

Orange Coast IBM PC User Group

README.DOC

June 2001

Newsletter

Volume 17.6

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

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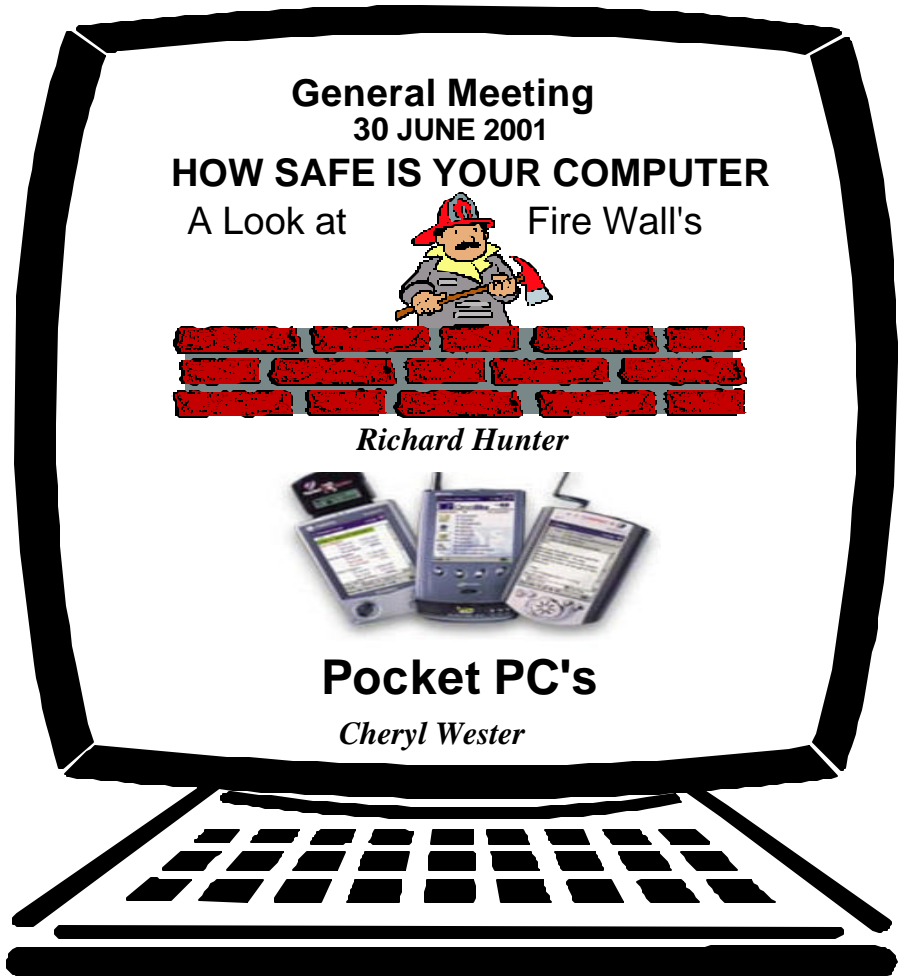
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Membership Application



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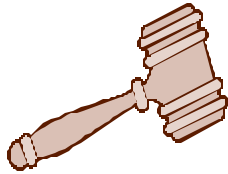
See mailing label
for membership
expiration date.



General Meetings are held from 9:00AM to noon on:
 30 June 2001
 28 July 2001
 25 August 2001
 29 September 2001
 27 October 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:
 25 June 2001
 30 July 2001
 27 August 2001
 30 September 2001
 29 October 2001
 All OCIPUG members are welcome.

Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings held monthly as follows:
 1st Saturday, 1:00PM - 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



What makes OCIPUG such a great organization is the many people working together helping each other. We are fortunate to have a core group of members that continue to remain active and participant to make improvements in OCIPUG. Their only reward is the satisfaction of helping others to learn about, and enjoy using computer and software, and the many friendships we make. Please take time to consider running for office. We are making an appeal for members to come forward and volunteer.

Open to all Members

The **8th Annual Southwestern User Group Conference** will be held from Friday evening, July 13 through Sunday, July 15 at the Hilton Hotel-Mission Valley in San Diego, CA. Activities will include: workshops on Saturday and Sunday; vendor-sponsored presentations & meals; a Vendor Faire; numerous prize drawings; as well as up close and personal time with participating vendors. In addition, attendees will receive a T-shirt and Welcome Bag. Giveaways from Adobe, DeLorme, Scansoft, Peachpit Books, Microsoft, MGI, Jase, Wiz.com, Ouicken, Corel, Logitech, Macmillan, Planet Ware Enfish, McAfee, Epson America, Photodex, TecSmith and many others as well.

Comdex in November

Coming up in conjunction with **Comdex Fall 2001 Las Vegas for user group officers** and directors. Roundtables begin on the weekend prior to Comdex week with two days of peer-to-peer sessions. During the week, there will be events for user group members hosted by sponsoring vendors.

Don't miss our June Program with Richard Hunter and Cheryl Webster .

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SCHEDULES AND REPORTS OF EVENTS

July 28th General Meeting

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.)

27 June 2001

Digital Cameras and Scanning -

4th Wednesday, 7:00PM
Bob Strader 949-646-1475
rstrader@pacbell.net

7 July 2001

New User - 1st Saturday, 1:00PM

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

4 July 2001 No SIG Holiday

Internet - 1st Wednesday, 7:00PM

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

9 July 2001

Hardware - 2nd Tuesday, 7:00PM

Ed Leckliter
eleckliter@home.com

11 July 2001

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

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

18 July 2001

Windows - 3rd Wednesday, 7:00PM

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

ACP Swap Meet

29 JULY 2001

Contact Richard Hunter if you can help at the OCIPUG booth on Saturday.

714-968-6362

rthunter@bigfoot.com

the **BEST**
BUYS
on the **BLOCK!**

Rollin White with Sundial Systems

Will demo **Junk Spy** the answer to your junk e-mail problems. He will have a discounted price for everyone in attendance.

Mack Drive 2000

A program that enables Windows users to read Mac disk from a PC-Once installed on your PC, you can open, edit and save Mac files on floppies, Zips Jaz CD-ROMs and Hard Drives You can even format Mac disk from Windows. Also a special group price.

