

Orange Coast IBM PC User Group

README.DOC



November 2002

Newsletter

Volume 18.11

*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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November 23 General Meeting



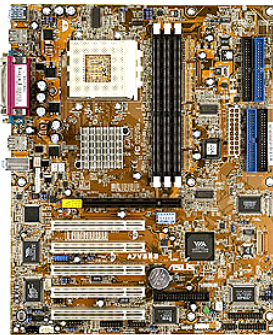
Sean Bradley, a Member of the Technical Staff, of AMD



AMD Athlon™
Processor



PC Motherboards



Gary Tam, a Senior Technical Marketing Specialist, one of Gigabyte USA's technology experts.

- Chipset Type
- Memory
- Expansion Slots
- IDE Type
- On-board Audio
- IO
- BIOS
- Dimension
- Certification
- Compatibilities



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Costa Mesa, California 92626-3934

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

General Meetings are held from 9:00AM to noon on:
 23 November 2002
 21 December 2002
 25 January 2003
 22 February 2003
 22 March 2003
 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 November 2002
 21 December 2002
 25 January 2003
 24 February 2003
 24 March 2003
 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
 2nd Wednesday 7:00 PM - Windows XP
 3rd Tuesday 7:00 PM - Window 98
 4th Tuesday 7:00 PM - Digital Photo

November 23 Program

AMD: The Road to x86-64 (aka Hammer)

The presentation will include AMD's company background, processor market information and strategy, and product roadmap for the desktop, mobile and workstation/server segments. Special emphasis will be placed on AMD's upcoming x86-64 Hammer platform for 64-bit computing.

Sean Bradley, a Member of the Technical Staff, is on AMD's Field Applications Engineering team located in the Irvine sales office. Sean provides technical support and product training to OEMs, system builders and resellers in the Southern California Area and provides field related feedback to AMD Engineering and Marketing organizations. Sean received his BSEE and MBA degrees from the University of California, Irvine. **Sean will be bringing an AMD Athlon XP processor to raffle off.**

Gigabyte Technology: Top Tier in PC Motherboards

The presentation will include Gigabyte's company background, a preview of future PC technologies, and a review of Gigabyte's current and upcoming motherboard and video card products. Special emphasis will be placed on Gigabyte's plans to support AMD x86-64 (Hammer) platform technology.

Gary Tam, a Senior Technical Marketing Specialist, is one of Gigabyte USA's technology experts. He has been with the company for more than five years and has helped Gigabyte become one of the best known, top tier motherboard manufacturers in the world. Gary has been instrumental in helping Gigabyte succeed in the US marketplace.

Gary will be bringing some "items" for our raffle.

President	Leonard Stein	714-533-4971	leonardstn@netscape.net
Vice President	Robert Strader	949-646-1475	rstrader@attbi.com
Secretary	Frank Mastroly	714-960-9472	fmastroly@earthlink.net
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Director-2002-2003	Ed Leckliter	310-944-5659	eleckliter@adelphia.net
Director-2002	Mike Conway	714-962-2194	mchbca@aol.com
Director-2002	Sandi Tierney	714-648-2218	gadgetgoddess2002@hotmail.com
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Readme.Doc Editor	Robert Walker	949-642-5997	rwalker820@msn.com
Newsletter Coordinator	Mike Conway	714-962-2194	mchbca@aol.com

SCHEDULES AND REPORTS OF EVENTS

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (SIG)

(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:

12 November 2002

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

13 November 2002

Pocket PC 2nd Wednesday, 7:00PM
Cheryl Wester wester@aol.com

19 November 2002

Windows 98
3rd Tuesday 7:00 PM
Robert Strader 949-646-1475 rstrader@attbi.com

29 November 2002

Digital Cameras / Scanning - 4th Tuesday, 7:00PM
Robert Strader 949-646-1475 rstrader@attbi.com

3 December 2002

Quicken - 1st Tuesday, 7:00 PM
Dan Dickinson danield3@cox.net

4 December 2002

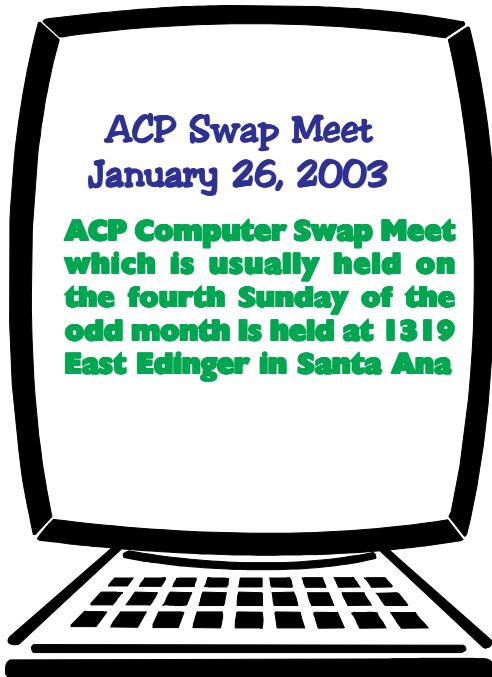
Internet / Web Publishing
1st Wednesday 7:00PM
Robert Strader 949-646-1475 rstrader@attbi.com

10 December 2002

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

11 December 2002

Pocket PC 2nd Wednesday, 7:00PM
Cheryl Wester wester@aol.com



OCIPUG Hardware SIG

Meeting Recap Meeting Date: October 8, 2002

There were 10 attendees (including the SIG Leader, Ed Leckliter)
The Featured Topic was: Your New System: Planning Phase (the beginning of a five-meeting planning, sourcing, and hands-on assembly series) Hardware Submissions:

Bob Walker brought in a system that was unable to boot through to the Windows desktop - hard drive read error. Bob had tried a different drive (known good) and experienced the same problem.

Since the hard drive controller is integrated into the motherboard, it was concluded that it has become defective. [We tried changing the drive cable to the second connector/channel on the motherboard but that didn't help.]

Len Stein brought in a system that he wanted to update with a new hard drive. We installed his new drive and started the process of using PowerQuest's Drive Image to do a disk-to-disk copy from the old to the new drive

Ed Leckliter

SIG Special Event for OCIPUG

Cheryl Wester will hold two special SIG meetings on the Pocket PC on November 13 and December 11.

