

Orange Coast IBM PC User Group

README.DOC

March 2002

Newsletter

Volume 18.3

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

IN THIS ISSUE

Page 1
Front Page

Page 2
President's Message
Officers and Board Members
Meeting Dates

Page 3
April Sig Meetings
Mathematics of Golf:

Page 4
G-LockSoftware

Page 5
Ken's Korner

Page 6
Blocking Worm Propagation

Page 7
Feburary General Meeting

Page 8
Gleanings from the WWW

Page 9-10
Computing Myths

Page 11
Deadlier Kliz Worm
Questions for Microsoft REP

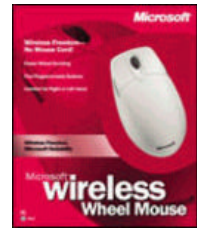
Page 12- 13
Minutes of the Executive Board

Page 13
Reality Check !

Page 14
Publication Guidelines

March General Meeting Program 30 March 2002

Office XP - Parri Munsell shows how Office XP helps simplify your productivity.



Hardware - Adam Leader, Melinda Graetz and Christy Hughes show you the new TV Photo Viewer, wireless optical mouse and Office Keyboard .



Picture It ! - Jaynte Degnan shows you some of the latest ways to edit and share photos with Picture IT !



Front Page 2002 - Jacob Jaffe show you how Front Page 2002 lets you create, control and cultivate your web site.



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

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. Postage
Paid
Santa Ana, CA
Permit No. 340

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

*See mailing label
for membership
expiration date.*



General Meetings are held from 9:00AM to noon on:
30 March 2002
27 April 2002
29 June 2002
28 July 2002
24 August 2002
 For details see inside pages of this issue, Web Page

Meetings of the Executive Board will be held at 7:00PM on:
25 March 2002
29 April 2002
24 June 2002
30 July 2002
26 August 2002
 All OCIPUG members are welcome.

Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings are held monthly as follows:
1st Saturday 9:00 AM - New User
1st Tuesday 7:00 PM - Quicken
1st Wednesday 7:00 PM - Internet
2nd Tuesday 7:00 PM - Hardware
3rd Tuesday 7:00 PM - Window 98/XP
4th Tuesday 7:00 PM - DigitalPhoto

President's Message

Robert Walker

OCIPUG Elections

The purpose of the Orange County IBM user group is to provide a forum for members to share information and experiences that will help other members obtain maximum benefit and enjoyment from the use of their personal computers.

To make this happen we need leaders who are willing to serve as officers to see that our members can continue to learn and enjoy using computers.

It is time to prepare for our election of new officer for 2002-2003. We need three more members to serve on the Nomination Committee, the job is to determine the eligibility and desires of the incumbents. As they begin their search for eligible candidates to fill the offices of President, Vice president, Secretary, Treasure and four Directors. If you would like to join with Kevin Moser and Michael Moore on the Nomination Committee, call me at (949)-642-7681.

All members in good standing are eligible to run for an office in OCIPUG. Any member who consents to be nominated and to serve if elected is eligible as a candidate for election to the Executive Board.

Nominations from the floor and from the Nomination Committee shall be published in the OCIPUG newsletter. Election by written ballot shall be mailed to all eligible members, the ballot shall state the date by which the ballot must be received in order to be counted. An appointed Election Committee shall receive the ballots and tabulate all votes, determine the results not later than the August executive board meeting. Please feel free to let the Nomination Committee know that you are willing to serve as an officer on the executive Board.

New SIG to start April 10th 2002
On the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
Sig leader Ed Leckliter
We now have 7 SIG groups .

President	Robert Walker	949-642-7681	rwalker820@msn.com
Vice President	Morris Fier	949-646-8292	fier@bigfoot.com
Secretary	Frank Mastroly	714-960-9472	fmastroly@earthlink.net
CFO/Treasurer	Charles Schreiber	714378-1253	cschreib@csulb.edu
Director 2002	Robert Strader	949-646-1475	rstrader@attbi.com
Director-2002	Chris Davidson	714-832-7835	ccusgo2@aol.com
Director-2002	Red Davidson	949-548-0413	red.d@juno.com
Director-2002	Sandi Tierney	714-648-2218	gadgetgoddess2002@hotmail.com
Past President	Leonard Stein	714-533-4971	leonardstn@netscape.net
Long Range Planning	Leonard Stein	714-533-4971	leonardstn@netscape.net
Readme. Doc Editor	Robert Walker	949-642-7681	rwalker820@msn.com
Newsletter Coordinator	Michael Conway	714-962-2194	mchbca@aol.com
Membership	Sandi Tierney	714-648-2218	gadgetgoddess@hotmail.com
Programs	Robert Walker	949-642-7681	rwalker820@msn.com
SIG Coordinator	Red Davidson	949-548-0413	red.d3@juno.com
Webmaster	Michael Moore	714-535-0608	mmoore@inreach.com

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.) The next SIG meeting will be:

6 April 2002

New User - 1st Saturday, 9:00 AM
JohnLunsford 714-995-0947
jlunsford@gentech.com

2 April 2002

Quicken - 1st Tuesday, 7:00 PM
Dan Dickinson daniel@cox.net

3 April 2002

Internet / Web Publishing - 1st Wednesday 7:00 PM

1st Wednesday 7:00PM
Michael Moore 714-535-0608
mmoore@inreach.com

9 April 2002

Hardware - 2nd Tuesday, 7:00 PM
Ed Leckliter eleckliter@adelphia.net

10 April 2002

Windows XP - 2nd Wednesday 7:00 PM

Ed Leckliter eleckliter@adelphia.net

16 April 2002

Windows 98 - 3rd Tuesday 7:00 PM

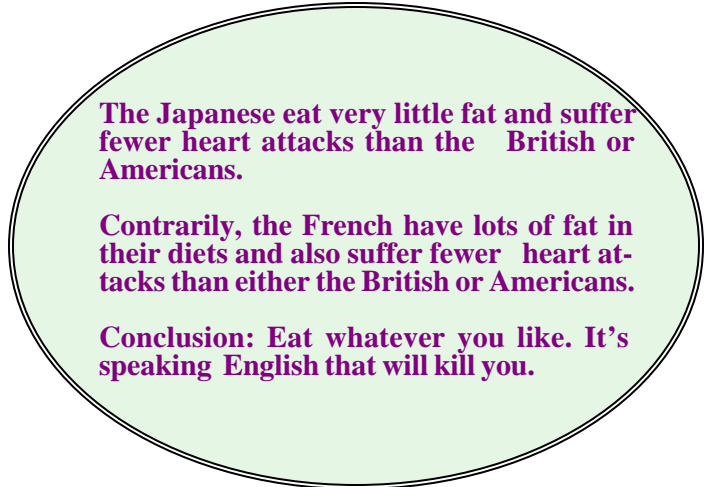
23 April 2002

Digital Cameras / Scanning -

4th Tuesday, 7:00PM Robert Strader
949-646-1475
rstrader@mediaone.net

ACP Computer Swap Meet
which is usually held on the
fourth Sunday of the odd
month, is held at 1319 East
Edinger in Santa Ana

ACP Swap Meet
March 24, 2002



Mathematics of Golf:

1. Pick the number of times a week that you would like to play golf (try for more than one but less than 10).

2. Multiply that number by 2

3. Add 5

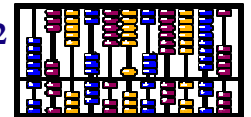
4. Multiply that number by 50 (we'll wait while the non CPA's get the calculator.....)

