

Orange Coast IBM PC User Group

README.DOC

Nov-Dec 2000

Newsletter

Volume 16.12

General Meetings are held from 9:00AM to noon on:
 16 December 2000
 27 January 2001
 24 February 2001
 24 March 2001
 For details see inside pages of this issue, Web Page, or Information Line

Meetings of the Executive Board will be held at 7:00PM on:
 18 December 2000
 29 January 2001
 26 February 2001
 26 March 2001
 30 April 2001
 All OCIPUG members are welcome.

Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings are held monthly as follows:
 1st Saturday, 1:00PM - New User
 1st Wednesday, 7:00PM - Internet
 2nd Tuesday, 7:00PM - Hardware
 2nd Wednesday, 7:00PM - Genealogy
 3rd Wednesday, 7:00PM - Windows
 4th Wednesday, 7:00PM - Digital Photo

ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD IN THE COSTA MESA SENIOR CENTER AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF 19TH AND POMONA

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OCIPUG Information line: 714-662-2939

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See mailing label for membership expiration date.



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SCHEDULES AND REPORTS OF EVENTS

General Meeting Program 16 December 2000

Note: Schedule times are subject to change as meeting requirements indicate.

Random Access/Q & A	
Michael Springer	8:30 - 9:00
President's Message	
Robert Walker	9:00 - 9:05
SIG Meeting Reports	
Richard Hunter	9:05 - 9:15
SIG Coordinator	
IVAN & NAPSTER	9:15-10:45
Break	10:45-11:00
COMDEX	11:00-12:00
Internet	
Michael Moore	12:00-12:15
Drawing	12:15-12:30
Adjourn	12:30

Program for December 16 2000

We will review sound cards for our computers and look at the great sites to download MP-3 music and radio stations we can tune into on the Internet. You can also use your sound card to talk to your computer.

We will have five IVAN programs for our prizes

For the first time, you can talk to your computer, the Internet, and wireless devices like you talk to your friends. Simply strap on your headset and prepare yourself for the ride of your life. IVAN will let you talk to your favorite web sites, track your stock portfolio, check out the weather, the news, and so much more. IVAN can put you in control by letting you speak your thoughts!

User's of IVAN™ can surf and search the Internet by just speaking with IVAN and their computer. IVAN not only takes users to web sites for any given topic and guides them through the site but also helps them find the information in a simple and intuitive way. IVAN understands human language and identifies concepts so there is no need to remember commands or predefined phrases. A user can just speak to IVAN and IVAN will understand the concept of the request. By using Multi Site, One Voice's contextual-based searching technology,

IVAN can find multiple web sites for any category and display them simultaneously as tabs on its search results

We will review some of the different players for CD's MP-3 files and Internet radio.

Come see a demonstration of *Napster*

Find out why Napster is the hottest application on the Net and how to download and use it. The No. 1 spot in the Web music category, which includes both music content and shopping sites, according to leading Internet audience measurement service

and a report on COMDEX

Special Interest Group (SIG) Topics

Richard Hunter, SIG Coordinator

(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.)

November

New User - 1st Saturday, 1:00PM

John Lunsford 714-995-0947
jlunsford@gentech.com

6 January

Internet - 1st Wednesday, 7:00PM

Michael Moore 714-535-0608
mmoore@inreach.com

3 January

Call SIG leader for topic

Hardware - 2nd Tuesday, 7:00PM

Ed Leckliter 310-944-6453
eleckliter@home.com

9 January

Call SIG leader for topic

Genealogy - 2nd Wednesday, 7:00PM

Richard Hunter 714-968-6362
rthunter@bigfoot.com

10 January

Call SIG leader for topic

Windows - 3rd Wednesday, 7:00PM

Richard Hunter 714-968-6362
rthunter@bigfoot.com

20 December

Call SIG leader for topic

Digital Cameras and Scanning -

4th Wednesday, 7:00PM
Bob Strader 949-646-1475

27 December

Call SIG leader for topic

President's Message

Back from visiting the Wizard in the land of OZ. Robert Lynch and I had a preview look at all the wonderful things they had to show us at COMDEX and the Association of Personal Computer User Groups conference in Las Vegas. We have a large bag of flyers and software for show and tell at our next meeting.

We had a very good turnout for our November general meeting. 25 plus three visitors. A very interesting program from Microsoft's Mind Share about the new Windows Millennium Edition and programs and games from Microsoft. We gave out Windows ME software and a new Streets and Tips program in the drawing.

If you were at the meeting you saw that we had our new projector up and running. A special thank you to the Rex Sutton family for donating Rex's projector to our organization.

At our meeting on December the 16th we will show programs from Napster and IVAN. Come and see how to download and use MP-3 files to create a library of your music to burn your own CD's. We will have 5 of the IVAN programs, a Photo Vista program from MGI and others for the drawing. The IVAN program lets you can talk to your computer the Internet and wireless devices like you were talking to your friends.

Christmas is just around the corner and we will have copies of the APUCG software that will make great Christmas stocking stuffers for all of your friends with computers so come early and help us celebrate Christmas.

Robert Walker

OCIPUG General Meeting October 28, 2000

Richard Black

Ed Leckliter moderated the Random Access period before the official meeting opened. Initially there were few questions, but as more members arrived questions became involved. Problem areas included screen blanking while using AOL to access the Web with the only solution being a reboot, messages while installing Windows ME saying that there are crossed linked files on the disk, even though Scandisk could find none, potential problems in uninstalling and reinstalling Windows 95.

President Robert Walker opened the meeting at 9:20 A.M. Richard Hunter discussed the up-coming SIG meetings. Red Davidson announced suggested by-law changes, which were printed in the Readme.doc. A motion to accept the changes was made and seconded. During discussion, because many members had not had a chance to read the suggested changes, a motion to table the voting was made and seconded. The motion to table was passed.

At 9:30 Randal Whittle, representing MicroVision Development, makers of SureThing CD Labeler, was introduced. Recordable CDs are very prominent today, possibly more so than Zip drives. This makes using CD-R and CD-RW disks good media for sharing files. Some estimates are that CD-R disks may last 75 to 200 years, although there may not be anything available at that time to read the disks.

Randy pointed out that the back side, the non-recordable side of a CD-R disk is very vulnerable. Scratches and permanent pen ink on the backside can affect data on the recorded side. That is one of the reasons for using a CD labeler. Labels help protect the CD as well as let one know what has been recorded on the disk.

Differences between the CD-R and CD-RW media were discussed and it was pointed out that some, especially older, CD drives cannot read CD-RW discs. However, since they are rewritable the disks can be used a number of times. Randy's Web site, www.iceka.com, has information and links about using CD-R and CD-RW drives and disks. Once at the site, check UG Resources for lists of sites and information.

MicroVision licenses its programs to label makers, each of whose version works with only their labels. SureThing CD Labeler by MicroVision works with all companies' label makers.

Randy also talked about Web Express, which allows the quick development of a Web site using modifiable templates.

