

Orange Coast IBM PC User Group

README.DOC

April 2004

Newsletter

Volume 20.4

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

In This Issue

Front Page 1
Schedules and Events 2-3
SIG Reports 4
President's Report 5
Jan. BOD Minutes 6
A Look Back-Mindshare 7
Internet Talk 8-9
Meet SCRUGS 10-11
Search Strategies 12
Tucows 13
Email at 32 14
Birth of Scientific Comp15-16
Windows Key 16-17
Keyboard Capers 18
Rant on Rebates 19-20
Dona's Computer Capers 21
One space or two 22
Wireless for You 23
Review Flip Album 24
Deals Guy 25-26
Publication Guidelines 27

Buying Safely On



&

Getting acquainted with our New Website



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

OCIPUG Web Page: www.ocipug.org

OCIPUG Information line: 714-535-0608

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

27 March	2004
24 April	2004
22 May	2004
26 June	2004
31 July	2004
28 August	2004

For details see inside pages of this
issue, Web Page, or Information Line

Meetings of the Executive Board will
be held at 12:00PM on:

27 March	2004
24 April	2004
22 May	2004
26 June	2004
31 July	2004
28 August	2004

All OCIPUG members are welcome.

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

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

April 24th General Meeting Buying Safely On eBay

In this presentation we will learn how to navigate through eBay by browsing sale items by category and by searching for specific items by name. You also will learn how to register as a user of eBay. You will learn how to tell when an auction will close, how to determine whether a seller is trustworthy and how to bid on an item.

The presentaion incorporates some eBay Hacks as outlined in the book eBay Hacks by David A. Karp, published by O'Reilley, 2 copies of which will be part of the meetings raffle.

Time permitting after the eBay presentation and questions and answers, Mark will show the members some of the resources and nuances of the new OCIPUG webpage, <http://www.ocipug.org>. Other user groups are beginning to see that OCIPUG's new webpage is a resource which is a desirable link to incorporate into their site and a force to contend with at this years User Group Webpage Contest. Member participation and feedback could well be the difference in being an award winning site or an also ran. Also hear about the new features that depending on your feedback will be in incorporated or not.

11th Annual Southwest Computer User Group Conference San Diego, California August 6 - 8, 2004

A man goes into a lawyer's office and says, "I heard people have sued the tobacco companies for giving them lung cancer, and McDonald's for making them fat." The lawyer says, "Yes, that's true." The man says, "Well, I'm interested in suing too." The lawyer says, "Okay, McDonald's, or the tobacco companies?" The man says,

"Neither I'm suing Budweiser for all the ugly women I've slept with."



Internet SIG

Recap of the April 6th Internet (SIG)

Reported By: Michael R Moore

The April 6 Internet SIG started at 7:00P, and was attended by nine members, Including (Webmaster, SIG Leader, and primary) presenter Mark Borison. The focus of this SIG is the internet, and how it relates to personal computers, during the course of the evening, the following web sites were introduced and discussed to those in attendance.

◆ <http://www.myie2.com/>

My IE2: is a Tabbed Internet Browser Based on the Internet Explorer Core Program, and offers many great features.

◆ <http://www.dond.funsmart.com/>

Cyberseniors Site that contains a large quantity of \$FREE\$ web based tutorials on all facets of the internet and overall general computing

◆ <http://www.dearauntnettie.com/>

Aunt Nettie is one of the Internet pioneers of the 19th century. she freely dispenses advice on technology, the fascinating history of the early Internet and pretty much whatever she feels like

◆ <http://www.thegeezerbrigade.com/>

The internet's Oldest Humor Organization for Clever Old People

◆ <http://www.elderhostel.org/>

Elderhostel offers you a multitude of opportunities to explore stimulating ideas and fascinating places across the U.S. and around the world. Learning is at the core of every program. **Cont. Next Page**

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:*

SIG MEETINGS

May 4th 2004

Internet / Web Publishing 1st Tuesday 7:00PM

Mark Borison webmaster@ocipug.org

Michael Moore president.bod@ocipug.org

May 11th 2004

Hardware - 2nd Tuesday. 7:00 PM

Ed Leckliter eleckliter@adelphia.net

May 18th 2004

Windows - 3rd Tuesday 7:00 PM

Robert Strader rstrader@attbi.com

April 27th 2004

Digital Cameras / Scanning 4th Tuesday 7:00PM

David Wintle allart@pac.bell.net



Support Our Sigs

Internet SIG Cont.

- ◆ <http://www.vlaurie.com/> This site contains a collection of computer education resources with emphasis on the Windows operating system and on safely using the Internet
- ◆ <http://www.cmseniors.org/> Homepage for our host, The Costa Mesa Senior Center
- ◆ [http://www.weslen.com/-](http://www.weslen.com/) The personal homepage for our very own Cheryl Wester
- ◆ <http://www.tugnet.org/> - Another Large Area User Group that offers a very unique menuing system on their website
- ◆ <http://www.geeknews.net/> A web Portal site that offers news feeds of particular interests to Hardcore computer users
- ◆ <http://www.invisible-web.net/> - The internet complement to a book that's purpose is uncovering web resources that have remain hidden to the majority of the popular search engines

Mark had announced that he has implemented not only a search engine function on our site, but also a site map, to aid in to finding information on our site quickly.

The next Internet SIG will be on Tuesday May 4, 2004 and will start at 7:00pm in the upstairs meeting room.

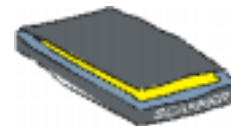
Hope to see you there. . .

Michael R Moore

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Digital Photography and Scanning Sig



OCIPUG Hardware SIG - Meeting Recap

Meeting Date: April 13, 2004

There were 13 attendees (including SIG Leader, Ed Leckliter)

Featured Topic(s): Your New System (2003 Update): Installing the Balance of Your Components (alias "Assembly - Part 2")

Hardware Submissions - Eugenia Frerichs and Irwin Haydock brought in there semi-finished "new systems" and the balance of there components (most already installed) and followed along with the group as Ed made the presentation. During the Random Access session Ed checked Euginia's installation and Bob Strader checked Irwin's installation. Both needed minor adjustments. NOTE: The data cable for the Mitsumi combo floppy and media reader units should have the pin-1 stripe going to the left (away from the power connector) as you look at the rear of the drive. These units have the power connector stacked above the data cable connector. If you use one of these drives and the activity light comes on and stays on, reverse the data cable (as noted).

Random Access - none (heavily involved in checking out the noted systems) Next Meeting: May 11, 2004

Next Meeting Featured Topic(s): Your New System (2003 Update): Installing Your OS and Device Drivers; Functional Testing. [NOTE: Time permitting, Ed will also do the install using a Linux distribution. Versions TBD.]

Following Meeting: June 8, 2004

Following Meeting Featured Topic(s): TBA (looking for topics)

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

Presentation slides in Microsoft PowerPoint format (.ppt).

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

March 2004 Digital Special Interest Group (SIG)

Reported By: Michael R Moore

The March 23, 2004 Digital SIG started at 7:15p, and was attended by 11 members , Including SIG Leader, (and primary) presenter Dave Wintle.

A book that Dave spotlighted during the evening was Complete Digital Photography Written by Ben Long (ISBN: 1-58450-231-2 (see the review in the March, 2004 Issue of the Readme.doc)) This book is available at better book stores everywhere, including Irvine SCI-Tech Books (\$39.99+tax) (Lead Time 2 Weeks).

Dave also discussed the science of subtractive color, CCDs, and what a digital camera does to produce a picture. He also, discussed, how the process differs from filmbased photography.

Dave said that the Higher the Resolution of the picture, the Fewer the Shots per storage device., Also, that " It is good practice, when shooting digital pictures to shoot the pictures at the highest possible resolution as you will end up with better quality pictures, no matter what size the final output is."

The next Scanning and Digital Photography SIG will be on Tuesday, April 27, 2004, and will start at 7:00p in the upstairs meeting room.



Windows

Notes By Kevin Moser

Windows Sig March 16, 2004

Kevin Moser asked about a maxkrnl.dll. We checked and found this on Google.com . It appears that Kevin had downloaded a driver update for a Visioneer scanner and it had affected is registry file.

maxkernel - maxkernel.dll - DLL Information

DLL File: maxkernel or maxkernel.dll

DLL Name: Visioneer Scanner DLL

Description: Visioneer Scanner library used by ScanSoft PaperPort.

Part Of: PaperPort

System DLL: No

Common Errors: File Not Found, Missing File, Exception Errors

Windows SIG Report Cont.

Kevin also asked about mscoree.dll. A google search resulted in finding that it is a Microsoft .NET Runtime Execution Engine
mscoree - mscoree.dll - DLL Information
DLL File: mscoree or mscoree.dll
DLL Name: Microsoft .NET Runtime Execution Engine
Description: File that contains the .NET Framework functions.

Part Of: Microsoft .NET
System DLL: Yes

Common Errors: File Not Found, Missing File, Exception Errors

John Gallie asked how he could organize his start menu in win xp?

Windows XP: How to organize All Programs in Start Menu
Problem: Want to organize programs under Start Menu

Solution:

To organize the Start Menu in Windows XP, do the following:

1. Click on Start.
2. Select All Programs.
3. Right click on one of the programs.
4. Select Sort by Name.

This will organize your programs.

each meeting, it helps to keep the information flowing, and things in general flowing a lot smoother. Speaking of our need for volunteers, we are rapidly approaching the time, when we nominate and elect the next group of individuals that will lead OCIPUG into the future. And to that end, we need volunteers to not only run for the various offices, but we also need people who will actively seek members to run, compile, and process the results of the election. We have alot of work ahead of us but if we all pitch in and contribute a little, we can take care of the election in short order.

I hope that everyone can make it to this months general meeting, as we have a couple of very special presentations, from our own Program Director, Mark Borison. The first program is on: How to Safely Buy on Ebay, and how to make sure you are not taken advantage of. The Second program will show off our new and ever improving internet website as some of our membership has no idea of the incredible wealth of information and features that Mark's months of work has manifested. A number of other User Groups are not so uninformed as is shown by the fact that he has been chosen to not only be a facilitator in the **11th Annual Southwest User Group (SWUG) Conference, Webpage Workshop.** The Coodinator of the Conference, **Judy Tylour**, has asked **Mark to be the Facilitator & Moderator on the new APCUG Webmaster and Program Director's chatroom and listserve** and sends a link to the site, to other groups seeking to update their site. I hope to see everyone not only at the General Meeting on Saturday, April 24th, but also at one of the Tuesday night Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings. A schedule of which can be found, not only in this newsletter, but also Online at <http://www.ocipug.org/>
Regards,**Michael Moore**
OCIPUG President.

PRESIDENTS REPORT



**By:
Michael Moore**

Hello again Everyone,
As you know since we are a volunteer organization, we are always looking for volunteers to help out during our general meetings (with the setting up of chairs and tables and equipment), the same is true at our Tuesday night Special Interest Groups (SIGs). I know from personal experience that the SIG Leaders personally invest a considerable amount of time and energy every month preparing for their SIGs, that to get to the meeting room, and find that the room is nowhere near ready to host the evening's meeting, detracts from the time that could be used for those members and guests in attendance. I've always found that if we have the help of just a few people at



Cartoon reprinted from the RMD Archives

Minutes for the January 2004 OCIPUG Board of Directors Meeting January 31, 2004

The January Executive Board of Directors (Board or BOD) Meeting of the Orange Coast IBM PC User Group (OCIPUG) was held on January 31, 2004, at the Costa Mesa Senior Center. President Michael Moore called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon, with seven of the eight officers and directors, SIG Coordinator Robert Strader, and Webmaster Mark Borison present.

◆ Note that there are presently only eight members of the OCIPUG Board of Directors, as Past President Leonard Stein is also serving as Treasurer/CFO. The meeting quorum requirement remains at five.

