

# Orange Coast IBM PC User Group

# README.DOC

May 2003

Newsletter

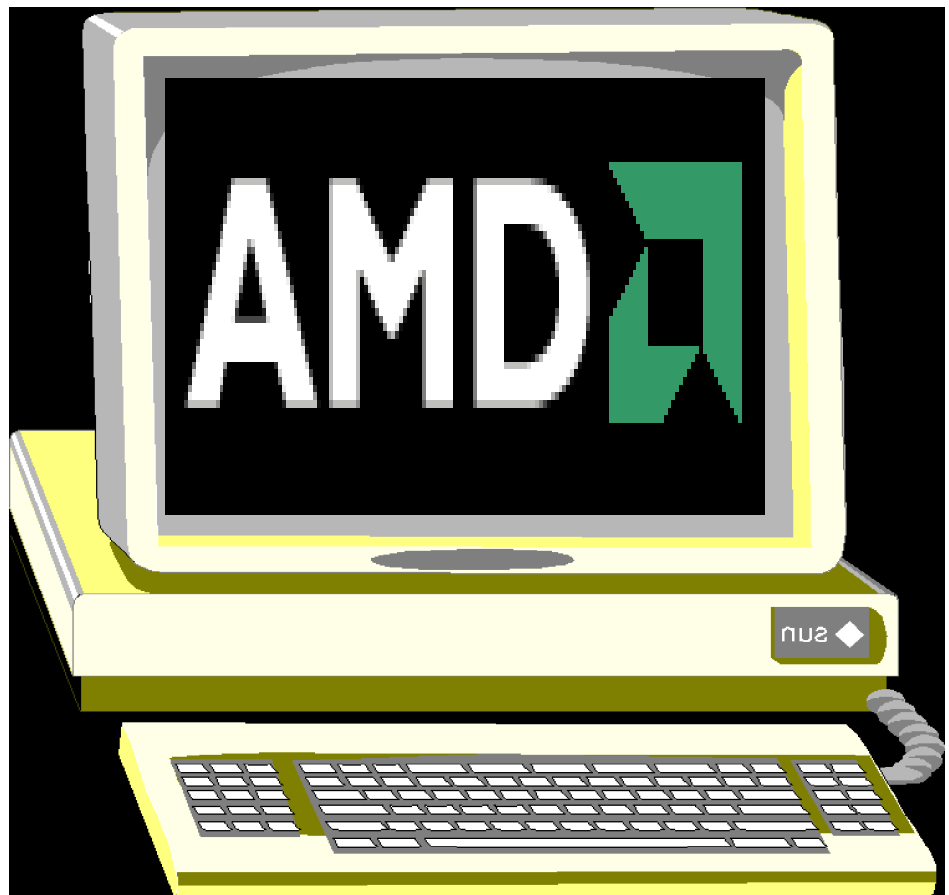
Volume 19.5

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AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF 19TH AND POMONA

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## May 31 Program



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:

31 May	2003
28 June	2003
26 July	2003
23 August	2003
27 September	2003

Meetings of the Executive Board will be held at 7:00PM on:

2 June	2003
30 June	2003
28 July	2003
25 August	2003
29 August	2003

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 - Window's
4th Tuesday	7:00 PM - Digital Photo

## AMD Update from Sean Bradley

The presentation will provide an update on AMD's recently released Athlon XP (Barton) and Opteron processors and Opteron chipset components. AMD hopes to be able to bring either a new Opteron-based workstation or server platform for demo and "show and tell". Sean Bradley, a Member of the Technical Staff, is on AMD's Field Applications Engineering team based in AMD's Irvine sales office. Sean provides technical support and product training to OEMs, system builders, and resellers in the Southern California area and provides field-related feedback to AMD's Engineering and Marketing organizations. Sean received his BSEE and MBA from the University of California, Irvine. Sean will be bringing an AMD Athlon XP processor for our raffle.

## OCIPUG Needs Your Help

Yes, we need your help to make OCIPUG the best it can be. You can do this by running for office in the election coming up soon. There are openings for President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and two Directors. The officers serve for one year, the directors serve for two. These positions take little time and effort. But you'll get a feeling of doing an important job well.

So if you want to keep our club moving, tell us what office you'd like. You can do this by calling Charles Schreiber at (714) 378-1253. Or let us know at the next general meeting, on Saturday, May 31, when we'll be taking nominations from the floor. Or if you know another club member interested, you can nominate them at that meeting. **OCIPUG is your club, so do your part and run for office!**

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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:

**12 May 2003**

**Hardware -**

2nd Tuesday, 7:00 PM

Ed Leckliter [eleckliter@adelphia.net](mailto:eleckliter@adelphia.net)

**19 May 2003**

**Windows**

3rd Tuesday 7:00 PM

Robert Strader 949-646-1475 [rstrader@attbi.com](mailto:rstrader@attbi.com)

**26 May 2003**

**Digital Cameras / Scanning -**

4th Tuesday, 7:00 PM

Robert Strader 949-646-1475 [rstrader@attbi.com](mailto:rstrader@attbi.com)

**"Making Prints from a Digital Camera". We will also discuss using your scanner. Bring any questions you have about cameras, scanners or photo corrections and we will get them answered or will find the answers for the next meeting. Remember this is your meeting.**

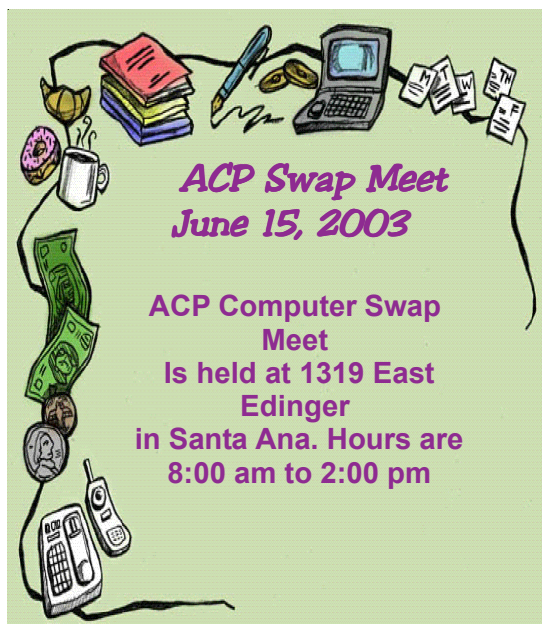
**3 June 2003**

**Internet / Web Publishing**

1st Wednesday 7:00 PM

Michael Moore

[MichaelR\\_Moore@dslextreme.com](mailto:MichaelR_Moore@dslextreme.com)



## Hardware SIG

- Meeting Recap for April 8, 2003

Date: April 8, 2003 There were 14 attendees (including SIG Leader, Ed Leckliter).

Featured Topic(s): Core Logic (Chipsets): 2003 Update & "Upgrade Assessment Procedure" Hardware Submissions - there was one submission. Morris Fier brought in a newly assembled system built (partially) from parts purchased from Intel on a special APCUG/COMDEX Fall 2002 deal - P4 3.06GHz processor and Intel D850EMVRL (Rambus) motherboard (top of the line desktop set-up - until 4/14).

He was unsure about all the cable hock-ups and wanted Ed to look them over. Ed noted that while the location of the connectors is provided both in the included "Quick Reference" (manual) and layout placard, and the floppy and IDE/ATAPI shrouds on the motherboard include the standard keying notches, there is no identification in those "docs" as to the various Pin-1 locations and there are no corresponding out-dents on the cable connectors to mate with the shroud keying notches.

