

Orange Coast IBM PC User Group

README.DOC

August 2001

Newsletter

Volume 17.8

*ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD IN THE COSTA MESA SENIOR CENTER 695 WEST 19TH STRET
AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF 19TH AND POMONA*

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General Meetings are held from 9:00AM to noon on:
 25 August 2001
 29 September 2001
 27 October 2001
 24 November 2001
 15 December 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:
 27 August 2001
 1 October 2001
 29 October 2001
 26 November 2001
 17 December 2001
 All OCIPUG members are welcome.

Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings are held monthly as follows:
 1st Saturday, 9:00AM - New User
 1st Wednesday, 7:00PM - Internet
 2nd Tuesday, 7:00PM - Hardware
 2nd Wednesday, 7:00PM - Web Sites
 3rd Wednesday, 7:00PM - Windows
 4th Wednesday, 7:00PM - DigitalPhoto

President's Message

Robert Walker

Our August Readme.Doc is a test of publishing., Internet and Hard Copy. If email works for most members you will receive a email when our newsletter is on the Web with a link to click onto read and download the PDF file. You will need Adobe Acrobat Reader. Having the Readme.Doc on the Internet will be a great saving s, as the cost of postage and printing has increased as much as 300%. The Newsletter will be in color which is a plus. We will also publish a Hard Copy (black and white) for members that do not have email.. Our program for this August

We will look at music from the Internet

In an effort to get high-quality music on the system for the launch of Napster's new membership service, Napster's looking for progressive labels and artists who see the benefits of peer-to-peer file sharing. Napster. announced two such deals with a pair of European independent label associations: The UK's Association of Independent Music (AIM) and the Independent Music Companies Association (IMPALA).

The agreement authorizes the use of hundreds of thousands of tracks belonging to hundreds of independent record labels across Europe, helping to ensure the future of Napster's file-sharing community. Napster's new service launches this summer. The deal covers tracks from artists including Muse, Ash, Paul Oaken old, Tom Jones, Badly Drawn Boy, and many others. Morpheus is a program much like Napster and works like Napster when downloading MP3 files peer-to-peer sharing.

Belkin Manufacturing will show many products

Belkin offers products that range from their award-winning USB BusStation., modular hub system to their OmniView, KVM switches. Belkin is a market leader in SurgeMaster line of surge suppressors and offers the most comprehensive warranties and features and their new Regulator UPSes deliver battery back-up power protecting your investment, combined with its distinguished aesthetic design. Rounding out the product offering are their wireless accessories, IEEE 1394 Firewire solutions and computer accessories.

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SCHEDULES AND REPORTS OF EVENTS

August 25th General Meeting

CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH TECHNOLOGY

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (SIG) MEETINGS

(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.)

22 August 2001

Digital Cameras and Scanning -

4th Wednesday, 7:00PM

Bob Strader 949-646-1475
rstrader@pacbell.net

1 September 2001

New User - 1st Saturday, 9:00AM

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

5 September 2001

Internet - 1st Wednesday, 7:00PM

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

11 September 2001

Hardware - 2nd Tuesday, 7:00PM

Ed Leckliter
eleckliter@home.com

12 September 2001

Web Site Design - 2nd Wednesday, 7:00PM

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

19 September 2001

Windows - 3rd Wednesday, 7:00PM

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



Network Interface Cards

Quality and value highspeed internet access and networking

4-Port USB Switch

Share your USB with up to four computers. Featuring Illuminated LED for power and port selection status, Pushbutton Port Selection.

Getting Started With Internet Music.

Michael Moore and Bob Walker



Downloading Music

Recording Your Own CDs

Playing Your Music

Internet Radio

Connecting Your PC to Your Stereo

Creating Your Own MP3 Files

Vinyl LP to Audio CD or MP3 Files

Southwestern Regional User Group Conference

ACP Swap Meet 25 November 2001



San Diego

Hardware SIG

Meeting Date: July 10, 2001

There were 14 attendees (including the SIG Leader, Ed Leckliter)

The Featured Topics was: "CPUs Revisited"

There were two hardware "submissions", both from Leonard Stein:

1. Leonard's first system was a home-built with a modem that was not recognized in Windows. After changing the BIOS setting for the onboard serial port to "Auto", the modem was recognized. Running the Windows diagnostic confirmed its operation.

2. The second system was another home-built where there was no boot-up screen or beeps. It appeared to Ed that the video card and other adapter cards were not seating all the way into their respective motherboard slots. It was suggested that Leonard "breadboard" the critical components - i.e., remove the motherboard (with installed CPU and RAM), power supply, and video card from the chassis and set them up on their own. This is typically done on top of a flat wide board ("breadboard") such that the bracket for any adapter card can extend off the edge. If these components, with the video card connected to a monitor, display the initial boot-up screens, then the problem is probably the installation in the chassis. Either the video card was not fully seated or the motherboard was being grounded out in the chassis - frequently caused by not removing unnecessary standoffs from the chassis "floor". To provide more time for Q&A, Ed asked that Leonard try the breadboarding at another time.

There were a few questions posed during Q&A:

1. One gentleman (name indecipherable on the log) noted that his system was starting up again after doing a normal shutdown - i.e., rebooting on its own without pressing the power button. No one had an answer. Ed suggested that the gentleman try Microsoft's knowledge base. He might also try the motherboard manufacturer's web site.

2. Dick Baznik requested general information regarding IRQs (interrupt requests). Ed begged off and said he'd work with Dick offline.

3. Bob Strader asked about the setup of a new motherboard he had purchased. Ed had answered the question during the break - Bob had some problems understanding the jumper settings on the motherboard. Ed had shown him the section in the motherboard manual that discussed his question - the proper setting for system front side bus (FSB) speed.

4. Robert Lynch complained that his system would only boot completely about 1 in every 20 attempts - balance of the times stopping somewhere mid-stream. The system otherwise was working OK. The group was unable to diagnose the problem. Ed (may have) suggested trying another power supply.