After a break, Randy gave a presentation for Zeroknowledge, a program and service by Freedom.net that allows Web users to use pseudonyms (nymns) and encryption while surfing, chatting, and sending e-mail. Their

system needs standard TCP/IP and does not work with AOL nor Compuserve. For \$50 (\$35 for User Groups) one gets the software and five tokens. Each token is good for a one-year's use of a nymn. One can have five nymns for one year or one nymn for five years, or other combinations. According to Randy, the security is so good that not even Freedom knows who their customers are, unless one pays by credit card or check.

Randy offers User Groups very special prices during his presentations and he did so at the meeting.

At noon a drawing was held and the meeting closed.

OCIPUG General Meeting November 25, 2000

Richard Black

Prior to the official meeting, Ed Leckliter responded to Random Access questions from 8:45 A.M. until 9:00 A.M. The two main topics concerned Intel's P4 CPU and USB 2 standard.

Ed indicated that currently only the game Quake III (and possibly MPEG encoding, depending on the benchmarks used) can take advantage of the P4. Since there are not any other programs that can benefit from it, it requires Rambus RAM (expensive), and the next implementation of the P4 (due in mid-2001) will use a different socket, there is no advantage to most end users - unless one wants to be on the bleeding edge of technology. The current targets for the P4 are high-end workstations.

The main difference of USB 2 from the current 1.1 standard will be speed. There will be a hardware change when the standard is finalized. USB 2 will increase speed to 480 Mbs but will be backwardly compatible with USB 1.1 equipment.

At 9 A.M. President Robert Walker opened the business meeting with 21 members present. The motion to accept the recommended changes to the club's by-laws that was made, seconded and tabled at last month's meeting was removed from the table. The president called a vote by a show of hands. The motion passed with no nay votes.

Maria [no last name given] representing AT&T broadband cable (in conjunction with Road Runner) announced that service is available in Costa Mesa, Tustin, and Playa del Rey. Currently installation is free and the first three months are \$29.95 each - \$39.95 thereafter. [She did not mention that there is no long-term contract required.] AT&T will be offering long-distance services within a few weeks.

President Walker mentioned that we have a lockable filing cabinet at the senior center where OCIPUG documents will be kept. He then introduced the SIG leaders present, who discussed what will be happening at the up-coming SIG meetings.

Due to expected low turnout (26 members were in attendance), rather than a live presentation, tapes from Microsoft's April 2000 Extreme presentation were shown. Extremes are presentations to an audience with a simultaneous broadcast to theaters around the country.

Demonstrations of the Pocket PC using Windows, Front Page 2000, PhotoDraw 2000, Windows Me (beta) were made.

The Pocket PC comes with Pocket versions of Excel and Word, a calendar, handwriting recognition and an on-screen keyboard. Internet Explorer, a book reader, and a compact flash expansion slot. The expansion slot then-currently accommodated a modem, an Ethernet card, cell phone adaptor, and a camera attachment that turns the PC into a digital camera, et. al. The Pocket PC can multitask since it is using a version of Windows.

Front Page 2000 is a front end for creating web pages. It is designed for ease of use yet is powerful, so that new users and professionals can find it helpful. During the demonstration a complete web site was put together from scratch.

Photo Draw 2000 can import 23 file formats. If the work is saved for the Web, a wizard can be used. Among other things, the wizard will show the picture in GIF and JPG at various compression ratios as well as showing the file sizes and estimated load times. Thus the user can see the results of compression on both the picture quality and file size. Animated GIFs can be made using Photo Draw 2000.

Windows Me, the newest [and last] home user version of Windows was demonstrated using a beta version. Windows Me was also presented in another tape from Mindshare, Microsoft's User Group representatives. The main areas that Me has improved are added media tools such as Media Player 7 for digital audio and video, Movie maker to create/edit digital videos. System file protection can restore over 800 files if they are deleted or corrupted. System Restore takes snapshots of the hard drive periodically so that one can Go Back to a prior setting when things go wrong. Home Networking is made easier using a wizard and can be used to connect to older operating systems (network interface cards are needed). And More.

After the videos, Past-President Leonard Stein announced the formation of a new committee that will, for the next few months, consider what the club should be doing and where it should go. He needed and received three volunteers: Morris Fier, Michael Moore, and Herb Huey.

It was announced that the December meeting will be held on the third Saturday, December 16, because of the holidays. Then, at 11:58 A.M. a drawing was held. ... Have a very happy Holiday Season

Herb's Hangout

Herb Huey



How Fast Things Change

Recently, I was talking to some of my co-workers and we got to reminisce about the early PC days in the 1980s and how primitive were PCs. I remember back in the old XT days of 1984 when I actually used Lotus 123 without a hard drive. You needed to have four 360K floppies available; three for the Lotus 123 spreadsheet program and one floppy for the graphics and printer utilities. Of course, you needed a data disk to hold your precious spreadsheet. These days, many of my Excel workbooks, with multiple spreadsheet tabs, take up megabytes of space.

I remember my first programming language compiler; Microsoft FORTRAN. This compiler actually functioned with seven 360K floppies; three for the compiler, three for the linker and one for the debugger/editor. I took many of my good, old faithful FORTRAN programs, previously compiled on IBM and VAX mainframes, and ported them to the PC. I had to break up many program files to smaller files so that they could compile on the XT.

Can you imagine one of my typical exercises? First, I had to load in the compiler (three floppies), then load in the program files (one floppy), run the compiler, load in the linker (three floppies), run the linker, load in the editor/debugger (one floppy) to edit out the compiler/linker errors and repeat the entire process until the program was running correctly so that I can save the results to another floppy. I was switching so many floppies back and forth that I finally broke down after six months and bought my first hard drive, a 20MB Seagate ST225 drive. Life was great back then with so much hard disk space.

Today, I use Lahey FORTRAN 95 and Borland C++ to compile my programs and both applications are well over a gigabyte in size. However, many of my analyses can be performed with MathCad, a sophisticated Math word processor/calculator. MathCad will quickly solve any set of mathematical equations that is solvable, complete with documentation that you provide on the prob-

lem. MathCad is relatively small requiring only about 250MB. For solutions requiring more heavy-duty math and system simulation, I use Matlab, which uses a simulation language similar to FORTRAN. I recently installed the latest version and it took up 1.4GB of hard disk space with all the optional toolboxes. That is a big hit even for those of us that have 10 to 20GB hard disks. Remember Windows 98 takes up 300 to 400MB and Office 2000 Standard will set you back another 350MB. The Lahey and Borland compilers, Office 2000 Standard, MathCad, and MatLab use up more than 4GB of my once spacious 12GB hard drive. Some things never change but what a long way from my original, dual floppy PC system to my modest 20MB hard disk upgrade and my current 12GB hard disk. It does remind me of one of my Rules of Insanity: No matter how big your hard drive is, you can always manage to fill it up in 18 months.

