

# Orange Coast IBM PC User Group

# README.DOC

February 2003

Newsletter

Volume 19.2

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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## FarStone



### *What You Can Do With VirtualDrive!*

VirtualDrive is a revolutionary software that emulates your physical CD-ROM drive. Its innovative technology allows you to create up to 23 virtual CD-ROM drives and an unlimited number of CDs on your disk drive. A MUST HAVE FOR GAMERS AND TRAVELERS. Run CD-ROMs at a higher performance without having to carry CDs. Enhance your notebook battery performance, efficiency and CD archiving capabilities. Take all your CDs with you on your VirtualDrive!

### *Here is What RestoreIT! Will Do For You!*

Gives you peace of mind knowing your computer can be completely restored to any point in time you determine. Repairs your PC in the event of virus attacks, OS crashes, damaged data, and system configuration failures. Retrieves deleted or overwritten files. Saves you time and money by not having to rely on a technician to repair your PC. Reverts your PC to any point in time and retrieve your preferred system configuration. Offers you a faster and less expensive alternative to external and complex backup systems.



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**General Meetings are held from 9:00AM to noon on:**  
 22 February 2003  
 22 March 2003  
 26 April 2003  
 24 May 2003  
 26 June 2003  
 For details see inside pages of this issue, Web Page, or Information Line

**Meetings of the Executive Board will be held at 7:00PM on:**  
 24 February 2003  
 31 March 2003  
 28 April 2003  
 26 May 2003  
 30 June 2003  
 All OCIPUG members are welcome.

**Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings are held monthly as follows:**  
 1st Saturday 9:00 AM - New User  
 1st Tuesday 7:00 PM -  
 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

## February 22 Program Far Stone Software

### Making Computing Easier Using FarStone Software

FarStone Technology ([www.farstone.com](http://www.farstone.com)) will be demonstrating its two most popular software programs for consumers, RestoreIT! and VirtualDrive. RestoreIT! is a data and system recovery program that, in the event of an operating system crash or virus attack, enables end users to instantly restore their computers back to any point before the problem occurred. VirtualDrive is CD emulation software that enables end users to run CD/DVD-ROM applications without the use of a CD drive and without the actual disc. After the demonstration and presentation of the products, there will be a question and answer session. Both products will also be available for purchase.

Jimmy Lin is the Product Manager/Engineer for FarStone Technology. As the Product Manager, Jimmy oversees FarStone's entire product development process. This process includes generating ideas for future product releases, developing solutions for technical glitches in the software, designing product retail boxes, quality assurance and handling customer feedback. Through his work, Jimmy has become intimately familiar with both RestoreIT! and VirtualDrive. Prior to joining FarStone, Jimmy was a networking consultant. He holds a degree in Computer Science/Engineering from UCLA.

FarStone will be offering RestoreIT! and VirtualDrive for \$10 off their retail prices to OCIPUG members and others in attendance at the February 22 monthly general meeting. The cost will be \$29.99 each. With sales tax, the exact total will be \$32.31 each. Payment can be made by check or by exact cash amount only (sorry, no change and no credit card transactions). The products will be available to take home directly from the meeting or, in the case that there is a shortage at the meeting, they can be picked up between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday at the FarStone office at 15550-B Rockfield Blvd. in Irvine (intersection of Rockfield Blvd. and Bake Parkway).

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# 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:

**5 February 2003**  
**Internet / Web Publishing**  
1st Wednesday 7:00 PM

**11 February 2003**  
**Hardware** - 2nd Tuesday, 7:00 PM  
Ed Leckliter [eleckliter@adelphia.net](mailto:eleckliter@adelphia.net)

**12 February 2003**  
**Windows**  
2nd Wednesday 7:00 PM  
Robert Strader 949-646-1475 [rstrader@attbi.com](mailto:rstrader@attbi.com)

**25 February 2003**  
**Digital Cameras / Scanning** - 4th Tuesday, 7:00PM  
Robert Strader 949-646-1475 [rstrader@attbi.com](mailto:rstrader@attbi.com)

**1 March 2003**  
**New User** - 1st Saturday, 9:00 AM  
John Lunsford 714-995-0947  
[jlunsford@gentech.com](mailto:jlunsford@gentech.com)

**11 March 2003**  
**Hardware** - 2nd Tuesday, 7:00 PM  
Ed Leckliter [eleckliter@adelphia.net](mailto:eleckliter@adelphia.net)

## OCIPUG Hardware SIG

Meeting Recap  
Meeting Date: January 14, 2003

There were 9 attendees (including the SIG Leader, Ed Leckliter)

The Featured Topic was: Your New System: Your New System: Installing the Balance of Your Components (alias, Assembly - Part 2)

Hardware Submissions - none

### Random Access

Bob Walker inquired as to whether there is anything in the computer that will cause the power supply not to work. [He was inquiring regarding a problem he was having with an AT-style power supply.] Regrettably no one had an answer - most, including the SIG leader, could not recall the functioning of a pre-ATX unit.

Red Davidson asked what the difference is between floppy disks (the media) marked "HD" and "2HD". Most seemed to feel there was no difference. Ed suggested that Red check the web sites of floppy media makers. [A quick look at Imation's and TDK's sites seems to confirm that they are the same. The current designation "standard" appears to be 2HD for the 1.44MB product.]

### Next Meeting: February 11, 2003

Next Featured Topic: Your New System: Installing Your OS and Device Drivers; Functional Testing [We will be installing Windows XP/Home for the OS.]

Following Meeting: March 11, 2003

Following Meeting Featured Topic: TBD (need ideas)

File(s) attached - also posted on the OCIPUG Hardware SIG web site ([http://www.edscustomcomputers.com/welcome\\_to\\_the\\_ocipug\\_hardware\\_s1.htm](http://www.edscustomcomputers.com/welcome_to_the_ocipug_hardware_s1.htm))  
Presentation slides in Microsoft PowerPoint format (.ppt).

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

**Many receive advice, few profit by it**

*- Publilius Syrus, 1st Century B.C.*



## Credit Card-Size Hard Drive Can Hold 5GB

Cheap, thin, flexible StorCard expected to become available this year.

Michael Lasky, PCWorld.com  
Thursday, January 16, 2003



Take a look at one of those credit cards in your wallet. That's the exact size and thickness of an upcoming, revolutionary removable storage device called StorCard. Created by a company with the same name, StorCard can contain from 100MB to more than 5GB of data on a plastic card. At first glance, it looks like a credit card, and even has a magnetic strip like a credit card, for potential use in standard credit card readers.

The hard disk data, however, is accessed on a tiny spinning disk inside the thin card. "The card actually has moveable parts inside its thin shell," says Bill Heil, vice president of StorCard.

A spinning wheel made of Mylar is engaged when the card is inserted into a StorReader, a USB-connected drive or PC Card that reads and writes to the StorCard. The reader is expected to retail for under \$100 and the cards for under \$15 each, Heil says. Deal in the Works The StorCard and StorReader are scheduled to become available in the second half of 2003. The company is talking with media producers, and a partnership announcement with a widely recognized producer of blank media is expected in the next month, Heil says. Amazingly, within the card is an on-board processor containing integrated software controls that can encrypt data securely in real time.

"The combination of high capacity [and] an inexpensive price point makes StorCard a viable solution for consumers and businesses alike," Heil says. Also, the card—like a credit card—is extremely flexible, without risking damage to the data it contains, he says. StorCard promises the tiny hard drive will provide high performance to quickly handle large amounts of data. It will support a volume sufficient to stream media files, for example, according to Heil. As a result, the StorCard could store even material that previously would fit only on a DVD.

### Internet tip:

If you use both Microsoft Internet Explorer and Netscape 6/7, you may find that the Netscape Bookmarks no longer match the IE 6 Favorites. You can solve this problem by exporting your IE Favorites to Netscape.

To do this, run Microsoft Internet Explorer and choose File|Import and Export. When the Import/Export wizard opens, click Next. Select Export Favorites and click Next. You can now select a folder or the entire Favorites folder and click Next.

Since IE will most likely find the correct location for your Netscape Bookmarks, all you have to do is click Next again. When asked if you want to replace the Bookmark file, click Yes. Now, click Finish and your Netscape Bookmarks will match your IE Favorites.