Cheryl has ask you to bring your Pocket PCs and Lap Top computers to the Sig .

Cheryl will have the new Microsoft Tablet PC to show us that she won, in the Microsoft essay contest that included a for two trip to New Your to pick it up her new Microsoft Tablet at the Microsoft Event introducing the Tablet PC with Bil Gates.



General Meeting, October 26, 2002

All members in attendance were reminded by Secretary Frank Mastroly to sign in and to note on the sign-in sheets any e-mail address changes and also if they did not receive the e-mailing of the September 2002 Readme.Doc. Past President Bob Walker is updating his mailing list and needs this information ASAP. Bob is still receiving "bounces," which he then has to follow up by phone due to members having new e-mail addresses.

Despite several requests for questions by Ed Leckliter, there were none and thus there was no Random Access (Q&A) session.

Director Ed Leckliter reported that for the November General meeting, which will be on November 23, or the Saturday before Thanksgiving, there will be presentations on processors (Intel) and motherboards and video cards (Gigabyte). President Leonard Stein reported that in December there will be brief summary presentations from those who attended the Comdex/ APCUG meeting in Las Vegas in mid-November followed by a potluck luncheon.

Member Cheryl Wester will be presenting Pocket PC mini-SIGs on Wednesday evening, November 13 in place of the Windows XP SIG) and on Wednesday evening, December 4, in place of the Internet SIG. Those with Pocket PCs should bring theirs with them as well as their laptop if they have one. Everyone is invited, and you do not have to own a Pocket PC to attend.

The next hardware SIG will be on Tuesday, November 12, and will be the 2nd of 5 on building your own computer and will cover sourcing your components. For those interested, Ed's website is www.edscustomcomputers.com/, and can also be accessed from the OCIPUG web site at www.ocipug.org/Meetings.htm. There were no other SIG reports due to the absence of the various SIG leaders. However, other than the Pocket PC mini-SIGs, there are no changes in SIG schedule for November or December

Cheryl Wester is also willing to do one or more SIGs on Outlook or PowerPoint in January or February of 2003 if there is enough interest. Contact Cheryl if interested. Finally, Cheryl reported that she had won a free trip to New York in early November for the official unveiling of the Microsoft tablet PC (essentially a laptop with a reversible cover with a touch screen that can be used as a note or sketch pad). She had entered an essay contest conducted by Microsoft Mindshare. In addition to the trip, she won a tablet PC.

As reported in the September General meeting minutes, Cheryl will be giving Pocket PC demonstrations at the Fry's store in La Palma on weekends starting Friday, November 29 through January 5, 2003, as well as on the day after Christmas, while her husband Karl will do the same at the Fountain Valley store.

The main presentation of the meeting was by Member Cheryl Wester on the Pocket PC (PPC), the Windows-based Pocket Digital Assistant (PDA) similar to but much different from similar devices produced by Palm, Handspring, Sony, and others. One significant difference between the PPC and the Palm is that the PPC has pocket versions of Microsoft Office (Word, Outlook, and Excel) products, whereas for the Palm these have been obtained from 3rd party suppliers. Also, the PPC will automatically synchronize with these applications with a laptop or desktop PC, so that your contacts lists, e-mail, task lists, etc, are identical. You can also update Word and Excel documents on either platform

and then synchronize them later. Synchronization can be done using a USB cable, an infrared port, and, on some models, using bluetooth or 802.11b Wi-Fi, a high speed connection frequently available at airports and various establishments, e.g. some Starbucks, etc., which cater to travelers..

Depending upon the model, Pocket PCs have slots and/or expansion sleeves for Ethernet PC cards, GPS PC cards, portable modems (both wired and wireless), compact flash cards, multiple media cards, and secure digital cards. Finally, via cables or wireless connection, a Pocket PC can be connected with a cell phone such that you can dial using the PPC contacts list.

The general features and capabilities of Pocket PCs common to all models are:

- * Touch screen input in lieu of using a mouse pointer
- * A color organizer with hand writing recognition
- * Windows Media Player with Internet radio capability
- * A portable gaming device
- * e-Book Reader as well as audio books
- * E-Mail device, both send and receive
- * Multimedia capability (MP3, Windows Media Player)
- * Terminal Service Client
- * Virtual Personal Network (VPN)
- * Microsoft Internet Explorer with streaming video capability
- * Microsoft Pocket Word
- * Microsoft Pocket Excel
- * Microsoft Pocket Outlook
- * Voice Recognition
- * Infrared capability to exchange data with another PPC or with a laptop or tower
- * MSN Messenger

These features and more are all discussed in detail on the Microsoft Pocket PC homepage at www.pocketpc.com. Other web sites of interest are www.pocketpcthoughts.com, and www.pocketpcpassion.com. For those wanting to keep up with current PPC developments, you can subscribe to Pocket PC magazine at www.pocketpcmag.com. There is a Pocket PC user group in Yahoo (groups.yahoo.com, no www) as well as Pocket PC user groups in Los Angeles (it meets in Santa Monica) and in Orange County. The Microsoft web page has links to the various Pocket PC suppliers, e.g., HP, Compaq, Toshiba, and others. Finally, it is rumored that Dell is planning to enter the market around Christmas.

Current models of the Pocket PC have either the 206MHz Strongarm or the 400MHz X-Scale processor. However, there are at present no applications, primarily gaming, that can take full advantage of the higher speed processor. Pocket PCs come with either 32 or 48mb of flashable (can be updated) ROM that contains the operating system and some applications. In addition, all have either 32 or 64mb of RAM for data storage and for additional applications, such as Adobe Pocket Acrobat Reader you can read the Readme.Doc on a Pocket PC), games, and various 3rd party applications. This RAM, however, can be expanded almost without limit through the use of compact flash cards, multiple media cards, and/or secure digital cards depending upon the particular model and the installed accessories. All Pocket PCs have rechargeable batteries (some built in, others removable) that will provide between 4 and 9 hours of use. For the HP/Compaq IPAQ, there are PC card sleeves that have their own rechargeable

batteries that will extend the use time.