I also mentioned to my co-workers that I was a gamma tester for Excel v3.0 back in 1990 right after it hit the streets. I was working in an engineering group of over 250 engineers. Lotus 123 was firmly entrenched as the spreadsheet of choice. Microsoft was trying to make a breakthrough in this area with a better spreadsheet. Microsoft also believed that Excel would make owning Windows 3.0 more worthwhile to professional workers. Microsoft Excel had two great innovations. One, Excel changed the order of operation by having the user first select the cell range and then choosing the operations that they wished to perform on that block of cells. By changing the order, it was possible to quickly perform multiple operations on the same block of data. The second innovation in Excel was the introduction of toolbars. Toolbars contain icons of commonly used commands that are easily accessible without having to resort to multiple menus all the time. I found with these two innovations that I was more productive with Excel and I quickly introduced many of my co-workers to Excel. Within two years, virtually everyone in my area who used spreadsheets had switched to Excel.

Meanwhile, Lotus had a difficult problem transitioning their spreadsheet to Windows 3.0. Back in the good old DOS days, they were the spreadsheet of choice and had a huge loyal user base. In order to keep all these Lotus users happy they had to make their Windows version of Lotus 123 backward compatible. The first Windows version of Lotus 123 was a disappointment since they retained the menu-driven features of Lotus 123. Subsequent revisions did not fare better. I remember when I won Revision 3 in the OCIPUG drawing that I had a great chance to compare both products. Soon after I received Revision 3, a Hot Line caller ask me how to change the printer page orientation to Landscape. I told her to call

back in five minutes so I can fire up Revision 3. I found that I had to go seven menus deep to change the page orientation. How can anybody hope to get anything done when a simple task is buried so deep? From my viewpoint, it is no surprise that Lotus completely lost their market share in just a few short years. Today, Lotus 123 is available only with the Lotus Office Suite. Personally, I don't know anyone who still uses Lotus 123. I'm sure there may be a few die-hards out there.

It's hard to believe that I was doing serious work with my original XT with an 8088 CPU running at 2MHz containing 512KB of RAM with the 20MB hard disk and monochrome graphics. Today, I am writing this column on a portable laptop with a 450 MHz Pentium III CPU with 128MB of RAM, 12GB hard disk and true-color graphics. My wife's desktop PC has similar specs and the hard disk has less than 2GB of free space. I expect to finally replace my five year old 200MHz Pentium Pro next year with a system containing a CPU running in excess of 1GHz and at least a 60GB hard disk. How fast have things changed, indeed!

Signing Off

My wife informed me that the two computers that I bought in Vietnam are still working great 10 months later. It has helped a niece and nephew pass their Entrance Exams to get into the government-supported free junior high and high schools, respectively. This is a matter of great concern to thousands of Vietnamese families every year. I'm glad that the educational software I installed on these computers played a part in their success.

I was one of the many OCIPUG members who got the CD Labeler by Sure Touch at the October General Meeting. CD Labeler is a vast improvement over CD Stomper, which I hated and used just once. I like Randy Whittle's great presentation tip, making working copies of my program CDs and attaching a scanned facsimile of the original label. I tried it and it makes all your working copies look professional. The sample backgrounds also look great on my data and archival CDs. The label applicator device is easy to use and produces excellent results. I haven't tried the Office Labeler yet but I expect similar results. Now maybe I can clean up my huge CD and video collections.

Herb's Hangout

Herb Huey



The Technology Thief

As computer users, we tend to be at the forefront of technology. Some OCIPUG members have returned from COMDEX with glowing reports of new technologies presented at the show. Technology is like a sparkling diamond that lures us to possess it with promises of a better future. Instead, we may find that technology is more like the thieving magpie that steals shiny objects to decorate its nest and leaves something less valuable behind like a pebble or a feather. Technology may actually improve our lives but it can often steal our innocence or introduce other complications in our lives. PCs are just one of many innovations that have changed our lives forever and left us poorer in some ways.

How many of us remember the revolution started by the pocket calculator? With a machine that actually fits in a pocket, complex calculations can be performed quickly and accurately. When I taught Physics labs, I once asked a student to figure out the ratio of 50 over 25. Out came the calculator to get the magic answer of two. Of course when a student makes a mistake, they exclaim "But that's what the calculator says is the answer!" Sadly, I find that most high school kids also have trouble performing simple math in their heads. Ask your children or grandchildren to figure out the tip for a bill of \$56.88 and their eyes will cross and they will think you are nuts. I've lost some facility in basic math but I can still do calculations in my head that my daughter would consider are feats of magic.

With the digital world around us, many of the younger generation are analog-challenged. Take telling time for instance. If I ask my daughter what time it is, she will glance at her digital watch and reply 7:50. I would look at my analog watch and say ten minutes before eight. If my daughter forgot her watch and is forced to look at an analog clock, it may be several seconds before she replies 7:50.

Many businesses use young people as cashiers. The cash register is so automated that

it tells the young cashier how much change to give to the customer. At McDonalds, it also tells the teenaged cashier how many of each coin must be tendered. I have actually been turned away at a business when electrical power was out and the employees could not make change.

PCs have become indispensable tools in many of our lives but they have taken away something from our lives as well. Accountants and engineers can build massive 5000-cell spreadsheets to solve a problem but often fail to check their calculations. Word processors allow a person to quickly dash a letter without bothering to check their spelling and grammar. We tend to dash a short e-mail instead of writing a thoughtful letter. I know a mechanical engineer friend who is a whiz at computer-aided drafting (CAD) but never took a drafting course. He actually lacks the skill to draw straight lines with a T-square and triangles.

At the November General Meeting we got to hear how Windows ME combined with new technologies will make a difference in our lives. One example is a refrigerator connected to the Internet. It features automatic ordering when preset inventories get low. I don't think I want people to know about my dietary habits in detail. I wonder what it will do with leftovers? If it can flag and identify that container in the rear with weird green and brown stuff growing on it then I will be among the first to sign up for one of those refrigerators.

Personal Web pages. I suppose that it does some good to have one's ego stroked but a lot of unnecessary bandwidth and storage space is being used to support egos. Afterall, except for your relatives and close friends, what compelling reason is there for somebody like myself to hit on your Web page?

I have resisted getting my own cell phone for sometime now. Many people have good reason for having them like business people on the go and people on call. Many people say they need cell phones for emergencies, which happens once in a blue moon. Most people actually use cell phones to keep track of people or just to chat. What we give up is that people fail to practice common courtesy and good sense. I hate when a person receives a call in the restaurant and proceeds to talk so loudly that I feel like part of their conversation. Recently, I was nearly rear-ended by a woman driving an SUV who was not paying attention to her driving. To make matters worse, she got irritated at me for failing to yield to her!

New technologies often get used in ways that the pioneers never dreamed about. How many of us time shift our favorite TV shows by taping them on our VCRs and watching them at a more convenient time. Perhaps

you also fast-forward through all the commercials as well. Answering machines and now Caller ID are often used to screen phone calls. Have you ever answered the phone to be greeted with a few seconds of silence before the caller blurts out "Excuse me, I didn't expect to talk to a human." The Internet has expanded beyond its original purpose as a fountain of knowledge and has spawned a host of new business and other activities.