5. If you have already had your birthday this year, add 1752 to the number, if you haven't add 1751.....

6. Now subtract the four digit year that you were born

This should now be a three digit number, the first is your original number (how many times you want to play golf each week) and the next 2 numbers are

..... your Age!



G-LOCK SOFTWARE

Advanced Administrative Tools 5.0

Stay On Top Of Your Network's Functions And Performance!

G-Lock Software, Inc. has released Advanced Administrative Tools 5.0 for Windows. Have you been port scanned lately? Completely ignoring network security is not smart and ignorance isn't exactly blissful either. If you access the Internet via a cable modem, DSL, or even a dial-up connection, someone is constantly knocking on your virtual "front door", giving your system the once-over. Protect your data, privacy and valuable computer system with Advanced Administrative Tools (AATools). AATools is an essential security diagnostic tool for anyone who wishes to protect their computer and all the valuable data it contains.

Whether you dial-up to your ISP or utilize a cable modem that is constantly switched on, it is essential to protect your computer against the "evil" hackers that flourish on the Internet. If your computer is indeed open to all those threats, then the first item on your agenda will be to find a secure firewall to protect your beloved computer. There are many varieties of firewalls. Some are better than others and you should be cautious in trusting clever advertising claims that certain cheap firewall will be able to completely protect your computer. Once you have decided on a firewall, be it hardware or a software solution, testing the security of that firewall is of utmost importance. AATools is just the testing utility needed to verify the integrity of your security and firewall functions.

AATools investigates and gathers information concerning your computer, network status, and service availability. To put it simply, AATools performs an inspection on everything that is vital to the network security, including the utilization of tools to check open ports, proxies, email lists, Internet applications, and general system information. All these concern your computer security and safe-keeping.

At this present moment in time, there is no program, be it anti virus or anti Trojan, which can detect unknown Trojan horses. To secure your network, you may need to lock down applications that aren't required by any function you currently use. In order to do this effectively, you will have to know the available ports and the applications that are utilizing them. With AATools Network Monitor, all the activities that are active on all ports will be displayed clearly and easily. Furthermore, AATools Network Monitor maps the ports in use to their respective applications (this feature is only available with Windows NT/2000/XP) providing a simple and easy solution to tracking application to port maps. This mapping will prove to be extremely useful while monitoring unwanted connections, investigating suspected trojans, viruses, and all other possible backdoor intrusions.

AATools consists of 11 different state-of-the-art tools for assessing optimizing, managing, and safeguarding your network and computers, all rolled into one easy to use program. The information that AATools presents is easy to understand, simple to assimilate, and even conducting a network integrity test for intruders is just as easy. It's definitely a worthwhile download for anyone who wants to gather precise information on his network or PC, thus keeping it safe and sound.

Cost

\$49.95 for full single-user license. Shareware, some function limitations.

System Requirements

Pentium 133, 32MB RAM, 5MB Hard Disk, 256 Colors Video Mode

Awards

AATools has been awarded the highest rating of 5 Stars by popular software sites such as ZDNET, FileTransit, WebAttack.com and TuCows.

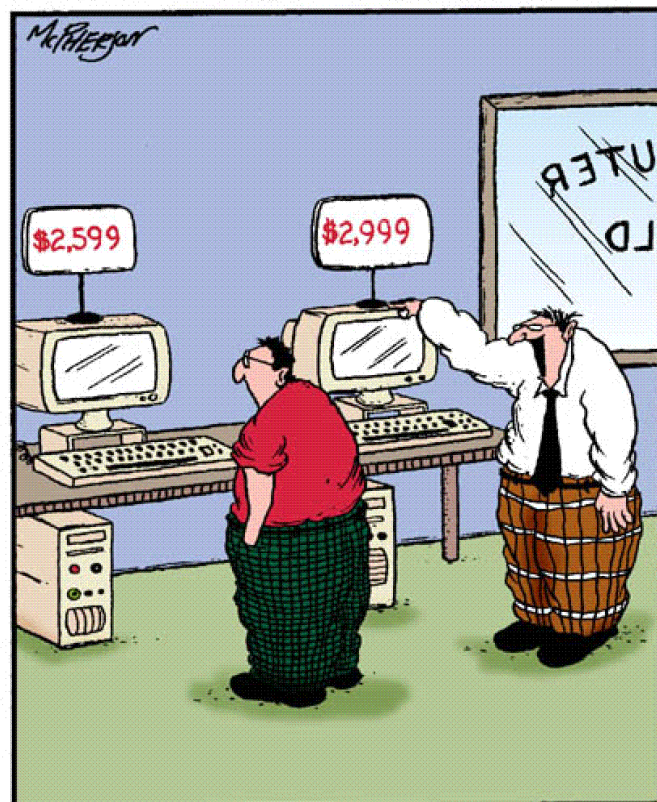
About the Company

G-Lock Software publishes a suit of network, system and email utilities. These include Activity and Authentication Analyzer, a PC System Security Utility, G-Lock EasyMail a powerful group direct mailer and Advanced Email Verifier, an email-verifying program.

More Information

Visit <http://www.glocksoft.com/aatools.htm>

CLOSE TO HOME JOHN McPHERSON



"The main difference is that that system will be obsolete in eight months, whereas, for only \$400 more, you can have a system that's guaranteed not to be obsolete for a full year."



Unofficially, USB Could Mean "User's Super Buddy"

Ken Fermoyle

Officially, USB stands for "Universal Serial Bus". Unofficially, I think it could translate to "User's Super Buddy" for PC and Mac users. Anybody who tried to install and configure a peripheral device in the old pre-USB days likely will agree. Back then, the chore was a major one, especially with PCs.

It required a ton of computer savvy and no little amount of luck. First, you had to figure out which port to use from a bunch of confusing possibilities.

Then in most cases, you had to pull the cover off your computer (always scary, for either Mac or PC) to install an add-in card. For PCs, this often required setting pesky DIP switches. Next came the job of finding and configuring an available IRQ, not always easy. Basic system components used up some IRQs; serial devices already installed used up still more.

It was a fun job, yes sir! I can recall blowing the better part of a day trying to install a single new peripheral in computers ranging from the venerable XT through a variety of X86 machines, even into WinTel systems of the '90s. Mac users had it easier but USB has been a boon for them, too. Windows Plug'n'Play eased the problem, when it worked, but it took USB to solve it completely.

With USB, a computer automatically recognizes the device connected and installs the appropriate drivers. It enables computer users to "hot-plug" computer peripherals to their PCs. "Hot-plugging" means you can plug in and unplug peripherals without having to power down and then reboot your computer. No small benefit.

Not that there weren't difficulties at first. I heard many complaints from people who tried to install USB ports and devices in the early days of the technology. The problems usually arose from trying to use USB in hardware or software systems that weren't ready for it; ie. older systems that hadn't been built with USB compatibility in mind. I do not recall getting any similar complaints during the past year. Lack of USB devices was a problem at first but now they're everywhere.