Synchronization of data to and from a Pocket PC is achieved using a program called ActiveSync, which is on the CD that is shipped with the device. The current version is 3.6 available directly from Microsoft. The CD also contains the latest version of Outlook (currently Outlook 2002/XP), as Pocket PCs will synchronize only with Outlook (either 2002, or 2000 for those who do not want to change, mainly because Outlook 2002 requires activation) and cannot with Outlook Express. (Without going into the details, Outlook Express has functions to export mail and address books (contacts) to Outlook and from there synchronize with the Pocket PC. Outlook Express can also exchange similar data with Netscape, and thus Netscape users can also exchange data with Pocket PCs.

Finally, Microsoft is currently bringing to market the Smartphone and the Pocket PC 2002 Phone Edition. Both products combine Pocket PC and cell phone capability. The former looks essentially like a cell phone but has full PPC capability but with a much smaller screen. The latter looks more like a PPC, but has cell phone capability but without the keypad. A more detailed description of the Smartphone was presented in the minutes for the September General meeting and also can be found at www.microsoft.com/mobile/smartphone/default.asp.

Cheryl completed her presentation with a demonstration of how a Pocket PC actually works in practice. In making her presentation, Cheryl made use of a program called Pocket Controller, which allows one to control a laptop from a Pocket PC. For those interested, it is available from Soft Object Technologies Inc (SOTI) at www.soti.net.

Cheryl also included a brief presentation of Infuzer, a service that copies dates from the web or email straight into an electronic calendar, by clicking one button. You can also create events and email them to your friends, which with one click will go directly into their electronic calendar. Infuzer allows you to add event and time-sensitive information to your calendar quickly and easily without the need for copying and pasting or retyping. The Infuzer Alert Service will also notify you about any relevant updates to the events you have added to your calendar, ensuring you are always up to date. Infuzer poses no threat to the privacy of your calendar because it cannot read any other entries in your calendar. Infuzer always asks you to confirm entries before adding them to your calendar, so you retain complete control. It will not allow "Spam" into your calendar because it only copies events which you have selected. For more information go to www.infuzer.com/IDC/features/

Because of the lack of suitable prizes, there was no raffle at the close of the General Meeting.

What Is A Zip File, Anyhow?

Zip files are "archives" used for distributing and storing files. Zip files contain one or more files. Usually the files "archived" in a Zip are compressed to save space. Zip files make it easy to group files and make transporting and copying these files faster. What About ARJ, LZH, Gzip, TAR, And CAB Files?

These files provide most of the benefits of Zip files, but use different file formats. WinZip can handle Zip, TAR, gzip, and CAB files by itself. External programs are required for the less frequently used ARJ, ARC, and LZH formats.

Why Do People Use Zip Files?

Zip files save time and space, and make downloading software and transferring e-mail attachments faster. Typical uses for Zip files include: Most files available on ftp sites, bulletin boards and electronic services like CompuServe are distributed as archives. Two benefits of using archives for electronic file distribution are that only one file transfer operation ("download") is required to obtain all related files, and file transfer time is minimized because the files in an archive are compressed. It is often useful to send a group of related files to an associate. Rather than distributing individual files it is often easier to distribute the files as an archive to benefit from the file grouping and compression. Some files are important but used infrequently. To save disk space simply compress these files into an archive when they are not used, and decompress them only when needed.

Where Does WinZip Fit In?

WinZip makes it easy for Windows users to work with archives. WinZip features an intuitive point-and-click drag-and-drop interface for viewing, running, extracting, adding, deleting, and testing files in archives with a standard Windows interface. WinZip provides the same "friendly face" for all the aforementioned archive formats. You can download a fully functional evaluation version from the WinZip Download Page, or place an order for the registered version from the WinZip Ordering Information Page.

Can You Tell Me More About Archive Formats?

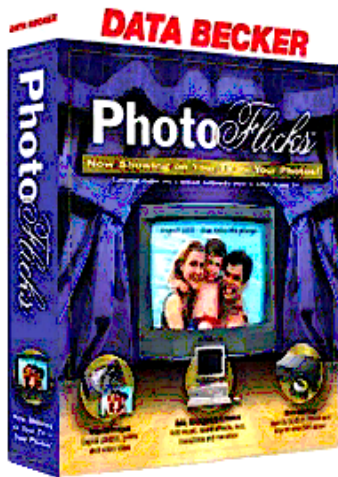
1 of 2 2/19/2001 2:45 PM WinZip® - What is a Zip File, Anyhow? <http://www.winzip.com/aboutzip.htm> Zip files are the most common archive format. WinZip does not require external programs for basic archive operations. ARJ files are another popular archive format. ARJ files are manipulated by the ARJ program from Robert Jung, 2606 Village Road West, Norwood, Massachusetts 02062. LZH files are manipulated by the LHA program from Haruyasu Yoshizaki. LHA won the October 1991 PC Magazine Editor's Choice award as the best data compression utility. ARC is an older format. ARC files can be manipulated by several programs, including the original ARC, ARCE (also known as ARCE), PKXARC, and PKUNPAK. Since almost all new archives are created in other formats and there is no single widely available program to manipulate ARC files, WinZip does not provide facilities to add to ARC files (however, all other WinZip functions are supported). The CAB format is used by Microsoft and some other vendors to distribute software. WinZip does not need external programs to view or extract the contents of CAB files. TAR, Z, GZ, TAZ, and TGZ files are often found on Unix-based Internet sites. The relationship between these file types is less straightforward than the aforementioned file formats. The important thing to remember is that WinZip handles all these formats the same way as Zip files, so you don't need to know the details. Here is more information on these formats: TAR stands

November 28, 2002



Product Review PhotoFlicks

Cheryl Wester OCIPUG



PhotoFlicks by Data Becker is a relatively complex program to use straight out of the box, for me. It appears to put together an outstanding tool for creating your own video CDs. According to the User's Guide you can put together multimedia presentation videos, burn them on a CD and play them on any DVD player that can read CD-ROMs. It is suppose to have simple requirements and work on anything from Windows 95 to Windows 2000 or XP. All it requires is a Pentium 266 or better and 64 MB of RAM. It does recommend a graphics card with 800 X 600 resolution and of course you need a CD burner and CD-ROM drive in order to burn your photo CDs. Other requirements include 20 MBs of hard disk space, a mouse, and a printer.

The User' Guide, for the most part, is very straightforward and easy to read and follow. It includes a section called Tips and Tricks that I found very useful. In this section it recommends that you not run any other programs while creating a video and burning a CD. This helps prevent skips and jumps in the video. It also recommends turning off your screen saver and includes directions on how to do this for those that need the extra help. One other item that is important is disabling the Auto insert notification in order to burn CDs. If this isn't done the burning process may be aborted.

