

Orange Coast IBM PC User Group

README.DOC

December 2003

Newsletter

Volume 19.12

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

IN THIS ISSUE

- Page 1
Front Page
- Page 2
Officers and Board Members
December Program
- Page 3
Schedules and SIG Reports
Program and Webpage Report
- Page 4-5
Microsoft Goes After Google
Comdex Faces Competitor
- Page 5
Kenneth Paeth 1926-2003
- Page 6
Could Spam Kill Off E-Mail ?
- Page 7
Twas the Nite of Thanksgiving
- Page 8-9
September Board Meeting
- Page 10
Don Edrington's PC Chat
- Page 11
Comdex Faces Competitor
- Page 12
October Board Meeting
- Page 13
Digital Cameras for the Holiday's
- Page 14-15
May Your Holidays
Be Filled With Polygons
- Page 16-18
October General Meeting Report
- Page 19
Publications Guidelines

DECEMBER 20 GENERAL MEETING

PROGRAM 9:00 - 10:30

Don Edrington

Teacher,

Author,

Senior Tutor,

Columnist

CHRISTMAS POTLUCK

10:30 - 12:30



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Orange Coast IBM PC User Group
Costa Mesa Senior Center
695 West 19th Street
Costa Mesa Ca, 92627

General Meetings are held from 9:00AM to noon on:

20 December	2003
24 January	2004
21 February	2004

Meetings of the Executive Board will be held after the General Meeting 12:15-1PM

20 December	2003
24 January	2004
21 February	2004

All OCIPUG members are welcome.

Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings are held monthly as follows:

1st Tuesday	7:00 PM - Internet
2nd Tuesday	7:00 PM - Hardware
3rd Tuesday	7:00 PM - Windows
4th Tuesday	7:00 PM - Digital Photo

December 20 Program

Don Edrington is a Teacher, Author, Senior Tutor, Columnist (both in print and on the web) and talk about sites that contain good info, he has everything from great tips to useful keyboard shortcuts, and seasonal and interesting art to fascinating stories. He can show you how Using a PC Can Be Hazardous to Your Health.

He has written a virtual cyber Autobiography and it really shows people the various ways that one can utilize a web page to express themselves.

Christmas Potluck



President	Michael Moore	714-535-0608	president-bod@ocipug.org
Vice President	David Wintle	949-548-7994	allart@pacbell.net
Secretary	Frank Mastroly	714-960-9472	fmastroly@earthlink.net
CFO/Treasurer	Leonard Stein	949-454-0158	leonard.stein@netscape.com
Director 2003	Red Davidson	949-548-0413	red.d3@juno.com
Director 2003	Ed Leckliter	310-944-6453.	eleckliter@adelphia.net
Director-2003-2004	Morris Fier	949-646-8292	morris_fier@yahoo.com
Director-2003-2004	Sandi Tierney	714-648-2218	gadgetgoddess2002@hotmail.com
Past President	Leonard Stein	949-454-0158	leonard.stein@netscape.com
Webmaster	Mark Borison	714-963-8296	mborison@yahoo.com
Readme.Doc Editor	Robert Walker	949-642-5997	rwalker820@msn.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:

2 December 2003

Internet / Web Publishing

1st Tuesday 7:00 PM
Michael Moore 714-535-0608
president.bod@ocipug.org

9 December 2003

Hardware

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

16 December 2003

Windows

3rd Tuesday 7:00 PM
Robert Strader 949-646-11475
robert.strader@comcast.net

23 December 2003

Digital Cameras / Scanning -

4th Tuesday, 7:00PM
David Wintle 714-548-7994
allart@bacbell.net

6 January 2004

Internet / Web Publishing

1st Tuesday 7:00 PM
Michael Moore 714-535-0608
president.bod@ocipug.org

13 January 2004

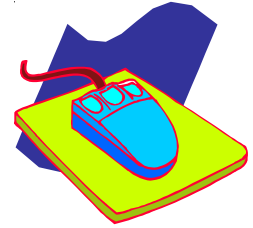
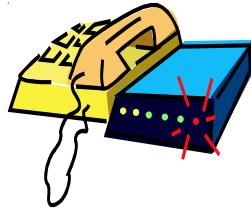
Hardware

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



Sunday -February 1, 2004

8:00am to 2:00pm
ACP Giant Parking Lot
1310 E. Edinger Ave. (Grand & Edinger)
Santa Ana, CA 92705
(714)619-3487



OCIPUG Hardware SIG - Meeting Recap

Meeting Date: November 11, 2003

There were 17 attendees (including SIG Leader, Ed Leckliter)

Featured Topic(s): Other Components (Modems, NICs, Chassis, Power Supplies, HFAs, Fans, Keyboards, and Mice): 2003 Update and "Using the Motherboard CD"

Hardware Submissions

Jim Stolp brought in his HP Vectra Pentium II system. The system was halting on boot up and indicating a CMOS problem. Jim also brought in a downloaded CMOS clearing procedure. We followed the procedure and cleared the CMOS but were still unable to boot through - same error message. We stopped at that point. Ed suggested that Jim again try HP's online help system and, if still no help there, to call HP Tech Support. Jim's system has a proprietary motherboard, an obsolete CPU, and SIMM memory modules. Fixing the problem at the board level would either require going back to HP for a HP replacement board or going to current generation, "industry standard" motherboard, CPU, memory, and chassis and possibly replacing the power supply.

Random Access - there were only 1-2 questions posed verbally, notes not recorded.

Next Meeting: December 9, 2003

Next Meeting Featured Topic(s): Your New System (2003 Update): Planning Phase (the beginning of an updated five-meeting planning, sourcing, and hands-on assembly series)

Following Meeting: January 13, 2004

Following Meeting Featured Topic(s): Your New System (2003 Update): Sourcing Your Components

File(s) attached - also posted on the OCIPUG Hardware SIG web site (http://www.edscustomcomputers.com/welcome_to_the_ocipug_hardware_sl.htm)

Presentation slides in Microsoft PowerPoint format (.ppt).

For the latest OCIPUG Hardware SIG info, please check the SIG's web site or contact Ed Leckliter (SIG Leader) at eleckliter@adelphia.net.

Wisdom in a Bag of Nails

There once was a little boy who had a bad temper. His Father gave him a bag of nails and told him that every time he lost his temper, he must hammer a nail into the back of the fence.

The first day the boy had driven 37 nails into the fence. Over the next few weeks, as he learned to control his anger, the number of nails hammered daily gradually dwindled down. He discovered it was easier to hold his temper than to drive those nails into the fence. Finally the day came when the boy didn't lose his temper at all.

He told his father about it and the father suggested that the boy now pull out one nail for each day that he was able to hold his temper. The days passed and the young boy was finally able to tell his father that all the nails were gone. The father took his son by the hand and led him to the fence.

He said, "You have done well, my son, but look at the holes in the fence. The fence will never be the same. When you say things in anger, they leave a scar just like this one. You can put a knife in a man and draw it out. It won't matter how many times you say I'm sorry, the wound is still there.

"A verbal wound is as bad as a physical one. Friends are very rare jewels, indeed. They make you smile and encourage you to succeed. They lend an ear, they share words of praise and they always want to open their hearts to us."

Microsoft Goes After Google

Software giant wants to acquire the search company, report says.

Stacy Cowley, IDG News Service

Microsoft has reportedly approached Google about a potential buyout of the search technology company.

Mountain View, California-based Google, one of Silicon Valley's few business success stories in the post-dot-com era, has been meeting with investment bankers over the last several months and exploring its options for a public offering.

During that process, Microsoft approached Google to discuss alliance options, including a takeover, according to an article in Friday's New York Times.

Not Interested?

Google hasn't been rushing to take Microsoft up on the offer: Executives there seem to favor a public offering rather than an acquisition, the newspaper reported.

Microsoft and Google declined to provide comment to the New York Times for its story.

Calls placed to both companies by IDG News Service weren't immediately returned.

Microsoft has been looking into the Web search market now largely dominated by five-year-old Google.

While Microsoft has denied plans to enter the paid search industry, it has increased the staff on its search team to more than 200 and deemed MSN Search one of the company's key businesses.

Comdex Faces Competitor

Vendors, customers flock to rival trade shows.

James Niccolai, IDG News Service

With the opening of the Comdex trade show in Las Vegas next week, a competitor is a short cab ride away. Jupitermedia, a research and events company, is launching a rival show at the Mandalay Bay Convention Center, and it's making no secret of its ambition: to run Comdex out of town.

Jupitermedia announced plans for its show in February, taking advantage of financial uncertainty surrounding Comdex organizer Key3Media Group, which had filed for bankruptcy protection the same day. While Comdex faced criticism for becoming a sprawling, unfocused event that didn't meet the needs of buyers and sellers, Jupitermedia promises a more intimate gathering focused specifically on enterprise technology.

On the eve of its show, called Computer Digital Expo (cdXpo), it has signed up around 50 exhibitors. Its speaker roster includes Peter Blackmore, head of Hewlett-Packard's server group, and Darl McBride, chief executive of The SCO Group. Jupitermedia expects to attract about 6000 visitors to the event. That would be only a tenth of the crowd Comdex hopes to draw, but still a healthy start for a show in its first year, according to Alan Meckler, Jupitermedia's chairman and chief executive.

"We've created a show which we think addresses all the ills of Comdex. People want smaller, more focused events," he says.

Exhibitors Defect

Some exhibitors apparently agree. The Canadian government, which has been a Comdex regular in the past, is this year setting up its pavilion at cdXpo instead, to showcase about 20 Canadian IT vendors. Representatives decline to discuss their reasons for switching. IBM, BEA Systems, and SAP America will also be at cdXpo. Some companies, like IBM, will have a presence at both shows.