A draft copy of the minutes of the December 2003 Executive Board of Directors Meeting had previously been e?mailed to all board members for their review. Because the November 2003 minutes had not been approved due to the brevity of the December 2003 meeting, in a motion by Director Red Davidson, seconded by Vice President David Wintle, and carried, the minutes of both the November 2003 and December 2003 board meetings were approved.

President's Report: President Michael Moore presented his president's report as follows:

◆ An operating budget for Fiscal Year 2003/2004 is required ASAP.

◆ The board needs to send a letter to Aviva Goelman, the Senior Center Executive Director, formally requesting permission for OCIPUG to use the center as its mailing address, as this has yet to be formally approved. Michael will prepare it.

◆ Michael wants to have a revised tri-fold brochure to be handed out to prospective OCIPUG members. Webmaster Mark Borison said that he had copies of similar items from other user groups.

◆ Now that the OCIPUG Internet domain has been transferred to Fatcow.com, we can set up password protected web and POP3 based OCIPUG.org e?mail accounts for all board positions. To date, president.bod@ocipug.org and webmaster@ocipug.org have been established. Please contact either President Michael Moore or Webmaster Mark Borison relative to establishing additional e-mail addresses.

Secretary's Report: No report.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Leonard Stein reported that there was not much activity in either December 2003 or in January 2004. Leonard has renewed our APCUG membership, and is continuing to purchase surplus and obsolete software for raffles prizes. At the January 2004 General Meeting, the proceeds from the raffle were \$111, and the proceeds from the auction of Office 2003 received from Microsoft and bought by Michael Moore were \$170.

Committee Reports:

Program Committee Report: Program Committee Chairman

Member Mark Borison reported that at the January 31st General Meeting, there was an excellent presentation by Lee Otsubo, The Digital Photo Guy, (www.thedigitalphotoguy.com) on how to use a Digital Camera. Because the presentation was so well received and there was much audience participation, there was insufficient time for a second presentation. Thus the originally scheduled "Program in a Box" from Smart Computing Magazine (www.smartcomputing.com) will be made at a later meeting. At the February 28 General Meeting General Meeting the scheduled presentations are from Dragon Naturally Speaking and a "Program in a Box" from Intel on HyperThreading.

SIG Reports: SIG Coordinator Robert Strader reported that the February 2004 SIG schedule is as follows:

◆ Internet and Web Page Design (Michael Moore and Mark Borison), 1st Tuesday of each month. On February 3, Mark will demonstrate the proposed new OCIPUG website and open the floor to discussion suggestions for corrections and improvements.

◆ There will be no hardware SIG in February, as the SIG leader (Ed Leckliter) will be out of town. In March, Ed will conduct his first of two SIGs on assembling your new computer, with the last meeting in this series covering installation of the operating system and component drivers, and checkout.

◆ Windows 9x/XP (Robert Strader), 3rd Tuesday of each month. On February 17, Robert will continue to cover Windows tips and tricks. If you have any questions or problems, send them to Robert via e?mail for discussion at the SIG.

◆ Digital Photography and Scanning (David Wintle), 4th Tuesday of each month. On February 24 David will discuss color calibration of your monitor and printer so that WYSIWYG ("What You See Is What You Get").

SeniorNet Report: Secretary Frank Mastroly reported that the next SeniorNet team meeting will be on Friday, February 6, 2004, at 3:00 pm. The current session of classes began on Monday, January 12, 2004 and, as usual, the SeniorNet team is in need of additional coaches, with the only requirement being to be able to follow what the instructor is saying and to be one step ahead of the students.

Community Service Report: No report.

Long Range Planning Committee Report: No report.

Facilities Report, Maintenance, and Improvement: Continuing work in progress.

Operations (Policy and Procedures):

There was a discussion on raffle prizes, with it noted that OCIPUG needs to stress that all donations are tax-deductible. Director Red Davidson said that we need to spread out the raffle prizes, so that the number to be given remains essentially constant from month to month. Treasurer Leonard Stein requested help in acquiring raffle prizes.

BOD Minutes Cont.

*A Look Back at the History of OCIPUG***MICROSOFT USER GROUP
OUTREACH PROGRAM
MIND SHARE****(Reprinted From March 1992 RMD)**

Ds the Microsoft contact for OCIPUG, I usually receive and distribute literature, notices, raffle prizes, and software for reviews; this is in addition to the materials I receive from Microsoft for Our Word SIG. In mid-February, however, Microsoft hosted one to three members each from 29 of the largest User Groups in the country. Attendees had to finance their own round trip to the Seattle airport, but Microsoft paid for everything else. I was invited to attend with Steve Burnside, our President. Steve made a few comments regarding the trip at the February General Meeting, but the purpose of this report is to describe in more detail how OCIPUG will benefit from these Summit meetings.

Microsoft has a staff of several full-time employees assigned to coordinate User Group activities. They started planning for this Summit last November by asking us what issues we would like to discuss. They developed the Mindshare logo which accompanies this report, and attached it to newsletters, packages, disks, and even a sweatshirt we received when we arrived.

The purpose of the User Group Summit was to explain Microsoft's strategy for the next 18 months, get direct feedback from the User Group leaders, and establish a line of communication for the distribution of informational materials. Each attendee agreed to honor a non-disclosure agreement, since approximately half of the presentations involved confidential information.

MIND SHARE**Microsoft® User Group Outreach Program**

The sessions started off with a presentation by Bill Gates of his "Information at Your Fingertips" concept. As a member of the OCIPUG Program Committee, I will use these ideas to suggest meaningful topics for future General Meeting programs. Next we were honored to have Gordon Letwin make a presentation. I have Gordon's book, *Inside OS/2* on how he wrote OS/2, and I was very impressed with the special projects he is working on.

Jon Roberts showed us the new Windows 3.1. Jon mentioned that only a small percentage of Windows 3.0 users sent in their registration cards. Registered users will get first notice to upgrade to Windows 3.1. From what I saw, I recommend that everyone check to make sure they're registered.

Pamela Goldschmidt made one of the most exciting presentations of the entire Summit. She brought us up-to-date on multimedia. My advice to OCIPUG members is to start adding multimedia capable components to their PCs as they buy new equipment. -This includes 256-color super VGA, CD-ROM units with at least 150K/second sustained transfer rate, audio boards, and multimedia extensions to Windows. If Microsoft includes the extensions in Windows 3.1, I predict an explosion of multimedia sales. Nate Dixon, head of the Product Support Group, described the many ways Microsoft is providing support information. There is an interactive voice response to answer the most common questions, and they compile responses to all questions in a knowledge database available on CompuServe. Microsoft will send our club a CD-ROM each month with this information for use on our BBS.

Mike Maples, one of the three key executives in the recent reorganization, is in charge of the Worldwide Product Group. His presentation was probably the most appreciated because he spent the whole time in random access, and did not show any marketing slides.

We also saw presentations on LAN Manager/SQL, Visual Basic, Excel, and Word. "The Word presentation included a tutorial on fields and macros. When I get to know them better, we will include them in our Word SIG meetings since they are so powerful. We were advised that Word for Windows 1.0/1.1 owners would receive a bonus for upgrading to Word for Windows 2.0 that the competitive upgrades would not receive. If you

have already upgraded, you should contact Microsoft. Our SIG received a maintenance update for Word for Windows version 2.00a that corrected sonic problems and bugs. It is available to registered users through Microsoft or through the Word SIG. We also learned about Microsoft's Consultants Relations Program. Microsoft is administering a test to certify consultants in all their products. -Those qualifying as Member will receive a newsletter and other information. Those qualifying as Partner will be put on a special list for referrals. The test will be given in Orange County for a fee of \$50. There will be a study guide and the test is open book. You can call (800)227-4679 for more information.

In summary, I am extremely encouraged by the direction Microsoft is going. Computing will continue to be exciting and rewarding for years to come. There are several programs that will benefit our members over the coming months. Some of these include:

- a. DOS 5.0 upgrade support tools to help customizing problems.
- b. Knowledgebase on CD-ROM for all Microsoft products.
- c. Microsoft Support for a Visual Basic SIG and another one to be announced.
- d. Ideas for meeting programs.

The excitement of the Summit was epitomized by the fun event of the trip which had nothing to do with computers. Microsoft treated us all to the Lakers-Sonics basketball game at the King Dome. The lead changed all night and the game was finally won with a Sonics 18-foot shot that went through the basket simultaneously as the game-ending buzzer! It was a game and a trip that I won't easily forget for a long time.

Publications Report: Newsletter editor Mark Borison reported that the February Readme.Doc is almost ready to go, but wants input from board members and SIG leaders. More important is the need for an up-to-date list of OCIPUG members with their correct e?mail addresses. Mark will need to go through Darryl Kim of the Senior Center staff to ensure that the information in the Chronicle is correct.

Webmaster Report: As indicated earlier, Webmaster Mark Borison will demonstrate the proposed new OCIPUG website at the Internet SIG on February 3. Mark is adding links to each SIG as well as links to vendor sites and other computer-related sites of interest.

Membership Committee Report: No report. It was noted that OCIPUG is in need of a Membership Committee Chairman.

Advertisings and Public Relations Report: No report.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

◆ Webmaster Mark Borison reported that he had attended the recent SCRUGS (Southern California Regional User Groups) meeting at TUGNET. Among other things, Mark obtained TUGNET's list of presenters. Mark also reminded the board of the APCUG Southwest Regional User Group (SWUG) conference which will be held on August 6?9 at the Hilton-Mission Valley (San Diego). See the SWUG site (www.swugconf.org) for details on the conference and hotel arrangements.

◆ Director Red Davidson reported on the TV used for the SeniorNet classes. Specifically, the resolution is not as good as it should be, and it is suspected that the video card is the problem. Member Ron Perkins of the SeniorNet team has researched the problem and feels that a new video card with S?Video output is required. However, the PC does not have an AGP slot, and so a PCI card will be required. In a motion by Director Red Davidson, seconded by Director Morris Fier, and carried, OCIPUG will donate \$50 to SeniorNet towards purchase of a suitable PCI video card. Red will coordinate this effort with Ron, and will try to negotiate with the seller that the card can be returned if it does not perform satisfactorily.

Adjournment: There was no formal movement for adjournment, but the meeting was adjourned at 12:40 pm. The next OCIPUG Board meeting will be on Saturday, February 28, 2004, immediately following the February General Meeting. Respectfully submitted,
Frank Mastroly, Secretary

INTERNET TALK

**by Frank Chao
(GSBUG)
(May 2004)**

Please allow me to welcome you to the 69th "Internet Talk" article for "The Bug Bulletin", a publication of the Greater South Bay PC Users Group (GSBUG).

Spring has sprung and your spring cleaning activities should include the removal of unneeded files, viruses, adware, and spyware from your computer. However, we will start off on a positive note with a few entertaining Web sites for you to visit:

NURSERY RHYMES

Fascinating history and folklore can be learned from interpretations of English nursery rhymes. For extensive pages of English nursery rhymes, see:

<http://www.collingsm.freemove.co.uk/>

or <http://www.mamalisa.com/house/>

or <http://www.collingsm.freemove.co.uk/subjectindex.htm>

or <http://www.iyway.com/>

For explanations of the historical origins of various nursery rhymes, see:

http://www.famousquotes.me.uk/nursery_rhymes/nursery_rhymes_index.htm

or http://www.sca.org.au/bacchus_wood/origins_of_nursery_rhymes.html

or <http://nurseryrhymes.allinfoabout.com/>

or <http://poetry.about.com/cs/nurseryrhymes/index.htm>

or <http://nurseryrhymes.allinfoabout.com/index.html>

RECYCLING OLD CELLULAR PHONES

To find a place to donate an old, unwanted cellular phone to charity,

go to <http://www.wirelessrecycling.com/home/index.html>

ANTI-SPYWARE / ANTI-ADWARE ADWARE SCAMS

Some vendors of anti-spyware / anti-adware utility software have been accused of deceptive marketing practices. Several of these vendors have been distributing adware into people's computers in order to advertise the adware removal capabilities of their software. Other utility software providers have been pirating and/or reverse engineering the software code of better-established software developers.

