applies here. You also want to be consistent with your art. Cartoonish clipart may clash with straightforward line drawings or illustrations when

used on the same page or in the same section. It's usually pretty obvious even to non-designers when art styles don't blend well.

8. Do not use photos unless they are of good quality and you're sure they will reproduce well in the print medium you use. They don't work well in newsletters or fliers that are run off on copiers, for example.

9. Do reduce hyphens to a minimum, even if this means overriding the automatic hyphenation performed by your publishing or word processing program. Just as in the case of widows, orphans and rivers (see below), a bit of judicious editing will solve the problem.

10. Do watch for "rivers" in your body text. These are areas of white space that run vertically through body copy on your pages. (These are far more common today than in the old "hot type" days when experienced linotype operators produced most body text.) They are very obvious, unprofessional and distracting to readers, so avoid rivers like the plague.

These very basic rules of thumb apply to everything from simple letters to newsletters and books. They really are quite simple to follow, even for novices, but they will give your work a professional look.

One last piece of advice: when you're agonizing over the design of a document or publication, remember the old KISS motto...Keep It Simple, Stupid! It works for me.

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Shareware "4" U

Bev & Bob Blakeley

Drop by the Library table to look at hard-to-find freeware and shareware programs. If you are looking for a specific program, we may be able to help you get it.

ALL files are checked twice for viruses to ensure that disks you get are virus free. Watch for this column each month with new programs for you.

Magic Folders: Lets you choose any folder on your hard drive and make it, and all that it contains, invisible at the push of a button.

Thanatos 3D: An action shoot-em-up game that features 360-degree attacks. As the hero, you must find the five magic crystals that will give you the power to defeat the Mad Magician.

Cyber Kit: It will provide you with just about everything you need to find and retrieve information about routes, servers, DNS, and more. It includes Ping, Trace Route, Finger, Whole, Quote of the Day, Name Server Look Up, Time Synchronizer, DB Scanner, Check for New Mail, and Alive — all in one easy-to-use interface.

Reptile: Make tiled backgrounds with textures. The images, animations, bordered sets and text can be quickly and easily incorporated into Web pages, PC desktops, and more. Super wide range of creative modifications that you can make to over 100 preset textures with random noise and shapes — or even with other graphics.

Yahoo! Pager: Pager offered as a free service. Provides its users with the standard features and other options that you might find in others.

Hot Dog: A fast, flexible friendly way of creating HTML documents and for publishing on the Web. Powerful features, pricing and support for all HTML. Highly rated around the world.

Photovision Pro: An image manipulation, conversion, compression, slide show, and screen capture program. Fifty special effects, including emboss, postize, mosaic, etc. Draw shapes or images with great control over brightness, hue, palette, and every element of image effects.

Win Dates: A graphically appealing, easy-to-use Windows 95/NT reminder program, alarm function, and monthly calendar. Program all your important dates and times and then relax.

Geo USA: An educational program intended for grade school children to adults. It teaches and tests U.S. geography knowledge in a visual way.

The Deals Guy

Bob Click

Greater Orlando Computer User Group

[Editor's note: Because the August Readme.Doc was space limited, Mr. Click's article was omitted. With apologies to Mr. Click, I have excerpted here a few items from that column that are still operant.]

Fresh back from PC Expo/APCUG/Intergalactic events, and while PC Expo was not what I expected, the user group events were fun as always. It was great to see friends that I only see at those events. I saw nine club newsletters, and worse yet, I was only printed in two of them. Looks like I have a bad average in the northeast.

It was a good show with lots of vendors but not the best for me. Like Las Vegas Comdex, it was not cheap. My hotel bill alone was \$820.00. I thought PC Expo was retail oriented, but soon found that the ads you see are correct when they say it's a corporate show. Most vendors I spoke to with interesting products were not interested in talking unless I was buying 1000 pieces. However, I found a few who would talk to me. That doesn't mean I didn't enjoy the show, though.

Adobe Specials — Every user group should have gotten this one.

Adobe PhotoDeluxe Business Edition (Windows) - \$69.00 (a new item); Adobe PhotoDeluxe 2.0 (Windows/Mac)- \$39.00; Adobe PageMill 2.0 (Mac) - \$69.00; Adobe PageMill 3.0 (Windows) - \$69.00; Adobe Art Explorer 1.1 (Mac) - \$19.00; Adobe HomePublisher 2.1 (Mac) - \$39.00; and

Adobe Type Twister 1.0 (Windows/Mac) - \$19.00. To order call 1-800-888-6293 and mention offer #35701. Offer is ongoing. Contact Louise Miller at Adobe if your club didn't receive them.

Microsoft NetShow Player — Speedup your NetShow.

I had mixed feelings about this one but I'll pass it on anyway. Most of you know you can download Microsoft NetShow Player version 2.0, a streaming multimedia playback utility, absolutely free at:

<<http://www.microsoft.com/nctshow>>. How would you like to give it a boost?

Video Express from ImageMind Software, using streaming technology, allows immediate playback via MS Netshow, with no file attachments and no waiting for long file downloads. The message actually arrives as a radio or TV broadcast as it arrives across the Internet. It includes all the software tools necessary to prepare and send voice or video e-mail messages using sound capabilities already built into most PC systems and widely available video capture devices. Easily record a Video Express message and send just like normal e-mail. While a standard e-mail message goes to the recipient, Video Express automatically uploads the multimedia portion to its own dedicated server on the Internet for temporary storage.

When the recipients check their e-mail, an embedded link automatically accesses and plays back streaming messages using their own Web Browser and the MS Netshow Player version 2.0. There's more and you can check it out at:
<<http://www.imagemind.com>>.

Video Express is fully compatible with all popular e-mail client packages, including America Online and Compuserve. Download from the Web site and user group members can get it for \$59.95 (\$20 off) for a limited time. ImageMind Software can be contacted at 1-801-355-2122, or <sales@imagemind.com>.

Aladdin Systems — user group specials.

"FlashBack." (Windows and Mac). Just FlashBack a file and it's protected against accidental deletion, file corruption, and the most common forms of data loss - hitting the save key and overwriting the file. FlashBack not only recovers lost or damaged files, but also recovers previous versions of files that have been changed weeks, or even months prior. Works on any file and they claim it saves disk space. Lots more description. UG special price, \$49.95.

"Private File" (Windows & Mac) is the world's easiest file protection. Just drag and drop to protect your sensitive files, or select the files and click on a menu item. So easy! You'll be prompted for a password when you encrypt or decrypt. (Now to remember the passwords!) Uses a special technology for up to 90% compression. With Private File you can legally send your encrypted data overseas and use the government approved export version of Private File. (The export version can decode files created with the US version of Private File.) Perhaps we can look at those Russian files now. Price, \$39.95.

Do you buy computer books?

This may not work for you, or you may already have a good place to buy books at a discount, but there was a bookstore at PC Expo that offers book discounts ranging from 20% to 90%. They had about anything you could think of.

"PC Mania" has over 10,000 titles in stock and 50,000 titles available. It would seem that if they don't have it, you don't need it. Mention the column and they will give you an additional 10% off. I would mention the column after you see the price for what you want.

Order or inquire toll free at 1-877)4PC-BOOK. They say they also specialize in computers and software, but they didn't have any computers at the show and I didn't check the software. See their Web site at <<http://www.usapcmania.com>> or visit their store if you are in New York at 109 W. 14th St, NYC, NY 10011.

The Deals Guy

Bob Click

Greater Orlando Computer User Group

Siggraph was held in Orlando this year and I checked out the exhibits. If you've never attended Siggraph, you've missed a great show. It's a big show, big or bigger than PC Expo, and better than Spring Comdex. This show doesn't offer much affordable product for the home user because it's more for advanced graphics people and video productions. Lots of animation stuff.

Interesting presentations abound. Among the unusual booths for a computer show was a different kind of scanner. Place a model of whatever you like in it and the scanner has a small needle (looked like a laser) hanging down that "feels" the model, sending data to the computer making a 3-D file to work with. It was fascinating. I used to work on a milling machine (called a Cincinnati Hydrotel) with an attachment very much like it, only much bigger, that was used to guide it when machining dies.

Next to the scanner was a very small computer-controlled milling machine that could use the file to actually machine a replica out of certain kinds of plastic. You could modify the size, or invert the model to make a cavity instead of the model. I thought those machines were amazing when I first saw them in the '50s hydraulically controlled, but things have changed for the better.