USB offers many more benefits than simple installation. First, USB (Version 1.1) can carry data at up to 12 megabits per second (Mbps), 100 times faster than any serial port. This broad category includes digital cameras, modems, keyboards, mice, printers, digital joysticks, some CD-ROM drives, tape and floppy drives, digital scanners and specialty printers.

USB's data rate also accommodates a whole new generation of peripherals: MPEG-2 video-base products, data gloves, digitisers and computer-telephony, expected to be a big growth area for PCs and Macs. In addition, USB provides an interface such business-oriented technologies as Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) and digital PBXs.

The latest version of USB, Version 2.0, introduced late in 2000, offers even faster communication, with bandwidth up to 400 Mbps. It easily accommodates high-performance peripherals, such as monitors, video conferencing cameras, next-generation printers, and faster storage devices. Happily, USB 2.0 is backward-compatible with Version 1.1

Next, one or two USB ports can support many peripherals. In theory, up to 127 devices can be "daisy chained" from a single port. There are practical limitations, power supplies among them, and most of us will never use anywhere near that number. The ability to plug a USB Hub into a USB port and then connect four or more peripherals to it is a real convenience. You can place a Hub anywhere on your desktop for easy access; no more crawling under the desk to connect or disconnect a mouse, digital camera or any other USB-compatible device.

Frosting on the cake comes in the form of an impressive hardware package from Belkin: the USB BusStation. This versatile docking station not only serves as a Hub that gives you up to seven USB ports. Using optional adapters it can accommodate many non-USB peripherals. It also offers a laundry list of other features:

- Innovative modular tower with three slide-out modules that fit into the palm of your hand.
- Configure your own low-cost universal docking station; choose whatever module combination is right for you, whether you are a PC or Mac user. Compatible with Windows 95 rev. B, Windows 98, Windows 2000, Mac OS 8.1 or higher.
- 7-port Hub (standard configuration) connects seven devices to a single USB port on your PC.
- Freedom to Connect keyboards, mice, joysticks, speakers and more to a single USB port on your computer.
- 4A (Ampere) power supply provides true 500-mA (milliAmp) power to each port.
- Modules available for Ethernet, SCSI devices, serial, parallel, PS/2 and additional USB ports.
- Illuminated green LEDs for easy access to port status.
- Supports all high-speed and low-speed USB devices.
- Includes a Belkin Pro Series 3 ft. USB Device cable for a quality connection, lifetime Belkin warranty and USB Wizard to make configuration even easier. I've been using a BusStation for many months now and find it invaluable. Faithful readers know I don't report on a service or product until it has proved itself over a reasonable length of time and I have become thoroughly familiar with it. Even before installing it in my main computer, I vowed never to buy another non-USB peripheral again.

With BusStation, I've found it easy to connect some of my older devices, including one of my several scanners and a digital camera with only a serial interface. This rates as an especially valuable feature for those of us who can't afford to replace all of our currently owned peripherals with new USB products.

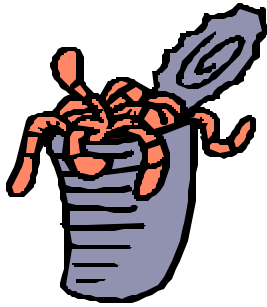
One caution: The BusStation User Manual clearly states that the 4A power supply is more than enough to supply adequate power to all ports in normal configuration. At 500mA per port, the power draw would be 3.5A. Low-power devices such as mice and keyboards draw only about 100mA.

However, adding a 4-port Hub as one of the modules would overtax the BusStation. In such case, the 4-port Hub must have its own 2.1A power supply, supplied with optional 4-port Hub modules.

I like the fact that the BusStation includes built-in "Overcurrent Protection," which shuts off a port if it draws too much current, protecting both the connected device and BusStation from damage.

At the usual price of \$79.99, I consider this Belkin product a good value. The cost is higher than two standard 4-port USB Hubs, but you get more versatility. The price is competitive with multifunction Hubs, even when you add in the cost of an adapter module or two (adapters range from about \$50.00 an up.) and, again you have greater choice in integrating USB into your system.

BLOCKING WORM PROPAGATION



by Conway Chester

Here is an idea I wanted to share with you. It is designed to prevent computer worm propagation (which looks as if it might even work until the worm “manufacturers” design a work-around). I’ve done this in my address book and wanted to share it with you for the good it may bring.

As you may know, when/if a worm virus gets into your computer it heads straight for your email address book and sends itself to everyone in there, thus infecting all your friends and associates. This trick won’t keep the virus from getting into your computer, but it should stop it from using your address book to spread itself through your address list. Further, and it will alert you to the fact that the worm has gotten into your system.

Here’s what you do:

First, open your address book and click on “new contact” just as you would if you were adding a new friend to your list of email addresses. In the window where you would type your friend’s first name, type in! 000 (that’s an exclamation mark followed by 3 zeros).

In the window below where it prompts you to enter the new email address, type in Worm Alert. Then complete everything by clicking add, enter, OK, etc.

Now, here’s what you’ve done and why it works: The “name” !000 will be placed at the top of your address book as entry #1. This will be where the worm will start in an effort to send itself to all your friends. But when it tries to send itself to !000, it will be undeliverable because of the phony email address you entered (Worm Alert). If the first attempt fails (which it will because of the phony address), the worm goes no further and the theory is that your friends will not be infected.

Here’s the second great advantage of this method: If an email cannot be delivered, you will be notified of this in your InBox almost immediately. Hence, if you ever get an email telling you that an email addressed to Worm Alert could not be delivered, you know right away that you have the Worm virus in your system. You can then take steps to get rid of it!

If everybody you know does this then you needn’t ever worry about opening mail from friends. Pass this on to all your friends that don’t appear on the list I sent to in this mailing (Mutual friends) I suspect they will eventually find a way around this too, but until then..... enjoy this protection.

Conway Chester. **Execuplan Executive Suite Office Centers Cyber-tour** our suites. See the swimming pool-patio area. Its all at: www.execuplan.com
Irvine, CA USA Tel: 949/250-3300

Page 6

NON BIBLICAL PROVERBS

He who laughs last, thinks slowest.

Everyone has a photographic memory. Some just don’t have film.

A day without sunshine is like...night.

On the other hand, you have different fingers.

Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.

I just got lost in thought. It was unfamiliar territory.

When the chips are down, the buffalo is empty.

Seen it all, done it all, can’t remember most of it.

Those who live by the sword get shot by those who don’t.

I feel like I’m diagonally parked in a parallel universe.

You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say will be bemisquoted then used against you.

I wonder how much deeper the ocean would be without sponges.

Honk if you love peace and quiet.

Despite the cost of living, have you noticed how it remains so popular?

Nothing is foolproof to a sufficiently talented fool.

It is hard to understand how a cemetery raised its buria cost and blamed it on the cost of living.

Just remember...if the world didn’t suck, we’d all fall off.

The 50-50-90- rule: anytime you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there’s a 90% probability you’ll get it wrong.

It is said that if you line up all the cars in the world end to end, someone would be stupid enough to try to pass them.

You can’t have everything. Where would you put it?

Latest survey shows that 3 our of 4 people make up 75% of the world’s population.

The things that come to those who wait are usually the things left by those who got there first.

A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.

It was recently discovered that research causes cancer in rats.

