

Orange Coast IBM PC User Group

README.DOC

January 2000

Newsletter

Volume 16.1

General Meetings are held in the Costa Mesa Senior Center at the southeast corner of 19th and Pomona from 9:00AM to noon the last Saturday of every month, unless otherwise noted.

Speakers and Topics are described on page two of *Readme.Doc* and on the OCIPUG Web page:
www.ocipug.org

Meetings of the Executive Board will be held in the Costa Mesa Senior Center at the southeast corner of 19th and Pomona at 7:00PM on the following dates:

31 January 2000
28 February 2000
27 March 2000
24 April 2000

All OCIPUG members are welcome.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Leonard Stein

len1124@vinet.com

Hello everybody! I will be glad to get our meetings underway again. We missed the General Meeting in December because the college closed for the holidays the day before our meeting — scheduled for December 18. As we did not have a quick and easy way to contact people, we put the notice on our Web site. Some folks found it — and some did not.

We have changed our General Meeting place because OCIPUG and the college could not get together. The college was charging us a different price from what they originally said they would. Furthermore, we did not consider the services provided to be worth the money charged.

We are now holding our General Meetings and our Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings at the Costa Mesa Senior Center on the southeast corner of 19th and Pomona. The meeting rooms are provided gratis as quid pro quo for our help in teaching or mentoring their Senior Net Learning Center classes for seniors learning to use computers. The Center would appreciate our volunteering even more time. So — donate an hour or so a week of your time and enjoy helping others.

I hope that you all had a Merry Christmas and most Happy New Year. I myself wasn't so lucky. I had to go into St. Jude's Hospital in Fullerton on Christmas day because of internal bleeding. The hospital and doctors were wonderful so I had a great experience. I spent four days there but am OK now, although weak. I'll be fine again in a few weeks as I regain strength.

I look ahead for the rest of the year to having good programs, thanks to Bob Walker (Programs Chairman) and his team — and your suggestions and leads to great speakers. With the great support of Vice President Red Davidson and the rest of the Executive Board, I anticipate this millennium year being one of the best. See you at the meetings — General and SIG.

Schedules and Reports of Events

Report of General Meeting

20 November 1999

Richard Black

The November 1999 General Meeting convened at 9:10AM in Room 207 of the Orange Coast College Chemistry Building, presided over by President Leonard Stein. As only six members present did not constitute a quorum, no official business was transacted. Robert Walker and Morris Fier volunteered themselves and Jesse Bequette as members of the Programs Committee. President Stein appointed them as the committee with Robert Walker as Chairman. Discussions about other OCIPUG matters ensued. The meeting ended at 10:50AM.

Report of General Meeting December 1999

No meeting in December because OCC campus and lecture halls were closed.

Coming General Meeting Topics

(All future General Meetings will be held at the Costa Mesa Senior Center on the southeast corner of 19th and Pomona from 9:00AM to noon.)

29 January 2000

- Random Access with Mike Springer
Bring your questions, tips and tricks.
- OCIPUG Web site with Michael Moore
What the Web site is.
How it works for us.
How to use it.
How to put up information.
- OCIPUG BBS with Tony Dopazo
How to use it.
Logging on for the first time.
How to use the message board.
Downloading 1000's of files.
- The Internet with Bob Strader
Web sites for innumerable topics..
Search engines and how to use them.
Email - sending and receiving tricks.
MP3 sound clips.
- COMDEX Fall 1999 with a panel.
Summary of events and seminars.
What will 2000 bring.
New software and hardware releases.

February 26, 2000

Caere Corporation - OCR, new releases.

March 25, 2000

Send requests to Programs Committee

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

(All Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings are held at the Costa Mesa Senior Center on the southeast corner of 19th and Pomona at the times noted below.)

Internet - 1st Wednesday, 7:00PM

Michael Moore - 714-535-0608

mmoore@inreach.com

2 February 2000 - call SIG leader

1 March 2000 - Call SIG leader

5 April 2000 - Call SIG leader

Genealogy - 2nd Wednesday, 7:00PM

Richard Hunter - 714-968-6362

rthunter@bigfoot.com

12 January 2000 - Using the Internet & Usenet for ancestor information.

9 February 2000 - Continue January discussion.

8 March 2000 - Call SIG leader

12 April 2000 - Call SIG leader

Windows - 3rd Wednesday, 7:00PM

Richard Hunter - 714-968-6362

rthunter@bigfoot.com

19 January 2000 - Using Internet & Usenet for Windows & Windows applications problem solving.

16 February 2000 - Continue January discussion.

15 March 2000 - Call SIG leader

19 April 2000 - Call SIG leader

Digital Cameras and Scanning -

4th Wednesday, 7:00PM

Rex Sutton - 949-786-5862

rexss@aol.com

26 January 2000 - Review "A Few Scanning Tips" by Wayne Fulton.

23 February 2000 - Continue review & discuss recent technology advances.

22 March 2000 - Call SIG leader

26 April 2000 - Call SIG leader

New User - 1st Saturday, 1:00PM

John Lunsford - 714-995-0947

jlunsford@gentech.com

1 January 2000 - Basic computer USE.

"An Introduction to Safe Computing." introduces the basics of using computers & avoiding unhappy experiences

5 February 2000 - HARDWARE.

"Buying What You Need Without Getting Burned." Discuss each part of a computer - what it does and why its capacities are significant. Negotiating with vendors is discussed.

4 March 2000 - OPERATING SYSTEMS.

"You Can't Get Along Without One!" Review the why and wherefore of operating systems including differences between Windows versions and what every user should know about them.

1 April 2000 - APPLICATIONS.

"Doing Something Useful." Introduce different basic applications types, their gradation of complexity and cost, and their operating system/hardware requirements. Negotiating with software vendors will be covered as well.

6 May 2000 - Repeat first session to start a new cycle.

Remember When...