Internet

Websites of Interest June Internet SIG

.Michael Moore SIG Leader

<http://www.audible.com/> - provider of premium downloadable spoken word audio, offering a vast selection of audiobooks, newspapers, magazines, radio shows and a whole lot more

<http://www.blinkcom/> - Blink's free service allows its members to store and organize their bookmarks and contact information in a private, password-secured Internet-account, making them available from any computer that they use

<http://www.dmoz.com/> - Homepage of the open directory project, whose goal is to produce the most comprehensive directory of the web, by relying on a vast army of volunteer editors

<http://www.firstgov.gov/> - Firstgov.gov is the only official U.S. Government portal to 30 million pages of government information, services, and online transactions.

<http://www.the-gadgeteer.com/> - unbiased reviews of PDA's, Palm Pilot and all those other pc's that fit in either in the palm of your hand, or your pocket. This Site is Updated Daily

<http://www.listoflists.com/> - Part of the open directory project, whose goal is to produce the most comprehensive directory of the web, by relying on a vast army of volunteer editors

<http://www.popularsites.com/> - PopularSites.com's vision is to be the Internet's premier destination, leveraging virtual communities that help our users conduct research, access financial information, play exciting games, and effectively participate in the electronic marketplace to create a compelling network offering.

<http://www.smartcomputing.com/> - SmartComputing.com is a leading source of plain-English computing tips and how-to information. The site brings together computer users of all skill levels, providing constantly updated articles, an archive of all print issues, a Q&A Board, reviews of hundreds of hardware products, a Computing Dictionary with thousands of terms, and a Directory Of Web Sites

<http://www.soyouwanna.com/> - This site states that it will teach you how to do all the things nobody taught you in school



Hardware SIG

. "Ed Leckliter" eleckliter@home.com.

OCIPUG Hardware SIG - Meeting Recap

Meeting Date: June 12, 2001

There were 12 attendees (including the SIG Leader, Ed Leckliter)

The Featured Topics were:

"Online Resources to Help in Resolving Hardware Problems" and "General System Maintenance"

There were one hardware "submission":

Dick Baznik brought in his system and requested help getting his sound card to work. Dick had recently reformatted his hard drive and reinstalled Windows 98. Everything seemed to be working "mostly" OK except for the sound card. Dick had already downloaded drivers and tried to update the system but to no avail. No cards in the system had been relocated and the sound card had been rechecked multiple times to make sure it was properly seated. It should be noted that it was not exactly which sound card model Dick had so Ed tried downloading a couple of drivers from Creative Labs website. Ed experienced the same problems Dick had and was unable to resolve them.

There was virtually no Q&A.

Next Meeting: July 10, 2001

Next Meeting Featured Topic:
CPUs Revisited

Following Meeting: August 14, 2001

Following Meeting Featured Topic(s):
TBD based on attendee input on 7/10.

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

Presentation slides (.ppt format)

Please do NOT contact the SIG leader for the presentation topic. the topic is stated above.

Ed



Scanning and Photo

Next Meeting

June 27 7:00PM

David Ayers Will Demo



PhotoStreak can compress your digital images smaller than traditional image compression techniques. Ultra Compact PhotoStreak makes incredible compression of your digital image files possible - you can even use it to save space on your hard drive by compressing images in the PhotoStreak format.

Fast

Smaller files save you time, enabling you to transfer images in record time. Transfer files in seconds - not minutes.

Easy

PhotoStreak is easy to use, with simple compression and decompression of images, and the PhotoStreak Viewer works with both Netscape and Explorer!

Free

PhotoStreak is available free of charge for personal use. Corporate, government and not for profit entities can purchase PhotoStreak Pro.



A defendant was on trial for murder in Oklahoma. There was strong evidence indicating his guilt, but there was no corpse. In the defense's closing statement, the lawyer, knowing that his client would probably be convicted, resorted to a trick:

"Ladies and gentlemen of the jury. I have a surprise for you all," the lawyer said as he looked at his watch. "Within one minute, the person presumed dead in this case will walk into his courtroom."

He looked toward the courtroom door. The jurors, some what stunned, all looked on eagerly. A minute passed. Nothing happened.

Finally the lawyer said, "Actually, I made up the previous statement. But you all looked on with anticipation. I therefore put it to you that there is reasonable doubt in this case as to whether anyone was killed and insist that you return a verdict of not guilty."

The jury, clearly confused, retired to deliberate. A few minutes later, the jury returned and pronounced a verdict of guilty.

"But how?" inquired the lawyer. "You must have had some doubt; I saw all of you stare at the door."

The jury foreman replied, "We looked, all right, But your client didn't."

GENERAL MEETING PROGRAM

How Safe Is Your Computer

30 JUNE 2001

Hand Held Pocket PC's

Richard Hunter Our Windows and Web SIG leader will bring us up to date on FireWalls. If you are looking to protect your personal machine here are several Software Packages I have found on the internet

Popular packages Software

1. A Secure Site — Firewalls By PowerBox - PowerBox is a complete Internet firewall software management system to protect your critical business assets and block hacker attacks, Internet threats, or virus damage. Secure email and the ability to monitor all sites your employees visit, makes your business resources more profitable. A browser interface, safety rules, free upgrade to v4, log files document all attacks, privacy, security, distributed email, linux server, email backup, in one easy to use system. Free consultation: 800-729-5037

2. Block.c - Prevents a user from logging in by monitoring and closing down his tty port as soon as it appears in the system. Cool!

3.COPS - a Security Tool - Software written around 1990 to defend against hackers.

4. EnterNet FireWall - EnterNet FireWall is a Swedish-made firewall. With its high throughput, low-cost, centralized management and low hardware requirements, EnterNet FireWall meets the demands from large and small companies and organisations alike. EnterNet FireWall has no underlying operating system. The risks for inherited security deficiencies and costs of an operating system are thereby completely eliminated. Cool!

5. FIRE-BACK - Fire-Back Security Solution, now including a very good firewall.

6. Firewall Toolkit - Probably one of the best pieces of software to learn the internals of Firewall

7. Firewall.Net - Guide to personal firewalls - Guide to install and configure your own personal firewall. A good way to start your Netsurfing secure.

8. FreeStone by SOS Software - Free Gateway package from SOS Corporation

9. Gateway Guardian - FREE Linux firewall for personal and non profit use. No Linux knowledge required. Runs under Windows or Linux. Top of the line firewall protection. Cool!

10. Home PC Firewall Guide - Get hacker protection using online testing, personal firewall software, an Internet security hardware appliance, and other security, privacy, family and nuisance utility software.

Cheryl Wester, is a high school teacher in the Corona-Norco Unified School District where she teaches Computer Science. She also teaches for the University of Phoenix in the education department. Additionally she works for a firm where she has been promoting the PocketPC.