I wished the buck stopped here, as I could use a few.

I started out with nothing and I still have most of it.

Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

February General Meeting

The February 2002 General Meeting of the Orange Coast IBM PC User Group (OCIPUG) was held on February 23, 2002, with approximately 35 members and guests present.

Ed Leckliter conducted a very informative Random Access Session. The main topic discussed was Frank Mastroly's progress in upgrading his tower to add an internal CD-RW, firewire card, and more RAM. Ed successfully installed all three components at the January Hardware SIG. However, after the CD-RW was installed, the floppy drive would not work. Ed suggested that Frank slide the CD-RW forward and remove the cable tie from the cable connecting the motherboard to the CD and floppy drives. The problem turned out to be as Ed suspected, namely that this cable was pulling on the data connector to the floppy drive and that the connector was not fully seated. Once the cable tie was removed and the connector seated, the floppy drive, as well as the CD-RW, worked 100% as designed.

Dan Dickinson reported that he is getting a new PC with Windows XP, and wondered if there was an easy way to transfer data files (but not programs) from his old machine. One way to do this is to move the old hard drive over and set it as a slave. He could also use a DCC (direct cable connection), which requires a null data cable. However, Windows XP has built-in capability to transfer files and settings between machines using a serial connection.

Morris Fier asked if System File Checker was available with Windows XP. One way to find out is to search the Windows folder for a file named sfc.*. (Editorial comment - Using the help feature, Secretary Frank Mastroly, who uses XP, was able to locate some information. However, it appears that System File Checker is accessed from the command prompt, the XP form of DOS.)

President Bob Walker then started the General meeting by asking whom, if anyone, had read the January Readme.doc and had noted that the same article appeared in two places. He has updated it and Webmaster Michael Moore will update the website but with the same link. Michael has also a roster with e-mail addresses that bounced highlighted. If you did not get the e-mail on the newsletter, see Michael immediately after the meeting. Also, it was stressed that all members must keep Michael and Sandi Tierney apprised of any changes to their e-mail address or other such information.

President Bob Walker then concluded his opening remarks by announcing that we would be auctioning off a copy of Office XP Professional and a copy of Windows XP Professional after the meeting, as well as having our raffle.

The first presentation of the meeting was a video of a portion of the speech presented by Microsoft President and CEO Steve Ballmer at the APCUG/Comdex meeting in Las Vegas last November. The speech centered on Microsoft's continuing look to the future, with a brief reference to the three "revolutions" of the past 20 years; the development of the PC, the development of the graphical user interface (GUI, for which he gave Apple some credit), and the Internet. He stressed that future software must be extensible and compatible, with it imperative that all software and platforms talk to each other. XML and Dot.Net are only two approaches to this.

The main portion of Mr. Ballmer's presentation was a demonstration of the features of Windows XP (which was also in a later presentation in this meeting). He concluded his remarks by saying that the X-Box is only the first step to an integrated device that stores all of your entertainment material (video, DVD, audio) and not just games, and that sometime this year Pocket PCs (with PC2002 CE) will have 3-in-1 capability (PDA, cell phone, and pager).

The video also included a short presentation by Alan Chitlik (alanch@microsoft.com), the Microsoft manager for Microsoft Mindshare user group support (www.microsoft.com/mindshare). Both Mr. Chitlik and Mr. Ballmer emphasized Microsoft's continuing commitment to user groups and invited any feedback we might have about Mindshare in general and any specific Microsoft products.

The next portion of the meeting was two presentations from the Mindshare website (<http://www.microsoft.com/mindshare/demos.asp>). As noted on this web site, Mindshare has arranged with several Microsoft product managers to demo several products popular with User Groups. User groups and their members are welcome to view these individually or to show them at meetings. By clicking on any of the various links, you can view them as streaming videos while connected to the Internet. The presentations are also available on CD from Microsoft. For our meeting, two of the presentations were shown:

- * Windows XP by Mindshare's Alan Chitlik

- * Money 2002 by Karen Redetzki

Other presentations available on the web site and CD are:

- * Office XP by Parri Munsell

- * Front Page 2002 by Jacob Jaffe

- * Picture It! By Jaynie Degnan

- * Hardware by Adam Leader, Melinda Graetz, and Christy Hughes

Those interested in the details of these various presentations are invited to visit the Mindshare website to view the presentations themselves.

We are planning a Windows XP SIG with Ed Leckliter, perhaps on the 2nd Wednesday, pending approval from the Senior Center. This week's Digital Photo SIG will cover the installation and some of the basics of Adobe Photoshop Elements.

Leonard Stein had two copies of a book entitled "Secret Guide to Computers" which were quickly sold for \$11 each. Since there was much interest, he will bring five additional copies to the next General Meeting.

The APCUG Southwest Regional Conference will be held at the Mission Valley Hilton hotel in San Diego on August 9, 10, and 11. See the APCUG website (www.apcug.org) for details.

Red Davidson then conducted the auction for Windows XP Professional and Office XP Professional. Both were purchased by Kevin Moser.

We concluded our meeting with the raffle. Among the prizes won were

- * Microsoft Money 2002 Deluxe and Pocket PCs for Dummies (book) - Warren Frandson

- * Accessory Kit and Pro Tool Kit - Cheryl Wester

- * Microsoft TechNet CD and Train Whistle - Michael Moore

- * Mindshare Group Support CD - Kevin Moser

- * Map Point Demo CD and Mouse Pad - G. Roscoe

- * Microsoft Backpack - Rocky Ford

- * Leonardo Software - John Gallie

- * Black Post-It Notes - Sandi Tierney

- * Screen Glare Filter — Red Davidson

- * Share Point Sharepoint 2001 CD - Leonard Stein

- * Echo Lake CD - JoAnne Edman

- * History of the Master's (Golf) Tournament CD - Frank Mastroly

The next General meeting will be on March 30, 2002, with the subject(s) TBD.

ROD BUSH'S COMPUTER GLEANINGS FROM THE WWW ©

Volume 3, Issue 04

This newsletter is the fourth issue of 2002 for those interested in Web sites dealing with computers, software, hardware, help sites, search engines, web page development, web searching, computer information and such. It began as a semi-monthly publication, but may increase in frequency as needed. Nothing here is copyrighted.