5. Bob Strader inquired about system monitoring functions other than in the BIOS. Ed pointed out that the motherboard he has (a newer Gigabyte) has an @BIOS utility on the motherboard CD. It provides BIOS access from within Windows. Ed also mentioned use of another general utility, "Motherboard Monitor" - see <http://mbm.livewiredev.com/>.

Next Meeting Featured Topic:

Show & Tell (Ed will bring in a number of major system components and point out their principal features)

File(s) attached - also posted on the OCIPUG Hardware SIG web site (www.homestead.com/ocipughardwaresig/index.html).

· Presentation slides (.ppt format)..

Executive Board of Directors Meeting

July 30, 2001

Meeting called to order by President, Bob Walker at 7:05. Present: A quorum of eleven Officers and Directors were present by 7:10. Minutes of May 20, 2001 Executive Board of Directors Meeting approved as corrected and printed in Readme.Doc for July. A Summary of discussion at the June 25th Ex. Bd. of Directors Mtg. was included although no official business was conducted because of lack of a quorum.

President's Report: Bob distributed a download from cnet.com on spam information.

Treasurer's Report: give by Larry Pearce and filed with the Secretary for audit. . A proposed Budget for the year beginning September 1st was presented for discussion, and Larry provided justifications and explanations. He also explained the Tim Smith Scholarship Fund for computer students.

Committee Reports and Unfinished Business:—ReadMe.Doc: Increased printing and mailing costs were discussed Moved (Leonard), Seconded(Sandi) and Carried to publish via the OCIPUG Web site and then send an email to members notifying them it was available for downloading. Extra copies will be printed out for guests at the General Meeting. This will be tried and evaluated for a month or so.

—Speakers for Oct. General Meeting are Gene Barlow and for the September General Meeting, Matt McCann.

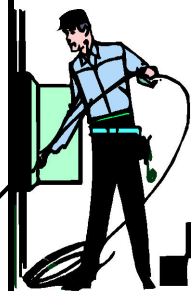
New Business: 8th Annual Southwest Regional User Group Conference in San Diego was July 13-15. Morris Fier, Sandi Tierney, Michael Moore, Bob Walker, Frank Mastroly and Bob Strader attended and gave their opinions of sessions they attended.

Next Board Meeting: August 27, 2001

Adjourned: 8:30 p.m.

Server 54, Where Are You.

.TechWeb News <<http://www.techweb.com/news>>



The University of North Carolina has finally found a network server that, although missing for four years, hasn't missed a packet in all that time. Try as they might, university administrators couldn't find the server. Working with Novell Inc., IT workers tracked it down by meticulously following cable, until they literally ran into a wall. The server had been mistakenly sealed behind drywall by maintenance workers.



Herb's Hangout

Herb Huey

Broadband Security

Viruses, like the Love Bug, are a constant reminder of our vulnerability to virus attacks. Most PC users are concerned about virus attacks and have anti-virus software on-line. Most PC users also use the Internet and e-mail but are unaware that the Internet is also vulnerable to attack. Malicious hackers are a constant threat, silently attacking our computer systems to uncover personal information such as computer passwords and credit card numbers. The majority of PC users fail to provide even the most rudimentary protection such as password protection against break-ins. If you use Windows networking to share files over local networks, then you are by default are vulnerable to attack. Windows networking allows file and printer sharing over the Web so that any attacker armed with your IP address (your Web address) can examine anything on your PC.

Broadband devices such as cable modem and DSL (digital subscriber line) are always "on" making them potential security risks. Always "on" means that your IP address remains static until you log off. A broadband-connected computer can potentially be attacked 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Once your computer has been identified as having a security weakness, it can be attacked repeatedly. The high-speed capability also makes your computer a particularly desirable target. An old-fashioned dial-up connection is usually "off" most of the time and is assigned a new IP address whenever a connection is made. These traits make the dial-up connection a less reliable way to get into your computer.

So, if you have a DSL or cable modem, what can you do to make your computer less vulnerable to attack?

Reduce your computer exposure by logging off the Internet when not in use. The less time you are logged on the Internet, the less exposure time that you risk your PC. For some systems, logging off your high-speed provider will result in a new IP address assignment when you log back on. Some broadband systems require a static IP address making them more vulnerable but limiting your exposure time will help.

Take advantage of your operating system security features. If you would like to find out how secure or unsecure your Windows computer is, try the ShieldsUP! (<http://grc.com/>) site. This site will help you optimize your Windows settings to reduce your computer's vulnerability to attack and it has some evaluations of firewall software.

Stay up-to-date on security fixes for your operating system and applications

Computer hackers are constantly improving their art so it would be strongly advisable to keep up-to-date and keep your computer defenses strong against attacks. If you are a Windows user, you need to check the Microsoft Windows Update webpage (<http://windowsupdate.microsoft.com/>). If you have Office 2000 then you need to periodically check the Microsoft Office Update site (<http://officeupdate.microsoft.com/>). Microsoft also maintains a site on Windows security, Microsoft Security Advisor, (<http://www.microsoft.com/security/default.asp>), for detailed information. Macintosh computers also have a good reference site at MacInTouch Security Resources (<http://www.macintouch.com/security.html>). Linux users can access the Linux Security Home Page (<http://www.cslug.net/~jtmurphy/>) and the Linux Security HOWTO webpage (<http://www.linuxhq.com/HOWTO/Security-HOWTO.html>).