Despite the conveniences and savings in time that technology can bring to us, I seem to have less time than before. I have a full time job as an engineer and my wife has a business that requires some of my time. Sometimes all I seem to have time for at the end of a full workday is to warm up leftovers and my computer before its time to go to bed. Sometimes, there doesn't seem to be enough time to do all the things that need to get done.

How many of us wish for a return to the good old days? Of course we don't mean that we are willing to give up our cell phones, VCRs, PCs and the Internet. Instead we yearn for the simpler days when we seemed to have enough time to get things done. This is what technology has done to you and me and there is no way to turn back the clock. Technology, like the magpie, is like a thief in the night that has stolen our innocence. Remember the gifts that the magpie leaves behind in exchange come with a no return policy. It would be a good idea to check and see what the magpie may leave behind in exchange before embracing any new technology.

Signing Off

This column will be out around Christmas. I hope that Santa realized that you have been good and left you something nicer than a lump of coal. My wife is hoping that Santa will have a new house for her but I told her not to hold her breath. I guess I won't be getting any new toys for Christmas as a result.

I have been exchanging a flurry of e-mails with my brothers about a computer for my parents. My aunt was able to get two old 386 PCs for free and my parents are itching to get on the Internet and receive e-mail. An old family friend is trying to get them set up but AOL and Earthlink does not support Windows 3.1 anymore.

My youngest brother in NY has nearly enough parts to build a rather good Pentium 125 computer but must send it to Florida. I am in favor of getting a new computer system rather than continue subjecting my parents to an antique PC. Another brother will be in Florida for Christmas and he is also leaning towards getting a new computer. I am sure that we will have it resolved before Christmas but I would be interested in hearing what my readers have to say.

CueCat

From Amador Computer Users Group's
Bytes & Bites Online E. excerpted from "Seen
In 'The News'" By Barbara Kreiss
<barbara@web-centric.net>

There is a catfight going on about a cat-shaped scanner called a "CueCat", being given out by companies such as Radio Shack, Forbes and Wired magazines to their customers. The maker, Digital Convergence, began shipping more than 1 million of the scanners in hopes of introducing customers to a new technology that bridges the printed word with the Web. By installing the little hand scanner to your computer, customers can swipe bar codes either on products or within printed ads in magazines or catalogs to go to related Web sites with more information.

Users must first go to the Digital Convergence Website and register personal information such as name, email address, gender, age range and ZIP code. "Whenever you scan something, your browser will make a connection with Digital Convergence's site, reports the bar code, your device number and a token that identifies you as an individual". A spokesman at an Internet security consultant group called Interhack said. Privacy advocates have expressed concerns about the possibility.

Last month, a security breach at Digital Convergence caused 140,000 consumer names, email addresses and zip codes to be exposed. "For the people that registered via our Web site...a hacker exploited a known error in the data script and was able to look into the data file," said Dave Mathews, vice president of new product development at Dallas-based DigitalConvergence. "From there, they could extrapolate the name, email address, age range, gender and Zip code of new members." DigitalConvergence took immediate steps to close the hole, and sent details about the problem and \$10 gift certificates to the compromised customers. Similar problems at companies such as Eve.com, IKEA's catalog order site and Amazon.com have occurred within the last few months.

The fact that data has been compromised due to security breaches and the "appearance" of customer tracking by Digital convergence has some privacy groups concerned. Researchers say each scanner's unique ID number could be used to trace the actions of an individual user and create a detailed database on what the consumer is interested in, along with their email address and personal information they have registered.

A DigitalConvergence spokesman said however, that the company is not tracking this type of information. He said customer

registration information is retained only for the purposes of general demographics. "There is a unique ID within the CueCat so that we can see that some Cats came from Forbes and some came from Wired," said Dave Mathews, vice president of new product development at DigitalConvergence. "(But) individualized serial numbers are not designed to track individual behavior." Privacy advocates counter that the company has not adequately disclosed its practices.

Meanwhile, inventive programmers have found a way to use the CueCat without registering: "No need to use their software... Cat Kit 32 on: <http://members.aol.com/powerctrl> will decode the output of the scanner in any 32-bit windows application and it doesn't invade your privacy... :)" - powerctrl@..... [This is free software].

"Real uses for the Cat... Check out <http://www.readerware.com>, a product that has been around for a while and now supports the CueCat, with no tracking. Want to catalog your library? Swipe the bar codes, it does the rest. They actually have Linux support too. It is the CueCat software that is doing the tracking, avoid their software and you have a useful device with a great price". - webrvr@.... [This software is \$40, but you can try it free for 30 days].

Get your kitty-cat with a purchase at your local Radio Shack ...

=====

APCUG CD Review

Michael R. Moore, OCIPUG

As you may know, OCIPUG is a proud member of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), which is a worldwide organization dedicated to fostering communications among and between personal computer user groups and assisting groups in the fulfillment of their educational missions and activities. APCUG Recently announced that they have compiled a collection of over 200 Freeware, and Shareware Programs for Windows 95 and 98, featuring the Tucows Top 100.

OCIPUG is pleased to announce that we have acquired a number of these CD's for our members They are available at our general meetings for \$ 5.00 each (proceeds from the purchase of this CD help to ensure that your club will continue to prosper.

The CD Contains lots of good utilities that utilize both the internet, and your stand alone computer, including the Tucows Top 100.

The programs fall under the following categories:

Commercial Software: This is non-shareware/freeware (i.e. WordPerfect Windows), and normally there is a higher license fee.

Donationware: The software is free for your usage, but if you enjoy it, and want to continue to use the program, send a donation to the developers.

Freeware: The application is usually free for non-commercial use. Commercial institutions should consult the developers before using the application.

Shareware/demoware: Usually has a 30 day free evaluation period. If you continue to use it after the trial period, you must register/pay for that application.

The Menus on this CD are written in HTML, so they can be displayed using any web browser.

Another thing that I really liked about this CD, is that APCUG has compiled one of the best Internet Glossary's that I have ever seen. it contains definitions to all those acronyms and buzzwords that have plagued computer users for years

Programs on the CD are compressed in one of 17 different formats (Including .ZIP .RAR, TAR, GZIP, BinHex, MIME, UUencoded, XXencoded .LZH, ARC, ACE files, GZip, CAB, .ARJ, .ZOO, and self extracting .EXE files .This CD contains complete utilities, and background information for all of these formats

I think that because of the sheer number, and type of programs that are contained on this CD, that it would make an excellent addition to any software library. If you can not find at least one favorite program on this disk, I don't think that it exists.

Of all of the programs that are contained on this disk, I think that my favorite has to be a program called IRFANVIEW. IRFANVIEW (written by a computer student, in Austria) allows you to view any of over 50 graphic graphic files that are found on the internet. This program that has received rave reviews lately on all of the local, and national internet radio programs including Jeff Levy's Oncomputers Radio Program (<http://www.jefflevy.com>) which is heard Sunday 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 Noon on KFI AM 640 A.M., and the Earthlink Internet hour (<http://radio.earthlink.net/home.html>) which is heard Sunday 12:00 Noon - 2:00 P.M. (locally on FM-TALK 97.1 FM)

Here's wishing you happy hollidays, and happy computing.