If your club has a good treasury, I saw a good investment for you. A flight simulator hydraulically controlled that you could install in a mall and sell rides in it. Only \$86,000 and the CEO said it could make you \$100,000 a year. I wonder if he was prejudiced when he said that, but I do have his name.

Animation products were shown where a person wears a suit with sensors all over it that transfers their movements to the actors on your computer screen. How about a CD duplicator for a mere \$7,000 to make the backup of your CDs...well, perhaps that's overkill. I never did see the movie in the Silicon Graphics booth. It was a VERY large booth (one of the biggest there) and the line was all the way around it.

Siggraph was six days, but the exhibits only ran for three. Not long enough since the crowd was larger on the third day than on the first. I kept going all day and had to skim right along in order to see the whole show, stopping at very few booths to talk. I went back another day to browse some more. I highly recommend taking in Siggraph if you can one of these years. It's in LA next year. Actually, a number of booths did have animation software and other products that were affordable to you and me. For example, the show special on Calgari's "TrueSpace" was only \$495.00 (Ahem) and the Hash Inc.'s "Animation Master" special was \$175, but the expensive stuff was the most interesting to see.

My regrets for misleading you on the WordPerfect Magazine. When Abbey Bray e-mailed me about the correct information, I wish she, rather than my readers, could have told me the Magazine was going under. I hope nobody took a subscription as a result of my column and lost their money.

Another problem cropped up in last month's article. The Web site for PC Mania's book store wasn't accessible. I forgot to check it before leaving town. After E-mail from a couple of readers I tried calling the store's phone number, with no answer. I wrote them and the guy called. Seems the Web site was a problem because of so many book titles and products, delaying its development. He said it should be up and running by September. It is <www.usapcmania.com>. He couldn't understand why I didn't get an answer on 1-877)4PC-BOOK (toll free), but it does work now. An alternate number is 1-212)627-3171.

Don't forget the DeLorme offer expires September 30, 1998. Call Delorme at 1-800)452-5931 or 1-207)846-7000 and mention code LM 124. Their Web site is <<http://www.delorme.com>>.

The \$50 mail-in rebate on Micrografx Webtricity is no longer good. The coupon was only available at Webtricity presentations, and that tour is over.

This is a slow deals month. Most of the vendors I contacted after PC Expo did not return my call, or are not interested in what I

do. One offered to pay me for writing it up, but no special deals. He hung up when I said I didn't do the column for money and the column was only for special deals. At any rate, here are some bits and pieces I found interesting.

VTuner — Free Radio Tuner.

I'm sure you net-surfers know it's possible to listen to the radio on the Web. However, it's often hard to find something you might like. "Nothing Else Matters Software" has developed "VTuner", which enables users to find, sort, organize and enjoy radio stations easier.

With its own list of radio stations on your desktop, there is no need to browse the Web, and your antenna is the Internet. Best of all, VTuner is FREE and essentially a live radio browser. You can search by location, language, format or key word. Listen to your radio and view streaming video broadcasts right from your own PC.

TUCOWS (a popular downloading Web site) gave it five cows and ZD Net included it as one of 50 Fab Internet downloads. Go to <www.vtuner.com> or <www.vtuner.com/travel> to download it. I have not gotten mine up and running as yet, but have not had much time to see what's wrong.

IDT Centaur WinChip

Many clubs (including OCIPUG) are testing the motherboard and Centaur 200 MHz chip evaluation unit from Mike Bruzzone. I spoke to Mike concerning my last write-up about the products offered and he said prices are better than ever. I suggest your group get a new price list from Mike by calling 1-800) 369-7514.

Corel — Senior Citizen Deals

Not many know that people working in education have a great perk the rest of us don't have. Academic prices on software! If you are a teacher, student or faculty member (that could even include the janitor), you are entitled to great prices on software. Colleges often have a computer store that offers educational prices to educators.

Let's carry this discount one step further. Corel not only offers the academic discount to educators, but also to senior citizens 65 or older. I'm not sure if all "college computer stores" participate in that discount, but you can check it out if one is nearby.

If not, and perhaps easier, you can order Corel products at academic prices from Egghead's "Surplus Software" catalogue 1-800) 753-7877. Their "qualifier" for academic prices includes senior citizens, hospitals, accredited schools, students, supervisory institutions, libraries, museums, nonprofit institutions (like my household) and correctional institutions. (Home is where I get corrected!)

Basically, qualified people must fax a letter with the name of the school or institution, and your name, to qualify for purchases. Seniors must fax a copy of their identification showing they are 65 or older to order. There are other products for educators, so call and get their catalogue. The rest of the catalogue used to be better before Egghead bought it. Be aware that academic software has no manuals, just the CDs.

Foreign language instructional CDs.

If you were planning a trip to a foreign country, wouldn't it be nice if you had just enough knowledge of their language to at least get along better. I saw these at PC Expo, but the Company is in Great Britain. I was referred to Gessler Publishing, the distributor in the US, who assisted with my request.

Trying to learn a complete language would be murder. (How long did it take you to learn your own language?) But if you only have to learn enough to get by, you just might accomplish it. That's where these CDs come in.

"Talk Now" is a language learning product to teach English, Spanish, French or German suitable for teaching students of any age. A fast-paced vocabulary-building game with first words, phrases, food, numbers, time and shopping terms. A record option compares student and native speaker pronunciations. Quiz sections in varying degrees of difficulty.

Normally \$44.95, my column readers get it for \$40.00.

"Word Action" is available in English, Spanish or French, and is an interactive language dictionary with video clips to teach hard-to-comprehend verbs such as "bounce" and "run". Build vocabulary using digital video, graphics and sound. Designed for FLES and beginning language speakers. Word Action is a 700-word multimedia graphic dictionary of common nouns, verbs, adjectives and prepositions. Graphics are full-color photographs and user-controlled digital videos. There's more. Normally \$29.95, column readers get it for \$26.95.

"Children's Classics" is a CD-ROM containing multi-lingual capabilities: French, Spanish and German. Enhance reading and listening, comprehension and vocabulary with classic fairy tale stories. Three per volume, multilingual format, in two modes: one where students listen to native speakers and one where students read the story and choose to record/play their voices. Built-in glossary plus writing activities. Exciting games with each story. Normally \$19.95, you get it for \$17.95.

I was a bit disappointed in the discounts, but actually, even the retail prices aren't bad. Shipping is \$4.95 regardless of quantity. Gessler has other products and languages, but only the ones I have listed are available at discounted prices right now. Interested people should call 1-800) 456-5825 to order or ask questions, and don't forget to mention the column.

Goodbye for now. You can reach me via my FAX 1-407) 382-2781 or send e-mail to <dealsguy@mindspring.com>. Meet me here next month to see what else is new. Bob (The Cheapskate) Click.

Products for Review

PRODUCTS FOR REVIEW

Norm Bergman

The products listed below have been received by OCIPUG for evaluation by qualified members. Contact the Editor if you want to evaluate any of these products. Also, please let the Editor know of any products that you think we should review and the Editor will try to get them. The reviewer should recognize the wide range of interests of club members and, if the product does not coincide with the reviewer's own interests, promptly return the product to the Editor for reassignment.

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. Upon submitting a satisfactory review article to the Editor, the registration materials and product will become the member's personal property.

A balanced evaluation should point out the product's good points as well as its shortcomings. The reviewer agrees to observe OCIPUG's rules and will not share software or other products with others. The reviewer will be given a copy of Guidelines for Product Reviews to assist in preparing the report.

If the reviewer will be unable to complete a review as scheduled and agreed, the materials must be returned to the Editor or any OCIPUG officer or director, or other arrangements made with the Editor. Returned product will become available for review by others.

The following product is available for review. Please contact the Editor if you would like to be considered as a reviewer of the material described below.

Be sure to ask about the computer requirements for the software. Most of these require a CD-ROM drive and some require Win95 or later, or 32bit systems.