That leaves the users to finding small white arrow heads stenciled on the motherboard - identifiers of the Pin-1 locations. [Ed noted that all the tier one Taiwanese motherboard manufacturers include clearly identified Pin-1 locations in their docs and use the correctly keyed cables.] Ed checked the floppy and IDE/ATAPI data and power cables, fixed both for the floppy drive, and connected the front panel cables (power switch, reset switch, hard drive activity LED, and power-on indicator LED). Ed did NOT check the main and 12V power connectors at the motherboard (brain fade - just remembered as this recap was being written) but they have a very obvious keying hooks at the cable ends and corresponding out-dents on the motherboard sockets. Morris, please check them for correct alignment BEFORE applying power!

Ed then proceeded to bash the chassis manufacturer's implementation of front-panel I/O cabling for audio and USB. The two provided audio cables are for EXTERNAL connection - meaning you need to take out a rear bracket cover to route the cables through and then plug them into the integrated I/O ports in the I/O shield area. He also complained about the use of INDIVIDUAL wires for the front USB port connection. [Done for totally "universal" application with all form and age of motherboards.] Since there is no documentation of the pin-out for the front USB header on the motherboard, Ed referred Morris to Intel's web site for the associated motherboard Technical Product Specification (TPS) - see pages 70 and 71 at <ftp://download.intel.com/design/motherbd/mv2/A9439501.pdf>. The only open issue is arranging those cables correctly as the header supports TWO connections, side-by-side, and the cables did not appear to identify which cable went to which of the two connector pin groups. Ed advised Morris that, if the port does not seem to work, he should switch the like cables to the alternate pin locations. Only the USB\_FNTA or USB\_FNTB and USB\_FNTA# or USB\_FNTB# pins are affected as the power and ground pins could be switched with no effect.

At least the cables have their basic functions identified. Have fun, Morris - or we'll see you at the next meeting (with the printouts of those two doc pages in hand). Random Access - none significant.

Next Meeting: May 13, 2003 Next Meeting Featured Topic(s): System RAM plus Motherboard Features Beyond Core Logic (Chipsets): 2003 Update & "Diagnostic Software". Following Meeting: June 10, 2003 Following Meeting Featured Topic(s): Hard Drives and "Floppies": 2003 Update & "Burn-In Procedures" File(s) attached - also posted on the OCIPUG Hardware SIG web site (<http://www.edscustomcomputers.com/>)

# Getting Around Microsoft IE 6 with the Scroll Mouse

Here are some scroll mouse functions that you can use in Microsoft Internet Explorer 6.

To go back to the previous pages

Shift + Scroll Wheel Down

To go forward

Shift + Scroll Wheel Up

To Decrease Font Size

Ctrl + Scroll Wheel Up

To Increase Font Size

Ctrl + Scroll Wheel Down



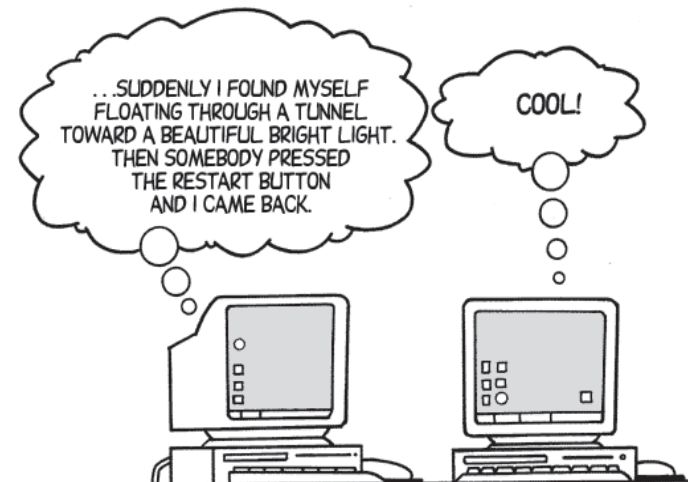
## Some Microsoft IE Favorites shortcuts

There are a number of keyboard shortcuts that you can use to work with your Favorites in Microsoft Internet Explore. For example, you can simply press Ctrl + D to add the current page to your Favorites. Ctrl + B will open the Organize Favorites dialog box.

You can move a selected item in the Organize Favorites dialog box up with Alt + Up Arrow, or down with Alt + Down Arrow.

**Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new.**

- Albert Einstein



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**10th Annual  
Southwest Regional User Group Conference  
San Diego, California  
August 8 - 10, 2003**

### WHAT IS A USER GROUP CONFERENCE?

The 10th Annual Southwest User Group Conference will be held from Friday evening, August 8 through Sunday, August 10 at the Hilton Hotel-Mission Valley in San Diego, CA. Activities will include: workshops on Saturday and Sunday; vendor-sponsored presentations & meals; a Vendor Faire; numerous prize drawings; as well as up close and personal time with participating vendors. In addition, attendees will receive a T-shirt and Welcome Bag. Attendees will have an opportunity to interface with user group leaders having similar interests to share ideas and experiences, as well as solutions to problems.

The conference began with 45 attendees and has grown to over 250 in 2002, representing 63 user groups

### CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEE

**\$40.00\***

**Includes**

**Admittance to all Workshops & Vendor Fair**

**6 Meals**

**Breaks**

**T-shirt sponsored by TBD**

**Welcome Bag sponsored by TBD**

**Registration deadline is:**

**\*July 25 - \$40.0**

**August 1 - \$50.00**

**August 2 through start of conference - \$60.00**

**For registration info, complete this form or contact  
Judy@swugconf.org**





## Avoid Iraqi Cons Online

**Mideast conflict puts a new spin on old scams.**

*Charles Bermant, Special to PCWorld*

While the war in Iraq is unprecedented in supporting timely reports from the front lines, much of the online activity surrounding the conflict has a familiar tone. Besides the expected digital humor and free expression, pervasive scam artists are seizing the opportunity to cadge money from unwitting patriots. "The only thing that makes it worse is that they are preying on something that people fundamentally feel should not be preyed upon," said Audri Lanford, who runs Internet ScamBusters, which debunks digital hoaxes. "But I guess you could say the same thing about schemes that prey on the elderly."

### Shift in Tone

Familiar mass mailings have taken on a Mideast flavor. Consider the electronic petitions (pro-Bush or anti-war), or messages urging recipients to send the President a small bag of rice and Biblical message to feed one's enemies in the name of peace (the White House did not respond to a query about how much rice has been received).

Humor also abounds. Making the rounds is a good news/bad news joke about a meeting of Saddam's doubles, where it is announced that the Iraqi leader had lost his arm. Another compares the Vietnam War with the current situation in the form of a pre-flight checklist: "Cabal of oldsters who won't listen to outside advice? Check. Corrupt Texan in the WH? Check. France secretly hoping we fall on our asses? Check. Vietnam 2, you are cleared to taxi."

Speaking of France, anti-France humor has been crossing the Internet for weeks, sometimes uncovering inside jokes. For example, until the word spread, searching Google for "French military victories" came up blank. A more recent jab at alleged allies is this quickie: "Poland announced it

has sent troops to the Gulf to help the coalition forces.... Mexico has no idea what to do with them."

### Iraq Scams Surface

Much less lighthearted than the digital humor, online scams involving Iraq are designed to capitalize on patriotic feelings that have emerged during the current conflict. Some might argue it's the extreme scammer who takes advantage of current events to cheat others, but the senders are probably no worse (or no better) than the scam artists who insinuate themselves into our in-boxes each day. For instance, a variation of the familiar Nigerian Scam 419 has quickly

surfaced. That e-mail hoax, which has been making the rounds for years, involves an alleged plea for assistance getting cash out of a country under siege—for a generous cut.