This Issue's Feature: is Free Online Courses & Tutorials for Everyone <<http://www.docnmail.com/>> has free and fee courses in categories of Business, Education, Money, Science, Careers/Tech, Professional, Life, Art/Entertain, Fitness/Health and Fun & Games. The Free Online Computer Courses and Tutorials are many and varied as to software applications: <<http://www.docnmail.com/learnmore/computers.htm>>. And the Free Online Web Design Courses and Tutorials also has many categories at: <<http://www.docnmail.com/learn/WebDesign.htm>>

Show me the Web! Online Directory - Internet Directory: <<http://www.showmetheweb.net/>>

Web Search Engines FAQs: Questions, Answers, and Issues: <<http://www.infotoday.com/searcher/oct01/price.htm>>

Wonderful Search - Home Page:

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

Search engines - azoos.com: <<http://www.azoos.com/>>

MDK Software - Australian Guide To The Internet: <<http://www.mkdsoftware.com.au/Sitetolookup.asp>>

Access You Mail at: <<http://www.accessyourmail.com/bin/login.php>>

FTP Tutorial: <<http://www.lvsonline.com/ftp-tut/index.html>>

The Internet Archive: Building an 'Internet Library' <<http://www.archive.org/>>

www.DSLRegion.com Site. Check DSL availability for American's Region. Order DSL for America's Region: <<http://www.dslregion.com/>>

Free Online Classes: <<http://onlinesapiens.com/classes.html>>

#1 Free Cursors: <<http://www.lfreecursors.com/>>

Welcome to 21hua.com - Screensaver Maker (Slideshow Screensaver, Flash Screensaver, Movice Screensaver): <<http://www.21hua.com/>>

Resize images with Irfan View: <<http://www.lvsonline.com/resize/index.html>>

Privacy Software! - Panicware, Inc. <<http://www.popupstopper.net/>>

"Windows XP Secrets" — Free CD-ROM for Windows XP and Office XP: <<http://windows-xp.store.yahoo.net/>>

Some Linux for beginners: <<http://home.c2i.net/dark/linux.html>>

ZDNet: Tiny Personal Firewall: Protect personal computers against hack-

ers with this free, powerful firewall. - ZDNet Downloads: <[\](#)>

Zvon.org: <http://www.zvon.org/index.php?nav_id=about&mime=html> was founded by a group of people who feel that free information exchange can open new horizons and can be very beneficial for people of similar ideas and needs. Even though Zvon has grown in various ways its original idea is not altered. There is a conclusive evidence from the free software community (Linux, Apache, GNU) that it is possible to produce very competitive programs in an open environment. We are being inspired by their success and we are trying to apply their philosophy to other human activities. In the center of our attention stands XML.

Winzip Tutorial: <<http://www.lvsonline.com/winzip.html>>

ZDNet: Product Guides : Windows 3.1: <<http://www.zdnet.com/windows/31/>>

Accelerator-plus-download-online.com: <<http://www.accelerator-plus-download-online.com/>>

LVS Online Classes- mIRC Tutorial: <<http://www.lvsonline.com/mirctut.html>>

LVS Online Classes - Graphics Course Information: <<http://www.lvsonline.com/courses1.html>>

LVS Online Classes - Web Design and Internet Courses. Tutorials including PSP, Painter, HTML, CSS: <<http://www.lvsonline.com/index.html>>

IRCl tutorial for Mac students: <<http://www.lvsonline.com/ircletut/index.html>>

Page 1 of HTML Tutorial: <<http://www.lvsonline.com/htmltut/index.html>>

Build your HomePage with ease. FrontPageInfo can help you with all the information you need to start: <<http://www.FrontPageInfo.com/>>

<http://dir.yahoo.com/Computers_and_Internet/Software/Operating_Systems/Macintosh_OS/Mac_OS_9/> has Mac OS 9 sites

PopUpCop — Take Control of Your Web Experience: <<http://www.popupcop.com/>>

Timbuk2: <<http://www.timbuk2.com/>>

Living Without Microsoft: <<http://www.livingwithoutmicrosoft.org/>>

A1 Pay Per Click Search Engine: <<http://www.a1-info-search.com/>>

Computing Myths

Tom Coleman



One of computing's most persistent attributes has been its ability to generate myths. Long before the advent of the Personal Computer, way back in the days of "Electronic Brains" there were misconceptions and outright fantasies. I won't go into them or I would get bogged down in nostalgia. It is enough to say that computing has even changed nostalgia.

It's not the same as it used to be.

However in this day and age the current batch of myths is a serious barrier to learning to use a computer. They make buying a computer a nightmare for the uninitiated. Let's take a look at a few

It is unfortunate that there is so much hype. The sales machine keeps churning out intelligence insulting rubbish that is only believed by computer salesmen. We are now at a stage where regardless of what you buy, it is going to be gross overkill for the kind of computing that most people do.

Don't misunderstand me. If your kind of computing is editing the holiday videos or playing 3D games, then you will need a bit more grunt than someone who will writes the odd letter, balances the books and surfs the Net.

Let's take an example of an allegedly fast computer. You know the kind I mean. One for which you would pay \$1500 or \$2000. Now compare it to an old Pentium /60 with 16 MB RAM and a 500 MB hard drive. This will run Windows very adequately. Adding more RAM will make a slight difference but the laws of diminishing returns is well established. At 32 MB you have lost most of the memory disadvantages.

It is a myth that you need a fast computer for the Internet.

Your modem plugs into the serial port of your computer. The RS232 standard that your serial port complies with has a speed of 115,000 KB. Here is the rub; your V90, 56K modem runs at only half the rated speed of your serial port. So your Internet connection is not going to run any faster for plugging it into a \$2000 computer. In fact, so far as the serial port is concerned it would run just as fast on a \$5000 (1982 dollars) IBM PC with 16 KB (that's kilobytes) of RAM which was the original PC that started all the rot. However, none of your Internet programs would run on that venerable clunker. (OK! So I nearly lied. You would have to put a 16550 UART chip into the port electronics. I said this to pacify the purists.)

So spending up big on your computer does nothing for your Internet speed. If you have 32 MB RAM then you have plenty to run Windows and Windows has no problem managing the resources to handle any downloading. Your typical download rate on the Internet is much slower than your hard disk can handle so the hard disk is not a slowdown either. You do need to have your Web browser and Net software set up correctly and well tuned, but that's all in the software

If you want faster Internet then invest in cable or ADSL. There are problems there too, but it is usually faster, and much more expensive. We have reached the end of the line so far as the current modem technology is concerned. We need the next generation of hardware technology and the price of that has not yet dropped sufficiently. Alternatively we could get a patience upgrade, or an expectations downgrade.

This Pentium 90 I mentioned earlier would typically save a file or execute a mouse click in about a tenth of a second. Your pride and joy \$1500 computer is about ten times faster so it saves the file in a hundredth of a second. Guess what - you cannot tell the difference! So far as you are concerned a tenth of a second and a hundredth of a second are both instantaneous. Sure, one is faster but it makes no significant difference.

Somehow the emphasis on speed warps perceptions of what is good. The equation seems to be FAST=GOOD.

So we spend \$500 upgrading the motherboard to speed up the Internet or worse still a function that is hard disk intensive. If you want your computer to run faster then apply upgrades to the things that are running slowly. If you have a task that is hard disk intensive such as loading a large file or interrogating a large database you will get an improvement by installing a faster hard disk. Adding more RAM will do very little and putting in a faster CPU affects only a small portion - the processing of the data. On the other hand adding gobs and gobs of RAM and creating a RAM disk to hold the data will blow your socks off. That is still speeding up the slow bit.

Recently I had a client in my workshop who saw me playing FreeCell, the card game that comes with Windows. He commented that the cards moved very quickly compared to his computer. He had an 800 MHz Pentium with 128 MB RAM. My workshop computer has a 133 MHz Pentium with 64 MB RAM. The thing that was making the difference was that he had a 1 MB video card and I had a 4 MB video card. My video card had a much better chipset too.

This is a good example of supposedly faster computer running slower because the video card was inadequate. Once again: If you want to speed things up then fix up the functions that are running slowly. It is a myth that faster computers are quicker. It depends on what you are doing.