Install firewall software to ward off attacks

A firewall is software that can block specified offending incoming and outgoing data packets. Firewalls make the ports that channel the data packets invisible to the rest of the world. This provides an additional level of security to the networked computer. Firewalls monitor data that passes between your machine and the Internet and accepting only approved data traffic. There are two popular choices for PCs using Windows operating systems. One good choice is BlackICE Pro (<http://www.networkice.com/Products?BlackICE/blackice%20pro.htm>), which costs \$40 and includes a year of upgrades and technical support. A ZDNET Editor's choice is ZoneAlarm v2.6 (<http://www.zonelabs.com/>). The price for the standard version is free for personal and nonprofit (excluding government) use. The Pro version is \$40. Macintosh computers also have two excellent choices, NetBarrier (<http://www.intego.com/netbarrier/>) available to MacOS 7.5.5 and later systems for \$75 and DoorStop Firewall, Personal Edition (<http://www2.opendoor.com/doorstop/DoorStopEditions.html#pe>) available for MacOS 8.1 and later for \$60. Linux users are particularly fortunate since packet filtering (firewall) software is bundled with every Linux OS.

Further information about Firewalls can be found at Internet Firewalls: FAQs (<http://interhack.net/pubs/fwfaq/>) and Howstuffworks "How Firewalls Work" (<http://www.howstuffworks.com/firewalls.htm>). The second site is also a great site for answers to almost any high technology subject.

Signing Off



ZoneAlarm

Herb Huey



Richard Hunter gave an excellent presentation on Firewall security at the June General Meeting. He recommended ZoneAlarm and I decided to check into it since I have a defenseless cable modem. I downloaded the free Standard version and it installed on my Windows NT system without incident. On installation, ZoneAlarm places a rules database file into the "windowsInternet logs" directory that learns which network traffic to block and which to pass. The rules database starts off with a set of defaults and subsequently requests user permission whenever any app tries to establish a network connection. The user then instructs ZoneAlarm to remember the answer and create a new database entry.

ZoneAlarm has five main configuration tools; the security panel, the lock panel, the programs panel, the alerts panel, and the configure panel. The Alerts panel allows the user to control notification of any firewall activity. ZoneAlarm recommends enabling alert logging and pop-up windows. Alert pop-ups can assist the user to determine the frequency of any suspicious network activity. The locks panel allows the user to block network activity after a certain period of inactivity. I left it at the ten-minute default. The security panel contains the tools for maintaining security of the firewall. Two sliders control the security for the "local zone" and the "Internet zone". I left both sliders at the high security level. The programs panel assigns network access privileges to individual programs. The panel has a list of all applications that ZoneAlarm detected trying to access a network. Each application has a listed rating for basic and server "local access" and "Internet access". ZoneAlarm first prompts the user for these settings. The user can later change them from the programs panel.

ZoneAlarm is nearly transparent to the user after a short period and gives you peace of mind against hackers. Personally, I find it hard to believe that I could let my cable modem be so defenseless before ZoneAlarm.

July General Meeting.

July 28, 2001

General Meeting convened by President Robert Walker at 9:00 a.m. after Random Access (Q&A); about 35 members & guests signed in. Pres. Walker introduced Rollin White from Sundial Systems who demonstrated JunkSpy and offered members discounts for installation CD and live update service. Bob Walker showed the prizes for the opportunity drawing and asked for a volunteer to sell tickets. After a break, announcements and the collection of election ballots, at 10:35 Steve Schiffman, who got our cable up and running at the Center, gave a presentation on Broadband and Cable connections for home computers. His handout listed the questions you needed to know from your cable or DSL provider.

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Why Computers Sometimes Crash



Dr. Seuss Explains Why Computers Sometimes Crash:

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 macro
code 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!

WELL! That certainly clears things up for ME!!

Southwestern Regional User Group Conference

By Morris Fier Director.

July 13 to July 15 2001.

This is my description of my time at the above conference. I attended with Bob Walker and Frank Mastoloy. We left by car on Friday July 13, 2001 at about 2.00 p.m. and started on the 405 Freeway changing to the 5 Freeway. The traffic was fairly light until we arrived close to San Diego about 3.15 p.m. There, it became fairly heavy and I was very happy to have Bob Walker in the passenger seat acting as my navigator. He apparently knew his way around San Diego, and directed me appropriately to the proper exits to get to our hotel. When we arrived we checked in fairly quickly.

Then we came down to check in with the Conference people and received our badges and a bag of goodies including some very useful programs. At 6.00 p.m. we all went down to dinner and had a presentation from the Adobe Representative about their products. That was fairly interesting and did not last too long. Following this, there was a raffle and several prizes were passed out. This was to be a repeat performance at every meal. As we entered the dining room, we were all given a ticket for the raffle at the end of the meal.

The next morning, we all went down for breakfast and had a presentation by the Jasc Co. This was received very well, and ended at about 9.00 a.m. When this was over we had the choice of attending several conferences. I chose to attend the Conference on Officer Liability where there was some discussion on the need for special insurance to cover this. Not everyone felt this was a necessity. The next conference I attended was the Hard/Smart Computing Session. Not too much information here.

Lunch was served at 12.00 with a presentation by AIST and the usual Raffle. So far, I have won nothing. I next attended a presentation on inkjet printers and papers and ink refills. This I found quite interesting. The next conference was on Hard Drives by Gene Barlow who was very knowledgeable on the subject and talked a great deal about drive partitioning and installing various operating systems in the partitions.

At 6.00 p.m. the vendors were spread out in a large room. There were various types of food available in addition. You could wander about talking to the vendors and have some snacks and drinks at the same time. It was quite enjoyable. At the end, about 9.00p.m. the various vendors provided some of their products and gifts for raffle purposes. This time I won a mouse and a desktop stand for CD's.

The next morning after breakfast, we had a presentation by a representative from Microsoft. This was unfortunately complicated by some difficulty with the sound system.

After this was corrected, the presentation was completed fairly well. This was followed by a session with the various vendors and both we, as the public could express our desires with respect to dealing with various computer companies and their availability to User Groups. The size of the User Group was very important in determining if a visit to a User Group was possible.

