

Orange Coast IBM PC User Group

README.DOC

April 2002

Newsletter

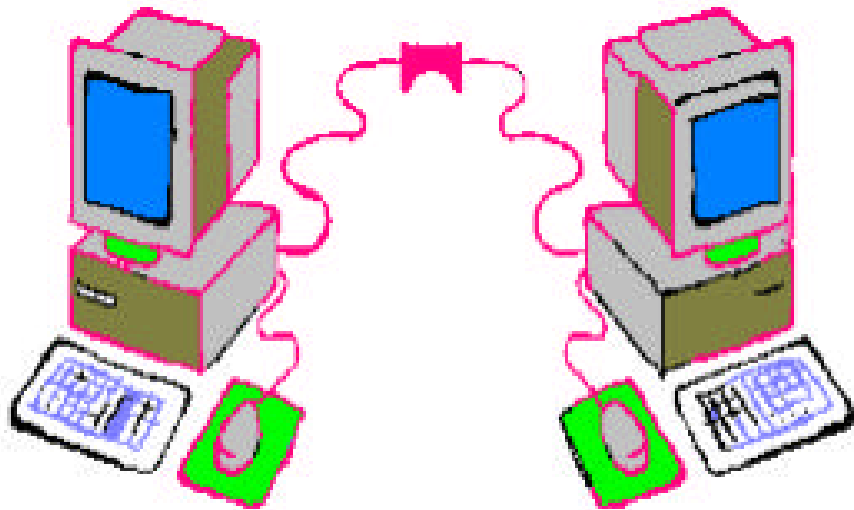
Volume 18.4

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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April 27, 2002 General Meeting



NETWORKING AT HOME



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

*See mailing label
for membership
expiration date.*

General Meetings are held from 9:00AM to noon on:
27 April 2002
18 May 2002
29 June 2002
28 July 2002
24 August 2002
 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:
29 April 2002
20 May 2002
24 June 2002
30 July 2002
29 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
2nd Wednesday 7:00 PM - Windows XP
3rd Tuesday 7:00 PM - Window 98
4th Tuesday 7:00 PM - Digital Photo

President's Message

Robert Walker

Welcome to our new member **Eugena Frerecks** who is a Realtor. Are you in the market to buy or sell your home or business give her a call. If you have not paid your membership dues check you membership badge for the date and send our check to our PO box number. I encourage you can go to the User Group Conference in August in San Diego.---

WHAT IS A USER GROUP CONFERENCE ?

The 9th Annual Southwest User Group Conference will be held from Friday evening, August 9 through Sunday, August 11 at the Hilton Hotel-Mission Valley in San Diego, CA. Activities will include: workshops on Saturday and Sunday; vendor-sponsored presentations & meals; a Vendor Faire; numerous prize drawings; as well as up close and personal time with participating vendors. In addition, attendees will receive a T-shirt and Welcome Bag. Attendees will have an opportunity to interface with user group leaders having similar interests to share ideas and experiences, as well as solutions to problems. The conference began with 45 attendees and has grown to over 240 in 2001, representing 52 user groups from California, Arizona, New Mexico & Florida.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEE - \$40.00 Includes: Admittance to all Workshops & Vendor Fair, 6 Meals ,T-shirt and Welcome Bag . Registration deadlines are *July 19 - \$40.00 August 2 - \$50.00 August 3 through start of conference - \$60.00 For registration info, www.apcug.org

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March General Meeting

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (SIG) MEETINGS

(All Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings are held at the Costa Mesa Senior Center on the southeast corner of 19th and Pomona at the times noted below.) The next SIG meeting will be:

1 May 2002

Internet / Web Publishing

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

4 May 2002

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

7 May 2002

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

14 May 2002

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

15 May 2002

WindowsXP - 2nd Wednesday 7:00 PM
Ed Leckliter elekliter@adelphia.net

21 May 2002

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

28 May 2002

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

May 26, 3002

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



March 30, 2002, with 30 members and 2 guests present.

Ed Leckliter conducted a very informative Random Access Session. The main topic discussed was modem and associated driver problems experienced by one member. It was recommended that the member first check the driver by going to Start-Settings-Control Panel-Modem and see if the modem is recognized. One can also go to the device manager tab under Control Panel-System and see if the driver is operating properly. If all else fails, sometimes the best solution is to uninstall the driver and then reinstall it.

A question was raised about USB 2.0 which is now coming into use. It is faster than firewire (IEEE 1394 or iLink), but requires that a card be installed in the computer.

Webmaster Michael Moore reported that the link in his e-mail for the March Readme.doc did not work. However, one can access it by copying the URL to the address box. Michael also brought several computer magazines as giveaways.

President Bob Walker then started the General meeting by announcing that we now have most of our SIGs on Tuesday evenings. The Quicken SIG is on the 1st Tuesday and covers basic program operation, while the Internet SIG is now on the 1st Wednesday of each month. We will be starting the Windows XP SIG hosted by Ed Leckliter on the 2nd Wednesday of the month effective April 10, 2002. This first SIG will cover program installation and the differences between the Home and Professional versions. The next hardware SIG (2nd Tuesday, April 9) will cover motherboards and RAM. Again, members are invited to bring hardware if you are having problems or need assistance in installing new components. There are as yet no firm plans for either the Windows 98 or Digital Photography SIGS, although President Bob Walker did announce that Adobe Photoshop Elements has been installed on the club computer.

Mike Conway has assumed chairmanship of the election nominating committee, members of which include Kevin Moser and Michael Moore. As noted in the minutes of the February board meeting, 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. Contact Mike any committee member if you are interested in running for office. See the minutes of the March 25, 2002, BOD meeting for more details on the election.

The next Southwest Regional User Groups (SWUG) Conference will be held Friday, August 9 through Sunday, August 11 at the San Diego Mission Valley Hilton Hotel. Registration fee is \$40 if paid before June. Attendees will get free meals as well as attend very informative vendor presentations and workshops. For more details visit the SWUG website at www.swugconf.org.

Secretary Frank Mastroly reported on the status of the SeniorNet classes, which will start on Monday, April 1, 2002. So far the E-Mail and Windows 98 Part I classes are full, but there are openings for the Introduction to Computers, Internet, and Digital Photography classes. Anyone interested in either taking a class or joining the SeniorNet team can see Frank or Dan Dickinson for more information.

President Bob Walker then concluded his opening remarks by introducing our new member Eugenia Frericks and announcing that we would be having our raffle after the meeting.

The next portion of the meeting was additional 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 this meeting, the following presentations were shown:

* Office XP by Parri Munsell - The main difference between Office XP and Office 2000 appears to be the addition of Smart Tags that facilitate the exchange of information between the various office components. Also, you can add optional menu bars along the sides of the workspace. For more details go to www.microsoft.com/office.

* Front Page 2002 by Jacob Jaffe - The main differences from Front Page 2000 are the addition of an optional menu bar on the right hand side of the workspace and an icon bar on the left. Also, it is possible to add "live" links to MSNBC so that the user will always see updated information. Share Point (an integral component) allows integration with announcements and event schedules in Outlook XP.

* Picture It! By Jaynie Degnan - One feature that seems to be different from other photo editing programs is the ability to adjust the orientation and contrast of sever photos at once rather than individually. Also, the program integrates with MSN Photo for publishing photosets on the web.