A computer was something on t.v.
from a science fiction show of note
A window was something you hated to clean
and ram was the cousin of a goat

Meg was the name of my girlfriend
and gig was a job for the nights
now they all mean different things
and that really mega bytes

An application was for employment
A program was a t.v. show
A cursor used profanity
A keyboard was a piano

Memory was something that you lost with age
A CD was a bank account
And if you had a 3" floppy
you hoped nobody found out

Compress was something you did to the
garbage
Not something you did to a file
And if you unzipped anything in public
you'd be in jail for awhile
Log on was adding wood to the fire
Hard drive was a long trip on the road
A mouse pad was where a mouse lived
And a backup happened in your commode

Cut you did with a pocket knife
Paste you did with glue
A web site was a spider's home
and a virus was the flu

I guess I'll stick to my pad and paper
And the memory in my head
I hear nobody's been killed in a computer crash
But when it happens they wish they were
dead!

FOR SALE

By order of the OCIPUG Executive Board the OCIPUG Computer Hardware and Software listed below has been declared surplus and is for sale NOW.

All Items will be sold AS IS, with no Warranty. Arrange your own transportation and schedule with Robert Lynch for pick up at storage locations.
For more information, please contact Robert Lynch - 714-546-8977.
zgridleak@zdnetwork.com

Miscellaneous items

Telephone answering machines, modems, cables, monitors, and others will be displayed and available for sale at the General Meeting on 29 January, 2000. Manuals are included where available

Major Hardware items for sale

(Pictures are available on the OCIPUG Web site: www.ocipug.org)

- Minolta Copier - Model EP410Z w/manuals
- HP Laserjet 4M Plus (w/PostScript) w/manuals
- HP Laserjet Series II Printer
- Toshiba Printer - Model P341 w/2 new ribbons
- NEC Pinwriter - Model P6
- Tandy DM320 Printer w/manual
- HP Deskjet Printer - Model No. Unknown
- IBM Dot Matrix Printer
- UPS American Power Converter - Model 800RT
- Toshiba 27 inch TV w/stand
- RCA VCR
- Overhead transparency projectors:
 - 3M Model 905D
 - Bell & Howell

Software Items for Sale

(Software will be displayed and available for sale at the 29 January 2000 General Meeting.)

- WinCheckIt Ver.2.0
- Corel Draw 5
- Partion Magic 3.0
- OS/2 Warp 3.0
- OS/2 Warp 4.0
- NT Server 3.51
- DR-DOS 6

- Novell DOS 7
- Touchstone Fast Move 1
- Micro Biz
- Borland Paradox 5
- Sidekick for Win
- F-Prot Virus Software
- Microscope 6.1
- MS DOS 6.2
- Power Quest Drive Image 1.0
- System Commander 2.2
- Connetix Ram Doubler for Windows.
- Gem Desktop 2.0 & 2.2
- Symantec Q&A 3
- Borland Report Smith 2.0 for WIN
- Stacker for WIN & DOS
- Intuit Quicken 3
- Peachtree Accounting 2 for WIN
- Qualitas Memory Manager 386 MAX 6
- Norton Utilities 4.5 for DOS
- Win NT 3.51
- Visual Basic Std. Ed.
- Artisoft LANtastic 6
- WIN3.11 for Workgroups
- Borland dBase 5 for Win
- Ashton Tate dBase 4
- Delrina WinFax Lite
- Speed Star Pro 1.09
- Colorado Backup Lite
- Borland Quattro Pro 5
- Crystal Reports 2 for WIN
- other miscellaneous software.

Please send changes of mailing address, telephone, and/or email address to:
Ken Paeth, 714-544-5158
email: kenpaeth@bigfoot.com
and
Preston Hill, 714-893-2403
email: prestonlh@bigfoot.com

(Editor's note: Although after the shopping holidays, this article seemed to be apropos.)

E-Commerce Shopping

With the year-end holidays coming upon us, many of us will turn to the Internet to do our shopping. Many a magazine article talks about how electronic commerce (e-commerce) will grab a sizable hunk of the retail dollars this holiday season. Many a mainstream retailer has conjured up images of \$ signs floating in the air due to increased Web sales. Some of our OCIPUG members may have already set up their own e-commerce web sites.

Whether you are a buyer or seller, e-commerce may be a new and exciting experience but for others it may be the most frustrating experience in their lives. Let's face it, e-commerce is very different than opening up or going to a real brick-and-mortar store at the mall or shopping center.

Surprisingly, many people who have an e-commerce site feel that they are now "instant" business people just because they are able to get their Web site hosted. That is only the first step for the entrepreneur. The potential e-commerce customer will be asking basic questions such as "Is this company reputable? Is there really product at the right price? How much is the shipping and how long will it take? What will they do with the information that they took from me?"

Entrepreneurs who also have real store sites tend to fare best because they are already business oriented versus computer savvy oriented. Shopping on the Web may be a new way of doing business but you still need to have good business sense. Here are a few insights to the problems that an e-commerce pioneer should consider.

First of all, the potential e-commerce entrepreneur must ask how does he get his Web site noticed? Many Internet Service Providers (ISP) can give the software and do the web page design to get you started fast but how do you get people to "hit" your Web site? How do you get them to come back to your site?

Traditional retail houses have a basic axiom. It costs at least ten times as much to acquire a new customer as it takes to keep one. The brick-and-mortar store needs to only advertise locally to publicize their sales promotions to get customers in the stores. E-commerce sites must be a lot more creative. Large e-commerce companies, like Amazon.com, advertise on national television programs, in major periodicals and on the Web itself. I even saw an E*Trade ad splashed on the side of a municipal bus.

Herb's Hangout

Herb Huey



Next thing is that the e-commerce entrepreneur must offer the customer a satisfying buying experience. This is not a new philosophy; the customer still wants to be treated well when they go shopping even on the Internet. It is easy at a brick-and-mortar store to have a friendly attentive staff that has direct face-to-face contact with the customer. Mail-order houses at least can have a pleasant, helpful voice on the phone. However, the average e-commerce customer is likely someone who is short on time and too impatient for traditional shopping. They want to get to the product, check the price, and complete the sale in a matter of minutes without leaving the house.

Many entrepreneurs focus on building the "killer" Web site. Remember that your e-commerce Web site is your store front. Simplicity in design is a must. The customer must be able to locate what he wants quickly and with a minimum of mouse clicking. At the same time you can't run a parade of your wares at NASCAR speeds or clutter up your site. Your customers will be overwhelmed, confused and will likely click to another site. Making up a successful Web site can be an art.