See

Anti-spyware vendors come under fire

<http://news.com.com/2100-1032-5157358.html>

**How can you clean up your computer
and remove Spyware?**

<http://www.unwantedlinks.com/removespyware.htm>

Anti-spyware 'deceiving consumers'

<http://www.zdnet.co.uk/zdnetuk/news/internet/security/0,39020375,39146150,00.htm>

Scum Ware: How Competitors

Can Steal Your Website Visitors

<http://www.strugglingteens.com/archives/2002/8/oe03.html>

PC Fear Factor: Spyware Center

<http://www.alanluber.com/pcfearfactor/spywareindex.htm>

To add even more complexity to this situation, several reputable makers of free anti-virus and anti-spyware / anti-adware utilities have been accused of distributing spyware / adware as part of over-zealous marketing campaigns.

To keep abreast of the latest developments in this controversy, browse the above Web pages regularly and keep your ears open at GSBUG meetings and computer swapmeets.

MORE ABOUT FREE ANTI-VIRUS SOFTWARE

Since I started advocating free anti-virus software three months ago, many of you have downloaded and installed "AVG Free Edition" from

http://www.grisoft.com/us/us_dwnl_free.php
and/or

"Avast! 4 Home", from

http://www.avast.com/i_idt_1016.html

No one has reported any problems with either of these two anti-virus software utilities. Kostek Haussmann, a GSBUG member, reported that "AVG Free Edition" was able to detect and expunge a couple of viruses that Symantec's "Norton Antivirus.." missed.

(In the following section, "ABC" virus, "XYZ" spyware, and "SuperZapper" software are hypothetical examples:)

JUST SAY "NO"

Your are browsing the Internet and a window/dialog box pops up and tells you that your computer is infected with a "ABC" virus or with "XYZ" spyware. It also asks you if you want to download and install "SuperZapper" software. Your best response at this point is to find a pen or pencil and write down the exact name the virus or spyware that you are being accused of possessing. Then write down the name of the software utility that the window/dialog box is trying to get you to install. Then click on the "No" button.

If a "No" button is not available, click on the "Exit" button, the "x" inside a box in the upper right hand corner of the window/dialog box.

See:

Programs: Prevention is the best way to fight adware

<http://www.forbes.com/business/newswire/2004/01/28/rtr1231646.html>

Now comes the hard part:

You now have to determine if you really have "ABC" virus or "XYZ" spyware.

Scan your computer with a reputable anti-virus software utility such as

"AVG..", "Avast", Symantec's Norton Antivirus, or McAfee VirusScan.

Then scan your computer with trustworthy anti-spyware / anti-adware utilities such as Lavasoft's Ad-Aware and/or Spybot - Search & Destroy.

DESPERATION MEASURES

If you cannot start an anti-virus utility program or an anti-spyware / anti-adware utility program, what should you do? You might do what is recommended by the last line of this article. (Just kidding !!)

Seriously, you need to turn off some of the "processes" and "applications" that are running in the background and foreground of your computer.

Step 0) Start by closing all windows that are open or minimized. When you are done doing so, you should have no "Task buttons" between the "Start" button and the "System Tray" of the gray Windows "Taskbar".

Step 1) Press one of the "Control" keys on your keyboard and leave it pressed down.

Step 2) Press on one of the "Alt" keys on your keyboard and leave it pressed down.

Step 3) Then press on one of the "Delete" key on keyboard and leave it down.

Step 4) Leave all three of the above-mentioned keyboard keys pressed down for one second. Then release all three keys at the same time.

Step 5) A "Task List" or "Windows Task Manager" dialog box will pop up.

Step 6) Now, click on the "Applications" tab of this dialog box, if there is more than one tab. Ignore this step if there are no tabs displayed.

Step 7) Click on any "task" other than "Explorer".

Step 8) Click on the "End Task" button.

Step 9) Repeat Step 1 through Step 8 until everything but "Explorer" gone from the "Task list". (Many versions of Windows do not show "Explorer" in the "Task list".)

Step 10) Attempt to start your anti-virus utility program or an anti-spyware / anti-adware utility program.

WAYS TO CONTACT ME:

If you have any questions or problems, I can be contacted by the following methods:

1. Send me e-mail at: fchao@pacbell.net
2. Leave me a voice message at (310)768-3896.
3. Send "snail" U.S. Postal Service mail to

Frank Chao
PO Box 6930
Torrance, CA 90504-0030.

Or sell your computer and take up basket weaving instead !!

Editor's Note: I have been attending the SCRUGS meetings since the beginning of the year and they have been very helpful so I thought I would run this article by Judy Taylour who is a wonderful gal who in addition to facilitating the SCRUGS meetings, is co-chairman of the SWUG Conference,

**Southwest Computer User Group
Conference in San Diego 8/6 - 8/8**
For Info, go to <http://www.swugconf.org/>

Meet SCRUGS

(Southern California Regional User Group Summit)

Meeting since 1995

By Judy Taylour, Region 1 & 10 Advisor

What is SCRUGS? A group of user group officers (past, present and future) representing 23 user groups from the Los Angeles area who meet quarterly to exchange ideas on how to better run their user groups. The organization was started by Steve Bass nine years ago. Marian Radcliffe, President of TUGNET, and Judy Taylour, President of the Santa Clarita Valley PC Group, have been the co-facilitators for over seven years.

Goals

- ◆ Augment individual group influence with vendors
- ◆ Consumer Advocacy
- ◆ How to attract new members; keep old members
- ◆ Leadership Progress
- ◆ Mutual benefit for all participating groups
- ◆ Mutual support via exchange of information
- ◆ Special Presentations

Demographics

Los Angeles County

- ◆ Antelope Valley Microcomputer User Group
www.avmug.av.org
- ◆ Big Bear Computer Club www.bigbearcc.org
- ◆ Community Computer Club of La Verne
www.starquest.net/ccclv

- ◆ Glendora Seniors Computer Club
www.starquest.net/gssc
- ◆ Greater South Bay User Group
www.gsbug.apcug.org
- ◆ Long Beach IBM User Group
www.lbibmug.org
- ◆ Los Angeles Computer Society
www.lacspc.org
- ◆ San Gabriel Valley Technology User Group
www.sagatug.org
- ◆ Santa Clarita Valley PC Group
www.scvpcg.org
- ◆ Southern California Computer Club
www.sccc.ws
- ◆ Synergize-I.T.
- ◆ TUGNET
www.tugnet.org

Orange County

- ◆ North Orange County Computer Club
www.noccc.org
- ◆ Orange Coast IBM PC Users Group
www.ocipug.org
- ◆ Orange County IBM PC Users' Group
www.orcopug.org
- ◆ Saddleback Valley IBM PC User Group
- ◆ WINNERS
www.windowsusers.org

Ventura County

- ◆ Channel Islands PC User Group
www.cipcug.org
- ◆ Leisure Village Computer Club
<http://adelphia.net/~lvcc/>
- ◆ Santa Barbara PC User Group
www.west.net/~sbpcug.org
- ◆ Simi Valley Computer User Group
www.svcug.org

- ◆ Thousand Oaks Personal Computer Club
www.topcc.org

Kern County

- ◆ Kern Independent Personal User Group
www.kipug.org

Total user group members range from 12 to 400+, representing over 3,500 members. The groups meet Sunday through Saturday throughout the month and the percentage of women members ranges from 1% to 28%.

Typical SCURGS Meeting -
(3rd Saturday in January, April, July, & October)

- ◆ **Introductions**
- ◆ **Vendor Presentation.** Usually a vendor new to user groups makes a short presentation about their company and product and, of course, all the groups sign them up for meetings.
- ◆ **Around the Table** Each group reports on what their group has accomplished since the last meeting (presentations, membership growth [or lack of], moving to a new facility, equipment ideas etc.).
- ◆ Lunch
- ◆ Special Discussion Topic
- ◆ Ideas for Brochures
- ◆ By-law Revisions
- ◆ How to obtain 501(c)3 status
- ◆ Southwest User Group Conference

Kudos from Attendees

"I take 2-3 new ideas back to my group from each meeting."
"Really enjoy being introduced to vendors NEW to user groups." "Have learned about different venues where we can spread the word about our group." "I get great ideas from listening to others talk about their problems & successes, as well as being able to ask them questions and get good advice & direction." "Enjoy the friendship." "Learning about possible vendor programs is such a help." "My group benefits from being part of a presenter 'tour.' We probably wouldn't have the caliber of presenters that we do without it." "I've been attending for over 6 years ... wouldn't miss it." "We especially appreciate the comments from other groups about what works & what doesn't - great for a new group."

Check us out at www.scurgs.apcug.org

SPECIAL CLASSES FOR MEN

THE LEARNING CENTER FOR ADULTS

Class 1: How to Fill Up the Ice Cube Trays. Step by Step, with Slide Presentation. Meets 4 weeks, Monday and Wednesday for 2 hours beginning at 7:00 PM.

Class 2: The Toilet Paper Roll. Does it Change Itself? Round Table Discussion. Meets 2 weeks, Saturday 12:00 for 2 hours. |

Class 3: Is It Possible to Urinate Using the Technique of Lifting the Seat and Avoiding the Floor/Walls and Nearby Bathtub? [Group Practice.] Meets 4 weeks, Saturday 10:00 PM for 2 hours (Note: this class meets at O'Malley's Brew Pub)

Class 4: Fundamental Differences Between the Laundry Hamper and the Floor. [Pictures and Explanatory Graphics.] Meets Saturdays at 2:00 PM for 3 weeks.

Class 5: After Dinner Dishes: Can They Levitate and Fly Into the Kitchen Sink? Examples on Video. Meets 4 weeks, Tuesday and Thursday for 2 hours beginning at 7:00 PM

Class 6: Loss of Identity - Losing the Remote to Your Significant Other. Helpline Support and Support Groups. Meets 4 Weeks, Friday and Sunday 7:00PM.

Class 7: Learning How to Find Things - [Advantages of looking in logical places instead of turning the house upside down while screaming.] Open Forum. Monday at 8:00 PM, 2 hours

Class 8: "Is it genetically impossible to sit quietly while she parallel parks?" Driving Simulations. 4 weeks, Saturday's noon, 2 hours.

Class 9: Learning to Live - Basic Differences Between Mother and Wife. Online Classes and role-playing.

Class 10: How to be the Ideal Shopping Companion. Relaxation Exercises, Meditation and Breathing Techniques. Meets 4 weeks, Tuesday and Thursday for 2 hours beginning at 7:00 PM.

Class 11: How to Fight Cerebral Atrophy - Remembering Birthdays, Anniversaries and Other Important Dates and Calling When You're Going to be Late. Cerebral Shock Therapy Sessions and Full Lobotomies Offered. Three nights; Monday, Wednesday, Friday at 7:00PM for 2 hours.

Class 12: The Stove/Oven - What it is and How it is Used. Live Demonstration. Tuesdays at 6:00 PM, location to be determined.

Upon completion of any of the above courses, diplomas will be issued to the survivors

Search Strategies

By
Ash Nallawalla
Melbourne PC User Group,
Melbourne, Australia

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Where do you search for information? If you are like me, for the past 2-3 years I have turned to Google for my daily fix of searching. My home page is set to the Google Advanced Search and 100 results per page. If you are a regular searcher for the same set of information, you may have noticed that the quality of results has declined. Pages you might have seen on the first page have disappeared or moved back a few pages. Google is still the leading search engine but there are other engines that you should examine.

Beta MSN

Microsoft has been working on its own search engine for a while. It is believed to be the engine presently at <http://beta.msn.com> but may have moved to <http://www.msn.com> by the time you read this. What do you think?

recall.archive.org

You must bookmark <http://www.archive.org>, otherwise known as the Wayback Machine or The Internet Archive. It stores a copy of your site at different times in its history. If you want to see how Melb PC's site looked in 1997 - or any site, chances are that it has been snap-frozen at archive.org. It does not copy the entire site, and in many cases may not copy images, so it is definitely not a backup. Now it has a handy search engine at <http://recall.archive.org>.