Pointing to Comdex's falling attendance—the show expects about 50,000 visitors this year, down from 125,000 last year—Meckler predicts its rapid demise. "When trade shows start to shrink, and shrink rapidly, they don't come back, and I think that's what we're seeing here," he says.

Despite his bluster, Comdex is by no means beaten. Key3Media emerged from bankruptcy in June, changed its name to MediaLive International, and announced plans for its own smaller, more focused event for enterprise IT users. It cut the number of exhibitors by a half from a year ago and is being selective about attendees for the first time, to ensure a better class of visitor.

It also moved its headquarters from Los Angeles to San Francisco, to be closer to the heart of the tech industry. The new management team includes former members of CMP Media, an experienced media and events company. Its usual lineup of speakers will be at Comdex, including Microsoft's Bill Gates, Sun's Scott McNealy, and Siebel Systems' Tom Siebel. Dell, which has been absent from the show for six years, has returned.

In short, Comdex has seen the error of its ways and has rebuilt itself as a new type of show, says Eric Faurot, the show's vice president and general manager.

“This is year one of the new Comdex. It’s back to basics—understanding how to connect the right buyers with the right vendors. We will only allow companies on the show floor that have products for the IT marketplace. You won’t see any car companies or massage chairs,” he says.

New Age Trade Shows

Comdex became wrapped up in the growth frenzy that marked the dot-com era, when growth took precedence over a viable business model, Faurot says. When the market collapsed, “the rules of the game changed for everybody. Just as IT vendors are now having to prove their value to customers, so too must trade shows,” Faurot adds.

With that in mind, MediaLive has joined with trade show organizer CeBIT USA, International Data Group (parent company of PC World), CMP Media, and other industry players to come up with a way of measuring attendance at shows accurately. The consortium of companies will hold its first meeting at Comdex next week.

Faurot welcomes the challenge from Jupitermedia and claims to be unperturbed.

“The best thing is that it validates the need for an industry event, and it allows us to be compared to something besides our past,” he says.

Faurot’s opponent has some pedigree. Meckler’s resume includes launching the Internet World trade show in 1993, which he grew to about 70,000 attendees before selling it to Penton Media in 1998, along with a few media properties, for \$274 million. Today his company runs several trade shows focused on specific industry segments. They include WiFi Planet, which has been growing quickly.

“I’m looking forward to next week,” he says. “It’s exciting for me as a businessman.”

Taking Bets

Some analysts say it’s too early to know how the rivalry between the two shows will play out. Meckler and Faurot seem to agree on one thing, however: The industry won’t support two concurrent trade shows in the same town for very long.

“I think right now it’s up for grabs. It’s too early to say with any certainty what’s going to happen,” says Andy Olsen, a trade show consultant with Team International Group in Gainesville, Florida, who attended the first Comdex show almost a quarter century ago.

Comdex remains one of the best-known industry trade shows in the world, while some people contacted for this story said they had never heard of cdXpo. On the other hand, a Computerworld poll in October shows many IT executives are unaware of Comdex’s makeover attempt, and still consider it too big and glitzy to be worth their time.

Rob Enderle, a principal analyst with the Enderle Group in San Jose, California, says the whole idea of trade shows is being called into question. With higher quality video coming to the Internet, buyers may no longer feel the need to attend events in person to find out what’s on offer, he says.

Meanwhile, Faurot and Meckler are gearing up for an important week. “I think that only afterwards, when you can sit back and take a look at what actually happened, will we really know which one was successful,” Olsen says.

Kenneth Paeth 1926-2003

Funeral Service was Friday November 14 at Fairhaven Memorial Park in Santa Ana



OCIPUG Member:
Kenneth Paeth became a member June 15 1998 and was our Membership Chairman taking care of out roster and mail lables for the Readme.Doc for many years.

Ken was born February 27, 1928 in Pomona California . He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1943 and attended High Speed Code School in San Diego for 11 months. He served in the 4th Division in Maui as a radio operator and participated in action on Iwo Jima from February 19, 1945 to March 15, 1945. He then served with the 6th division in China until 1046,

Ken went to New York in 1948 to attend RCA Institutes. While there, he met Frieda and they married on august 19, 1950. They then returned to Southern California where Ken started his career as a quality engineer.

He devoted many hours to his life to volunteer working with the Boy Scouts and at Western Medical Center where he served 3332 hours over a 10-year period. He will be remembered for his kind heart and willingness to lend a hand to his friends and family

Ken is survived by his wife, Frieda, daughters, Diana (Scott), Debbie (Dan), Donna (Don), grandchildren, Fran, Becky, And Danny, and sister Mamie.

Could Spam Kill Off E-Mail?

Some users avoid their in-boxes because of the onslaught

.Rita Chang, Medill News Service

WASHINGTON—A majority of the United States' 126 million e-mail users say they are losing trust in e-mail, and one in four has cut back usage because of the daily onslaught of spam.

The findings, detailed in a new report by the research organization Pew Internet & American Life Project, offer yet more examples of how spam is wreaking havoc on the "killer app" of the Internet and proving expensive for businesses.

"People just love e-mail, and it really bothers them that spam is ruining such a good thing," says Deborah Fallows, author of the Pew report, "Spam: Hurting email and degrading the Internet environment."

Taking a Toll

For many people, spam has compromised the integrity of e-mail, the report finds. As more e-mail users apply filters to block spam, they inadvertently block messages from family and friends as well. Others note that spam clutters their in-boxes, leading them to overlook legitimate e-mail. Other highlights from the report demonstrate how spam is eroding the quality of U.S. consumers' online experience:

75 percent of e-mail users are concerned that they can't stop the flow of spam, regardless of the measures they've taken. 70 percent say spam has made their online experience unpleasant or annoying. 55 percent say they get so much junk e-mail that they struggle to find the messages they want. About one in three say the contents of their in-box are 80 percent spam. Spam tends to hit personal e-mail accounts more than work accounts, most of which are subject to screening mechanisms that block much unsolicited e-mail.

Here to Stay?

The survey results also hint that the unsolicited e-mail blitz will become a mainstay of online life. The fact is, enough people are clicking through the spam offers to convince marketers that they are reaching their targets.

Seven percent of e-mail users, or more than 8 million Americans, say they have ordered a product or service offered in an unsolicited e-mail. One in three users say they have clicked on a link in unsolicited e-mail to get more information.

Bulk e-mailers say that even a 0.0001 percent positive response rate constitutes a break-even point, making spam worthwhile, according to the report. The fact that even a tiny minority of users respond to unsolicited e-mail raises the question whether some of the messages offering legitimate products can be labeled spam, Fallows says.

The report also grapples with the definition of spam, noting that a law would have to accurately define the term to deal with the problem effectively. Overwhelmingly, users consider spam to be "unsolicited commercial e-mail from a sender they do not know or cannot identify," the report says.

Users also say spam is also a function of content. According to the Pew survey, 92 percent say adult content is spam, and 89 percent consider money-making proposals to be spam. Eighty-one percent consider unsolicited product or services offers to be spam.

Magnitude of Spam

Although the volume of junk e-mail messages is hard to estimate, a best guess based on other studies suggests that some 15 billion messages are spam—or about half of the more than 30 billion messages exchanged daily.

According to the Pew study, filtering company Brightmail recently measured more than 7.5 million spam attacks, each ejecting between 100 to millions of individual e-mail messages in each attack. Despite this volume, users "only see the tip of the iceberg," the report states, thanks to ISPs that deflect much of the spam before it hits subscribers.

America Online and the Microsoft Network, two of the largest ISPs, report that they divert a daily incursion of 2.4 billion spam messages from their subscribers' in-boxes. AOL estimates this volume translates to an average of 67 messages per in-box per day, or up to 80 percent of its incoming e-mail traffic. According to the report, all of the major ISPs underwrite "huge outlays for spam control." In a separate recent finding reported by USA Today, ISPs' costs of managing spam are passed along with an average of a \$2 increase in a subscriber's monthly Internet service subscription bill.

Costs of Spam

Estimates for spam's price tag vary broadly, from \$50 to \$1400 per worker per year. Its estimated annual costs to U.S. businesses range from \$10 to \$87 billion.

Other costs are felt by online businesses that say e-mail marketing has gotten a bad rap because of spam. These businesses say they've been unfairly lumped with spammers, and that their discreet and legitimate e-mail marketing and communications are not reaching their audience because of spam-filtering technology.

Spam has spawned a thriving industry. Businesses compile e-mail address lists and sell them. Software makers sell inexpensive applications that enable illegal spam activities, such as disguising sender identities and harvesting e-mail addresses.

But most legitimate marketers should welcome legislative measures that would choke off spam, says Nancy Costopolos, a senior director at the American Marketing Association, a professional marketing association.

"There will be more and more regulation for e-mail, and it will cost businesses money to comply with the regulations," Costopolos says. "But it can't be a self-regulating industry anymore. I would be glad if we can eradicate spam so we can break through the noise. All marketers should be in favor of that."

Aside from monetary costs, Fallows says spam exacts social costs, such as increasing restraints in the openness of the Internet. "The Internet is based on this open system," she says. "It's egalitarian and everyone is accessible. Spam will change that. People will be less accessible to each other."

Fallows says the changes are a departure from how the Internet was intended to operate. With the rise of spam, the Internet will become "a more protected and closed environment than it is right now," she adds.

Dealing With Spam

Most e-mail users are resigned to the incursion of spam into their online life, the Pew study suggests. For many, it's just like any other annoyance, such as telemarketing calls.

Most people deal with spam messages by deleting them, and more than 65 percent preempt spam by opting out of e-mail lists. Most e-mail users are reticent about giving out their e-mail addresses; 73 percent of users surveyed say they avoid providing that information.