## Sony conceived the Vaio

U-series as a prototype PC for mobile society. In Japan, one of the contributory factors to the world-renowned success of internet-on-cell-phone (i-mode, etc.), is the amount of time people spend in transit. Whether by bullet train, train, monorail, bus, or car, Japanese people spend a lot of time standing, sitting, and waiting. Sony wanted to develop a platform that played to that market. Now, the ultralight Sony Vaio U3 is the crown jewel of a Sony Vaio notebook series designed around portability.



Indeed, it has long been Sony's conception to shrink a full-featured laptop into an always-carry device; they have succeeded with the Sony Vaio U3. The entire package, including a Crusoe 933 MHz processor, 6.4" (XGA) TFT-LCD, 20gb HDD, 512mb RAM (256mb is the base configuration), weighs merely 1.8 pounds, and boasts an remarkable footprint of only 7.3" x 5.5".



The U1 is designed for easy operation even if the user is holding it in a standing posture. Assuming use with both hands holding the chassis, the PC has a "wide-stick" pointer, operated by the thumb of the right hand. The left thumb rests on the mouse buttons, which are designed to prevent the thumb from missing its mark. There is also a built-in zoom function, which works at the touch of a button; press the zoom button, and the entire screen is magnified. A scrolling "Jog Dial" is also mounted above the keyboard, and integrated ports include a PC card slot, firewire, LAN, a headphone/audio output. A pair of built-in USB ports and a VGA output allow the machine to double as a desktop unit.



The Sony Vaio U3 demonstrates why it is recognized, even by hard-core competitors, as the world leader in miniaturizing consumer devices. Any individual, company, or organization would like to see a unique use for the U3. The need is for an alternative form unlike any other powerful tool for use by a sales

force in the field, the Vaio U3 is an unrivaled powerhouse in an ultra-small package

## Quote of the Day

Learn from the mistakes of others. You can't live long enough to make them all yourself.

## New York City Here I Come!!!!

Cheryl Wester OCIPUG

I won, I won, I won!!!! I can't believe that I was one of the lucky winners of the Tablet PC and a trip for two to New York City. I entered the contest that Mindshare put on in October and wrote a 500-word essay on how I contributed to my User Groups and used technology. Once entered, I promptly forgot about it, and two weeks later I received a surprise phone call saying I was a finalist. Ironically, when I received the phone call, I was volunteering at the Pocket PC Summit in Hollywood.

Two weeks later I was on my way to New York. I'm lucky that my work let me take two days off-I'm unlucky that I was sick the entire time I was gone. My husband and I did extend our trip two days, as I had never been to New York. After an uneventful flight we landed in New York and arrived at our hotel at 1:00 a.m. Unfortunately for me, that counted as one of my nights! Five hours later we were up, dressed, and attending a breakfast meeting prior to the official launch. This is where I received my brand new Acer Tablet PC and met people from User Groups from the East Coast. I also met the three other people that won the contest. It was wonderful. Alex Loeb, Corporate Vice President of the Tablet PC team, spoke about her baby (she had lived and breathed the Tablet PC for almost five years) and spoke about how it would expand the way people use technology. Chris Barry, from the Tablet PC team, and our own Alan were also in attendance. We were treated beautifully.

As winners we were invited to attend the Tablet PC launch where Bill Gates was the keynote speaker. It was quite the production and the theme was "Experience the Evolution." We saw a laser show at the beginning and had a brief history of how the Tablet evolved starting with a 1945 Memex Tandy Model 100 and ending with the new Tablet. Mr. Gates said that the Tablet PC "needs to be an extension of the PC" and that "now is the time." Their pride and joy of the Tablet PC is the handwriting recognition and how it works with left handed people. During his presentation he had Stephen Covey, author of *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, Rob Lowe, and Amy Tan, author of *The Joy Luck Club*, come out and express how the Tablet PC had changed the way they use computers. When Amy Tan said how she could write directly on her Word document and send it to her publisher for comments and suggestions I was hooked! I then knew I would become a Tablet PC nut.

Later we went to the vendor show and saw all the different Tablet PCs that were to be released. We even saw several that were not out yet and I was able to take numerous pictures of the Acer, Fujitsu Siemens, Compaq Tablet PC TC1000, and the ViewSonic to name a few. I write for [www.tabletpctalk.com](http://www.tabletpctalk.com) and had business cards made up so people were very willing to talk to me. I was able to view the Tablet that was rugged and had been driven over by a truck and I took a knife to the screen of the same.

There are two different types of Tablet PCs to suit everyone's needs. The convertible style has a keyboard attached and the slate is fully functioning while lacking a keyboard. You can connect it to a docking station and keyboard if needed. They suit all types of needs including those of the corridor warrior that is never in his office. They are easy to take notes on in a meeting, as you don't disturb people while clunking away on a keyboard! All of the Tablets come with Microsoft Windows XP Tablet PC Edition installed.

This includes a program called Sticky Notes that works just like your favorite little yellow notes and with a Journal program where you write notes just like on a piece of notebook paper.

All very cool and fun to use! There is a small learning curve in becoming used to using the different features. Using a Pocket PC has really helped me with that.

Currently, I'm still learning a lot about my Tablet PC and how all the functions work. I had to purchase Office XP so I have other adjustments to make as well. Of course, it is just different enough from Office 2000 to confuse me. My experiences with Microsoft and my Tablet PC have been wonderful. The people from Acer have been tremendous in helping me with a few minor problems. I highly recommend a Tablet to anyone and will be more than glad to answer questions or demo it at a future meeting. Feel free to contact me at [kcwester@earthlink.net](mailto:kcwester@earthlink.net) if you have any questions.

Computingly yours,

Cheryl Wester



## The Snap, world's smallest digital camera.



At only 37 grams, this digital camera is the ultimate keychain accessory. With it, you can snap 26 640x480 (or 104 320x240) photos at a time, then upload to your computer via USB link. While the Snap is attached to your computer, its battery automatically charges. A 2 hour charge lasts long enough for about 12 "rolls" of 26 pictures each. It's also capable of recording 10 second AVI silent movies.

The Snap is durable and attractive. The solid matte aluminum (silver or blue) casing is held together by shiny silver screws. The red LED flashes when a picture has been taken. A stand is included, since the Snap doubles as a webcam. And, the Snap comes in a cylindrical cannister, making it a cute stocking stuffer. (And, the camera is presently in stock, and overnight delivery is available.) The Snap measures 40 x 51 x 22 mm.

Supported Operating Systems:

- Windows 98SE
- Windows ME
- Windows 2000 Professional
- Windows XP



## The Fujitsu L-series



A super slimtop with an exhaustive list of features and capabilities. But most people buy slimtops (desktop computers where the CPU unit has been integrated into the screen for space-saving elegance) for their conveniently small footprint and aesthetic appeal, rather than their technical capabilities

The Fujitsu L slimtop has a thin profile resting at the back of your desk. Its screen—the best ever in a slimtop—is a 16:9 ratio widescreen 17" digital TFT (1280x768) with a glossy coating. This screen is truly remarkable, and probably the slimtop's biggest draw. Speakers are located on both edges of the digital screen.

In front of the screen rests the wireless keyboard and mouse. The Sony W101's fold-up keyboard is a great idea for quick space-making, but not as ergonomic as this wireless/keyboard mouse combination. The Fujitsu slimtop unit can perch out of the way at the back of your desk, while the keyboard and mouse are conveniently at hand. The CPU unit is integrated behind the screen. The L-series comes in two configurations.

The richer version (L18BF-P) has a Pentium 4-1.8 GHz, 1gb max RAM (256mb standard), 120gb HDD, DVD- RW/DVD/CD-RW/CD combo drive, integrated wireless LAN (Wi-Fi), and integrated TV-tuner. Interfaces include 2 type II PCMCIA, 4 x USB 2.0, composite video input, s-video in/out, antenna in, 2 x RJ-45 LAN, digital audio out, v.90 modem, and 2 x 4-pin firewire. The more economical configuration (L18B-C) still offers the same fantastic widescreen 17" digital TFT with glossy coating, but at a much lower price point.