Social Networking

Yet another social networking experiment was launched by a Google employee named Orkut Buyukkokten, who named it after himself. See <http://www.orkut.com>. Google employees can use up to 20% of their paid time to build personal projects and some of these are absorbed into the main Google portfolio if they are popular, e.g. Google News. Owing to Google's endorsement, such sites have a better chance of commercial success than others.

Orkut is similar to sites such as Friendster, LinkedIn, or Ryze where you can make contact with your instant "friends". There is a lot of controversy (about privacy) and cynicism about these sites and Orkut has its share of critics. It had to shut down briefly because people discovered how to send a message to everybody on the system, so that loophole has been plugged.

I am sceptical about these systems but I try them. I have made several business contacts through them (I hang out mainly in business forums) and acquired one client whom I "met" virtually. One novelty about Orkut, at least for now, is that you and I can create a new forum of our own. Other networks offer very few features unless you pay to become a "full" member - Orkut is free. I don't release any information about myself that isn't already on the Net, so I recommend that you don't. There is no need to supply your full date of birth, ethnicity, religion, etc even though some systems have fields for that information. Some of these sites are also used for dating, so there is some relevance there.

Google and Plagiarism

Last month I mentioned that someone had copied my article and placed his AdSense code next to it. He subsequently confessed to me with a lame excuse that he was merely testing how high the page would rank. Unfortunately for me, Google refuses to say whether it will reimburse me for those clicks in spite of his admission. It will respond to a subpoena should I wish to take the plagiarist to court. Yeah, right, as they say on TV.

I suspect that the amount concerned is not more than \$10-\$20, so litigation is out of the question. Now if I were to click any AdSense ads on my site, Google would not only expel me from AdSense, but withhold any unpaid monies owed to me. You read about this happening almost daily. I was really testing whether Google would bother to protect an author's rights when they had a written confession from the plagiarist whose account is intact.

Leaving Melbourne?

One of my Committee portfolios is Membership. Did you know that if you recruit a new member, your membership is extended by one month? Sometimes our members move to another state. If you are in this situation and have a Melb PC Internet service subscription, then you'll be pleased to know that you can access the service from any part of Australia as a local call. So there is no need to find an ISP in your new city, we have already been judged the best in the country.

Networking

If several family members use the Internet in your household and you don't want to share one PC, the answer is to set up a home network. Simply put, it is a wired connection between all the PCs and the cable modem - you don't want to share an analogue modem, as it is slow enough for one user. This issue has more than enough information to satisfy your curiosity.

Reprinted from the March 2004 issue of PC Update, the magazine of Melbourne PC User Group, Australia

Ash's Websites

Computer User Groups on the Web

<http://easyrsvp.com/ugotw/>

Computer User Group Newsletters Directory

<http://crm911.com/ugnotw/>

TUCOWS ARTICLE

BY

Sharon Housley



Last summer, rumors were abounding that an employee of Tucows was using Tucows statistical information in order to determine which products produced the highest return on investment, with the intent to clone them and create competitive products. While not illegal, it is definitely questionable from an ethical standpoint. No real proof existed, so what can be said. Was it nothing more than a rumor?

An article cannot be written based on rumors. What facts do we know? According to the State of Michigan corporate records Alto Software, Inc. is owned by a Tucows employee. Alto Software's two products Alto Block All and Alto Memory Booster were posted on Tucows. Both products have high download counts and held top download positions from November 2003 to February 2004. In order for Alto Software to maintain top positions throughout the holiday season they would had to have spent thousands of dollars in advertising dollars.

Abuse of Power

Abuse of power sounds pretty absolute, unfortunately that line isn't as clear as one would think. It appears that the ad spots held by Alto Software were provided free of charge. Free advertising, while possibly an employment perk, and not of itself bad, resulted in the cost per click to increase significantly for other developers in those categories. In order for Alto Software to maintain their top position, the cost per click was raised from \$.04 per click to more than \$.40 per click from November to January. Alto Software increased the cost per click, in order to maintain the top position, but were never required to pay for the clicks. This forced other developers wishing to remain in a top listing to pay significantly more for each click. The handful of developers bidding on keywords and categories were forced to spend significantly more money each month, in order to maintain their position and compete against Alto Software's products. A software promotion company (softwarepromoting.com) that appears to be a subdivision of Alto Software, guaranteed listings on Tucows.com. Softwarepromoting.com's website even went so far to say, that software promoted using their services was exempt from the Tucows removal process.

Competing submission services were unable to provide these guarantees. The legitimacy of Alto's promotion service also requires close scrutiny. Alto Software clearly had an unfair advantage over their competitors. It would appear that a Tucows employee personally profited from their position at Tucows. There is a fine line between breaking ethical rules and using your unique position to make a profit. It appears that line was clearly crossed.

Lessons Learned

Developers need to track their advertising dollars and measure their return on investments. They should be aware of any rapid increases in spending. Developers, need to know who their competitors are. The developers affected by this are in a very narrow market but it really could have happened to anyone.

Challenge

Apparently the upper-management of Tucows was unaware of what was occurring, while ignorance is not an excuse, it appears that Tucows has taken the first steps to resolve the problem. The employee is no longer employed by Tucows. As one of the developers I spoke to said "Tucows is bending over backwards to make things right." I personally hope that this is the case. I encourage Tucows to make an effort to reach out to all the developers that were effected, whether they are aware of the problem or not. The loss suffered by these developers is difficult to measure, not only did they pay excessive amounts for advertising, but they also lost a portion of sales to a competitor with an unfair advantage, during the holiday season.

Here is my challenge to Tucows, reach out to the smaller developers as well as those with deep pockets and make things right! The second part of the challenge is to put strict policies in place to prevent this from occurring the future.

The challenge to developers is to stay alert, and be aware that this can happen. There are a number of download sites owned by developers, the disclosure is usually obvious, developers need to pay attention. Spending advertising dollars on a competitor's site is probably not a good business decision. Clearly Tucows is held to a higher standard because of its stature in the industry. The fact that Tucows is a publicly traded company only emphasizes their accountability. It was not to Tucows benefit, for this to occur and it is likely that they will be taking radical steps to ensure that it does not happen again. If handled correctly, Tucows may become one of the safer places to advertise in the future.

About the Author:

Sharon Housley manages marketing for NotePage, Inc. <http://www.notepage.net> a company specializing in alphanumeric paging, SMS and wireless messaging software solutions.

Other sites by Sharon can be found at <http://www.softwaremarketingresource.com>, and <http://www.small-business-software.net>

E-mail is 32 years old

By Jim Smith, President,
Business and Professional Microcomputer
Users Group, Inc. (BPMUG), Connecticut



Spring has finally arrived and the winter weather is starting to give way to warm, sunny days. March was the anniversary of Email. Yes, in March of 1972 the very first basic e-mail program was written and the "@" sign was chosen for its "at" meaning. Here it is 32 years later and email is a mainstream means of communication and a normal tool for most businesses and for personal use.

Naturally with this handy mainstream concept comes those wanting to abuse it. I would hope that most of you are aware of some of the tricks and hoaxes that can be offered via email. For the others, I'd like to review some of the more common ones so you won't be tricked.

First, there are the obvious scams trying to get you to buy endless supplies of gimmicks that promise to make many of your body parts larger or somehow enhanced. Less obvious are sites that promise prescription drugs for bargain rates and ones with Hormone Growth solutions, or great mortgages on-line or credit repairs and many others. Much like the snake oil sales team of yesteryear, most of these are scams. The occasional one that is legit should also be considered suspect since anyone desperate enough to jump on the wagon with the snake oil sales team is not likely to be around for long enough to deliver anyway. Businesses that use unsolicited commercial email (spam) to sell their products should be viewed with great caution.

Then there are hoaxes that alert you to something that request that you spread it to everyone in your email address book. Any time you get an email that tells you to spread it around, think about it first! Most likely it is a hoax. The most recent one I've seen is the one that asks everyone to not buy gasoline from the big producers in order to prove a point. Searching on-line will give plenty of reasons why this is a farce but it still doesn't stop people from continuing to send it around. Of course there are plenty of hoaxes around about viruses that will eat your computer unless you send it along to everyone else you know. There are jokes that beg to be sent to everyone and there are emailed chain letters that promise doom and gloom for breaking the cycle. Don't continue to clutter up the email system with these. Here's something to consider -- if you do what you are told and send these to everyone in your address book, and they turn around and add the addresses from their list, and it goes through that for a while, eventually it will likely land in the hands of someone that will sell all of those email addresses to

junk emailers who will delight in sending a huge assortment of get-rich-quick and body enhancing scams to everyone listed. I get enough of those spams without friends adding my email address to those lists.

The other popular email hoax is the endless variation on the Nigerian widow with too much money from her late husband and looking for a trusting American with a bank account ready to enter into a business deal in exchange for a percentage. These scams have been around for longer than email has but, rather than using US Postal Service and phones to deliver the pitch, email is a much cheaper way to fish for unsuspecting victims.



Speaking of fishing, there is another hoax that is known by its variation, "Phishing". Phishing is when someone tries to get you to divulge credit card or passwords by pretending to be legit. If you get an email from PayPal asking you to "Click Here" and confirm your account info or from Citibank asking you to verify your credit card number, or from EBay asking you to type in your password so they can keep your account active, these phishing trips are hoaxes! Do not fall for them no matter how legit they appear to be. If you are not sure of something like that, be suspicious. Assume first that it is a phishing expedition rather than assuming it is legit. With a keen sense of skepticism, many of these hoaxes will become obvious. They prey on our not thinking too much but just doing as we are asked. Most people that fall for them are thoroughly embarrassed after it is over because they realized that if they had stopped to think about it they would have realized the absurdity of it. Don't be hooked in a phishing expedition!

So with 32 years of emailing behind us, there are many wonderful things about email and some things to watch out for. I've given you a few of them... it is up to you to stay alert to many of the other ones that are out there. BPMUG is a great resource for those wanting to find out whether something that sounds too good to be true, is true or not. Don't be taken in. Stop to ponder it first and then verify it. Then if you find an amazing deal to get rich quick that you just know will work... don't share it with me. I probably won't believe it anyway.

Now get out from behind your computers for a few minutes and have a wonderful Spring!

There is no restriction against any non-profit group using this article as long as it is kept in context with proper credit given the author. The Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization of which this group is a member, brings this article to you.

From the Birth of Scientific Computing to Today's PCs, Via the Manhattan Project



**By Cynthia C. Kelly
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Chancellor Gray,
Atomic Heritage Foundation, Washington, DC**

The Manhattan Project, the top-secret effort to build an atomic bomb during World War II, has been recognized as one of the most significant industrial/technological undertakings in the twentieth century. As Richard Rhodes, Pulitzer-prize winning author of *The Making of the Atomic Bomb*, has commented, "The discovery of how to release nuclear energy was arguably the most important human discovery since fire." Also significant, however, was the Manhattan Project's role in catalyzing development of high-speed scientific computing.

In a race to develop a bomb before Hitler could, the Manhattan Project was trying to produce sufficient quantities of two possible ingredients for a weapon, enriched uranium and plutonium. Both were "fissile" and would sustain a chain reaction necessary for an atomic explosion. However, designing a bomb that would control a nuclear reaction using each of these ingredients was a challenge. While the design for enriched uranium was settled early, the design of a bomb using plutonium hinged on developing high-speed computing.

Plutonium, recently discovered in 1940, was so fissile that it could predetonate in a uranium bomb design. Seth Neddermeyer, a young physicist at Los Alamos, proposed the idea of an implosion device where two hemispheres of plutonium are forced together by a surrounding sphere of explosives lenses. When the lenses are simultaneously detonated, the plutonium is compressed and becomes super-critical, yielding an enormous amount of energy.