In the updated version, we have Eng Farouk Al-Bashar, allegedly the oldest son of an oil-rich Iraqi family. He writes to ask for our help in the transportation of \$12.5 million in cash from a Baghdad vault. For your trouble you get 10 percent, or a negotiated amount. It's now common knowledge that these scams are the basis for identity theft, bank fraud and even kidnapping. But a naive recipient who has not heard about this fraud may fall for it (although the line about "there is no avenue to transfer any amount from Iraq without Saddam knowing" will probably be revised by the next mailing).

Crafting old scams to current events is not new, hoax-watchers say. ScamBusters recalls two primary types of scams after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks: aid requests for rescue workers and for civilians. Digital opportunists were quick to urge contributions—but not always to the source the givers intended.

Since spammers are too lazy to vary their pitch, just change "rescue workers" to "American soldiers," and "civilians" to "refugees," and you have a pretty good picture of scams centered on the Iraqi situation. ScamBusters recommends the following, in times of war or peace: If you want to donate to a bona fide organization, go directly to its home page to donate. Links in scam charity e-mails ensure that you are paying the scammers, not the charities. And never donate based on an unsolicited e-mail. Always give to a trusted charity. Other E-Hazards and Cons

Distributors of e-mail worms are also exploiting the Iraqi situation by putting a war reference in the subject line, some antivirus product vendors warn. For example, anyone receiving an attachment that promises a patriotic message or a George Bush animation may send the W32/Ganda-A worm to everyone in their address book. Iraq also inspired virus writers last December, when an innocuous worm used Iraq\_oil as one of its several names.

Each cataclysmic world event seems to spawn its own urban legend. Lycos reports that the first urban legend to come out of the war in Iraq may be about the camel spider.

Recently, e-mail circulated stating that troops are encountering these amazing creatures, who purportedly run at speeds of 25 miles per hour and climb onto the bellies of camels and eat their stomachs from the outside, numbing the flesh by secreting a natural anesthetic. As the story goes, the creatures were even attacking our soldiers at night, many of whom awoke to find missing flesh A search for "camel spider" describes an animal that is somewhat more benign, along with a story from Air Force Link that seeks to correct the

Internet-borne misconceptions. The Air Force story, however, contains some legend-creating facts: The little beast is a cross between a spider and a scorpion. And "chemicals such as bug sprays are not recommended as they most likely will do nothing but make the spider angry." The perpetuation of these scams and legends underscores that the public remains unable to grasp some obvious truths: You shouldn't believe everything you read, and no one will give you money for nothing.

The FBI reports Internet fraud has tripled in the past year. ScamBusters' Lanford, pointing out that the Nigerian scam takes in about \$200 million a year, maintains it's a matter of education—"which is why we run ScamBusters as a public service," she notes.

"The Internet is still growing, so there will always be new people to scam," Lanford adds.

# Microsoft Research Offers a Look Inside the Lab

**Spam busters, terabyte databases, and cleaner code are top projects.** *Peggy Watt, PCWorld.*

Some of the best innovations to come from Microsoft's research labs will be invisible, if they work as planned.

The research organization, which has grown in the dozen years since its inception to more than 700 people in five labs, has projects ranging from crafting more-reliable software to clamping down on spam to cross-referencing maps of the planet and the skies.

Researchers showed off some of those technologies—it's much too early to call them products—at an in-house mini-trade show at Microsoft's Mountain View, California, campus. Rick Rashid, senior vice president of Microsoft Research, reported on the organization's current projects.

"A lot of what is happening at Microsoft today came out of the research group," Rashid said.

For example, code optimization technology that the researchers developed nearly a decade ago enabled Microsoft to simultaneously ship Windows 95 and Office 95, Rashid says. "It was a huge differentiator in the marketplace to be able to bring products to market earlier."

## In the Works

Like many other aspects of the researchers' most useful work, however, the early Windows effort was not evident to customers. The exhibits shown offered hints of similar future projects. Among them:

**No Spam @ Any (CPU) Speed:** This antispam concept takes several approaches to slowing down spam—literally. Each e-mail exchange would entail solving a cryptographic puzzle. The computation would be required of any e-mail from senders not in a recipient's address book, says Andrew Goldberg, one of the researchers on the project. If the sender failed to respond to a message requesting that they run the antispam filter, the e-mail would be rejected.

The computation would take approximately 10 seconds per message, but it would quickly become burdensome for spammers who send millions of messages daily.

**GWindows:** This software technology introduces an optical input interface that enables users to make hand gestures to interact with Windows and, potentially, with applications.

**PageTurner:** This technology provides an alternative to Web-crawling as a way to gather information for use in search engines. Because the total amount of Web content keeps growing, PageTurner relies on incremental crawling to identify changed material, instead of checking everything. According to researchers, only 7 percent of Web pages change one-third or more of their content every week, so this approach could make for more efficient and up-to-date results that won't bog search engines down as Web pages proliferate

**MyLifeBits:** This rather eclectic approach to database development seeks to assemble information (such as music and video) in formats that could not be stored digitally until fairly recently, says Roy Levin, director of Microsoft Research's Silicon Valley site.

**TerraServer Storage Project:** A Web service that spans many geographic databases, cross-referencing a variety of maps. The selection, which draws from satellite images and topographic maps, is available to the public at TerraService.Net.

**SkyServer:** The astronomical equivalent of TerraServer, the Sloan Digital Sky Survey SkyServer also already exists online in an early form, with help from the Sloan Foundation, at SkyServer

**. Hot Topics Ahead** Security and privacy issues are a major concern in many research projects, the leaders say. In fact, Microsoft's companywide Trustworthy Computing initiative requires that security be considered in any Microsoft project.

Security efforts surround many projects without being immediately evident, said Levin.

"Fighting spam is an effort to make e-mail safer, and a form of security," he noted in one example. Similarly, developing better programming tools to prevent flaws that leave systems vulnerable is inherently a security matter.

Privacy issues must be considered in any data-mining development efforts, Levin pointed out.

"We [once] assumed that information stayed fairly isolated," when it was provided to different sources, such as medical offices, schools, or social contacts, said Levin. But through computers, and especially networks, disparate information is easily associated—raising security and privacy issues.

As a result, one project of Levin's staff is to establish mathematical techniques for cross-referencing data and permitting broad statistical research without drilling down so far as to destroy privacy

## Development Tools

Because Microsoft Research is part of a software company, an ongoing priority is to help Microsoft build better software, Rashid says.

"The challenge for us is to say, How do you build software artifacts that are tens—and soon to be hundreds—of millions of lines of code, that do what users want them to do?" Rashid said. Many of the labs' projects involve crafting cleaner code, designing more efficient programming techniques, and developing more efficient testing.

For example, researchers showed off Scout, which Rashid describes as test prioritization software.

"Scout is designed to map the basic blocks in the code to the tests that touch those basic blocks," Rashid said. This helps set priorities for software testing, so the things most likely to be affected by a new piece of code or some coding change are tested first. The idea is to avoid discovering too late that the change that repaired one problem actually created another.

Scout technology is already being used in development of the next versions of Microsoft Exchange and SQL Server, as well as Microsoft Windows Server 2003

## Already in Products

Rashid also ticked off a handful of recent Microsoft products that draw on technology developed by his team. Windows Media Audio, now in version 9, came out of the research group, as did key streaming-media technology, he said.



From page 6

Tablet PC technology, including the original hardware reference point and handwriting recognition software, sprang from the research group.

Microsoft supplies Windows XP for Tablet PCs in the first commercial tablets, which shipped last fall. Another recent announcement, SPOT, wirelessly networks objects as diverse as keychains, wallets, and wristwatches. It was incubated in the research group, Rashid said.