The next Conference was on organization of a Sig on Digital Cameras. The presenter suggested a long list of prerequisites which do not really apply to our own Sig, but it was good to know what is going on at other User Groups.

Now we are at the end of the conference and a large number of items donated by the various vendors were available for prizes. I won a cap and a soft case for carrying CD's and other members of our Club also won prizes. Unfortunately, I did not win the Grand Prize, which was an Epson Printer, but hopefully, next year.

Now we had to get all our loot down to the car and check out of the hotel. That was accomplished fairly rapidly. We left the hotel and managed to get on the Freeway fairly quickly. The traffic was not too bad till we got to San Clemente where it slowed us down. About this time, I heard a warning signal in my car, and looking at the dashboard I saw a warning light about the oil system. With some difficulty, I managed to move to the right side of the Freeway and find an Off Ramp. There was also a Gas Station present, and we entered. On checking the oil level with the dip stick, it would not register. I had the oil changed ten days before in anticipation of the trip. In any case, we used five quarts of oil before we took off again to Costa Mesa. We managed to arrive at Bob Walker's House and there determined we had an oil leak. That will be dealt with the next day when I visit the dealer for repair.

All in all, it was a good conference, and we all had a good time. I will also plan on attending the Conference next year.



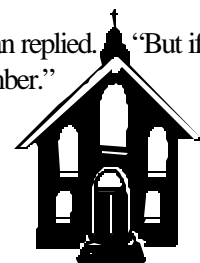
A man with a nagging secret couldn't keep it any longer. In the confessional he admitted that for years he had been stealing building supplies from the lumberyard where he worked.

"What did you take?" his priest asked.

"Enough to build my own house and enough for my son's house. And houses for our two daughters and our cottage at the lake."

"This is very serious," the priest said. "I shall have to think of a far-reaching penance. Have you ever done a retreat?"

"No, Father, I haven't," the man replied. "But if you can get the plans, I can get the lumber."



KEN'S KORNER

Ken Fermoye

Adobe Acrobat is more than just another software program. It didn't arrive with the instant impact of its ancestor, Adobe's PostScript, but it bids fair to make equally important changes in publishing as we know it.



For user groups and other non-profit or educational organization, Adobe Acrobat(tm) is a tool that has special implications, not to mention benefits. How can I claim that Acrobat may be more important than PostScript, you ask? Didn't PostScript help create a revolution in publishing back in the mid-1980s? Certainly! PostScript, combined with PageMaker from Aldous and the Apple LaserWriter printer created what John Warner of Aldous named "desktop publishing." Then Ventura Publisher came along and extended the new technology to PCs.

We're in a new era, however, with the Internet and World Wide Web, plus hardware and software more capable than anything we dreamt of 15 years ago. And Adobe Acrobat, especially the current 4.0X versions, fits right into this new era. It's a unique publishing tool, more versatile than anything we've known in the past. Consider these points. You can use Acrobat to publish a document from virtually any application in a Portable Document Format (PDF) file. Acrobat is a true cross-platform application; its PDF files can be created and read on both PC and Mac computers. Conversion of document files to PDF can be a simple drag-and-drop operation, but there are several other ways Acrobat can create PDF files. It is especially to create PDF from within Window Office applications such as Word, Excel and PowerPoint. The default installation in Windows includes macros that allow quick, easy creation of PDF files. PDF files preserve the fonts, formatting, colors and graphics of the original source document, regardless of the application and platform used to create it.

You don't have to be a publishing genius or understand how the program works to use it effectively for such chores as converting a PageMaker newsletter or Word document to PDF for distribution via e-mail. You do have to spend more time to learn the more sophisticated features that Acrobat also offers:

Acrobat captures Web pages or entire sites and converts them to PDF files for convenient offline viewing and printing. And that's just for starters. For more detailed information than I could possibly include here, including FAQs, User Forums and tutorials, go to www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/main.html.

What I'd like to stress here is the important role Adobe Acrobat can play in the distribution of information by user groups and other educational or not-for-profit organization that publish newsletters and journals. For at least four years I've been arguing that distributing hardcopy newsletters via the U.S. Postal Service may not be the best choice for user groups. It's expensive, vying with meeting place rental as the major item in most groups' budgets. It's slow, especially if newsletters go out as third class mail. It also places major restrictions on editors. I know, I know! Members

resist receiving their newsletters via e-mail.

"I want to get the news printed on paper so I can sit and enjoy it with a cup of coffee. I don't want to read it on a computer monitor!" Those are the comments I hear all too frequently. But think about it for a minute. The newsletter you get via snail mail is

printed in plain black and white, right? And it usually contains eight or 12 pages; more must be added in multiples of at least two pages, usually four

Downloading a typical PDF newsletter as an attachment or from a Website takes only a few minutes, printing it just a few minutes more. And how many user group members don't have a color printer these days? Not many, so editors can add color to their pages, something too expensive even to consider for printed newsletters.

Acrobat eliminates page constraints, too. Editors don't have to worry about filling an extra page when they have only seven pages of material, or to trim a page when they can easily fill nine pages. There is no need to do the laborious task of collating, folding and/or stapling and sticking on stamps

Deadlines become more elastic and more up-to-date news included. Once the newsletter has been thoroughly proofread, corrected and converted to a PDF file, it's ready to post on a Website or go out via e-mail without delay.

Many groups, recognizing the economic and other benefits of PDF, now use Acrobat to publish at least a portion of their newsletter each month. When I first started the Ken's Korner column three years ago, receiving a PDF newsletter was a rarity. Now I get two or three dozen each month. Some come as e-mail attachment. Other groups, usually those with larger newsletters, send a notice with the URL on the Web page where the PDF file can be found.