* Hardware by Adam Leader, Melinda Graetz, and Christy Hughes - Three devices were demonstrated, namely: a TV photo viewer that allows you to put up to 40 images on a single 3-1/2 inch diskette; various optical (both wireless and hard wired) mice, with the wireless versions having power saving devices which sense if the mouse is in use; and the Office Keyboard which has cut-copy-paste and parentheses keys, hot keys for Word Excel and other applications, and dual function "F" keys. Although nominally designed with Office XP in mind, the Office Keyboard also supports Office 97 and Office 2000, as well as other office suites. For more details on these and other Microsoft hardware products, go to the Microsoft home page, click on the All Products menu tab, select Product Catalog, and then Hardware in the left pane of the resulting web page.

The second presentation was a video on QuickKeys (pronounced quickies) which provides various automated tools to allow the user to launch applications and open specific documents with a single keystroke. The program allows customized toolbars that include buttons to visit a web site of your choice, reformat your E-mail text, or almost anything else you can think of. Per the vendor literature, there is no programming language to learn and it puts the user in full control. For more information, see the vendor website at www.cesoft.com, select Products from the menu buttons and then and follow the links to QuickKeys.

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

- * Folder - Chris Davidson
- * ProTool PC Tool Kit, Mini Flashlight, and CD Holder - Michael Moore
- * Web Easy Millennium - Frank Mastroly
- * God Bless America CD and Magnetic Organizer — Bob Strader
- * Mac Lite - Red Davidson
- * Web Easy - Rocky Ford
- * Regional Street Guide - Eugenia Frericks

The next General meeting will be on April 27, 2002, with a presentation on setting up networks as the main topic

Windows book from SAMS

Teach Yourself Microsoft Windows XP in 21 days

by John Paul Mueller, SAMS, 746 pages,
\$39.99, ISBN: 0-672-32263-3

This is an easy to read tutorial on Windows XP. Each of the chapters represents a one day "class" with quizzes and exercises at the end for "homework" (answers are provided.). Although a tutorial is normally intended to be read from start to finish, I found this book could be used equally well as a reference book. You can look up a topic that interests you in any chapter without reading the chapters that precede it. The table of contents and index are detailed making it relatively easy to find any topic.

As a tutorial, this book focuses on how to do things in a Windows XP environment. The first chapter, which introduces XP, and the second chapter on installing and configuring XP answer lots of questions that someone thinking about upgrading to XP should ask. Differences between the Home and Professional editions of XP are delineated. If you decide on the upgrade, there are step-by-step instructions for doing installations. The chapter on the XP interface covers the visual differences between this version of Windows and its predecessors with a good description of how to use (or disable) the new features.

The chapters on "Getting Online" and "Using Outlook Express" cover how to setup your Internet and e-mail accounts in XP and have good tips on using Internet Explorer 6 and Outlook Express 6 that ship with XP. The emphasis is not on how XP works but how you can do useful things with XP.

The accessory programs that are included with XP are described including how to send and receive FAXes. While FAX support was part of Windows 95, it was not an option in Windows 98 installation or setup menus. In XP, support has been restored. New support for scanners, digital cameras, burning CDs and making movies is described but in little detail.

SEE YOU AT THE COMPUTER SHOW

April 6-7 **COSTA MESA**
Orange County Fairgrounds

April 13-14 **POMONA**
Fairplex Expo Complex LA Fairgrounds

April 27-28 **SANTA MONICA**
Santa Monica Civic Center Auditorium

May 4-5 **POMONA**
Fairplex Expo Complex LA Fairgrounds

May 11-12 **BURBANK**
Hiltion Burbank Airport and Convention Center

May 18-19 **COSTA MESA**
Orange County Fairgrounds

To Delete or Not to Delete?

PCWorld.com - Answer Line

I identify files you can delete without regret, stamp out browser pop-ups. *Lincoln Spector* From PC World magazine

I need to make room on my hard drive. What files can I safely delete?

I can't tell you exactly what files you can safely delete—it's a matter of judgment. But I can give you some general guidelines and advice. When in doubt, move or compress the file rather than delete it. If you move files you think you don't need to a CD-RW disc or other removable media, or compress them in a .zip file, you'll soon know whether you were wrong about their expendability. If you haven't opened them after two months, delete them.

The chart lists files that you can probably delete safely, along with the folder you'll find them in. Note: In many cases, the files named are safe to delete only if they reside in the specified folders.

File Type	Location	Include Subfolders	Comments
*....	C:	Yes	Backup files created by Windows.
.	C:\Windows\temp	No	You can remove any file within this folder that is more than a day old.
*.bak	C:	Yes	Backup files from various applications
*.bmp	C:\Windows	No	Wallpaper files. Don't delete the ones you use.
*.chk	C:\	No	Files created by ScanDisk and its predecessor, Chkdsk
*.jog	C:	Yes	Log files created by various programs.
*.old	C:	Yes	Old versions of files that have been replaced by newer versions.
*.prv	C:	No	Log files created by Windows boot-ups.
*.tmp	C:	Yes	Temporary files from various applications.
*.wbk	C:	Yes	Work backup files.
~.doc	C:	Yes	Temporary Word files: not needed after the document is created

Start your search for deletable files in Windows Explorer. Right-click one of the folders listed in the chart's 'Location' column, and select Find (or Search in Windows Me/2000). In the Find (or Search Results) dialog box's Named field, enter the text that the chart's 'File type' column lists for that folder. If the 'Include subfolders' column in the chart says 'Yes', confirm that the 'Include subfolders' option is selected in the Find dialog box (in Windows Me and 2000, check Advanced Options and make sure Search Subfolders is checked). Click Find Now (Search Now in Windows Me/2000). Maximize the search window so it fills your screen.

When the search is done, click the Modified column heading to sort the files found by date. You can delete every file that's more than two days old. You could also use Windows' own Disk Cleanup accessory to delete unneeded files. (Select Start, Programs, Accessories, System Tools, Disk Cleanup.) McAfee's QuickClean (demo available in our Downloads library), the CleanSweep utility in Norton SystemWorks, and similar programs do a more thorough job, but they require more work (and more money).

Do I Need Windows XP?

by George Skarbek

In my opinion Windows XP is a very solid operating system with some worthwhile improvements over Windows 9x. Any new computer purchased should definitely have Windows XP. However, if your current system is stable and not shared with other users, you probably do not need to upgrade.

There is always a lot of discussion about the merits of an operating system and I would suggest the operating system is not all that important to the average user. It is the application programs, such as word processing, financial record management, image manipulation, games, etc that are more important to most.

Before deciding to purchase the upgrade you must ask yourself what features this upgraded operating system will give you that you don't have now, what facilities you will lose, and then decide.

I think very few people will really need to upgrade their existing operating system, although clearly many will want to have it just because it is new and seems to offer new features. To answer the upgrade question you must ask yourself how much of your time is spent using application programs such a word processor, spreadsheet or game, and how much of your time is spent in using the operating system and the utility programs that come with it. Then ask yourself what new upgrades in Windows XP are essential, and endeavour to determine beforehand whether any of your existing programs will fail to run.

Unlike the huge change from Windows 3.1 to Windows 95, this is a smaller, although still significant upgrade. There are a number of advantages in Windows XP over Windows 98 and some of the more important are listed below.

However, I am not convinced it's worth the \$200 or more to upgrade from Windows 9x if you have a stable

Improvements

In my opinion the following points are the most important improvements:

- * The main advantage is the improvement in stability over Windows 9x. Windows XP is based on the industrial-strength NT operating system, which became Windows 2000.