The Leading Edge

The leading edge of computing is being driven by games. Games are the resource guzzling software that will bring any computer to its knees. Some more so than others. Have you noticed that virtually none of them run in Windows? Many run in DOS or take over the whole computer and run some operating system to manage only that game. You have to reboot the computer to restart Windows. In other words Windows is a resource hog that slows your computer and if you want to get any meaningful performance boost you must get out of Windows. Another way of putting it is that DOS is still the fastest kid on the block. Old does not equal slow. Of course DOS scares the daylights out of the current generation of computer users. Once upon a time if you did not know DOS you could not use a computer. Back in those days you had to structure commands in a meaningful way for example: `dir win.com /s`

Broken down it means

`dir` = show me a list of files

`win.com` = the name of the file you want to find

`/s` = look in the current directory (folder to Windows users) and all directories below the current directory.

In other words you had to learn the language. Then came the mouse where you point and click. This reduced computing to pointing and grunting as opposed to speaking the language. Language fluency assists expression of thought.

Don't get me wrong. You can do all sorts of things in Windows that you cannot do in DOS and much easier. Yet when it comes to being able to find your way around and seriously trouble-shoot your computer, knowledge of fundamental DOS is vital.

There is no truth in the rumour that I am a DOS fundamentalist on a Jihad.

Another computing myth is that somehow you need to be a nerd, a boffin, and a whiz to be a good computer user. Utter rubbish. I have been teaching computing for about 15 years. Before that I had been teaching diving, seamanship and so on for 20 years so I have had some contact with people in a learning situation.

Your ability to use a computer has nothing to do with your education, your sex, your sexual preference, your religion, your political outlook or your mental health. The only critical attribute is your attitude. Nothing else matters. Curiosity helps. If you are scared of computers you are at a disadvantage. To some extent a lack of confidence when you start out is understandable. Regrettably the computer marketing industry exploits this lack of confidence. You are being bombarded by television commercials that tell you that the "class idiot" can be turned into a winner by purchasing a Canon printer, or that this mid-twenties mother is too old to learn computing but that she can assure her kids future by buying the latest *whizzbangery*.

People of all ages seem to feel that "Computers are for kids. I am too old. My generation fell off the back". Now there is a normal and natural part of the learning curve that tries to convince you this might be true. "Some people are cut out for computing but I am not". Every computer user went through it. Welcome to the club. You will get over it.

The Melb PC Retirees Special Interest Group is one of the most knowledgeable and energetic groups within Melb PC. Most of its members took up computing as a retirement activity. Nobody is too old. It's all in the attitude.

Computing is like driving a car. It is a hands on practical skill. The theory is very interesting and people will ear bash about it for ages but having a degree in automotive engineering does not make you a good driver. The thing that makes you a good driver is getting behind the wheel, starting the engine, putting it into gear and driving around. The more you do, the more you learn. No one ever learned to drive a car by reading the book. The book is for when you get stuck.

It's the same with computing. You cannot learn it by talking about it. Fire up the computer and start keyboarding and mousing. When you collide with something you can't do or doesn't work then go and find out. Computing is too big to learn everything so you should stick to the things you can use or find interesting. Have you noticed that despite having driven a car for however many years you are probably a useless forklift driver? You only learn the things you practice. If you need the skill then you need the practice. You will not get it by reading academic tomes. You will learn the things you can apply. Computing is not an academic pursuit.

The Right Tools

Another way of looking at computers is that they are a tool that does a job. No one goes off to the local hardware shop and buys \$1500 or \$2000 worth of tools, sets them up in the workshop at home and then wonders what jobs to do with them. If you want to hang a picture, you go out and buy a drill and plug and a hook and whatever. You buy the tools to do the job. The job comes first.

Ask most people what kind of a computer they would like to buy and they might say. "An AMD 1800, 256 MB RAM, 60 GB hard drive. CD burner, 19 inch flat screen" etc. They have listed the tools.

What kind of a computer should be answered with "One that will handle the Great Australian Novel" or "One that will let me edit my family photographs" or do online banking and surf the Net.

What do you want to do with it? That will determine the choice of software, which will then determine the choice of hardware.

The problem with this is that it assumes that you know what computers can do. That's a good reason to join Melbourne PC User Group. Lots of brains to pick. You have got to talk to people sooner or later and at least no one at Melb PC will try to sell you something.

Whose Needs?

It is my experience that if you ask your friendly neighbour or work mate about the kind of computer you should buy they always seem to tell you what kind of a computer "they" would buy. This should not stop you from picking everyone's brains. Just be aware that almost everyone in computing has the idea that his or her way of using a computer is the best way. You must wade your way through this mess of opinions and use the bits you like. There is nothing new about this. You have been doing it all your life.

There is no one single "correct" approach to computing. The way that you use a computer, set it up, display your files, icons, the programs you use, etc is a reflection of your attitudes and your personality. Most people are different so expect to see lots of different ways of using a computer.

Another example of the "Faster is Better" myth is CPU speed. Generally speaking the difference between a computer with a 900 MHz CPU and an 1800 MHz CPU is very little. A few tasks will run a bit faster but most of the time you can't notice it. It is certainly not worth the several hundred dollars difference in price. At the end of an eight-hour day you might save a few minutes. It would make no significant difference to the time it takes for Windows to start up. A warning to the parents out there in the real world. Kids these days are under enormous peer pressure to have the greatest and latest computer. Computer mythology is rampant in the education system. Youngsters go to school and lie about the computer they have at home. There is serious loss of status having a less than 1.0 GHz CPU. They do not need that upgrade. They are just climbing socially. There is a perception, heavily promoted by the advertising industry that new equipment solves old problems. All problems can be fixed by buying a new something or other. Have you noticed how computer salesmen can fix most things by selling you a replacement?

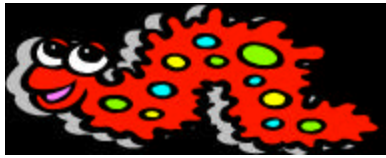
Let me finish with this profound truth.

Regardless of how much money and resources you throw at a problem, your ignorance will not go away.

Reprinted from the February 2002 issue of PC Update, the magazine of Melbourne PC User Group, Australia



Deadlier Klez worm on the prowl



By Robert Lemos
Special to ZDNet News

A new variant of the destructive kliz worm has had moderate success, prompting one antivirus company this past weekend to release free tools with its spread.

The variant, carried by e-mail and known as Klez.e overwrites victims' files with random content on the sixth day of odd-numbered months. It can spread automatically on Windows systems that use an unpatched version of Microsoft's Internet Explore.

"The latest version Klez.e (poses) the most serious threat to computer safety ." said Moscow-based antivirus company Kaspersky Labs.

Though antivirus companies discovered the Klez-e variant in late January, its tenacity has prompted Kaspersky Labs to release an antivirus too to remove it.

Based on how many instances of each worm and virus the company has intercepted in the past 24 hours. UK - headquartered mail and magistr--old worms that continue to plague the Internet. However, the company has intercepted fewer than 400 copies of Kliz-e.

In the same 24 hours, BadTrans popped up about 750 times, and Sircam made about 1600 appearances.

Klez.e arrives in an e-mail message with a subject heading generated from a list of more than 20 keywords or forged to look like the heading on an undelivered message. The body of the message is empty or has random text.