“It’s part of the ubiquitous computing vision: smart, low-power processing power that can go about anywhere but have connectivity to the outside world,” he said. Microsoft has cut deals with a handful of leading operators of FM radio signal transmitters to provide the low-level network.

“When it comes online this fall, [SPOT] will cover about 80 percent of the U.S. and Canada,” Rashid said.

## Bright youth passes swiftly as a thought.

- Theognis, 6th Century B.C.

## Tips

### Quick Folder Organizing

If you have multiple folders on your desktop, and you want to do some organizing, here is a quick way of doing it. Click and drag one folder and drop it onto another. Poof! The dropped folder is gone. What Windows has done, is automatically placed the dropped folder within the other folder. If you then go into explorer, you will see that the dropped folder is inside of the other.

### Home on the Tool Bar

You can jump directly to your Internet Explorer home page from a folder window by pressing Alt-Home. If you prefer buttons to keyboard combos, add a Home button to your toolbar. From inside any folder window, select View, Toolbars, Customize. Under “Available Toolbar Buttons” select Home, click the Add button. Select Home under “Current toolbar buttons,” then click Close.

### System Restore:

In Windows Me, to restore your system to a previous checkpoint you created in System Restore click the ‘Start’ button then go to Programs, Accessories, System Tools, and System Restore.

Now, select the ‘Restore My Computer to an earlier time’ and select the name of the checkpoint you created. Your computer should put itself back to the way it was before. One word of caution, do not use System Restore unless you have a true emergency. I recommend using less intrusive methods to attempt to restore data or the registry before using System Restore. Use it as a last resort. Energy is eternal delight.

### System Restore: Part 2

Some of you may question the usefulness of the System Restore. It takes up a tremendous amount of time, space and computing power in order to maintain the System Restore functionality. If you are certain that this is a function that you will not need, you can disable System Restore by going to the Control Panel, then Selecting ‘System’ and choosing the ‘Performance’ tab then going to the ‘File System’. Now, click on the ‘Troubleshooting’ tab and checkmark the ‘Disable System Restore’.

### Put a Trail On Your Mouse

Can’t keep track of your mouse pointer? Add some pointer trails so that whenever you move it, lots of little pointers appear along its path.

Open the Control Panel, select the Appearance and Themes category, then select “Mouse Pointers” in the left pane (or from the classic view, double-click the Mouse item). Inside the Mouse Properties dialog box, click the Pointer Options tab and select “Display pointer trails.”

Move your mouse around a bit to try it out the new setting. To make the trails longer or shorter, click the Settings button and move the lever closer to Short or Long. Click OK twice to keep the change.

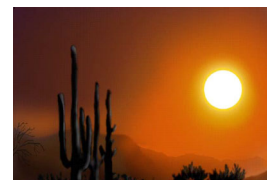
### Display File Extensions Windows XP

When you look through a folder’s contents, do you feel lost without extensions-the dot and three letters after each filename? Ask Windows XP to display them.

Open any folder window and select Tools, Folder Options. Click the View tab, deselect “Hide extensions for known file types,” then click OK.

## Photo Tips

### Big Suns in your Sunsets

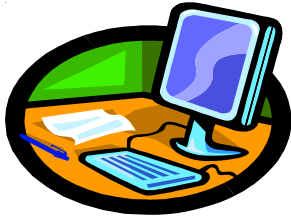


We’ve all seen sunset images with deep orange skies and huge suns. The way to get them is to use long focal length lenses. The longer the lens the bigger the sun will be in your image. Since most of us can’t afford an 800mm zoom, the easiest way to achieve this result is by using one or more teleconverters. Just keep in mind that in stacking teleconverters you’ll probably lose your ability to autofocus and you may need to meter manually depending on your camera.

### Moir, Patterns

When digital images are resized, moiré patterns often emerge. The screen like or curved patterns most often show up if there is an existing pattern in the image. When the image is resized the pattern is shifted and something else emerges.

Moiré patterns are distracting and can really take away from your images. The good news is that the resize functions in most modern software will eliminate these patterns. If you get an image where they show up, try using undo and then resizing the image to a slightly different size. Sometimes even a small change is enough to break up the pattern and make it invisible.



## IBM Unveils 20-Inch LCD

**ThinkVision monitor debuts with new ThinkPad keyboards.**  
*Peggy Watt, PCWorld*

IBM has launched the first model in its new ThinkVision line of monitors, the high-end, 20-inch, flat-panel ThinkVision L200p. The LCD monitor provides 1600-by-1200 optimum resolution and a 1.9-megapixel screen, plus some new ThinkVantage Design features. For example, it provides one-button access to frequently used functions, and the stand is designed so the display can be easily adjusted. The monitor is scheduled for release on February 28, priced at \$1349. IBM also announced two new USB-connected keyboards that offer the feel of a ThinkPad notebook in a stand-alone keyboard for a desktop system. Both keyboards sell for \$99 and are scheduled to ship in March.

### Monitor Details

The ThinkVision L200p is designed primarily for graphic and financial applications, such as CAD/CAM, scientific imaging, desktop publishing, and complex spreadsheets.

It supports 170-degree horizontal and vertical viewing angles. Through dual input, the ThinkVision L200p can be attached to two systems simultaneously. The monitor supports both analog or digital system attachment, and both types of cables are bundled.

The cantilever stand, an IBM design, is designed for ergonomic support and can swivel 135 degrees in either direction. Controls include direct access buttons for brightness, automatic image setup, and input selection.

### Keyboard Options

The two new keyboards are the IBM USB Keyboard with UltraNav and the IBM USB Travel Keyboard with UltraNav.

Both are designed to provide the characteristics of a ThinkPad keyboard whether used on the road or with a desktop PC. UltraNav incorporates TrackPoint and touchpad pointing devices. Both keyboards have tiered key rows, matte key finish, and a wider space bar characteristic of ThinkPad keyboards.

The IBM USB Keyboard can also control ThinkPad features such as speaker volume, external monitor control, brightness, and system sleep and suspend on supported ThinkPad systems. The IBM USB Travel Keyboard with UltraNav is smaller, lacking a numeric keypad, and lightweight, weighing just over a pound.

**An optimist is a guy that never has had much experience.**

*- Don Marquis*

**A pessimist is a person who has had to listen to too many optimists.**

*- Don Marquis*

## Choosing a Digital Still Camera



*By Ira Wilsker*

Digital cameras have become one of the most popular new consumer items. As is common for many high technology items, the price of digital cameras has fallen, as the technology improves. The dramatic increase in sales of digital cameras is mostly due to their “instant gratification” by eliminating the cost and inconvenience of film and processing. Another advantage is the ease of editing digital photos. The increase in sales of digital cameras has often more than offset the decline in sales of film cameras and accessories. Also, digital photography has in some cases, replaced film photography in many professional applications. According to Olympus, one of the leading digital camera manufacturers, the high-end digital cameras are now used by many professional photographers for weddings and other events. Many newspapers and magazines are now employing digital photography, which bypasses the darkroom, and allows the input of images directly to editors. For home users, digital cameras range from very inexpensive (under \$30, often before rebates) point and shoot models to sophisticated models that rival 35mm SLR cameras, including accessory lenses and peripherals.