(Celeron 1.8 GHz, 1gb max RAM (256mb standard), 80gb HDD, DVD/CD-RW, NO Wi-Fi.) Please see the specification page for details. The elegant and powerful Fujitsu L is the world's next-generation slimtop. It's the ultimate desktop computing platform.



## Wireless LANs Get the Keys to the Car

*PCWorld Stephen Lawson, IDG News Service*

New products for your automobile include an MP3 player that transports tunes in your trunk and doubles as an access point for an in-car LAN.

Wireless LANs have already moved in with many families, and now Linksys Group and Zandiant Technologies want to give them the keys to the car. The companies will work together to address a variety of applications of wireless LANs in cars, starting with a wireless-equipped MP3 music player demonstrated at the recent Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas. Consumers could load music onto the player from a home PC and then listen to it using standard car stereo controls in some cars, according to the companies.

However, the possibilities go far beyond that, according to Matthew McRae, director of broadband at Linksys, a network equipment maker in Irvine, California.

"It's a mobile storage solution that you can take with you when you travel," McRae said. Digital Briefcase

That same device, which could be located in the trunk or beneath a seat, could be used as a digital "briefcase" to carry files between home and office. At the office, as long as the car wasn't parked more than about 300 feet from the user's desk, he or she could access that data via an office wireless LAN. In addition to a wireless LAN client, such a device also could be equipped with a wireless LAN access point. That would let drivers and passengers share an in-car LAN that links a variety of devices, including notebook PCs, handheld computers, digital cameras, and mobile phones. In turn, those devices could share high-speed wireless Internet access through a single client device for a service such as 3G mobile data.

A car-based wireless LAN also would reach as far as 300 feet around the car, allowing users to take their wireless Internet access with them when they did work on field trips or sat in a restaurant. Drivers and passengers also could download content, such as music, from retail stores while parked outside, McRae said.

Most of those applications aren't likely to see the light of day until 2004 or 2005, because of both technology and service issues that need to be worked out. However, the system shown at CES is expected to ship this year and will lay the groundwork, he said. "The product we're demonstrating could be a sleeper. It has all the hardware functionality it needs to do some of these other things," McRae said.

### Trunk Space

The player, which measures roughly 8 by 10 inches and about 1 inch tall, is installed in the trunk of a car and is equipped with an IEEE 802.11b wireless LAN interface, said Mo Kapila, manager of Zandiant's OEM business. Zandiant, in Lake Forest, California, is a spinoff of Clarion, which develops car electronics products. After MP3 files were downloaded to the player from a home PC, drivers and passengers could play the music using the standard CD player controls on some car stereos, Kapila said.

Details of how the MP3 player will be brought to market are not yet final, but it probably will appear first as an add-on product that car owners can buy at an electronics store, Linksys' McRae said. In most cars equipped for installation of trunk-mounted CD changers, it should be able to use the existing cable that goes to the changer box. For other cars, a client device might be installed in the dash in place of an existing stereo system and FM used to transmit the signals from the player to the stereo.

The companies initially are looking to use 802.11b, at 11 megabits per second rather than the 54 mbps 802.11a standard, because 802.11b equipment is less expensive and uses less power, McRae said. By the time the product comes out, it may be equipped with 802.11g, also at 54 mbps, if that technology meets cost and power requirements, he added. Heat, cold, and vibration can be much more severe in a car than indoors, so the MP3 player currently is expected to use more robust solid-state flash memory rather than a hard drive, McRae said. Some drives can withstand those conditions, but they are more expensive than conventional parts. In addition, a drive would provide room for more music, but it might be too hard to manage all that music through a dash-mounted control, McRae added. User tests planned this year will help developers figure out what consumers want, McRae said.

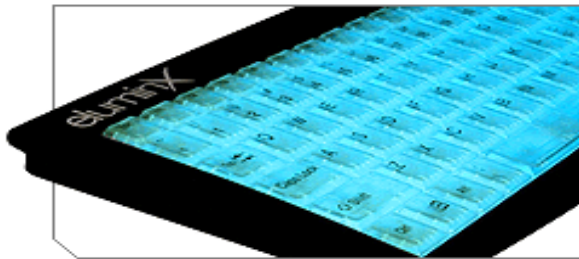


Would you have invested?



Microsoft Corporation, 1978

## The EluminX Illuminated Keyboard has arrived!



Be one of the first to experience the new age of illuminated computing! Have you ever used your computer at night or in low-lit environments? There are many Illuminated Keyboard applications where computing in a low lit environment becomes necessary. For instance, have you ever had to work on late night projects for work or school? Do you enjoy gaming or surfing the Web late at night. If so, you know how troublesome overhead lighting can be when you are tired. Most people will turn down their overhead lighting just to ease the strain on their eyes. Consequently they can no longer see their keys. For years people have been faced with this problem, until now. We have the solution, introducing the EluminX Illuminated Keyboard!

EluminX uses ElectroLuminescent Technology, which puts the light only where it is needed, on the keyboard. This eliminates the glare from task lighting, helps prevent eyestrain and makes the keys easy to see. In this day and age, when eyestrain from computing is so prevalent that there are now "Computer Eye Drops", many people have tried to remove the cause of the strain: THE GLARE. EluminX has the potential to reduce symptoms of computer vision syndrome (CVS), such as eyestrain and headaches. In addition to improving night vision, EluminX enhances your computing environment by creating a relaxed, ambient atmosphere, conducive to working on those late night projects!



## A mild mannered man

A mild mannered man was tired of being bossed around by his wife; so he went to psychiatrist.

The psychiatrist said he needed to build his self esteem, and gave him a book on assertiveness, which the man read on bus on the way home. He had finished the book by the time he reached his house.

The man stormed into the house and walked up to his wife. Pointing a finger in her face, he said, "From now on, I want you to know that I am the man of this house, and my word is law. I want you to prepare me a gourmet meal tonight, and when I'm finished eating my meal,

I expect a sumptuous dessert afterward. Then, after dinner, you're going to draw me my bath so I can relax. And when I'm finished with my bath, guess who's going to dress me and comb my hair..."

"The funeral director," said his wife.

# How The Internet Began

by unknown

In ancient Israel, it came to pass that a trader by the name of Abraham Com did take unto himself a young wife by the name of Dot. And Dot Com was a comely woman, broad of shoulder and long of leg. Indeed, she had been called Amazon Dot Com.

She said unto Abraham, her husband, “Why doth thou travel far from town to town with thy goods when thou can trade without ever leaving thy tent?”

And Abraham did look at her as though she were several saddle bags short of a camel load, but simply said, “How, Dear?”

And Dot replied, “I will place drums in all the towns and drums in between, to send messages saying what you have for sale, and they will reply telling you which hath the best price. And the sale can be made on the drums and delivery made by Uriah’s Pony Stable (UPS).”

Abraham thought long and decided he would let Dot have her way with the drums. The drums rang out and were an immediate success. Abraham sold all the goods he had at the top price, without ever moving from his tent.

But this success did arouse envy. A man named Maccabia did secrete himself inside Abraham’s drum and was accused of insider trading. And the young men did take to Dot Com’s trading as doth the greedy horsefly take to camel dung. They were called Nomadic Ecclesiastical Rich Dominican Siderites, or NERDS for short.

And lo, the land was so feverish with joy at the new prosperity and the deafening sound of drums that no one noticed that the real riches were going to the drum maker, one Brother William of Gates, who bought up every drum company in the land. And indeed he did insist on making drums that would work only with Brother Gates’s drumheads and drumsticks.

And seeing it, Dot did say, “Oh, Abraham, what we have started is being taken over by others, and I fear that Job’s son Stephen will not be able to pull our fat out of the fire as he did of yore with his fruit of the apple tree.”

And as Abraham paddled his way across the water on his log, he looked out over the Bay of Ezekiel, or as it came to be known “eBay” and said, “We need a name that reflects what we are,” and Dot replied, Do not worry yourself, my husband. Just log on. We will call our name, “Young Ambitious Hebrew Owner-Operators.”

“**YAHOO!**”, said Abraham

This article is brought to you by the Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an International organization to which this user group belongs.



# Bugs and Fixes: Gaping Holes in Internet Explorer

Stuart J. Johnston *PC World magazine*

Keep up with the latest security cracks in Microsoft’s browser—if you can.