The e-commerce entrepreneur must also be concerned about the functions to close a sale. The first requirement is to be able to process credit cards quickly and securely since this is the main medium of exchange on the Internet. You must have your traditional stockroom and shipping departments send out the order within 24 hours. Most people visit your Web site looking for a better price, availability and fast shipping. If you can't do this right then your customer will either visit another site or shop locally. In retail businesses, another Golden Rule is that a satisfied customer tells one more customer, a dissatisfied customer tells seven. With the Internet, it can easily be 7000!

In e-commerce most people will never interface with someone in sales. However, when you have a problem or want to get to the bottom line, the human element is still required. Many sites still use human customer service representatives. If the customer sends an e-mail, then you must get back to them as fast as possible. Many an e-commerce customer can't wait even 24 hours for a reply. Many e-commerce sites use software that allows a customer service rep to chat with four customers, simultaneously versus only one on the telephone.

The Achilles Heel of many an e-commerce enterprise is the company policies and procedures. If the company return policy is restrictive or the company doesn't stand fully behind its product then you will have an unhappy customer. Expect some flame mail if your policies and procedures are not well defined or overly restrictive. Traditional catalog companies are experts at returns and exchanges and have the infrastructures to deal with these issues. Amazon.com is a good example of an e-commerce company that has done its homework. I have ordered books and CDs from them and gotten very good service from them. They have experienced rapid growth in just the last two years.

In summary, e-commerce requires a lot more than just building a pretty Web site. How your company handles the sale, set up payment processes, policies and procedures, shipping and good old customer service can make or break you. Remember how you do all these things on your e-commerce Web site defines you and your company.

Signing Off

I received my copy of "The Secret Guide to Computers" 26th edition that was ordered through OCIPUG for \$8 each. This book is chockfull of PC history and evolution and useful information ranging from basic to advanced computer concepts. The author, Russ Walter, even offers free help 24 hours a day, seven day a week. Russ also injects much of his personality into his writing. The book is written so that a beginner can also feel comfortable reading the book but there is useful information for more advanced users. While much of his information is up-to-date, the newest information tends to be an extra paragraph tacked onto the end of a topic area. Many of the old paragraphs could stand a complete rewriting to be truly up-to-date. Lists of vendors, computer clubs etc. need to be updated also. These are minor quibbles since you get over 600 pages, crammed with information, for under \$10.

Product Review

Paint Shop Pro 5.01

Richard Black

r.black@worldnet.att.net

Publisher: Jasc Software, Inc.

Street Price: \$75 - \$80

Minimum hardware: 486, Win 95/98/NT4, 12MB RAM, 10 MB hard disk space, 256 color monitor. Suggested hardware: the most RAM (at least 16 MB), the fastest processor, and the largest, fastest hard drive you can afford. Full installation, including Animation Shop requires about 32 MB of disk space.

Evaluation was done on a Pentium 100 running Windows 95 with 40 MB RAM (before Windows and utilities are loaded).

Summary

Paint Shop Pro 5.01 is a fun, relatively easy-to-use image editor that is full of features and tools usually found in more expensive programs. Working with up to 64 layers allows building a more complex image or to edit part of an image without effecting the original. The Smart Selection tool helps make working with parts of images easier when the selected area contrasts with the surrounding area. Brush sizes can be controlled for a mouse or pressure tablet. The clone brush allows copying parts of images. CMYK (cyan-magenta-yellow-black) separations are not a problem. A browser, similar to Windows Explorer, shows thumbnails of images. The list can go on and on. Documentation includes a 248-page book plus a 52-page tutorial. The major downside of the package is the documentation, which appears to have been written for experienced image editors. But something is better than nothing. Also, I experienced many crashes with Paint Shop Pro. But, whether those were do to the program in general or the program on my machine has not been determined. Paint Shop Pro 5.01 is justifiably one of the highest rated image editors.

Included with Paint Shop Pro is another program, Animation Shop. The latter allows one to animate GIF images. This review is about Paint Shop Pro, not Animation Shop. The latter can be handy for Web sites, for presentations, or just for playing. Two programs for the price of one.

Documentation

Jasc is one of the few software publishers that provides a significant amount of hard copy documentation with their programs. The Paint Shop Pro book consists of 248 pages discussing the program plus a 52-page tutorial on using the program. The first thing I did after opening the box was to read the book. It can be helpful. That is the good news.

Although the book is easy to read and full of useful information, it appears to be written for people who are already familiar with photo editing and its terminology. Although I have played with a couple of other, lower end photo editors, I am a newbie. Therefore, I found the book frustrating upon the first reading. Sometimes terms are never defined, sometimes they are given a reasonable definition in a discussion near the end of the book. After playing with the program for a while and then re-reading the book, I got a lot more out of the book. But I still have a problem with terminology. Luckily, one can accomplish quite a bit by just playing with the program.

The tutorial concept is nice, but, again, not fulfilling. The tutorial takes you through a number of procedures: click here, do this, do that. But it doesn't explain why the procedure is being done or what it is supposed to accomplish. It is helpful to go through the steps and simply watch the results to get an idea of what the program can do. I guess it is another "something is better than nothing situation". Lesson two, for example, is about AUsing Arithmetic" to combine two images. The tutorial has the user change a function to "Average" and then set the channels to "All channels" and make sure that the Divisor is set to one and Bias is set to zero. Don't understand? O.K. Let's look up Image Arithmetic in the index. Not there, as is the case for many items I would expect to find. Nothing found sounds familiar. Ah, but trudge through the Table of Contents and find that Image Arithmetic is discussed on pages 219 B 221. After reading the pages I still do not know for sure when to use arithmetic. The book certainly doesn't suggest when one would use add as opposed to subtract, multiply or divide. Oh, well. It appears to be a handy feature. Someday I'll try it.

One of the features available is a histogram of the colors or brightnesses in an image. This is one of the few areas where the book explains not only how to use the tool and what it does, but it also explains why and when one would want to use it. Without that discussion, I certainly would not have seen its usefulness. Yet it can be very useful. If only the other areas of the book covered the whys and whens of the different tools.