The potential resolution of digital cameras is measured in “pixels”, a condensed term for “picture elements”. Pixels are basically the little colored dots that compose an image. More pixels in an image mean that a larger size picture can be printed or viewed, but increases the amount of storage or memory necessary to hold the image. Contrary to popular belief, more pixels are not necessarily better. Consider that a typical 14" monitor has a resolution of 640x480 pixels, which is about 300,000 pixels. The unedited image from a digital camera with a 300,000-pixel resolution will fill the screen of that 14" monitor. My 17" monitor is currently set at a 1024x768 resolution; a digital photograph of about 740,000 pixels would fill that screen. Many digital photographers take their photos at the highest resolution, which is often unnecessary, and a waste of memory and time. If the image is to be emailed, or posted to the web, the image will likely have to be substantially reduced in size to be practical. Using good quality photo paper and a photo-grade color printer, an 11x14 inch image will require about 4 million pixels (4 megapixels) to approximate the quality of a 35mm print. An 8x10 inch print will require about 2 megapixels. An inexpensive 1-megapixel camera is quite capable of producing satisfactory 5x7 inch photos. The least expensive digital cameras on the market, sometimes under \$20 (I recently paid \$19 for one), can easily produce a printed picture in the common 35mm print size of 3.5x5 or 4x6 inch sizes. Some digital cameras, such as one of the Olympus CamMedia series, can print directly from the camera, using Polaroid film, or conventionally export images to a computer.

Digital cameras need something to hold the images until they are downloaded to a computer, or printed directly. Various types of non-volatile memory cards, typically compact flash, smart media, or memory stick formats, are used to store images. Currently, these cards are available in capacities up to 1 gigabyte (about 1 billion bytes), with 16meg (16 million bytes) to 128meg being both common and relatively inexpensive.

## Thank You John Lunsford

The cards are reusable as images are erased from the cards. The contents of the cards can typically be transferred by the camera to a PC or Mac via a USB connection, or read directly by a card reader. Other popular cameras, such as some of the Sony Mavica series, use common 3.5" floppy disks. These floppies, each holding about 1.4 megabytes, can be read directly by a computer, as the images are written directly to the floppy.

Some more advanced (and expensive) digital cameras can write to mini-CD discs, which can hold well over 100 megabytes, and can be read on any CD drive. Generally, the more storage of any type available in a camera, the better.

Many digital cameras also have the ability to record short movies, sometimes with sound. The length of the movie is only limited by the memory or storage available in the camera. For most common movie capable digital cameras, the length is typically measured in seconds, or a few minutes.

Zoom is another feature often available. With the traditional film cameras, optical zoom is used. The zoom on digital cameras can be optical, digital, or a combination of both. In terms of image quality, optical zoom is superior to a digital zoom, with the same magnification. One digital camera I tried is advertised as having a 20x zoom; 4x optical, and 5x digital. At 20x (combining the digital and optical zoom), the images were quite grainy, but at 4x (optical) they were very sharp. The same image at 4x digital zoom was visibly grainy, especially when enlarged. If a choice is available, optical zoom is superior to digital zoom.

Convenience factors, such as size, weight, flash, and battery capacity are often a matter of personal choice. Many digital cameras utilize the common AA size battery for convenience. Disposable alkaline batteries become expensive, if many pictures are taken, as they have a relatively short useful life. Rechargeable Nickel Metal Hydride (NiMH) batteries are much more expensive to purchase, but the better ones have a capacity of two to four times the photos as alkaline batteries, and can be recharged around 1000 times. In the long run, NiMH batteries are far less expensive to use than alkaline. Select the NiMH batteries by comparing their capacity, typically 1200 to 1800 mAh (milliamp hours), the more the better. Another factor to consider is the viewfinder.

Many digital cameras have a conventional lens type viewfinder, while others have a small LCD screen that is a "what you see is what you get" view. Some cameras have both. Many users have found that it is harder to aim a digital camera using an LCD screen than a viewfinder, but others prefer to see the exact picture on the LCD an instant before the image is captured. Almost all digital cameras come with either an integral flash, or some sort of "hot shoe" or plug for an external flash. Some digital cameras combine their still function with a live video function, as they can also serve as webcams, sending live video over the net.

Digital photography can be both money and a time saver for many users, and should be strongly considered for that next camera purchase.

*This article is brought to you by the Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups*



John Lunsford is presented a plaque by Red Davidson in recognition of his 17 years of presenting the New User / New Member sig. John has also been the editor of the README.DOC in the past. John's finale was a presentation to some of the older members of OCIPUG. We do appreciate John's dedication and the years of service to OCIPUG.

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**The next version of Microsoft's Office**, currently known as Office 11, will likely be called Office 2003, starting with the release of the second beta version early next month, according to sources familiar with Microsoft's plans.

That name for the productivity application suite would be in line with the nomenclature for other new Microsoft products. For example, Microsoft earlier this year changed the Windows.Net Server product name to Windows Server 2003, with launch of the server platform scheduled for April 24.

Microsoft released the first beta version of Office 11 in October 2002. A second beta version will be made available internally at Microsoft next week, followed by its release to testers on March 6, the sources said. The final product should be out at midyear, Microsoft has said.

### What's in a Name?

A Microsoft spokesperson in the United Kingdom confirmed that the second beta version is due soon, but declined to confirm the name change.

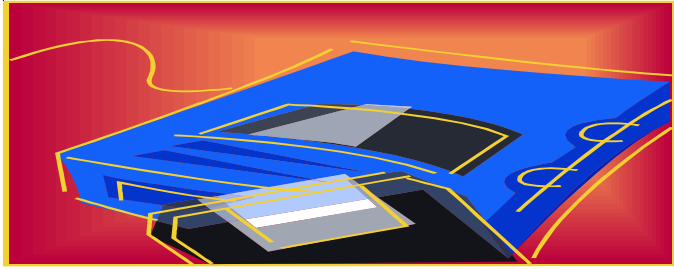
"The Microsoft beta 2 announcement for Office 11 is expected very shortly. At this time we have not made any announcements on the naming conventions we will apply to this release of Office," the spokesperson said.

Irwin Hunter, product manager for Office at Microsoft in the Netherlands, said the "Office 2003 name is on the table" but has not been finalized.

Most of the applications in the new version of Office, the successor to Office XP, will look and act much as they currently do. Under the hood, however, are some big changes—in particular, enhanced collaborative tools and support for XML.

*Jim Evers, IDG News Service*

## Adobe Launches DVD Editor



### High-end program targets pros pursuing DVD.

*Richard Baguley, PCWorld*

Adobe Systems is expanding its line of multimedia management products to include Encore DVD, a Windows tool for high-end DVD authoring. The new program, unveiled at the National Association of Broadcasters show here, is scheduled to ship in the third quarter.

With Encore DVD, you can edit a video, create menus, and then use a rewritable DVD drive to burn the video onto a DVD disc. As its \$549 price tag indicates, Encore DVD is aimed squarely at high-end and professional users who already work with video but want to output their productions to DVD as well as to videotape. It won't compete with products such as DVD Movie Factory 2 and MyDVD that target home and casual users. Many other companies have already launched DVD authoring products to accompany rewritable DVD drives, which have been dropping in price; you can now pick up a rewritable DVD drive for just over \$200.

"Adobe Encore DVD opens the door for video professionals to take advantage of powerful DVD features and deliver their video projects in the format embraced by both consumers and professionals," says Bryan Lamkin, senior vice president of digital imaging and video products at Adobe Systems. Plays With Others

The new program also integrates with other Adobe products. You can transfer video projects straight from Adobe's popular high-end video-editing program Premiere, for example; and you can create or edit the DVD menus in Adobe's popular Photoshop program, which offers a huge range of image editing tools

Users will be able to edit menus with Photoshop from within Encore DVD, instead of having to pass them from one program to another. This will make the process of creating a DVD movie quicker and easier, according to Adobe. Alternatively, the program can be used as a stand-alone DVD authoring program, but most users will probably use it alongside Premiere and Photoshop. It can also integrate with Adobe's video processing and special-effects program After Effects.

Premiere already includes a basic DVD authoring program in the form of a bundled version of Sonic DVDit LE. Adobe representatives say the company will continue to bundle DVDit LE with version 6.5 of the video editing program.