1. G & A Imaging: **PhotoRecall**. An image management system that creates "virtual" photo albums and catalogs images
2. Lotus: **ScreenCam2** Adds captions and voice to presentations and records "movies" of on screen activity.
3. MGI Software: **MGI VideoWave 4.0** Capture video and images, do special effects, add narration and sound effects.
4. PowerQuest: **Power Tools** Two copies available. Thirty day trial of PartitionMagic, Drive Image and DriveCopy.
5. McAfee: **WebScanX** Protects against viruses from the Internet.
6. askSam Systems: **askSam database** Import files from Internet, simplifies using a database, fast search capability. Manage and retrieve unstructured text. Organize with Hypertext links and bookmarks.
7. Globalink: **Language Assistant, Spanish and Portugese** Translates text to/from English
8. Globalink: **Language Assistant, French, German and Italian** Translates text to/from English.
9. Globalink: **Web Translator** A browser for translating Spanish, French and German sites into English.
10. Qualcomm: **Eudora Pro Communication Center** Receive faxes and voicemail over the Internet. Pages, collects and manages mail.
11. Mijenix: **ZipMagic98** Use zip files without unzipping, save disk space web and e-mail features.
12. Mijenix: **PowerDesk Utilities98** An alternative desktop to Win95. Move, copy, zip and view files and many other utilities.

AUCTION

31 October General Meeting

A sample of items on hand as of 10 August include:

- Mijenix — PowerDesk 98, ZipMagic 98, FreeSpace
- Touchstone — NetOptimizer
- IDT Centaur Technology — WinChip C6 CPUs and Motherboards

Items received by 5 September will be listed in detail in the October *Readme.Doc*, on the BBS, and (we hope) on our new Web page. Items received after 5 September will be listed in detail in the November *Readme.Doc*, on the BBS, and on our Web page.

Special Interest Group

Guide



OCIPUG

Orange Coast IBM
PC User Group

MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 1998

MEMBERSHIP • MEETING INFO

Voice Hotline 662-2939
BBS 751-3242

RESOURCE CENTER

1520 Brookhollow Drive Suite #38
Santa Ana, California

OUR MAILING ADDRESS

Orange Coast IBM PC User Group
2973 Harbor Blvd. Box 621
Costa Mesa, CA 92626-3934

S E P T E M B E R	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	23	24	25 BBS Committee B 6 BBS Workshop E 7 Pers. Finance A 7	26 dBase A 7 Network B 7	27 Dig. Photog. & Scanning A 7	28 OS/2 Warp Connect A 7	29 General Meeting OCC - 9 am Science Hall Program Comm. OCC - 1:30 pm BBS Workshop E 1
	30	31 Executive Board Meeting A 7	1 Publications Committee A 7 Windows NT Workstation B 7	2 Genealogy A 7	3 Internet & Web Page Design A 9:30am DeskTop Publishing No Meeting	4 Deadline for OCT. Readme.doc	5 BBS Workshop E 9 New User/ New Mem. A 9
	6 Computerized Sewing Discontinued	7 Labor Day WordPerfect No Meeting	8 BBS Committee B 6 BBS Workshop E 7 Modem A 7	9 Investing A 7	10 Microsoft Office A 7	11 Internet A 7	12 BBS Workshop E 9
	13	14 Windows 95/98 A 7	15 Networking A 7	16 Windows 3.1 A 7	17 Genealogy II A 1 Now, What Do I Do? A 7	18 Hardware B 7	19 BBS Workshop E 9 3D Studio A 10
	20	21 SCOUG A & B 7	22 BBS Committee B 6 BBS Workshop E 7 Pers. Finance A 7	23 dBase A 7 Network Meets 9/15	24 Dig. Photog. & Scanning A 7	25 OS/2 A 7	26 General Meeting OCC - 9 am Science Hall Program Comm. OCC - 1:30 pm BBS Workshop E 1
	27 ACP Swapmeet	28 Executive Board Meeting A 7	29	30	1 Internet & Web Page Design A 9:30am DeskTop Publishing No Meeting	2	3 New User/ New Mem. A 9 BBS Workshop E 9

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

Hotline 662-2939
BBS Bulletin #5 751-3242

To donate funds and/or equipment for our Resource Center, call:
Facilities Improvement and Maintenance Committee Chairman Red Davidson, at 548-0413

Visitors are *always* welcome, please join us!

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 at the OCIPUG RESOURCE CENTER

3D Studio

3rd Sat Sep 19
10:00AM Room A

Leader: John Hostick 714-731-8873

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

Computerized Sewing

2nd Sun Sep 13
No meeting

Leader: Bev Blakeley 714-549-0958
Leader: Donna Springer 714-848-0304

SIG discontinued for lack of interest.

dBASE

4th Wed Sep 23
7:00PM Room A

Leader: Max Lockie 949-720-8170
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 Sep 3
No meeting Room A

Leader: Charles Schreiber 714-377-0439
Leader: John Donan 714-633-6616

No meeting as leader will be out of town. A new leader is needed.

Digital Photog/Scanning

4th Thu Sep 24
7:00PM Room A

Leader: Rex Sutton 949-786-5862

Explore and demonstrate the use of digital cameras and scanners to process images.

DOS and Utilities

1st Sat Sep 5
No meeting

Leader: Ed Miller 949-470-9319
Leader: Richard Black 714-536-0036
Guru: John Goodman 714-537-6400

SIG discontinued for lack of interest.

Genealogy

1st Wed Sep 2
7:00PM Room A

Leader: Stan Sabin 714-968-7307

We will cover the various methods of transferring information from one computer genealogy program to another. We will review the methods you can use in the major genealogy programs such as AncestralQuest, Family Tree Maker, Legacy, PAF and Family Heritage Deluxe. Also, we will cover Tips & Tricks for Windows 95/98 and problem solving in various genealogy programs.

Genealogy II

3rd Thu Sep 17
1:00PM Room A

Leader: Chris Hansen 714-637-0102

Where do I start? A discussion of basic genealogy, genealogy programs and computers. Also, a review of the new Family Tree Maker 5.0 genealogy program.

Hardware

3rd Fri Sep 18
7:00PM Room A

Leader: Leader needed
Leader: David Yap 714-847-1517

NOTE NEW DATE-TIME:

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 Sep 11
7:00PM Room A

Leader: Michael Moore 714-536-0608
Leader: Preston Hill 714-893-2403

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 & Web Design

1st Thu Sep 3
9:30AM Room A

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

We will continue to understand Netscape Communicator with in-depth on-line demonstrations of advanced features, including support of Web-Page design. Bring your tips, tricks and problems to share.

Investing

2nd Wed Sep 9
7:00PM Room A

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

We will discuss how to value stocks.

Microsoft Office

2nd Thu Sep 10
7:00PM Room A

Leader: Ken Kamber 714-637-4496
Leader: Louise McCain 714-434-0784
Leader: Alan Liebschutz 949-859-5815

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

Modem

2nd Tue Sep 8
7:00PM Room A

Leader: Kim Kymlicka 949-495-1319
Leader: David Yap 714-847-1517
Guru: Michael Springer

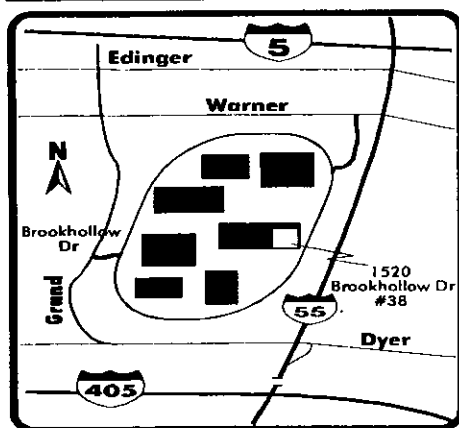
An extensive opening Q&A session is followed by discussion of special features of modems, especially as pertain to connecting to the OCIPUG BBS and to the Internet. Call SIG Leader for specific topics and details.

Network

4th Wed Sep 23
No meeting Room A

NOTE: Realigned, see NETWORKING.

SIGs OS/2 and Network are realigned into Networking - meeting on 9/15



Resource Center

Most evening SIGs are held from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at our SIG space:
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: 662-2939
OCIPUG BBS: 751-3242

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
2973 Harbor Blvd. #621
Costa Mesa, CA 92626-3934

To request more information, call: 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, 751-3242, which runs at speeds up to 28.8K bps, which 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

2973 Harbor Blvd #621
Costa Mesa, CA 92626-3934

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 (U-grad 12 units; grad 6 units)	\$25.00	\$ _____
Donation		\$ _____

Have you been a member of OCIPUG before? _____
If so, what was your membership number? _____
I heard about OCIPUG from: _____
I consider my skill level to be:
Beginner Intermediate Advanced (Circle one)

Total Amount Paid: \$ _____

GRAPHICS PROGRAMMING BLACK BOOK, SPECIAL EDITION

John McCrickerd

A richly packed graphics programming book by *Michael Abrash*.