Plugging holes in Internet Explorer is a perpetual whack-a-mole exercise—as soon as Microsoft patches one hole, the bad guys (or avid security researchers) expose new ones. Late in November, a massive security flaw in Internet Explorer prompted Microsoft to pump out a fix. On the heels of that patch, the company had to take care of six other, separate holes—and then a seventh one, two weeks later.

At about the same time, RealNetworks came under fire and patched three security problems in its RealOne Player that may affect its older RealPlayer program as well. But first, IE’s biggie: If you use IE 5.01, 5.5, or 6, make sure you fix the major hole involving IE’s “Data Access Components,” which let your browser talk to databases over the Internet, and which retrieve and return data to IE. If you click a malicious link, the vulnerability could allow an attacker to send too much data to your browser, causing one or more of the Data Access Components to fail. After that, theoretically, the offender could execute any code on your PC. If your system runs Windows XP, you’re already protected. If it doesn’t, get the details, as well as the link to the fix, from Microsoft.

Despite releasing Service Pack 1 for IE 6 last October and following up with a slew of other stand-alone fixes, Microsoft has rolled out two more cumulative patches. The first cumulative patch deals with six holes, but you’re better off installing the second cumulative patch, as it handles those six vulnerabilities and a seventh one. The worst flaw could enable an Internet peeper to have a gander at data that you’ve stored on your PC. Not every version of Windows is in danger of being hacked, but IE versions 5.01 through 6 are affected by six holes, while the seventh flaw affects IE 5.5 and 6. The situation gets complicated. Visit our Downloads page to discover whether your versions of Windows and IE are vulnerable, and to grab a link to the newer cumulative patch.

## Get Real?

The three RealNetworks security defects endanger RealOne Player version 1. At press time, the company was not able to confirm whether earlier versions of the program (RealPlayer) are also susceptible. The potential attack would allow an invader to run arbitrary programs on a user’s machine. A company spokesperson recommended that anyone using RealPlayer 8 or earlier versions upgrade their program to RealOne Player version 2. Jump to the RealNetworks support site for more details and for the update to fix your player. Alternatively, within the player, select Tools, Check for Update.

## Microsoft Patches a Patch

Last summer, Microsoft fixed a glitch in Windows 98, 2000, Me, and XP that involved Microsoft-issued digital certificates, which help verify the authenticity of users, e-mail messages, and Web sites. Recently, however, the UK National Infrastructure Security Co-ordination Centre notified Microsoft that the earlier patch didn’t completely seal up the hole; in fact, a smart attacker could still drive a truck through it.

A bad guy could create a fake, secondary certificate that could let a Web site masquerade as an online store where you shop frequently. See Microsoft's Security Bulletin for the company's detailed explanation and for its updated version of the patch.

## In Brief

Office SP Improves Microsoft posted an update to Service Pack 3 for Office 2000. The original SP3 introduced problems for Outlook users trying to view attachments. Outlook Update Last month, I reported on a clash between Outlook 2002 and Office XP SP2. Microsoft subsequently added the fix to its downloads library. Bugged? Found a hardware or software bug? Tell us about it via e-mail at [bugs@pcworld.com](mailto:bugs@pcworld.com). Stuart J. Johnston is a contributing editor for PC World. Click here to see past Bugs and Fixes columns.



## Use Your CD Drive More Productively

By Ira Wilsker

Almost all newer computers come with a CD-RW drive, a CD drive that can write and rewrite compatible CD discs. For older computers, with a standard CD reader (play only, not write), the addition of a CD "burner" is a very popular and fairly inexpensive upgrade. A simple review of the Sunday sale books for the major electronics and office supply stores shows an abundance of CD-RW drives for between \$30 and \$100, often after rebate. These drives are typically easy to install, and may possibly be installed in addition to the existing CD reader (good for copying CDs), or as a simple replacement. If internal installation is not desired, there are several external CD-RW drives, advertised weekly, that connect to an available USB or firewire port. The external drives, typically the USB models, are also often a good choice for older notebook computers where internal installation is difficult or impossible. The Sunday ads often show the external USB drives for under \$100, after rebates.

Almost all CD-RW drives, whether factory installed, or aftermarket add-on, come with some CD burning software. The most widely distributed CD software provided with the drives is from Adaptec, or Adaptec's successor (Adaptec sold their CD writing software division), Roxio. Another common software package included with some drives is from Nero, while other drives come with a variety of lesser-known software titles. As the price of blank CD discs plunges, often "free after rebate", burning (writing to) CDs has become very popular. Still, many PC (and Mac) users are not using their equipment to its potential; large number of users still only use their CD-RW drives in read mode to install other software, and not to burn discs.

As had been stated many times here in previous columns, the three most important words in computing are "Backup, Backup, and Backup". Remember that "Murphy's First law of Computing" states that "A properly backed-up hard drive will never fail; a hard drive that has not been recently backed up will always fail at the most inopportune time." All too many users who have ready access to CD-RW drives have lost all of their important files to viruses or hard drive failures, despite the ease and low expense of copying important files to CD discs. The common blank discs hold from 660 to 700 megabytes of data, and are very inexpensive. Other than some time, there is no great investment to back up critical files at a minimum, or even better, entire hard drives.

There are a variety of excellent utilities available to backup hard drives. Some CD-RW drives come with a "lite" or "limited" version of popular backup programs. While minimally functional, these "lite" versions often lack useful functions such as compression (getting more data on a CD disc than its native capacity), or incremental backup (only backing up new files or files modified since the previous backup). I have been using "BackUp MyPC" from Stomp Software ([www.stompinc.com](http://www.stompinc.com)), which was formerly known as Backup Exec, by Veritas (Seagate). This program is probably one of the most full featured backup programs, and easy to use. BackUp MyPC can backup to almost any type of device from CD-RW drives, tape drives, Jazz and Zip drives, and other devices. Some competing products are Roxio's Go Back, Norton's Ghost, and NTI's BackUp Now (which I have also used). Since almost all computers can utilize some form of CD writer, and blank discs are cheap, there is absolutely no reason NOT to have at least critical data files backed up. The cliché "ounce of prevention..." is most apropos here. With over one in five PCs currently infected with at least one variety of the Klez worm, several versions of which are capable of destroying critical files on a hard drive, backups are imperative.

The appearance and rapid spread of other destructive worms and viruses, such as the new "Hunch" worm which explicitly destroys the files in the Windows, My Programs, and My Documents directories, emphasizes the need for backing up hard drives. Still, probably the most damage is done by the old-fashioned hard drive crash. Remember Murphy's law, and always have a reasonably current backup of critical files. For long-term archival purposes, better quality CD discs are advertised as having a 100-year archival life.

There are other popular uses of CD burners. One of the most popular and most controversial uses is burning music to blank CD discs. Often in the popular MP3 format, or in native commercial music CD format, studies show that this is the most popular use of CD burners. Provided that copyright laws are rigidly obeyed, and we all know that they always are (snicker), homemade music CDs are very widely created and used. Online music or swap services, ranging from the now defunct Napster, to the very much alive and controversial KazAa and Morpheus, as well as the legitimate commercial music sites such as Sony, are popular sources of such music.

Another popular use is copying entire CD discs. Generally, it is considered "ok" to make a single archival backup of commercial CDs, provided that the copy is only used as a backup, and properly disposed of (destroyed) when the original software is no longer needed. With some software CDs, and an increasing number of commercial music CDs, this archival backup is becoming more difficult to create as sophisticated copy protection is being utilized more commonly.

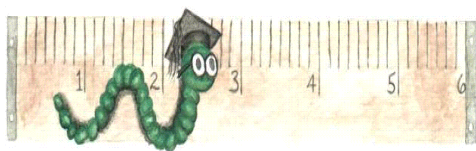
Many use their CD drive, often with rewriteable CD-RW discs, as an additional, but removable adjunct to their hard drive. This allows archival and portable storage of massive amounts of data, at minimal expense. CDs are often ideal for moving large files between computers.

There are several other uses for the CD-RW drives now so common in our machines. Many other CD drive utilities are readily available for download, such as from [tu cows.exp.net/system/cdrutil95.html](http://tu cows.exp.net/system/cdrutil95.html) or [tu cows.exp.net/mmedia.html](http://tu cows.exp.net/mmedia.html). Use the drives as they can be used, but make absolutely sure that critical data is frequently backed up.



