

# Orange Coast IBM PC User Group

# README.DOC

June 2004

Newsletter

Volume 20.6

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

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## June 26th General Meeting



Radiant  
Frames™

Frames That Light Up  
Your Digital Pictures

&



Creating the Digital Home



Orange Coast IBM PC User Group  
695 W. 19th St  
Costa Mesa, California 92627

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



OCIPUG Web Page: [www.ocipug.org](http://www.ocipug.org)

General Meetings are held from  
9:00AM to noon on:  
26 June  
31 July  
21 August  
25 Sept  
30 Oct.

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:  
26 June  
31 July  
21 August  
25 Sept  
30 Oct.

All OCIPUG members are welcome

OCIPUG Information line: 714-535-0608

Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings  
are held monthly as follows:  
1st Tuesday Internet  
2nd Tuesday Hardware  
3rd Tuesday Windows  
4th Tuesday Digital Photo

All SIG Groups start at 7:00pm

## June 26th General Meeting Radiant Frames & Intel's Home Entertainment

### Radiant Frames

Each Radiant Frame includes every-  
thing you need to "light up your digital  
pictures".

What is included with each Radiant  
Frame: Specially designed back lit  
technology frame UL Listed AC Power  
Adapter Custom 4x6 mat  
Radiant Paper - inkjet paper specially  
formulated for the Radiant Frames

Installation instructions  
What you need!

A digital image An inkjet printer  
If you don't have an inkjet printer,  
check out our Professional Imaging  
Services

How does it work?

Choose image to be displayed from  
your computer Pick the appropriate  
image size and match it to the correct  
mat size. Print the image with your  
inkjet printer using the Radiant Paper  
Install the image and mat in the frame  
Ready to display or present as a  
special gift



Advanced Computer Products, Inc.  
1310 East Edinger Ave.  
Santa Ana, CA 92705

Jul. 25, 2004  
8:00am to  
2:00pm

When using regular photographs:

Scan your photograph and make the necessary  
corrections and adjustments. Then you can  
print the image using our Radiant Paper with  
your inkjet printer. Or, your photograph should  
be printed on a back-lit film transparency  
available at some photo processing labs.

What is Radiant Paper?

Radiant Paper is a specially formulated inkjet  
paper designed for use with the Radiant  
Frames. This paper will give you the optimum  
results when illuminated with the innovative  
back-lit technology of the Radiant Frames. The  
colors will be richer and the images will be  
brilliant. When using a lighted picture frame  
like the Radiant Frames, you will find no better  
inkjet paper than Radiant Paper. Radiant Paper  
is also available for larger format printing.  
Contact our customer service department for  
additional information.

### Windows Updates on Free CD From Microsoft

Order the FREE Microsoft update CD  
for Win98/SE, WinMe, Win2000 and  
WinXP with ALL security up-dates  
through 10/03. It's an ideal CD to  
have on hand if you ever have to  
format your drive or reinstall Windows  
Go to

[http://www.microsoft.com/security/  
protect/cd/order.asp?](http://www.microsoft.com/security/protect/cd/order.asp)

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

### Intel's Digital Home

In the home of the future,  
Technology could make  
anything possible. Digital pictures  
or video edited on a PC in the den  
could be accessed and displayed  
on the family room TV. The family  
PC could be used to record  
broadcast TV for viewing later.  
Digital music could be shared  
between devices regardless of  
where it is stored. Even a change to  
a PDA-based address book could  
be distributed automatically to  
address books on other handheld  
devices, PCs, cell phones, and  
media services.

The future digital home will offer  
businesses fresh opportunities to  
meet customer needs faster and at a  
lower cost. This always-connected,  
robust, and intuitive environment  
will support novel products and  
services that:

Intel and leaders from the consumer  
electronics (CE) and personal  
computing (PC) industries share a  
vision of interoperable networked  
devices in the home that provide  
new value propositions and  
opportunities for consumers and  
product vendors. Intel is committed  
to providing a seamless interaction  
between CE and PC devices and  
believes this is best accomplished  
through a collaborative industry  
effort focused on delivering an

# SCHEDULES AND REPORTS OF EVENTS

## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (SIG) SIG MEETINGS

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

### Support Our Sigs

June 22nd 2004

Digital Cameras / Scanning 4th Tuesday 7:00PM  
David Wintle allart@pac.bell.net

July 6th 2004

Internet SIG  
Mark & Mike

July 13th 2004

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

July 20th 2004

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

July 27th 2004

Digital Cameras / Scanning 4th Tuesday 7:00PM  
David Wintle allart@pac.bell.net



### Upcoming General Meetings

July 31st

Photoshop Elements(Total Training) w/ Bob Walker

August 21st (Date Change)

Smart Computing

September 25th TBA

October 30th

Gene Barlow UG store Parttion Magic,  
Drive Image, etc.