Each of the 70 chapters in this fat book is a magazine article from a sequence that Abrash wrote over a period of ten years for Doctor Dobb's Journal and for other publications. The book's CD-ROM also contains copies of Abrash's other three books: *Zen of Graphics Programming*, *Zen of Code Optimization*, and *Zen of Assembly Language*.

Windows and Windows 95 aren't discussed. This book, on one level certainly, is about writing fast-running assembly code. Abrash, whose wealth of experience includes working on games such as id Software's Quake video game, clearly is an expert at programming. Still, you don't have to be an assembly programmer to appreciate his book.

Maybe half of the book's collective page area is covered with code, some of it in C language, but most of it in assembly language. The code is amply commented. And the CD-ROM has all the code for you to try out if you're so inclined.

A typical chapter begins with a page or more of anecdotes about the author's workaday life, which gives the book a friendly tone. Then there's a few pages of technical discussion, and then a mass of code, often followed by more discussion. I didn't read the code, so that probably cuts the book length in half, effectively, to start with. I needed that.

I'm not much interested in writing assembly code, so I was wondering about the book's relevance to the Windows world and to graphics programming generally. But much of the first half of the book delves into the pre-Pentium Intel processor details, which I hope shouldn't deeply concern a Windows programmer, so I skip much of that, for now

at least.

Chapter 3 discusses the Zen Timer, which is Abrash's program to measure run-time phenomena, amazingly to do it with microsecond precision. Very impressive. This could be useful for measuring time-critical things that need to be repeated many times, such as setting thousands of pixel values during each video frame, if you ever have reason to work at that level of detail.

Some of the topics later in the book are quite stimulating. I'll mention just a few.

There's an undocumented video mode which the author named Mode X. It allows page-flipping and has been very important for some games that use VGA video. Only I'm not sure whether I should be concerned with Mode X if I'm using a more advanced platform. Abrash also covers dirty-rectangle animation, just in case you won't be using page-flipping.

There's lots and lots of valuable information here, but although it's pretty clearly written, the book isn't well designed to help the reader get his bearings. This is a shortcoming of the magazine article format, which seems to dictate that the book be segmented into 70 predetermined chapters which can each stand alone to a large degree.

Take chapters 24 through 28, for example. For comparison, Richard Wilton, in his Microsoft Press book about PC video systems, introduces the reader to four VGA write modes in fewer than ten pages which contain six detailed drawings right alongside the text. Abrash's treatment of similar material is richer and more explanatory in some respects than Wilton's and extends over more than 40 or 50 pages and four or five chapters, depending on what pages you count, while his drawings in this case lack bit-wise detail, have minimal captions, and tend to be separated from the related text because the text is so extensive.

I enjoyed reading about concepts that weren't hardware specific. For example, there's Wu's fast algorithm for antialiased lines that, from a computational viewpoint, is intuitively comfortable. For a more scien-

tifically thoughtful approach, perhaps you'll also want to refer to Foley and Van Dam's well known books on computer graphics. But Wu's algorithm, which Abrash presents, is something that any reader can readily appreciate.

The book also covers basic topics such as Bresenham's line-drawing algorithm. In that particular case, the author gives more verbally explanatory, and less heavily code-style, explanations than Foley and Van Dam provide. Incidentally, none of these authors seriously explores how to invent such algorithms, only how to apply them. If you're looking to explore them at greater conceptual depth, read some of the many original works cited by Foley and Van Dam in their books. In Abrash's book, however, only a few references are cited.

The book is packed with interesting, important examples from Abrash's experience.

There's a good discussion about the shortcomings of Gouraud shading and how the makers of Quake decided to do things in a manner more appropriate to their 3-D motion-intensive application than the Gouraud approach would be.

Another useful discussion is about how Abrash and the Quake team avoided using any wastefully complex rasterization filling routine on distant polygons in a scene. Instead, they chose to iteratively subdivide the polygons until all the pixels of concern were totally blanketed by polygon vertices.

One of the things I like about this book is that it shows how ad hoc methods can be confidently used, and were indeed used for a real application, to do things at a lower cost of resources than would result by always following general textbook methods. It gives a realistic glimpse into the world of dynamic 3-D game programming as it existed recently.

I'll be spending more time with the book, and will use it as a reference which hopefully can stimulate and enrich my own evolving approach to graphics programming.

Michael Abrash

1997, Coriolis Group, 1376 pages paperback \$59.99, ISBN 1-57610-174-6

WinChip C6 Microprocessor

Norm Bergman

This review was delayed by a five week trip back East and by some weird malfunctions, probably not related to the chip. But, let me tell my story from the beginning. I was given the WinChip and a motherboard to review for the newsletter. At first I was impressed by the vast amount of documentation that came with them. Not only was it very complete but readable and obviously not a poor translation from another language. I verified that the voltage and bus speed settings and others were as required. Insertion of the CPU is simple and foolproof.

Next I went about acquiring the needed hardware to upgrade from my previous computer, an AMD K6-133 CPU in a full tower, originally housing a 486 DX2-66 with a Vesa Bus. As the new CPU uses lower voltages and the motherboard sits differently in the case, I obtained an ATX style mid-sized case with a 250 watt power supply. The older fan would not fit either so I opted for a nice ball bearing cooler designed for the Pentium II footprint. While at it, I got a 4-inch whisper fan which I mounted on elastic isolators in the case at the bottom of the front panel for additional cooling. Next I purchased 64 meg of 10 nano-second DIMM RAM, which I guess is not that unusual these days but seemed like a huge leap at the time.

Plug it in, turn it on....smoke and fire!!!! When I first turned it on it would not completely boot and the CPU fan would not turn, it sort of jerked a few degrees at a time. With the board out I gave it another checking over — all was set as it should be. What was wrong? Bravely I tried again with the motherboard carefully cradled in my arms. This time I got the surprise of my life. The lowest trace on the motherboard, a ground I believe, burned through breaking the circuit at that point. I was ready to remove it and solder on a bit of wire to replace the errant trace but I then realized that the CPU fan had started to turn properly. Gingerly I turned it on again and, what do you know? It was

running beautifully, boot up and Window's flag flying. There is a saying "if it ain't broke don't fix it." How should that maxim be rewritten this time?

All of which has nothing to do with the evaluation of the new WinChip. I must say I found nothing lacking for the tasks I give the computer. This includes word processing, spreadsheet set up and calculations, using a modem and sound card in the ISA slots, a video adapter in a PCI slot, an IDE hard drive and a SCSI adapter running an external Zip, a CD-ROM, a scanner, and two SCSI hard drives.

I am very happy with the increased speed of 225 MHz, coupled with the 75 KHz bus and the faster RAM. The main thing I would like to point out is this: for the demands I have for a computer, I doubt that the specifications of Pentium II or other manufacturer's versions have much real meaning to the average user. The unit performs quickly all I could ask it to do. The main *raison d'etre* for this chipset is its **value for the money**. I do not hesitate to recommend it as a genuine bargain that will meet the needs of most users. I urge potential computer shoppers to compare the prices of CPUs, they might save quite a bit with this one.

Product description

This CPU is Platinum rated by Microsoft. It is optimized for Windows business applications and is tuned for memory and integer performance. It compares favorably in WinStone 97 business performance tests with Pentium MMX, Cyrix 6x86 MX, AMD K6 MMX and others.

It runs with very low heat and power dissipation: less than 10 watts at 200MHz and at 3.3 volts.

The CPU is socket 7 compliant which means it will work with ALI, VIA, SIS INTEL and other chip sets and with Award, AME, Phoenix and SystemSoft BIOS. It is at home in DOS 6.22, WINDOWS 95/NT, OS/2, NOVELL DOS and Novell 4.11, Netware 3.12, Linux, SCO OPEN UNIX 5.0 and other environ-

ments. WinChip comes in several clock speeds from 180MHz to over 300MHz and several bus speeds from the basic 66 MHz to, I believe the latest, 100 MHz bus. It is of scalar, RISC design. The L1 on-chip cache is 64KB memory. It often runs faster than more expensive superscalar CPUs because of its simpler circuitry and smaller chip size construction (88mm² with .35 Micron die size), more direct connection geometry and resultant shorter internal connections. There are many more engineering details for those far more sophisticated than I with which to compare these units, but I refer you to the following to get all the nitty-gritty for which one could ask.