The theory, however, was a great deal ahead of the practice and technology. No one had studied explosions in sufficient detail to understand the physics of such an implosion and how exactly to design a device that would work with the required microsecond precision. In August 1944, J. Robert Oppenheimer, the director of the Los Alamos Laboratory, was frantic to come up with a workable design and organized an explosions theory group. This group immediately recognized the need for extraordinarily complex data analyses.

Without these analyses, there was widespread skepticism that the "Fat Man," or plutonium-based bomb, would work.

As testament to this, in the early spring of 1945 a 200-foot diameter concrete bowl was constructed to catch the residual plutonium after the bomb was detonated in the middle. The scientists were all but certain that it would fail just months before the first test bomb was detonated at the Trinity site in Alamogordo, NM. But by July 1945, the scientists had been able to run calculations on an experimental IBM computer and gain confidence in the weapon which soon proved them right, producing an 18.6- kiloton yield.

Computer development had already come a long way. In early 1943, the wives of the Los Alamos scientists such as Mici Teller, Jean Bacher, Mary Frankel and others were recruited to run the numbers employing Marchant desk calculators. The scientists quickly found, however, that the hand calculators they were using were just too slow to do the job effectively. So, at the suggestion of Dana P. Mitchell, the Procurement head at Los Alamos, IBM electromechanical office machines were ordered in early 1944.

The International Business Machines Corporation normally sent employees to assemble and explain how to operate their machines but the secrecy of the Manhattan Project precluded this. Instead, the Army Corps of Engineers found a retired IBM repairman in its ranks and dispatched him to Los Alamos. The machines arrived before the repairman, however, and the Project's scientists let their curiosity get the better of them. Richard Feynman, a brilliant young physicist, and Stanley Frankel, another group leader, began tinkering with the parts and by the time the IBM repairman arrived the enormously complex machine was almost completely assembled.

The combination of the extraordinary inventiveness of the Manhattan Project team and the complexity of the problems they faced galvanized the advancement in computing technology. One historian has noted, "Of the many problems put to the Los Alamos computers, none better anticipated the coming age of massive scientific simulation than implosion itself: how to calculate the motion of an inward flowing shockwave."

Three of the most significant contributors to the development of sophisticated, high-speed scientific computing were Richard Feynman, Nicholas Metropolis and John von Neumann.

Hired by Oppenheimer as a consultant on hydrodynamics, von Neumann had already made a name for himself with computing projects throughout the country. At Los Alamos, he combined these interests to develop computer programs to determine the hydrodynamic processes in weapons experiments. The programs were written in design code in 1944, six years before a computer that could run them was built. Such difficult problems were characteristic of Los Alamos as nowhere else, and, as Robert Seidel observed, "Los Alamos programs provided a test for every other computer developed in the interim [before 1950]."

With the successful marriage of computing and the Manhattan Project, after World War II scientific computing quickly became one of the essential tools of the Cold War weapons labs run by the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC). At von Neumann's request, a program written to test Edward Teller's theory of the hydrogen bomb was run on one of the most famous early computers, the Electronic Numerical Integrator **Cont. Next Page**

and Computer, or ENIAC. The program used ENIAC at 95% capacity. The immense investment of the Federal government into its computers helped pave the way for the development of ever more powerful and advanced computers throughout the next 60 years.

The personal computer industry owes a tremendous debt to the Manhattan Project for its early exploitation of the computer's power. Without the pioneering work by men like Feynman, Metropolis and Neumann at Los Alamos, the government might not have invested in high-speed computing and IBM might have stayed focused on business machines. Instead, thanks to the demands of scientific computation, we can now carry in our pocket, courtesy of the iPod, all three billion base pairs of the human genome. That is a remarkable transformation in the size and power of computational machines.

On June 25 and 26, 2004, the Atomic Heritage Foundation is organizing two days of events in Los Alamos to commemorate the history of the Manhattan Project. The events on Friday will include tours of Manhattan Project properties being restored under a Save America's Treasures grant and the dedication of the house, recently deeded to the Los Alamos Historical Society, where Oppenheimer and his family lived. Hopefully, visitors will be able to see displays on the history of computing at Los Alamos at the new center named for Nick Metropolis. There will also be a reception and dinner at the historic Fuller Lodge, once the heart of the Manhattan Project social life.

On Saturday, an all-day Symposium on "Oppenheimer and the Manhattan Project" will feature Richard Rhodes, Pulitzer-prize winning author of *The Making of the Atomic Bomb*, and other noted historians, Manhattan Project veterans, laboratory and political leaders. For more information and to purchase tickets on-line, please see www.atomicheritage.org, or call the Atomic Heritage Foundation in Washington, DC at 202-293-0045.

Windows Key by Sandy Berger



If you have a Windows keyboard you have some special shortcuts at your fingertips. How do you know if you have a Windows keyboard? It's easy. Look at the keyboard; a Windows keyboard labels one or two keys on the bottom row with the Microsoft Windows logo. While most people ignore these keys, they shouldn't. These simple keys are very handy for everyday computing.

One of my favorite shortcuts is to press the Windows key and the E key at the same time. In Windows 95, 98, and Me, this will bring up the Windows Explorer. In Windows XP, this brings up My Computer. Once you are in My Computer or Windows Explorer, you have a fast and easy way to access your files.

Another quickie: pressing the Windows key alone will display the Start menu. If you happen to have your hands on the keyboard, this is a much faster way to access the Start menu, since you don't have to move your hand to the mouse and move the cursor to the Start button.

As a heavy-duty computer user, I frequently have several programs open at once. Then I find I need to get back to the Windows desktop. Instead of closing each and every window, I just click on the Windows key and press the D key at the same time. This minimizes all the open windows and quickly returns me to the Windows desktop. Pressing Windows +D again restores all windows to their previous location.

Applications Key



If you have a Windows keyboard, you will also see a key to the right of the space bar with a design that looks like a list of words on a piece of paper. This is called the application key. It is a shortcut for right clicking. It will display an item's shortcut menu.

Fun with the Windows Key

Holding down the Windows key with the following keys will perform the function listed:

- ◆ Windows+R - Opens the "Run" dialog box
- ◆ Windows+E - Windows Explorer
- ◆ Windows+F - Find files or folders
- ◆ Windows+BREAK - shows System Properties dialog box

- ◆ Windows+F1 - Windows Help
- ◆ Windows+D - minimize all open windows and show desktop
- ◆ Windows+TAB - Cycle through Taskbar buttons
- ◆ Windows+M - Minimize all
- ◆ Windows+SHIFT+M - Undo minimize all
- ◆ Windows Key +U - Open Utility Manager
- ◆ Windows Key + L - Lock your computer if you are connected to a network domain, or switch users if you are not connected to a network domain.
- ◆ CTRL+ Windows Key +F - Search for computers on your network

Most folks do not take advantage of the Windows key, but once you start using it, you will be amazed at how handy it really is. So don't ignore that Windows key, use it for your everyday computing.

Undocumented tip: If you are using Windows XP and Word XP or Word 2002, put your cursor in the middle of some text in a Word document and press the Windows Key plus S at the same time to hear your computer read to you!!

*Sign up for Sandy's Newsletter at <http://www.compukiss.com/>
Click on Newsletter at the top of the site in center.
She is also the host for AARP's Technology Section which is excellent,
you can find it at: <http://www.aarp.org/computers>*

Microsoft Announces Ads for BSOD Brian Briggs and Reinhard Gantar

Redmond, WA

In an effort to boost sagging revenue growth, Microsoft today announced it will begin selling advertising space on the company's world famous Blue Screen of Death (BSOD)© on April 1. The screen, displayed whenever Windows cannot recover from an error in the operating system's core, until now has historically served as a display of unintelligible diagnostic data that has not made any sense to anyone, ever, according to a survey conducted by the Gartner Group. In addition, the BSOD has scared most users because it was composed mainly of hexadecimal digits that, which in extreme cases, can lead to **hallucinations, epileptic seizures and homosexuality in primates and rats.**

"Past efforts to make the blue screen more helpful by adding animated characters and changing the hue to a more userfriendly

beige or aqua have failed," said head of BSOD Development Kate Verban. "When we failed to make the BSOD user-friendly, we decided that at least it could generate revenue. Displayed more than a billion times a day globally, the blue screen has a captive audience, with over 90 percent of the computer desktops in the world. This makes it an excellent platform for advertisers, comparable only to the Super Bowl and makes watching the blue screen just about as exciting."



Tom Gordon, Director of Marketing for Anheuser-Busch, confirmed today that the beverage giant will be among the first advertisers,

“Z e think it’s a tremendous opportunity,” said Gordon. “Picture this, you’re working late at night on a crucial project. Your computer crashes. You’ve lost all your important work. It’s definitely time for a beer, and we’ll be there to remind you that the beer should be a beechwoodaged Budweiser.”

For earlier versions of Windows, the BSOD ads will be installed using the Windows Update feature. However, Windows XP systems connected to the Internet will automatically install the new software in the middle of the night when no one is looking.

Keyboard Capers Redux

By
Vic Laurie, PPCUG

Almost five years have passed since I last wrote in the newsletter about using keyboard shortcuts and I think it is time to revisit the subject. Although most of us think of the mouse as the main means of sending commands to the computer, the keyboard can be just as effective and often is a faster method. For example, when you are already typing something, switching back and forth between mouse and keyboard can slow you down considerably. Of course, a hindrance to using the hundreds of different keyboard shortcuts is the practical fact that few people are going to want to have to remember a whole lot of different combinations of keystrokes. Thus, the best way to take advantage of the keyboard shortcuts is to remember a few of the most useful ones for your particular applications and computer usage patterns. Also, it doesn't hurt to know a few emergency escape routes for those occasions when the mouse freezes.

There are a great variety of keyboard shortcuts and I will mention only a few that I personally find useful. The Internet abounds with lists of shortcuts and Microsoft has several useful sites. For example, Windows XP keyboard commands are tabulated at <http://www.microsoft.com/enable/products/keyboard/keyboardresults.asp?Product=27>.

A similar list for older versions of Windows is at <http://support.microsoft.com/support/kb/articles/q126/4/49.asp>.

These days many keyboards come with special shortcut keys. Depending on which brand of computer you have, these keys can have functions such as dialing up your Internet provider. Most of these special keys are proprietary and vary from computer to computer but one special key that is very common is the Windows key. This is the key with the Windows flag logo, usually located between Ctrl and Alt. (Because of space restraints, laptops may not have this key.) I find that many people do not know what this key is for and it is often ignored. However, there are some useful shortcuts involving the key. Some of these are tabulated below. Note that wherever a key is designated by a name such as F1 or F4, one of the function keys (usually on the top of the keyboard) is being referred to, not a letter key plus a number key. Also the "plus" sign means a combination of two keys and not the actual key for "plus".

Windows key	Displays START menu
Windows key +e	Starts Windows Explorer
Windows key +f	Displays Find Files or Search
Windows key +m	Minimizes all windows
Windows key + r	Displays the Run dialog box
Windows key +Tab	Cycles through the taskbar buttons
Windows key +Pause/Break	Displays the System Properties sheet
Windows key+F1	Opens Windows Help

There are a number of shortcuts that involve using either the

Ctrl or the Alt key together with a second key. Some are listed below. Probably everybody knows the three-finger salute, Ctrl+Alt+Del, but it is so useful that I would be remiss not to mention it anyway. This action brings up the Task Manager, which shows running processes. It is a way to stop frozen programs or to close down Windows if there is a problem.