In fact, using restraint in giving out e-mail addresses is the way most people try to fight spam, the survey finds. Also, 69 percent avoid posting their e-mail addresses on the Web, to avoid harvesters. About 14 percent use creative screen names to make it less possible that a computer can generate their e-mail address.

In addition to technological remedies to fight spam, various organizations, legislators, and lawyers are working to curb the spam explosion. The Federal Trade Commission, some states, ISPs, and a few individuals have brought suits against the worst offenders.

In the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, there are half a dozen bills pending designed to reduce spam. The Microsoft and Yahoo are sharing their intelligence to combat spam. Direct marketers and spam-filtering makers have united to develop standards for dealing with spam. And the liberal Senator Charles Schumer (D-New York) has found an ally in the Christian Coalition, which supports his antispam legislation.

"E-mail is an important form of communication that Americans have come to rely on. The study underscores the need for legislation that gives consumers control over their e-mail boxes," says Paula Bruening, a spokesperson for the Center for Democracy and Technology, a digital civil liberties group.



Twas the Nite of Thanksgiving

Twas the Nite of Thanksgiving But I just couldn't sleep I tried counting backwards, I tried counting sheep.

The leftovers beckoned - The dark meat and white But I fought the temptation With all of my might

Tossing and turning With anticipation The thought of a snack Became infatuation. So, I raced to the kitchen, Flung open the door And gazed at the fridge, Full of goodies galore.

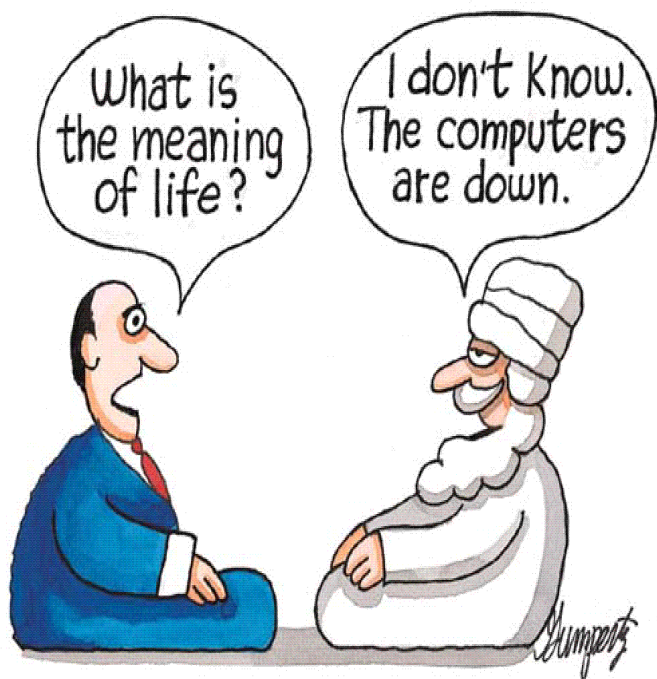
Gobbled up turkey And buttered potatoes, Pickles and carrots, Beans and tomatoes. I felt myself swelling So plump and so round, 'Til all of a sudden, I rose off the ground. I crashed through the ceiling, Floating into the sky With a mouthful of pudding And a handful of pie.

But, I managed to yell As I soared past the trees.... Happy eating to all - Pass the cranberries, please.

May your stuffing be tasty, May your turkey be plump. May your potatoes 'n gravy Have nary a lump,

May your yams be delicious May your pies take the prize, May your thanksgiving dinner Stay off of your thighs.

Happy Turkey Day



The September Executive Board of Directors Meeting

Was held on September 29, 2003, at the Costa Mesa Senior Center. President Michael Moore called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm, with eight of the nine officers and directors, past-Treasurer Kevin Moser, Newsletter Coordinator Robert Walker, and Member Mark Borison present. Vice President David Wintle reported that Director/Membership Chairman Morris Fier had suffered a stroke but fortunately with minimal brain damage except for a slight slurring of speech.

A draft copy of the minutes of the August 2003 Executive Board of Directors Meeting had previously been e-mailed to all board members for their review. A revised set of minutes was then e-mailed to all board members, and a second (minor) revision distributed at the meeting. In a motion by Director Red Davidson, seconded by Director Ed Leckliter, and carried, the minutes of the August 2003 Executive Board of Directors Meeting as revised were approved.

President's Report: President Michael Moore suggested that we move the meeting time of the board meetings to just after the General Meetings which are on the last Saturday of the month. This may have to be coordinated with the Senior Center to ensure that we can do this, as the Center is nominally closed after 12:00 noon on Saturdays. In a motion by Director Sandi Tierney, seconded by Secretary Frank Mastroly, and carried, the board meetings will be conducted after the General Meetings effective with the next Board meeting which will be on Saturday, October 25, 2003.

President Michael Moore is coordinating with the Senior Center to get a code for the copier, with OCIPUG paying the Center for the copies we make. This item is already provided for in the budget under Miscellaneous Supplies.

Secretary's Report: No report. Since he was absent at the past General Meeting Secretary Frank Mastroly was given a copy of the sign-in sheets for the meeting. President Michael Moore expressed the desire to have a consistent set of sign-in sheets for both the General Meetings and for the SIGs. The SIG leaders are responsible for the latter, and Frank will e-mail a copy of the Word file for the General meeting. Director Red Davidson reported that the proceeds from the September raffle were \$50, and the money was turned over to Treasurer Cheryl Wester.

Treasurer's Report: Past Treasurer/CFO Kevin Moser announced that as of today he had transferred all his responsibilities to incoming Treasurer Cheryl Wester. Kevin stated his belief that the monthly report should actually be for the month previous to the board meeting, as by then the accounts can be reconciled through the end of the month. No objections were raised to this suggestion. Consistent with this, Kevin distributed a financial report for the month ending September 30, 2003. His report also included copies of recent bank statements.

Kevin again made his request that a financial review be made ASAP to ensure that there is a "clean transfer" to incoming Treasurer/CFO Cheryl Wester. In a motion by Director Red Davidson, seconded by Secretary Frank Mastroly, and carried, a financial review is to be performed by a committee appointed by the President and completed within 60 days. In a motion by Director Ed Leckliter, seconded by Director Red Davidson, and carried, the financial report as presented was accepted.

Committee Reports:

Program Committee Report: Director/Program Committee Chairman Ed Leckliter distributed a handout summarizing the programs for the general meetings. At the September 2003 General Meeting there were presentations by CorePROTECT (www.coreprotect.com) on their CoreRestore system restoration hardware and software solution, and by D-Link Systems (www.dlink.com) on their networking products for home and small business users. Ed expressed his disappointment that the CoreRestore representative was from sales and thus was not knowledgeable about all of the details of the products, and in D-Link for not covering wireless products topics as initially agreed upon.

At the October 2003 General Meeting, the last one that Ed will be responsible for (see also New Business), ActivePDF (www.activepdf.com) will make a presentation on and demonstrate their activePDF composer as a low cost alternative to Adobe Acrobat. There will also be a presentation by Iwill (www.iwillusa.com) on motherboards and small form factor bare bones systems. Ed will e-mail information on both presentations to Newsletter Coordinator Robert Walker as soon as it becomes available. President Michael Moore is working on setting up a program for the November 22 General Meeting (moved up one week because of the Thanksgiving Day holiday), while there will be pot-luck on Saturday, December 20.

It was reported that Microsoft has "programs in a box" and could send a representative if there is a minimum of 50 in attendance. They perhaps could also donate an X-Box or MP3 player for the raffle.

SIG Reports:

The October SIG schedule is as follows:

- * Internet and Web Page Design (Michael Moore), 1st Tuesday of each month. On October 7 Michael will continue his presentation on web page design as well as address questions from the audience.
- * Hardware (Ed Leckliter), 2nd Tuesday of each month. On October 14 Ed will continue his discussion on what goes into a computer, with this month covering other components (modems, network interface cards (NICs), chassis, power supplies, heat-sink-fan assemblies (HFAs), fans, keyboards, and mice). Ed is looking for ideas on what he should cover in the upcoming months.
- * Windows 9x/XP (Robert Strader), 3rd Tuesday of each month. On October 21 Bob will continue covering Windows tips and tricks. He requested that if any one has any problems with Windows to e-mail him so that these can be covered at the SIG.
- * Digital Photography and Scanning (David Wintle), 4th Tuesday of each month. On October 28 David have an open forum to discuss issues of interest to the attendees.

SeniorNet Report:

Secretary Frank Mastroly reported that the next SeniorNet team meeting will be on Friday, October 24, 2003, at 3:00 pm. The next session of classes will begin on Monday, January 12, 2004 and, as usual, the SeniorNet team is in need of additional coaches, with the only requirement being to be able to follow what the instructor is saying and to be one step ahead of the students.

Member Mark Borison reported that he will be conducting a two-week (\$20 fee) workshop on using eBay. The first session will be on Wednesday, October 23, starting at 1:30 PM and will cover setting up an eBay account and buying on eBay, while the second session will be on Wednesday, October 30, starting at 1:30 PM and will cover selling oneBay.

The SeniorNet team is also considering offering workshops on scanning and burning CDs. We are also looking for someone who can teach a course on using Family Tree Maker to process genealogical data.

Community Service Report:

Robert Walker reported that he and other local service club presidents attended a luncheon hosted by Jim de Bloom of the "Daily Pilot" to discuss ways of getting better coverage in the "Pilot." Among other items, there was an exchange of club bulletins so that all could see what the other clubs were doing. Robert also reported that the "Pilot" has a room full of surplus computers, and suggested that OCIPUG form a team to look to see if they can be of use.