**INTERNET USER ALERT!**  
**Automatically CHECK FOR**  
**and REMOVE SASSER!**

You can use this tool at Microsoft to search your hard disk for and try to remove Sasser.A, Sasser.B, Sasser.C, Sasser.D, and Sasser.E. To do so, scroll down to the Check My PC for Infection button and click.

<http://www.microsoft.com/security/incident/sasser.asp>

**If you haven't already downloaded the Windows Security Update that protects your computer against sasser, DO IT NOW!** Click your Start button and then click on Windows Update, or click on the link below.

<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/bulletin/MS04011.msp>

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## OCIPUG Hardware SIG - Meeting Recap

Meeting Date: June 8, 2004

There were 12 attendees  
(including SIG Leader, Ed Leckliter)  
continuing flimsy excuses about a Laker's game.

Featured Topic(s):

Upgrading the OCIPUG General Meeting Room Computer  
Hardware Submissions - none.

Random Access - there were a few questions but none,  
and the associated responses, were recorded.

**Next Meeting: July 13, 2004**

Next Meeting Featured Topic(s):

Trouble Shooting and BIOS Settings

**Following Meeting: August 10, 2004**

Following Meeting Featured Topic(s):

Hardware Show & Tell - Session 1 of 2 also posted on the  
OCIPUG Hardware SIG web site

([http://www.edscustomcomputers.com/  
welcome\\_to\\_the\\_ocipug\\_hardware\\_sl.htm](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](mailto:eleckliter@adelphia.net).



## Windows SIG

Reported By  
Mark Borison



This month's Windows SIG was convened June 15th with 10 members in attendance and the SIG's fearless leader Bob Strader, just returned from a long vacation. Two members, Eugenia Frerichs and Mark Borison brought in computers that needed in Eugenia's case a notebook that was not operating as fast as she would have liked, and in my case a desktop that needed a new OS installation. Bob dealt with the notebook first and went through various maintenance procedures which culminated in the desired result and imparted to Eugenia a few exercises to perform at home to further improve performance. Eugenia was quite pleased with the improvement in performance and felt confident in being able to improve it more at home.

Bob next turned to the desktop and prepared it for the installation of a new OS (XP Pro). Bob proceeded to install the OS, while explaining each step of the process to the group. Everything went quite smoothly as the The Wizard of Windows performed one step after another, stopping just long enough to explain this or that to the group. Finally the OS was installed just as the allotted time for the SIG expired. The desktop is now working better than when it was new, which at that time had Win 98SE installed. Another two very satisfied Windows SIG members! meeting of the SIG will convene July 20th and at that time we would like to see YOU!

## Sites discussed at the June Internet Special Interest Group (SIG)



Reported By: Michael R Moore

Internet SIG

The June 1,2004 Internet SIG started at 7:10P, and was attended by five members, one guest Including (Webmaster, SIG Leader, and primary) presenter Mark Borison. The focus of this SIG is the internet,

and how it relates to personal computers,

**<http://www.learnthenet.com/>** - website dedicated to helping you save time and money when roaming through cyberspace

**[www.405themovie.com/](http://www.405themovie.com/)** - An Internet Movie, which has quickly become a cult classis. The story of the wrong guy - in the wrong place - at the wrong time.

**[www.refdesk.com/](http://www.refdesk.com/)** - The single best source for facts, Since 1995, free and family friendly. Refdesk indexes and reviews quality, credible, and current information-based sites and assists readers in navigating these sites.

**[www.snopes.com/](http://www.snopes.com/)** site helps dispel urban legends

**<http://www.csicop.org/si/>** - Homepage for skeptical enquirer, which is another website that helps to dispel urban legends

**Topics of discussion during the evening also included,**

- ◆ searching the USENET News Groups,
- ◆ how to save files from the internet to your computer
- ◆ information on the upcoming Southwest Regional Use Group
- ◆ Conference (<http://www.swugconf.org/>) August in San Diego
- ◆ Assorted Tips and Tricks on using the
- ◆ Smart Computing Internet Web site
- ◆ checking your e-mail from a remote computer.