Ken's Korner

Flash Memory Gaining Ground As Portable Devices Increase

Ken Fermoyle

Perhaps "flash memory" is not part of our daily vocabularies, but the technology is rapidly becoming part of our lives, even if many of us don't realize it. Flash memory, you see, is used in cell phones, digital cameras, MP3 music players and other portable devices we all use more and more these days. It also plays a big role in unseen areas, such as networking devices from companies like Cisco.

Perhaps the most visible use of flash memory to consumers currently is in the little memory cards or sticks that slip in and out of digital cameras. Familiar brand names include SmartMedia and CompactFlash. Many other devices have built-in flash memory, so we aren't even aware that it's there.

But it is, and in growing numbers. Sales for 2000 are expected to hit \$10 billion or more, more than double the total for 1999. Manufacturers such as Intel, AMD, Atmel and Fujitsu will reap substantial profits as a result. And companies continue to announce new products or developments almost weekly.

For example, Intel Corporation in October 2000 introduced a new flash memory chip designed to enhance the performance of next-generation Internet phones and wireless devices. Intel claims that the new 1.8 Volt Wireless Flash Memory is the "highest performance flash chip available, carrying out key functions up to four times faster than existing flash solutions." The increased performance will result in higher data throughput rates to speed up data-intensive Internet phone applications such as browsing, data streaming and text messaging, the company reports. Energy savings of up to 60 percent are also claimed for the new low-voltage memory.

In another indication of flash memory growth, AMD earlier announced that it has entered into an agreement with Hewlett-Packard Company (HP) to supply flash memory products over the next three years. Under the contract, AMD will provide HP with flash memory products designed to support a broad range of products including its inkjet printers and various print servers.

"Our high density and Page Mode flash memory devices offer an ideal complement to HP's innovative products," said Walid Maghribi, group vice president of AMD's Memory Group.

AMD produces a broad spectrum of flash memory products, including the award win-

ning Simultaneous Read Write (SRW) product family, Super Low Voltage 1.8V flash memory devices, and Burst and Page mode devices. Significantly, all of AMD's flash memory products are guaranteed for a minimum of one million write cycles per sector and 20 years data retention, "making them the most reliable non-volatile memory devices offered in the industry," according to AMD claims.

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Ken's Korner NewsByte

Wireless Headset Is First To Meet Bluetooth Standard

Ken Fermoyle

You may or may not have heard the name "Bluetooth" in the past, but you are sure to hear it a lot in the future. Reason? Bluetooth is expected to be the jumping-off point for a giant leap forward in wireless communications.

To understand why, you need only recall the story of the Tower of Babel. Inability to communicate stymied its builders. That's been true of wireless communication devices. Until now. An industry-wide Special Interest Group developed the Bluetooth standard to ensure interoperability between wireless devices such as cellular phones, computers, and PDAs (personal digital assistants). Nokia, Ericsson, 3Com, IBM, and Lucent Technologies are among the more than 100 companies that make up the Bluetooth Special Interest Group.

Interestingly, a small New Hampshire company beat mobile phone biggies Nokia and L.M. Ericsson out of the Bluetooth starting gate. GN Netcom has announced one of the first officially qualified Bluetooth devices, its GN 9000 Bluetooth wireless headset.

Now a new headset might not seem like a big deal, but releasing one of the first Bluetooth devices is a "milestone" both for GN Netcom and for Bluetooth technology, according to Michelle Boockoff-Bajdek, the director of marketing communications at GN Netcom.

The product underwent the extensive testing required by the Bluetooth Qualification Body to ensure interoperability with the standard, Boockoff-Bajdek said. This is a crucial step, because "the success of Bluetooth as a standard hinges on interoperability," she said.

The headset will require a Bluetooth host device — either the base station, which GN

Netcom sells, or a Bluetooth card for a PC or PDA — to operate. When such a device is present, the GN 9000 Bluetooth headset will offer users a mobile range of up to 30 feet (900 centimeters). The device will retail for \$299, and a package including the base station and headset will cost \$499.

Though this price level puts it out of the reach of small office/home office (SOHO) users, which includes most Ken's Korner readers, I agree with GN Netcom's Boockoff-Bajdek that the headset is a significant milestone. It is the harbinger of things to come, the "first robin" of a wireless communications spring, as it were.

We must put the cost into context, notes Paul Mahoney, the director of product marketing at GN Netcom. The idea of Bluetooth "is to allow [the consumer] to use a single device instead of six or seven," he said, adding that \$299 for a single product is not expensive compared to buying multiple items for multiple devices.

Dr. Seuss Explains Why Computers Sometimes Crash

Richard Black <r.black@worldnet.att.net>
Read this to yourself aloud—It's Great!

If a packet hits a pocket on a socket on a port,
and the bus is interrupted at a very last resort,
and the access of the memory makes your floppy disk abort,
then the socket packet pocket has an error to report.

If your cursor finds a menu item followed by a dash
and the double-clicking icon puts your window in the trash;
and your data is corrupted cause the index doesn't hash,
then your situation's hopeless and your system's gonna crash!

If the label on the cable on the table at your house
says the network is connected to the button on your mouse,
but your packets want to tunnel to another protocol,

that's repeatedly rejected by the printer down the hall,
and your screen is all distorted by the side effects of gauss,
so your icons in the window are as wavy as a souse;

then you may as well reboot and go out with a bang,
'cuz sure as I'm a poet, the sucker's gonna hang!

When the copy of your floppy's getting sloppy in the disk
and the microcode instructions cause unnecessary risk,

then you'll have to flash the memory and you'll want to RAM your ROM.
Quickly turn off the computer and be sure to tell your Mom!

BUGS AND VIRUSES: Which files are safe to open?

Scott Spanbauer, contributing editor, PC World. ©2000 Scott Spanbauer. Reprinted with permission.

If you were stung by the I Love You virus, you experienced one of the worst effects a virus can have: inconvenience. Whether the virus is pernicious or benign, cleaning it off your system takes time. Many viruses are capable of destroying data on your computer or stealing it from your PC, but most do neither and are written merely to prove the existence of flaws in the operating system or e-mail software they infect. Of course, much of the flawed software comes from Microsoft, which has triggered more than one Gates basher to call for a boycott of Windows, Internet Explorer, and Outlook as a way to ensure security. Whatever the merits of this approach, the issue is not that simple, and just switching to Linux, Eudora, or Opera won't protect you from every Internet security threat that's lurking out there.