- * Most applications, including Microsoft Office, will run faster than they do on Windows 9x. Switching between users who share



Figure 1. Typical Windows XP screen

the one computer is much easier. Each user can keep his/her own desktop settings.

* It supports an improved file system, NTFS. This has many advantages over the FAT system such as:

- slightly better space utilisation for large disks
- automatic compression for individual files or folders
- offers good security and will prevent others from viewing the contents of your “My Documents” folder when they are using Windows Explorer or even trying to access that folder from DOS. See Figure 2.
- Can implement disk quotas for individual users and prevent your children or other users from filling the hard disk by copying many CD-ROMs onto it. In this aspect nobody will be able to accuse Microsoft of not thinking ahead with the address space. In their earlier days they never imagined that anyone would ever need more than 640 KB (0.6 MB) of memory and the early operating systems were design limited. You can specify the disk quota in KB, MB, GB, TB, PB and EB. For those of you who are not familiar with the prefixes after Tera, one Petabyte is one million Gigabytes, an Etabyte is one thousand Petabytes and you can put in a 12 digit number for the number of Petabytes that you wish to constrain a user’s space on your hard disk. My guess is that the current limit is more than all the combined hard disk capacity on the globe. See Figure 3.
- Extensive multimedia support. You can view images as thumbnails from Explorer, load images directly from a digital camera without needing other software. XP can automatically resize your photos for e-mailing. It also has native support for writing CDs. Updated media player with DVD support.
- Remote Assistance where another user can log into your computer and take it over in order to fix some problems.
- Built-in firewall to prevent a human hacker from accessing your computer. Note: this is not an anti-virus product.
- Some rollback capability and System Restore options. For example, if you have installed incorrect video drivers you can roll back to the prior versions, or if a virus has infected some critical Windows files that cannot be cleaned, such as Kernel32.exe then this file can be deleted and it will be automatically restored by the operating system.
- The same performance analysis program that the NT Servers use. This will help experienced users to isolate bottlenecks that may cause performance degradation.
- ClearType font-smoothing technology to improve LCD displays as well as improving the CRT display.
- Built-in support for Zip files

Disadvantages

The main disadvantages are that it needs a lot of resources, some programs and hardware will not run and it needs to be activated. Registration is optional.

- Realistically you must have 128 MB RAM but 256 would be better if switching between users.
- You must have well over 1 GB of free disk space for the



Figure 2. User security settings

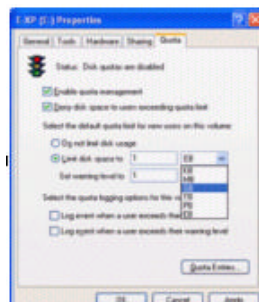


Figure 3. Allocating disk space

upgrade, a realistic minimum should be 2 GB so that you still have some free space on the hard disk after the upgrade.

- A moderately fast computer is needed. At the very least you must have a 300 MHz CPU but preferably faster.
- Windows XP is protected and must be activated otherwise it will cease working after 30 days. Therefore you cannot load the same CD onto two computers. Extensive subsequent hardware changes will force a re-activation.
- You cannot upgrade from Windows 95 as it must be upgraded Windows 98 or later. This adds to the cost for Windows 95 users because you must use the full, not upgrade version that costs about \$450. However, in most cases the existing hardware is likely to be inadequate for running XP and I suggest you put that money towards purchasing a new computer with XP preloaded.
- In case of problems if you have to reinstall Windows XP, all your settings as well as most of your programs, such as Microsoft Office and data, will be lost. With prior versions of Windows a reinstallation preserved all your settings and data. With my experimenting I must have inadvertently deleted or modified a file that was necessary to start Windows. Booting from the boot floppy and selecting the repair option from the XP CD I was unable to fix the problem and had to do a reinstallation. There was a warning that should I proceed, the existing configuration and even user data may be lost. As I had no option but to proceed, Windows was reinstalled but most of my other programs, including my Office XP were gone, as were most of my word processing documents and other user data. Since they were backups, this was not a big problem, but I very strongly recommend that users keep a current set of backups.
- Another disadvantage is that some older DOS programs may not run, especially some old DOS games.
- Although native support for digital cameras initially seems attractive, in practice this will be of real benefit only if you purchase a second-hand digital camera and do not receive the software. If you have an existing camera and ask XP to be the default software for it, it will disable your existing software and in all probability this will not have as many features as the camera manufacturer’s software. Reinstating the original software will take a moderate amount of skill.
- Old hardware such as old flatbed scanners using the parallel port interface may not be recognised or supported by Windows XP.
- Safe Mode does not support a serial mouse, only a USB mouse.
- NTFS partitions or drives cannot be read by Windows 9x if you have a dual-boot system or if you boot from a Windows 9x floppy.
- Finally you will have some learning to do as the interface and some programs have moved or are called by a different name. For example, SCANDISK cannot be found from the Programs and Accessories menus and there is no reference to it in Help. In XP it is now called Error-checking. To run SCANDISK click on Start|My Computer, right-click on the drive, select Properties|Tools|Error-checking. X P Home Edition and XP Pro have the same core. Their main differences are that the Pro version has more features. The home version does not have the following:
 - Cannot support dual processors; that is, you can have only one CPU
 - No file or folder encryption facility
 - Cannot restrict access to specified programs or other resources except for the user’s “My Documents” folder
 - No support for many related network features that are of no real use anyway for most home users. It doesn’t have features such as centralised administration and roaming profiles. The num-

ber of simultaneous users connecting via a LAN is restricted to five. NetBEUI must be manually installed requiring some networking skills. In most cases those features will be of no real use to the average home user and there is no need to even consider the XP Pro version.

So Finally, Should You Upgrade?

- If your existing computer is stable, and if none of the above points are important in your case, then there should be no real need to upgrade. There will be virtually no software appearing in the near future that will run only on Windows XP and not on Windows 98. Remember the saying: "If it ain't broke, don't fix it."
- There is no real reason to upgrade from Windows 2000 as it already has almost all of XP's features.
- If your computer has adequate resources but you are having frequent crashes, then the price of the upgrade should be worth it - the operating system core is much more stable.
- If you are sharing your computer with others and need to keep private documents or wish to limit the disk usage of other users, or are sick of the desktop and your icons being altered, then you might consider an upgrade. However, if anyone is purchasing a new computer, I would strongly recommend that you specify Windows XP on that computer and not Windows 98 or ME as this is a very solid operating system.

One final point: Before starting the upgrade I would recommend that you back up the files that are important to you, just in case. These would include your financial records, word processing documents, Internet favourites, address book etc. Some readers have experienced difficulties during the upgrade, although the majority of users will upgrade without problems.

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

Statistically Speaking

Number of physicians in the US: 700,000.
Accidental deaths caused by physicians per year: 120,000.
Accidental deaths per physician: 0.171
(U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services)

Number of gun owners in the US: 80,000,000.
Number of accidental gun deaths per year (all age groups): 1,500.
Accidental deaths per gun owner: 0.0000188

Statistically, doctors are approximately 9,000 times more dangerous than gun owners!

FACT: Not everyone has a gun, but nearly everyone has at least one Doctor.

Please alert your friends to this alarming threat. We must ban doctors before this gets out of hand.

As a Public Health Measure, we have withheld the statistics on lawyers for fear that the shock might cause people to seek Medical Attention.....