What I recommend in my Media Workshops is that groups set up pilot programs and start using Acrobat to create PDF newsletters for a portion of their subscription list (e.g. vendors, advertisers, exchange copies for other groups and members who volunteer to forego printed copies) as a pilot program. The list can be expanded as more people, particularly new members, agree to receive their newsletters in electronic form. As incentive, some groups offer reduced fees for members who agree to receive their newsletters electronically.

I realize this isn't your typical software application review — and it isn't meant to be! It's meant to be a thought-started for groups (and individuals) who are willing to consider a new, effective and efficient means of publishing documents in the new millennium.

At \$249 for the full version of 4.0 (\$99 for update version), Adobe Acrobat may be pricey for the casual, occasional user but it makes sense for anyone who produces a lot of documents and needs to distribute them widely via e-mail or on CDs. It also makes a great dollars and cents value for any group.

Ken

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ROD BUSH'S COMPUTER GLEANINGS FROM THE WWW ©

Volume 2, Issue August 03, 2001

.. <<http://home.earthlink.net/~rodubush/Gleanings.htm/>>.

Overcoming E-Mail Overload With Outlook Express is a new Barbara Renick help page at: <<http://www.zroots.com/outlook.htm>>

VOICE OF THE SHUTTLE: NET TOOLS PAGE (INTERNET INFORMATION & RESOURCES) from UCSB is at: <<http://vos.ucsb.edu/shuttle/tools.html>> **VOICE OF THE SHUTTLE: REFERENCE PAGE** for a large index of Web references is at: <<http://vos.ucsb.edu/shuttle/referenc.html>> **Voice of the Shuttle Web Page for Humanities Research** with still more useful links is at: <<http://vos.ucsb.edu/>>

The JumpCity Home Page at: <<http://www.jumpcity.com/start.shtml>> is a Directory of Web resources with major sections on Personal Computing Resources and Searching & Linking on the Web

LibDex - The Library Index: <<http://www.libdex.com/>>

Archives On the Web: <<http://www-personal.umich.edu/~kjestert/archives.html>>

Howstuffworks "How Digital Cameras Work" is at: <<http://www.howstuffworks.com/digital-camera.htm>>

Computer User Links of the Week: <<http://www.computeruser.com/resources/links/linkweek.html>>

ZDNet: Tech Life is at: <<http://www.zdnet.com/techlife/>>

ZDNet: Anchordesk Front Page is at: <<http://www.zdnet.com/anchordesk/>> **ZDNet: PC Magazine** is at: <<http://www.zdnet.com/pcmag/>>

Internet Scout Project: <<http://scout.cs.wisc.edu/>> shows you the best resources on the Internet—then you can choose what's best for you.

Internet and Computer Happenings: <<http://www.refdesk.com/netnews.html>>

Pointcom - Search Made Safe at: <<http://www.pointcom.com/>>

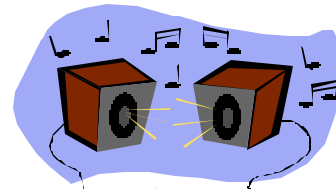
NDI Reference Desk: <<http://www.globaldialog.com/~morse/ija/ndref-01.htm#top>> is a Reference & Research Resources Subject Index

ICQconnection.com - ICQ Help. Your ICQ Help Resource is at: <<http://www.angelfire.com/on3/icqconnection/>>

KaZaA Media Desktop 1.3 at: <<http://www.kazaa.com/>> is a media community, where millions community members can share their media files - audio, video, images and documents - with each other free.

A free mp3 player: <<http://www.a-free-mp3-player.com/>>

Mp3 search with 3pmp3, the world's most reliable mp3 search engine: <<http://www.3pmp3.com/>> At: <<http://dir.yahoo.com/>>



Getting Started With Internet Music.

By Bruce Fries - author of The MP3 and Internet Audio Handbook

This article provides an overview of what you need to record and play music on your computer and how to get music from the Internet.

Introduction

New audio compression technologies, such as MP3, allow you to use your computer as a digital jukebox that can hold thousands of CD-quality songs. You can quickly find and play any song with a click of a mouse and never have to worry about tapes wearing out or records getting scratched. Instead of spending hours making tapes or programming a CD changer, you can compile customized playlists in minutes.

Audio compression also makes it practical to download music from the Internet, where you can access thousands of songs from artists all over the world. With MP3, you can download a four-minute song in less than 15 minutes (with a 33.6 kbps modem), compared to more than 3 hours for the same song in CD audio format. Now you can sample a wide variety of music from the comfort of your home and find some great music from independent artists you might not otherwise be exposed to.

Music on the Internet

On the Internet, you'll find music in the form of files that can be downloaded to your computer; music that you can listen to as it's "streamed" over the Internet (similar to the way you listen to AM and FM radio), and physical media, such as records, tapes and CDs, that you can purchase and have shipped to you.

Downloadable music is simply music in the form of a computer file (usually MP3 or WMA format) that you can download from a Web site to your computer. Downloadable music can be played on your computer, a portable digital audio player like the Rio 800, or newer CD players the Rio Volt (www.riohome.com).

Streaming audio enables you to listen to digital music without having to wait for the entire file to download. Streaming audio is used by many online music stores to play short clips from songs so you can listen to samples before you record a CD. To listen to streaming audio, you need a sound card and an internet connection.

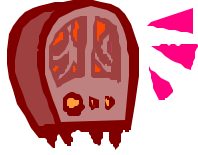
Digital Audio Formats

MP3 (technically, MPEG Audio Layer-III) is a standard format for compressing digital audio. MP3 squeezes audio files to about one tenth of their original size, while maintaining close to CD quality..

RealAudio was the first widely used system for streaming audio and video over the Internet. It is a proprietary format, but it is used by many online music stores for sample clips of songs, and by many Internet radio sites.

WAV is the default format for digital audio on Windows PCs. WAV files usually contain PCM format audio, which means they are uncompressed and take up a lot of space (10MB/minute for CD quality audio).