*Manufactured by Centaur division of IDT,
Integrated Device Technology
Centaur: www.winchip.com
Mike Bruzzone: campmkting@aol.com
or phone 408) 492-8637*

Continued from page 3

162nd General Meeting Report (cont)

Experiment on your own and share your experiences with others. Two heads may actually be better than one. Study to understand the underlying technology and science. Yes, there is still such a thing called DOS.

Relate the new to the old, and note its importance. Listen to the "experts" — but with a large grain or two of salt. *And*, be confident that your own personal experience and user group reports (*Readme.Doc?*) will trump an expert almost any day.

Mijenix was well represented by Gary Saxer who described PowerDesk Utilities 98, ZipMagic, and FreeSpace. His rapid fire but well choreographed presentation showed so many advantages that his special offer to OCIPUG resulted in many of us purchasing one or more programs at well under even street prices.

PowerDesk includes some of the features of ZipMagic and FreeSpace. As Gary demonstrated, PowerDesk gives Windows features that Microsoft forgot. For example, you can view the directory tree from *two* folders or drives simultaneously; Zip/Unzip seamlessly on the fly; view over 80 program format; open "encoded" email attachments; find, view, and print files more easily; delete files permanently with a single click (carefully); synchronize folders for ease of comparison of contained data; readily print screens as displayed; and change active printers with a single mouse click.

ZipMagic opens and runs Zip files without having to separately unzip — a most convenient feature! It handles 16 types of compression algorithms in addition to the common PKZip, versus 8 for WinZip 6.3 and PKZip. You can create and span executable

Zip files and automatically span multiple floppies; search for files inside Zip files; updates itself over the Internet; and much more. With its ZipMail feature, you can Zip and attach a file to your email with a single click. Thus, you can "Zip and Send to" in MS Explorer and the Zipped email is on its way.

FreeSpace *selectively* compresses seldom-used or seemingly extraneous files with patent-pending DFSE technology, and then optimizes these files with TightCluster to give you free space on your hard drive. You do *not* compress the entire drive as most drive compression programs do. The compressed files are completely accessible through Windows or DOS (within Windows). You can copy, open, save, and rename them as if they were the original file. FreeSpace will *automatically* decompress a file when you send it to others.

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Genealogy

July 1, 1998

Dick Baznik

Ancestral Quest and Working with Pictures

Stan opened with the usual health and safety announcements and encouraged all those who were not members to join OCIPUG to receive the monthly *README.DOC* magazine (and to help pay the SIG space rent.)

Three years ago the group selected Ancestral Quest as their primary genealogy program, although all the major programs are touched upon from time to time

Stan reiterated the Family Heritage offer mentioned last month. To test their shipping and handling efficiency, Stan actually ordered a CD-ROM version from the company's Internet site. A day later, he received an e-mail confirmation of the order and the shipment arrived three days later. The cost billed to his credit card was \$19.95 plus \$2.95 P&S and \$1.78 tax for a total of \$24.68. Features of this bargain were noted in the SIG report for June 1998.

Ancestral Quest is available at Micro Center, Fry's has it from time to time at \$39.95, and The Bookport on Brookhurst near Ellis in Fountain Valley has it for \$47.95 or thereabouts. These costs are for the CD-ROM version which includes more than the floppy disk version, which sells for a bit less. Ancestral Quest is developing a version that will accept the PAF v.3.0 database. (PAF 2.31 database will be accepted by all programs.)

Stan then began a discussion centered on using pictures, opening a new database and integrating it with material in the existing database. The graphics and database files he used in his demonstrations were all downloaded from the Internet.

A first step in dealing with a new genealogical database is to create an entirely new folder (directory) in Ancestral Quest in which to place the new database. This is true whether your new database is from the

Internet or from a friend or relative who has family information to share. Creating and naming a new folder resulted, of course, in a new, blank pedigree chart in Ancestral Quest. Stan then clicked on File from the menu bar, then Import, and used the dialog and browse options to locate the new data file with the .ged extension (indicating it was a GEDCOM file). The folder will eventually hold not only this new imported file but also associated graphic files and other necessary files that will be created by Ancestral Quest.

The originally blank pedigree chart then showed the complete file as the author had uploaded it to the Internet. During this importing process, the program asks questions about how the new file is to be imported. In the dialog box *GEDCOM Import*, Stan highly recommended that you check all 3 boxes.

It is extremely important to note that Stan put this imported file into an entirely new folder, and that he did not import it into his existing family database. Ancestral Quest also produced a list of data from the new data file that it was not able to integrate into the Ancestral Quest format, but which it did not want to "throw away". This often consists of names that are too long for the Ancestral Quest format, but which the user can handle on an individual basis. During the import procedure the program offers lots of informative screens that guide you through the process. The user may then use the usual Ancestral Quest features to prowl through the new database.

At the end of this import process, Ancestral Quest asks if you want to link this new file to an existing file. This feature is valuable if the new file contains *only* a branch of your family that actually connects with it, and which contains *no duplication* with any family members already listed. The program produces a *Tip Sheet* here to explain many of the considerations in eliminating probable duplicate entries.

It is *most important* to understand that the *Merge* feature of Ancestral Quest only compares what it perceives as duplicate entries

within the same file. It does not compare entries from two different files, such as the basic family history file and the new database just imported! Facts on an individual in a genealogical data base are shown in *fields* such as Name, Date of Birth, Date of Christening, etc. In order to compare the fields from an existing family database with the same fields in the new imported file, another program, called SuperMerge, is needed. SuperMerge is a program that allows one to selectively merge fields of two PAF-type databases.

To make such an evaluation, leave Ancestral Quest, open SuperMerge and bring up your basic family database and the new, imported database. SuperMerge will show the data of any individual, on a screen side-by-side with the data of the same individual from the other file, and allow a selective comparison of *each field* to decide which file's entry is the better choice for your permanent records. For example, if you see that one file on Mary Jane Dart shows that she was born in 1886 at sea on a ship from England, and the other shows she was born in 1885 in London, you can decide which fact you will accept and which you will not accept for your permanent, basic record. All this is quite different from the Ancestral Quest (and most genealogy software) *Merge* feature, which only allows the comparison of two individuals *in the same file* who are suspected duplicates.

For the introduction of graphics into Ancestral Quest, Stan went to a floppy containing the photo files which he downloaded earlier from the Internet. In addition to preserving photographs, graphic files may contain all sorts of documents such as marriage licenses, birth certificates, etc.

For speed, Stan copied all the graphics into the same directory as his new database, which is the same destination they would have had if they had been downloaded directly from the Internet. To add a graphic, you first select the individual in the pedigree chart with whom the graphic will be associated. Then click the *Media* icon below

the menu bar. On the drop-down *Media Collection* dialog box click *Add*. In the *Add Multimedia Object for . . .* select from *Item Type*, which in this case will be *Photo*. Use the browse feature to locate the photo on your hard disk. It's a good practice to *Preview* the selection. Add a caption if appropriate and make other selections indicated in the dialog box.

Stan added one scanned painting of the subject, his application for citizenship and the final citizenship certificate itself. One graphic was too large and resulted in an error message referring to insufficient memory size. In this case the file was too big for the memory to hold both the .jpg data file and the .jpg expansion created at the same time. The remedy was to convert the .jpg to a bit map (with a .bmp extension) using another program, *Paint Shop Pro*, which Stan demonstrated at the June SIG. With the graphics all loaded, he went to *Reports and Charts*, then *Scrapbook*, and clicked *Preview* to see what they looked like.

A question from the floor asked about printing from *Ancestral Quest*. Click the printer icon under the File Menu for the extensive *Reports and Charts* dialog box. Click on the tabs to select what form you want to print and how to format it. Stan strongly urges use of the *Preview* button to see what you're getting before wasting time and paper.