Cheryl will show us the Hewlett Packard Jornada, a Compaq iPAQ, and the Casio's duo, the EM-500 and the E-125 and the digital camera part of the Pocket PC with a flash media card.

We will take a look at wireless data technology which has been customized for Casio users. Casio Mobile wireless service enables you to securely access data, e-mail, and the Internet wireless

"A powerful tool for the mobile professional"

The new CASSIOPEIA (TM) units all feature Microsoft Outlook Synchronization, Microsoft Pocket Word, Pocket Excel, Microsoft Money for Pocket PC, and many other Microsoft features, including Microsoft Pocket Internet Explorer browser software (modem required-sold separately).

The E-125 features enable the user to view movies in vivid color and rich stereo. This new Pocket PC features a TFT color (240x 320 dots) display with 65,536 full colors and a powerful 150 MHz, 32MB RAM. This multi-media powerhouse delivers the comprehensive functionality and application support users have come to expect from Casio.

The new line of Cassiopeias and their enhanced new features are the perfect tool for remote connection available through the purchase of a CompactFlash modem card, Serial Modem, Compact Flash wireless phone connector card, or CompactFlash LAN card

This application brings the most common digital media activities together in one application! Get full support for downloaded digital audio and video playback, playlist management, automatic synchronization of media files, support for Digital Rights Management and more!

Microsoft Internet Explorer for the Pocket PC

Making its debut this month at the CeBIT trade show in Germany, signaling a huge leap internet capabilities for handheld devices. Pocket Internet Explorer was designed to enable people to browse any Web site, instead of being restricted to the pre-selected and limited Web sites that most other personal digital assistants are able to utilize. Whether you access their Web content in an offline state via Mobile Favorites synchronization or Pocket Internet Explorer's integrated AvantGo software, or whether they browse the Web live via a Local Area Network, 56K modem or wireless solution, they will now truly have universal access to their important Internet and intranet information — any time, any place.

KEN'S KORNER

Ken Fermoyle

Check Out WordWeb 1.61, Free Dictionary, Thesaurus

Do you ever get stuck for the meaning of a word, or grope for a synonym that eludes you completely? The handiest tool I've found for such occasions is a software program called WordWeb for Windows.

In fact, I count it as one of the most valuable utilities currently installed on my computer. And the basic program, Version 1.61, is free for the downloading! There is one version for Windows 95/98/NT and another for Windows 3.1. Sorry, DOS diehards, there's no version for you.

As a writer, avid reader and major crossword fan, I've depended on dictionaries since childhood. I taught my kids to use them from the time they were very young, often much to their chagrin. ("Dad, how do you spell ____?" "Look it up; you know where the dictionary is." "Aw, Da-a-d, do I hafta?) But they've thanked me since for that training.

In the five months since I discovered WordWeb, I find myself making fewer trips to the bookshelf for my hardbound Webster's University dictionary or to the big Webster's unabridged version on its own stand in the living room. Instead, I click on the WordWeb icon on my desktop or, if I'm using Word, I simply open the Tools menu and select WordWeb from it.

Version 1.61 contains definitions and synonyms for 120,000 root words, 100,000 synonym sets, many antonyms, a host of proper nouns and more. It also has an installation feature that allows you to tie it to Word, as mentioned above. The Setup program asks if you want to include a template to make WordWeb available from within MS Word.

(I only wish a similar option was available for WordPad, which I use for a lot of my writing, but I guess that might be difficult.)

I've tried WordWeb on several of my computers and it runs fast on all of them, even the oldest model with a 225MHz cpu. It not only comes up fast when using it on a stand-alone basis, but pops up definitions and synonyms in its own window from within MS Word in a hurry, too.

All you have to do to get a definition or synonym while in Word is highlight or just click your cursor on the word you want to check. Then open the Tools menu and click on the WordWeb icon.

At the top of the WordWeb dialog box is the Lookup line, which contains the word you want defined. (If you use WordWeb outside of MS Word, you must type in the word at this point.)

Below that line is the definition window, then comes a series of tabs: synonyms, antonyms, types, etc. You click on whatever tab you want to get additional information about your Lookup word. It's even simpler than it sounds, actually. You can download the program at: www.networddemon.co.uk/wweb/

Developer Antony Lewis also offers two other programs, including WordWeb Pro, which adds several features to the basic utility:

1. Wildcard word searches. For example `??d??ek` would find the word `midweek`.
2. Find straight and multi-word anagrams. For example, WordWeb Pro finds `powder brow` + many others.
3. You can edit and add to the dictionary/thesaurus as well!

The first two items are especially important to crossword fans (like me!) and the latter is a big benefit for anyone. The cost of the Pro version is just \$18.

The third program Lewis has written is Crossword Compiler, which turns you into an instant crossword puzzle constructor. This one costs \$45 for the full version but a demo version, restricted to 10x10 squares, can be downloaded for free.

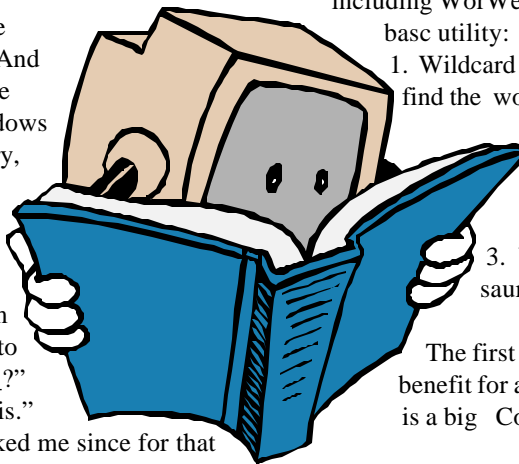
Lewis also offers various word and language lists to add to the programs, as well as assorted bundles.

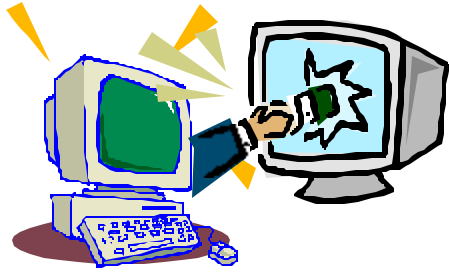
I started with the free WordWeb utility, then upgraded to the Pro version. I like the "add & edit" feature, and the wildcard and anagram features are helpful when you're trying to solve a really tough crossword puzzle. WordWeb Pro takes up 7.74MB of hard drive space. The base version is about 1MB smaller.