However, DVDit LE is a basic program that doesn't sit easily with Premiere's powerful and feature-rich video editing tools; for instance, DVDit LE offers very limited DVD menu-editing tools. Adobe's newest entry is intended to fill the gap.

## Minutes of OCIPUG General Meeting



The March 2003 General Meeting of the Orange Coast IBM PC User Group (OCIPUG) was held on Saturday, March 22, 2003, at the Costa Mesa Senior Center. Thirty-one members were 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 March 2003 Readme.Doc. In addition, it was requested that all names and email addresses be printed, as 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 the Random Access (Q&A) session. The first question involved Windows 2000. After a period of inactivity with the computer left on, an error message asking what setting changes had been made would appear. The user was referred to the Microsoft Knowledge base at <http://support.microsoft.com>. One possible problem was discussed by Microsoft in article Q201511 and could be due to an out of date BIOS, which may be resolved by downloading an updated BIOS for the computer.

The second question involved folder icons sometimes being black. This could be a video driver problem or could be a RAM problem. Again, the Microsoft Knowledge base could be of use. One article (Q133733) addressed the problem of icons in Control Panel or on the desktop being displayed incorrectly, being either black or sometimes the wrong icon. Per Microsoft, this problem can occur if the ShellIconCache file in the Windows folder is damaged. In Windows 98, restart Windows in Safe mode. Then use Windows Explorer to remove the ShellIconCache file from the Windows folder. Then restart the computer in the normal mode.

Frank Mastroly then reminded the membership that the Microsoft Knowledge Base is a very good source of information for resolving problems with Windows or various Microsoft applications, although the process can be tedious and time consuming, as you have to have a good idea of exactly what you are looking for when inputting search terms..

The next question was on the relative advantages of a wireless home network vs. hard-wired using cables. For short distance within a room, cable is probably adequate, but between rooms, wireless is better. Per information obtained from the Hewlett-Packard website at [www.hp.com/sbso/wireless/understanding\\_wifi.html](http://www.hp.com/sbso/wireless/understanding_wifi.html), the current industry standard for home networks is IEEE 802.11b, which can transmit data at rates up to 11 Mbps at 2.4 GHz with a range of 200-300 feet depending upon the presence of intervening walls or other structure. There are presently two options for higher data rates in the near future - one clearly defined in a published standard, and the other currently being developed. The 802.11a standard provides data rates to 54 Mbps in the 5 GHz U-NII bands. Still under development is the 802.11g standard that defines a technology for operation at 2.4 GHz that offers higher data rates (up to 22 Mbps) using OFDM,

while remaining backwards compatible to 802.11b. When compared to 802.11a, 802.11g offers the advantages of lower cost, backwards compatibility to existing 802.11b equipment, and less path loss than 802.11a. This translates into higher data rates for a given range, or increased range for a given data rate.

The next question related to how messages in Outlook Express are stored on a computer's hard drive, specifically if each message is stored as its own file. In general, Outlook Express mail is stored in one folder on the hard drive, with each Outlook Express folder, which can contain any number of individual messages, stored as a single file with the extension .dbx. In Windows 98, the default location for e-mail is C:\WINDOWS\Application Data\Identities\{hexadecimal string}\Microsoft\Outlook Express, while in Windows XP the default storage location is C:\Documents and Settings\{computer user name}\Local Settings\Application Data\Identities\{hexadecimal string}\Microsoft\Outlook Express. To find where the mail is stored, do a search for \*.dbx (with all files, including hidden, to be shown) on the same partition on which the operating system (usually C) is installed. Outlook Express 6 provides the option of specifying the storage location. You do this by going to the Tools menu and selecting Options and then Maintenance and then clicking on Store Folder where the current path (location) where e-mail is currently stored will be displayed. This can be changed, but this will affect only mail stored after this change. However, by following the procedure in Microsoft Knowledge Base article Q262118, you can use Windows Explorer to create new folders and move mail from the "old" (original) folder to the new storage location, including off-loading one or more folders to a CD.

President Leonard Stein started the regular part of the meeting by reminding the membership that we need a nominating committee for the upcoming elections. Any OCIPUG member can serve on the committee, with only restriction that he/she cannot presently be serving on the board. After a show of hands, Ralph Marcarelli, Charles Schreiber, and Cheryl Wester volunteered to serve on the committee, with the chairperson to be chosen later.

Member Cheryl Wester brought additional head sets for those members who did not pick one up at the February General Meeting.

In accordance with the announcement at the February General Meeting, Vice President/SIG Coordinator Robert Strader repeated the new SIG schedule effective March 2003:

- \* Internet and Web Page Design (Michael Moore), 1st Tuesday of each month
- \* Hardware (Ed Leckliter), 2nd Tuesday of each month
- \* Windows 9x/XP (Robert Strader), 3rd Tuesday of each month
- \* Digital Photography and Scanning (Robert Strader), 4th Tuesday of each month

The next hardware SIG will be on Tuesday, April 8, and will cover chipsets, which interface between the processor and the ram and various input/output devices. The Windows 98/XP SIG on Tuesday, April 15, will cover more tips and tricks. The digital photography SIG on Tuesday, March 25 will cover free and low cost photo editing software.

It was announced that due to low attendance, John Lunsford would discontinue his Saturday morning New Users SIG effective April 5, 2003.

Finally, it was announced that the next ACP swap meet would be on Sunday, April 6. Note that this is a permanent change to the previous schedule.

Program Chairman/Director Ed Leckliter then started the main portion of the meeting by introducing Darwin Balik of the Western Digital Corporation ([www.wdc.com](http://www.wdc.com)) which provides cost-effective products and services for people and organizations that collect, manage and use digital information.

WD Caviar® desktop hard drives are offered in capacities of 20 to 200GB and at speeds of 5,400 RPM and 7,200 RPM. Highlighting the WD Caviar family is the Special Edition series, which uniquely utilizes an 8 MB buffer – four times the industry norm – to increase performance levels higher than any other IDE hard drive, according to industry trade press. Western Digital also offers 60, 80 and 120GB external FireWire (1394) storage devices, making them an ideal choice for video editing and capture and other demanding applications, as well as USB external hard drives in capacities ranging from 40GB to 120GB.

Mr. Balik started his presentation with a brief history of hard drive and controller development. The first type of controller was SCSI (Small Computer System Interface), and was the first interface system to allow for multiple hard drives on one controller. SCSI is commonly used in enterprise computing. IDE (Integrated Drive Electronics) was developed in the late 1980s to incorporate the interface controller electronics into the design of the hard drive rather than as a separate controller. EIDE (Enhanced Integrated Drive Electronics) is the primary interface currently used by desktop PCs to handle communication between hard drives and the central processing unit. The prevalent means of connecting the hard drive to the controller is by use of an 80 pin cable with every other cable grounded to reduce EMI (Electromagnetic Interference), with SATA (Serial ATA (Advanced Technology Attachment)) the next generation.

To illustrate how hard drive capacity has increased over the years, Mr. Balik presented some comparisons between 1989 and 2003:

- \* Capacity: 30mb in 1989, 200GB in 2003
- \* Bits per inch: 20k in 1989, 663k in 2003
- \* Tracks per inch: 1,000 in 1989, 89,000 in 2003.