Using Paint Shop Pro

One of the nice things about using Paint Shop Pro is that much of it is fairly easy to use, especially if one is already familiar with image editing. Simply try doing something and see the effects. If you don't like the results, use my favorite command B Undo. Undo is one of the features that you have control over. The number of undoes per image can be set from one to 99 steps, using from five to 999 megabytes of disk space.

Paint Shop Pro 5.01 is a fairly full-featured product and often is ranked *Athe best@* image editor for non-professionals. There are things that one can do with PhotoShop 5, the standard of image editors for professionals, that cannot be done with Paint Shop Pro, or at least not as easily. But, I was impressed with how much can be done with Paint Shop Pro for about 1/10th the price. If you are not a professional image editor or do not have a professional=s budget, Paint Shop Pro is a good program to use.

It can read and/or write 46 different file formats (32 raster and 12 meta and vector). It can handle from one to 32 bits per pixel images resulting in two to over 16 million colors per image. The native file format, PSP, is a lossless format that gives a choice of no compression or using RLE (about 25% compression) or LZ77 (about 75% compression).

Brush sizes can be controlled for both a mouse and pressure-sensitive tablets, there is support for PhotoShop files and plug-ins, monitor gamma can be corrected, selections and masks can be saved in alpha channels within the file, and there is a "Save Copy

The New Millenium

Herb Huey

This is my first column of the new Millennium. So few problems have arisen from the passage to the Year 2000 that President Clinton officially proclaimed a victory against the supposed Y2K bug. Industry insiders say that it is because all the thousands of man-hours and billions of dollars invested turned Y2K into a non-event. The strange thing is that there were also very few problems in the various parts of the world that did not spend the dollars or man-hours. In any case, let us put Y2K behind us and turn to a real concern.

Where are the GHz PCs?

At the present time, the fastest PCs contain either the Intel 733 MHz Pentium IIIs or the AMD 750 MHz Athlon CPU chips. Intel has already announced the imminent arrival of 800 MHz machines and predicts the arrival of the 1 GHz CPU chips towards the end of 2000.

Intel was reportedly ready to demonstrate a prototype 1 GHz chip at the last Comdex but it kept on crashing. I was discussing these events with a coworker and we both quickly reached the conclusion that there will be no GHz PCs for a long time.

This requires a bit of explanation and it has plenty to do with marketing strategy and consumer perceptions. Each new iteration of CPUs usually has an incremental jump of 33 MHz or 50 MHz. For instance, Intel's fastest CPUs have 600, 650, 667, 700 and 733 MHz clock speeds. Soon we will have a 1000 MHz or 1 GHz CPU. We, as consumers, are accustomed to having machines with higher clock speeds. Faster is better, right? Many of us can remember that the prefix of Mega is actually one million so that 700 MHz is 700 Million Hz. Now most people cannot remember that Giga stands for one billion so that a 1 GHz PC is faster than a 700 MHz PC. However, it is easy to understand that a 1000 MHz PC is faster than a 700 MHz PC.

The marketing people understand this and will try to prevent the use of GHz and stick to good old MHz. Furthermore, people are accustomed to handling numbers with just two decimal places. Therefore, the first 33

MHz iteration will result in a 1.033 GHz PC or a mere 1.03 GHz PC. This is not very impressive. However a 1033 MHz machine is definitely better than a 1000 MHz machine and can even kick some good 1000 MHz butt to boot. However, percentage gains in performance between each speed increment will continue to shrink. The present 733 MHz PC is 4.7% faster than a 700 MHz PC. A 1033 MHz machine is only 3.3% faster than a 1000 MHz machine so marketers will need to concentrate on raw speed as an attraction for new buyers.

This brings up a new dilemma for CPU manufacturers, Intel and AMD. Who is going to pay top dollar for incremental performance of just a few percent? Intel and AMD can try to raise the speed increments to 50, 66 or even 75 MHz but present development cycles will take longer. This may actually be a good thing for Intel and AMD since they can spread their research and development costs over a longer period and lower their prices as a result. PC manufacturers can breathe a sigh of relief if Intel and AMD cut down on the dizzying number of CPU offerings. The customer will benefit from a few less choices and the lower prices from the choices that remain. However, CPU development cycles cannot take too long or sales will start to slump. At that time, they will need new methods of reducing the development time between the larger speed increments.

As CPU speeds climb past 10 GHz, marketers will want to discard the MHz tag as 10,000 MHz and higher speeds become difficult to use and advertise. If speed increments are still stuck at the 33 MHz increment the next increment to 10.03 GHz looks puny indeed. If the increment is 100 MHz then it will be a barely tolerable 10.1 GHz. The next decade shall be challenging indeed for CPU chip manufacturers and PC marketers alike.

SIGNING OFF

I hope you had a wonderful holiday season. Santa has been very good to me this Christmas. I am writing this article on my new Sony PCG-F370 laptop. It has a 450 MHz mobile Pentium III, 128 MB SDRAM, 12 GB hard disk, 4X DVD-ROM drive with a 14.1" X VGA TFT display. It has the usual

serial, parallel, IR and PCMCIA interfaces along with two USB ports. It also weighs only 7.2 lbs versus 9.4 lbs for a similarly equipped Dell. The main attraction for me is the IEEE-1394 interface that Sony has dubbed as i.Link for digital video editing and data transfer between computers. I can now do video editing with the laptop and free up my wife's Sony desktop.

However, I have also transferred my wife's nail salon payroll files so she has an eye on the laptop. I need to make it a top priority to install a phone line to my wife's desktop and get a network going so my wife can access my ISP account from her desktop.

She can then send e-mail in Vietnamese using the Vietnamese word processor that she bought earlier. That should limit her usage of the laptop. I am using the nylon laptop case that my brother-in-law gave me for my birthday. I have already remarked that it cost me \$3100 to make use of his gift.

I solved the lack of backup capability on my wife's desktop by getting an HP 8100e external CD-RW. It was discounted heavily to only \$229 at Office Max. The drive connects via the USB port so I bought an Extex 4-port USB hub so I can connect the scanner, CD-RW and printer simultaneously.