The program installed without a hitch. It was a fast installation on my HP Pavilion with Windows XP, 512 MB of RAM, 2.26 GHz Intel Processor, and an 80 GB hard drive. The only thing I had to do was create a shortcut on my desktop, as I wanted easy access to the program.

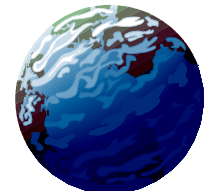
Okay, now comes the difficult part. I started out using it without completely reading the manual. I found that I needed to delete my initial project and start over. Reading the User's Guide before becoming involved in this project is a must as far as I'm concerned.

After doing my homework I was able to insert pictures from a folder and access the catalog of pictures that comes on the CD. These pictures are great for adding special effects or the right mood to your album. Doing transitions between the pictures I added was a little tricky. Personally, I don't feel the directions were as clear as they could be at this point in the manual. As an example, the manual said the transition would only take affect after you click on the Apply button but neglected to say how to access the button. I am normally not a diagram person but this is an area where the picture truly was worth a 1000 words! I do think the transitions are nice, and once you understand what they want you need to do, they are easy to work with. They make your video a lot more pleasant to view and add the professional touch.

Making a video out of it was easy to do. Next I wanted to burn the video CD. I thought it would be really cool to view my photos on a TV screen using my DVD player. Wrong! Even though the program requirements were suppose to be for XP it didn't recognize my rewriter and the only video type I was allowed to make would only work on the PC that it originated from. What a disappointment. All that work and I'm not able to share it. Next stop—the web site.

From the web site I downloaded a couple of small files. This was supposed to make burning a CD easy and correct the error. Wrong again. It still is missing something and I'm still waiting for technical support to contact me.

At this point I'm not comfortable recommending this product. I found it to be difficult and perhaps a little outdated as far as it went. It is definitely not for the novice. The price of \$29.95 I found to be reasonable but at any price it should work as directed. I have other programs, granted a little more costly; that I feel accomplish the same things without nearly the effort and time this program takes.



GLOBALIZATION

What is globalization? Below is probably the best example of the definition of globalization.

Question : What event epitomizes globalization?

Answer : Princess Diana's death

Question : How come?

Answer : An English princess with an Egyptian boyfriend crashes in a French tunnel, driving a German car with a Dutch engine, driven by a Belgian who was high on Scotch whiskey, followed closely by Italian Papparazzi on Japanese motorcycles, treated by an American doctor, using Brazilian medicines!

This is sent to you by a Filipino, using Bill Gates' technology which he got from the Japanese. You are probably reading this on one of the IBM clones that use Philippine-made chips and Korean made monitors, assembled by Bangladeshi workers in a Singapore plant, transported by lorries driven by Indians, hijacked by Indonesians and finally sold to you by a Chinese!

That's **Globalization!!!**

Learning About Life

; age comes alone.

THAT LITTLE CHILDREN HAVE LEARNED:

- 1) No matter how hard you try, you can't baptize cats.
- 2) When your Mom is mad at your Dad, don't let her brush your hair.
- 3) If your sister hits you, don't hit her back. They always catch the second person.
- 4) Never ask your 3-year old brother to hold a tomato.
- 5) You can't trust dogs to watch your food.
- 6) Don't sneeze when someone is cutting your hair.
- 7) Never hold a Dust-Buster and a cat at the same time.
- 8) You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk.
- 9) Don't wear polka-dot underwear under white shorts.
- 10) The best place to be when you're sad is Grandpa's lap.

THAT ADULTS HAVE LEARNED:

- 1) Raising teenagers is like nailing Jell-O to a tree.
- 2) Wrinkles don't hurt.
- 3) Families are like fudge. . . mostly sweet, with a few nuts.
- 4) Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut that held its ground.
- 5) Laughing is good exercise. It's like jogging on the inside.
- 6) Middle age is when you choose your cereal for the fiber, not the toy.

THAT THE ELDERLY HAVE LEARNED:

- 1) Growing old is mandatory; growing up is optional.
- 2) Forget the health food. I need all the preservatives I can get.
- 3) When you fall down, you wonder what else you can do while you're down there.
- 4) You're getting old when you get the same sensation from a rocking chair that you once got from a roller coaster.
- 5) It's frustrating when you know all the answers, but nobody bothers to ask you the questions.
- 6) Time may be a great healer, but it's a lousy beautician.

THE FOUR STAGES OF LIFE:

- 1) You believe in Santa Claus.
- 2) You don't believe in Santa Claus.
- 3) You are Santa Claus.
- 4) You look like Santa Claus.

SUCCESS:

At age 4 success is . . . not peeing in your pants.

At age 12 success is . . . having friends.

At age 16 success is . . . having a drivers license.

At age 35 success is . . . having money.

At age 50 success is . . . having money.

At age 70 success is . . . having a drivers license.

At age 75 success is . . . having friends.

At age 80 success is . . . not peeing in your pants.

As a courtesy to OCIPUG members, the memberships up for renewal are published in the Readme.Doc

IS YOUR NAME LISTED BELOW ? DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP.

October 2002

Margaret Morgan
David Yap
Frank Yaeger
Ralph Morgan
William Singleton

December 2002

Henry Trinh
JoAnna Edman
John Goodman
Frank Mastroly
Larry Pearce
Sandi Tierney

January 2003

Leonard Stein
Mike Conway

Febuary 2003

Roger Anderson
Millie Anderson

March 2003

Guy Gum

March 2003

Thomas Fitzsimmons
Murial Fitzsimmons
Charles Schriber

DVD Burners Bypass Format Wars

Sony, LG Electronics rewrite the rules on DVD recording.
Jon L. Jacobi

With the DVD format battle in full swing and no clear winner in sight, manufacturers are hedging their bets by introducing drives that handle more than one standard. One of the most exciting newcomers is Sony's groundbreaking \$349 DRU-500A. Not only does this uber-burner write DVD+RW and +R at 2.4X, it also writes the competing DVD-R and DVD-RW formats. And get this: It does so at 4X and 2X—twice as fast as current dedicated DVD-R and DVD-RW drives. Toss in up to 24X CD-R burning and 10X CD-RW burning, and this is the drive that every fan of rewritable technology will search for this holiday season.