Long Range Planning Committee Report:

Past President Leonard Stein reported that he is on the lookout for software bargains to be used for our raffle. Director Red Davidson reported that he will be absent for the next two meetings, and so Leonard will sell the tickets at the October and November General meetings.

Facilities Report, Maintenance, and Improvement:

Continuing work in process. Director Red Davidson will procure the cables requested Programs Chairman Ed Leckliter at the August Board meeting.

Publications Report:

Newsletter Coordinator Robert Walker reported that the October Readme.Doc is "ready to go." As usual, he wants the SIG leaders to provide inputs on the most recent as well as the next SIG for inclusion in the Readme.Doc, preferably by the first of each month. Director Sandi Tierney conveyed her request (accepted by Robert Walker) that she be mailed a hard copy of the Readme.Doc.

Webmaster Report:

Per the Bylaws, the President cannot also be the Webmaster, and thus Member Mark Borison has agreed to take over from President Michael Moore. Michael has turned over all files and other related material to Mark. Robert Walker wondered if we should consider having someone other than InReach host our site considering the dispute over the amount of server space (see the minutes of previous board meetings for more information on this issue). This item remains open.

Membership Committee Report:

Robert Walker is working with Director/Membership Committee Chairman Morris Fier on membership status and e-mail addresses. If e-mails containing the Readme.Doc bounce, Robert will call to resolve the problem. Robert Walker distributed a few copies of the latest membership roster and noted that approximately six will be dropped due to their membership having expired at least three months ago. Robert will be working with Morris on sending out future renewal notices.

Advertisings and Public Relations Report: No report.

Old Business:

At the initiation of Kevin Moser, we continued our discussion on our obtaining liability insurance at a lower rate, e.g. as does Winners. In particular, Kevin said that he understands that Winners has \$2 million in liability insurance for approximately half of what we pay for less coverage. Kevin has turned over all related material to Treasurer Cheryl Wester, and Director Sandi Tierney will assist Cheryl in this effort. Kevin Moser had previously e-mailed all board members that he had in his possession several boxes of files related to the office of OCIPUG Treasurer.

As we are required by law to maintain certain records, it was decided that we would investigate if it were possible to store those files we must retain in the lower section of the OCIPUG file cabinet and then dispose of the remainder. This was to be taken care of after the meeting.

New Business:

As Director Ed Leckliter is retiring as Programs Committee Chairman, Member Mark Borison assisted by President Michael Moore will assume these duties. Newsletter Coordinator Robert Walker wants a complete calendar for all OCIPUG activities through August 2004 for distribution to all board members. Director Sandi Tierney volunteered to send a card to Director Morris Fier wishing him a speedy recovery.

Adjournment:

Moved by Director Ed Leckliter, seconded by Director Red Davidson, and carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm. The next OCIPUG Board meeting will be on Saturday, October 25, 2003, after the General Meeting (see the President's Report).

Respectfully submitted,
Frank Mastroly, Secretary

Poem For Computer Users Over 40

A computer was something on TV
From a Science Fiction show of note,
A window was something you hated to clean
And ram was the father of a goat.

Meg was the name of my girlfriend
And gig was a job for the nights
Now they all mean different things
And that really mega bytes.

An application was for employment
A program was a TV show
A cursor used profanity
A keyboard was a piano.

A Memory was something that you lost with age
A CD was a bank account
And if you had a 3 1/2-in. floppy
You hoped nobody found out.

Compress was something you did to the garbage
Not something you did to a file
And if you unzipped anything in public
You'd be in jail for a while.

Log on was adding wood to the fire
Hard drive was a long trip on the road
A mouse pad was where a mouse lived
And a backup happened to your commode.

Cut you did with a pocket knife
Paste you did with glue
A web was a spider's home
And a virus was the flu.

I guess I'll stick to my pad and paper
And the memory in my head.
I hear nobody's been killed in a computer crash
But when it happens they wish they were dead

Don Edrington's PC Chat

San Diego's North County Times Sunday, November 9, 2003

Helping to Ensure That a Picture Travels with your Email

As I've said before, I learn more about computers from readers of this column than from almost any other source. Here's another example: Linda Sides wrote to say that pictures she sends as Outlook Express attachments sometimes don't arrive, and the intended recipient just sees a box containing a red X. She went on to say this can happen whether she uses Insert>Picture or if she clicks the "Attach" button.

However, Linda added, the problem was solved when she discovered she can click on Format>Send Pictures With Message. Thanks for the tip, Linda!

Using Word Processing Templates

Don Davidson wrote regarding a recent column which explained how to create a page in MSWorks where text could be superimposed over a picture. Don pointed out that saving the file as a "template" would make the page more readily available each time Works is launched.

Templates are a feature of all word processing programs, and can range from pages that contain some simple pre-composed text to more complex ones that can guide us through creating a wedding invitation or filling out a job résumé. If you have a document that will be used over and over with variable text to be added each time, you can save it as a template.

In MSWorks, go to File>Save As and choose "Works Template.WPT" in the "Save As Type:" box. If you name the file, say, "MyProfile," it will be saved as "MyProfile.wpt" in the C:\Program Files\Microsoft Works\Templates folder. When Works is subsequently launched, "MyProfile" will always be listed under "Programs" and ready to use.

If you then add something to the document and then go to File>Save As, you'll be prompted to type a new name that will have the default .WPS (Works Word Processor) extension, and which will leave your template unchanged.

Using the "NORMAL" Template

Going to File>Save As in MSWorks will also display a "Template" button. Be careful - clicking it will bring up NORMAL.WPT, a pre-installed template that determines all the word processor settings, such as its default font style. Do NOT change this template unless you want all future documents to reflect your new "style" settings.

Similar options are available in MSWord, which adds the extension ".DOT" to a template. Also, Word has a "default-settings" template named NORMAL.DOT, which can be used to customize those defaults. If you just want to change the default font, however, it's easier to go to Format>Font, choose your preferences and then click on the "Default" button.

One final word about MSWord's NORMAL.DOT file; you may want to delete it at some point. Word is a super-sophisticated program that can do amazing things; but this super-sophistication also makes it prone to getting out of kilter.

If you ever get an error message that refers to NORMAL.DOT, it's best to just delete the file. Go to Start>Find/Search>NORMAL.DOT. When the file appears, click on it and hit your Delete key. The next time Word is launched, the file will automatically be recreated with its original default settings, and the error message will be gone.

Dress Up Your Word Processing with WordArt

A handy tool that is available in both MSWord and MSWorks, as well as in other MS programs, is WordArt. As its name suggests, you can do artistic things with a word or a phrase. Go to Insert>Picture>WordArt. For Works users, a box will appear reading YOUR TEXT HERE. The regular word processing toolbar will be replaced with a new one that lets you edit the WordArt "drawing."

Click on "Plain Text" and a drop-down window will show a variety of shapes, such as a waving banner, an arch, and a stop sign. Click on a design and your phrase will conform to its shape, whereupon you can edit the drawing by giving it, say, a shadow or a 3D look.

Word users will be presented with a "WordArt Gallery" from which a number of colorful pre-designed drawings can be chosen. Click OK and a floating WordArt toolbar will give you the options mentioned above, along with many others. WordPerfect users have similar options with TextArt.

WordArt makes a nice addition to the word processing drawing tools described in a recent column. Together they are great for designing colorful Holiday Greetings cards or letters, and some samples are displayed at www.pcdon.com.

More PC Tips can be found at www.pcdon.com where archives of all these newsletters from 2001, 2002 and 2003 can be found, along with Free Music, Free Software, and all kinds of other interesting things.



Comdex Faces Competitor

Vendors, customers flock to rival trade shows.

James Niccolai, IDG News Service

Friday, November 14, 2003

With the opening of the Comdex trade show in Las Vegas next week, a competitor is a short cabride away. Jupiter media, a research and events company, is launching a rival show at the Mandalay Bay Convention Center, and it's making no secret of its ambition: to run Comdex out of town.

Jupitermedia announced plans for its show in February, taking advantage of financial uncertainty surrounding Comdex organizer Key3Media Group, which had filed for bankruptcy protection the same day. While Comdex faced criticism for becoming a sprawling, unfocused event that didn't meet the needs of buyers and sellers, Jupitermedia promises a more intimate gathering focused specifically on enterprise technology.

On the eve of its show, called Computer Digital Expo (cdXpo), it has signed up around 50 exhibitors. Its speaker roster includes Peter Blackmore, head of Hewlett-Packard's server group, and Darl McBride, chief executive of The SCO Group. Jupitermedia expects to attract about 6000 visitors to the event. That would be only a tenth of the crowd Comdex hopes to draw, but still a healthy start for a show in its first year, according to Alan Meckler, Jupitermedia's chairman and chief executive.

"We've created a show which we think addresses all the ills of Comdex. People want smaller, more focused events," he says.

Exhibitors Defect

Some exhibitors apparently agree. The Canadian government, which has been a Comdex regular in the past, is this year setting up its pavilion at cdXpo instead, to showcase about 20 Canadian IT vendors. Representatives decline to discuss their reasons for switching. IBM, BEA Systems, and SAP America will also be at cdXpo. Some companies, like IBM, will have a presence at both shows.

Pointing to Comdex's falling attendance—the show expects about 50,000 visitors this year, down from 125,000 last year—Meckler predicts its rapid demise. "When trade shows start to shrink, and shrink rapidly, they don't come back, and I think that's what we're seeing here," he says.

Despite his bluster, Comdex is by no means beaten. Key3Media emerged from bankruptcy in June, changed its name to MediaLive International, and announced plans for its own smaller, more focused event for enterprise IT users. It cut the number of exhibitors by a half from a year ago and is being selective about attendees for the first time, to ensure a better class of visitor.