Frankly, I think the free version of WordWeb is one of the best deals you will find on the Internet but check it out for yourself at the URL given above.

Ken

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Transferring Files between PCs + Printing Web Pages

By Don Edrington

Something I'm hearing with increasing frequency is, "I bought a new computer and need to know how to transfer the files from my old computer onto it." Well, the old "tried and true" method was to copy files individually onto 3.5" floppies and then copy them from there onto the new PC's hard drive. Nowadays, however, this has become generally impractical because of the huge numbers of files that many users need to transfer.

This can be done more easily if you have access to a portable Iomega Zip or Jaz Drive or a portable Rewritable CD drive. Hundreds of files can be copied to each disk/CD and the drives can be switched from one computer to another.

You can also send files to the new computer as email attachments. Beyond that, there are several "storage space" web sites that let you upload and download files at no charge. However, if you've ever downloaded files from the Internet or as an e-mail attachment, you know how time-consuming this can be

If you do decide to use one of the many "free storage space" web sites, it pays to check them out first. You can do this by logging on to <http://www.ask.com/> and typing "Free File Storage" into the search box. Click on "Web-Based File Storage Services" to get a very comprehensive review of these facilities. In any case, if you plan on using one of these services, it's prudent to put your files on more than one of them.

The most efficient method of transferring files, however, is to do it by connecting the two computers with a cable and using special software designed for this purpose. I'd recommend checking out <http://www.laplink.com/>, a company who's been specializing in this kind of technology for over 18 years.

Another thing I get asked about concerns printing web pages. Folks often want to print a whole page, but are reluctant to do so because so many of the pages have elaborate, multi-colored backgrounds which, if printed, could use up their ink cartridges pretty rapidly. However, both Internet Explorer and Netscape let you go to File, Print Preview, to see what your printout would actually look like

Using Internet Explorer 6.0 and Netscape 4.76, here's what I discovered:

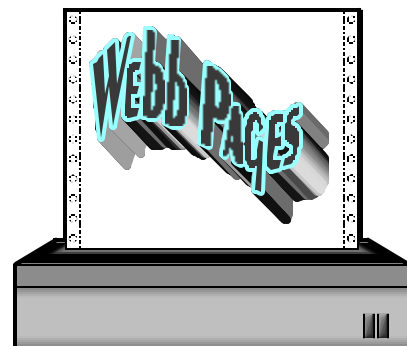
Internet Explorer changes all colored backgrounds to white and adjusts the text colors, if needed, to be legible against the white. Netscape, on the other hand, prints those ink-devouring colored backgrounds, unless they had been placed there as "image" files (as opposed to being assigned a "browser-safe" color with HTML coding).

Furthermore, Internet Explorer printed all the graphics that were displayed on a given page while Netscape printed some images and printed empty boxes for others. Perhaps the new Netscape 6.01 will do the same as Internet Explorer, but after trying Netscape 6.0 I quickly deleted it, as did all the critics whose reviews I read. Getting back to those colored backgrounds; if you do want to print them, simply copy and paste the web page into a blank MS Word 2000 document and the colors will be there in all their glory.

I also get lots of questions about what a keyboard's "F-keys" are good for. These keys appeared back in the "pre-mouse" days of PCs and were meant to be shortcuts to commands that otherwise might require a lot of typing. Nowadays they mostly duplicate various mouse and/or keyboard functions. Many F-key actions are peculiar to one program or another, while a few tend to be more or less "universal." F1, for instance, brings up a Help Menu in most programs, while F7 activates the Spell Checker in most Microsoft programs, with Shift+F7 bringing up a Thesaurus. Alt+F4 will close most programs.

F3 is an interesting key. On a PC's Desktop and in Windows Explorer it activates the Find Files & Folders command. In WordPerfect it brings up the Save As command. In Corel Draw and PhotoPaint it shrinks whatever is on the screen by 50%. In MSWord, Shift+F3 will change the "case" of any selected text, going from All Capitals to All Lower Case to All Lower Case with the first word Capitalized. This can come in handy at times.

This article is reprinted courtesy of Don Edrington, for more helpful articles on a variety of computer topics, go to his web site at www.pcdon.com



Herb's Hangout

Herb Huey

Orange Coast IBM PC User



What Happened to My DSL?

Recently, I was talking to a co-worker. He was upset about his DSL (Digital Subscriber Line) service. He was signed up with Verizon and just moved to an area not serviced by Verizon. Instead of issuing a partial refund, Verizon billed him for early termination of his service. I quickly learned that he had problems getting his DSL connection and has had numerous periods with loss of service. It turns out that my co-worker's experience is typical of DSL broadband service.

DSL problems fall into three broad categories, high demand for service, equipment or wire problems, and not enough qualified personnel. As if these problems are not enough, many subscribers face price hikes for 2001. Verizon recently raised its rates ranging from \$49.95 to \$79.95. Verizon actually lowered rates last July to \$39.95 but now offers this rate with a higher installation fee of \$200 versus \$50 for the higher rates. AT&T recently raised its rates \$6 to \$45.95. SBC Communications and Earthlink have already raised their rates to \$49.95. Carriers are now trading earnings growth over DSL subscriber growth to satisfy stockholder demand for better earnings growth. With the slowdown in the economy, smaller DSL providers, most notably NorthPoint Communications, have gone out of business in the past year.

DSL is a high-speed data service that works over the same copper telephone lines owned by the telephone companies, notably the Baby Bells; Verizon Communications, BellSouth Corporation, Qwest Communications International and SBC (which includes Pacific Bell). They are known as Regional Bell Operating Companies (RBOP) and as DSL providers, Incumbent local Exchange Carriers (ILEC). Other DSL providers are known as Competitive Local Exchange Carriers (CLEC) and must contract with the RBOPs for use of their telephone lines and facilities.

The most popular DSL version is ADSL (Asymmetrical DSL) which offers higher download speeds in the upstream direction. An ADSL circuit consists of ADSL modems on both sides of a twisted-wire pair telephone line, which splits off a high-speed downstream channel, a medium speed upstream channel and a regular voice line on each end. The RBOP end is within the central office (CO) facilities.