Another contender is the \$499 GMA-4020B from LG Electronics, which writes DVD-R at 2X, DVD-RW at 1X, CD-R at up to 12X, and CD-RW at up to 8X—and also writes DVD-RAM discs at 1X (0.5X with data verify activated). The more popular DVD-RW drives lack this last talent.

The GMA-4020B is a minor boon for people who have DVD-RAM video recorders or use the format for backup, but it offers no relief to average buyers, who are more likely to be concerned with choosing between drives supporting the DVD Forum's DVD-RW/-R standard and models supporting the DVD+RW Alliance's DVD+RW/+R standard. LGE's engineering sample of the GMA-4020B performed flawlessly with every type of media the drive supports, and even surprised us by reading DVD+R and DVD+RW discs. Unfortunately, the tray mechanism won't accept the protective cartridges in which DVD-RAM discs normally reside—you'll have to pop the discs out to use them. LGE says the drive will ship with BHA Software's B's Recorder Gold 5 Basic for mastering, B's Clip for packet writing, and B's DVD for authoring DVD movies, plus a DVD-RAM driver and InterVideo's excellent WinDVD 4 software for DVD movie playback.

Our informal testing of a preproduction Sony DRU-500A was limited by the device's immature software and by the lack of available high-speed 4X DVD-R and 2X DVD-RW media. Still, we confirmed that the drive will write to all four of the DVD formats it claims to support. Sony plans to ship the DRU-500A with Veritas RecordNow for mastering chores, Veritas Simple Backup, Musicmatch Jukebox, Sonic MyDVD 3.5 for movie authoring, Cyberlink PowerDVD for playing DVD movies, and Arcsoft ShowBiz for video editing. Even in its preproduction stage, the LGE model proved to be an exceedingly reliable burner. But the Sony DRU-500A promises to run much faster, cost less, and eliminate the +R versus -R conundrum. Unless you need DVD-RAM support—and assuming the Sony drive stands up under more stringent testing—the DRU-500A is the rewritable DVD drive to buy.

LG Electronics GMA-4020B Preproduction unit, not rated. DVD-RW/-R/-RAM and CD-RW/-R burner offers a well-rounded software bundle and decent, reliable performance. List: \$499
Preproduction unit, not rated. DVD-RW/-R/-RAM and CD-RW/-R burner offers a well-rounded software bundle and decent, reliable performance. List: \$499

DVD Formats at a Glance

DVD-R: A write-once format. Good for archiving data and recording home movie discs; media is relatively inexpensive. Compatible with about 85 percent of drives and players.

DVD+R: A write-once format. Good for archiving data and recording DVD movies. Compatible with about 85 percent of drives and players.

DVD+RW: The DVD+RW Alliance's fast, 1000-times-rewritable format. Excellent for backups; good for movies and DVRs. Compatible with about 65 percent of drives and players.

DVD-RW: The DVD Forum's 1000-times-rewritable format. Suitable for backups,

DVRs, and movies. In most burners it writes at half the speed of DVD+RW. Compatible with about 65 percent of drives and players.

DVD-RAM: The DVD Forum's 100,000-times-rewritable format. Suitable for backups and DVRs; much slower than DVD-RW and DVD+RW. Compatible with far fewer drives and players.

TEXAS TEACHER

A Texas teacher who was helping one of her kindergarten students put on his cowboy boots?



He asked for help and she could see why. Even with her pulling and him pushing, the little boots still didn't want to go on.

Finally, when the second boot was on, she had worked up a sweat. She almost cried when the little boy said, "Teacher, they're on the wrong feet." She looked and sure enough, they were.

It wasn't any easier pulling the boots off than it was putting them on. She managed to keep her cool as together they worked to get the boots back on - this time on the right feet.

He then announced, "These aren't my boots."

She bit her tongue rather than get right in his face and scream, "Why didn't you say so?" like she wanted to. And, once again she struggled to help him pull the ill-fitting boots off his little feet.

No sooner they got the boots off and he said, "They're my brother's boots. My Mom made me wear 'em."

Now she didn't know if she should laugh or cry. But, she mustered up the grace and courage she had left to wrestle the boots on his feet again.

Helping him into his coat, she asked, "Now, where are your mittens?"

He said, "I stuffed 'em in the toes of my boots"

Her trial starts next month.





Windows Media Player: It's a Solid 9

*For XP, new recording and compression algorithms, online functions. Stuart J. Johnston
From the November 2002 issue of PC World magazine*

The next update of Windows Media Player might push you to get Windows XP—especially if you'd like the audiophile-quality music and multichannel movie surround sound available only under Microsoft's latest operating system.

Windows Media Player 9 Series for Windows XP, due by year's end as a free download, supports new Microsoft encoding for 5.1- and 7.1-channel digital recordings, which Microsoft asserts sound superior to standard stereo CDs. Such recordings aren't widely available now, but music labels may offer special editions—for a price, and with copyright protection. Another new encoding algorithm improves compression on standard stereo WMA files. You can burn WMA files to a CD within WMP 9, but you still need a third-party add-on to rip or burn MP3s. A new tag editor simplifies changing file information on downloaded music. WMP 9 can automatically build playlists based on your ratings or even your listening habits. Also new: a cross-fading feature that blends a song into the next, and an autoleveling feature that eliminates sudden volume changes between tunes (usable when burning CDs, too).

Online functions include links to music subscription services—Pressplay in the beta form, with more options in the final version—plus a new Internet radio tuner and media guide. The new Info Center View has album art, artist information, discographies, links, photos, and more. But the player gets the data from an online service that captures your PC's IP address, which could interest music labels seeking to identify potential pirates. Microsoft promises not to release the data, but representatives couldn't say what the company would do if subpoenaed.

Like version 8, WMP 9 supports DVD playback through a third-party decoder supplied with most DVD drives. On PCs with a video output, WMP 9 can even generate interlaced video for display on regular TV sets. A separate edition of WMP 9 without most of these features will run on older versions of Windows, all the way back to Win 98 SE. Regardless of the OS, WMP 9 needs at least a 233-MHz Pentium II PC with 64MB of RAM, 30MB of hard disk space, a CD-ROM or DVD-ROM drive, a sound card, and speakers or headphones.