# BugBear Warning – A Dangerous Computer Worm

By Ira Wilsker



I started writing this week's column on freeware utilities. I just checked my email again, and so far, I have received over 40 copies of the highly dangerous and recently released BugBear computer worm, also being referred to as the Tanatos worm. According to reports published in recent days in the computer media, BugBear has surpassed the infamous Klez in becoming the fastest spreading computer worm or virus in history. Trend and Panda, two major providers of free online virus scans, each now report that nearly 20% of computers infected with malicious code now have the BugBear worm. The Helsinki based antivirus and computer security firm F-Secure rates the BugBear worm as the worst current computer security outbreak. Symantec, publisher of the popular Norton AntiVirus rates the threat as "severe". McAfee considers the risk as "high"

This new worm, or piece of code, is written in the common and popular C++ language, and combines the worst of the Badtrans virus, the Klez worm, and a backdoor Trojan into one extremely dangerous program. Capable of destroying both antivirus software and firewall protection on an infected computer, this nefarious program can also spread rapidly through a network to all computers connected, and through email utilizing its own integral mail program.

Just like the Klez, which until the recent introduction of the BugBear, had been the most rapidly spread virus or worm, BugBear targets the highly publicized security holes in Microsoft's web browser Internet Explorer versions 5, 5.5, and 6, as well as Microsoft's popular email programs Outlook and Outlook Express. Despite the fact that Microsoft released a heavily promoted patch to close these holes about a year ago, and is included in "Windows Update" integral in all versions of Windows since Windows 95 (click on START – WINDOWS UPDATE while online, and download the customized and free "Critical Update" compiled by Microsoft), millions of Windows users have never installed the patch. Now, in exchange for their complacency, these users are at extreme risk of having their personal information stolen by hackers. There is a real chance of having their identity stolen (referred to in law enforcement as "Identity Theft"), private or confidential information accessed, credit card and banking information compromised, and any files on the hard drive available to a hacker to read, modify, or delete at will.

The BugBear, just like the Klez, Yaha, and similar variants, can be activated by simply opening an email containing the malevolent code, or allowing the infected email to appear in the preview pane of any of the unpatched versions of Outlook or Outlook Express. With email programs other than the Outlook series, opening the attachment containing the worm will infect the users' computer. Once infected, antivirus and firewall utilities will be crippled, with no indication of that fact being noticeable by the user. BugBear will then attempt to replicate itself both by repeatedly emailing itself to addresses in the user's address book (the idea of beginning an email address with "!0000" to prevent this is a HOAX), using a variety of subjects, email content, and attachments, as well as sending itself out over a network to all computers so connected

. Using the popular human engineering technique of sending the infected emails to addresses in the victim's address book, the malignant messages will appear to be from a person known to the recipient.

Multiple references to the worm are written to the registry and ".INI" files, ensuring that BugBear is loaded each time the computer is booted. There are no clearly visible indications to the user that a computer is infected. Once installed on the victim computer, a utility to capture the user's keystrokes is activated, enabling a hacker to see user names, passwords, credit card numbers, and any other information or data entered. A "backdoor Trojan" is activated allowing access to the infected machine, the downloading of the keystrokes by the hacker, and unrestricted access to all files and documents on the computer. Since BugBear itself is transparent, and not apparently destructive, the user will likely never know his computer is infected, and outsiders can access his computer remotely. Antivirus software will still appear to be loaded and updated, and firewalls will appear to function, but in reality they will be useless.

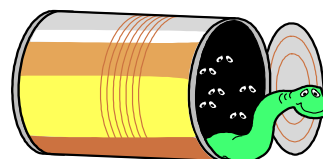
What is a shame is that this infection is easily preventable. Properly updated Microsoft files have significant immunity to the infection. Frequently updated antivirus software offers excellent protection, but only if updated with the BugBear information prior to the infection. Practicing "safe hex" and deleting suspicious emails and attachments before they can appear in a preview pane can greatly reduce the chance of infection.

The free online scans available at [housecall.antivirus.com](http://housecall.antivirus.com) and [www.pandasoftware.com](http://www.pandasoftware.com) can detect and kill Bugbear. Most major antivirus publishers, including Symantec (Norton), F-Prot, and Panda have free utilities available for download that can detect and kill BugBear.

Since BugBear is written in the common C++ language, it is likely that some wicked programmers may modify the code, and create variants to get around the protections offered by recently updated antivirus software, just as what happened with many variants of the Klez worm.

It is a darn shame that I have to do so many columns on the topic of high-tech vandalism, but BugBear is especially insidious. I hope that next week, I can write my column on the topics I originally planned, rather than warning all of you about some new danger.

Ira belongs to, the Golden Triangle PC Club, has a radio show and writes a column for the examiner, and is on the Board of Advisors for APCUG as well as a faculty member of the Lamar Institute.



## MP3's Aren't Just Music Anymore

By David Navratil, Member 1960 PC Users Group, Houston, Texas

Just about everyone with a computer has probably tried their luck with downloading MP3 files. In the past two years I've put together quite a collection of songs from the 1920's through the 1970's, accumulating almost 3,000 songs during that time. I've covered the Big Band era, easy listening, holiday music, country, folk, classical - just about every genre you can imagine. During one of my many afternoons of surfing the net looking for that one elusive MP3 that would fill another CD-R, I came across a genre that was new to me but may be of interest to members of our club.

The name of these new finds is "Old Time Radio Show" or OTR's for short. What could be a better use for the MP3 format than OTR's! Most OTR's length is from 15 minutes to 1 hour. In regular "wav" format the size of one of these files could be from 60 MB to 400 MB but in MP3 format an average show is from 3 MB to 30 MB. Another advantage is that since most of these shows are from the 1920's through the 1950's the sound quality of course are not up to par with newly recorded material. This again saves you room on your hard drive because you don't have to use a bit rate of 128 kbps but can use 24 to 64 bits. (Most OTR's I've downloaded from the net are in 24 to 32 kbps.) This lower bit rate saves much space and when played back kind of gives the performance that "old time radio sound". You can easily record 60 hours of OTR's onto one CD-R, using the lower bit rates, without sacrificing sound quality.

As to the quantity of OTR's available on the net, I have found at least 560 different series and as many as 57,000 different programs. Some of the more popular and easy to find are - Amos & Andy, The Shadow, Fibber McGee & Molly, Tarzan, Sherlock Holmes, Dragnet, Inner Sanctum, I Love a Mystery and the list just goes on. Most of these shows include the original commercials that were aired at that time. The shows started becoming popular in the late 1920's and I have some from as recently as the 1980's. I have many of the "Classic Books" presented in OTR format. These are not audio books where one person just reads to you, but full productions with sound effects, music and such. Most of these last from one hour to three hours. The late Orson Wells was involved with many of "Classics". Some titles are "War of the Worlds", "A Christmas Carol", "Pride and Prejudice", "Time Machine" etc.

Finding these programs on the net is even easier than music. There are thousands of individuals who collect OTR's as a hobby. Most of them have their own websites and offer a few selections to download changing the selection each week or month. Many sites will also send you an email when new offerings are available. You can go to Google or any search engine and key in "OTR" or "Old Time Radio Shows" and you will get thousands of different sites. Also using one of the many music download sites, such as KaZaa, keying in the name of the series will bring up hundreds of results. You can join OTR clubs at any of the major websites like AOL, Yahoo, and MSN. There are OTR trade and share sites where you post a listing of the shows you have and can trade via CD-R with others for shows you need.

If you are running out of hard disk space or don't have a CD burner you can still enjoy the experience of OTR's. There are many sites on the web that broadcast the shows over the web in different formats. All you need to listen to these is one of the many free media players available on the web.

Turn off the TV some night, relax and listen to one of these shows and you may find that MP3's are not just about music!!