Currently, most large DSL companies sell directly to large businesses and indirectly to small businesses and residential users via Internet Service Providers (ISP). The CLECs have successfully sued to have the RBOPs open their CO facilities so that they can split the telephone lines into data and voice lines as well. The FCC required line-sharing agreements between CLECs and RBOPs was to be in place by June 6. Previously, CLECs had to get the RBOP to install a separate telephone line at each customer site, a complicated, time consuming and costly task. This was a major factor in previous DSL installation delays. As ILECs, selling the same service, there was little incentive for the RBOPs to service the CLEC requests promptly. Previously, getting ADSL required two separate installation visits. First the CLEC or ILEC must get the RBOP to turn on the DSL line and install a line splitter at your home. A second technician from your CLEC or ILEC comes and installs the ADSL modem, network card (if needed) and software in your computer. Now many residential customers can perform the DSL connection themselves by installing the ADSL modem and software.

Equipment and line problems can make self-installation a nightmare. The copper telephone lines were originally intended for voice transmission only. For many users, their phone lines may be decades old and in poor condition. If your neighborhood has deteriorating phone cables the RBOP will have to recondition the line, for which the user will pay dearly for this service. Many phone lines have low-pass filters installed to reduce noise and improve voice transmission but the filters must be removed for DSL use. DSL circuits also suffer from interference from multiple or poorly functioning telephones. It may be necessary to install by-pass filters at the telephone jack or remove the telephone set.

On top of that, the user must be within 18,000 telephone line feet of the CO (effective distance may vary with carrier). You can be two blocks from the CO but the telephone line may be considerably longer. DSL services providing greater than 1.5Mbps require distances of 10,000 to 12,000 feet from the CO. As a result, CLECs and ILECs offer packages with pricing dependent on guaranteed transmission speeds. My co-worker has the cheapest package (\$39.95) offered by Verizon, with guaranteed transmission speeds of 128Kbps on both download and upload directions. The regular \$49.95 Bronze package offers 768Kbps downstream and 128 Kbps upstream.

In their zeal to offer DSL, many suppliers did not anticipate the floodtide of potential customers clamoring for service. The marketing people would happily process the DSL order and pass it on to the appointment departments. Prior to the line-sharing agreements, two appointments were necessary to set up DSL service by two different suppliers. It is not surprising with a large number of orders and rivalry between suppliers, appointments were frequently not kept. Line problems may force delays or cause poor DSL performance. Technicians are poorly trained and in short supply to handle all these problems. Many customers also faced billing problems based on these delays or poor service from an inadequate staff. ...Continued on Page 9

The Internet is full of DSL horror stories of missed appointments, misinformation by marketing people, billing errors, poor service and intermittent DSL performance. There are dedicated Web sites such as HATEPAC BELL.com and phone problems.com that document many of these stories and recommended courses of action that you can take. Why are people accepting poor service from the DSL providers. For many people, the DSL provider is the only game in town.

For many residential customers and some small businesses, a satisfactory alternative is cable modem. I have had Comcast@Home cable modem service for three years with few problems. I pay less than \$40 a month getting a discount by paying by the year. Customer service is satisfactory although technical assistance phone calls can take awhile before a technician gets on line. In daily use, there is little difference in speed between cable modem and DSL. That is because you can have the fastest online service in the world but it is of little use if the Internet web site or mail server is not also speedy or if any of the connection nodes are slow. When either DSL or cable modem is working well, your Internet experience is great. Next month we will look at DSL and cable modem security.

Signing Off

It has happened! My wife wanted to make sure that she can contact me anytime so I now carry a cell phone. As many of you may remember, I have resisted getting a cell phone or pager because that will lock you into a 24-hour virtual office. Remember that technology is like a thief in the night, by embracing new technology you gain something but you also lose something. In this case I can keep in touch with my wife and others but lose some privacy.

I also firmly believe that most people who use cell phones heavily practice bad phone etiquette. I think it is rude to get a phone call in a restaurant or some public place and then proceed to have a conversation that everyone can hear without regard to the people around you. We certainly are aware of the cell phone's effect on one's driving habits and that many states want to enact laws restricting cell phone use while driving. I think that people basically believe that every phone call they get is important or makes them look important. What we need is a best selling book on cell phone etiquette.

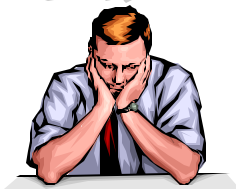
30 SAYINGS FOR THOSE WHO TAKE LIFE TOO SERIOUSLY

1. Save the whales. Collect the whole set.

2. A day without sunshine is like...night.

3. On the other hand...you have different fingers.

4. 42.7 percent of all statistics are made up on the spot.



5. 99 percent of lawyers give the rest a bad name.
6. Remember half the people you know are below average.
7. He who laughs last thinks slowest.
8. Depression is merely anger without enthusiasm.
9. Eagles may soar, but weasels don't get sucked into jet engines.
10. The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese
11. I drive way too fast to worry about cholesterol.
12. I intend to live forever — so far so good.
13. Borrow money from a pessimist — they don't expect it back
14. Quantum mechanics: The dreams stuff is made of.
15. Support bacteria — they're the only culture some people have
16. When everything's coming your way, you're in the wrong lane and going the wrong way.
17. Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.
18. For every action there is an equal and opposite criticism.
19. Never do card tricks for the group you play poker with.
20. No one is listening until you make a mistake.
21. You never really learn to swear until you learn to drive.
22. Two wrongs are only the beginning.
23. The problem with the gene pool is that there is no lifeguard.
24. A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.
25. Change is inevitable...except from vending machines.
26. Get a new car for your spouse — it'll be a great trade!
27. Always try to be modest and be proud of it!
28. How many of you believe in telekinesis? Raise my hand.
- ..
29. Love may be blind but marriage is a real eye-opener.
30. If at first you don't succeed, then skydiving isn't for you.



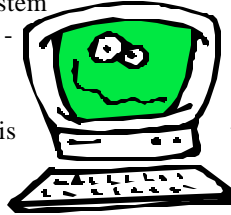
IRQ's

Conflicts And Solutions

From Blue Chip News
Saginaw, MI

So, you're hooking up a brand new device - such as a sound card to a PC. When the system is rebooted, the new device may not work - suddenly fails.

One very common problem that occurs with the sound cards is syndrome, where the same sound over and over until you turn off your printer or unhook your mouse. This type of problem is generally caused by what is known as an IRQ conflict. An IRQ (Interrupt ReQuest line) is a resource that each device on your computer can use to tell the computer that it wants to temporarily assume use of resources to do something. Some external devices, such as printers, don't use IRQs; but the parallel port to which the printer connects does use one.