"That's the way it runs anatomically. But it still could come onto your system" said Vincent Weafer, senior director of antivirus firm Symantic;s security response team. In that instance a dialoglbox would appear, asking computer users if they want to run a program called Klez.c.

Microsoft patched the IE hole last March so any Windows system that has been recently updated should be immune to the worm's autoinfection function. Weafer said Kliz.c is in the top 10 but has caused only one-eighth as many reports as BadTrans.

The worm infects Windows archival files with a copy of itself. It also attempts to circumvent antirirus programs and defeat some competing worms by shutting them down if they're found running .

"It tends to attack the user-interface component, but in most cased the real-time scanner is still active." Weafer said Antivirus software consists of two basic components: the real-time scanner, which catches viruses the attempt to run, and application with an interface that allows PC users to scan their machine for infractions.

Hence, Kliz.c "becomes a pain more than a real threat." Weafer said Symantec has updated virus definitions that are available to protect against the worm

Microsoft windows users should run Windows Update to ensure they are protected against the auto-executing features of this worm.

QUESTIONS FOR MICROSOFT REP

Adam C Kovach Microsoft Corporation .~HRD Field Sales

What does Microsoft Plus do to enhance Windows XP?

Like Plus packs before, Plus! for Windows XP gives users new tools, games, and themes that take advantage of Windows XP's features. It does enhance features that are in Windows XP, such as the CD burning capability. With the Plus! pack you can create custom CD labels as well as album covers once your CD is created usin! the XP media player.

Does the software enhance the tasks in XP, or is the software composed of new add-ons to XP.

Both. Most are add-ons, like the new screen savers, icons, and new ways to display digital photos. There are a couple of new features that do enhance the tasks such as the voice command for the media as well as increasing the clarity and richness of music with speaker enhancements that eliminate the distortions.

If Windows XP has a built in firewall, is that firewall sufficient, or should you also use another source such as Black Ice?

The Windows XP firewall will be sufficient for the average user surfing the web. The firewaii works as a dynamic data packet filter, and blocks incoming traffic and closes ports unless the user needs the ports open. It is a basic firewall and will not be able to do such features as event logging, IP tracking, etc. It is baseline security. If the user wants a more robust firewall with those features, then I would definitely recommend getting the other firewall software.

Does Windows XP come with java support since most web sites us it? If notwhat actions can be taken to install java to Windows XP.

Microsoft decided not to support Java in Windows XP or IE 6. However, if you bought an OEM machine, they may have already installed the Java applets and plug-ins for you- If you find out that you do not have the necessary Java plugins and applets, you may download them from the Sun Microsystems website located at <http://java.sun.com/getjava/>

Reference Microsoft power toys for Window XP, which is supposed to be a free down load afterXP is installed. What do they do, and. do you recommend the down load.

Powertoys are a set of tools that enable a user to customize their Windows XP experience. You will be able to create features like a shortcut icon to the command prompt, customizing multiuser accounts, and other tweaks to the UI to name such features. I would only recommend this download to people who are interested in playing with their computer and have a desire to get a customized look and feel.

I have Windows ME. Upon installing XP, should I select the quick upgrade or new installation feature.

Most people will be just fine with the quick installation, especially with Windows Me because the file structures for media, communication, internet are pretty up to date. If it were me however, I would recommend the new installation feature to get rid of any legacy code. Because Windows XP is a new kernal, NT, the file structure will be different han in 9x. I choose a new installation. so that the OS can lay down the new system files without having to work with old ones. If the user has older programs they want to run, I would recommend them creating a separate 9x partition for that reason. I would also recommend users to use the system checker prior to installing, just to make sure they know what they might be up against.

Board Of Directors Minutes



The February 2002 Executive Board Of Directors Meeting of the Orange Coast IBM PC User Group (OCIPUG) was conducted on February 25, 2002, and was called to order by President Bob Walker at 7:05pm with five of nine officers and directors (sufficient for a quorum) plus one member present. Soon after two more board members were in attendance, with the only ones missing being Vice President Morris Fier and Director Robert Strader, both of whom had previously advised the president that they would be absent from this meeting.

President's Report - President Bob Walker reported that Ed Leckliter has agreed to conduct a Windows XP SIG, perhaps on the 2nd Wednesday, pending approval from the Senior Center. Bob also indicated that we should start giving thought to calendar for the club activities year that runs from September 2002 through August 2003.

There was no Secretary's report. In a motion by Director Red Davidson, seconded by Director Chris Davidson and carried, the minutes of the January meeting were approved as written.

Secretary Frank Mastroly gave a summary of the SeniorNet team meeting of February 22, 2002. SeniorNet is planning to offer ten classes starting on Monday, April 1, 2002, with class sign-ups starting on Monday, March 4, 2002. Classes offered will include Genealogy using Family Tree Maker, and Digital Photography using Adobe Photoshop Elements, neither of which was held this session due to lack of sign-ups, most likely because they were late additions. There will also be a Part One Windows 98 class in addition to the current Part Two class. The next SeniorNet team meeting will be on Friday, March 15, 2002, at 10:00am. If any OCIPUG members are interested in teaching or coaching SeniorNet class feel free to attend this meeting or to contact Dan Dickinson directly at daniel3@cox.net.

Treasurer's Report - Treasurer Charles Schreiber reported that our finances have shown an improvement from the first of the year, thanks in part to the proceeds from the February raffle and the sale of Windows XP Professional and Office XP Professional at the February General meeting. There were three membership renewals in February but none in January. Charles will distribute a financial summary at the March meeting. We are still awaiting final confirmation from Pacific Bell regarding cancellation of the Hotline. We should be receiving a refund. Finally, Charles reported that we would be charged a bank fee of \$10 if any bank account drops below \$2,500, which could happen with the Tim Smith account. We will discuss at the next meeting the possibility of combining all of our accounts into one.

Activities Report: Director Chris Davidson reported that she has not yet lined up a program for the March General meeting but should have one shortly.

SIG Meeting Report - Nothing to report except for the change in SIG schedule that was initiated in January of this year. We had a very good turnout for the first session for Dan Dickinson's Quicken SIG, which is held on the first Tuesday of each month. President Bob Walker is working with the Senior Center to gain approval to hold the Windows XP SIG on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. This week's Digital Photography SIG will cover the installation and basic operation of Adobe Photoshop Elements. The next Internet SIG will continue the discussion on e-mail message filtering and Spam blocking, as well as being an open forum.

Long Range Planning Report - Past President Leonard Stein is still awaiting the final results of the membership survey. Director Red Davidson and his committee consisting of himself, Vice President Morris Fier, and President Bob Walker are reviewing the results of the survey and will put together a package for the membership. It is planned to have a long range planning committee meeting next month when the survey results are available.

Financial Review - Still TBD. Treasurer Charles Schreiber will consult with former treasurer Larry Pearce to review our past history.

Maintenance and Operations - Steve Schiffman has installed the 3Com 10/100 Ethernet card NIC that Secretary Frank Mastroly donated to the club into the PC which is connected to the TV, and has connected this PC to the SeniorNet computer network. There still is the possibility of getting individual e-mail addresses for the SeniorNet computers, including the one for the TV. President Bob Walker has installed Adobe PhotoShop Elements on the club computer and is working with Microsoft on getting an additional copy of Windows XP to install on the club computer, possibly in a dual boot mode with Windows 98SE, and also an additional copy of Office XP Professional for installation on the club computer. Other possible software and hardware additions were also briefly discussed, including the possible need for a scanner. However, all was left open for future discussion.