It also moved its headquarters from Los Angeles to San Francisco, to be closer to the heart of the tech industry. The new management team includes former members of CMP Media, an experienced media and events company. Its usual lineup of speakers will be at Comdex, including Microsoft's Bill Gates, Sun's Scott McNealy, and Siebel Systems' Tom Siebel. Dell, which has been absent from the show for six years, has returned.

In short, Comdex has seen the error of its ways and has rebuilt itself as a new type of show, says Eric Faurot, the show's vice president and general manager.

"This is year one of the new Comdex. It's back to basics—understanding how to connect the right buyers with the right vendors. We will only allow companies on the show floor that have products for the IT marketplace. You won't see any car companies or massage chairs," he says.

New Age Trade Shows

Comdex became wrapped up in the growth frenzy that marked the dot-com era, when growth took precedence over a viable business model, Faurot says. When the market collapsed, "the rules of the game changed for everybody. Just as IT vendors are now having to prove their value to customers, so too must trade shows," Faurot adds.

With that in mind, MediaLive has joined with trade show organizer CeBIT USA, International Data Group (parent company of PC World), CMP Media, and other industry players to come up with a way of measuring attendance at shows accurately. The consortium of companies will hold its first meeting at Comdex next week.

Faurot welcomes the challenge from Jupitermedia and claims to be unperturbed.

"The best thing is that it validates the need for an industry event, and it allows us to be compared to something besides our past," he says.

Faurot's opponent has some pedigree. Meckler's resume includes launching the Internet World trade show in 1993, which he grew to about 70,000 attendees before selling it to Penton Media in 1998, along with a few media properties, for \$274 million. Today his company runs several trade shows focused on specific industry segments. They include WiFi Planet, which has been growing quickly.

"I'm looking forward to next week," he says. "It's exciting for me as a businessman."

Taking Bets

Some analysts say it's too early to know how the rivalry between the two shows will play out. Meckler and Faurot seem to agree on one thing, however: The industry won't support two concurrent trade shows in the same town for very long.

"I think right now it's up for grabs. It's too early to say with any certainty what's going to happen," says Andy Olsen, a trade show consultant with Team International Group in Gainesville, Florida, who attended the first Comdex show almost a quarter century ago.

Comdex remains one of the best-known industry trade shows in the world, while some people contacted for this story said they had never heard of cdXpo. On the other hand, a Computerworld poll in October shows many IT executives are unaware of Comdex's makeover attempt, and still consider it too big and glitzy to be worth their time.

Rob Enderle, a principal analyst with the Enderle Group in San Jose, California, says the whole idea of trade shows is being called into question. With higher quality video coming to the Internet, buyers may no longer feel the need to attend events in person to find out what's on offer, he says.

Meanwhile, Faurot and Meckler are gearing up for an important week.

"I think that only afterwards, when you can sit back and take a look at what actually happened, will we really know which one was successful," Olsen says.

October Board of Directors Meeting

The October Executive Board of Directors (Board or BOD) Meeting of the Orange Coast IBM PC User Group (OCIPUG) was held on October 25, 2003, at the Costa Mesa Senior Center. President Michael Moore called the meeting to order at 11:30 am, with six of the nine officers and directors, Newsletter Coordinator Robert Walker, and Member Mark Borison present.

Note that this Board meeting was conducted immediately after the October General meeting. This practice will continue until further notice, as it eliminates the need for Board members to make two trips to the Senior Center.

A draft copy of the minutes of the September 2003 Executive Board of Directors Meeting had previously been e-mailed to all board members for their review. Although no comments were received, Secretary Frank Mastroly noted that he had made two minor corrections. In a motion by Director Red Davidson, seconded by Director Morris Fier, and carried, the minutes of the September 2003 Executive Board of Directors Meeting as revised were approved.

President's Report: — No report.

Secretary's Report: — No report.

Treasurer's Report: — No report, as Cheryl Wester has resigned due to changes in her work assignments. In the interim, Past Treasurer/ CFO Kevin Moser has turned over all of his books and files to Robert Walker, and will assist the person who takes over as much as needed. As we are required by law to maintain certain records, these files have been stored in the lower section of the OCIPUG file cabinet. See also New Business.

Committee Reports:

Program Committee Report: — As noted in the September 2003 BOD meeting minutes, Member Mark Borison, assisted by President Michael Moore, has agreed to assume the position of Program Committee Chairman. At the October 2003 General Meeting, Member Richard Baznik gave an excellent presentation on activePDF (a program similar to but not as full-featured as Adobe Acrobat) using a PowerPoint presentation and printed material provided by active PDF (www.activepdf.com). This was followed by a presentation by Member Cheryl Wester on Googology 101 or "How to Stop Searching and Start Finding," using a PowerPoint presentation from www.netsquirrel.com, a website created by Patrick Douglas Crispen.

For the November 22 General Meeting (moved up one week because of the Thanksgiving Day holiday), there will be a "presentation in a box" on the Intel Centrino Mobile Technology (CMT) for laptops and, perhaps, a summary of members' experience at Comdex. There will be pot-luck on Saturday, December 20 preceded by a brief in-house presentation still TBD

To assist Mark, Robert Walker will e-mail to Mark all he has on various contacts, including a list of potential presenters from APCUG, as we need to get back into the APCUG flow. In addition, President Michael Moore will e-mail Mark a list of potential software presenters.

SIG Reports:

The November SIG schedule is as follows:

- * Internet and Web Page Design (Michael Moore and Mark Borison), 1st Tuesday of each month. On November 4, Michael and Mark will continue the presentation on web page design as well as address questions from the audience
- * Hardware (Ed Leckliter), 2nd Tuesday of each month. On November 11, Ed, who has returned from his trip, will finish his series on "what is inside the box" and cover other components (modems, NICs, chassis, power supplies, HFAs, fans, keyboards, mice), and also what is on the "motherboard CD."
- * Windows 9x/XP (Robert Strader), 3rd Tuesday of each month. On November 18, Robert will continue to cover Windows tips and tricks.
- * Digital Photography and Scanning (David Wintle), 4th Tuesday of each month. On October 28 David will conduct an open forum on scanning and printing.

SeniorNet Report: — Secretary Frank Mastroly reported that the next SeniorNet team meeting will be on Friday, November 21, 2003, at 3:00 pm. The next session of classes will begin on Monday, January 12, 2004 and, as usual, the SeniorNet team is in need of additional coaches, with the only requirement being to be able to follow what the instructor is saying and to be one step ahead of the students.

The SeniorNet team is considering offering workshops on scanning and burning CDs. We are also looking for someone who can teach a course on using Family Tree Maker to process genealogical data.

Community Service Report: — Robert Walker reported that this is a continuing work in progress.

Long Range Planning Committee Report: — Mark Borison feels that we should continue our efforts to hold joint meetings with other clubs, e.g., Winners, North Orange County, etc. Director Red Davidson agreed that this needs to be addressed.

Facilities Report, Maintenance, and Improvement: — Continuing work in process. Member Steve Schiffman is evaluating setting up a wireless network for the Center. As currently envisioned, this system would use the SeniorNet router to set up an access point mounted in the ceiling just outside the computer room (it will need a 120v power supply), with the installation of network cables between the computer room and the access point donated by Del Heinz of Comcast, our cable internet provider. Presently the system being evaluated for the Center will have four hard-coded MAC addresses for the four Center computers and thus would not be accessible by other wireless devices.

Operations (Policy and Procedures): — No report.

Publications Report: — Newsletter Coordinator Robert Walker reported that the November Readme.Doc is "ready to go." As usual, he wants the SIG leaders to provide inputs on the most recent as well as the next SIG for inclusion in the Readme.Doc, preferably by the first of each month.

Webmaster Report: — Webmaster Mark Borison said that he wants old copies of the Readme.Doc which he can scan and post on the OCIPUG web site assuming we can resolve our difficulties with InReach. Former Webmaster Michael Moore reported that he cannot even delete files from the site in order to make room for new files, and that is why the site has not been updated for some time. The problem with InReach remains open.

Membership Committee Report: — Robert Walker reported that his current membership roster shows 67 members. We need a new Membership Committee Chairman.

Advertising and Public Relations Report: — No report.

Old Business: — None.

New Business:

Past President Leonard Stein has agreed to assume the position of Treasurer/CFO. As a result, we will need new bank signature cards for Leonard, President Michael Moore, and Secretary Frank Mastroly. Michael will coordinate this.

Those members attending Comdex were requested to pick up as much material as they could.

Adjournment: — Moved by Director Red Davidson, seconded by Treasurer Leonard Stein, and carried. The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 pm. The next OCIPUG Board meeting will be on Saturday, November 22, 2003, immediately after the November General Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Mastroly, Secretary

Digital Cameras for the Holiday Season

By Ira Wilsker

Whether advertising hype or legitimate analysis, many of the published pundits are predicting that this winter will be the prime season for digital camera sales. In compliance with traditional technological history, digital cameras have improved in quality and features while plunging in price. I got a "deal" on my first digital camera three years ago, with 640x480 resolution which is 0.3 (that's three-tenths) of a megapixel resolution, 10x optical zoom, slow serial connectivity, and 2 megs of memory for \$270, about one-half retail. For the record, that camera still works fine. Today our local retailers are offering technologically superior digital cameras with 10 times the resolution and 16 times the built-in memory, with fast USB connectivity, for about the same price. In many markets, digital cameras far outsell comparable 35mm cameras. Digital cameras require no film (only memory), require no processing (no trips to the photo counter with the concurrent cost of processing), and provide the instant gratification popularized by the obsolescent Polaroids of yesteryear.