I did find one idiosyncrasy with the CD-RW. When I try to write more than the CD blank can hold (easy in Windows 98), the CD-RW drive will freeze and a cold reboot is the only solution. I hope to get around to solving this problem soon.

My parents love the video album that I completed before the holidays. I have received favorable comments from other family members, especially from my brother's in-laws who commented "What a wonderful life story!" It makes all the long hours worthwhile.

Ken's Korner

Computing Faces Major Changes As We Move Into the Year 2000

Ken Fermoye

Now that "Y2K" is behind us and we are actually into the year 2000, it's time to look at the changes we can expect in computers and how we use them. Predictions are risky, but two things are certain.

First, there will be major alterations in the very structure of computing. Second, some will benefit grassroots computer users -- but many will not. In fact, they probably will have just the opposite effect.

Microsoft will be the focal point for many of the changes. Some will result from the Department of Justice (DOJ) and state attorneys general suits against the company. Also pending are suits against Microsoft by Sun Microsystems, Bristol Technology and other companies, not to mention several class actions that have been filed.

Findings already made by Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson in the DOJ case guarantee shifts in the way Gates & Company do business. The questions are when and how. Other changes will come from within Microsoft itself.

Long Struggle or Compromise?

On the legal front, opinion is divided as to whether Microsoft and DOJ can reach a compromise settlement. Most observers felt this would not happen, that Bill Gates would fight any decision by Judge Jackson all the way through the appeal process up to the Supreme Court. This kind of delaying action could take years. It would be very expensive, but Microsoft has deep pockets and Gates has shown in the past that he can be a stubborn, difficult adversary.

Those hoping for a settlement were encouraged when Judge Jackson tapped Judge Richard A. Posner, chief judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit in Chicago, to mediate between the Department of Justice, state attorneys general and Microsoft. Posner is a well-respected jurist and an expert in economics and antitrust law. He has looked with favor

on corporate arguments in other antitrust situations. The computer press and other media regard his appointment as an attempt to assure Microsoft that it will get a fair hearing from a mediator who is not a fervent supporter of antitrust actions.

Microsoft spokesman Jim Cullinan said the company looks forward to working with Posner toward a fair resolution to the case. "We think this is potentially a very positive step. Both sides voluntarily agreed to it," Cullinan added.

What will happen eventually? Microsoft could be hit by anything from a large fine to a court order requiring that it spin off one or more individual companies. Almost certainly, it will have to stop treating Internet Explorer as an integral part of the operating system (OS) and change its high-handed dealings with PC vendors, which has virtually forced those vendors to use the Window OS.

However, it's done, the DOJ and attorneys general seem determined to "restore competition" by nullifying Microsoft's "monopolistic practices."

That would be good news for Linux and other Open Source software, as well as for resurgent Apple. Market share for them is still tiny compared to the Windows OS, of course.

Buy or Lease?

Perhaps more disturbing for many of us are indications that Microsoft and other software companies plan a dramatic change in the way software is distributed. It seems the trend will be to the system increasingly used by automobile companies -- leasing of products rather than selling them outright.

This has obvious benefits for the vendors. Microsoft and others could reduce packaging and distribution costs and perhaps reduce the piracy potential. It could also insure a smoother cash flow than results from the peaks that now occur when new software versions are introduced and valleys as sales decrease over time. It also solves the growing problem of people and companies who refuse to upgrade slavishly when a new software version debuts.

It provides benefits for corporate users too, as we will see, but what does it mean for us grassroots users working in our home offices or small businesses? My feeling is that such a trend does not look good from our standpoint.

Corporations should love it, especially the Information Technology (IT) people. They will be able to get rid of those pesky PCs, which employees insist on customizing to suit themselves and their jobs. Dumb machines, not much different from the terminals that were my introduction to computing some 20 years ago.

Application Service Providers (ASPs) will provide programs. An ASP is defined in a Spotlight Service Report as "a third-party service firm, which deploys, manages and remotely hosts a pre-packaged software application through centrally located servers in a 'rental' or lease arrangement. In exchange for accessing the application, the client renders rental-like payments."

(The report also notes that independent software vendor (ISV) could bypass a third party and act as its own ASP. Don't you think Bill Gates would find it attractive to eliminate the middleman completely?)

Death of the PC?

Note the terms "remotely hosts" and "centrally located servers." That means accessing software via the Internet, or perhaps a gigantic corporate Wide Area Network (WAN) or an Extranet. Whatever, it essentially leaves grassroots users out in the cold.

Can you imagine trying to use a modem and dial-up access to use all your software if it was located on the Internet? It boggles the mind! Most of us don't have the broadband Internet access available to big corporations.

But if leasing of software becomes the norm, how else could vendors control their user base other than by having them access it from a central host that could be monitored easily?

Not to worry, corporate spokesmen hasten to assure us, the PC is dead anyway. Oh really, and when did this happen? Last time I looked, PC sales were up last year over the

As" feature that lets you save the file in a different format but continue working in the original format. Oh, yes, there is more.

PSP supports up to 64 layers per image. That means you can play to your heart's content without directly effecting the original image. This give lots of flexibility while designing images. Use the drawing tools on one layer, add text to another layer, put part of another image on another layer and they all look like one image. Colors, etc., can be edited on one layer without affecting the other layers. Information from the layers you are not working on may be hidden or viewed. This is fun stuff.

Images or selections can be pasted in as new layers, new selections, as transparent selections, or into the original image. Your choice.

Speaking of selections, there are the usual rectangle/square and oval/circle and free-hand selectors to allow working with just one part of the image. The main reason I wanted to work with Paint Shop Pro 5 is its new Smart Edge selector.

The Smart Edge selector lets you more easily select part of the image to work with. For example, there may be part of an image you want to select to incorporate into another image or to modify without affecting the rest of the image. Clicking every couple of pixels can be tedious. But if one can click around parts of the area to select, whee. That is enticing.

How well this new feature works depends directly on contrast. It works well if the edges of what is to be selected contrast greatly with the surrounding area. If they don't, we are close to square one. This new feature is helpful, but it would be much more helpful if it had Bezier curves so that individual segments can be added to, subtracted from, or moved within the selection. Currently one can add or subtract from the entire selection only. This is a feature that offers a lot of potential. The ability to more tightly control a selection would be a great improvement.