The Return of Copy Protection

by Roland J. Cole

Some of you, regardless of age, have been around long enough to remember all the schemes that were used to prevent a user from making copies of software. The "key disk" (a floppy with a few sectors altered in a special way) and the "dongle" (a small device that fit on your serial port) are just two of the schemes. All of them were relatively easy to break. Even before the Internet, swap meets and computer bulletin boards quickly brought out various schemes for getting around the protection. In addition, all got in the way of legitimate use, like backups and reinstallation after a computer crash.

So...a group of personal computer user groups, led by Capitol PC and the Boston Computer Society, among others, persuaded major vendors, including the stand-alone Lotus at that time, that copy protection was costing more than it was worth. It did not stop the evildoer, and it did get in the way of the honest user.

There was not much concern about copying music, because the copies (reel-to-reel tape, even cassettes) were so inferior to the originals that they were not a threat. Now fast forward 20 years (or so - ouch!). One can make copies of music that are almost or entirely indistinguishable from the originals, and the software industry has collapsed into a few giants and thousands of tiny firms.

The cost benefit ratio of copy protection has swung back the other way. The major firms appear less worried about annoying the users (think of the "prove you are honest" letters being sent to businesses around the country concerning computer software, and the reluctance of the music firms to work with any sort of reasonable online distribution), and the copies are easier to make, higher in quality, and easier to spread around the world. The most notable of re-emergence in the computer arena is the "product activation" built into two new Microsoft products - Office XP and Windows XP. That has been covered extensively in the computer press. Next is the copy protection that music companies are building into some of the music CD's. Of course, there is also the "serial copy management system" required by the Audio Home Recording Act (discussed in an earlier version of this column) and the Digital Millennium Copyright Act protection for copyright management information (also discussed in an earlier column).

Now there is the possibility of the most intrusive form yet. It has been said that "no one's life, liberty or property is safe while the legislature is in session." As if to prove the truth of that saying, Senator Fritz Hollings of South Carolina has introduced a bill called the Security Systems Standards and Classification Act (SSSCA). The essence of the act appears in Section 101 (a) "IN GENERAL - It is unlawful to manufacture, import, offer to the public, provide or otherwise traffic in any interactive digital device that does not include and utilize certified security technologies that adhere to the security system standards adopted under Section 104."

There is an exception for devices existing at the time the bill is passed (i.e., your existing hard drive, CD recorder, etc.), and the Secretary of Commerce may create other exceptions viaregulation. But everything else is included. Note the definition of a device that must include AND UTILIZE a certified

RETIREMENT IN A TRAILER PARK THROUGH THE EYES OF A CHILD

security technology in Section 109(3):

“(3) INTERACTIVE DIGITAL DEVICE - The term “interactive digital device” means any machine, device, product, software, or technology, whether or not included with or as part of some other machine, device, product, software, or technology, that is designed, marketed, or used for the primary purpose of, and that is capable of, storing, retrieving, processing, performing, transmitting, receiving, or copying information in digital form.”

Most commentators suggest this not only includes hard drives, CD recorders, and other obvious “copying” devices, but also all software programs of any sort, all music of any sort, and a whole array of miscellaneous devices such as digital thermometers, digital clocks, medical devices and the like. Some are worried that if a bill like this passes, it would mean that the open source software movement would be illegal, unless each submitted program included and used some form of security technology. Others are worried that the prohibition on removing or altering the security technology involved will hinder research on software and recording technologies. Others are worried that the prohibition on transmitting or making available the “copyrighted material OR OTHER PROTECTED CONTENT” that a certified technology was protecting will extend protection all sorts of material, such as public domain works, public works, pure facts, and the like that were exempt from copyright in the past - thus extending the copyright act way beyond its current status, all in the guise of protecting music. Some comment that the bill reminds one of the teacher that keeps the entire class in for recess because 2 of the 30 students were fighting over chewing gum.

Finally, the widespread deployment of security technology would enable all kinds of control that are not possible now. As a number of commentators have mentioned in regard to Microsoft’s product activation, why should Microsoft control how much of your computer has to remain the same before the software can be re-installed on it? What if widespread security technology were employed to screen out “undesirable” musicians or “undesirable” software companies (such as those involved with open source software)? The bill has a long way to go before it, or anything like it is adapted, and Microsoft is already back-pedaling a bit on how it will employ its product activation. But those of us who remember all the hassles of copy protection, and all the joys of freeware, shareware, open source software, and being able to upgrade our own machines at will (even if we have a purchased license for each and every program we run), should brace for another vigorous debate on how “personal” a personal computer will remain if widespread copy protection returns.

The Bytes of Law series is edited by Rollie Cole, the Legal Editor for Indy PC News, with help from various of his associates at the law firm of Barnes & Thornburg. Rollie hastens to add that this is NOT legal advice (your mileage may vary). For further information, contact him at rcole@btlaw.com

After a spring break, a teacher asked her young pupils how they spent the holidays. One child wrote the following:

We always used to spend the holidays with Grandma and Grandpa. They used to live here in a big brick house, but Grandpa got retarded and they moved to Arizona.

Now they live in a place with a lot of other retarded people. They live in a tin box and have rocks painted green to look like grass. They ride around on big tricycles and wear name tags because they don’t know who they are anymore.

They go to a building called a wrecked center, but they must have got it fixed, because it is all right now. They play games and do exercises there but they don’t do them very well. There is a swimming pool too, but they all jump up and down in it with their hats on. I guess they don’t know how to swim.

At their gate, there is a doll house with a little old man sitting in it. He watches all day so nobody can escape. Sometimes they sneak out. Then they go cruising in their golf carts.

My Grandma used to bake cookies and stuff, but I guess she forgot how. Nobody there cooks, they just eat out. And they eat the same thing every night, “Early Birds”. Some of the people can’t get past the man in the doll house to go out. So the ones who do get out bring food back to the wrecked center and call it pot luck.

My Grandma says Grandpa’s worked all his life to earn his retardment and says I should work hard so I can be retarded some day too.

When I earn my retardment I want to be the man in the doll house. Then I will let people out so they can visit their grandchildren.

Secretary Frank Mastroly sent this in to remind all of us to take a break from our computers and stretch our legs now and again.



Bugs and Fixes:

PCWorld.com

D'oh! More Holes in Internet Explorer

Fix the latest problems with IE, Quicken, and BlackICE Defender. From the May 2002 issue of PC World magazine

I know that I'm repeating myself: It's time to plug holes in Internet Explorer. Microsoft recently put out a new, cumulative patch that fixes a bunch of known security holes, along with six—count 'em, six—new ones. The company released another cumulative patch only two months ago, but since then, bug sleuths have exposed new weak spots. This latest release includes the previous cumulative patch, and also takes care of new holes in IE 5.01, 5.5, and 6.0. (The earlier patch did not fix holes in IE 5.01; see my March 2002 column for details about that first release.)

Two of IE's latest flaws are particularly worrisome. The most dangerous hole allows an attacker to take advantage of a so-called buffer overrun error—a common avenue of attack. The buffer is the place where your browser briefly stores information until it's needed. Think of the buffer as a quart saucepan on the stove: If someone pours in more than a quart of cream, the overflow will make a big mess. So how does a bad guy overflow the buffer and bring disaster to your PC? The miscreant tricks you into clicking a link on a specially designed Web page or opening an HTML e-mail. Planted in the link or message are sneaky instructions for displaying an HTML document that allow an overload of information to be delivered to IE, causing it to crash. A crafty operator could also include code to take over your PC, theoretically enabling the hacker to do anything you could do, like delete all your files.