Two of my daughters expressed an interest in a digital camera for the holidays so I have been shopping around. There is a myriad of techno-babble terms being bantered about in describing digital cameras that may require some explanation here so all can understand.

The primary feature being touted by digital camera makers is "megapixels" or millions of tiny dots of resolution. A "pixel" is the common vernacular for "Picture element", which is each tiny dot of information that you see on your computer screen. To put megapixels in perspective, a computer monitor with the common 800x600 resolution means 800 pixels wide by 600 pixels high, or 480,000 pixels. Likewise a 1024x768 resolution, common on today's 17 inch monitors, is 786,432 pixels. If the primary intent is to email digital photos, or post them to the web, then very high resolutions are unnecessary. Someone recently sent me a huge image file as an email attachment. The picture was of a new grandchild, and taken with a 2.1 megapixel camera, at maximum resolution. The sender did not practice good "netiquette" and reduce the size of the image to reasonable dimensions (such as 320x240 or 640x480), so his large image was three times the size of the screen on my 17 inch monitor. The only way to view the unedited image was to scroll left and right, and up and down. In most cases there is little need to take photos at the maximum resolution; almost all cameras allow for smaller, lower resolution photos.

If the user wants to print the photos with a photo grade printer on high quality inkjet or laser photo paper, 2.1 megapixels, can produce an excellent quality 5x7 inch print, and a reasonable 8x10 inch print. Many of the moderately priced digital cameras are now being offered with 5 or more megapixels. With an appropriate printer and paper, 5 megapixels can produce an excellent quality 8x10 print, and a decent 11x17. The holy grail of digital cameras, 12+ megapixels, the resolution of good quality slide film, was passed about two years ago by the high-end professional models. Many professional photographers, who dismissed digital photography as a low quality fad a few years ago, are now embracing the new technology.

The ability to zoom the image in and out is a popular feature in most cameras. The two methods of zoom available on digital cameras are optical and digital zoom. In terms of sharpness, optical zoom is superior to digital, as the image itself is manipulated, rather than the pixels making up the image. The less expensive cameras typically only offer digital zoom (adequate for common snapshots), but the better cameras offer either optical zoom or a combination of the two.



The memory available to the camera determines how many images it can hold before the data must be downloaded to a computer or other device. Most digital cameras have some built-in memory, and allow for the addition of supplemental memory in a variety of formats. Some cameras minimize the need for digital memory by writing the image directly to a floppy disk or mini-CD. Since the integral memory in a digital camera can typically hold only a small number of images, it is important to determine the price and availability of additional memory in the proper format. Memory comes in different capacities and formats from tiny cards, to rectangular "memory sticks". All camera memory is not the same, and differs in speed (faster is better, but often at a price), and power consumption (less power consumption is better by prolonging battery life). According to Lexar, one of the major manufacturers of digital camera media, the number of photos that can be held in memory varies by the resolution of the photo and the capacity of the media. If the inexpensive 32meg memory card is used, at maximum resolution, a 2 megapixel camera will store about 35 images, while only storing 12 images from a 5 megapixel camera. Media of 256megs (often around \$50) can hold much more; 284 images at 2 megapixels, and 102 images at 5 megapixels. A chart showing the capacity of different media is available at www.lexarmedia.com/digfilm/index_cf.html. It should also be noted that the memory, also referred to as "digital film", can be reused indefinitely.

Almost all new digital cameras come with some form of fast USB connectivity to download images to the computer. Accessories such as docking stations, and external card readers are a convenience, but not a necessity.

As an added convenience, most local photo finishers now print photo-grade images directly from the camera memory, at prices lower than printing them yourself. Now we can have the best of both worlds.

Ira Wilsker is the Advisor for Region 8, APCUG Representative & Bylaws Chair for the Golden Triangle PC Club, a columnist for The Examiner in Beaumont, Texas, and has two radio shows. He also graciously shares his articles with the APCUG editors.

However, some games continue to remain dumb so your enemies don't even know you are there unless you hit them over the head with something.

Games based on movies or TV shows continue to be generally bad; but there are some exceptions, like Electronic Arts, James Bond series of games. One trend concerning such games is that some of those games are directed toward the general population rather than toward the hard core gamer. This has led to some games having bad reviews by the hard core gaming press and hard core gamers. But because non-hard core gamers enjoy these games they wind up as a best seller. Examples of these are Atari's Enter The Matrix and Electronic Arts, Harry Potter and The Sorcerer's Stone.

In the game console wars, Nintendo seems to be losing. Twice this year Nintendo had to do a special promotion bundling when the GameCubes sales went significantly lower than Microsoft's Xbox. Over the last two years Nintendo has had many companies that exclusively developed for their platform start developing games for other platforms as well. This year two well-known game publishers decided to discontinue publishing games for the GameCube. In addition, Sony Playstation 2 games are reported to be about 70% of the console games sold. Sony and Microsoft built their consoles with the concept of it not being just a console, but a home entertainment device. They also had plans for online gaming. Nintendo did not on both counts, which has hurt them. The next generation of consoles are expected to arrive 2005-2006, and the results may be a live or die situation for Nintendo as a console manufacturer.

For those who have recently bought or upgraded PCs with good graphic cards and CPUs and want to show them off with some great games Vivendi Universal Games, Half Life 2, Electronic Arts The Lord of the Rings: Return of the King, and JoWood's Aquinox 2: Revelation are games you should consider. The Lord of the Rings: Return of The King will be on the consoles too.

Some good WWII action titles are Electronic Arts, Medal of Honor: Rising Sun for the consoles (PC version later on) and for the PC Activision's Call To Duty. Electronic Arts has again brought out another of its excellent James Bond series, James Bond Everything or Nothing (consoles only for now). Ubisoft' Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time (PS2) and Tom Clancy's Ghost Recon: Island Thunder (Xbox) are definitely worth your consideration.

For you fans of Electronic Arts, Battlefield 1942 (PC) there are the Secret Weapons of WWII and Road to Rome expansion packs. The release date for Microsoft's Halo 2 (Xbox) is March 2004, but the first version of this excellent first person shooter has now been released for the PC. Ubisoft's Beyond Good & Evil (PC & consoles) gives a unique mixing of game genres to provide an excellent action adventure. If you like survival horror games, try Kononomi's Silent Hill 3 for the PS2.

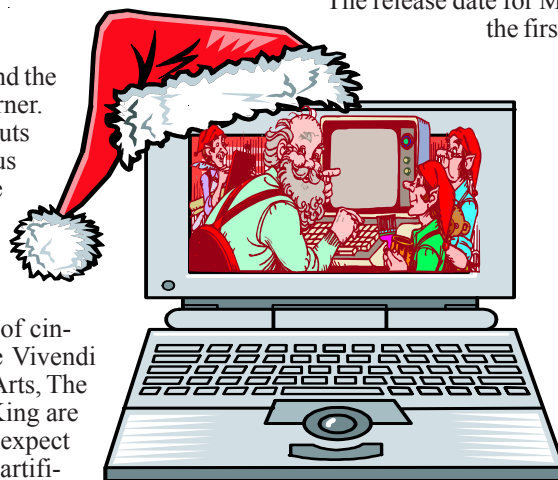
For those who like more thoughtful games look at Microsoft's Rise of Nations real-time strategy game (PC). Electronic Arts has an expansion pack for its RTS Command and Conquer Generals, Command & Conquer Generals Zero Hour. If you are a fan of the Sims, there is the Making Magic expansion pack where spells can produce love or turn someone into a frog. Microsoft's Flight Simulator 2004: A Century of Flight (PC) is another title you should look at.

May Your Holidays Be Filled With Polygons

By Timothy Everingham, TUGNET
teveringham@acm.org

Again it is getting cooler; Fall is here and the holiday season is just around the corner. While many look forward to, "chestnuts roasting on an open fire," too many of us are dreaming of polygons. Yes, it is the time for the largest release of games for computers and video consoles of the entire year.

This year we have gotten to the point of cinematic quality in games. Games like Vivendi Universal's Half Life 2 and Electronic Arts, The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King are up to the standards of what one would expect in an animated movie. Some games' artificial intelligence units which control the adversary units are improving so that after a while the adversary will pick up on the players tactics and make adjustments, which then requires the players to change their tactics.



For aerial combat look at Microsoft's Crimson Skies: High Road to Revenge (Xbox) and Lucas Arts, Secret Weapons Over Normandy (PC, PS2, & Xbox). For you Star Wars fans there is Lucas Arts, Star Wars: The Clone Wars (Xbox).

For the sports fans for football game you should look for Madden NFL 2004 from Electronic Arts (PC & all consoles), which fits the general rule that Electronic Arts either has the best sports game or tied for first. As with all of Electronic Arts sports titles, only the Playstation 2 version is playable online.

Microsoft's Midtown Madness 3 (Xbox) is a racing through traffic game. For a fighting game there is Namco's Soul Caliber II (all consoles). If you like shooting things up with your racing try Midway's Spy Hunter 2 (all consoles).

Then there are games for those who don't want to follow the rules. Sony's Downhill Domination (PS2) is an off road outlaw bicycle racing game. Then as a follow up to their successful Outlaw Golf, Simon & Schuster Interactive has come up with Outlaw Volleyball (Xbox). Of course for those who really want to go outlaw, Rockstar Games? Grand Theft Auto: Vice City is now available for the PC.

If you are looking for a massively multiplayer online game, Sony Online Entertainment's Planetside (PC) is a breakthrough on game play and realtime graphics. SOE has also come out with an "All Access" subscription where you can play all their MMOG for \$21.95 a month.