Windows Media Audio (WMA) is a proprietary format developed by Microsoft. WMA is supported by most full-featured player programs and by many portable players



Internet Radio

Internet radio is a form of streaming audio, usually in Real Audio or Windows Media Audio format. MP3 can also be streamed, but is more commonly used as a downloadable format. Spinner (www.Spinner.com) provides a nice tuner interface with access to dozens of stations and programmable presets. Sites like Live365.com and Radio.Sonicnet.com allow you to set up a personal radio station, which you customize by selecting the artists and the types of music you want to hear.

Hardware Requirements

To listen to music on your PC, you need a sound card. To play MP3 files you need at least a Pentium PC (133MHz or faster recommended) or a PowerPC/Macintosh. A CD Recordable (CR-R or CD-RW) drive is recommended for recording audio (Redbook format) or MP3 (data format) CDs.

You will need plenty of RAM, lots of free disk space, and a modem to download songs or listen to music streamed over the Internet. To convert your existing CDs into MP3 files, you'll need a CD-ROM drive that is capable of digital audio extraction (DAE)-commonly called ripping.

Software Requirements

To play MP3 files, you need a player program or a portable player that supports MP3. The latest versions of the Windows and Mac operating systems come with built-in players, but you'll be better off using an all-in-one program like MusicMatch Jukebox (www.musicmatch.com) because it has more features and is easier to use, even for non-technical users

MusicMatch Jukebox includes everything you need to create, organize and play MP3 files. MusicMatch supports ripping from CDs, analog recording from records and tapes, and burning MP3 files directly to a CD. MusicMatch also automatically organizes your MP3 files into separate folders by artist, album, genre and other categories.

To listen to Internet radio you need a program that supports streaming audio. At the very least, you should install the latest versions of the RealPlayer (www.real.com), Windows Media Player (www.microsoft.com/windows/windowsmedia) and a full-featured audio player, such as MusicMatch Jukebox. These programs will allow you to listen to the majority of Internet radio sites.

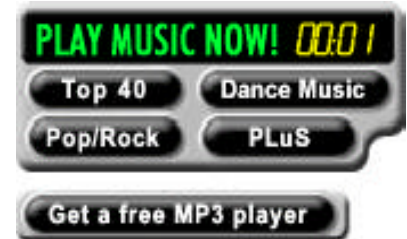


Downloading Music

To obtain songs in MP3 format, you can download them from the Internet, create them from prerecorded music or obtain pre-made MP3 CDs. Web sites like MP3.com and EMusic.com offer thousands of downloadable songs in MP3 format. Many of these songs are free, and those that aren't usually cost only a dollar or so.



Napster (www.napster.com) is an MP3 file sharing service that maintains a central directory of shared MP3 files that exist on individual user's computers. Users search by song title or artist name and Napster displays links to matching files on the computers of other users. Each link lists the file's resolution and size, and the speed of the user's Internet connection. The first user then selects and downloads the MP3 file directly from the other user's computer.



Creating Your Own MP3 Files

To create MP3 files from records or tapes you'll need to record them in real-time, using a sound card. You should use a good stand-alone recording program like Cool Edit 2000 (www.cooledit.com), since the sound recording applications that come with most computers are fairly limited. Cool Edit also has a nice audio clean-up plug-in that can remove clicks, pops and hiss from the sound before you convert it to MP3 or burn it to a CD.

When you record using Cool Edit, the song will end up as an uncompressed WAV (pronounced wave). The advantage of a WAV file is that you have the option of editing it to adjust the volume or trim off unwanted silence before it is converted to MP3 or burned to a CD. MusicMatch can also record from analog sources like records and tapes, but lacks the advanced editing features of Cool Edit.

WAV files can be recorded directly to an Audio CD or converted to MP3 files. The process of creating an MP3 file is called encoding. Encoding compresses the audio by removing sounds that most people can't hear. The size and sound quality of the MP3 file is a function of the bit-rate used-the higher the bit-rate, the larger the file and the better the sound quality.

To create MP3 files from an audio CD, the best method is to bypass the sound card and rip the audio directly to your hard disk. Ripping is better than recording through a sound card because it results in a perfect copy without added noise or distortion. Because it is a digital process, ripping is also much faster than recording. For example, a system with a fast CD-

ROM drive can rip a four-minute song in less than 30 seconds. Recording the same song through a sound card will always take at least four minutes.

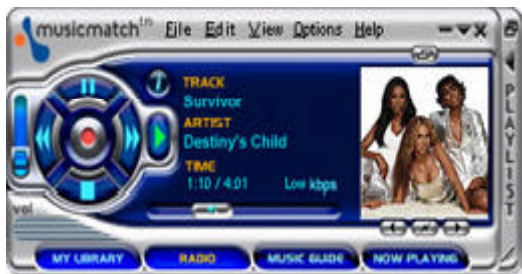
Most audio CDs do not contain information, such as artist names and album and song titles. To save you from having to enter this information manually, programs, such as MusicMatch, can automatically get this information from the CDDb (www.cddb.com) and use it to automatically name the files.

Organizing Your Music

Now that you've downloaded or created MP3 files, you need a way to organize them. MP3 files can be organized in one big folder that contains all files, or they can be grouped in separate directories with similar music. It's up to you to decide which method to use, although if you have more than a few hundred songs you should organize them in separate directories. Playlists are optional text files that contain the name and location of each audio file. Each playlist is like a tape with unlimited capacity, where songs can be added, deleted or moved around without the need to re-record the tape. Playlists can be created and read by text editors and programs like MusicMatch.

Playing Your Music

You can play songs from Windows Explorer or Mac Finder by double-clicking on them. If your system is set up properly, this should automatically launch the player software (if it's not already running). You can also play individual songs by launching the player and using its "File Open" function.