Many of the tools require that the image be either gray scale or 24 bit color. If the image currently being worked on does not qualify, it is easy to set the image to the required

color depth, make the changes, and then reset the color depth. A nice feature if you want to do something that normally is not supported.

There are deformation and filter tools to change the way the image appears. Flip or rotate, add drop shadows or a chisel effect. Deform in a variety of ways. Blur, sharpen, add noise, emboss, and more. If the built in filters do not meet your exact needs, you can define your own B a very handy feature, if you know what you are doing.

Another useful feature is the Aclone brush@ (rubber stamp in PhotoShop terminology). This tool allows you to copy one area of an image (or parts from another image) to different parts of the image. Although not emphasized in the documentation, the area cloned may move, that is encompass more than one point, or it may be static, that is, include just selected pixels. A great way to touch up or to duplicate parts of an image.

Want to work with color separation for your professional printer? CMYK separations are no problem.

Paint Shop Pro is TWAIN compliant. You can import images from scanners and digital cameras, and other peripherals that are TWAIN compliant. For instance, I had no serious problems importing images from a scanner. There are also drivers to import directly from three different Kodak digital cameras. If it is TWAIN compliant it should work with Paint Shop. Another very handy feature.

There is a lot more. Paint Shop Pro is a really great program, if one knows what (s)he is doing. The key is that, to get the full benefit of the program, one needs to have a foundation in the concepts of image editing. If you don't, Paint Shop Pro is still a great program. Just don't expect a quick learning curve. Then again, this is the type of program that calls for playing. I just wish that the documentation were more educational or that it out-right states that the program is not for novices.

On the down side, and this may be a function of my system, the program crashed a lot. I still haven't figured out why. The swap file is more than big enough to handle whatever

I have done and PSP seems to release memory appropriately. Yet I had a lot more hang ups and freezes than I have with any other program. PSP=s problem or mine? Do not know B yet B but I would guess the latter.

Bottom line: this is a great program. It is full of features that the professional standard includes. It is a program that can be easily played with. However, it may not be a program for the Anewbie@ who doesn't want to take the time to learn by doing. But then few programs are.

I did not have sufficient time to fully review Animation Shop. But looking at the documentation and a quick look at the demos included, it looks like another easy to use program, if one wants to animate GIF images. The documentation is over 100 pages long and looks very much like what was included with Paint Shop Pro. Many of the tools are the same and PSP can be used to edit images. It looks as though they took layers from Paint Shop Pro and put them in series as frames rather than one on top of another, and then added transition effects between the layers/frames.

previous year -- which were higher than the year before, etcetera, etcetera -- despite shortages of chips and other components caused by the Taiwan earthquakes.

IBM's 1998 annual report issued last spring had a whole section titled "The PC Era Is Over". Major PC antagonists such as Sun Microsystems' Scott McNealy and Oracle's Larry Ellison have been singing the same song for several years. But how much of that is sour grapes? Are McNealy and Ellison still pouting because their vision of the Net PC died on the vine?

IBM CEO Lou Gerstner believes that "new personal computing devices, such as personal digital assistants, Web-enabled TVs, screenphones, smart cards, and a host of products we have yet to imagine" will gradually replace the personal computer.

Maybe so, but I don't expect to be tossing my PCs on the scrap heap anytime soon. I do expect to be upgrading and/or replacing them with new, faster, more capable machines well into the 21st century, which will not start officially until January 1, 2001, of course.

What's your opinion? I'd love to hear from you on these points. I will revisit this subject of more computing changes we can expect in an upcoming column -- and I will include insightful comments from readers.

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ARTICLES

Fall Cleanup Time

Richard Hunter
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Now is a good time to do your spring cleanup of your computer. Over time many unnecessary files are stored on your hard drive, which take up a lot of space.

To start, go to "..\Windows\temp" using Windows Explorer, and look for files with zero bytes and remove them. While there, check for files with an extension "TMP", and remove them. You may also find other files which are obviously temporary files which should also be removed.

If you use Netscape Communicator, you can save some disk space by opening this program and going to Edit, Preferences, Advance, Cache, and then click on "Clear Disk Cache". That will remove the graphics file that Communicator stores in Netscape, User, (your user name), Cache. Communicator stores the graphics file there, but changes the name of the files. If you haven't cleared this folder in a while you can easily have several megs of graphic files in this location.

If you use Internet Explorer 4, open the program and go to View, Internet Options, General, and click on Delete Files. IE 4 stores files in ..\Windows\Internet Temporary Files\. However, IE stores more than one copy of the graphics from the Web page you have visited. In my case, I counted nine copies of each graphic file, using separate folders. Now, I wonder why Microsoft found it necessary to save so many copies of the same file. IE 4 also saved two caches in each of the nine folders used on system. IE 4 uses the original file name, making it easy to collect the graphics and save them if you are saving a web page, but nine copies seems excessive.

If you use CleanSweep, you can do more cleanup. The program will find all files with zero bytes, it will also cleanup up junk left over in your Registry. Additionally it will search for files with the same names. In this case, be careful. Only if you are sure that the files are identical and unneeded should you delete duplicate files, and even

then, use the backup system CleanSweep provides to save the files to see if removing the files creates a problem for your system.

Now that the unneeded files have been removed, do a Scan Disk. Afterwards do a drive Defragmentation to get your hard drive back in good shape. Now then, congratulate yourself on a job well done. And, remember to occasionally clean up your hard drive.

Windows Startup Files

Richard Hunter
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At the October general meeting, a question was raised about where to find the application files that automatically start when Windows 98 starts; and how to remove one of these files. Because the answer wasn't clear in my mind, I decided to look into the question further. What I found applies to Windows 98, but only partly to Windows 95.

First, let's look at steps applicable to both Windows 95 and 98.

To remove a file from the Startup Group, you may use one of two approaches:

• You may use Windows Explorer and go to:
.. \WINDOWS\STARTUP\MENU\PROGRAMS\STARTUP
From there select the file and press the <Delete> key to delete the file. Remember, shortcuts may be deleted without removing the program from your system.