Viruses can use various means to insinuate themselves into your computer—through a floppy disk, a program copied from a different PC, or software downloaded from AOL or the Internet. Alternatively, they may be introduced via a macro or other script file that runs within a standard application such as Microsoft Word, Outlook, Netscape Navigator, or Eudora. Ordinarily, you have to take some action to start a program, macro, or script running on your computer, but many viruses trigger the application automatically. Recently e-mail viruses have turned up that launch as soon as you view the message they are embedded in—no other action is required on your part. Although the situation may sound hopeless, it is not. You can still use the software of your choice, and you can still open e-mail attachments.

Here are several basic rules that can help you protect yourself from viruses. Use antivirus software. I generally dislike installing utilities on my computer because they conflict with other programs and the operating system itself, and they make troubleshooting much more difficult. Antivirus programs are among the worst offenders, but just the same, most people should install one and keep that program updated. Doing so will protect you from the vast majority of viruses. Skip this step at your peril. (Look for a feature on viruses and antivirus programs in December 2000's PC World.)

Update your software. In the last couple of years, software makers have become increasingly responsive to reports of security flaws in their software. The whole issue has moved out of the realm of obscure discussions buried in Usenet newsgroups and onto

the pages of the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, and of course, PC World's Bugs and Fixes column. These days, software vendors often post security fixes to their Web sites before a real-world threat has even materialized. To update Netscape Navigator, select Help, Software Updates. To update Internet Explorer or Windows 98, 2000, or the new Millennium Edition (Me), choose Start, Windows Update, or cruise directly to windowsupdate.microsoft.com. This Microsoft site will determine what software versions you are currently running and will assist you in downloading and installing required updates.

Understand and use security settings. Most applications that host macro code or scripting languages have security settings that let you control when and how the scripts run. Know what those settings are and make sure they meet your security needs. In Internet Explorer, choose Tools, Internet Options, click the Security tab, and then select the Internet zone. Click the Custom Level button to browse security options, or click the Default Level button to make sure security is set to Medium. To find Netscape Navigator's security settings, choose Edit, Preferences, and then select Advanced in the Category window. Don't forget your application's macro security settings. In Word, Excel, or Outlook 2000, choose Tools, Macro, Security, and make sure your setting is at least Medium. If your Word files don't rely much on macros, choose High.

Another important security setting in Windows Explorer relates to file extensions that have been hidden on such file types as .vbs (Visual Basic script). Several Outlook e-mail attacks have tricked users into launching .vbs attachments by giving them names such as `filename.jpg.vbs`. Since the .vbs extension disappears, the file looks like a nonexecutable, nonscriptable .jpg image file that is safe to open. To protect yourself from this trick, open an Explorer window, choose Tools, Folder Options or View, Folder Options (depending on your version of Windows), select the View tab, remove the check from "Hide file extensions for known file types," and then click OK. Don't launch executable or scriptable files. Executable or scriptable file types include those with .exe, .com, .bat, .xls, .doc, and .vbs extensions.

Your best bet is to scan all downloaded files for viruses before running them. If an arriving e-mail contains a Word (.doc) document, assume the document will infect your system. Don't open it until your antivirus software has scanned it and declared it virus-free. Just because the document comes from your boss or your mother doesn't mean it's safe. If you want to view the contents of a file without triggering any macros it may include, open it in Notepad or Quick View. Regrettably, the Quick View utility is not included in Windows 2000 or in Windows

Me, but you can buy a third-party copy of Quick View Plus 6 from Jasc Software for \$49 downloaded or \$59 boxed.

The major shareware sites scan programs for viruses before posting them for download, and of course legitimate software vendors ensure that the applications they post to their Web sites are free of viruses. Software posted to pirate (so-called "warez") sites or newsgroups may be infected, however, and the pirated applications floating through such file-sharing systems as Napster and Gnutella must also be considered virus hazards.

Product Information Quick View Plus 6 \$49 for download, \$59 for boxed version
Jasc Software 800/622-2793
www.jasc.com/product <<http://www.jasc.com>>

(This article is brought to you by the Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer Users Groups (APCUG), an international organization to which your user group belongs.)

NET

Barry Simon, contributor to PC Magazine.
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Subscribe to Barry's free newsletter "Woody's Windows Watch" at www.woodyswatch.com.

Microsoft's plan for the future is a vision, a plan and a mishmash. From various announcements and presentations, I believe there is a pony buried in that pile of horse manure but alas some parts of the company are so taken with the buzz around the term that everything has become a .NET even if it is distant from the true vision.

About every seven years Microsoft reinvents itself - not totally since it keeps the old stuff in place suitably evolved towards the new strategy. In 1975, Microsoft started out as a supplier of computer languages. In 1981, it took advantage of IBM's offer to become the DOS company and in the years around 1990, it morphed to the Windows company. In 1996, it embraced the web - later than some nimble newcomers but earlier than the other big guys and in an aggressive way that remade the company.

I believe that we'll look back on .NET as a similar tectonic shift in the way Microsoft operates. And make no mistake: it is Microsoft's ability to reinvent itself that has caused it to thrive while the Novells and Word Perfects of the world have floundered.

While the official explanations obscure some of the key issues, I believe there are three basic concepts in play: centralized user data storage, the programmable web, a shift to software as a subscription service.

Take email - please. You access it from the office, from home and on the road. From the messages that I get as the occasional Outlook columnist for Woody's Office Watch I know that many you have problems juggling where mail is stored as you move from place to place. What we really need are ubiquitous really fast web connections and a place on the web to store our data accessible in some transparent way over the web. In some ways, this is already there for some. For example I know people on Exchange Server at work which they then access from home and haltingly while on the road. Or there are people using Visto on the web to synch their appointments from different places. But these are ad hoc solutions for only some data. Clearly, we need infrastructure - both the availability of better remote disk services and the OS support to make their access transparent. That's the promise of centralized data storage.

With cgi, perl, VB Script, Java Script, Jave, ActiveX and Active Server Pages, you may wonder how anyone can talk about the programmable web as vision rather than reality but those languages and technologies are about programmable web pages, not the programmable web. There is still no standard for exchange of information between web sites so that, a site like Yodlee has to do its magic by ad hoc agreements with each site it scarfs data from. XML has been a work in progress now for several years and everyone agrees that it will be the plumbing below interpage programming but beyond that there is jockeying for the standard. Microsoft and IBM have embraced SOAP (Simple Object Access Protocol). Beyond ways for sites to exchange information programmatically, Microsoft's .NET programming model involves new paradigms for cross language programming.

If data is moved from local machines to the web, can programs be far behind? The third prong of Microsoft's vision is software that you run over the web. Once the software is there, the software vendor has the kind of control it can't have so easily with programs on your local machine. Some specialized software currently requires an annual license fee. There is run protection built into the product so it stops working if an annual fee is not paid but the model is regarded as heavy handed and only works in specific markets. A shift to a new model of online usage that a given user can access from anywhere could easily be accompanied by a switch to a subscription model which has long been Microsoft's dream. As programs become feature rich, upgrades become less attractive and revenue streams to vendors become less certain. The switch to subscriptions is the answer to a software vendor's prayers. I think Microsoft may be surprised to find a reluctance of much of its customer base to be willing to make such a shift!