The next Internet SIG will be on Tuesday July 6, 2004 and will start at 7:00pm in the upstairs meeting room.

Hope to see you there. . .Michael Moore, President



## Sites discussed at the June 2004

### Scanning and Digital (SIG)

Reported By: Michael R Moore



8 members and 2 guests

Quicktime used to view internet tutorials  
[org/articles/20030329](http://org/articles/20030329)  
scientificnews

Costco has \$ 0.19 for printing digital photographs

Dr Brown's Image processor [russelbrown.com/main](http://russelbrown.com/main) offers tutorials for using Adobe Photoshop CS

What a RAW image is, and how it differs from a JPG Image

A tip that came up during the evening, was

"When taking pictures on a digital camera, always copy the images from your camera to a folder on your computer, its recommended that you use a copy and not the original"

CD on "The essentials of Photoshop Elements "

From Total Training

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

## Minutes for the May 22nd, 2004 OCIPUG General Meeting

### Frank Mastroly

The May General Meeting of the Orange Coast IBM PC User Group (OCIPUG) was held on May 22, 2004, at the Costa Mesa Senior Center with 30 members present.

Director Ed Leckliter conducted the Random Access session. The only question was Windows Update and XP System Restore. It is strongly recommended that the Windows Update site (can be reached in WinXP via Start>Help and Support>Keep your computer up-to-date with Windows Update) be visited frequently to ensure that all critical updates have been installed.

President Michael Moore called the General Meeting to order at 9:00am. After welcoming all those in attendance, Michael's only announcement was a reminder of the APCUG Southwest Regional Conference which will be held at the San Diego Mission Valley Hilton hotel from August 6-8, 2004. For more information, go to [www.swugconf.org](http://www.swugconf.org). Also, Director Red Davidson reminded that the club needs a nominating committee ASAP, as our elections are coming very soon.

### SIG Reports:

The upcoming SIG schedule is as follows:

\* **Digital Photography and Scanning** (David Wintle), 4th Tuesday of each month. On May 27 David will continue his presentations on the book "Complete Digital Photography" as well as conduct a Q&A session.

\* **Internet and Web Page Design** (Michael Moore and Mark Borison),

1st Tuesday of each month. On June 1, Mark will continue exploring web sites of interest as well as conduct a Q&A session.

\* **Hardware** (Ed Leckliter), 2nd Tuesday of each month.

On June 8, Ed will install a new motherboard, processor, and RAM on the OCIPUG computer. Ed is soliciting ideas on future hardware topics, as he has nothing specific planned for meetings after the June meeting.

\* **Windows 9x/XP** (Robert Strader ), 3rd Tuesday of each month.

On June 15, 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.

During a discussion initiated by Secretary Frank Mastroly, the problem of SIGs sometimes being too advanced was discussed, with the suggestion made that perhaps some SIGs, e.g., Windows and Internet, be split into two portions, one for beginners and the other more advanced for those with some experience.

Another suggestion was to have greeters to make newcomers feel more at home and to have any newcomers introduce themselves and indicate what they expect to learn from the SIG.

Program Director Mark Borison then introduced our first speaker, Carey Holzman, author of " **The Healthy PC -- Preventive Care and Home Remedies for Your Computer.**"

Cary started his presentation by indicating that he is on a tour of several user groups to discuss this topic and to promote his book. He also noted that he will be at the APCUG Southwest Regional Conference in August. He also reminded those in attendance that there is a CD available for free (including shipping) from Microsoft containing Windows XP SP1 as well as all critical updates through October 2003.

Mr. Holzman's goal in writing his book was to create one that the average person can understand, as most similar books are too detailed. He then asked for questions from the audience. Many questions were asked and Carey was able to answer just about all of them. Here are a few examples

\* Microsoft will release Windows XP SP-2 in June or July. This will be a major update containing, among other things, an improved firewall and better protection against viruses buried in HTML coding.

\* Protonic ([www.protonic.com](http://www.protonic.com)) is an online community dedicated to providing fast, free technical support to any computer user in need of it. The site is able to provide this service thanks to countless volunteers. It is not based in any particular city, as the volunteers and administrators come from all over the world.

\* Not all "spyware" is bad if the site provides useful information. As for spyware removal tools, there is no need to have both "Spy Bot Search and Destroy" and AdAware. Of the two, Mr. Holzman feels that the latter is better. Mr. Holman does not recommend Pest Patrol, as why should one spend money on a program when others are free.

\* You do not need to reformat a drive to reinstall Windows. When booting from the Windows CD, at the first prompt to "Repair," select "No," and at the second prompt select "Yes."