• The second way to remove a file from your system is to right click on a blank area on the application bar (at the bottom of your screen). Select properties from the pop-up box and then click on the Start Menu Programs tab. Next click "Remove" and proceed to the "Startup" group and expand the folder by clicking on the plus sign to the left of "Startup". Locate and select the file you want to delete and click "remove".

To remove files in the WIN.INI, press the <Start> key on a Windows keyboard or click on "Start" on your Desktop display, click "Run", and then type "Sysedit". From the

system Configuration Editor display of many files, minimize any file windows that are obscuring other file windows, and maximize the WIN.INI file window.

Then click on "Search" in the menu bar and select "Find". Enter the file name and click "Find". This will take you to the entry that you want to remove. To temporarily remove the line, place a semi-colon at the start of the line followed by a blank space. This changes the line from a command to a comment line. This makes it easier to restore the original command if you need to do so later.

To see all the files that load automatically in Windows 98, go to:

"Start, Programs, Accessories, System Tools, System Information".

From there click on the plus sign by "Software Environment" and then click on "Startup Programs". The right pane of this window will then show the "name", "Load from" and "Command" of the application files started at startup.

On my computer, four files start from the Startup Group (more about the Startup Group later). One file starts from WIN.INI, and seventeen files start from the Registry. Thus, for my system, there are three places that load an application file upon startup. Now if there is a problem with one of these files, that file can easily and temporarily be removed.

Click on Tools (from the menu bar), then click on "System configuration" (System Configuration Utility), and finally click the "Startup tab". The resulting windows will show the startup files along with a check box. To temporarily remove a file, simply uncheck the check box and restart your computer. The temporary removal is a good way to try out a change that you might be considering, with an easy way to return the system to the way it was.

Note the many steps or levels one has to go through to get to the Startup Control windows. While it works fine, you may have trouble remembering all the steps. On the other hand, Windows 98 provides much more information and control than Windows 95.

Now comes the scary part, removing something from your Registry. Before doing anything with your Registry, check to see that you have several backup copies of the Registry.

The backup registry for Windows 95 consists of two files: System.da0 and users.da0. You may also have used REGBACK.EXE to make additional backup copies, but that topic is for another article or a Windows SIG. The techniques for restoring the backup Registry files in Windows 95 have already been discussed in a Windows SIG and elsewhere.

On the other hand, by default, Windows 98 makes a new backup copy of the Registry upon start up, but only once a day. Again, by default, there are five or more backup copies stored in

..\WINDOWS\SYSBCKUP\.

They are named Rb00x.cab. Check the date and size of the backup files. The date should be current with the Registry. The size of the *compressed* backup should represent a size consistent with the size of the Registry. E.g., the backup as compressed should be about 3/4 or so the size of the Registry itself.

At this point it is well to tell you how to install one of these backup files for Windows 98, since it is a newer system and a different technique than Windows 95. To install a backup Registry, restart your system in the "Restart in the MS-DOS mode". When restarted, change to the Windows directory and type "scanreg / restore". Then, select the backup version you want and follow the instructions regarding restarting your computer.

Now with all that information in mind, you are ready to remove the program. Carefully note the name of the file because you will have to enter it exactly as shown in the Startup windows, discussed earlier. Click on "Start" and then on "Run". In the Run box enter, "regedit". When Registry Editor comes up press <Ctrl-F> and enter the file name (exactly) and click "Find Next". When the file is located, highlight the file (in the right-hand pane) and press the <Delete> key. Confirm that you want to remove the program and afterward restart your computer.

Windows 95 doesn't give you nearly as much help in finding the file as does Windows 98. However, you can do a <Ctrl-Alt-Delete> to see what is running, and then you can follow the same steps to remove a program. You may have to search the three areas mentioned (Startup Group, WIN.INI, and Registry) to find the file.

Now for the disclaimer. I am not responsible for your system. I have given you what I consider good advice, but I cannot be responsible if it doesn't work out for any reason. If you have any doubts about removing a program or a file—DON'T.

New Business:

In January we need to renew our bulk mailing status. Mike Moore will obtain names and addresses of libraries to send complimentary *Readme.Docs* to. The swap meet booth could use issues of the *Readme.Doc*.

Wayne Ali made a motion to print 150 copies of *Readme.Doc* to be used as handouts at the Swap Meet Booth. Bob Walker seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The calendar should be included in *Readme.Doc* for the Swap Meet Booth. Motion carried.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM. The next Executive Board meeting will be at Costa Mesa Senior Center, 695 W 19th Street, Costa Mesa, CA 92627 on Monday December 27, 1999 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Shirley Wozniak, Secretary

(Editor's note: Minor typographical changes for clarity and accuracy made to minutes approved at the 27 December Board meeting.)

**Meeting of the Executive Board
27 December 1999**

Pursuant to a determination that a quorum was present, meeting of the Executive Board of OCIPUG was called to order by Vice President Red Davidson at the Costa Mesa Senior Center, 695 W 19th Street, Costa Mesa, CA 92627 at 7:10 p.m.

OFFICERS PRESENT:

Red Davidson, Vice President
Shirley Wozniak, Secretary
Larry Pearce, CFO
Wayne Ali, Past President

OFFICERS ABSENT:

Leonard Stein, President

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Robert Lynch
Bob Walker
Sam Wozniak

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Jesse Bequette
Michael Moore
Leonard Robertson
Dennis Walz
Frank Yaeger

ALSO ATTENDING

Morris Fier
Preston Hill

Copies of the minutes of the November 29, 1999 meeting were distributed to the members of the Board of Directors to be read. The spelling of the name of Victor Olcott was corrected. Wayne Ali moved that the minutes be approved, Shirley Wozniak seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports

Red Davidson's Report

He has not been able to make contact with Senior Center in regards to having the General Meeting there. Bob Walker said that Victor G. Olcott said it was all clear with Senior Center for the General Meetings. We need to know what equipment is available for meetings from the Senior Center or our own members.

Secretary's Report (correspondence)

A written report of the mail received from November 24 to December 23, 1999 was received from Robert Nelissen.