The first two of these elements are evolutionary in that some parts of each are present in most products that Microsoft already produces. Thus we have the absurdity that the marketing team for the latest iteration of Microsoft servers (Exchange, SQL, Commerce and 5 others) can trumpet themselves as .NET enterprise servers even though they are really very far from embracing the full .NET vision. So expect new versions of Microsoft software to have .NET added to their names whether they buy into the long term vision or not. Meanwhile, start thinking hard about how you and your company will react to a proposal for shifting to a subscription model for software for that's the one element of Microsoft's .NET vision where you and they may not see eye to eye.

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The Ultimate Urban Legend!

Anonymous, from the Internet

I was on my way to the post office to pick up my case of free M&M's (sent me because I forwarded an e-mail to five other people celebrating the fact that the year 2000 is "MM" in Roman numerals) when I ran into a friend whose neighbor, a young man, was home recovering from having been served a rat in his bucket of Kentucky Fried Chicken (which is predictable since, as everyone knows, there's no actual chicken in Kentucky Fried Chicken, which is why the government made them change their name to KFC).

Anyway, one day this guy went to sleep and when he awoke he was in his bathtub and it was full of ice and he was sore all over; and when he got out of the tub, he realized that HIS KIDNEY HAD BEEN STOLEN.

He saw a note on his mirror that said "Call 911!" but he was afraid to use his phone because it was connected to his computer and there was a virus on his computer that would destroy his hard drive if he opened an e-mail entitled "Join the crew!" He knew it wasn't a hoax because he himself was a computer programmer who was working on software to prevent a global disaster in which all the computers get together and distribute the \$250.00 Neiman-Marcus cookie recipe under the leadership of Bill Gates. (It's true - I read it all last week in a mass e-mail from BILL GATES HIMSELF

who was also promising me a free Disney World vacation and \$5,000 if I would forward the e-mail to everyone I know.)

The poor man then tried to call 911 from a pay phone to report his missing kidney but a voice on the line first asked him to press #90 which unwittingly gave a bandit full access to the phone line at the guy's expense. Then reaching into the coin-return slot, he got jabbed with an HIV-infected needle around which was wrapped a note that said, "Welcome to the world of AIDS."

Luckily he was only a few blocks from the hospital - the one where the last wish of that little boy who is dying of cancer is for everyone in the world to send him an e-mail and the American Cancer Society has agreed to pay him a nickel for every e-mail he receives. I sent him two e-mails and one of them was a bunch of x's and o's in the shape of an angel (if you get it and forward it to more than 10 people, you will have good luck but if you send it to only 10 people you will only have OK luck and if you send it to fewer than 10 people you will have BAD LUCK FOR SEVEN YEARS).

So anyway, the poor guy tried to drive himself to the hospital; but on the way, he noticed another car driving without its lights on. To be helpful, he flashed his lights at him and was promptly shot as part of a gang initiation.

Send THIS to all the friends who send you their junk mail and you will receive 4 green M&M's -- if you don't, the owner of Proctor and Gamble will report you to his Satanist friends and you will have more bad luck: you will get sick from the Sodium Laurel Sulfate in your shampoo, your spouse/mate will develop a skin rash from using the antiperspirant which clogs the pores under your arms, you will get deathly sick from not wiping soda cans with soap and water before drinking from them, and even if you do clean the can top carefully, the aspartame in the soda will give you multiple sclerosis... and the U.S. government will put a tax on your e-mails forever. I know this is all true 'cause I read it on the Internet.

(This article is brought to you by the Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer Users Groups (APCUG), an international organization to which your user group belongs.)

LiveMotion 1.0 A Software Review

Gary Schweinsahrt
admin@spcug.org

If you don't already know how to use Macromedia's Flash, Adobe LiveMotion according to most of the media reports I've seen, is easier to learn. Like all the recent Adobe product reviews I have done recently, LiveMotion at least uses a consistent user interface with other Adobe products, like Photoshop and Illustrator. Some commentators say LiveMotion is actually going to give Flash a run for its money.

What's Macromedia Flash, you may ask? It has become the de facto standard for streaming Web animation and interaction and, until now, has had the market to itself. To view Flash animation, you must have a Macromedia Flash Player installed/integrated in your browser (over 248 million Web users can now use it). Actually the two companies share or compete for user's desktop space in several professional graphics applications, there is even a law suit underway where Adobe is claiming Macromedia has allegedly infringed on some of their patents. As LiveMotion uses Macromedia's .swf Flash Web animation standard format (LiveMotion can export files to both versions 3 and 4 of Flash), this could get interesting! Neither Flash (\$341.95 discount), nor LiveMotion (\$289.44 discount) are pocket change purchases.

Not sure if you have seen a Flash animation? Here are some Web addresses for some examples:

Adobe LiveMotion Flipbook — <http://www.adobe.com/products/livemotion/main.html#>

Macromedia Flash Showcase — <http://www.macromedia.com/showcase/>

You may have to install Flash in your browser, but you should have it installed anyway. Usually when you go to a page that has a Flash animation, and your browser can't display it, there are instructions on how to install it.

When I picked up the manual, I thought it

was another of those thin, bare minimum manuals; however, I soon learned that it was jam-packed with small print, icon sized-screen prints and small illustrations.

The install from CD-ROM went smoothly, using just 27MB of my hard disk, somewhat short of the 100MB suggested by specs? Having reviewed and used Adobe ImageStyler, I would have thought I had that product open, the palettes and work areas look identical. Also, anyone that uses Adobe Photoshop should feel right at home. The TimeLine Editor uses exactly the same Adobe AfterEffects styled timeline.

Help is browser based, and accesses everything you would find in the printed manual. The help system has a logical layout and navigational system that shows you where you are at all times, with electronic index and search. Personally I prefer a browser to a paper manual anyway, you can't electronically search paper manuals.

As well as the standard drawing tools, there are also separate palettes for 3D effects, gradients, transparency, sounds and other special effects to be added to objects. In addition, LiveMotion includes tools for easily creating common vector objects, such as rectangles, ellipses, polygons, and drawing paths.

As LiveMotion is a part of the Adobe software paradigm it natively supports layered Photoshop and Illustrator (*.EPS & *.AI) files that you can import easily and directly into any project along with other file formats including: BMP, JPEG, EMF, WMF, PSD, ES, AI, TIFF, IFF, PXR, TGA, VDA, DIB, ICB and VST. You can even modify the Photoshop or Illustrator (6 to 8) documents in their original creation software using the edit original command. Once you have changed the pictures in Illustrator or Photoshop the LiveMotion document will be automatically updated!

Creating animations is simple. Just select an object (or group of objects), set the timeline marker in the desired place in the length of the animation and change a property. For example, if an object is designed to fade in from 100 per cent (invisible) to 0 per cent (visible) over 10 seconds, at the start of the animation the object's transparency value is set to 100 per

cent and set to 0 per cent at the end. Just about any property of an object can be animated in this way, including text values changing over time.