\* System Restore in Windows XP replaces System File Checker in Windows 98.

\* Both Norton and McAfee anti-virus programs are good, but Mr. Holzman agrees with PC Magazine that the Norton product is better. In all cases it is mandatory to keep the virus definitions as well as the program up to date either automatically or via "Live Update."

\* Cary feels that neither Norton Works nor Norton Utilities is worth the money.

\* He says that he sees no advantage of Netscape over Internet Explorer.

\* Mr. Holzman does not recommend buying a "white box" computers or laptops, but has no problems with refurbished laptops from Dell. Often it is cheaper to buy a complete system than to build it yourself.

\* The question was asked if the Intel Centrino is worth the added cost. This is a matter of opinion, especially in the areas of battery life (Centrino is better) and cost. In some cases it may simply be cheaper to buy a spare battery and to keep it fully charged.

For those interested in exploring this further, go to Carey Holzman's home page at (<http://www.careyholzman.com/>). As noted on the site, it is designed to be an invaluable, free resource dedicated to bringing computer users the most up-to-date and accurate

information available about PC hardware and software. Here, one will find troubleshooting information, tips and tweaks for optimum performance for Windows 98/ME & XP, explanations of common misconceptions in the PC industry, and most importantly information intended to raise public awareness concerning the deceptive practices of hardware and software manufacturers, past and present.

The site contains links to several other sites that provide a wealth of information on fixing various problems, such as:

- \* Networking -- Fix ALL Windows Networking Problems
- \* HomeNetHelp: Carey's networking tips
- \* How to prevent Spyware from infecting your PC
- \* Tips For Wireless LAN Security
- \* Wireless Security: WPA Step by Step

There are also links for the various operating system:

The site also has links to other web pages that provide additional "tips and tricks," helpful, and utilities, and other useful information: In closing his presentation, Mr. Holzman said that he would be at the Saddleback Users Group meeting on Saturday, June 12. He then had his book for sale at \$15 per copy compared with the retail price of \$16.95.

## JASC Paint Shop Photo Album

The second presentation was by OCIPUG member Cheryl Wester on JASC Paint Shop Photo Album 4.0 using a "presentation in a box" provided by JASC. Rather than cover the presentation, the following material was obtained from the JASC site ([www.jasc.com](http://www.jasc.com)) and actually covers the current 5.0 release, with the new features so indicated.

With Photo Album, you can choose how you want to view your photos with the click of a button. Then quickly organize your collection so you can find photos fast. The freedom Photo Album gives you is unlike any other program and since it's so intuitive, it takes only a moment to get started. Paint Shop Photo Album is simply the easiest way to do more with your digital photos. Now you can organize, fix, share, and protect photos with one easy-to-use tool. Finally, the digital camera software you've been waiting for is here.

!

The meeting was concluded with our raffle. Prizes won were as follows:

- \* Paint Shop Pro Photo Editor -- Michael Moore
- \* Paint Shop Photo Album 4.0 -- Warren Bradford
- \* Flip Album 4.0 and comfort pad -- Jack Vincent
- \* Note book -- Howard Hugger
- \* Stock Manager and 3D program -- Leonard Stein
- \* Touch pad -- Ron Perkins
- \* Organizer and home networking book -- Red Davidson

The next OCIPUG General Meeting will be on Saturday, June 26, 2004, at 9:00am. The subjects of the presentations will be on the OCIPUG website ([www.ocipug.org](http://www.ocipug.org)).

## Mission Accomplished!

By Eugenia Frerichs

### OCIPUG

I became a member of OCIPUG several years ago mainly to learn. I knew how to work a computer but not how the computer works. I went to all the Special Interest Groups and was especially intrigued by the Hardware SIG. I understood less than 10% of what was being talked about. Gradually month by month I was actually learning the components of the computer... what they were for... and how and why they worked. When SIG leader Ed Lechliter announced that his topic was going to be 'Your New System' I couldn't resist. My current Compaq was six years old and although it was running fine, I decided it was time to upgrade, especially with my new found knowledge! I must say I was a little intimidated at first but the support and encouragement, I received from the others in the group gave me the courage to persevere.