With the above database and graphics having been downloaded from the Internet, Stan felt it appropriate to show a reproduction of his Web site as an example of what one may find. Right under the page name, on his home page, Stan listed all the surnames that were included in his file. He keeps the total file size to under 5MB to conform to the maximum size allowed by his Internet service provider (ISP). In his surname list, every name is in color and underscored, the conventional indication that they are hypertext links to that person's data, which in this case is shown in sentence or "book" format. Within this book format are other links to other individuals.

Although Stan could replace his Web site which begins "Ancestors of . . ." to one which begins with "Sabin. . .", all the search engines on the Internet have already indexed him under "A", and it would take time for all the search engines to re-index him under "S."

In response to a question, Stan warned about smaller ISPs who advertise \$99.95/year because a number of them have failed before the year is up and the members have lost their money.

The question was asked "Why partition?" On FAT16 operating systems, like Windows 3.1 and the original Windows 95, the drive size established the smallest size needed for a single file which might take up more space than really needed. If work required a lot of small files to be located in a very large drive, a great deal of hard disk storage space would be wasted. Of course, with the new FAT32 operating systems, such as the OEM release of Windows 95 and Windows 98, the maximum cluster size is down to 4KB for any hard drive up to 9GB.

Stan likes Windows 98 because many Windows 95 bugs have been fixed in Win98 and because of new features which help the average user. He likes the Maintenance Wizard in Win98 that runs the regular maintenance schedules. It gets rid of temp files, and downloaded program files that have been installed and are no longer needed, as well as other bothersome files that are not needed. Temp files can accumulate as the result of turning off Windows improperly and they can become huge. They can accumulate as a result of manipulating graphic files. If they don't clear themselves out for any reason, they build up and hard disk space is lost that is needed during manipulation of graphic files. This is one of the most common reasons for a computer "locking up" in Win95. The computer has a hard time finding a large enough contiguous space to put a "swap item" and after several tries, says "give up" and locks up the computer.

The automatic Maintenance Wizard feature is included in the basic Windows 98 program, not the Windows 98 Plus accessory program. When performing these maintenance chores manually, it's usually safe to delete any .tmp file dated earlier than the current day. (A temp file bearing the current date may actually be in use.) But Windows 98 can clean up your drives automatically for you.

Stan demonstrated how to use the Explorer feature to select more than one file, using the Control and Shift keys to selectively add or remove files from the selection process. Stan uses the Windows Explorer file manager to remove an unwanted database from *Ancestral Quest*. He recommends checking the Windows *Recycle Bin* every now and then or it can build to formidable size. If you like living dangerously and never make mistakes, Windows 95/98 can be set up to delete without using the recycle bin. *Caveat emptor*.

In Windows 3.x it is possible to print out the contents of any directory. But this is *not* true in Windows 95. But Stan has discovered a shareware utility called *ExpPrint*, which installs a utility to print and format directory lists. After installation, in the Windows 95 Explorer file manager, the user right clicks on the directory and the drop-down menu includes a *Print* item which, when selected, displays a dialog box for formatting the printing of that directory.

As usual, Stan covered genealogy software, answered peoples's questions, and also gave us additional tips about Windows 95/98 and the Internet. The evening's presentation ended with the attendees' assuring Stan that his e-mail messages regarding the Genealogy SIG are most welcome.

Special Interest Group (SIG) Reports

Genealogy II

July 16, 1998

Chris Hansen

The Genealogy II Daytime SIG met with about half of the normal attendance, probably due to summer vacations. The meeting started with the usual Q&A session and a presentation on the Clipboard feature of Windows and how this could be helpful in any genealogy program, as well as in word processing programs. This was followed by a review of some of the features of Ancestral Quest 2.1.

The highlight of the meeting was Sue Hayes' presentation of the new *Legacy Family Tree* genealogy program by Millennia of Duvall, Washington. Sue purchased a copy of *Legacy* during her recent visit to LDS Family History Library in Salt Lake City. *Legacy* has all the standard features of a good genealogy program, but they seem to have "raised the bar a notch" with some really excellent features. In general, genealogy programs have improved with each new entry into the marketplace.

The main screen of *Legacy Family Tree* shows a three generation Family View or a five generation Pedigree View. Both the Family View screen and Pedigree View screen can be shown at the same time. By viewing the Icons below the two principal individuals in the Family View, one can determine if there were multiple spouses, siblings, notes for the individuals, or photographs. The Picture Gallery lets you link an unlimited number of pictures and sounds to an individual. Using the Import/Export feature: GEDCOM and *Legacy* files can be directly exported; GEDCOM, *Legacy*, and PAF files can be directly imported.

Legacy's Merge feature is trademarked IntelliMerge and is the most useful merge program that I have tried when combining duplicates or files. *SuperMerge!* has been my favorite merge program to date, but it is a DOS program that has to be purchased separately. It is still useful when using genealogy programs other than *Legacy*. All merge programs are a bit disturbing, but *Legacy's* IntelliMerge is by far the best.

Legacy has a strong Search feature that uses Microsoft's *Access Jet* database engine with three search methods: Query by Example, Detailed Search, and Miscellaneous Searches. Query by Example allows searches by name, title, date born, date died, and many more. Detailed Search is a typical AND/OR database search feature using much stricter criteria. This feature alone is worth the price of the program. The third is Miscellaneous Search. This feature will allow searches for the Oldest Direct-Line Generation, the Youngest Direct-Line Generation, or entire families meeting given conditions. For example, search for Unlinked Individuals, all records with bad dates, and many other conditions that prove useful to the genealogist.

The Reports feature of *Legacy* offers many reports, charts, lists and forms including family group sheets, pedigree charts, descendants and ancestor charts, individual reports, time lines, lineage reports, ancestors and descendants books, list reports, census forms, surname summary, questionnaires, source citations, potential problems, relationships, LDS ordinance reports, and research logs. All the above reports are useful. The census forms are particularly helpful because the government has asked for different information each census year. By reviewing the blank census forms before going to the National Archives in Laguna Niguel one could determine if a specific bit of information was collected that census year. The Timeline Report on your ancestors could also be useful to graphically determine which ones were alive at a given time and possibly in the same census.

System requirements for *Legacy* are: IBM 486 (Pentium highly recommended) with a minimum of 8 MB RAM (16 MB recommended), 20 MB of free hard disk space, Windows 3.1, Windows 95, OR 98 and VGA or higher. The list price is \$49.95 and can be purchased at some LDS bookstores or by calling Ken McGinnis of Millennia at (800) 753-3453. He has offered OCIPUG members a "Show Special" price of \$39.95. A demo version of *Legacy* can be downloaded at their Website:

<http://www.LegacyFamilyTree.com>.

Both Sue Hayes and I feel that *Legacy* is an excellent genealogy program with many superior features, but I am not quite ready to switch my main research database to *Legacy* yet. I will continue to evaluate it and will review it in a *Readme.Doc* article again before the end of 1998.

Digital Photography and Scanning

July 23, 1998

Chris Hansen and Rex Sutton

The Digital Camera SIG met with 23 members present. The guest speaker was Jon Sagud, a professional photographer with 30-plus years experience. It was obvious that he knew his subject material, and that he also had a working knowledge of the digital cameras he displayed and discussed.

Jon began the discussion by writing the following on the board:

VGA 640X480 (910K);
XGA 1024X768 (2.25M);
SXGA 1280X1024 (3.75M).

Throughout the discussion of each digital camera, he would point to the appropriate resolution and the file size required for a picture at that camera's resolution. This was an excellent way to demonstrate the category of each camera and to keep resolution and price in perspective. Sixty percent of all digital cameras sold are VGA, but only seven percent of the cameras sold have resolution equal to film resolution (he considered that to be about SXGA).

Digital photography is about two decades old but, because of cost, only became known to the average consumer in the past couple of years. Professional photographers have used cameras costing from \$10,000 to \$28,000 because pictures that they captured digitally could be transmitted electronically directly to newspapers and magazines.

The first of many cameras shown was the Sony Mavica FD71, which is the latest model of the Mavica FD70 shown by Ken Martin at the May SIG. The Mavica is the only digital camera that uses standard 3.5 inch diskettes. The FD71 has some improved features: it is slimmer and lighter, has a new, thinner, 2X floppy drive, and a new e-mail mode that reduces the size of the image for smaller files and faster transmission. The street price is still \$699. The Mavica and most other digital cameras store data in the JPEG format, but can store Bitmap files. The Mavica FD71 has the unique feature of being able to store data and write to more than one floppy, sequentially.