If you have created playlists, you can load one into MusicMatch, set the "repeat" mode on, and sit back and enjoy hours of continuous music. You can use the player controls to jump forward or backwards in the list, and you can click on individual songs to play them out of order. MusicMatch's playlist manager allows you to add, delete and change the order of songs and even save the playlist to a new file.

Recording Your Own CDs

CD recordable drives (CD-R and CD-RW) can be used to record create music CDs with compilations of songs from different albums and to back up data from your computer's hard disk. CDs are usually recorded in either audio or data formats.

Audio format CDs have the advantage of being playable in most CD players, though the capacity is limited to 74 minutes of music (approximately 18 four-minute songs). MP3 files are just data files as far as a CD recorder is concerned, so you will need to record them to a data format CD.

With MP3 files, you can record more than 12 hours (about 200 songs) of high-quality music on a single CD, in less than 20 minutes with a 4X CD-R drive. You can also use MusicMatch Jukebox to uncompress MP3 files and record the music to an audio format CD.

For More Information

For more information on recording and playing music on your computer, pick up a copy of *The MP3 and Internet Audio Handbook* (\$19.95) from www.TeamComBooks.com or read it online for free at www.MP3Handbook.com.

Bruce Fries is a writer, technology consultant and entrepreneur who lives in Silver Spring, Maryland. He is an associate of the Audio Engineering Society and the founder of TeamCom Books, a customer-focused publishing company that combines the best of traditional print publishing with new media, such as e-books and the Internet.

Unusual Funeral

A woman was leaving a 7-11 with her morning coffee when she noticed a most unusual funeral procession approaching the nearby cemetery. A long black hearse was followed by a second long black hearse about 50 feet behind.

Behind the second hearse was a solitary woman walking a pit bull dog on a leash.

Behind her were 200 women walking single file. The woman couldn't stand the curiosity. She respectfully approached the woman walking the dog and said, "I am so sorry for your loss, and I know now is a bad time to disturb you, but I've never seen a funeral like this. Whose funeral is it?" The woman replied, "Well that first hearse is for my husband." "What happened to him?" The woman replied, "My dog attacked and killed him."

She inquired further, "Well, who is in the second hearse?" The woman answered, "My mother-in-law. She was trying to help my husband when the dog turned on her."

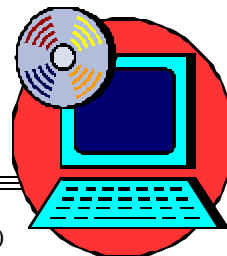
A poignant and thoughtful moment of silence passes between the two women. "Can I borrow the dog?"

"Get in line."



Connecting Your PC to Your Stereo

By Bruce Fries - author of *The MP3 and Internet Audio Handbook*.



If you've taken the time to put your music collection on your computer, you'll probably want to listen to it through a good stereo system. Even if your stereo isn't in the same room as your computer, there are several options for connecting the two, including direct analog cabling, USB Audio devices, wireless audio transmitters, and network audio receivers.

The most basic concept of connecting audio equipment is that inputs must always be connected to outputs. Sometimes you will still get sound if you mistakenly connect a sound card output to an output of a stereo receiver. When in doubt, connect the sound card output to the CD jack on your stereo—it's always an input.

Connect high-level (also called line-level) outputs to high-level inputs, and connect low-level outputs (such as a microphone) to low-level (Mic) inputs. Do not use the receiver's phono input jack because this is designed for a very low-level signal and has a special equalization circuit. Avoid using the sound card's headphone or microphone jack to connect to other equipment unless you have no other choice.

Most consumer sound cards have 1/8" mini phone jacks. A mono jack is used for the microphone input, and stereo jacks are used for the line-in, line-out and headphone. Better sound cards may have separate RCA jacks for the left and right channels. These are the same kind of jacks found on most home stereo systems. High-end sound cards may also have connectors for digital inputs and outputs.

The simplest connection between a computer and a stereo system is to run a cable directly from the sound card's line output to a line input of your stereo. To record from your stereo system to your computer, connect a cable from a line-out (or record) jack on your receiver to the line-in jack on your sound card.

If your sound card's line output is an 1/8" stereo mini-phone jack, you'll need an adapter cable (male 1/8" stereo mini-phone to dual male RCA). These cables can be purchased from most consumer electronics stores, such as Radio Shack, Best Buy and Fry's Electronics.

USB audio devices perform the basic functions of a sound card, but outside of the PC, and are less likely to pick up noise from the PC's electronics. USB audio devices can be used for both recording and playback and are a good solution for notebook computer users who want higher quality sound.

The Roland UA-30 (www.edirol.com) is a flexible USB audio device that supports both Macs and PCs. The UA-30 works great and includes just about every type of input and output connector you might possibly need.

Wireless audio devices can transmit a stereo audio signal up to 300 feet. These devices typically include a transmitter and a receiver with standard RCA line-level input and output jacks. Wireless audio devices provide more flexibility than hard cabled connections, but are much more prone to interference compared to other types of connections.

The MP3 Anywhere Digital Audio Sender by X10 (www.X10.com) is a good wireless audio device for most users. It sells for under \$100 and uses the 2.4 GHz spectrum to reduce interference and provide a high quality connection. The MP3 Anywhere also includes a remote control and software, which allow you to control most popular player programs.

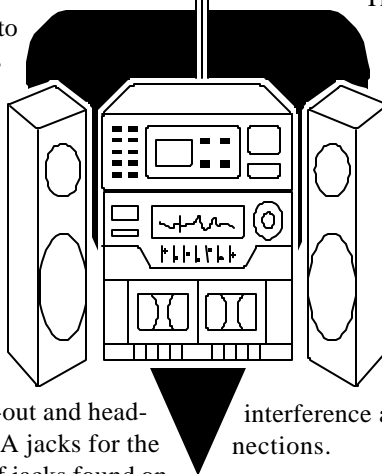
The ideal way to transmit audio from your PC throughout your house is by streaming the audio from your PC via a network. A network audio connection eliminates the loss of high frequencies, interference and hum typical of analog cable and wireless connections.