To tell whether you have an IRQ conflict, go to the Control Panel and choose the System icon. Now click on the Device Manager tab. At this point, you may see a device with an exclamation point inside a yellow triangle. Doubleclick the device and select the Properties tab. If you see a conflict, then you've pinpointed your problem. Also, you can click once on the Computer symbol at the main Device Manager screen and press the Properties button, then choose the 'IRQ' button where you can see if there are any problems.

The best way to solve an IRQ problem is to remove the device and allow Windows to reallocate the IRQ. Some older devices have jumpers or switches you must set physically on the device itself; if this is the case, you might have to try different settings or take your computer to have it professionally set.

Have a safe and Happy



Windows Tip

PC WORLD COMMUNICATIONS



Copy Windows Files To Hard Drive

If you have an extra 30 MB or so of disk space, you may want to consider copying all of the *.cab files from your Windows installation CD to your local drive. That way, you can install additional Windows components or drivers without the CD.

First, decide on a destination for the files. For example, you might create a Win98 folder on the root of your hard drive. Second, pop the installation CD into your CD-ROM drive, click Browse This CD, and double-click the Win98 folder (to display its contents). Select all of the *.cab files inside, then right-click the selection and choose Copy. Open the destination folder, right-click a blank area, and select Paste. Close all open windows.

The next time you need to install an additional component, open the Control Panel, double-click Add/ Remove Programs, and, as always, click the Windows Setup tab. Select the components you want to install, click OK, and when Windows asks for the installation CD, click OK. In the Copying Files dialog box, click Browse and navigate your way to the folder into which you copied the *.cab files (here, C:\Win98). Click OK three times, and Windows completes the installation. .

If Windows insists you start in Safe Mode, or if you're having some kind of hardware conflict, you want to go to the Device Manager fast. The trouble is, it's hidden away under Control Panel's System option, or in a right click menu under My Computer. To load it quickly, hold down the Window key and press the Pause/Break key. This brings up the System Properties box; click on the Device Manager tab, and you're there.

Don't navigate the Start menu to launch Explorer. On a 104-key windows keyboard, hold down the Window key and press E. This launches an Explorer window focused on My Computer.

Full Floppy Format In our last tip, we showed you how to wipe a floppy disk clean of all files for easy recycling: With the disk in your floppy drive, double-click My Computer, right-click your floppy drive icon and select Format, Quick (Erase), and click OK. If you aren't sure that the disk is error-free, or if you have a disk that you know needs complete reformatting (such as one that was formatted for a Macintosh system), you'll want to perform a full format to ensure that the disk is safe to use.

Follow the steps above, but inside the Format dialog box, select Full under Format Type. Type a label for the disk, if you want (up to 11 characters) and click OK. Windows 95/98 will now wipe the disk clean, check it for errors, and prepare it for file storage.

DEMYSTIFYING GRAPHIC FILES FORMATS

Ben Luna

From The Melbourne PC Group



The purpose of this article is to briefly describe some of the most common graphic file formats for image files, as well as how to determine which file format to use for Web graphics and print publications. When an image is saved to a specific file format, you are telling your applications how to write the image's information to disk. The specific file format you choose depends on the graphics software application you are using (e.g., Adobe Illustrator, Freehand, Adobe Photoshop) and how and where you will use your image (e.g., the Web or a print publication.) Graphic file formats can be broadly categorized into bit-mapped formats and vector formats.

Bit-mapped Formats

This format is a representation, consisting of rows and columns of dots, of a graphics image in computer memory. This is sometimes called raster graphics. The value of each dot, whether it is filled or not, is stored in one or more bits of data. The density of the dots, known as the resolution, determines how sharply the image is represented. This is often expressed in dots per inch (dpi), or simply by the number of rows and columns, such as 640 by 480. To display a bit-mapped image on a monitor or to print in a printer, the computer translates the bit map into pixels for monitor screens, or ink dots for printer. Programs that manipulate bit-mapped images are often called paint programs.

Following are descriptions of some commonly used bit-mapped file formats:

BMP: The Bitmap file format is used for bitmap graphics on the Windows platform only. Unlike other file formats, which store image data from top to bottom and pixels in red/green/blue order, the BMP format stores image data from bottom to top and pixels in blue/green/red order. This means that if memory is tight, BMP graphics will sometimes appear drawn from bottom to top. Compression of BMP files is not supported, so they are usually very large. When saving a file to the BMP format, add the ".bmp" file extension to the end of its file name.

GIF: The Graphics Interchange Format was originally developed by CompuServe in 1987. It is one of the most popular file formats for Web graphics and for exchanging graphics files between computers. It is most commonly used for bitmap images composed of line drawings or blocks of a few distinct colours. The GIF format supports 8 bits of colour information or less. In addition, the GIF89 file format supports transparency, allowing you to make a colour in your image transparent. (Please note: CompuServe GIF87 does not support transparency.) This feature makes GIF a particularly popular format for Web images.

GIF, is a "lossy" file format. It reduces an image's file size by removing bits of colour information during the conversion process. The GIF format supports 256 colours or less.

When creating images for the Web, be aware that only 216 colours are shared between Macintosh and Windows monitors. These colours, called the "Web palette," should be used when creating GIFs for the Web because colours that are not in this palette display differently on Macintosh and Windows monitors. When saving an image to the GIF format, add the ".gif" file extension to the end of its file name.

PCX: Originally developed by ZSOFT for its PC Paintbrush program, PCX is a common graphics file format supported by many graphics programs, as well as most optical scanners and fax modems. When saving an image to the PCX format, add the ".pcx" file extension to the end of its file name.

TIFF: Tagged Image File Format is a standard file format for storing images as bitmaps. It is used especially for scanned images because it can support any size, resolution, and colour depth. When saving an image to the TIFF format, add the ".tif" file extension to the end of its file name.

Vector Graphics

The other method for representing images is known as vector graphics (or object-oriented graphics.) With vector graphics, images are represented as mathematical formulas that define all the shapes in the image. Vector graphics are more flexible than bit-mapped graphics because they look the same even when they are scaled to different sizes. In

contrast, bit-mapped graphics become ragged when they are shrunk or enlarged. Programs that enable the user to create and manipulate vector graphics are called draw programs. Images stored as vectors look better on monitors and printers with higher resolution (bit-mapped images always appear the same regardless of a device's resolution.) Another advantage is that images in vector graphics often require less memory than bit-mapped images. Almost all sophisticated graphics systems, including CAD systems and animation software, use vector graphics.