The following are the components I chose and what they cost:

Antec Sonata Case (including 380 wt power supply)	\$ 130
AMD Athlon XP3000+Processor	\$ 190
Asus A7N-8X Deluxe Motherboard	\$ 125
2/Kingston 512 MB PC2700 DDR Ram (\$80.00 each)	\$ 160
ATI Radeon 9200/128 MB Graphics Card	\$ 55
Maxtor 120GB Hard Drive	\$ 100
Sony DVD+/-RW Drive	\$ 110
Sony 16X CD/DVD Combo Drive	\$ 35
Mitsume Floppy/Memory Card Reader Combo Drive	\$ 35
Microsoft Windows XP Professional Operating System	\$ 145

Total	\$1,085
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The total was \$15 under my budgeted amount. I already had a flat screen monitor and a wireless keyboard and mouse which had not been included in the budget. I chose to purchase the components from local vendors. I'm sure some money could have been saved by shopping on line but I used my limited time researching and reading product reviews.

This has been an extremely positive and rewarding experience for me. Even though I don't have the warranty associated with buying a name brand system, I now have the basic knowledge to be able to replace or upgrade the components if necessary plus a tremendous sense of accomplishment. For all this I wish to thank Ed and the other group members. I couldn't have done it without their help and support.

*Editor's Note: Eugenia is one of the few members of OCIPUG that is sharp enough to truly take advantage of the educational benefits that OCIPUG offers. She attends every SIG group meeting, taking notes and just soaking up the information that is being communicated. Although she is one of just a handful of women that are members, she is easily the most active member in terms of attending OCIPUG's meetings. The successful assembling of a well thought out system incorporating components that are appropriate for her particular needs are a just reward for all her efforts. As she mentioned, she may not have a warranty, but she truly has a more valuable commodity, the respect and support of OCIPUG's members !*

## Smart Computing by Sandy Berger



At a recent PC User Group meeting, my presentation was followed by a question and answer period. One of the first questions was, "What is the best computer magazine?" I almost surprised myself by the speed with which I answered Smart Computing. No uncertainty, no second-guessing. In my opinion Smart Computing is by far the best magazine for novice and intermediate computer users.

The sub-title of the magazine In Plain English, pretty much says it all. This is a magazine that presents the reader with much needed information that is easy to understand. While many computer magazines are written for geeks and IT professionals, Smart Computing is geared toward the mainstream computer user. It covers topics that computer users are interested in and gives tips and information that most computer users constantly seek. The direct, plain English approach makes the magazine readable as well as likeable.

Smart Computing is well designed with type large enough for aging eyes and just enough white space and graphics to make it a pleasure to leaf through the pages. Best of all, there are few ads, allowing the pages to be filled with good, solid information instead of the usual barrage of commercial notices. Every month, this publication has a special focus. It may be "Wireless Computing," "A Faster Internet," or "Get Rid of Spyware." In any case, it is usually a topic that is a sure "Need-to-Know" for the typical computer user. Each month there are also categories such as PC Operating Instructions, General Computing, and Plugged In. Quick Studies offer helpful tips for using different programs. Product reviews are geared toward helping the normal computer user become an informed consumer. There is something for everyone. Whether you are new to computing or a seasoned veteran of home computing, you are sure to find useful information.

At the end of my User Group Q&A, another question was posed, "Why should I subscribe to a magazine when most of the computer information I need can be found on the Internet for free?" That's an easy one. Even though technology has made great strides, you still can't comfortably curl up on the sofa with Internet information. On top of that, searching for that information can be a real pain. That is true even if you know what to search for. Each month Smart Computing provides you with just what you need to know in one portable package that you can carry to the dentist's office, peruse on the patio, or study on the sofa. It doesn't get much better than that! As an added bonus, paid subscribers to the Smart Computing can access thousands of archived articles, participate in Smart Computing chat rooms, and post questions on the highly popular Q&A board.

## Baseball Live on the Internet by Sandy Berger



If you can't make it to the ballpark or can't find your team on television, you now can watch the game live online. Microsoft Corp. and MLB Advanced Media LP (MLBAM) have announced a new way for fans to follow their favorite teams.

MSN and MLB are giving fans a choice of several subscription packages that offer different ways to see the games. Subscribers to MSN® Premium - MSN's premier service for broadband users - can watch live broadcasts of more than 200 games per month, plus 20-minute condensed versions of games in which all the downtime is cut out at no additional charge. This content also will be available through MLB subscription packages on MSN. Approximately 250 games per month will be available live on the Internet through this agreement. The cost for the basic service will be \$14.95 per month. The complete package with television and gameday audio will cost \$19.95 per month. The service is subject to blackout restrictions, although what is unavailable and how they determine Internet blackout rules is unclear at this time.