Win XP Service Pack 1 Ignore at Your Peril

*Microsoft quietly swats big bug.
Scott Spanbauer*

An initial Windows Service Pack provides patches and drivers missing from an initial release, traditionally signaling to businesses that the OS is safe to adopt. But Windows XP SP1 plugs a hole serious enough to make the update essential, even for users who have conscientiously downloaded XP bug fixes.

Microsoft confirms that SP1 fixes the little-known flaw, which proved trivially easy to exploit when tested. It allows files on an XP system to be deleted simply by the user's clicking on a link—which could be distributed by e-mail or on a Web page. XP users having trouble installing SP1 are plugging the hole using a utility from Gibson Research. Future Support Microsoft is looking to the future with SP1. The September release adds support for upcoming services such as those offered by the still-emerging .Net framework—and devices like Windows XP Tablet PC Edition, Windows Powered Smart Displays, and XP Media Center Edition.

Microsoft also makes a small but welcome change to its controversial Windows Product Activation antipiracy technology, which monitors key hardware specifications for changes and locks you out if it sees enough differences to suspect you of having illegally installed your copy of the OS on a second PC. WPA now grants a three-day grace period before you must call a Microsoft rep to assure them you merely have a new motherboard, not a new PC. To satisfy the terms of the November 2001 proposed antitrust suit settlement, Windows XP now lets you hide program icons—including those for some bundled apps dubbed middleware—though you can't remove them entirely. (For example, Microsoft has repeatedly said Internet Explorer can't be removed from Windows.) PC vendors using SP1 could begin selling systems that default to competing Web browsers, media players, and other middleware.

Microsoft also restored support for the Java Virtual Machine (which Microsoft said it had removed from Windows XP because of a Sun Microsystems lawsuit). I found the SP1 installation painless and error-free. To distinguish between the original and updated versions of the OS, check the Control Panel's Add/Remove Programs. In SP1 the applet sports a new 'Set Program Access and Defaults' section where you can specify programs to handle Web browsing, instant messaging, e-mail, media playback, and Java interpretation. You hide apps by deselecting 'Enable access to this program'. In my tests with a shipping copy of SP1, I managed to banish all traces of IE, Outlook Express, Windows Messenger, and Windows Media Player from the Start menu, the desktop, and the taskbar.

The new feature didn't do a great job of finding installed third-party programs, including Netscape and Mozilla browsers and QuickTime and Winamp players, but it didn't prevent them from functioning as default apps when I configured them as such. You can get the 137MB update in its entirety from Microsoft's Windows XP SP1 Web page, or order it on CD-ROM for \$10. All Windows XP users should get it, but if you've been downloading XP fixes all along, the Windows Update function will determine which elements you already have, and send only those you need.

Drinking beer'a good way to ensure healthy bones

By Lorraine Fraser, Medical Correspondent
London Telegraph

A glass of beer a day is one of the best ways in which young women and men can ensure that they have strong and healthy bones, research at a British medical school suggests.

Specialists at King's College and St Thomas's hospital in London have found that an individual's intake of silicon, a mineral absorbed from the soil by plants and most especially by cereals such as wheat and barley, can be directly linked to bone strength.

At the same time they have discovered that beer is one of the richest sources of silicon in the modern diet.

"Silicon is a potentially very important element in bone function and there is no doubt that beer is a very good source of silicon," Jonathan Powell, a senior lecturer in nutrition and honorary senior lecturer in medicine at King's said last night.

"The average intake of silicon is 30mg a day and half a pint of beer will give you 6mg - 20 per cent - of that," he added. "Moreover, not only is beer a relatively high source of silicon in our diet, the amount we absorb from it is more than from other foods."

Scientists reported 30 years ago that chicks deprived of silicon developed bone deformities the element's importance in human bone development has, until now, remained largely unexplored.

Recently, however, Dr Powell and his colleagues demonstrated that silicon stimulates the formation of collagen, the living material that gives bones their framework, strength and flexibility.

Now, in collaboration with specialists at Harvard University and Tufts University in Boston, they have established that there is a "significant positive association" between the density of bone and silicon intake in men and in younger women who have not reached the menopause.

The study measured the density of bones in the hip and spine in more than 1,200 men and 1,500 women and analysed this in relation to the amount of silicon they consumed. The results were presented at a scientific meeting in Brussels last week.

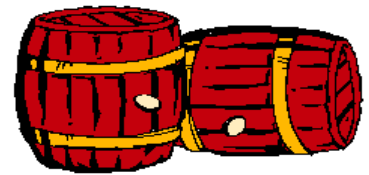
In women beyond the menopause any beneficial effects of higher silicon consumption appeared to be overwhelmed by other physiological effects leading to bone thinning and osteoporosis, Dr Powell said. Nevertheless, silicon intake at an earlier age was likely to be relevant to a woman's health before the menopause and her chances of developing osteoporosis later in life.

"We know," he said, "that a risk factor for osteoporosis or low bone mineral density later in life is one's peak bone density - the amount of bone laid down by around 35 years of age - so ensuring that this is as high as possible, through exercise and good diet, may lessen the extent of problems later."

Martin Hodson, an authority on silicon and cereals who works at Oxford Brookes University, said the finding of high silicon levels in beer "made a lot of sense". Silicon was deposited in large amounts in the bracts (husks) of barley, he said, having first leached into water from the soil and then been taken up by the plant. It would dissolve back into any surrounding fluid during the beer-making process.

Non-alcoholic beer was just as rich in silicon as alcoholic versions and certain mineral waters contain high amounts of silicon, Dr Powell said. Otherwise the best food alternatives are green beans or a bowl of cereal. Silicon, however, was especially well absorbed from fluids. "Beer does appear to be an important source of silicon and may be especially important given that we now receive a lot less silicon in our diet from drinking water," he explained.

"In the past our daily fluid intake of two litres of water would have easily delivered us our 30-40mg of silicon a day. But modern tap water is treated with aluminium which takes the silicon out of the water.



duck tape...

JASC SOFTWARE INC'S PAINT SHOP PRO

By: Karl Wester OCIPUG member

When I first began evaluating Paint Shop Pro 7 I was somewhat skeptical. “How could a software package that costs so little possibly measure up to a package that costs so much?” When I installed Jasc Software Inc’s Paint Shop Pro 7 into my computer I already had Photoshop 6 up and running and I was convinced that this would be a formidable yardstick for Paint Shop Pro 7 to measure up to. To say that I have been pleasantly surprised is to say the least.