Treasurer's Report

Chief Financial Officer Larry Pearce reviewed the financial report for the period ending 12/27/99. A written report was submitted.

OCC has accepted our payment of the fee for the meetings at the college for the period ending December 31, 1999. We have not entered into a contract with OCC for the year 2000.

We have two bills to be paid in December, one for the OCIPUG Domain Name and one for the APCUG Membership dues. Wayne Ali made a motion to approve payment of these two bills. Robert Lynch seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

Sam Wozniak made a motion to have Red Davidson and Robert Lynch look at all surplus equipment and determine how to dispose of it. Wayne Ali seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

We need a managing editor or publishing committee chairman for *Readme.Doc*. Preston Hill will take charge for the January 2000 *Readme.Doc* with the help of Bob Walker, Robert Lynch and Red Davidson. All information needs to be sent to Preston Hill by January 10, 2000.

New Business:

Wayne Ali reported the HOT LINE has been transferred to his house but the number will remain the same. The HOT LINE number is (714)622-2939.

Robert Walker reports he may have a panel to discuss Comdex at the next general meeting. Other possibilities are Micro Center for a talk on new software. We could have a talk about the Web Page and the BBS at the February 26 meeting.

Location for the January 29 meeting has not been set yet. When we know the location for the meeting, Wayne Ali will post a notice on the HOT LINE and Preston Hill will send an e-mail to all old and new members.

(Editor's note: It has since been determined that the General Meetings will be held at the Costa Mesa Senior Center at the SE corner of 19th and Pomona in Costa Mesa.)

Announcements:

The next three General Meetings will be on:
January 29, 2000
February 26, 2000
March 25, 2000

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM. The next Executive Board Meeting will be at the Costa Mesa Senior Center, 695 W 19th Street (SE corner of 19th and Pomona), Costa Mesa, CA 92627 on Monday January 31, 2000 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Shirley Wozniak, Secretary

MINUTES

Meeting of the Executive Board

29 November 1999

Pursuant to a determination that a quorum was present, a regular meeting of the Executive Board of OCIPUG was called to order by Leonard Stein, President, at the Costa Mesa Senior Center, 695 W 19th Street, Costa Mesa, CA 92627 at 7:05 p.m.

Officers Present:

Leonard Stein, President
Red Davidson, Vice President
Shirley Wozniak, Secretary
Larry Pearce, CFO
Wayne Ali, Past President

Directors Present:

Jesse Bequette
Robert Lynch
Michael Moore
Leonard Robertson
Bob Walker
Dennis Walz
Sam Wozniak
Frank Yaeger

ALSO ATTENDING

Tony Dopazo
Morris Fier
Richard Hunter
Kevin Moser
Victor G. Olcott
Charles Schreiber
Audrey Wolden
Joe Zebrowski

The minutes of the October 25, 1999 meeting were not available. Jesse Bequette will mail them to the Secretary, Shirley Wozniak and they will be read at the December 27, 1999 meeting.

Audrey Wolden will publish the December *Readme.Doc* with the help of Charles Schreiber, Richard Hunter, Morris Fier and Karla Heider. She needs to have people send her information and articles to be used in *Readme.Doc*. She does not wish to be the permanent Chairman of the Publishing Committee. We will have to find someone to head the *Readme.Doc* Publishing Committee for January 2000.

Leonard Stein will extract articles and Calendar; Jesse Bequette will scan them and use OCR program to convert them to text and e-mail to Morris Fier. Bob Walker will work on finding a speaker for the December 18, 1999 General Meeting. Mike Conway will take care of the labeling with help from Larry Pearce. All information to be published in the December *Readme.Doc* must be in to Charles Schreiber by December 6th. Charles will have it ready to be mailed by December 9th.

(Editor's note: It was subsequently decided not to publish Readme.Doc in December.)

Committee Reports

Membership Report

Written report was submitted by Ken Paeth for period ending November 18, 1999.

Secretary's Report

A written report of mail received from October 22 to November 23, 1999 was received from Rob Nelissen.

Treasurer's Report

Chief Financial Office Larry Pearce reviewed the financial report for the period ending 10/31/99 including expected budget expenditures for the first two months of 2000. A written report was submitted.

Discussion followed of problems with billing from Orange Coast College for the rooms we have used at OCC for the General Meetings since June 1999. Larry Pearce recommended we pay OCC "as per our oral agreement as we understand it" at \$84.00 per month plus rental of equipment. It was so directed.

Victor Olcott proposed we hold our General Meetings at the Costa Mesa Senior Center. Red Davidson will contact the Senior Center to determine if this is a possibility. We would need to vote on changing the location of meetings at the General Meeting with a quorum present. We will meet at OCC for the December 18, 1999 General Meeting. We will review our contract with OCC for rental of meeting rooms in 2000.

(Editor's note: It was subsequently decided not to have a General

Meeting in December inasmuch as OCC campus and lecture halls will be closed on December 18.)

A motion was made by Wayne Ali to pay the General Liability Insurance Annual Premium of \$775.00 to renew our General Liability Insurance as a corporate entity to protect all members from any liability. Seconded by Bob Walker. The motion carried unanimously.

Vice President's Report

Red Davidson reports we have 4 SIGS meeting at the Senior Center on Wednesday nights and 1 on Saturday afternoon. He will scan the Guide and Calendar from the Senior Center Chronicle and send them to Charles Schreiber for publication.

Most of the surplus equipment has been disposed of. It was suggested pictures be taken of what is left and they be brought to the December 18 meeting for final sale or gifting. It's important that records are kept as to how each item is disposed of.

Sam Wozniak will prepare a new trifold brochure for new members to be used on the Web site and at the swap meet.

The Board discussed putting *Readme.Doc* on the Web site and BBS. There could be liabilities involved. We could do the layout so that some pages containing only OCIPUG original material could be put on the Web page. We could give out CDs of the InReach ISP at the swap meet and to new members.

Speaker Committee Report

Bob Walker has talked to people at Comdex. We have a letter from Caere with an offer of a speaker. Bob Walker will contact Caere regarding their offer of a speaker.

Program Committee Report

We need to bring tickets for drawing and software to December 18 meeting. We could send postcards to old members when we have a particularly interesting meeting.