Objects can also contain different "states", from which actions can be triggered. A simple use of states is when an object is designated as a button. When the button is in the "up" state, a text box containing a description of the button may be hidden. When the button is in a "hover" state—that is, the mouse pointer is within the boundaries of the object on a Web page—the text box could be made visible. When the state is "clicked", the browser may be told to load another URL, play a different animation or perform some other action. If operations that are more complex are required, LiveMotion supports the industry standard JavaScript language.

Sound support includes WAV, SND, AIFF, AU, and MP3 formats. Standard sound controls such as panning, fade in/fade out, and volume, as well as the ability to link sounds to specific objects and events, round out the audio options.

Another plus, is you can import pictures from a TWAIN 32 source in LiveMotion using your scanner or digital cameras.

I found LiveMotion very easy to pick up and intuitive in its operation, however, I've been an Adobe fan for a long time. The tutorials are excellent, even a beginner should be able to come up to speed quickly. Bear in mind, this is a very feature rich environment, and you will have to invest a lot of hours to get the most out of this product. I suspect only experienced builders will be able to push the product to perform the advanced functions of Macromedia's Flash. It should work well for anyone who wants to jump straight into Flash animation without becoming an expert in or needing the benefits of advanced scripting or complex interactivity.

Overall, LiveMotion seems to represent a solid choice for Webmaster or Web designers, graphic designers and animators ready to jump into Flash animation. It utilizes existing familiarity with Adobe products to output media in a range of formats. As this is the first version of LiveMotion, media experts suggest that power users concerned about file

optimization or leveraging the full power of Flash Player, may want to continue using the more mature products like Macromedia Flash, Adobe Illustrator and Adobe Photoshop.

Orange Coast IBM PC User Group (OCIPUG)

Date: October 30, 2000 at 695 W. 19th Street, Costa Mesa, CA 92683 (Costa Mesa Senior Center)

Choices of which animation application to use, I think is getting very confusing, certainly for the novice. I reviewed Adobe's GoLive in November 1999; it has an animator using an integrated QuickTime editor. I wonder if there is any relationship between the Time Editors? Adobe ImageReady can create animated GIF files, but when Adobe created Photoshop 5.5, they incorporated ImageReady into the Photoshop product. So, if you're looking to create Web animations, your work is cut out for you in trying to figure out which product accomplishes your goals. You had better plan on spending considerable time comparing specs, if you're considering one of these high-end products.

Requirements: Pentium II CPU and higher, Windows 98, 2000, NT 4.0 SP4, Me, 64MB RAM recommended (48 MB minimum), 100 MB Disk space and CD-ROM drive. Suggested list price is \$299.

The Adobe LiveMotion 1.0.2 update is now available on the Adobe Website. It features faster performance, improved sound support, better import and export capabilities, more efficient SWF compression, tighter integration between Adobe Illustrator and Adobe Photoshop and updates to the object-based Timeline. You can also download the full operational program for a 30-day free trial.

Adobe Systems Inc., San Jose, CA;
800-492-3623, 408-536-6000; Web:
www.adobe.com

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Executive Board of Directors Meeting called to order by President, Bob Walker at 7:01. All 13 Officers and Directors present plus about seven member volunteers.

Minutes of September 30th Executive Board of Directors approved by consensus.

Treasurer's Report received and filed for audit. Current checking account balance (10/30/2000) is \$3565.38.

Directors' Liason Appointments were listed and presented by Pres. Walker. They include: Bob Strader - Activities; Morris Fier - Administration; Michael Moore - Communications; Leonard Robertson - Facilities; Marshall Boslow - Membership; Sandi Tierney - Marketing; Frank Yaeger - Operations; Chris Davidson - Outreach; Len Stein - Long Range Planning.

Committee Reports:

Program: November will have members' presentations and demonstrations (new programs available for members to try and then report on include Best Defense, Adobe Acrobat and MS 2000; December 16 may be David Perry from Trend Micro.

Bylaws: Red Davidson and Committee will review list of comments by member Richard Black and then incorporate those agreed upon as an amendment to the currently tabled motion to approve bylaws changes at the next general meeting.

Hot Line: is now working via answering machine.

Projector & Computer Upgrade: Red Davidson reported; he proposed that when we receive the donated computer projector from the Sutton Family, to use the members' previously donated money for the computer projector for computer upgrade components (that have been recommended by Ed Leckliter who has researched the best items for the best price).

Robert Lynch reported on his efforts to sell the Sony Projector for at least \$300 on Ebay and the difficulties encountered.

President Walker reported he had researched the possibility of a 3 drawer, lockable, second-hand cabinet for use by OCIPUG in the meeting room; Moved, Seconded and Carried (MSC) to authorize Bob to complete purchase.

Membership: Ken Paeth announced 116 current members plus 3 honorary members as of September 30.

Web Page: Michael Moore reported he is still working on web site component improvements. He distributed to SIG leaders a page of information with a request for their input.

Other announcements and discussion ensued; Bob Walker announced special features of COMDEX Conference in Las Vegas ... user group members can get no cost key numbers; 50 extra OCIPUG Read Me Docs will be taken along to distribute.

Members are encouraged to ask for door prize donations when they shop at computer stores or to donate some of their own items.

Meeting adjourned 8:01.

Respectfully submitted, Patricia Cohen, Secretary

ORANGE COAST IBM PC User Group (OCIPUG) ©

Mailing Address

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

Meetings Location

Costa Mesa Senior Center
Southeast Corner of 19th and Pomona

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Publication Guidelines

All material submitted will be published *exactly* as submitted, but may be subject to editing at the *Editor's* discretion. We reserve the right to refuse any material submitted for publication. Send all submissions as follows:

1. Send via Internet e-mail to: editor@ocipug.org, or
2. Send via Internet e-mail to: Morris Fier, fier@bigfoot.com, or
3. Mail a 3.5" disk so as to be received by the deadline by the Newsletter Coordinator at the OCIPUG mailing address above.

Publication Deadline

Material for the **January 2001** issue must be received on or before **11 January 2001** by the Newsletter Coordinator — **Morris Fier, fier@bigfoot.com**.

Membership

Benefits of OCIPUG Membership include, but by no means are limited to:

- * Subscription to OCIPUG's monthly newsletter, *Readme.Doc*, with up-to-date information on meeting schedules as well as the newest software and hardware.
- * Free monthly General Meetings with speakers from industry and academia describing advances in technology.
- * Free Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings/seminars to exchange tips and tricks and to solve problems.
- * Free technical support from knowledgeable fellow members via telephone and/or OCIPUG's electronic bulletin board system (BBS).
- * Pleasure in helping your fellow member solve their problems.
- * Camaraderie with those of similar interests.
- * Discounts from vendors on software, hardware, and other items.

Orange Coast IBM PC User Group

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

Membership status: New Renewal - Member # _____ Membership type: Individual Family

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

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Annual Dues:

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

Individual	\$30.00	\$ _____
Family	\$35.00	\$ _____
*Full-time student	\$20.00	\$ _____
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