Following are descriptions of some commonly used vector graphics file formats:

EPS: The Encapsulated PostScript file format is a metafile format; it can be used for vector images or bitmap images. The EPS file format can be used on a variety of platforms, including Macintosh and Windows. When you place an EPS image into a document, you can scale it up or down without information loss. This format contains PostScript information and should be used when printing to a PostScript output device. The PostScript language, which was developed by Adobe, is the industry standard for desktop publishing software and hardware. EPS files can be graphics or images of whole pages that include text, font, graphics, and page layout information.

JPEG: Like GIF, the Joint Photographic Experts Group format is one of the most popular formats for Web graphics. It supports 24 bits of colour information, and is most commonly used for photographs and similar continuous-tone bitmap images. The JPEG file format stores all of the colour information in an RGB image, then reduces the file size by compressing it, or saving only the colour information that is essential to the image. Most imaging applications and plug-ins let you determine the amount of compression used when saving a graphic in the JPEG format. Unlike GIF, JPEG does not support transparency.

Use JPEG for scanned photographs and naturalistic artwork with highlights, shaded areas, and shadows. The more complex and subtly rendered the image is, the more likely it is that the image should be converted to JPEG.

JPEG, like GIF, uses a “lossy” compression technique, which changes the original image by removing colour information during the conversion process. The JPEG file format supports millions of colours. In theory, JPEG was designed so that changes made to the original image during conversion to JPEG would not be visible to the human eye. Most imaging applications let the user control the amount of lossy compression performed on an image, so you can trade off image quality for smaller file size and vice versa. Be aware that the chances of image degradation when converting to JPEG increase proportionally with the amount of compression you use. When saving a file in the JPEG format, add the “*.jpg” file extension to the end of its file name.

Use the JPEG file format for images with only a few distinct colours, such as illustrations, cartoons, and images with blocks of colour, such as icons, buttons, and horizontal rules.

PICT: The Picture file format is for use primarily on the Macintosh platform; it is the default format for Macintosh image files. The PICT format is most commonly used for bitmap images, but can be used for vector images as well. Avoid using PICT images for print publishing. The PICT format is “lossless,” meaning it does not remove information from the original image during the file format conversion process. Because the PICT format supports only limited compression on Macintosh computers with QuickTime installed, PICT files are usually large. When saving an image as a PICT, add the file extension “*.pct” to the end of its file name. Use the PICT format for images used in video editing, animation, desktop computer presentations, and multimedia authoring.

PNG: The Portable Network Graphics format will likely be the successor to the GIF file format. PNG is not yet widely supported by most Web browsers. Netscape versions 4.04 and later, and Internet Explorer version 4.01 and later, currently support this file format. However, PNG is expected to become a mainstream format for Web images and could replace GIF entirely. It is platform independent and should be used for single images only (not animation). Compared with GIF, PNG offers greater colour support and better compression, gamma correction for brightness control across platforms, better support for transparency, and a better method for displaying progressive images.

Page 12

When saving an image to the PNG format, add the file extension “.png” to the end of its file name.

CGM: The Computer Graphics Metafile is a format developed by several standards organizations. CGM is supported by many PC Software products. When saving an image to the CGM format, add the file extension “*.cgm” to the end of its file name.

DXF: The Data Exchange File is a format developed by Autodesk. Almost all PC-based CAD systems support DXF.

GEM: The graphics file format used by GEM-based applications. GEM is a graphical user interface (GUI) developed by Digital Research.

HPGL: Hewlett-Packard Graphics Language is one of the oldest file formats. Although it is not very sophisticated, it is supported by many PC-based graphics products.

IGES: Initial Graphics Exchange Specification is an ANSI Standard for three-dimensional wire frame models. IGES is supported by most PC-based CAD systems.

PIC: This is a relatively simple file format developed by Lotus for representing graphs generated by Lotus 1-2-3. PIC is supported by a wide variety of PC applications.

WMF: The Windows file format is used for exchanging graphics between Microsoft Windows applications. WMF files can also hold bit-mapped images.

The debate over which format is better still surfaces once in a while. My opinion is that each format has its place, just as the native format of the various paint-and-draw programs. One format may be better than others in terms of quality; at other times, another format may be better in terms of size. Best way is to take the time to view and store your images in different formats and select the one optimum for your needs, storage capability, and ease of use.

About the Author:

Ben Luna’s experience includes writing manuals for computers and software. E-mail him: akosiben@netscape.net

For Sale

Computer Case

Made by SUPERMICRO, Model 750A Full Tower 300 Watt PS mfg by SPARKLE. For quick reference this case is advertised by NexCom in every MICROTIMES at a price of \$169.99. It is on display at NexCom’s Red Hill & Edinger outlet.

MICROTEK PageWiz (also referred as Laptop document scanner) Model No: MSII-300P This is in the original packaging and includes in addition to the scanner, an AC Power Adapter Class 2 transformer Input:.

MICROTEK LAB. INC. 3715 Doolittle Drive Redondo Beach, Ca. 90278-1226 Tel 1-310-297-5000 Fax 1-310-297-5050

**Orange Coast IBM PC User Group (OCIPUG)
Board of Directors Meeting
20 MAY 2001**



General Meeting

Date: May 19, 2001

General Meeting convened by President Robert Walker at 9:00 a.m. after Random Access (Q&A) by Ed Leckliter; about 21 members & guests signed in. Pres. Walker asked for SIG leader reports;

Kevin Moser showed the ATX tower case with power supply available for sale to members and he will donate to OCIPUG the amount paid.

Treasurer Larry Pierce has arranged an OCIPUG message service with PacBell. Callers may call 714-662-2939. Larry calls in and retrieves messages.

Bob Walker showed the prizes for the opportunity drawing (including a cash donation by Sandi Tierney) and asked for a volunteer to sell tickets.

Red Davidson announced the installation of cable at the Costa Mesa Senior Center compliments of a Senior Center member at no cost to the Center and available for our use as well. Speaker at 9:14

Michael Moore showed the Microsoft Mindshare Extreme - a new product presentation and a couple of web sites.

.



Membership Report

May 17, 2001

The enclosed items represent OCIPUG membership renewals and other items received by me from the Club Mail Box and other sources as of the above date:

MEMBER:	AMOUNT:	MEM. #
Jack Bentley	\$30.00	1436
Donald Crow	30.00	1780
Chris Davidson	30.00	2942
Michael De Falco	30.00	2172
William Splitter	30.00	2848
Hugh Wilkoff	30.00	—
Audrey Wolden	30.00	—
Total Membership :	\$210.00	(7 checks)
Red Davidson	40.00	Donation (Computer parts)
Totals:	\$250.00	(checks)

Sincerely,
Larry Pearce
Treasurer

Executive Board of Directors Meeting called to order by President, Bob Walker at 7:05.