Here are a few sites to get you started:

<http://old-time-radio.com/>  
<http://www.starcreations.com/otr/links/MP3links.htm>  
<http://www.homestead.com/repsonline/BrowserDownloads.html>  
<http://users2.ev1.net/~ey/audio.html>  
<http://www.otrcat.com/index.html>



### MAGINE IF INSTEAD OF CRYPTIC, GEEKY TEXT STRINGS, YOUR COMPUTER PRODUCED ERROR MESSAGES IN HAIKU...

#### A file that big?

It might be very useful.  
But now it is gone.

#### A crash reduces

your expensive computer  
to a simple stone.

#### The Web site you seek

cannot be located but  
endless others exist

#### Yesterday it worked

Today it is not working  
Windows is like that

#### Chaos reigns within.

Reflect, repent, and reboot.  
Order shall return.

#### Three things are certain:

Death, taxes, and lost data.  
Guess which has occurred.

#### ABORTED effort:

Close all that you have.  
You ask way too much.

#### You step in the stream,

but the water has moved on.  
This page is not here.

#### First snow, then silence.

This thousand dollar screen  
dies so beautifully

#### Out of memory.

We wish to hold the whole sky,  
But we never will.

#### With searching comes loss

and the presence of absence:  
"My Novel" not found.

#### Having been erased,

The document you're seeking  
Must now be retyped.

#### The Tao that is seen

Is not the true Tao, until  
You bring fresh toner.

#### Rather than a beep

Or a rude error message,  
These words: "File not found."

#### Windows NT crashed.

I am the Blue Screen of Death.  
No one hears your screams.

#### Serious error.

All shortcuts have disappeared.  
Screen. Mind. Both are blank.

#### Stay the patient course

Of little worth is your ire  
The network is down

## If You Lived as a Child in the 20's, 30's, 40's, 50's, 60's or 70's

### Looking back, it's hard to believe that we've lived as long as we have...

As children, we'd ride in cars with no seat belts or air bags. Riding in the back of a pickup truck on a warm day was always a special treat.

Our baby cribs were covered with bright colored lead-based paint. We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, doors, or cabinets, and when we rode our bikes, we had no helmets. (Not to mention hitchhiking to town as a young kid!)

We drank water from the garden hose and not from a bottle. Horrors.

We'd spend hours building our go-cart out of scraps and then rode down the hill, only to find out we forgot the brakes. After running into the bushes a few times we learned to solve the problem.

We'd leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back when the streetlights came on. No one was able to reach us all day.

No cell phones. Unthinkable. We played dodgeball and sometimes the ball would really hurt. We got cut and broke bones and broke teeth, and there were no lawsuits from these accidents. They were accidents. No one was to blame, but us.

### Remember accidents?

We had fights and punched each other and got black and blue and learned to get over it.

We ate cupcakes, bread and butter, and drank sugar soda but we were never overweight .... we were always outside playing. We shared one grape soda with four friends, from one bottle and no one died from this.

We didn't have Playstations, Nintendo 64, X-Boxes, video games at all, 99 channels on cable, video tape movies, surround sound, personal cell phones,

### Personal Computers,

Internet chat rooms ... we had friends. We went outside and found them.

We rode bikes or walked to a friend's home and knocked on the door, or rang the bell or just walked in and talked to them. Imagine such a thing. Without asking a parent! By ourselves! Out there in the cold cruel world! Without a guardian. How did we do it?

We made up games with sticks and tennis balls and ate worms and although we were told it'd happen, we didn't put out very many eyes, nor did the worms live inside us forever.

Little League had tryouts and not everyone made the team. Those who didn't, had to learn to deal with disappointment...

Some students weren't as smart as others so they failed a grade

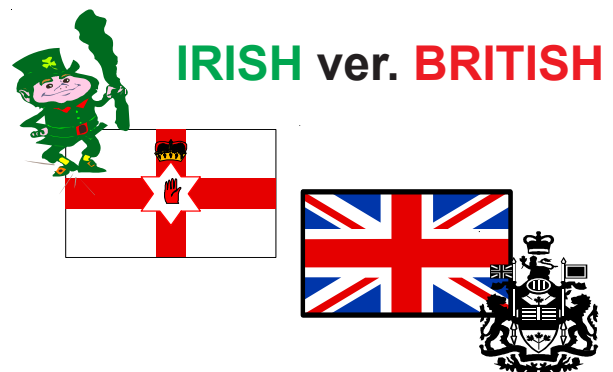
and were held back to repeat the same grade...

Horrors. Tests weren't adjusted for any reason.

Our actions were our own. Consequences were expected. No one to hide behind. The idea of a parent bailing us out if we broke a law was unheard of. They actually sided with the law, imagine that!

This generation has produced some of the best risk-takers and problem solvers and inventors, ever. The past 50 years has been an explosion of innovation and new ideas. We had freedom, failure, success and responsibility, and we learned how to deal with it all.

### And you're one of them. Congratulations!



This is the transcription of a radio conversation between the British and the Irish off the coast of Kerry, October 1998.

Radio conversation released by the Chief of Naval Operations 10-10-98

**IRISH:** Please divert your course 15 degrees to the South to avoid a collision.

**BRITISH:** Recommend you divert your course 15 degrees to the North to avoid a collision.

**IRISH:** Negative. You will have to divert your course 15 degrees to the South to avoid a collision.

**BRITISH:** This is the Captain of a British Navy Ship. I say again, divert YOUR course.

**IRISH:** Negative. I say again, you will have to divert YOUR course.

**BRITISH:** THIS IS THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER H.M.S. BRITANNIA! THE SECOND LARGEST SHIP IN THE BRITISH ATLANTIC FLEET. WE ARE ACCOMPANIED BY THREE DESTROYERS, THREE CRUISERS AND NUMEROUS SUPPORT VESSELS. I DEMAND YOU CHANGE YOUR COURSE 15 DEGREES NORTH. I SAY AGAIN, THAT IS 15 DEGREES NORTH OR COUNTER-MEASURES WILL BE UNDERTAKEN TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THIS SHIP.

**IRISH:** We are a lighthouse... Your call.....

## Dell Drops Floppy Drives in New PCs

Future Dimension 8250 desktops will offer floppy drives as an option—alongside thumb drives. Tom Mainelli, PCWorld.com

It's time to say goodbye to the floppy drive. We've all heard that before, but this time Dell means it. The company will stop listing the floppy drive as a default entry on its top-end consumer desktop, the Dimension 8250, starting later in February. To get one, you'll have to ask for it. "We want to introduce them [customers] to the alternatives and let them choose," says Shannon Baxley, manager for Dimension product marketing. Dell thinks that most customers, forced to choose, will go with something more useful—specifically, thumb drives.

Alongside its floppy drive option, the company plans to offer at least two Dell-branded thumb drives, including one carrying the same price as a floppy drive. Thumb drives plug into a standard USB port, use flash memory, offer faster transfer speeds, and have greater capacity than a floppy disk. Dell hasn't set the pricing on its floppy drive option yet, and Baxley won't estimate late-February pricing for the company's 16MB or 64MB thumb drives. Currently Dell sells the 16MB thumb drive for \$17 and the 64MB model for \$30. Evolution in Action

The floppy drive has been functionally obsolete for some time; most of the files people share are simply too large to fit on its meager 1.44MB capacity. "Most people can't recall the last time they used their floppy. Customers were telling us they don't use it," says John New, senior manager for Dimension product planning. Most people are, however, afraid not to have one. "It's mostly just a comfort factor, he says. "They think, 'I might need it.'"

Once customers understand that there are better options—from thumb drives to CD-RW drives—the lack of a floppy drive will cease to be an issue, he says. In the meantime, floppy drives are optional only on Dell's Dimension 8250—it remains standard on other systems. But Dell will extend the policy across its line as acceptance grows.

Dell representatives say that the company is cutting floppies first from its top-of-the-line Dimension 8250 because that's the PC the most-experienced PC users buy. "Tech-savvy people are of the opinion that this is five years overdue," New says. Following Apple's Lead Apple dropped the floppy from the systems in its product lineup nearly five years ago. It was a bold move that—over the years—relatively few PC vendors have tried to emulate. Most floppy-less PCs, however, weren't successful. Evidently, PC buyers weren't quite ready to say goodbye.