A joint venture with Lucas Arts, Star Wars Galaxies: An Empire Divided (PC) got off to a slow start, but many of the bugs have been fixed and it is becoming quite popular.

Square Enix's Final Fantasy Online XI also looks good (PC & PS2).

For many of you there will be polygon this holiday coming through your game platform. In many cases games are getting better, but some think they can get away with doing more marketing and tying to films or TV shows to overcome bad game design. So check the reviews and your friends to know where to best put your cash. If you are really in a quandary, you can always rent them first at your local video store. Remember to play with respect and thoughtfulness and to destroy the alien before it eats you.

Timothy Everingham is CEO of Timothy Everingham Consulting in Azusa, California. He is also Vice Chair of the Los Angeles Chapter of ACM SIGGRAPH, the largest chapter of the Association for Computing Machinery's (ACM) Special Interest Group on Computer Graphics and Interactive Techniques and one of Southern California's significant professional organizations within the entertainment and media industries. In addition he is the Vice President of the Windows Media Users, Group of Los Angeles. He is also part-time press in the areas of high technology, computers, video, audio, and entertainment/media and has had articles published throughout the United States and Canada plus Australia, England, & Japan. He is a member of TUGNET. Further information can be found at <http://home.earthlink.net/~teveringham>



General Meeting, October 25

The October 2003 General Meeting of the Orange Coast IBM PC User Group (OCIPUG) was held on Saturday, October 25, 2003, at the Costa Mesa Senior Center, with 27 members in attendance.

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 October 2003 Readme.Doc. In addition, it was requested that all names and e-mail addresses be printed on the sign-in sheets, as Newsletter Coordinator Robert Walker is continuing to update his mailing list and needs this information ASAP. Robert is still receiving "bounces," which he then has to follow up by phone due to members having new e-mail addresses. Robert also had a separate sheet on which members could indicate any changes to address, phone number, and/or e-mail address.

There was no Random Access (Q&A) session.

President Michael Moore called the General Meeting to order at 9:10am. Michael started the meeting by thanking member Mark Borison for volunteering to be Webmaster and Program Committee chairman, and thanking member Steve Schiffman for volunteering to conduct the hardware SIG in the absence of Ed Leckliter who is out of town.

Michael announced that the October OCIPUG Board of Directors meeting would be conducted immediately after this General meeting. This will be normal operating procedure until further notice.

Because of changes in her work assignments, Cheryl Wester has resigned as Treasurer/CFO, and anyone interested to assume this office should contact Michael after the meeting.

Secretary Frank Mastroly reported that he had learned that former OCIPUG Secretary Pat Cohen was suffering from abdominal cancer, but that he had seen her regularly in church. He will advise the membership of any updates in Pat's condition.

Member Mark Borison reminded the membership that any new or renewal subscriptions to Smart Computing Magazine should note that these subscriptions are to be credited to OCIPUG so that we can receive free subscriptions and other free items from Smart Computing. Mark also requested any ideas members may have for programs and for the OCIPUG web site.

Past President Leonard Stein asked if anyone was interested in purchasing the book "Secret Guide to Computers for \$10 plus S&H. If so, see Leonard after the meeting. This book is unique in that the author puts his phone number on the cover, and President Michael Moore said that he has talked to the author on occasion. Newsletter Coordinator Robert Walker requested a brief write-up on the book for the Readme.Doc.

In response to a question from President Michael Moore, Ron Perkins, Frank Mastroly, Mark Borison, and Cheryl and Karl Wester are planning to attend the APCG Fall meeting and Comdex in Las Vegas from November 15 through November 20. Cheryl will be presenting a workshop on the Pocket PC on Saturday morning November 15.

The next item of business were the SIG Reports as follows:
* Internet and Web Page Design (Michael Moore), 1st Tuesday of each month. On November 4, Michael will continue his presentation on web page design as well as address questions from the audience

- * Hardware (Ed Leckliter), 2nd Tuesday of each month. On November 11, Ed, who has returned from his trip, will finish his series on “what is inside the box” and cover other components (modems, NICs, chassis, power supplies, HFAs, fans, keyboards, mice), and also what is on the “the motherboard CD”.
- * Windows 9x/XP (Robert Strader), 3rd Tuesday of each month. On November 18, Robert will continue to cover Windows tips and tricks.
- * Digital Photography and Scanning (David Wintle), 4th Tuesday of each month. On October 28 David will conduct an open forum on scanning and printing.

President Michael Moore then started the main portion of the meeting. Initially, Nicole Diaz, Desktop Manager at activePDF (www.activepdf.com) was to give a presentation on the “activePDF Composer”. However, Ms. Diaz was unable to attend, but Member Richard Baznik gave the presentation using a PowerPoint presentation and printed material provided by activePDF. The material that follows was taken from both the presentation and from material on the activePDF website.

PDF (Portable Document Format) is a cross-platform format that allows one to view and print various text and graphics on a variety of hardware and operating system platforms. The PDF format allows for precise display and print control, and document security. Generally, the user can only view and save a PDF file but cannot alter it in any way. Portions of a PDF file can frequently be extracted and copied into another document, but the original file remains as-is.

Adobe established and published the specifications for creating and using the PDF format for document sharing. However, Adobe Acrobat is not the only program available for creating PDF files. Affordable and flexible, activePDF Composer simplifies high-quality desktop PDF creation. Built-in configurations and Microsoft Office integration streamline PDF conversion, while robust settings give users full control over PDF output. ActivePDF Composer will convert any printable document to the PDF format. The program uses most of the key functions but not all of the options of Adobe Acrobat. It will produce PDF files optimized for press (formal publishing), print (normal home user) and web.

Key Features of activePDF Composer include:

- * ‘Print’ to PDF from virtually any Windows application
- * Supports drag and drop Postscript and EPS to PDF conversion
- * Create Intelligent PDF from Microsoft Word and PowerPoint (see below)
- * Optimized settings for press, print and web output (see below)
- * Option to save user-defined output configurations
- * Enables faster web viewing of PDFs (linearization) (see below)
- * Automatically attach PDF and send via email
- * Customized file save options for outputted PDFs
- * Add document security with 40 or 128 bit PDF encryption
- * ‘Send to ‘ PDF from Windows Explorer
- * Compression of images and text
- * Execute another application on completion of PDF creation process
- * Color Management and True type font support
- * Conforms to latest PDF specification from Adobe Systems
- * Output is compatible with version 3.0 and higher of Adobe Reader

With “Intelligent PDF” files, document structure elements from the authoring application are converted to dynamic navigation elements in the created PDF file.

ActivePDF Composer creates Intelligent PDF files from Microsoft Word and PowerPoint, converting headings to bookmarks, transforming table of contents, footnotes and indexes into PDF links, and configuring hyperlinks to launch the user’s browser. Additionally, Microsoft Word comments are converted to PDF “sticky notes”.

The user must select the form of output (press, print, or web) prior to the conversion. The program optimizes settings for press, print and web output. For reference, press has a resolution of 2,450 dpi, print has a resolution of 600 dpi, and web has a resolution of 72 dpi, with corresponding differences in final file sizes.

Composer incorporates PDF linearization, which optimizes PDF files for more efficient viewing over the web. Pages can be viewed as they are being downloaded, rather than forcing the user to wait while the entire PDF file is downloaded.

Composer includes a myriad of settings allowing the user to optimize the PDF files depending on the intended output device. Advanced color management and prepress options are available if sending files to a commercial printer, while image compression and font embedding options allow the user to reduce file sizes without compromising visual quality. Font embedding allows the user to use “rare” fonts that the recipient’s reader may not support. The user can choose either to include the entire character set or only a subset of only those characters actually used. The PDF files will display and print exactly as intended to, on any device, in any working environment.

The user can also set security options, including password protection if desired. This can range from allowing the recipient to only view and not print or save, to allowing the recipient to almost anything short of editing and reissuing the file.

At the end of his presentation, Richard distributed evaluation CDs to all in attendance. These CDs contain the entire program and are not time limited. However, all pages of PDF documents created using this CD are watermarked. The program retails for \$79, but is available to user group members at a 25% discount, or for \$60.

Initially for the second presentation, Iwill USA’s (www.iwillusa.com) was to make a presentation that would include company background, general stats on the company in the marketplace; and detailed discussion of Iwill motherboards and SFF barebones and what makes them unique and their products compelling in the marketplaces they serve; and, finally, a brief description of the company’s operations in southern California.

However, no representative from Iwill was able to attend. Instead, Member Cheryl Wester gave a very informative presentation on “Googology,” or “How to Stop Searching and Start Finding.” The presentation used a PowerPoint presentation downloaded from www.netsquirrel.com, a website created by Patrick Douglas Crispin. NetSquirrel.com is the personal Web site of Patrick Douglas Crispin and is named in honor of the squirrels on the campus of the University of Alabama who so bravely — and routinely — gave their lives to disrupt power to the University’s mainframe computer center.

To view the presentation (it requires that you have a PowerPoint viewer available as a free download from Microsoft at <http://office.microsoft.com/downloads/2000/Ppview97.aspx>) go to the NetSquirrel home page and scroll down to Classroom Resources, which are free PowerPoint presentations that can be used in the classroom.

Among these is Google 101 “Stop Searching and Start FINDING.” The presentation description as taken from the web site states “Sick and tired of looking for information about the Civil War and ending up with 1,247,672,286 hits for stuff like sheet metal fasteners or naked pictures of Ernest Borgnine?”

This presentation is for you! In this one hour presentation you'll learn the advanced searching tips and techniques that will help you actually FIND what you are looking for on Google." The following material was taken from several of the PowerPoint slides in the Google 101 presentation.