The second flaw in IE could let an attacker read any file on your PC that can be displayed inside a browser window, including Web pages, HTML e-mail messages, and any Microsoft Office documents that are saved in HTML format. Again, the attack would occur after you click a link on a tainted Web site or open an HTML e-mail. In the latter case, you need only to open the message; you don't need to click anything within it.

At that point, the bad guy would be able to read—but not change, delete, or execute—any file displayed in your browser. Go to Microsoft's lengthy bulletin and get a link to the download. As with many previous IE weaknesses, no actual attacks have been reported. But you should keep on top of security updates all the same. Note: If you're running Internet Explorer 5.01 with Service Pack 2 installed, you're safe from the first flaw. The second vulnerability, however, affects all versions of IE. Stuart J. Johnston is a contributing editor for PC World.

In Brief: Quicken Patch

Quicken 2002 users who tried to install the Release 2 update may have encountered an error condition preventing the program from running. Intuit has issued separate patches for Quicken 2002 Deluxe and Quicken 2002 Home & Business. Go to the Intuit site for the fixes. If they don't work, visit this Intuit page to get the revised R2.

BlackICE Flaw

Internet Security Systems closed a hole in the latest version of its BlackICE Defender firewall program. If your PC runs Windows XP or 2000, the hole could let a cracker crash your system by using the Internet to send it an avalanche of "pings." Go to

BlackICE Defender Downloads to grab the latest version, BlackICE Defender 2.9. Bugged? Found a hardware or software bug? Tell us about it via e-mail at bugs@pcworld.com.

Reader's Triumph: Money Bug Fixed

Roberta Domos of Redmond, Washington, was having a big problem with Microsoft Money 2002 Deluxe & Business. Domos has an accounts receivable account tied to an online banking account. The snag: When she marked an invoice as paid, Money refused to display any downloaded transaction data. Domos complained to Microsoft at least half a dozen times, and the technicians acknowledged that the bug was a "known issue." Domos's persistence eventually paid off. Microsoft fixed the bug. If you have Money's automatic "Background Banking" online feature enabled, you will have received the patch already. However, if you turned off the automatic update feature, you can get the fix by selecting Internet Updates*Update Now within Money. Visit Microsoft Support for more information.

Internet Tips: If Your ISP Sinks, Don't Go Down With the Ship

Be ready to save your e-mail address, as well as the rest of your online identity; disable IE's Content Advisor.

Scott Spanbauer

The Buddha taught that all is impermanent, and broadband Internet service providers exemplify his teaching perfectly. Many of us traded in our dependable dial-up service for a broadband connection, only to be left scrambling during the DSL shakeout. More recently, the collapse and consolidation of cable ISPs marooned thousands of others—and don't get me started on the folding of free ISPs

When your broadband ISP pulls the plug, you may lose more than just your Internet access; your e-mail addresses and Web sites could wink out as well. And the shakeout isn't over.

So how do you keep a failing ISP from taking your online identity down the drain with it? Don't put all your eggs in one basket: Get your Internet connection, your e-mail address and server, and your Web site hosting from separate providers. That way, if one of the companies goes belly up, the other services will carry on without interruption. If DSL suddenly becomes a better deal than cable for high-speed Internet access in your area, you can dump one service in favor of the other without having to print new business cards or losing Web site visitors.

*From Pc world magazine
March 2002*

Broadband Internet Access through ADSL

Problem Experienced with Analogue Cordless Phone

Malcolm Dean

Finally I succumbed to the temptation of high(er) speed access to the Internet. It's not that I am unhappy with the Melbourne PC User Group (delighted in fact, and intend to stay a member), just had the "need for speed".

Unfortunately OPTUS Cable was not available in my street and I was not entirely happy with the Telstra offer. After spending quite a while researching all the options I finally settled on ADSL supplied by Netspace because their price and packaging suited my needs better than the other ADSL offers.



Getting set up was a breeze. Just attach the turquoise coloured, stingray shaped Alcatel USB ADSL modem to the phone line and the computer, then attach low pass filters to all other devices on the phone line. Follow the software set up instructions and "Bob became my uncle". Very quickly I had Internet connection sharing working on my small home network and was able to set up access to Melb PC and Netspace services (e-mail, browsing, newsgroups and FTP).

At his point I discovered that my Panasonic analogue cordless telephone was suffering a major signal distortion problem. The sound was very fuzzy, the sound level was dramatically reduced and it was unrelated to proximity to the ADSL modem. Disconnecting the ADSL modem from the phone line instantly cured the interference. I e-mailed the Panasonic technical support team and got a non-helpful response.

Searching on the Web for information on this problem was a great education and made me aware of the many varieties of DSL (Digital Subscriber Line) services, of which ADSL (Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line) is just one. There are also several types of ADSL. I found many papers discussing the potential for various types of "cross-talk" and interference with ADSL services but none exactly matched the problem I was having.

At this point I discussed the problem with another Melb PC member who had joined the same ADSL service at the same time as I had. His cordless telephone (digital) had not experienced interference problems, even without fitting filter to all line devices. To see if my telephone was the problem I installed it at his residence and sure enough, the interference was present again. So it seemed that my analogue cordless telephone (about 6 years old) was not going to work properly with ADSL connected.

I bought a 900 MHz digital cordless telephone and have had no interference problems since.

The message is this. If you are contemplating connecting to ADSL and you have an older cordless phone unit, you may need to upgrade. A digital cordless unit operating at 900 MHz did the trick for me. Don't be fooled by cordless telephones labelled as digital, which only have a digital answering machine.

What follows is some (non-expert) background to what seems to be happening.

ADSL works by using specific frequencies for upload and download, as far as I can tell in the range of 40 KHz to 1.1 MHz, whilst other devices attached to your phone line such as handsets, dial up modems, fax machines etc use frequencies below 40 KHz; all of which are isolated from the ADSL system with the filters mentioned above.

A cordless phone however uses certain frequencies to transmit between the handset and the base station, attached to the phone wall outlet. One can find product specifications for analogue cordless telephones that use 30-39 MHz and digital cordless units that use 900 MHz. There are also cordless units that operate at 2.4 GHz. I'm unsure if they are digital or not.

So it seems that some combination of the analogue nature of my old cordless telephone and the frequencies used, result in degradation of the phone's performance when connected to the same line as an ADSL modem.

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

Bank Letter

Hummm—maybe if we all practiced this —?????

Below is an actual letter sent to a Bank in the United States. The Bank Manager thought it amusing enough to have it published in the New York Times.

Dear Sir:

I am writing to thank you for bouncing my check with which I endeavored to pay my plumber last month. By in my calculations some three nanoseconds must have elapsed between his presenting the check and the arrival in my account of the funds needed to honor it. I refer, of course, to the automatic monthly deposit of my entire salary, and arrangement which, I admit, has only been in place for eight years.

You are to be commended for seizing that brief window of opportunity, and also for debiting my account \$50 by way of penalty for the inconvenience I caused to your bank. My thankfulness springs from the manner in which this incident has caused me to rethink my errant financial ways.

You have set me on the path of fiscal righteousness. No more will our relationship be blighted by these unpleasant incidents, for I am restructuring my affairs in 2002, taking as my model the procedures, attitudes and conduct of your very bank. I can think of no greater compliment and I know you will be excited and proud to hear it.