Rotational speeds have also increased, with approximately an even split between 5,400 and 7,200 RPM currently, but soon as many as 80% will be 7,200-RPM units. 80+GB per platter is now state of the art, with capacities of up to 250GB possible with three platters. For more on hard drive benchmarking and performance, go to [www.storagereview.com](http://www.storagereview.com). This site also has a reference section covering:

- \* A Brief History of the Hard Disk Drive
- \* Construction and Operation of the Hard Disk Drive
- \* Hard Disk Geometry and Low-Level Data Structures
- \* Hard Disk Performance, Quality and Reliability
- \* Hard Disk BIOS and Capacity Factors
- \* Hard Disk Interfaces and Configuration
- \* Hard Disk Logical Structures and File Systems

The primary parts of a hard drive are:

- \* Spindle motor which rotates the platters at a constant speed
- \* Read/write pivot arms and actuator. The arms all move in unison.
- \* Read/write heads (which operate in series). Head design affects the bits/inch.
- \* A suspension system for the heads, usually air pressure that keeps the heads from touching the disk or platter with a gap of 0.035 to 0.050 micro inches (millionths of an inch)

- \* The recoding media (magnetic layer over a substrate, which can be aluminum or even glass)
- \* A VCM (voice coil magnet) which produces a movement of the head that is proportionate to the force exerted by the coil.

At the center of each recording platter is a touchdown zone where the heads rest when the power is off. This area is bumpy to reduce “sticktion,” or the tendency for the heads to drag and not lift when the disk is repowered. The platters have servo and wedge sectors to tell the controller where they are at any given time, and this information is correlated against the FAT or file allocation table in the operating system. However, there is no direct correlation between logical partitions and physical location of the data. For example, files that have been defragged by the operating system may actually be spread over more than one platter. Finally, there are more data sectors at the edge of the platters and, generally, data are loaded from the outside in, as this reduces access times.

As for installation and handling problems, a main concern is “head-slap” where the heads contact the recording media during normal operation. This may damage both the recording media and the head itself. ESD (electrostatic discharge) is also a major concern, as it can damage the drive’s electronics, and thus the drives should be handled only by their sides. The unpacked (bare) but uninstalled drives should not be stacked on top of one another. One concern is that during operation, the drive temperature should not exceed 55C and thus they should not be installed near a major heat source. When installing more than one drive in a computer, make sure that there is adequate air circulation around them. Most chassis designs will provide sufficient space between drives to permit adequate cooling which can be augmented by additional fans to increase air circulation.

As for drive software, SMART (Self-Monitoring, Analysis, and Reporting Technology) can be used to predict failures and warn the user before they occur). There is IDE 3rd party self-test software that will interrogate the drive’s status (pass/fail) which WD provides, as well as a drive copy utility to transfer data when replacing one drive with another. Scandisk can locate damaged sectors but cannot repair them.

The meeting was concluded with our raffle. Because Western Digital had to postpone their originally scheduled January presentation, they provided both an internal 200 GB hard drive (won by Henry Guttentag) as well as a 200 GB external (IEEE1394 firewire) hard drive along with a firewire PCI card (won by Ed Leckliter). Note that President Leonard Stein donated several miscellaneous items. The other raffle winners and prizes won were:

- \* Kevin Moser – Virtual Drive (donated by FarStone Products at the February General Meeting)
- \* Cheryl Wester – RestoreIT (also donated by FarStone Products at the February General Meeting)
- \* Ralph Marcarelli – Flip Album Version 5
- \* George Austin – Western Digital T-Shirt
- \* Marshall Boslow – Western Digital T-Shirt
- \* Preston Hill – Western Digital T-Shirt

The next General Meeting will be on Saturday, April 26, 2003, at 9:00am. Intel will be presenting data on processors (CPUs), chipsets, and motherboards, both the current technologies as well as information on current and future products.

## OCIPUG Board of Directors Meeting



The March Executive Board of Directors (Board or BOD) Meeting of the Orange Coast IBM PC User Group (OCIPUG) was held on March 31, 2003, at the Costa Mesa Senior Center. President Leonard Stein called the meeting to order at 7:00pm, with all nine officers and directors present. Webmaster Michael Moore and Membership Committee Chairman Morris Fier were also present

A draft copy of the minutes of the February 2003 Executive Board of Directors Meeting had previously been emailed to all board members for their review. In a motion by Director Ed Leckliter, seconded by Treasurer Kevin Moser, carried, the minutes of the February 2003 Executive Board of Directors Meeting were approved.

**President’s Report:** — President Leonard Stein reported that because of personal matters, he will not be able to devote as much time as he would like to OCIPUG issues. He is, however, clearing out his software collections and will be donating various items for use in our raffles.

**Secretary’s Report:** — Secretary Frank Mastroly reported that we had received three membership renewals during February, and these were passed on to Treasurer/CFO Kevin Moser and Membership Committee Chairman Morris Fier.

**Treasurer’s Report:** — Treasurer/CFO Kevin Moser distributed the financial report for the month of March 2003, through March 31, 2003. We continued our discussion on the notice received from Washington Mutual that we would no longer be receiving interest on our checking account, as they consider OCIPUG to be a business despite our non-profit status, and per information given to Kevin we cannot qualify as a non-profit organization. (Our other two accounts, the CD and the Tim Smith account, would not be affected by this change.) One item of note is that we would be assessed a \$7.50 fee if the checking account balance on any given day fell below \$2,500 or if the average daily balance fell below \$5,000. Among the options discussed were to combine the CD and checking accounts (we would lose approximately \$4/month CD interest) or to switch the account(s) to a different bank or to a credit union (Kevin included fee information for several institutions as part of his report). In a motion by Director Ed Leckliter, seconded by Secretary Frank Mastroly, and carried, Kevin was authorized to initiate the process of moving all three accounts, including the Tim Smith account, to California National Bank. Kevin will obtain papers for signature to approve the move.

In a motion by Secretary Frank Mastroly and seconded by Director Ed Leckliter the financial report as presented was accepted.

### Committee Reports:

**Program Committee Report:** Director Ed Leckliter distributed a handout summarizing the programs for the next several general meetings. At the March 2003 General Meeting, Mr. Darwin Balik of the Western Digital Corporation ([www.wdc.com](http://www.wdc.com)) presented a very informative discussion on the technology and development

of hard disk drives. Because Western Digital had to postpone their originally scheduled January presentation, they provided for our raffle both an internal 200 GB hard drive as well as a 200 GB external (IEEE1394 firewire) hard drive along with a firewire PCI card. Because of the interest this generated, the raffle proceeds were \$178.

At the April 26 General Meeting, Intel will be presenting data on processors (CPUs), chipsets, and motherboards, both the current technologies as well as information on current and future products. In May a presentation by AMD on their Barton and Opteron processors and chipsets is tentatively scheduled. Ed is contacting JASC, Corel, Toshiba, Adaptec, and other hardware and software manufacturers regarding future presentations.

As is the usual practice, Ed Leckliter will e-mail a general meeting notice to Past President Bob Walker who in turn will e-mail it to all members a week or so ahead of the General meetings.

#### **SIG Reports:**

In accordance with the announcement at the February General Meeting, Vice President/SIG Coordinator Robert Strader repeated the new SIG schedule effective March 2003:

- \* Internet and Web Page Design (Michael Moore), 1st Tuesday of each month
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The hardware SIG on Tuesday, April 8, will cover chipsets, which interface between the processor and the ram and various input/output devices. The Windows 98/XP SIG on Tuesday, April 15, will cover more tips and tricks. The digital photography SIG on Tuesday, March 25 will cover free and low cost photo editing software. The digital photography SIG on Tuesday, April 22 will be conducted by Dave Wintle.

It was announced that due to low attendance, John Lunsford would discontinue his Saturday morning New Users SIG effective April 5, 2003. There was a brief discussion on how to honor John for his long service in conducting this SIG. Past President Robert Walker will prepare a plaque of recognition, and Director Red Davidson will contact John to see when he might be available for a presentation ceremony.