Present: A quorum of seven Officers and Directors was present by 7:10 and two more came later.

Minutes of April 30, 2001 Executive Board of Directors Meeting approved as corrected and printed in Readme.Doc for May.

President's Report: Bob read the membership report.

Treasurer's Report: none (Larry absent)

Committee Reports and Unfinished Business:

Staff of Newsletter: Technical editors still serving are Ed Leckliter and Mike Moore. Bob discussed the number of pages and the possibility of changing the front page as well as other issues related to improvement, production, mailing costs.

Red Davidson discussed the cable installation and Network Interface Card. He will be present at Center during installation.

Frank Mastroly needs help making calls to members to "step up to the plate for service" of one year or two. There are vacancies for President and Vice-President. A report to the membership should be made at June meeting; election in July; service begins at August meetings.

Program for June will be: Cheryl Wester on Pocket PC and Firewalls by Richard Hunter

New Business:

8th Annual Southwest Regional User Group Conference in San Diego is July 13-15. Morris Fier, Sandi Tierney, Michael Moore and Bob Walker are going Winners User Group: discussed exploring possibility of a re-merger for the mutual benefit of stronger programs and meeting attendance. Bob will have initial talk with President of Winners...then perhaps the Boards will have a discussion session.

Red Davidson suggested taking the Kevin Moser ATX tower case and OCIPUG's two scanners to sell at the Computer Swap Meet. Next Board Meeting: June 25,2001

Adjourned: 8:06 p.m.

(Editor's note:) the above minutes do not become official until adopted by the Board at the next Board Meeting

OCIPUG Memberships

as of 13 April 2001

Notify Ken Paeth, 714-544-5158, <kenpaeth@bigfoot.com> or Larry Pearce, 714-543-5661, <larry.pearce@juno.com> of any discrepancies.

We welcome you who have joined OCIPUG during the year 2001.

May you learn tips and tricks from others, contribute suggestions of your own, and enjoy the camaraderie of your fellow members.

Any member needing a new badge to replace a lost badge may contact Ken Paeth for a replacement at a cost of \$1.00.

31 March 2001

Michael De Falco
Don Krueger
Taoward Lee
Charles Schreiber
Bill Splitter
Henry Trinh
Hugh Wilkoff

30 April 2001

Jack Bentley
Annabelle Farago
Henry Guttentag
Roger Hughes
Paula Mcgee
Margaret Morgan
Ralph Morgan
Carolyn Niefeldt
Jack Niefeldt

31 May 2001

Morris Fier
John Gallie
Kevin Moser
Jack Starbird
Lynda Starbird
Audrey Wolden

30 June 2001

Bonnie Cox
Michael Cox
Dick Cruce
Elvin (Al) Daugherty
Phyllis Daugherty
Christina "Chris" Davidson
Dan Dickinson
Preston Hill
Steve Kilmer
Roman Kramarsic
Oscar S "Ed" Leckliter
Paul Melton
Kenneth Paeth
Leonard Robertson
Nicholas Shishkoff
Dennis Walz
George Williams

31 July 2001

George Austin
Donald Bixler
Keith Campbell
Karl Cook
Edward Eales
Rocky Ford
Helen Martin
Ken Martin
Dennis Matthews
Jim Petit
Don Reis
Jerry Rounsavell
John Scott

31 August 2001

Frank Disparte
Warren Frandsen
Bob Fulkerson
Richard Hunter
Jeff Sinn
Robert Strader
Ruby Strader
Larry Thomas
Patricia Thomas
Beverly Walker
Robert Walker
Barto Wash
Jonathan Wash
Megan Wash
Ruth Wash

30 September 2001

Richard Baznik
Jesse Bequette
Marshal Boslow
Jim Hicks
Patricia Noling
Peter Noling
Victor Olcott
Franklin Olson
Ned Stewart
Vivian Stimson
Joseph Zebrowski

31 October 2001

Richard Black
John Donovan
Herbert Huey
William Singleton
Seymour Spiegel
Frank Yaeger

30 November 2001

Don Peltz

31 December 2001

Frank Mastroly
Larry Pearce
Nita Pearce
Sandi Tierney

31 January 2002

Lyall Coleman
Mike Conway
Farrell Eagle
Bernie Goldware
Andrew Refalo
Frank Refalo
Leonard H. Stein
Jim Stolp

28 February 2002

Millie Anderson
Roger Anderson
Adele Elliott
Michael Elliott
Betty Gillespie
Guy Gum
Richard Herman
William Jennings
Jim Kirkpatrick
Will Luijt
Robert Lynch
Dennis Martin
Bob Schmidt

31 March 2002

Pat Cohen
Robert Cowley
Roberta Cowley
Muriel Fitzsimmons
Thomas Fitzsimmons
Alex Lancaster
Charlie Oostdyk

30 April 2002

Anthony Dopazo

31 May 2002

C.R. "Red" Davidson
Edward Fitch

30 June 2002

Michael Moore
W.F. "Bill" Phillips

Honorary

Steve Gibson
John H. Goodman

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 Deadline

Material for the **July 2001** issue must be received on or before **12 July 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, **and**
Leonard Stein at Leonardstn@netscape.net,
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.

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 e-mail.
- * 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)

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

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

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

E-mail address: _____

Profession/Trade: _____ Retired Current Occupation: _____

Family Member(s) Names: _____ Company: _____

Annual Dues:

Make check payable to OCIPUG and mail to the above address or bring to the General Meeting.	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td>Individual</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$30.00</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Family</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$35.00</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>*Full-time student</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$20.00</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Donation</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ _____</td> </tr> </table>	Individual	\$30.00	\$ _____	Family	\$35.00	\$ _____	*Full-time student	\$20.00	\$ _____	Donation		\$ _____
Individual	\$30.00	\$ _____											
Family	\$35.00	\$ _____											
*Full-time student	\$20.00	\$ _____											
Donation		\$ _____											

I consider my skill level to be:
 Beginner Novice Intermediate Advanced

Total Amount Paid \$ _____
 *(U-grad 12 units; grad 6 units)

I learned about OCIPUG from: _____ Today's Date : _____