To this end, please be advised about the following changes:

Bank Letter

I have noticed that whereas I personally attend to your telephone calls and letters, when I try to contact you, I am confronted by the impersonal, ever-changing, pre-recorded, faceless entity which your bank has become. From now on I, like you, choose only to deal with a flesh-and-blood person

As they say, imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. Let me level the playing field even further by introducing you to my new telephone system, which you will notice, is very much like yours. My Authorized Contact at your bank, the only person with whom I will have any dealings, may call me at any time and will be answered by an automated voice service:

Press buttons as follows:

1. To make an appointment to see me.
2. To query a missing payment.
3. To transfer the call to my living room in case I am there.
4. To transfer the call to my bedroom in case I am sleeping.
5. To transfer the call to my toilet in case I am attending to nature.
6. To transfer the call to my mobile phone if I am not at home.
7. To leave a message on my computer, a password to access my computer is required. Password will be communicated at a later date to the Authorized Contact.
8. To return to the main menu and to listen to options 1 through 7.
9. To make a general complaint or inquiry. The contact will then be put on hold, pending the attention of my automated answering service.

While this may on occasion involve a lengthy wait, uplifting music will play for the duration of the call. This month I've chosen a refrain from "The Best of Woodie Guthrie: "Oh, the banks are made of marble, With a guard at every door, And the vaults are filled with silver, That the miners sweated for."

On a more serious note, we come to the matter of cost. As your bank has often pointed out, the ongoing drive for greater efficiency comes at a cost which you have always been quick to pass on to me. Let me repay your kindness by passing some costs back.

First, there is a matter of advertising material you send me. This I will read for a fee of \$20 per page. Inquiries from the Authorized Contact will be billed at \$5 per minute of my time spent in response. Any debits to my account, as, for example, in the matter of the penalty for the dishonored check, will be passed back to you.

My new phone service runs at 75 cents a minute. You will be well advised to keep your inquiries brief and to the point. Regrettably, but again following your example, I must also levy an establishment fee to cover the setting up of this new arrangement.

May I wish you a happy, if ever-so-slightly less prosperous, New Year?

Your Humble Client, (Name Withheld)

Software Review

By George Harding

Snood



This game will get you involved right away! It's a very simple game to play and doesn't take much dexterity. But in spite of this, you will get hooked the way many people got hooked with Solitaire!

The game consists of a shooter which you control and the Snoods, which you shoot down. The shooter is fixed in the bottom center of the screen, but can be rotated so as to aim anyplace on the grid.

There are seven different types of Snoods, arranged in a grid pattern. Some Snoods of the same type are clustered, some are not. You aim your shooter at a cluster of two or more Snoods of the same type as the one you are shooting. If you hit the cluster, it falls off the grid. If there is no cluster of the type you're shooting, you shoot at one of the same type if there is one, otherwise, anywhere.

As you continue to shoot off clusters of various Snoods, the grid clears gradually, until no Snoods remain. You are scored on how many times you had to shoot. After you've played for a while, your scores get more and more difficult to beat.

There's one other factor to the game. As you shoot Snoods, the Danger counter keeps track of how many shots you make. When you reach eight shots, the whole playing grid moves down one row.

You can prevent this by shooting a Snood at a cluster from which is suspended one or more other Snoods. Doing this subtracts from the Danger counter, rather than adding to it. You win the game when you clear the grid of all Snoods. You lose when the grid moves down below the bottom of the playing field and you get no score.

This is a fun game, but can be frustrating sometimes. For all the fun it provides, the registration is a bargain. You can download a free evaluation copy from the web site. Snood by David Dobson - <http://www.snood.org/> Registration about \$15

More Sleazy Web Sites

by Steve Bass

Porn sites, dialer software that bilks you, other nasty tricks.

Steve Bass

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

There are lots of Web sites run by folks who yearn to do damage to your PC. Some rely on the chance you might mistype a legitimate URL while others use pop-up windows enticing you to visit porn sites. Last week I mentioned a few articles that talk about the sites and how to protect yourself. This week I have more details, some that I think will alarm you. Rod Calls It Malware I've mentioned Rod Ream in the past. He's a computer consultant and my personal troubleshooter, a guy who relishes a computing challenge. He doggedly pursued the porn site scam I described last week. You'll know you've hit a site like this when your home page mysteriously links to one you'd prefer the kids never see. Or you might get a search page that finds only ads or hits you with so many pop-ups you have to shut your system off to escape them.

The latest twist? Web sites that do more than just change your Home and Search pages without asking: They may stealthily add viruses to your PC, or install what appears to be a signed (therefore safe) ActiveX component called "Connect2Party" or "The Dialer." These sites can also add items to Run, Load, RunOnce, and RunServices Registry entries, while sticking apps in the Startup folders, both in HKLocalMachine and HKCurrentUser. This miserable combination of Web and software attacks doesn't have a name. It's not entirely a virus, nor is it a Trojan horse. It's not exactly spyware, either. And it's not easily removable. Rod's named it malware

The Dirt on Connect2Party

Connect2Party uses a convoluted method of disconnecting your modem and then reconnecting it to call an international long-distance number. The phone rates are high enough that they'd make up a significant part of a third-world country's GNP. The Federal Trade Commission has a consumer alert about this scam. Better, if you want to see the FTC in action, take a gander at the legal steps it's taken against Ty Anderson Enterprises.

A porn industry gossip site is just delighted with Connect2Party. Here's a quote (and no, I'm not going to reveal the URL): "We've started a little experiment with no credit card needed. Historically, it's like a 900-number in the old days. A surfer downloads a piece of software which is a dialer. And the dialer basically dials an international phone number. They're charged in the U.S. \$3.99 per minute and their Internet browser brings them into the site. All legal FCC requirements pop up on the screen and they have to check them off before they can enter."

Quick tip: Use Zone Alarm, a free firewall, to block Connect2Party from making an outgoing call. What makes Connect2Party particularly insidious is that in addition to adding itself to the various Run and Load Registry entries, it also conveniently creates entries in Control Panel's Add/Remove programs applet (thoughtful, eh?). Worse, the removal tool only appears to remove Connect2Party—it then adds it back into the Run lines of the Registry, so that it's reinstalled on reboot. Time for a Break
Okay, you need a break, don't you? Stand up, have a smoke if you've got 'em, then take a look at a few amusing Web pages. Dig this: I'm just intrigued by the amazing things Web programmers have accomplished. Just watch what this little guy can do to

your browser window. (Oddly enough, my wife just shrugged when I showed it to her. Maybe it's a guy thing.) But wait, I'm not done. Put together some stop-action photography and Macromedia Flash, and you get something really cool.

Finally, and I think my favorite, is this doggie construction game. And no, those things aren't tails or ears. Act like an engineer and you'll catch on. (Hint: If you get the right piece in the right place, you'll get a confirming bark.) BTW, these are all from the Lebonze site (with thanks to JohnK)

SAMS Teach Yourself Microsoft Windows XP in 21 days

by John Paul Mueller,

SAMS, 746 pages, \$39.99, ISBN: 0-672-32263-3

This is an easy to read tutorial on Windows XP. Each of the chapters represents a one day "class" with quizzes and exercises at the end for "homework" (answers are provided.). Although a tutorial is normally intended to be read from start to finish, I found this book could be used equally well as a reference book. You can look up a topic that interests you in any chapter without reading the chapters that precede it. The table of contents and index are detailed making it relatively easy to find any topic.

As a tutorial, this book focuses on how to do things in a Windows XP environment. The first chapter, which introduces XP, and the second chapter on installing and configuring XP answer lots of questions that someone thinking about upgrading to XP should ask. Differences between the Home and Professional editions of XP are delineated. If you decide on the upgrade, there are step-by-step instructions for doing installations. The chapter on the XP interface covers the visual differences between this version of Windows and its predecessors with a good description of how to use (or disable) the new features.