Now, Dell is prepared to usher the technology out the door for good. "Somebody with the influence of a Dell or other tier-one participant has to take the first step," New says. "We felt it was time to do that." And this time, the company doesn't expect much resistance, he says. "We don't expect this to be an issue," New says. "When you give the customer the flexibility to choose, they'll be happy."

## OCIPUG General Meeting, January 25, 2003

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 January 2003 Readme.Doc. Past President Bob Walker is updating his mailing list and needs this information ASAP. Bob is still receiving "bounces," which he then has to follow up by phone due to members having new e-mail addresses.

Ed Leckliter conducted a very informative Random Access (Q&A) session. The first question was "What is Bloodhound?" Bloodhound is the name of the Norton AntiVirus heuristic scanning technology for detecting new and unknown viruses. When a Bloodhound virus alert appears, the heuristics detected suspicious activity on your computer. The name following the dot after Bloodhound indicates what type of file triggered the alert. For additional information, see the Symantec Security Response document Bloodhound at

[www.symantec.com/avcenter/venc/data/bloodhound.html](http://www.symantec.com/avcenter/venc/data/bloodhound.html)

The next question was related to graphic image size as displayed on the monitor and how is it determined. In the case presented by the member, the same image would appear full-screen sometimes and then smaller the next time. No specific solution was forthcoming, but the problem may be coincidental or could be the effect of various program settings.

The next question was related to computer resources which, in the example presented, drop to as low as 40% and even lower. One cause is having too many programs in the System tray, as all of these programs are running whenever you boot up. To clean up the system tray, go to Start/Run/msconfig and click on the Startup tab. Uncheck the programs that you do not need to have running all of the time (will require a reboot). Another problem is that not all programs release the RAM they use after they are closed, and so the available RAM can decrease over time. There are several utilities (both free- and shareware) that will take care of this problem. For a list of such utilities, go to <http://downloads-zdnet.com.com/3120-20-0.html?qt=ram&tg=dl-2001>

One member reported problems with RAM not being recognized by the OS after upgrading from Windows Me to Windows XP while at the same time replacing 128mb RAM modules with two 256mb modules. At other times, the system would not boot, but would boot only after the single 128mb RAM module was reinstalled. The system would then sometimes hang during shutdown. Ed pointed out that it is sometimes very important to install identical RAM modules in pairs and to install them in particular slots. Ed suggested that the member should try to read the motherboard manufacturer and model number, including the revision number, and then go to the manufacturer's web site to obtain more information on RAM installation, particular the required RAM map.

Another member had a problem with a new modem not functioning properly. One possible solution would be to move the modem to another PCI slot, as the slot may be defective or perhaps there is an IRQ conflict. This can happen when some cards, especially sound cards, want to be in a particular slot in order to work properly. The modem could also be defective. All versions of Windows have trouble shooting tools to see if a particular device is working properly.

President Leonard Stein then began the formal part of the meeting. In accordance with the President's report January 2003 Readme.Doc, the first item of business was the auction of a full version of Windows XP Professional which had been donated by Microsoft.

The entry in the January 2003 Readme.Doc had also said that a copy of Office XP Professional would also be auctioned off, but at the suggestion of Program Chairman/Director Ed Leckliter it was decided to defer this second auction to the February General Meeting. The winning bid for the Windows XP Professional was submitted by member Ed Fitch, and the proceeds will be turned over to Treasurer/CFO Kevin Moser at the January Board of Directors' Meeting. Program Chairman/Director Ed Leckliter then started the main portion of the meeting. Initially it was planned to have a presentation on hard drives by Mr. Darrin Bulik, Technical Marketing Manager of the Western Digital Corporation. Ed subsequently learned that Mr. Bulik would be out of town the day of our meeting and had to cancel. An alternate Western Digital presenter was not available, nor was Ed able to locate another presenter on such short notice. He notified the membership of this via e-mail. Ed will attempt to have Western Digital rescheduled for a future meeting.

At the suggestion of Secretary Frank Mastroly, the first presentation was a portion of the video of the keynote address by Bill Gates, Chairman and Chief Software Architect, Microsoft Corporation, at Comdex 2002, entitled "Digital Decade Vision: Moving From the Personal Computer to Personal Computing." The video may be seen by going to Mr. Gates' Microsoft website at [www.microsoft.com/billgates/speeches/2002/11-17comdex.asp](http://www.microsoft.com/billgates/speeches/2002/11-17comdex.asp). The total video is approximately 90 minutes in length, but only the first 60 minutes (approximately) were shown at the meeting. The following is a summary of a white paper published in conjunction with the keynote address.

**Introduction** — The personal computer undoubtedly has had a huge impact on our world in the past quarter century. Yet the PC has not reached the same level of importance to most people as other technological revolutions. Most people could survive without a computer could they get along without their car or telephone? Microsoft believes that by the end of this decade a time that Bill Gates calls the Digital Decade that PCs will grow in importance and start to play an indispensable part in the lives of most people. By the end of this decade, few would want to live without one. This Digital Decade vision is a core set of principles that drive the company's ongoing products, services, and research efforts.

**From Personal Computers to Personal Computing** — In these early years of the Digital Decade, we've seen the computer technology move from the desktop to power a wide range of devices that surround us and make computing truly personal. The intelligence of the PC has found its way into more and more devices, from personal gadgets such as pagers, to mobile phones, to PDAs. Many people do not leave home without at least one of these. In the living room, game consoles like Microsoft Xbox are becoming as powerful as PCs, with local hard drives, broadband Internet connections, and rich digital media capabilities. Powerful computer technology is finding its way in the car. Microsoft .NET-connected car technology will offer car owners the same type of technology they have at home and work. Similarly, wireless networking technologies such as 802.11b (Wi-Fi) are becoming more commonplace in homes, offices, and public spaces such as airports and coffee shops. The reach of the Internet has moved far beyond the desktop. By the close of the Digital Decade, these technologies will converge to make computing a seamless and pervasive experience.

**Computers Will Better Adapt to Users** — During much of the last 25 years, the typical person had to learn to adapt to the computer, usually by sitting down at the PC and interacting through the keyboard and mouse. This will change dramatically during the Digital Decade with ongoing advances in hardware and software

computers will begin to adapt to people's needs. Computers such as the Tablet PC make handwriting a more viable way to interact with a computer, and Microsoft researchers are working on further innovations that will enable people to interact with computers in even more natural ways, using voice commands or gestures.

**Transforming from "Brain Machines" to "Heart Machines"** — Not too long ago, most people thought about computers as "brain" machines powerful machines that could store large amounts of data and crunch numbers fast. The rise of the Internet changed that perception. Computers now are connected to the social and emotional aspects of life. People now use their PCs to exchange e-mail and instant messages with friends and family. Virtual communities and social groups have emerged to connect people around the world with similar interests. At the same time, people are using computers for day-to-day organization and collaboration with other people. As the Digital Decade progresses, people will increasingly use computers to help organize their lives. For example, parents may soon find it easy to coordinate carpooling to their children's sports game as well as the post-game snack schedule with the help of wireless devices. This kind of coordination is already possible today for technophiles, but it will soon be simple and efficient for everyone. Sharing

**Digital Fun with Friends and Family** — The tremendous growth in digital music and photography shows that people are very interested in the entertainment and creative potential of computer technology. Family members routinely use e-mail to share photos of the latest family gathering. Gamers meet online to play against old and new friends. This trend will continue during the Digital Decade, as more devices become capable of storing and sharing even greater amounts of entertainment. Computing is increasingly moving toward the center of our personal entertainment experiences.

**The Rewired Economy** — The business world was the first to realize the potential of the PC for managing information and working with documents now, computing is beginning to have a fundamental impact on the way we do business, and on our economy at large. In the coming years, the combination of new computer hardware, better communication tools, and interconnected Web services will continue to transform the way information workers do their jobs and by extension change the way companies do business. At the same time, the shift from telephone, fax, and paper-based transactions between businesses to direct computer-to-computer interaction will fundamentally transform business models and create new opportunities for businesses of all sizes. Entrepreneurs will be able to build the same kinds of complex supply chains and supplier relationships that only large companies can afford today. XML Web services are the technology that makes these trends "real" and thanks to innovations such as Microsoft .NET, everything from smart handheld devices to the largest servers will know how to use Web services.