Four storage media are being used in digital photography: floppy, 1.44MB; SmartMedia, 8MB; CompactFlash, 64MB; PCMCIA, 170MB. The SmartMedia memory cards can be downloaded to a computer or removed and placed in a FlashPak Adapter that can be placed in a portable computer PC card slot. The need for extra storage space becomes a problem with digital photography, because files can become very large. A high-resolution image can consume several megabytes of memory. Even if you have a large hard drive, backup is important to insure against a "crash". Probably a JAZ drive available in 1 or 2 GB, or a more permanent writable CD available in 650 MB would be advisable.

He showed photographs that point out the difference that resolution makes in the printed photograph. It was recommended that a 6-color printer be used for printing pictures. He showed many excellent photos printed on an Epson 800, which is a 4-color 1440 dpi printer. Professionals use a dye-sublimation printer which transfers images to paper using a plastic film or ribbon that is coated with colored dyes. During the printing process, heating elements move across the paper causing the dye to fuse to the paper.

Jon's favorite digital camera is the Olympus 600, which is an all glass lens single lens reflex with 1280X1024 pixels, 1.8" color LCD,

3X optical zoom, removable 4MB SmartMedia card, direct printer connection to Olympus P-300 printer, and has a new street price of \$999. He demonstrated the Cannon Optura which has 14X zoom, approximately equivalent to 40-600 mm lens, and sells for \$2000. It can be plugged into the computer's serial port. Jon also showed several other brands and models from very small pocket cameras to professional models.

Film scanners were then discussed as an excellent means of digitizing photos by scanning the film, rather than the finished print. The Minolta will scan negatives or positives, black and white or color for a street price of \$599. The one statement that Jon made that stayed with me was "Digital cameras and 35mm cameras are like apples and oranges." Unless you have specific need for a digital camera, you probably would be ahead by taking 35mm film and buying a film scanner.

Beginners Internet and Web Page Design

July 6, 1998

Frank Disparte

The meeting started with questions and answers. Afterwards Richard Hunter presented an interesting and informative slide show on the vagaries of Netscape.

He started with a discussion of password selection. He said that, unfortunately, too many passwords seem to be inadequate to provide protection against anyone who has a computer program for cracking passwords. Ideally the password should be as large as the program permits; at least 8 characters and could contain both upper and lower case letters and numerals mixed together. These make breaking the coded password more difficult. Dictionary words and personal information should not be used. An example of a difficult password to crack, from an article in InfoWorld, was BMW325i. Now, do not use that password because it is reported in a

publication. There is a program on www.ZDNET.com that will act as a secured database to store the various passwords that you might have. Remember, never use the same password on different programs.

Next Richard gave some URLs where there are shareware programs and information to speed the downloading of files from the Internet. There is also a shareware program to monitor the speed of data transfer. Of course, there is also a part of Windows 95 that will give a fairly good measure of transfer speed.

Richard then went into the address book commands of Netscape Communicator 4. He explained how to add new names, modify the entries, and how to delete names from the address book. Next, he discussed making a mail list to send messages to a group of people. As part of the address book, there is a quick and easy way to search for people. A search for Preston Hill was made to show how easy it is to use that part of Communicator 4. It is possible to sort the address book and to arrange their entries. Some of the other features are resizing columns, and sorting.

Richard then discussed deleting mail messages. That is not always as straightforward as one might expect. The messages, although removed, are still in the system but are actually removed when the file is compressed.

Communicator 4 (and even Navigator 3) provide a way to send HTML messages. With Communicator 4 there are icons to aid the formation of a HTML message. For example, it is easy to change fonts, color, bold, and italics. Thus, you can send a highly formatted message. A word of caution though: free e-mail programs like Juno cannot handle such messages.

Next Frank discussed Microsoft's Front Page. One of those anomalies happened — nothing worked when he wanted to demonstrate it.

Minutes and Announcements

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

27 July 1998

Wayne Ali

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 7:03 p.m.

Officers present:

Preston Hill	Tony Dopazo
Wayne Ali	Larry Pearce

Directors present:

Richard Black	Arlene Solomon
Richard Hunter	Don Testa
Chris Lloyd	Ed Wolfe

Directors absent: Dean Sowers

Guests: Bob Blakeley, Red Davidson, Michael Moore, Kevin Moser, Rob Nelissen

(Note that the Director's Review and Action Package and Supplemental discussed at the Board meeting includes details of the summaries reported in, and supplements, the official minutes. A copy is posted on the SIG Room A bulletin board.)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Hill complemented Audrey Wolden for her support in covering Secretary Ali's absence. Mr. Ali also expressed his appreciation for Ms. Wolden's willingness to help.

Messrs. Hill, Dopazo and Pearce noted the following changes:

Absent (Director) - John Gallie resigned effective the conclusion of the May 29, 1998, Executive Board meeting.

Bruce McClure should be noted as the Periodicals Specialist at the Santa Ana Regional Center Post Office. Bruce Williams will chair the Advertising and Promotion Committee.

BBS - Preston Hill said we will need a contact between InterNIC and OCIPUG. There will also need to be a connection between OCIPUG and West Coast Internet. West Coast Internet is the successor to FIA/Calypto. The president directed Michael Moore

to get a written agreement or specification sheet from InReach for Board review and approval. He noted that it is valid for OCIPUG to change providers, the problem so far being the name correction from "Orange Coast IBM PC Users Group" to "Orange Coast IBM PC User Group."

Inventory - Motion: Richard Hunter moved that the inventory committee be authorized to dispose of all surplus club equipment as appropriate and have it removed from inventory.

Election Committee - The date of record will be June 30.

Tony Dopazo moved, seconded by Richard Black, the minutes of the May 29, 1998, Executive Board meeting, incorporating the noted changes, be approved. Motion carried

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Hill encouraged all members to cast their ballots. A quorum of ballots needs to be cast to have a valid election for our non-profit corporation.

E-mail is finally back on-line. Many thanks are owed to Lorena Luke of West Coast Internet. Our domain name of OCIPUG.org was never in jeopardy. Our problems were with contact persons and the correct name of the Group. Our InterNIC registration may be seen at:
<http://rs.internic.net/cgi-bin/whois?ocipug.org>

We are continuing to look for ways to control costs. The Budget Committee is considering reducing the number of phone lines to the BBS, revising the format and size of "Readme.Doc", and eliminating the SIG guide as few SIG leaders are reporting on future topics. Member suggestions and ideas are solicited.

Renewal reminder letters will no longer be mailed at 32 cents each. The Membership Committee and helpers will be sending e-mail or making reminder phone calls. Please contact Richard Hunter (rt hunter@bigfoot.com) or 714) 968-6362 to volunteer an hour or so of your time to help make calls.

We have changed the drawing procedure at the general meeting. Dual tickets will be used. The member gets one ticket, the other

goes in the drawing hopper. Drawing prizes will be displayed to encourage donations for additional tickets.

We are actively pursuing donations for our upcoming auction. Please help by calling Chris Lloyd 714) 894-4837. He can use letter writers to complete templates and phone callers.

Rusty Hupy, Chair of the Publications Committee has resigned his position for personal reasons.

Installation of the new officers and directors at our August 29, general meeting will be followed by lunch at the Soup Plantation. Please join us to exchange ideas and for general discussion.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Secretary Ali reported on correspondence received. Our tri-fold has brought one new member this month. Richard Hunter received one renewal in response to his test batch of e-mail reminders. PowerQuest has provided a copy of Drive Copy for evaluation. Mr. Ali has been sending change of address letters to correspondents. Please let him know if you need such a letter sent.

CFO/TREASURER'S REPORT

CFO Pearce reported on our income and expenses to date. We showed a shortfall for this month. An increased cost to include Election and tri-fold inserts was seen in "Readme.Doc." We have renewed our equipment insurance for the coming year.

Mr. Pearce expressed areas of concern that will need to be addressed: Attracting, recruiting and retaining members, income from the annual auction, increased income from advertising.

CALENDAR EVENT SPECIALIST REPORT

Calendar Specialist Maurie Seymour's report noted several important dates: Program Chair and the Calendar Event Specialist will meet with Orange Coast College to prepare a recommended calendar for 1999 for the August Board meeting.

Installation of new officers and directors will take place in the August General Meeting.

LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS
Elections - MOTION - Extension of

Deadline to Receive Ballots. Mr. Pearce moved, seconded by Mr. Dopazo, that, due to the 4th of July holiday the mailing date of election ballots was one day late and we authorize the deadline for receipt of ballots as August 8, 1998. The motion carried.

Communications- Liaison Director Black asked Webmaster Mike Moore to report on progress of our Web page. Mr. Moore reported InReach offers chat centers, e-mail (with attachments), mailing lists, message boards (similar to newsgroups), and an FTP site. The e-mail accounts offered raised some questions on personal use by members. Mr. Moore will get additional clarification from InReach. Mr. Moore also demonstrated the current version of the web page.

MOTION - President Authorized to Make Application to InReach

Mr. Black, seconded by Mr. Hunter, moved the President be authorized to make an application with InReach for Web page, e-mail and Internet access.

Discussion was had about timing of changing e-mail providers. The motion carried.

Mr. Miller reported BBS Internet e-mail is operational. He recommended dropping one phone line to reduce costs. Mr. Pearce noted that the phone line might be needed for Internet access offered by InReach.

Membership - Mr. Hunter reported on the continued decrease in renewals. Ken Paeth has assumed Membership Accounting from Chris Hansen. Phone lists of expiring members were distributed for follow-up calls. Mr. Hunter entertained a brief discussion of relative effectiveness of phone calls, renewal letters and post cards to notice renewals to members.

Sunshine and Awards - Liaison director Solomon - distributed cards for: Harry Role - Surgery, Dennis Walz - Surgery, Rusty Hupy - Health, Jerry Man - health.

Activities - Liaison Director Lloyd - reported on programs scheduled through December. A discussion was had about preparation for the annual auction and program presenters.

Facilities - Liaison Director Wolfe noted \$147 was gained by the sale of surplus equipment. The balance was donated to Goodwill. Our donation was gladly received.

Budget - Mr. Hunter presented the budget for 1998 - 1999 for consideration. Approval of the budget will be addressed in the August Executive Board of Directors meeting. A topical discussion was had regarding changes to the "Readme.Doc." Format could be changed to 8 two sided pages, corner stapled.

APPOINTMENTS

President Hill accepted the resignation of Rusty Hupy as Publications Committee chair. Ken Paeth was appointed acting Membership Accounting Chair. Ed Leckliter will be relieved as Windows NT SIG leader by Ed Miller (once known as a staunch DOS die-hard!). Mr. Leckliter will be relocating.

NEW BUSINESS

Complimentary regular membership criteria were presented for review by Mr. Hill.

MOTION - Extension of Membership for Bringing in New Members

Mr. Wolfe moved, seconded by Mr. Lloyd, effective August 1, 1998, any member in good standing that brings in a new member will receive an extension of their existing membership for one month. The motion carried.

MOTION - SIG Leaders should receive Honorary Memberships

Ms. Solomon moved all SIG leaders should be given honorary memberships for they are leading a SIG. The motion died for lack of a second.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Black moved, seconded by Mr. Hunter and carried, to adjourn the meeting at 9:57 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Board will be Monday, August 31, 1998, at the Resource Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Ali, Secretary

WANTED

AUCTIONEERS — HELPERS

Mark your calendar to bring your overstuffed wallet to the big Auction at the 31 October General Meeting.

Enthusiastic knowledgeable auctioneers to *sell* the donated items and raise lots of money for OCIPUG

Helpers are needed *NOW* to:

- Send e-mail to vendors
- Telephone potential donors
- Write and send letters to vendors
- Receive, log and store donations
- Draft brief descriptions of items
- Determine street prices of items

Helpers will be needed on 31 October to:

- Collect items *early* from storage
- Bring to OCC Science Hall
- Set up tables, chairs, etc
- Arrange items for viewing
- Collect funds from winning bidders
- Record data re item and bidder
- Distribute items to winning bidders
- Return left over items to storage
- Return tables, chairs, etc

Can you spare an hour here, an hour there?

Do you have anything to donate — software, hardware or other items related to computers, or even not related to computers?

Call Chris Lloyd at (714) 894-4837 or Preston Hill at (714) 893-2403 anytime, any day, or send your message on our BBS.

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):john@agoodman.com

dBase IV

Preston Hill — 9 a.m.-9 p.m. 893-2403

Digital Photography and Scanning

Ken Martin—8 a.m.-11p.m. except Sunday
.....637-5577
Rex Sutton—9 a.m.-10 p.m...949-786-5862

dBase Programming

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

Disk & Memory Management

John Goodman — 2 p.m.-12 mid.....537-6400
(Preferred):...john@agoodman.com
Bill Krehbiel — 24hrs daily 645-8561

DOS

Herb Huey — 6:00 p.m.-10 p.m.....525-1608
John Goodman — 2 p.m.- 12 mid...537-6400
(Preferred):...john@agoodman.com
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):...john@agoodman.com
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):...john@agoodman.com

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-F951-1892

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

John Goodman — 2 p.m.- 12 mid 537-6400
(Preferred):...john@agoodman.com
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-Sa968-6362
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.

OCIPUG Executive Board

Officers

President	Preston Hill	893-2403
Vice President	Tony Dopazo	897-3912
Secretary	Wayne Ali	972-4695
Treasurer	Larry Pearce	543-5661

Directors

Richard Black	1998	536-0036
Richard Hunter	1998	968-6362
Chris Lloyd	1999	894-4837
Arlene Solomon	1999	891-3889
Dean Sowers	1998	531-0477
Don Testa	1998	840-5300
C. Edward Wolfe	1999	646-5608

OCIPUG Information & Resources

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

People and Numbers to Know

(Subject to change)

Advertising	*Jim Brock	966-1163
BBS Committee	Ed Miller	470-9319
Calendar Specialist	Maurie Seymour	633-2914
Community Outreach	*Arlene Solomon	891-3889
Elections Committee	Steve Schiffman	531-0376
Facility Improvement	Red Davidson	548-0413
Library Committee	Bob Blakeley	549-0958
Long Range Planning	Richard Hunter	968-6362
Marketing Committee	Bruce Williams	551-5357
Membership Accounting	*Kenneth Paeth	544-5158
Membership Services	*Richard Hunter	968-6362
Newsletter Editor	Norman Bergman	536-2951
Newsletter distribution	Michael Conway	962-2194
Newsletter layout	Charles Schreiber	377-0439
Nominating Committee	Morris Fier	646-8292
Policies & Procedures	Kevin Moser	631-2966
Program Chairman	Chris Lloyd	894-4837
Property Committee	*Ed Wolfe	646-5608
SIG Operations	*Preston Hill	893-2403
SIG Topics coordinator	Bill Splitter	846-5652
SIG Guide editor	Karla Heider	770-6356
Publications Comm.	Rusty Hupy	827-3323
Rules & Bylaws Comm	Ed Miller	470-9319
SYSOP	Dean Sowers	531-0477
Webmaster	Michael Moore	535-0608

*Members needed to fill these positions.

Get your OCIPUG golf shirt at the next general meeting.



Only a \$ 15.00 donation!

HONOR ROLL

The members of OCIPUG thank the following individuals who, since 1 September 1997, have generously donated money and/or equipment for the betterment of OCIPUG and its facilities :

Anonymous	Kenneth Paeth
Raymond Adams	Bill Phillips
Allen Ashley	Robert Rank
Larry Bailey	Reg Roberts
Norm Bergman	James Rogers
James Chambers	Harry Role
Red Davidson	Raymond Ross
Donald Franklin	Dean Schwarz
Marilyn Fry	Ned Stewart
Ed Hoy	Terry Thomas
Helga Kimball	Audrey Wolden
Bill Krehbiel	Carl Yost
Kim Kymlicka	
Alex Lancaster	
Jeffrey Metzger	
Kevin Moser	

Coming Up...

31 October 1998

AUCTION — Raise money for OCIPUG operations

21 November 1998

Syquest — High Capacity Removable Drives

MGI — New Improved Photo Suite

19 December 1998

Mijenix — Enfish

Adaptec — SCSI and RAID Boards

Copy deadline for October *Readme.Doc* articles, reports, reviews, and other copy is 4 September 1998.
Copy received after deadline may be held for future issues.

Orange Coast IBM PC User Group
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Costa Mesa, California 92626-3934

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