The chapters on "Getting Online" and "Using Outlook Express" cover how to setup your Internet and e-mail accounts in XP and have good tips on using Internet Explorer 6 and Outlook Express 6 that ship with XP. The emphasis is not on how XP works but how you can do useful things with XP.

The accessory programs that are included with XP are described including how to send and receive FAXes. While FAX support was part of Windows 95, it was not an option in Windows 98 installation or setup menus. In XP, support has been restored. New support for scanners, digital cameras, burning CDs and making movies is described but in little detail.

Office XP Tips:

Password-Protect PowerPoint Presentations

PCWorld.com

Add passwords to PowerPoint 2002 to protect your work and your data. *by Jim Welp*

Crafting a PowerPoint presentation can be a creative—and painful—endeavor. And once you've created your masterpiece, the last thing you want is some schmoe tinkering with it. PowerPoint 2002 offers a welcome addition to the software: password protection. You have the option of requiring a password for others to make changes or to open a presentation at all. The latter option can be useful if your presentation contains sensitive information such as payroll data, your business strategy, or the true nature of your kryptonite allergy.

Choosing a Password

Before you create a password, it's a good idea to give it some thought. You want something that you can remember, but that others can't figure out. A good password is one containing both letters and numbers. Also, keep in mind that passwords are case sensitive, so 178Boogers isn't the same as 178boogers. Just make sure you remember it! If you forget the password, you're hosed. Even the almighty and all-powerful Microsoft claims it can't help you open or modify a presentation if you don't remember the password. In fact, it might be a good idea to noodle around with this on some test presentations before you actually password-protect an important one. (Not that your humble reporter actually speaks from experience, mind you. Ahem.)

Protecting the Presentation

To establish a password, open your presentation, choose Tools, Options, and click the Security tab. You'll notice two password options in this dialog box: "Password to open" and "Password to modify." If you simply want to prohibit others from making unauthorized changes to your presentation, select "Password to modify." If you want to prohibit others from opening your presentation at all without a password, choose "Password to open." Then type your password in the appropriate text box and click OK. Once you do, PowerPoint presents the Confirm Password dialog box, which asks you to confirm your password and sternly warns you that losing your password will be a big bummer. Re-type your password and click OK to return to your presentation. For your changes to take effect, you must save and close your presentation. The next time anyone tries to open it, they'll get a prompt to enter the password.

If you chose "Password to open," PowerPoint will not open the presentation at all without the proper password. If you chose "Password to modify," PowerPoint will prompt the user to "Enter password to modify, or open read only." The user can then enter the password and click OK to open the file or click "read only" to open a file that they can read but not edit.

Some Words of Warning

There are a few instances when password-protection might not work like you'd expect. First, if you save a presentation as a Web page, password protection will no longer work in the new HTML-formatted presentation. Instead, anyone who opens the Web page will be able to view the presentation.

Also, because previous versions of PowerPoint did not include

this feature, password-protected presentations will not open in PowerPoint versions 95 through 2000, even if the user knows the password. So if you want to share a presentation with someone using an older version of the program, you'll have to remove password protection first.

Removing a Password

To remove password protection, choose Tools, Options, and click the Security tab. Then remove the asterisks that appear in the "Password to open" or "Password to modify" text box and click OK. Save and close the presentation to complete the job. Of course, if someone views your presentation in "read only" mode, the password options in the Options dialog box are unavailable.

Getting Serious About Security

If you want to get really, really secure, you can encrypt your password using a string of characters as long as 255 characters, depending upon the encryption algorithms available on your system. For example, your password could be "This is one doggone secure presentation," or Just type (or paste) the password you want in the "Password to open" or "Password to modify" text box. If you're picky about your encryption, click Advanced and choose an encryption type and a key length, and click OK. You'll notice a few other security options sprinkled around the Security tab of the Options dialog box. One is the Privacy Options check box. Click this box if you want to remove personal information from the presentation, such as the name of its author and anybody who added comments or made changes. There's also a link to the Macro Security dialog box, which allows you to set your macro security level. For more information on this option, check out the Office XP

Tips newsletter about macro virus protection.

Finally, the Security tab also links to the Digital Signature dialog box, which lets you view or add a digital signature to a document. A digital signature is an electronic signature whose authenticity is guaranteed by an outside certification company or your company's IT department and which certifies you as the author of a file or macro. That, when combined with a buck fifty, will get you on the subway. Sign up to have the Office XP Newsletter e-mailed to you each week.



"Is that thing locked up again? You need to smack the side of the CPU while simultaneously hitting the 'T' key as fast as possible."

Executive Board Of Directors Meeting, March 25, 2002,

. President Bob Walker called the meeting to order at 7:00pm with seven of nine officers and directors (sufficient for a quorum) present. One officer showed up later. Only one board member was absent, Director Sandi Tierney having previously indicated that she would not be present due to other engagements.

President's Report - President Bob Walker reported that he and Webmaster Michael Moore had attended a luncheon on Saturday the week before last and struck up a conversation with Eugenia Frericks who has subsequently become a member of OCIPUG. Secretary Frank Mastroly sent an e-mail to all OCIPUG board members with Ms. Frericks' address, phone number, and e-mail address.

Secretary's Report - Secretary Frank Mastroly reported that we have received a statement for \$125 from the US Postal Service relative to our renewing our 3rd class postal permit. As we have previously decided to cancel this service because of our publishing the Readme.Doc online, we will not renew this service. Frank will send a letter to the appropriate office to inform them of this fact. There was no discussion relative to approval of the minutes of the February meeting.

Treasurer's Report - Treasurer Charles Schreiber reported that March has been a very quiet month, and thus there was little activity to report.

SeniorNet Report - No report, Dan Dickinson being on vacation. Secretary Frank Mastroly reported that there was a team meeting on March 13, 2002, and the next one is scheduled for Wednesday, March 27, 2002, at 10:00am. Also, an application for a grant of \$1,000 has been submitted to IBM by an IBM retiree. This money would be used to network the SeniorNet computers to a server, a bid for which Director Red Davidson has received from Alltech, and to make other computer upgrades.

Activities Report: Director Chris Davidson reported that she has not yet lined up a program for the April General meeting, but has several feelers out but with no response as yet. For the March General meeting we will continue the series of Microsoft Mindshare presentations started at the February General meeting (see the March Readme.Doc for more information). We still have flashlights and toolkits in inventory as raffle prizes.

SIG Meeting Report - Nothing to report except for the addition of the Windows XP SIG to be conducted by Ed Leckliter on the 2nd Wednesday of each month starting on April 10, 2002. Secretary Frank Mastroly is to contact Microsoft Mindshare about the possibility of Microsoft donating a copy of Windows XP for use in our SIG. President Bob Walker reiterated his request that SIG leaders get their reports to him for the Readme.Doc as early as possible so that the current issue can cover advance notice of the material to be covered in all of the SIGs for that month. The goal is to publish the Readme.Doc during the first week of each month.

Long Range Planning Report - Past President Leonard Stein has scheduled a long range planning committee meeting to be held after the Quicken SIG on Tuesday, April 2, 2002. In addition to Leonard, committee members are President Bob Walker, Huey Long, and Webmaster Michael Moore, but other interested parties are invited to attend. Director Red Davidson and his committee consisting of himself, Vice President Morris Fier, and Presi-

dent Bob Walker are reviewing the results of the membership survey prepared by Kevin Moser and will put together a summary package for the membership.