The Rio Receiver (www.riohome.com) is a very capable network audio device that allows you to access individual songs and playlists from your PC anywhere you have a telephone or network jack. The Rio has an LCD interface that displays song title, artist name and other information, and also includes a remote control.

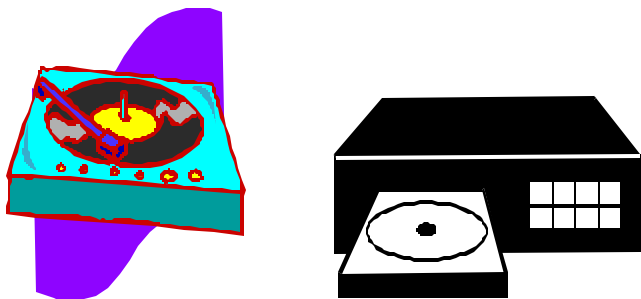
Whatever your choice of PC to stereo connection, you will be able to use your computer as a digital jukebox and take full advantage of the latest digital music technologies to play high-quality music anywhere in your house.

For more information on connecting your PC to your stereo, pick up a copy of *The MP3 and Internet Audio Handbook* (\$19.95) from www.TeamComBooks.com or read it online for free at www.MP3Handbook.com.

Bruce Fries is a writer, technology consultant and entrepreneur who lives in Silver Spring, Maryland. He is an associate of the Audio Engineering Society and the founder of TeamCom Books, a customer-focused publishing company that combines the best of traditional print publishing with new media, such as e-books and the Internet.



Vinyl LP to Audio CD or MP3 Files



*By Bruce Fries - author
of The MP3 and Internet Audio Handbook.*

With a good sound recording and editing program you can take those old scratchy LPs and 78s record them through your sound card, filter out all those clicks and pops, and then burn the music to an audio CD or store it as an MP3 file. The following process also works for recording audio from other external sources, such as cassette tapes and microphones.

Use a program like CoolEdit 2000 (www.cooledit.com) for the PC or Peak (www.bias-inc.com) for the Mac. Demo versions of both programs can be downloaded for free.

Connect Your PC to Your Stereo:

The first step is to connect an adapter cable from the tape out (or record) jack of your stereo receiver to the line input of your sound card. These cables can be purchased from most consumer electronics stores, such as Radio Shack, Best Buy and Fry's Electronics. Newer turntables with line-out jacks can be connected directly to the sound card.

Set the Sampling Rate and Resolution:

The next step is to create a new file in the sound editing program. If you intend to create an audio CD, you must choose a sample rate of 44,100, two channels (stereo) and a resolution of 16 bits. This will create a file that takes up approximately 10MB of space for every minute recorded, so you will need plenty of free disk space. For voice or music to be embedded in a Web page, you can use a lower sample rate, a single channel and 8 bit resolution to create a much smaller file.

Set the Recording Level:

Now play part of the track and use the Volume Control program to set your recording levels. In Windows, the first screen of the Volume Control program is for playback levels. To get to the Recording Level screen, choose Properties from the Options menu and select the checkbox for Recording. Make sure the checkbox for the Line-In volume control is also selected. Click OK and the Record Level screen will appear. Set the Monitor Record Level option in your recording program to On, and, as the track plays, adjust the slider for Line-In so the level meter shows a strong signal, but not so strong as any peaks cause the meter to go into the red area.

Record the Audio:

Lift the stylus and queue up the beginning of the track. Click the Record button in your recording program and then lower the needle. Make sure no other programs are running while you record. When the track is finished, click the Stop button and lift the stylus.

Remove Clicks, Pops or Hiss:

Play back the track to hear how it sounds. Trim off any silence at the beginning and ends of the track. If you have an audio clean-up plug, use it to automatically remove any clicks, pops and hiss. If you don't have an audio clean-up plug-in, you can zoom in to each click or pop, select an adjacent cycle of the waveform at the zero crossing points, copy it to the clipboard, and then paste it over the cycle that contains the click. Listen to the track again and run the hiss removal if necessary.

Normalize the Volume:

Normalize the track to adjust the volume up or down so that all tracks will play at a similar level. A value of 97% usually works well if your software normalizes by peak level. More advanced programs, such as CoolEdit Pro, can normalize by average levels, which is much more accurate. At this point, you may want to add a fade-in or fade-out. Some CD recording programs, such as Nero (www.nero.com) can automatically crossfade tracks as the CD is recorded.

Save to a WAV or MP3 File:

If you intend to record the track to an audio CD, save it to a PCM format WAV file (PC) or an AIFF file (Mac). Save the file to MP3 format if you want to play it from your computer or on a portable player.

Record an Audio CD:

Now you can use a CD-Recordable drive to create a Red Book audio CD that can be played in most CD players. Avoid using CD-RW media because it will not be compatible with most CD players.

It pays to experiment with a short clip before you record and clean-up an entire album. Find out which settings work best for different types of recordings and write these down for future reference.

Many of these old 78s and LPs are irreplaceable, so it pays to preserve them in a digital format. If you ever have recorded a cassette or reel-to-reel tape, you should be comfortable with this process and delighted with the ability to improve the quality of the audio.

Bruce Fries is a writer, technology consultant and entrepreneur who lives in Silver Spring, Maryland. He is an associate of the Audio Engineering Society and the founder of TeamComBooks, a customer-focused publishing company that combines the best of traditional print publishing with new media, such as e-books and the Internet.

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

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 Robert Walker
rwalker820@msn.com **and**
Moris Fier, fier@bigfoot.com, .
2. Mail a 3.5" disk so as to be received by the deadline by the Newsletter Coordinator at the OCIPUG mailing address above.
3. Hard copy to Editor at the OCIPUG mailing address above.

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