**The Challenge of Helping People Realize Their Potential** — The dramatic growth in processor power, disk capacity, and network capacity will lead to computers and smart devices that are hundreds of times more powerful than the PCs of today. We can only begin to imagine what kinds of uses we will find for this computing power. But it's important to remember that technology is still out of reach for many who need it most. Bridging the digital divide and fully realizing the potential of computing technology will be one of the biggest challenges of the Digital Decade. Industry outreach combined with more advanced, less costly software and hardware could extend technology's reach beyond the wealthy elite and early adopters using it today.

**What Comes After the Digital Decade?** — The years 2010 2020 will be a time when computers more or less disappear in the sense that they will be so deeply woven into everything we do that we will barely even think about them. In addition to Mr. Gates' remarks, the video has demonstrations by Microsoft personnel of:

Truly Personal Computing at Home: Xbox Live, Smart Displays, MSN 8, Windows XP Media Center,

Wireless Home Networking

Office Productivity: Tablet PC, Xdocs, OneNote, Bluetooth Wireless Desktop

Web Services: Industry Standards, .NET, Trustworthy Computing, "File, Print, Kinko's" Web service

Windows .NET Server 2003 Update Smart Personal Object Technology

The second presentation of the meeting was by Program Chairman/Director Ed Leckliter who provided a special tour of the latest in hardware across the web via a review of hardware manufacturer web sites as presented on Ed's site.

To get to Ed Leckliter's hardware SIG website via the OCIPUG website, first go to [www.ocipug.org](http://www.ocipug.org). In the left-hand frame, click on Our Meetings to open a new middle frame. Drill (scroll) down center frame to "3. Hardware hosted by Ed Leckliter: Second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the second floor classroom." At the bottom of this paragraph, click on link after For more information visit the OCIPUG Hardware Sig Website at:

[http://www.edscustomcomputers.com/welcome\\_to\\_the\\_ocipug\\_hardware\\_s1.htm](http://www.edscustomcomputers.com/welcome_to_the_ocipug_hardware_s1.htm)

This will open a page entitled Welcome to the OCIPUG Hardware SIG Web Site! This web site provides information about the SIG, a schedule of its meetings, and access to an archive of presentations made at prior meetings. For information, the "front matter" on this page is as follows:

General Statement of Purpose — The OCIPUG Hardware Special Interest Group (SIG) provides

presentations on PC hardware topics, a forum for Random Access on PC hardware issues, and opportunity to receive help with specific PC hardware problems (hands-on assessment and assistance).

SIG Meetings: — Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month. They start at 7:00 PM and end

by 10:00 PM. They are held at the Costa Mesa Senior Citizen Center, 695 West 19th Street, in Costa Mesa.

Our meeting room is on the second floor, parking lot side of the building.

Next Meeting — The next meeting will be held on: Tuesday, February 11, 2003, with the featured topic

being "Your New System: Installing Your OS and Device Drivers; Functional Testing

At the hardware SIG, you are welcome to bring in your IBM-compatible PC. We will attempt to help you diagnose and fix HARDWARE problems and install new components. Please make sure you bring in a monitor. Also bring in the CD for your operating system, the manual and driver software for any component you are having problems with (or want to install), and the system or motherboard manual. NOTE: If you bring in hardware for the group to help you with, you will be asked to sign a release form. The club provides NO GUARANTEE that we can help - we may even make the problem worse. Bottom line, we'll help you as best we can at YOUR OWN RISK. There is also a "Random Access" session when you can ask questions and we try to provide answers. There is NO GUARANTEE that the answers are correct or that doing what is suggested won't make things worse. Proceed at YOUR OWN RISK.

Finally, the site contains PowerPoint files of prior presentations. For those without PowerPoint, you can download a free PowerPoint viewer from <http://office.microsoft.com/downloads/2000/Ppview97.aspx>. At the very bottom of the page you will see Hardware Links - click here. Clicking where noted will take you to the Hardware Links page at [http://www.edscustomcomputers.com/hardware\\_links.htm](http://www.edscustomcomputers.com/hardware_links.htm).

A summary of Ed's list as of January 26, 2003, is presented below. Except as noted on the web site, Ed has links to both press releases and products for manufacturers of major computer components, e.g., CPUs, chipsets, RAM, motherboards, drives, etc.. In other cases, there is just a link to the manufacturer's website. Also, within groupings the manufactures are listed alphabetically so as not to indicate preferences.

Those wanting to visit the links to a particular manufacturer are invited to go to Ed's website, as websites are always changing, and also because Ed is continually updating this list to add components and to add or delete manufacturers as applicable. If you encounter problems with this site or need to contact the SIG Leader, please send an e-mail to: [ed@edscustomcomputers.com](mailto:ed@edscustomcomputers.com). CPUs AMD, Intel, VIA Core Logic (chipsets) Ali, AMD, ATI, Intel, NVIDIA, ServerWorks, SiS, VIA System RAM — Micron (Crucial), Rambus, Samsung Motherboards — ASUSTeK (ASUS), Gigabyte, Intel, MSI (Micro-Star) Graphics Processors and Cards — 3Dlabs, ASUSTeK (cards), ATI (for integrated, see Core Logic), Gigabyte (cards), Hercules, Intel (integrated) - see Core Logic, Leadtek, Matrox, MSI (cards), NVIDIA, PNY Technologies, PowerVR, S3 (VIA), SiS, Trident, VIA (integrated) - see Core Logic, VideoLogic Hard Drives IBM, Hitachi, Maxtor, Samsung, Seagate, Western Digital Hard Drive Controllers — 3ware, Adaptec, HighPoint, LSI Logic (was Mylex), Promise

**Other (CD-ROM, CD-RW, Zip, etc.,) Drives** Imation, Iomega, LG Electronics, Lite-On, Pioneer, Plextor, TDK, Teac, Toshiba, Yamaha

**Sound Processors and Cards** — C-Media, Creative Labs, Crystal/Cirrus Logic, ESS, ForteMedia, Hercules, Jatón, Philips, Turtle Beach

**Modems and NICs (Network Interface Cards)** — 3com, Best Data, Creative Labs, D-Link, Intel, Jatón, Linksys, NETGEAR, SMC, SONICblue, US Robotics, Zoom Chassis and Power Supplies Addtronics, Antec, Aopen, Chenbro Micom, Compucase, Delta, Enermax, Enhance, Enlight, In-Win, Min Maw, NMB, PC Power & Cooling, Seasonic, Sparkle (Fortron/Source), Supermicro, Superpower, Topower, Yeong Yang Miscellaneous (home pages or product pages only) Fans Delt, ebm/Pabst, Sanyo Denki, Sunon, Top Motor, YS Tech HFAs (Heat Sink-Fan Assemblies) Aavid, Alpha, Cooler Masters, Dynatron, Global WIN, Sanyo Denki, TaiSol, Thermaltake Keyboards BTC, Chicony, Fujitsu, Key Tronics, Logitech, Microsoft, Mitsumi, NMB Mice Kensington, Logitech, Microsoft

After the presentations we had our regular raffle, with the prizes taken as follows:

**Red Davidson** Digital Image Pro and Combat Flight Simulator

**Warren Bradford** Video, Family Fun Pack, Family Puzzle Pack, Close Combat CD,

**Ed Fitch** Business ESS Book, Personal Memory Book, Windows Program Guide,

**Howard Hugger** Screw Driver and Mouse Pad



**OCIPUG**  
**Orange Coast IBM**  
**PC User Group**  
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Mailing Address

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Meetings Location

Costa Mesa Senior Center  
 Southeast Corner of 19<sup>th</sup> and Pomona

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**Publication Deadline**

Material for the **March 2003** issue must be received on or before **February 21, 2003**  
[rwalker820@msn.com](mailto:rwalker820@msn.com)

**Publication Guidelines**

All material submitted will be published *exactly* as submitted, but may be subject to editing at the *Editor's* discretion. We reserve the right to refuse any material submitted for publication. Send all submissions as follows:

1. Send via Internet e-mail to: editor Robert Walker 949-645-7681  
 rwalker820@msn.com and newsletter coordinator  
 Michael Conway 714-962-2194 [mchbca@aol.com](mailto: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

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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:

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\*(U-grad 12 units; grad 6 units)

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