**SeniorNet Report:** Secretary Frank Mastroly reported that the next SeniorNet team meeting will be on Friday, April 11, 2003, at 3:00pm. The latest session of classes started today, March 31, 2003. The schedule is essentially the same as for the previous session. The only changes were to offer an Exploring Windows XP class on Monday afternoons (in lieu of Quicken) and to swap the day and time slots for Parts 1 and 2 of the Window 98 class, with the former on Friday mornings and the latter on Wednesday afternoons.

**Community Service Report:** No report.

**Long Range Planning:** Past President Robert Walker distributed an updated schedule for the remainder of the fiscal year (through October 2003). Note that the May 2003 General Meeting will be on Saturday, May 31, 2003, and the May Board of Directors meeting will be on Monday, June 2, 2003, due to conflicts with the Memorial Day holiday.

In addition, the schedule includes footnotes relative to the upcoming elections as follows:

April – Report from the nominating committee

May – Board to appoint three members of the Election Committee

June – Nominations from the floor at the General meeting  
July – Ballots mailed to the membership, to be returned before August 19, 2003  
August – Election Committee reports election results  
September – Installation of the new officers.

In addition, in August 2003 the President, Past President, Readme.Doc Editor, and Treasurer are to submit budgets for the fiscal year September 2003 to August 2004.

**Facilities Report, Maintenance and Improvement:** Continuing work in process.

**Operations (Policy and Procedures):** No report

**Publications Report:** Readme.Doc Editor Robert Walker reported that he had dropped off copies of the Readme.Doc as well as OCIPUG applications at the Cyber Library at the corner of Bristol and Palomino. Also, he reiterated his request for SIG reports, both past and future, for inclusion in the Readme.Doc. Bob also wants Readme.Doc inputs from the nominating committee.

**Webmaster Report:** Webmaster Michael Moore reported that he is revising the OCIPUG web site to reactivate “dead” links and to allow members to add links of general interest. Michael also reported that the two e-mail addresses (president.bod@ocipug.org and apcugrep.bod@ocipug.org) will be active on April 1, 2003, but links to them will not be placed on the OCIPUG web page but rather will be used only for club purposes. Past President Robert Walker received a statement from In-Reach which was passed on to Treasurer Kevin Moser. Apparently we will receive monthly statements for the two e-mail address, as In-Reach is not set up for quarterly or semi-annual billing.

**Membership Report:** Committee Chairman Morris Fier reported that he will be sending out membership renewal notices in April, but needs an updated membership roster ASAP. Director Sandi Tierney reported that she has contacted two friends who plan to join. She also asked if we have any special arrangements, e.g., reduced dues, for out-of-state members. We do not.

**Advertisings and Public Relations Report:** No report.

#### **Old Business:**

At the March General meeting, Ralph Marcarelli, Charles Schreiber, and Cheryl Wester volunteered to serve on the election committee, with the chairperson to be chosen later.

Director Red Davidson reported that he had contacted former Treasurer Larry Pearce relative to dispersion of the Tim Smith fund. Larry told him that this was up to the board. Past President Robert Walker volunteered to contact local high schools in the area that have computer training programs. Bob also said that we could also work through the local Lions club.

Vice President Robert Strader reported that he has once again contacted APCUG to see if we can obtain liability insurance at a lower premium than we now are paying. No progress to report as yet.

Michael Moore will prepare an inventory of what surplus OCIPUG hardware he has in his possession so that we can make a decision on how to dispose of it.

In accordance with a motion approved at the February Board meeting, Vice President Robert Strader and Director Red Davidson reviewed the club's financial records and are satisfied that all is in order.

Past President Robert Walker reported that he had not yet been able to contact former member Roberta Klein relative to her doing book reviews for the Readme.Doc in conjunction with O'Reilly Publishing. One item he noted was that she would have to rejoin OCIPUG in order to be able to do this. This item remains open.

#### **New Business:**

Readme.Doc Editor Robert Walker reminded the board that he needs volunteers to review software and then write review articles for the Readme.Doc. He also said he was planning to contact former member Roberta Klein to see if she would be interested in coordinating software reviews. Vice President Robert Strader will send Roberta an e-mail on this.

**Adjournment:** Moved by Director Ed Leckliter, seconded by Director Sandi Tierney, and carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm. The next OCIPUG Board meeting will be on Monday, April 28, 2003, at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Mastroly, Secretary

## **Bugs and Fixes: Bug or Feature? We've Got the Answers**

**Here's how to handle snags with service packs, Outlook Express, and more.**

*Stuart J. Johnston*

After installing Service Pack 1 for Internet Explorer 6.0, I haven't been able to open file attachments in Outlook Express 6.0. Is there anything I can do?

This problem involves a new default security setting that Microsoft put in place as part of the service pack for IE. To change the default so you can view attachments again, click Tools, Options in Outlook Express and select the Security tab. Under 'Virus Protection', click Do not allow attachments to be saved or opened that could potentially be a virus to clear the option's check box. Then click OK. For additional information, go to the Microsoft Knowledge Base article.

I took your advice (see "Proceed With Caution When Using Microsoft Patch") and installed Service Pack 1 for Windows XP, but now I can't switch between e-mail accounts in Outlook Express. Is this a bug?

Microsoft is aware of the problem but hasn't said when (or whether) it will fix it. This is a pain for people who need to set up multiple accounts (or identities) in Outlook Express to manage different e-mail in-boxes. There is a way around the problem, though. In OE, click File, Identities, Manage Identities. Click Use this identity when starting a program to clear its check box, and click Close. Thereafter, OE will prompt you—twice—to select an identity every time you open OE. For more information, read Microsoft's brief Knowledge Base article.

I received an e-mail about how to stop viruses from spreading. Referring to a PC World article, the anonymous writer advised me to enter !000 as a contact in my Outlook or Outlook Express address book. Thereafter, !000 would appear as the first entry and prevent worms from e-mailing themselves to everyone in my address book. Is this true?

I hate to burst that bubble of hope, but the answer is no. Similar e-mail messages have been making the rounds for a couple of years, and the advice is bogus. Ignore it. You're much better off getting an antivirus package and keeping it up-to-date. Visit Hoax Busters for details about this hoax, and go to "How to Spot Virus Hoaxes a Mile Off" for tips on how to identify virus hoaxes in general.

#### **Related Topics: Software Bugs, Scams & Hoaxes, Applications Tips**

##### **Bugs and Fixes: Bug or Feature?**

We've Got the Answers Holey Windows: Eight Flaws Get Fixed Microsoft has plugged eight new security holes affecting its Java Virtual Machine. The most serious glitch could allow an attacker to take over your PC remotely and perform any action that you could. The VM shipped as part of nearly all flavors of Windows and Internet Explorer. Nevertheless, you may not be affected by the problem (Microsoft stopped shipping the VM at different stages, only to start shipping it again later). Head to Microsoft Security Bulletin MS02-069 to learn more and to get a link to the patch.

##### **Netscape Update**

Netscape is now shipping version 7.01 of its browser. Netscape says that the updated version is more stable than its predecessor. Go to Netscape for a free download, and you can access Netscape's release notes along with the list of known problems here.

##### **Outlook Weakness**

An attacker could exploit a vulnerability in Outlook to send you a message that would repeatedly crash your e-mail application. Check out the Security Update for Microsoft Outlook 2002 patch.

##### **Flash Flaw**

Macromedia has fixed a serious hole in its Macromedia Flash Player that a bad guy could have exploited to take over your PC if you clicked an infected Flash (SWF) file. Go to Macromedia's Downmail

**Human history becomes more and more a race between education and catastrophe.**

- H.G. Wells



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**PC User Group**  
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**Publication Deadline**

Material for the **June 2003** issue must be received on or before **May 19, 2003**  
 rwalker820@msn.com

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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:

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 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.
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