Comparing feature for feature was quite time consuming, but definitely worth my while. The most common features of both programs are easy to use; “intuitive” is the word that comes to mind. Among the features that I use most frequently are cropping and re-sizing, followed by sharpening and color balancing. The way that Paint Shop Pro 7 handles these tasks is heads above other editing programs that I have used, the exception being Photoshop 7, and here I feel that it’s a draw.

One of my favorite examples of ease of use in Paint Shop Pro 7 is the zoom feature. This feature is one that I use more frequently than others and it can sometimes be a pain. With Paint Shop Pro 7 it becomes a simple task by clicking on the magnifying glass, left clicking the mouse to zoom in, and right clicking the mouse to zoom out. So far I have found this feature present only in Paint Shop Pro 7. For most other programs, zooming in is easy enough (left click to zoom in), but zooming out generally requires several steps—Photoshop 7, its higher priced competitor is no exception.

Through my research, I discovered that features that I did not compare are some that I have as yet not found a need for. There are some features, I know, that are only available in Photoshop 7. However, in my opinion, only the most advanced digital photographers—pro or amateur—require these features.

My conclusion is that Paint Shop Pro 7 is an excellent buy for the money. I wound up using cost as the measure in comparison because functional differences between the various products were not significant. I feel that it will be along time before the average user can possibly outgrow Paint Shop Pro 7—at least until the next upgrade.



The Changing Face Of The Internet

by Amy Wright

Since the dawn of the Internet domain name system in the mid 1980’s, there have really only been four TLDs (top-level domain names) available to most Internet users. These all too familiar TLDs are .com, .net, .edu and .org. Lately, .edu has been restricted to institutions offering four- year degrees. With such limited choices available, Internet administrators anticipated over- crowding among these four TLDs, and as a result, ICANN (The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) recently approved seven new TLDs, including .biz, .info, .name, .pro, .aero, .coop, and .museum

With all the buzz surrounding these new top-level domain names, many Internet users are left with unanswered questions regarding new Internet address registrations. Below are answers to some of the most frequently asked questions we have received from our clients in connection with the new top-level domain names. We hope this information can help you stay on top of the ever-changing face of the Internet.

WHEN CAN I REGISTER A NEW TLD?

Because there is some uncertainty regarding the impact of these new TLDs, ICANN is going to introduce them gradually. You will be able to register .info as early as this June and .biz as early as this July. Registration of the five other TLDs however, are expected in the near future.

WHO CAN REGISTER .BIZ and .INFO?

Anyone can register .info, as it is an unrestricted TLD, open to any business or person to register for any purpose. However, .biz will be a restricted TLD open only for commercial or business purposes. Also, these new TLDs offer priority provisions for trademark owners. In other words, if the registrant has a trademark interest in the second level portion of the domain name, (the part to the left of the dot, as in NAME.biz) that registrant can protect its trademark interest based on the submission of an IP claim, and can also achieve a priority registration.

CAN I PRE-REGISTER NOW FOR A NEW TLD?

No, there is no official pre-registration available. You will find numerous registries across the Internet offering to pre-register your new TLD, but be careful, many of these registries are not legitimate. First, keep in mind that registration does not officially begin until June for .info addresses and July for .biz addresses. Secondly, many of the registries advertising over the Internet are not accredited by ICANN. There are over 170 companies accredited by ICANN to register new top-level domain names and a complete list can be found at <http://www.icann.org/registrars/accredited-list.html>

HOW DO I REGISTER A NEW .BIZ TLD?

This is the three-step process developed by NEULEVEL, the official registry for .biz TLDs:

. Intellectual Property Claim Service. Beginning in late May through the beginning of July, NeuLevel will offer a fee-based service for businesses to submit trademark claims before the application process is opened. Under this service, domain-name applicants will be notified of a trademark owner’s claim when they submit an application for a claimed name and, if they decide to go ahead with the registration, the business submitting the claim will be notified of the registration and will be given a window of opportunity to challenge the registration using an administrative dispute resolution procedure.

Domain Name Application and Selection. Beginning in July through late September, NeuLevel will open the application process for businesses. Businesses will submit their applications through registrars; these applications will be randomly selected in batches and awarded. Businesses can submit an unlimited number of applications but there will be a \$2.00 fee for each application for a .biz name.

.biz Begins Operations. In October, .biz names that have been awarded will become operational. NeuLevel will use a Restriction Dispute Resolution Process (RDRP) similar to the ICANN UDRP process to resolve challenges related to the business-only restricted nature of the registry.

HOW DO I REGISTER A NEW .INFO TLD?

This is the three-step registration process developed by AFILIAS, the official registry for .info TLDs: . Sunrise Period. Beginning in late June and ending in late July, Afiliat will offer a 30 day "sunrise" period during which anyone with a registered national trademark can apply through a registrar for a .info domain name corresponding to the trademark. Trademark data will be provided at the time of application and the term of the domain name registration will be for at least 5 years. To assure fair and equal access during the sunrise period, registrars will first collect applications and deliver them to Afiliat. Afiliat will then implement a multi-round batch processing system in which it will randomly select applications from each registrar's batch. The World Intellectual Property Association (WIPO) will administer a challenge procedure through which any third party may challenge these sunrise period registrations to ensure that they comply with the applicable requirements. This challenge process will be available for approximately 120 days after Afiliat begins accepting applications for .info domain names from the general public, ending in November.

. Domain Name Application and Registration. Within 15 days after the conclusion of the sunrise period, Afiliat will begin accepting applications for .info domain names from the general public. To ensure that ordinary Internet users have an equal chance to register names during the initial launch phase, .info names will be registered using a multi-round batch process similar to the one used for sunrise period applications. Using this process, Afiliat will randomly select applications from batches submitted by each registrar. This process is an alternative to a pure first-come-first-served system which could operate to the unfair advantage of those with mechanized registration scripts. This batch process will last approximately three weeks, after which Afiliat will process applications on a real-time basis.

.info Begins Operations. Names awarded during the sunrise period will become operational one week after the beginning of the general application and registration process. The remainder of the awarded .info names will become operational promptly after Afiliat processes them.

CAN I REGISTER MULTIPLE TLDs?