Financial Review - No report

Maintenance and Operations - Director Red Davidson reported that there were no activities related to the club equipment. However, as mentioned under the SeniorNet report, Red is working with Steve Schiffman relative to the possibility of networking the SeniorNet computers to a server if SeniorNet receives the requested grant from IBM.

Webmaster Report - Webmaster Michael Moore reported that he received 23 "bounces" (invalid e-mail addresses) in response to his e-mail on the availability of the electronic copy of the March Readme.Doc. Of these 23, 14 were from members who have not recently renewed. He was aware that the link in his e-mail does not work, but assured the board that the URL is correct. Michael has dropped using In-Reach for his personal work, but has retained it for posting the newsletter. President Bob Walker suggested that we contact various local computer-related businesses about the possibility of placing advertisements in the Readme.Doc.

Although not strictly OCIPUG business, Michael reported that he had purchased Leo Laporte's (of The Screen Savers on Tech TV) "Poor Leo's 2002 Almanac" and had sent it to Mr. Laporte who in turn autographed it and added "Go OCIPUG." He has added Mr. Laporte to his distribution list for the Readme.Doc e-mail.

Publications (Readme.doc) - No report except the request by President Bob Walker that all SIG leaders e-mail him a synopsis of the most recent SIG as well as a summary of what is planned for the next session, and that these be sent in time to get into the current issue of the Readme.Doc.

Public Relations - Vice President Morris Fier has sent publicity faxes to various local newspapers, e.g., the "Daily Pilot" and the Costa Mesa "Breeze." However, he has yet to see any results. **Membership** - Director Sandi Tierney was absent, but continues to work with Webmaster Michael Moore to keep the membership roster current with the latest information available. All members should see to it that Sandi and Michael have current data. It was reiterated that it is especially important that the data in the Readme.doc be correct, with Director Bob Strader noting that two different e-mail addresses are shown for him, with one of them being invalid, in the March Readme.Doc. President Bob Walker distributed samples of a proposed reminder notice to be sent to those members whose membership is about to expire.

Nominating Committee - Mike Conway has joined Kevin Moser and Michael Moore on the nominating committee. Kevin (who was not present at this meeting) has indicated that he does not wish to be the committee chairman. Director Red Davidson stressed the importance of contacting potential officers and directors in face-to-face meetings rather than over the telephone. Ballots are to be mailed to the membership no later than 15 days after the June General meeting, (or before July 15, 2002), with the ballots to be counted no later than 30 days after being mailed. Installation of new officers and directors will be at the July 2002 General meeting, with all to assume office on August 1, 2002.

Peter Norton's Complete Guide to Microsoft Windows XP

by John Paul Mueller and Peter Norton, SAMS, 731 pages, \$44.99, ISBN: 0-67232291-9

This is a reference book for Windows XP. It covers the details of how XP is designed and how it works internally. It is a technical reference designed to help advanced users and technicians who want some nuts and bolts information about this new version of Windows. Many topics are covered with only an identification of the changes in XP and assume that the reader already understands how these things work in earlier versions of Windows. Although the authors write clearly, you wouldn't read this book from cover to cover unless your job depended on it. It's one to keep on the bookshelf for use when a problem arises, and you need some direction in finding a solution.

Discussions of some features are surprisingly missing. There is no information on how to set up a dual boot system although Windows XP has a feature that lets you run both XP and another operating system (Windows 98, DOS, etc.) on the same computer. There are also some topics that seem very out of place including three pages devoted to e-mail emoticons such as:-) and:-(. Other topics promise valuable insights but don't deliver. An example is "Understanding How RAM Type Affects Your System." I expected performance comparisons of PC133 SDRAM, DDR and Rambus RAM types. Instead all that is provided is Web site references for the various manufacturers.

There is a lot of good information in this book, but I have the feeling that there is a better XP technical reference. I give this one only two stars.

John King, Golden Gate Computer Society

As noted in the minutes of the February board meeting, 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. Because of the limitation imposed by the bylaws, President Bob Walker is ineligible to run for reelection, having served two consecutive terms as President.
New Business

New Software for OCIPUG Computer - Our primary need is for a copy of Windows XP to be used for the SIG. This will probably require repartitioning the hard drive to provide a separate 2gb partition for Windows XP in a dual boot mode with Windows 98 2nd Edition. Secretary Frank Mastroly is to contact Microsoft Mindshare about the possibility of Microsoft donating a copy of Windows XP for use in our SIG.

Southwest Regional User Group Conference - The next SWUG Conference will be held Friday, August 9 through Sunday, August 11 at the San Diego Mission Valley Hilton Hotel. Registration fee is \$40 if paid before June. The hotel rate is \$119 per room per night irrespective of the number of occupants, with an \$8 parking fee. All board members, especially the new ones, are encouraged to attend, as in addition to being very informative, these conferences are a very good way of networking with your counterparts in other user groups, not too mention the free meals and software. For more details, go to www.swugconf.org.

Miscellaneous -

Adjournment - Moved by Red Davidson, seconded by Frank Mastroly, and carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm. The next BOD meeting will be on Monday, April 29, 2002 at 7:00pm.
Respectfully Submitted
Frank Mastroly, Secretary

Tomatoes

An unemployed man went to apply for a job with Microsoft as a janitor. The manager there arranges for him to take an aptitude test. After the test, the manager says, "You will be employed as a janitor at minimum wage, \$5.15 an hour. Let me have your e-mail address, so that I can send you a form to complete and tell you where to report for work on your first day." Taken aback, the man protests that he has neither a computer nor an e-mail address. To this the MS manager replies, "Well, then, that means that you virtually don't exist and can therefore hardly expect to be employed by Microsoft."

Stunned, the man leaves. Not knowing where to turn and having only \$10.00 in his wallet, he buys a 25 lb flat of tomatoes at the supermarket. In less than two hours, he sells all the tomatoes individually at 100% profit. Repeating the process several times more that day, he ends up with almost \$100.00 before going to sleep that night. Thus it dawns on him that he could quite easily make a living selling tomatoes.

Getting up early every day and going to bed late, he multiplies his profits quickly. After a short time he acquires a cart to transport several dozen boxes of tomatoes, only to have to trade it in again so that he can buy a pickup truck to support his expanding business. By the end of the second year, he is the owner of a fleet of pickup trucks and manages a staff of a hundred former unemployed people, all selling tomatoes.

Planning for the future of his wife and children, he decides to buy some life insurance. Consulting with an insurance adviser, he picks an insurance plan to fit his new circumstances. At the end of the telephone conversation, the adviser asks him for his e-mail address in order to send the final documents electronically. When the man replies that he has no e-mail, the adviser is stunned. "What, you don't have e-mail? How on earth have you managed to amass such wealth without the Internet, e-mail and e-commerce?"

Just imagine where you would be now, if you had been connected to the Internet from the very start!" "Well," replied the tomato millionaire, "I would be a janitor at Microsoft!"

By definition, a fable must have a moral. This one has four: 1. The Internet, e-mail and e-commerce do not need to rule your life. 2. If you don't have e-mail, but work hard, you can still become a millionaire. 3. Since you got this story via e-mail, you're probably closer to becoming a janitor than you are to becoming a millionaire. 4. If you do have a computer and e-mail, you have already been taken to the cleaners by Microsoft.

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ORANGE COAST IBM PC User Group (OCIPUG) ©

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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 **May** issue must be received on or before **May 4, 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
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

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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: _____