Webmaster Report - Webmaster Michael Moore reported that he received two sample copies of Jeff Levy's newsletter, which were given to President Bob Walker to review for possible items to include in the Readme.doc. Michael will add Jeff Levy to his e-mail distribution list for future newsletters in hopes that we will continue to receive his.

Michael also reported that he is now working with APCUG on the possibility of our posting the newsletter on the APCUG website. The corrected February Readme.doc is now on the OCIPUG website with the same link as in the previous e-mail. Michael will follow-up the "bounce backs" of the newsletter e-mail with telephone calls to make sure that we have the correct e-mail addresses of all members and will transmit them to Director Sandi Tierney. As reported last month, he had problems AOL and MSN in that they rejected it because they thought it was Spam. He also reported that some members were not happy that the old newsletters on the website are in self-extracting (.exe) zip files, as some do not want to download any executable files.

Michael is coordinating product reviews, and has a copy of guidelines initially prepared by OCIPUG but now available on the North Orange County User Group website. It was stressed that all members must be given the opportunity to volunteer to review a particular product rather than it just being given to the one who it is felt will do the best job with it.

Reality Check!

In case you needed further proof that the human race is doomed through stupidity, here are some actual label instructions on consumer goods.

On a Sear's hairdryer:

Do not use while sleeping.

(Damn, and that's the only time I have to work on my hair).

On a bag of Fritos:

You could be a winner! No purchase necessary. Details inside.

(the shoplifter special)

On a bar of Dial soap:

"Directions: Use like regular soap."

(and that would be how???)

On some Swanson frozen dinners:

"Serving suggestion: Defrost."

but, it's "just" a suggestion)



On Tesco's Tiramisu dessert (printed on bottom):

"Do not turn upside down."

(well, duh, a bit late, huh!)

On Marks & Spencer Bread Pudding:

"Product will be hot after heating."

(And you thought????)

On packaging for a Rowenta iron:

"Do not iron clothes on body."

(but wouldn't this save me more time?)

On Boot's Children Cough Medicine:

"Do not drive a car or operate machinery after taking this medication."

(We could do a lot to reduce the rate of construction accidents if we could just get those 5-year-olds with head-colds off those forklifts.)

On Nytol Sleep Aid:

"Warning: May cause drowsiness."

(And I'm taking this because???)



On most brands of Christmas lights :

"For indoor or outdoor use only."

(as opposed to what?)

On a Japanese food processor:

"Not to be used for the other use."

(Now, somebody out there, help me on this. I'm a bit curious.)

On Sainsbury's peanuts:

"Warning: contains nuts."

(talk about a news flash)

On an American Airlines packet of nuts:

"Instructions: Open packet, eat nuts."

(Step 3: maybe, uh, fly Delta?)



On a child's superman costume:

"Wearing of this garment does not enable you to fly."

(I don't blame the company. I blame the parents for this one.)

On a Swedish chainsaw:

"Do not attempt to stop chain with your hands or genitals."

(Oh my God. Was there a lot of this happening somewhere?)

Publications (Readme.doc) - Bob Walker again requested that all SIG leaders present a synopsis of the most recent SIG as well as a summary of what is planned for the next session. He also wants all SIGs to have a more structured format rather than being 100% freeform. He again suggested that at least the first hour of each SIG be devoted to a specific topic, with the remainder an optional open forum.

Public Relations - Vice President Morris Fier was absent, but he has contacted and is working with the "Daily Pilot" and Costa Mesa "Breeze" (a free insert with the Thursday "Register"). We are already listed on "OC Now." Director Sandi Tierney reported that she has contacted local Staples and Radio Shack stores about the possibility of having them display flyers and distribute membership applications. Past President Leonard Stein will assist Sandi on this. As an idea of what can be done to get attention, President Bob Walker distributed a coupon good for "unlimited rides" in the Senior Center elevator! Webmaster Michael Moore reported that he has a contact in the Staples corporate office that he can call regarding getting publicity in stores in the area.

Membership - Director Sandi Tierney, with inputs from Webmaster Michael Moore, has updated the membership roster with the latest information available. All members should see to it that Sandi and Michael have current data. Sandi reiterated that it is especially important that the data in the Readme.doc be correct. Badges have been prepared for all members except JoAnne Edman. Sandi also reported that since we now post the newsletter on the web, she intends to use postcards to remind those members whose membership is about to expire.

New Business

Nominating Committee For Election Of Officers - This topic was the subject of much discussion, as per the by-laws an election committee has been formed no later than the March board meeting, with the election ballots being mailed no later than fifteen days after the June general meeting. Thus it is of prime importance that we get the committee formed as soon as possible and a list of candidates established. It was also noted that no board member (officer or director) may be a member of this committee.

For this year's election cycle, all officer and director positions are open. Thus there will be four directors elected, with the top two vote getters being elected for two years and the next two for one year. Kevin Moser and Michael Moore have agreed to serve on the committee, but it has not yet been established who will be the chairman and he/she will be chosen from the committee or appointed by the president.

New SIGs - We need to review the membership survey to see if there are additional SIGs that may be of interest to the membership. Also, perhaps we should consider combining the Windows 98 and Windows XP SIG depending upon member interest.

Miscellaneous - Director Sandi Tierney reported that Staples is closing its store on Superior and we may be able to pick up some bargains for our raffles. Also, the Staples on 17th Street is planning to eliminate its inventory of furniture sometime in the near future.

Adjournment - Moved by Red Davidson, seconded by Sandi Tierney, and carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm. The next BOD meeting will be on Monday, March 25, 2002. Note that this is the Monday BEFORE the March General Meeting, which will be held on Saturday, March 30, 2002.

Respectfully Submitted
Frank Mastroly, Secretary

ORANGE COAST IBM PC User Group (OCIPUG) ©

Mailing Address

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

Meetings Location

Costa Mesa Senior Center
Southeast Corner of 19th and Pomona

OCIPUG, founded in 1985, is an independent California nonprofit (IRC 501-c-3) corporation, and is not affiliated in any way with IBM, any vendor, equipment manufacturer, or other organization.

Publication Copyright © 2001

A newsletter, *Readme.Doc*, is published monthly. A subscription of \$12 per year is included with all paid memberships. Address all inquiries, address changes, and material for publication to the above address marked "ATTN: Editor".

Opinions expressed by the authors are not necessarily those of this newsletter, its staff or OCIPUG. Mention of products does not constitute endorsement by OCIPUG. Omission of trademarks does not imply that the products or names are not so protected. *Readme.Doc*, its contributors, and staff assume no liability for damages arising out of the publication or non-publication of any advertisement, article, or any other item in this newsletter.

Permission is granted to other user groups to reprint herein material, not specifically copyrighted, for non-commercial use only, provided credit is given to *Readme.Doc* and to the author.

Publication Deadline

Material for the April issue must be received on or before April 11 2002 by
rwalker820@msn.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 newsletter coordinator
Michael Conway 714-962-2194 mchbca@aol.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.

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.

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: _____