Alt+F4	Exit Windows, if no applications are open
Alt+F4	Close active window if one or more applications are open
Ctrl+F4	Within an open application, close active file or window for that particular application but not exiting application itself
ALT+Underlined letter	Within an open application, carry out command, e.g Alt +f to open File menu
Ctrl+x	Cut
Ctrl+c	Copy
Ctrl+v	Paste
Ctrl+a	Select all

Do you ever wish you could make a screen-shot of an open window on your computer? Using the Print Screen key doesn't print but it will send an image of the desktop to the Clipboard accessory. If you only want a picture of the active window and not the whole desktop, use the combination Alt +Print Screen. After the image is stored in the Clipboard, it can then be pasted into any graphics program and saved as a graphics file. Microsoft Word can also be used. If you lack a graphics program, the Windows accessory Paint can be used.

Also, there are some operations that are worth remembering that combine both mouse and keyboard actions. Some of the most useful combine the Shift key with a mouse action. When deleting a file, holding down the Shift key will bypass the recycle bin and simply delete. If a file of interest is first selected, the Shift key is held down, and then a right-click is made, the context menu will have the additional action Open with... When working with text, the quickest way to select a block of text is to place the mouse pointer at the beginning of the block that is of interest, hold down the Shift key, and click the mouse at the end of the block to be selected. If you have a bunch of windows open and want to close them all at once, hold down the Shift key and close the last window that was opened by clicking the Close button in its upper right corner. All open windows should then close.

Drag-and-drop activities can also be modified by using the mouse in combination with a key. Using the left mouse button to drag-and-drop can be confusing because the dragged object is sometimes moved and sometimes copied, depending on the circumstances. In fact, sometimes the object is neither moved nor copied but just a shortcut is made. Using the right mouse button to drag-and-drop gets around the possible confusion by giving you a menu of choices but you can also use the left mouse button together

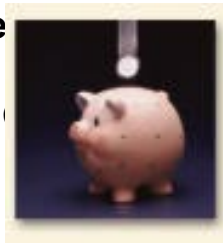
with a keyboard action to ensure a particular action. To always move a file, hold down the Shift key while dragging with the left mouse button. To copy instead, hold down the Ctrl key while dragging.

Individual software applications often have their own set of shortcuts. Microsoft Office has many and here are a few for Word:

Ctrl + l left align text
 Ctrl + r right align text
 Ctrl + j justify text
 Ctrl + e center text

There are many hundreds of keyboard shortcuts and nobody can remember them all, but a few well-chosen examples will make you more efficient and speed up your use of the computer.

Rant on Rebate By Vic Laurie- PPCU Princeton PC Users Group



Maybe it's the world situation, maybe it's old age turning me into a curmudgeon, maybe it's the proliferation of useless things like blue ketchup, but for whatever reason I have the irresistible urge to issue a few protests. I am going to deviate from my usual format for these articles and indulge in a little personal expression on a pet peeve.

I am talking about that sales gimmick, the rebate. In the last few months, I have had to send in a dozen or more rebate requests. It seems that you can't buy anything related to computers these days without having to get involved with a lot of rebate games. I resent having to go through all the nonsense of filling out forms, cutting up boxes to remove proof of purchase codes, making copies of invoices or sales slips, mailing all the collected stuff and then waiting so long for the rebate check that I forget what it's for. I would really prefer a simple reduction in price. Unfortunately that won't happen since the rebate thing is a marketing ploy. It's a come-on and the companies hope you won't actually apply for the rebate. Statistics seem to show that a lot of people don't bother and the companies do all they can to throw up obstacles to discourage as many people as possible.

First, there is the special form you have to get. No copies, please, only the original will do. Where is the form? Sometimes you have to ask for it at the store where you make your purchase. Tough luck if you forget to ask. (Oh yes, don't forget to ask for an official duplicate of your sales slip while you're at it.) If the rebate form comes with the box, it is often buried in

the middle of a lot of advertising literature that you have to sift through before you find it. Is the form clearly marked as such? Of course not, that would be too easy. It's in an obscure place in the middle of a page sandwiched between advertising blurbs for useless (but expensive) services. The lines on the form are very small so that only by using special micro-writing techniques can you get your name and address filled in. As a result, I often get rebate checks made out to odd names. Fortunately, my bank doesn't seem to care that I bring in checks for "W. Lavie" or other strangers. No doubt, however, companies will keep hoping that I won't be able to cash some of their checks.

I recently bought a HP printer and ran into a new version of "Let's make the rebate form hard to get." This time the only way to get the required rebate form was to go to a special Web site. There I had to fill out a form to see if I was eligible for the rebate. They wanted to know a whole lot of things, including marketing survey stuff like my employer, my income, my job function. OK, I made up some fake data for that part but then they wanted to know the code for the model of my new printer-not the model number, mind you, but the code for the model number. To get this code, I had to go look it up in another Web site. After I entered the code number (it had no resemblance to the model number), next they wanted the serial number of the actual printer I had bought. Do you know where the serial number is? It's on the bottom of the printer. I had already installed the printer to see how it worked so now I had to remove the paper, disconnect a cable, and turn the printer upside down to get the serial number. (Along the way a couple of parts fell off.) All this was required, not to actually get a rebate form, but just to see if I was eligible to get a rebate form. It was almost like trying to get into some secret fraternity. Finally, I received the stamp of approval and was ruled to be eligible. Now, I had to go to yet another site to finally get the mail-in rebate form. But guess what. At this new site I had to fill in much of the same information I just got through filling in at the previous site. Clearly, HP is hoping I will throw up my hands and say a \$25 rebate isn't worth the hassle. But I trudge on. Finally, I get the rebate form and print it out. Now I have to fill out the same information on the rebate form that I just entered twice on Web sites. Not to mention that I have to retrieve the box that my wife already put in the garbage so I can cut off the proof of purchase or whatever part that is wanted. Also according to the rebate form, I need the "original invoice". What invoice? I ordered the printer on the Internet so all I have is a confirming e-mail and the packing slip that came with the printer. Big red letters are stamped on the packing slip, "This is not an invoice." Also the rebate form says that the printer's serial number should be on the invoice. Nothing that I have has the printer serial number on it. I write the number on the packing slip, send it in, and hope. The \$25 rebate is no longer the incentive. It is now a primordial struggle with the forces of HP.

check, in fact, never comes how many people will have all the Of course, HP is not alone in this type of obstacle creation. I recently used the Internet to order a couple of computers from Dell for two grandchildren. **Cont. Next Page**

Rebate Rants Cont.

When you order on the Internet, Dell often promises a significant rebate, ranging from \$100-\$200, depending on model. However, instead of just reducing the price at the time of purchase, they make you mail in a rebate request. They have all the information about you and your order right there on the Internet, but you still have to go through the whole charade of filling out and mailing in stuff. You have to go to a special site to find the rebate form; it doesn't come with the computer. (Sound familiar?) Then you have to mail in the rebate form with the packing slip that comes with the computer. Unfortunately, one of the grandkid's computers came with a packing slip that had no mention of the rebate. How that problem will resolve, I don't yet know. The point is that such problems would not arise except for the whole ridiculous business of having to mail in stuff. The convenience of doing business on the Internet is partly vitiated by this rebate nonsense.

Another company that pulls this kind of stunt is Intuit. I buy my income tax software on line. According to Intuit, the state software is included in the price. But, you have to pay extra for the state and then mail in a rebate form to get the money back. Intuit knows who I am and that I have just downloaded the federal software from them and that I have paid for it. Nonetheless, I have to mail in a form, a proof of purchase, and a sales slip (all printed out from the Internet). I will then wait for three months until I (hopefully) get back the money that I should not have had to pay in the first place.

Making the rebate request form an obstacle is only one of the tactics used to discourage people from applying. Getting together the various and sundry things that must accompany the rebate form is another hurdle. Sometimes it's a version of a scavenger hunt. Especially if you have a wife like mine whose first and immediate reaction to anything that arrives is to throw all the packing material and boxes into the trash. It would be one thing if they always asked for the same part of the box but that wouldn't be playing the game. They have to make it hard enough to cause some more people to drop out of the process. So it's a game of trying to find which little thing on the original box that they want mailed in this time. No, it's not the UPC code, no, it's not the product code; oh, *there* it is, it's one of the tabs that are used to close the box. I even once had to make a photocopy of the bottom of a laptop. Toshiba insisted on having the serial number (like HP). My word wasn't good enough, however. They wanted real proof and insisted on a photocopy, not of an invoice but of the machine. Have you ever Xeroxed the bottom of a laptop?

If you manage to get as far as collecting all the hodgepodge of stuff that has to be mailed in, you have to put a very long address on an envelope to be mailed in to some obscure location like a small town in South Dakota. I guess they hope that, by making the address very complicated and out-of-the-way, some applications will go astray in the mail. Lost mail is clearly what they had in mind when they designed the format of a typical rebate check. It looks nothing like a check and has a very close resemblance to junk advertising mail. I am constantly tossing advertising stuff that looks just like the format that is used for rebate checks. Also, it is the size of a

postcard and easily gets stuck in the middle of the flyers from the grocery stores that we never look at. That the check should get lost or inadvertently thrown away is clearly what companies are hoping for. They also take so long to mail the check that they must be hoping that you will forget about it. I sent a rebate request to Symantec in early December; the check came in mid-March. If the check, in fact, never comes how many people will have all the documentation or the energy needed to inquire? But don't get your hopes up, HP, this is a duel to the death. I am carefully checking the mail every day,

The DOS 10 Commandments

1. I am thy DOS, thou shall have no OS before me, unless Bill Gates gets a cut of the profits there from.

2. Thy DOS is a character based, single user, single tasking, standalone operating system. Thou shall not attempt to make DOS network, multitask, or display a graphical user interface, for that would be a gross hack.
3. Thy hard disk shall never have more than 1024 sectors. You don't need that much space anyway.
4. Thy application program and data shall all fit in 640K of RAM. After all, it's ten times what you had on a CP/M machine. Keep holy this 640K of RAM, and clutter it not with device drivers, memory managers, or other things that might make thy computer useful.
5. Thou shall use the one true slash character to separate thy directory path. Thou shall learn and love this character, even though it appears on no typewriter keyboard, and is unfamiliar. Standardization on where that character is located on a computer keyboard is disallowed.
6. Thou shall edit and shuffle the sacred lines of CONFIG.SYS and AUTOEXEC.BAT until DOS functions adequately for the likes of you. Giving up in disgust is not allowed.
7. Know in thy heart that DOS shall always maintain backward compatibility to the holy 2.0 version, blindly ignoring opportunities to become compatible with things created in the latter half of this century. But you can still run WordStar 1.0
8. Improve thy memory, for thou shall be required to remember that JD031792.LTR is the letter that you wrote to Jane Doe three years ago regarding the tax deductible contribution that you made to her organization. The IRS Auditor shall be impressed by thy memory as he stands over you demanding proof.
9. Pick carefully the names of thy directories, for renaming them shall be mighty difficult. While you're at it, don't try to relocate branches of the directory tree, either.
10. Learn well the Vulcan Nerve Pinch (ctrl-alt-del) for it shall be thy saviour on many an occasion. Believe in thy heart that everyone reboots their OS to solve problems that shouldn't occur in the first place.

DONA'S COMPUTER CAPERS

By Dona Z. Meilach

IDENTITY THEFT AND MOTHER'S DAY GIFTS

These topics may sound disparate, but if you open up the computer to elders, be sure they are aware of what should not be put on Internet questionnaires.

CAN IT HAPPEN TO YOU?

You've read about it, thought about it, taken a few precautions, but for the main, you may not think someone can steal your identifying information...your credit card numbers, social security number, bank accounts, and everything that ties it all together. It only happens to someone else, right? Wrong. Ask Paula McDonald, and her husband, Armando Gonzalez, who had it happen to them...twice.

McDonald, a southern California freelance writer, chronicles her experiences in a bone chilling, stomach-churning article in the April 1 issue of Family Circle (page 44). Go to your library and read it, and photocopy it for your records. Here you'll get the full impact of what such an experience can do to your bank accounts, credit ratings, psyches and, ultimately, the color of your hair if it isn't gray already.