Yes. Unlike many other country TLDs, there is no restriction placed on how many TLDs one is able to register

HOW MUCH WILL THIS COST?

Costs will vary based on registrar used and on the services provided by that registrar. It is expected that retail pricing for both .biz and .info names should be comparable to existing TLDs .com, .org and .net. One thing to remember with the .info names is that a five year commitment is required, so expect to pay more than the average one year fee for your .info top-level domainname registration.

APCUG Internet Committee

Maxtor's OneTouch Backup Hard Drive



The 120GB 5000DV lets you back up a partition by pressing a button on the front panel.

Jon L. Jacobi

Maxtor's 5000DV external hard drive—120GB with a dual FireWire/USB 2.0 interface—is fast, vast, and built to last, but the drive's unique OneTouch backup feature is what intrigued us. Press a button on the front of the 5000DV, and the unit backs up your favorite partition without further bother.

The button sends a command down the interface cable to open a special version of the Retrospect Backup Express program. Retrospect automatically executes an internal script, backing up a partition (or volume, as Retrospect calls it) that you select during the first run; then it quits. The program is easy to set up and convenient to use on the fly, and it lets you schedule backups, too.

Notice that we said "partition," not "system." As configured, OneTouch is limited to backing up one partition to the 5000DV in its volume copy mode—a straight transfer of files without compressing or otherwise altering them. You can fairly easily create a new script to use

Retrospect's backup mode, which will back up multiple partitions or your entire system. But if you do, everything will then be compressed into one large file, and you'll have to use Retrospect to restore the individual partitions, which is a bit of a drag. Priced at \$300, the unit performed well in informal tests. Our only complaints are minor: The 5000DV runs a bit warm, and it lacks a power switch. Maxtor's easy-to-use 5000DV, with OneTouch backup.



AMD Unveils Groundbreaking Platform Design For Its Next Generation Microprocessors



The AMD-8000 series of chipsets to provide evolutionary building blocks for future computing platforms

AMD-8000 series of chipsets, which in conjunction with AMD's next generation processor architecture codenamed "Hammer" is expected to provide a groundbreaking advancement to dramatically improve the overall performance of future computing platforms.

The AMD-8000 series of chipsets is designed to be flexible and modular in order to deliver building blocks for PC manufacturers to produce advanced, high-performance desktop and mobile PCs, servers, and workstations. The chipsets will incorporate HyperTransport technology, which helps to diminish system bottlenecks, enable better efficiency, and increase throughput to improve overall system performance.

"We believe the AMD-8000 series of chipsets will represent a major breakthrough in system chipset design, and will fundamentally alter the way computers are made in the future," said Ed Ellett, vice president of Marketing for AMD's Computation Products Group. "To meet the high-bandwidth demands of current and future graphics and other I/O devices, computer architecture will need to evolve from the existing platform infrastructure. These chipsets are designed to be compatible with today's hardware components, and allow for a seamless transition to tomorrow's far more advanced, higher performance platforms."

When introduced, the AMD-8000 series of chipsets will include the AMD-8111 HyperTransport I/O hub, the AMD-8131 HyperTransport PCI-X tunnel, and the AMD-8151 HyperTransport AGP3.0 graphics tunnel. These chipsets for the "Hammer" processors are planned to be available in the fourth quarter of 2002, and are designed to provide the basis for AMD processor-based systems to serve the PC, workstation, and server markets.

The AMD-8000 series of chipsets is another example of AMD driving beneficial new technologies into the market. Chipset vendors Ali, SiS, NVIDIA, and VIA are also working closely with AMD, and are expected to design and produce chipsets for AMD's "Hammer" processor.

About "Hammer" Processor Architecture Industry leaders understand the need to anticipate and plan for future computing needs while meeting today's challenges. The "Hammer" processor architecture is designed to provide unparalleled PC performance on 32-bit applications while allowing a migration path to 64-bit applications. The "Hammer" architecture is designed to allow a seamless execution of both 32-bit and 64-bit code and allows applications to meet the need for memory-intensive programs. The "Hammer" family of microprocessors features a high-performance integrated memory controller and a high-speed scalable system bus using HyperTransport technology.

About AMD's x86-64 Technology

AMD's straightforward approach to 64-bit computing builds upon the x86 instruction set, one of the industry's most proven and widely supported technologies. AMD's x86-64 technology is designed to support applications that address large amounts of physical and virtual memory, such as high performance servers, database management systems, and CAD tools.

The x86-64 technology seamlessly integrates into the current computing and support environment, and is designed to enable enterprises to deploy high performance 64-bit capable systems that build upon the billions of dollars already invested in 32-bit software.

About HyperTransport Technology

HyperTransport technology is a high-speed, high-performance, point-to-point link for integrated circuits, and is designed to meet the bandwidth needs of tomorrow's computing and communications platforms. HyperTransport technology helps reduce the number of buses while providing a high-performance link for PCs, workstations, and servers, as well as numerous embedded applications and highly scalable multiprocessing systems. It is designed to allow chips inside of PCs, networking and communications devices to communicate with each other up to 48 times faster than with some existing bus technologies.

About AMD

AMD is a global supplier of integrated circuits for the personal and networked computer and communications markets with manufacturing facilities in the United States, Europe, Japan, and Asia. AMD, a Fortune 500 and Standard & Poor's 500 company, produces microprocessors, flash memory devices, and support circuitry for communications and networking applications. Founded in 1969 and based in Sunnyvale, California, AMD had revenues of \$3.9 billion in 2001. (NYSE: AMD).

President's Message

Hello everyone. I am anxious to get to the APCUG meeting in Las Vegas and find out what's new at Comdex. I wish more of you had signed up not only for learning new things and getting new software but for the comradeship and real fun. At any rate those of us who are going will bring back lots of new and goodies to enthral you. We have a good program for you this meeting from AMD and Gigabyte.

At our December 21 General Meeting we will have reports from Comdex and a Christmas Potluck lunch. We will have sign up sheet at our November meeting for what you would like to bring. Think about what you would bring. we will have a sign up list at our November meeting.

Len





OCIPUG

Orange Coast IBM PC User Group

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Meetings Location

Costa Mesa Senior Center
Southeast Corner of 19th and Pomona

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Publication Deadline

Material for the **December** issue must be received on or before **November 29, 2002**
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 949-645-7681
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.

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