The goal of this presentation is to:

- * Discover the biggest mistakes made by most Internet users
- * Talk about the differences between directories and search engines (and when to use each)
- * Learn some advanced Google searching techniques
- * DO THIS ALL IN PLAIN ENGLISH!

Particular Items of Note Are:

- * The top 15 search terms in 2000 were Sex, Hotmail, Yahoo, Pornography, Chat, MP3, Horoscopes, eBay, AOL, Games, Maps, Pokemon, Nude, Music, and XXX. For an updated list, go to www.wordtracker.com
- * The biggest mistake is typing the search terms in the wrong box
- * The second biggest mistake is using the wrong tool at the wrong time. Restated, it is using a directory as if it were a search engine (and not understanding why you cannot find anything). Remember, YAHOO IS NOT A SEARCH ENGINE IT IS A DIRECTORY (also known as a Portal). Directories are usually manually compiled guides to the web, where sites are organized by category. Major directories are MSN, Yahoo, and Netscape ODP.
- * The third biggest mistake is not knowing how to use directories or search engines to actually find stuff.

Related to this are the Five Rules of Using a Search Engine:

- * Rule Number One: Be specific, because if you are not specific you will end up with a bunch of garbage
- * Rule Number Two: Use quotes to search for phrases ('patrick crispen')
- * Rule Number Three: Use the plus sign to require (crispen +pepperdine)
- * Rule Number Four: Use the minus sign to exclude (crispen -roadmap)
- * Rule Number Five: Combine symbols as often as possible (+'patrick crispen'-roadmap+pepperdine)

Advanced Google searching is simple as long as you remember a few simple commands

- * Title searches at Google allow you to search for pages that have a particular word or phrase in their title (intitle:moon or intitle:"moon landing")
- * Site searches at Google allow you to limit your search to only pages within a specific site or domain, or to exclude pages from a specific site or domain (apollo site:nasa.gov or apollo site:nasa.gov) This is an especially powerful tool if trying to locate information on the Microsoft Knowledge Base. For example, if you want to find information on Outlook Express Mail Files you would type +outlook+express+mail+files site:support.microsoft.com
- * URL searches at Google allow you to search for pages that have a particular word or phrase in their URL, especially when you can only remember one word in a long URL (inurl:apollo)
- * Related searches at Google allow you to search for pages that are similar to another page. For example, you can do a related search to find pages similar to the netsquirrel.com page (related:netsquirrel.com)

Putting these all together, a sample advanced Google search could look like: +inurl:apollo +moon -"john young" +site:nasa.gov (of course all on one line)

For those interested taking your Googling to the next level, there is also a course entitled Google 201: Advanced Googology. Beyond the world of pluses, minuses, and quotes lies a whole universe of secret Google tips, techniques, and tools. This quick, one-hour workshop introduces you to little known Google features like pipes, stop-word workarounds, full-word wildcards, and query modifiers — features that will instantly make you the envy of your friends and the center of attention at cocktail parties

On the Patrick Crispen site, there is a link to another very good source of information on search engines (Search Engine Watch at www.searchenginewatch.com). This site contains considerable information on how search engines work as well as tips on how to use search engines better.

The following summarizes some of the information that can be found on this site.

- * How Search Engines
- * How Search Engines Rank Web
- * Web Searching Tips — This section of Search Engine Watch provides tips on using search engines better, along with some fun facts such as what people search for on search engines.
- Using Search Engines Better
 - * Search Engine Math — How to use simple commands to improve the results you get from search engines.
 - * Power Searching For Anyone — A summary of how to do advanced searches with the major search engines, including field searching.
 - * Search Assistance Features — A summary of how to do advanced searches with the major search engines, including phrase searching.
 - * Search Features Chart — A one page summary of major search commands and operators at various search engines, plus a comparison of special search features.
 - * Search Links: Search Engines Worldwide — Search Links is a collection of search engines, ranging from the major global search engines to those designed for kids
 - * Search Engine Tutorials — Links to tutorials, guides, articles, and resources to help you use search engines better
 - * Search Toolbars & Utilities — Covers search toolbars, companions, and utilities that let you access search engines, meta search utilities, and other programs to help with searching.
 - * Boolean Searching — Explains how to use Boolean commands and operators on the major search engines.
 - * Search Engine Reviews — Reviews of search engines and articles that offer a behind-the-scenes look at how they work.
 - * Search Engine Glossary — Definition of terms relating to search engines, such as phrase search, Boolean operators, stop words and more.

The meeting was concluded with our raffle. Among the winners and the items selected were:

- * Red Davidson activePDF Composer
- * Jeff Boquette Jukebox Program and Web Bambooli
- * Cheryl Wester Learn Front Page CD
- * George Thuro Cyber Savers
- * Mark Porter Hot Prospects
- * Eugenia Frerichs HR Program

For the November 22 General Meeting (moved up one week because of the Thanksgiving Day holiday), there will be a "presentation in a box" on the Intel Centrino Mobile Technology (CMT) for laptops and, perhaps, a summary of members' experience at Comdex.

There will be pot-luck on Saturday, December 20 preceded by a brief in-house presentation still TBD.

How many dogs does it take to change a light bulb?"

Golden Retriever:

The sun is shining, the day is young, we've got our whole lives ahead of us, and you're inside worrying about a stupid burned out bulb?

Rottweiler:

Make me.

Boxer:

Who cares? I can still play with my squeaky toys in the dark.

Lab:

Oh, me, me!!!! Pleeceeeeeeeze let me change the light bulb! Can I? Can I? Huh? Huh? Huh? Can I? Pleeceeeeeeeze, please, please, please!

Border Collie:

Just one. And then I'll replace any wiring that's not up to code.

Dachshund:

: You know I can't reach that stupid lamp!

Australian Shepherd:

First I'll put all the bulbs in a circle...

German Shepherd:

I'll change it as soon as I've led these people from the dark, check to make sure I haven't missed any, and make just one more perimeter patrol to see that no one has tried to take advantage of the situation.

Jack Russell Terrier:

I'll just pop it in while I'm bouncing off the walls and furniture.

Old English Sheep Dog:

Light bulb? I'm sorry, but I don't see a light bulb...

Cocker Spaniel:

Why change it? I can still pee on the carpet in the dark. (Also applicable to Shi-tsus)

Chihuahua:

Yo quiero Taco Bulb.

Pointer:

I see the burned out bulb, there it is, there it is, right there.....

Greyhound:

It isn't moving. Who cares?

Poodle:

I'll just blow in the Border Collie's ear and he'll do it. By the time he finishes rewiring the house, my nails will be dry.

The Cat:

Dogs do not change light bulbs. People change light bulbs. So, the real question is: How long will it be before I can expect some light, some dinner, and a massage?

All of which proves, once again, that while dogs have masters, cats have staff.

A tourist walked into a pet shop and was looking at the animals on display.

While he was there, another customer walked in and went over to a cage at the side of the shop and took out a monkey.

He fit a collar and leash, handed it to the customer, saying, "That'll be \$5000." The customer paid and walked out with his monkey.

Startled, the tourist went over to the shopkeeper and said, "That was a very expensive monkey. Most of them are only a few hundred dollars.

Why did it cost so much?"

The shopkeeper answered, "Ah, that monkey can program in C - very fast, tight code, no bugs, well worth the money."

The tourist looked at the monkey in another cage. "That one's even more expensive - \$10,000! What does it do?"

"Oh, that one's a C++ monkey; it can manage object-oriented programming, Visual C++, even some Java. All the really useful stuff," said shopkeeper.

The tourist looked around for a little longer and saw a third monkey in a cage of its own. The price tag around its neck read \$50,000. He gasped to the shopkeeper, "That one costs more than all the others put together! What on earth does it do?"

The shopkeeper replied, "Well, I haven't actually seen it do anything, but it says it's a consultant."

Mailing Address

Orange Coast IBM PC User Group
Costa Mesa Senior Center
695 West 19th Street
Costa Mesa Ca, 92627



OCIPUG
Orange Coast IBM
PC User Group
(OCIPUG) © 1985

Meetings Location

Costa Mesa Senior Center
Southeast Corner of 19th and Pomona

E-mail president.bod@ocipug.org

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

Publication Copyright © 1985

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

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

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

Publication Deadline

Material for the **January 2004** issue must be received on or before **December 30, 2003**

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 949-642-5997 rwalker820@msn.com and newsletter coordinator Michael Conway 714-962-2194 mchbca@aol.com
2. Mail a 3.5" disk so as to be received by the deadline by the Newsletter Coordinator at the OCIPUG mailing address above.
3. Hard copy to Editor at the OCIPUG mailing address above.

Membership

Benefits of OCIPUG Membership include, but by no means are limited to:
* Subscription to OCIPUG's monthly newsletter, *Readme.Doc*, with up-to-date information on meeting schedules as well as the newest software and hardware.

- * Free monthly General Meetings with speakers from industry and academia describing advances in technology.
- * Free Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings/seminars to exchange tips and tricks and to solve problems.
- * Free technical support from knowledgeable fellow members via telephone and/or e-mail.
- * Pleasure in helping your fellow member solve their problems.
- * Camaraderie with those of similar interests.
- * Discounts from vendors on software, hardware, and other items.

Orange Coast IBM PC User Group

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

Membership status: New Renewal - Member # _____ Membership type: Individual Family

Title: Mr. Mrs. Ms. Dr. Prof. Hon. () (Circle one)

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

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

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

E-mail address: _____

Profession/Trade: _____ Retired Current Occupation: _____

Family Member(s) Names: _____ Company: _____

Annual Dues:

Make check payable to OCIPUG
and mail to the above address

Individual	\$30.00	\$ _____
Family	\$35.00	\$ _____

or bring to the General Meeting.

*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 : _____