Despite fraud alerts attached to all her transactions, the thieves who stole McDonald's identity from the Internet still ran up thousands of dollars of bills, withdrew funds, and created other horrors she chronicles in her article. Added to the value of the article is a list of actions to take if an identity thief strikes. Even if there are a few hours between the time the thief strikes and your discovery (it could be a few days) the thief can fraudulently charge thousands of dollars to your accounts. The "thief" industry is so big, that they hold conventions with workshops on how to steal from the Internet in myriad ways.

Here are a few of the cautions listed:

- Ø Contact the credit card company or bank where your account has been compromised.
- Ø Close bank accounts and stop payment on any outstanding checks.
- Ø Contact one of the 3 national credit report agencies immediately; the first one will contact the other two. Place fraud alerts on your name and Social Security number through Equifax 800-525-6285 or 888-766-0008.
- Ø File a report with the police and the Federal trade commission
- Ø Keep a file of everything you do/report related to the theft incidents. Keep dated/time notes of who you spoke to and when.
- Ø Request a letter from the bank or credit institutions stating that fraud has been committed and you are not responsible for any debts.
- Ø Check the Identity Theft Resource Center www.idtheftcenter.org and the Privacy Rights Clearing house www.privacyrights.org
- Ø Check the Social Security Office of Inspector General Fraud Hotline: 800-269-0271 or www.ssa.gov/pubs/idtheft.htm

With identify theft increasing at an alarming rate, one can't be too cautious. Never put your Social Security number where it can be copied, used, or stolen.

EXPERIENCE SENIOR POWER

Many of you have parents who are still young and may know as much about computers as you do. But seniors are a rapidly growing segment of the population the computer industry is courting. Today's active seniors want to use computers and need help navigating the techno-water. Enter a Web site where seniors can learn what they need to know from high school students and other mentors willing and anxious to help them at www.ExperienceSeniorPower.com.

Senior citizens nationwide are turning to this online community for an innovative computer learning experience. They can receive detailed training in Microsoft Word through publishing their autobiographies online. Lessons in using scanners help them learn to scan and post pictures in their own online family photo album. Other lessons include e-mail, keyboard use, and Microsoft Excel. Included with membership is a large print, senior-friendly workbook making these lessons a breeze.

Seniors who don't have grandkids around are forming ExperienceSeniorPower.com clubs and learning together. If there's no computer at home, they're heading to the library or community center where they learn to use the computer and its programs. Participants can write their experiences with Word or connect with seniors across the country. They can learn about health concerns, politics, investments and so much more. The Web site also carries 850 discounted products for seniors.

How about the students who volunteer? They can acquire community help points or whatever their school or community awards them for their time. The students are learning, too. Said one young mentor, "I've learned to look at some of these elders...not just as old people, but as people who have had a wealth of experiences that are truly astounding when they open up."

There's a small membership fee and a minor fee for some of the on-line courses (\$29.95 for a three month membership, a workbook for WORD, and access to everything else on the site). A membership in www.ExperienceSeniorPower.com is a perfect gift for the mother or grandmother who doesn't need another vase or box of candy. Think of it for father's day, too. (NUE).

MORE SENIOR RESOURCES

Many community colleges, assisted-living centers, and other institutions offer introductory computer classes geared for older people. Several services, Web sites, and tools have sprung up to help newcomers. Here are a few worth checking.

AARP,

the retirees' organization, has an extensive list of tutorials at www.aarp.org/computers-howto and www.aarp.org/learninternet. The group also publishes a monthly e-mail newsletter with computing tips.

folksonline.com

Folks on Line has information and advice for newcomers to the Internet (of all ages), including a "first day on the Web" tutorial.

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generationsonline.com

Generations on Line offers a free on-screen tutorial in Internet use that is available in many senior centers, public libraries, and nursing homes across the country.

www.seniornet.org

SeniorNet has established more than 240 computer labs that offer a range of classes and programs at senior centers, libraries, hospitals, and other locations. A state-by-state list is at www.seniornet.org/php/lclist.php.

Dona Meilach is the author of over 85 books with 10 on computers. Her just released newest book is WOOD ART TODAY from Schiffer Publishers. <http://www.schifferbooks.com>.

Do you use one space or two spaces at the end of a sentence?

By June Hall, Editor,
Windows on the Rockies
User Group, Colorado

Like most people I was taught to use two spaces at the end of a sentence when using a typewriter. But when I started editing the company newsletter in the 1980s, was taught to use one space at the end of a sentence in published material.

If you type the question at www.google.com, the websites are numerous and contain contradictory answers, replies, and opinions.

Original typewriters had monospaced fonts. Monospaced type is text produced by characters that are evenly spaced. A "W" takes up just as much room as an "I." Thus, around skinny letters there was more space than around wide letters. To clear everything up, it was decided that an extra space should be added after a sentence to make it easier to see where one sentence ended and the next began.

In the very early days two spaces were also used in published material, but then along came the lead-casting Linotype machine. The linotype used wedges for spaces, rectangles for letters. After filling the line as close as possible, the operator would pull a handle, and the wedges would be forced upward, expanding (and thereby justifying) the line of type, which would then be cast in lead. If the operator typed two spaces in a row, you had two wedges next to each other, and that tended to gum up the operation. So only one space was used.

On Woody's Watch (www.woodyswatch.com), Woody told us about all the mail-friendly mail, angry mail, congratulatory mail, why-don't-you-check-your-facts mail, my-teacher-taught-me-this-and-my-teacher-ain't-stupid mail-he received after making a somewhat tongue-in-cheek remark about "cleaning up

after people who inevitably type two spaces after every period." Woody ended by stating if you want to sell what you write, use one period because that's the way the industry works nowadays.

A copyeditor at The University of Chicago (Chicago Manual of Style) thinks, "In our efficient, modern world, there is not room for two spaces at the end of a sentence."

Publishers want single spaces after periods. Most desktop publishers believe desktop publishing (electronic type-setting) should follow the commercial publishers rule, "One space at the end of a sentence."

Two spaces can cause problems with line breaks in certain programs. Web pages use only one space between sentences. HTML is set up to only display one space no matter how many are typed. A browser, like Netscape Navigator or Internet Explorer, will only display one.

Some people using word processing state, "those of us who use word processing software are no longer typists but typographers. While our typewriter keyboards limited our capabilities in creating text, our word processors allow us to do what professional typesetters have been doing for centuries. Consequently, many of the rules we learned as typists do not apply in the world of word processing."

The majority of people who never do desktop publishing have no reason to change from using two spaces. Even some publishers prefer using two spaces in their personal correspondence and notes.

After getting used to using only one space at the end of a sentence in writing for published material, I use one space for everything-most everything. I have to watch myself if I type a letter for my husband as he wants two spaces. One of the first things I do when I receive an article for a newsletter is to go to Edit/Replace and put in two spaces to be replaced by one space.

I liked the website with the info below:

Should sentences be separated by one space or two spaces?

Yes.

There is no restriction against any non-profit group using this article as long as it is kept in context with proper credit given the author. The Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization of which this group is a member, brings this article to you.

Wireless for You by Sandy Berger

Just a few short years ago, many people told me that they would never get a computer. They never wanted to have anything to do with the Internet. In the last few years I have occasionally received e-mail from some of these folks as, despite their denials, they have been swept up by the Internet storm. Usually, the e-mail starts something like this: "I never thought I would buy a computer, but you were right....."

Well, recently I received an e-mail from one of these self-professed computer hold-outs that went like this: "I can't believe it; I thought I hated computers but now I am hooked. I bought my first computer just last year and we are already a two-computer household."

Computers are addictive and more and more people are finding themselves with two or more computers in their homes. Wouldn't it be nice if those computers could share files, a printer, and an Internet connection without the cost and trouble of tearing up walls and running wires through the house? Well the technology needed to do this is available now. Better yet, it is already affordable.

Wireless technology when combined with a laptop computer can also free you from being tethered to a desk. After you have created a wireless network in your home, you can add a wireless card to a laptop computer and roam through the house with your computer. You can even sit in the yard to do your computing (Which is something that I enjoy doing every now and then).

If you have a laptop with a wireless card, you can also roam the world with it. Many community groups are setting up free wireless Internet hot spots where you can use your wireless notebook to hook up to the Internet. Other entities like airports and coffee shops are offering wireless Internet services on a paid basis. Wireless Internet is, without a doubt, the Internet of the future.

If you want to be a part of the future right now, setting up a wireless network is fairly easy. All you need is a wireless router and a wireless network card in each computer. Recent price reductions have made wireless computing attractive to many. At the time I write this, routers are in the range of \$50-\$200 and wireless cards can be had for \$30-\$125 each. Apple's OS X operating systems and Microsoft's Windows XP both make it very easy to set up the software for a wireless network. Older operating systems can also be used, but the software setup is slightly more complicated.

Called Wi-Fi, or high-speed wireless networking, the most popular wireless networking protocol is 802.11b. It has a maximum throughput of 11 Mbps. To put this into perspective, this is only about one-tenth the speed of common wired Ethernet networks, but is fast enough for most average home users. Two other faster versions called 802.11a and 802.11g have appeared on the horizon, but have not yet come into widespread use. They are about five times faster than 802.11b at 54 Mbps. These versions each use different transmission frequencies. As time goes on, one of these technology versions will probably become the defacto standard, but in the mean time, don't be afraid to jump in. Several companies have introduced network cards that will work with any one of these three standards.

I am very happy with the 802.11b wireless network that I have in my home, and I expect that I will remain happy with it, even though faster connections may become available. So don't be afraid to choose 802.11b as your wireless protocol.

If you hate being tethered by wires, try the freedom that wireless computing offers.

McDonald's Goes Wireless

http://www.compukiss.com/populartopics/tech_gadgetshtm/article988.htm

Free Wireless Internet

http://www.compukiss.com/populartopics/travel_transhtm/article823.htm

***Sign up for Sandy's Newsletter at <http://www.compukiss.com/>
Click on Newsletter at the top of the site in center.***

She is also the host for AARP's Technology Section which is excellent, you can find it at <http://www.aarp.org/computers/>

Web Link of the Month

Everyone loves to get free stuff! Free After Rebate points you to stores that sell products that end up being free after you send in for a rebate. They also have a good page with a "Guide to Getting Free Stuff" that has tips on how to make sure that your rebate claim is honored. Have you had rebates rejected? Go to <http://www.freeafterrebate.info/>.

Review: FlipAlbum Suite 4.2

Paul Kurivchack - PPCUG

With the explosion of digital camera use over the past two years and the growing pile of digital images being stored on your PC, organizing them into albums has been as tedious as in the days of film photography (I still have photo prints in the same envelope that they came back from the developer, stored in countless boxes). I know that I should have put the best shots of my kids, vacations and other events into albums so the photos could be shared with family and friends. But who has the time? Well the same thing is happening with digital photography as well and the need for a quick and easy way to view, organize and share has never been greater.

But what do you do? Do you use the digital photo editing software that came with your camera or other photo editing application to touch up the photos and then print them out as contact sheets? Wouldn't it be nice to layout all your photos on a digital light table to sort, edit and add to an album that can be shared either on CD or the Internet? Well E-Book Systems has a solution with its product: FlipAlbum Suite 4.2.

FlipAlbum Suite 4.2 offers everything a digital camera user needs to create great looking 3D photo albums in one complete package including photo editing plus much more. To start off, FlipAlbum will work on just about any PC running Windows 9x and up with nominal memory (64 MB RAM) and hard drive space (120 MB) and installations is a breeze. It also offers a very extensive online help system to answer any questions that come up should you get stuck, which you shouldn't. Launching FlipAlbum for the first time brings up the album create / open window. This serves as the launch point for creating that new album or working on an existing one. But here is where a little pre-planning comes in real handy in managing your stored digital photos. It is what I call file management 101, proper management of all documents on your PC. When downloading your photos from the digital camera, it is important to create a folder name and then to rename each photo and if possible add a sequence number to each. Why you might ask? Well, when creating a FlipAlbum for the first time, you can point to the folder containing your photos and FlipAlbum will automatically create a thumbnail view, table of contents page and place one photo on each page of the album. The sorting or most of it is all done for you in this first step of creating a new album. This is a powerful and cool feature that will save you a tremendous amount of time. This one feature won me over instantly as I was thinking of the drudgery of importing photos one at a time and why I never considered album type applications in the past. Now that most of the work is done, you can turn your attention to tweaking the sort order, any photo editing (Cropping, color correction, etc.) and just dressing up the album before uploading it to the internet or burning to CD. This is truly the fun part of using FlipAlbum.

Starting on the thumbnail view page, tweak the automatic sort by simply dragging the thumbnail photo from its current location to another. Need to add a photo from another file location?

Do it here also. This is the first step in creating your 3D photo album.

Want to edit or enhance the photo? Just double click on the thumbnail image to bring it up full size then right click on the image to open up the menu where you can select "Edit". This launches you into the FlipAlbum editing application. The photo editing tools are quite complete and simple to use for the beginning user. It contains the normal list of tools from brightness and contrast, cropping, red-eye removal and a number of color enhancing tools. All tools operate in real time, so as you make changes you see the results and there is a convenient reset button to take you back to the untouched image when the results are just not what you were looking for.

Dressing up the album is quite interesting and fun. This is where you can be as creative as you want and go crazy, stick with one of the standard themes offered or somewhere in between. Add a frame to the individual photo in a variety of shapes, colors and styles. Pictures always look better in a frame. Superimpose the image into a background image and even change the page color or texture from the many supplied backgrounds. Then there are the album themes for travel, wedding and anniversaries, to birthdays, plus many more. All include unique album covers and matching page colors. Automatically the album is transformed into a piece of art. You can even change the color and type of binding for again a different look and feel.

Remembering who, what or where the photo was taken is just as easy. Adding a title or note to your photo is as easy as right clicking on the page and adding the text to detail the event. It's a nice touch.

Speaking about another nice touch that FlipAlbum offers is that you can add background music to your album. How boring were those old slide shows of past that we all endured listening to the drone of the projector? FlipAlbum includes a number of canned music tracks that can be added to the full album or an individual photo which will make sharing your album that much more enjoyable.

Lastly, after all your work on creating the best looking album, test it out by running the slide show view. Here is where you can manually flip through the album or set up the automatic page flip timing. All of the FlipAlbum tools are easy to find and use either from the menu bar or the toolbar. I have not had the chance to burn an album to CD yet, but based upon everything I have seen with FlipAlbum, I do not expect to see any issues with performing this function. One nice thing is that you can add multiple albums to a single CD so you only have one CD to share with family and friends.

In conclusion, FlipAlbum Suite 4.0 version 4.2 is one of the easiest and most fun products I have tested in a long time. I think I will be using it for a long time to come.

Contact www.flipalbum.com for additional information and pricing.

Ed. Note: PCWorld and Wugnet have a special running now which includes fully licensed versions of FlipAlbum 5.0 Standard, PhotoMeister 2.0, ACD FotoAngelo 1.0, 2 PC World Super Guides on Digital Photography and Image Editing for \$19.95. Look here for more info: <http://www.wugnet.com/affiliates/pcworld/cdreferral.html>

Getting My Money's Worth by Bob (the cheapskate) Click, Greater Orlando Computer Users Group



I decided to give the free AARP tax service another try this year and again my experience was not as expected. They didn't exactly do as promised. After processing our income tax return they said someone would file it electronically in three days at no cost, my purpose for using them. However, three weeks later, it still hadn't been uploaded according to the IRS. When I went back to inquire, they would not give me a phone number for the person who uploads them, but promised to check on it. Later I was told it had been returned (no reason given), but they didn't know it for several days. They had uploaded it a second time two days before I inquired and I should check with the IRS again in two days. That evening I called the IRS again and sure enough, it had been received and I should expect to receive my refund eleven days later. I was relieved. (The refund has since arrived.) After giving it some thought, I decided that since this is the first year of e-filing for this group, they just need to get better organized. I'll give those hard working volunteers the benefit of the doubt.

Again this year, I used Tax Act software to do a comparison and found a difference, although the numbers were the same for my tax and refund. The tax loss carry over was much different. After talking to the AARP volunteer about the variation, I rechecked my entries and found I had made a duplicate entry (as it is in some of the 1099s) where it should have been zero, so I'm not perfect either. I am not all that pleased with Tax Act, but the price is right. Tax Act Deluxe (\$9.95) would import the basic data from my last year's return to save a lot of retyping. I did not find the product very intuitive when I used it and was sometimes unsure if I was doing the right thing. In fact, I had to call their tech support just to find out how to reopen the file to work on it. Nothing I had tried would open it.

*Lots Of Interest In Trade Shows

I was surprised at how much feedback I received about working trade shows. Many people are interested and wanted to know more. My wife and I have worked as licensed security guards in trade shows for over six years now (we keep it part time) and enjoy it immensely. We live in a hotbed of trade show activity. The best part is that we get paid while enjoying them. Other security work is available, but we mostly stick to trade shows. We don't get rich, but it helps improve our lifestyle while living on our pensions.

In February we were asked to work the World Of Concrete (WOC) show [<http://www.worldofconcrete.com>], one of our favorites. It is one of the largest shows to be held here and took the entire 1.1 million square ft. of the building's exhibit area as well as about a third of the parking area where many active displays were set up, and all their mega-demos were held. Actually, WOC was combined with the World of Masonry show a few years ago. Those demos included concrete pours and finishing, brick laying contests and decorative work on concrete slabs, among other things. An artist put a beautiful picture of a Mac truck tractor on a concrete slab using acrylics. I was told I could have it, but can you imagine trying to move an 8' x 10' concrete slab home? However, we did get to take home a pickup load of unused bricks that came in handy. There was not much about computers in this show, but it was fascinating to see all the laser electronics involved in finishing a concrete slab and getting it close to perfect. The art of finishing concrete has sure changed. I loved seeing the riding trowel machines working.

World Of Concrete is usually held in Las Vegas. They say it will never be here again because show management doesn't like it here. Not enough bars, according to our newspaper, and they don't like the building either. It was for the trade only and had over 60,000 attendees. With my family's background in the gravel quarry business, it was especially fun seeing all that large equipment, such as the concrete pumping trucks with their 210' unfolding booms arching over, and other equipment that was demonstrated. Our work was crowd control for the parking area mega-demos.

Also in February we worked one day of the International Call Center Management (ICCM) Show [<http://www.iccm.com>] at the Gaylord Palms Resort Hotel. Unfortunately I had to attend classes in Tampa so my time with ICCM was limited. My only work day at the ICCM was the setup day so I had little chance to talk to vendors. However it is plain that when you make a call for many business purposes, it just might be handled by a National Call Center that might then redirect it, without your knowledge, to wherever it must be handled. It might be redirected to anyplace on the globe or perhaps to an adjacent office.

This show had mostly smaller booths and I counted over fifty exhibitors in about 80,000 square feet of exhibit space. Only a few were names you might know. While much of it was about redirecting calls, there were other functions as well. This show had a keynote speaker and attendees could tour three on-site Call Centers in the area, one of which was the Sprint PCS offices. I was extremely busy during the day and when things slowed down that night, there were few vendors to talk to for information. Next month, I'll have a small report about a show that you readers would "love" to be able to tour, a home automation show.

Deals Guy Con

*Still Good

The MediaFour deal is still good, but expires June 1st so you must be fast if you didn't take advantage of it. Check last months

column for ordering info, but the phone is Phone 605-235-1991 <suenail@cableone.net> [www.mediafour.com]. Also, I believe Aladdin Software's special is for SpamCatcher is still good so check last month's column for ordering details. [http://www.aladdinsys.com/store] I was unable to get any new deals to come together for this month because of my work schedule and a bad cold.

*Last Chance, But Act Now

I attended a user group meeting in Orlando where Gene Barlow was doing a presentation, accompanied by his most gracious wife, Linda. He announced to the group that his agreement with Power Quest, now owned by Symantec, expires May 1, 2004. That doesn't mean there won't be a new agreement (Gene is trying for a new contract), but the present pricing structure will go by the wayside. I suggest that if you are interested in any Power Quest products, you should not waste any time getting your order placed, as his inventory will go fast.

Here is a list of the Power Quest product lineup:

Partition Magic V8 - MSRP, \$70 - UG price, \$39.00
 Discover Your HD, Educational CD - UG price, \$19.00
 Drive Image V7 - MSRP, \$70 - UG price, \$39.00
 V2I Protector V2 - MSRP, \$79 - UG price, \$39.00
 Backing up Your HD (Educational CD) - UG price, \$19.00

He also represents another company that produces SecureClean V4 and Wipe Drive V3. They make sure your deleted files are completely obliterated. They are \$24.00 each or \$39.00 bundled. Since these two are from a different company, I think these prices are good for a while. He demonstrated by doing a search for deleted files on his laptop and found some that had been deleted over a year ago, but had never been overwritten including old e-mail. Few realize that a deleted file could possibly still be found on your hard drive for even a few years without being overwritten by new data.

An attendee asked why she needed such a product when she is the only person using the computer. Gene suggested that you never know what might happen, such as a robbery. Then even your deleted data files are the property of the robber. Gene also offered other possibilities, such as no firewall, thus allowing intruders from the Internet. Another reason is if you want to discard your computer or hard drive. All prices are plus shipping. When ordering products, it's important you know which ones work with your operating system, and I am speaking from experience.

Order by accessing Gene's secure Web site at [http://www.ugr.com/order] using the code UGDEALS when ordering. These also make good gifts to family members with computers so don't delay for these prices.

That's it for this month. Meet me here again next month if your editor permits. This column is written to make user group members

aware of special offers or freebies I have found or arranged, and my comments should not be interpreted to encourage, or discourage, the purchase of any products, no matter how enthused I might sound. Bob (The Cheapskate) Click [Bobclick@mindspring.com]. Visit my Web site at [http://www.dealsguy.com] for past columns and some interesting articles.

- 1- I'd kill for a Nobel Peace Prize.
- 2- Borrow money from pessimists -- they don't expect it back.
- 3- Half the people you know are below average.
- 4- 99% of lawyers give the rest a bad name.
- 5- 42.7% of all statistics are made up on the spot.
- 6- A conscience is what hurts when all your other parts feel so good.
- 7- A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.
- 8- If you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain.
- 9- All those who believe in psycho-kinesis, raise my hand.
- 10- The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.
- 11- I almost had a psychic girlfriend, but she left me before we met.
- 12- OK, so what's the speed of dark?
- 13- How do you tell when you're out of invisible ink?
- 14- If everything seems to be going well, you have obviously overlooked something.
- 15- Depression is merely anger without enthusiasm.
- 16- When everything is coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.
- 17- Ambition is a poor excuse for not having enough sense to be lazy.
- 18- Hard work pays off in the future, laziness pays off now.
- 19- I intend to live forever -- so far, so good.
- 20- If Barbie is so popular, why do you have to buy her friends?
- 21- Eagles may soar, but weasels don't get sucked into jet engines.
- 22- What happens if you get scared half to death twice?
- 23- My mechanic told me, "I couldn't repair your brakes, so I made your horn louder."
- 24- Why do psychics have to ask you for your name?
- 25- If at first you don't succeed, destroy all evidence that you tried.
- 26- A conclusion is the place where you got tired of thinking.
- 27- Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.
- 28- The hardness of the butter is proportional to the softness of the bread.
- 29- To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism; to steal from many is research.
- 30- The problem with the gene pool is that there is no lifeguard.
- 31- The sooner you fall behind, the more time you'll have to catch up.
- 32- The colder the x-ray table, the more of your body is required to be on it.
- 33- Everyone has a photographic memory, some just don't have film.



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Publication Deadline

Material for the May 2004 issue must be received on or before May 15th, 2004
mborison@yahoo.com

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 Mark Borison 714-963-8296 mborison@yahoo.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.

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