In addition, exclusive video baseball highlights, bloopers, plays of the week and other news will be available free at MSN.com. This service is recommended for only for broadband Internet users. For more information, fans can go to <http://www.baseball.msn.com/>.

Microsoft and MLB also plan to enable consumers to watch MLB games on their Microsoft Windows Mobile™-based Portable Media Centers.



"It's the latest innovation in office safety.  
When your computer crashes, an air bag is activated  
so you won't bang your head in frustration."

## PRESIDENTS REPORT



### Michael Moore

**H**ello Again. I'd like to extend many thanks to both of our fantastic speakers, first to Carey Holzman, author of the book *The Healthy PC*, who by answering our many questions hopefully brought everyone's computer one step closer to operational perfection. I have only had a chance to briefly go through his book, but its surprising to find something new and exciting on each and every page.

I would also like thank OCIPUG's own computing gem, Cheryl Wester for taking time to show us, exactly what Paint Shop Pro can really do. I for one look forward to trying out some of the tips and tricks that I learned.

Well, as you know or perhaps you don't, our by-laws state that we have our elections in August. That being said, I was quite surprised when there was absolutely no response to my request if there was anyone who was willing to accept one of the available offices. The silence was deafening. I guess it is once again time to remind everyone that OCIPUG is as it always has been, 'AN ALL VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION' and without members who are willing to stand up and take an interest in not only attending our General and Special Interest Group Meetings, but also in the day to day operations, then the way I see it, we better start asking ourselves "Do we really want to continue having a club?" What has happened to the give in give and take.

**T**his month, our webmaster, program director, newsletter editor and Jack of all trades, Mark Borison has arranged for us to have two excellent presentations:

One is from a company called **Radiant Frames**, who manufacture and distributes, Illuminated picture frames, and special photographic paper, that produces some fantastic results using your PC and your ink-jet printer. Information on the company, and their products can be found online at [www.radiantframes.com/](http://www.radiantframes.com/)

Also this month, We are also fortunate to have another presentation from Intel on their new Digital Home Experience. This will be presented by OCIPUG's own Vice President) Dave Wintle Information on Intel and the Digital home experience can be found online [www.intel.com/personal/do\\_more/digital\\_home/](http://www.intel.com/personal/do_more/digital_home/)

**M**ark has added a number of new features to the OCIPUG Website, please go to [www.ocipug.org/](http://www.ocipug.org/) and check it out. One thing that is very interesting is the discussion forum. Here one can ask a question about an area they might be having difficulty and possibly get some help from another member. If it is utilized it could well become one of the most important features of our website. Also if you have a tip to share, that you feel would be relevant, feel free to post there as it is easy to do so.

I hope that this becomes one of the most utilized features of our website Another great addition is a link to the homepage for the NY Times Newsroom Homepage. This is the link that the reporters for the Times use and it is a great resource. There are many sites like this on our website, if you have not taken the time to see what's there, you are seriously out of the look when it comes to cyberspace!

It has been a pleasure for me to serve as president over the past year, I would like to thank all of the Directors, who have served with me, but most of all, I would like to thank every member of OCIPUG for your continued support over the past year. Here's to OCIPUG and its continued success in the future  
Until we meet again,  
Respectfully,  
Michael Moore

### Food For Thought

**Who was the first person to look at a cow and say,  
"I think I'll squeeze these dangly things here,  
and drink whatever comes out?"**

**Why do toasters always have a setting that burns the toast to  
a horrible crisp which no decent human being would eat?**

**Why is there a light in the fridge and not in the freezer?**

**If Jimmy cracks corn and no one cares,  
why is there a song about him?**

**Can a hearse carrying a corpse drive in the carpool lane?**

**If the professor on Gilligan's Island can make  
a radio out of a coconut,  
why can't he fix a hole in a boat?**

**Can blind people see their dreams? Do they dream??**

**Why are Trix only for kids?**

**If Wile E. Coyote had enough money to buy  
all that Acme crap, why didn't he just buy dinner?**

**Why is a person that handles your money called a 'Broker'?**

**If quizzes are quizzical, what are tests?**

## How to Clean the Hard Disk Cleanup Time

Sandy Berger



A hard disk is like a closet. You need to buy the biggest one you can afford because it will always fill up more quickly than you expect. Just like a closet, a hard disk can become a huge, tangled mess in no time. Your computer uses your hard disk like a scratch pad where it keeps vital information as it processes data. If your hard disk becomes too full, your computer will not have any room to work and will slow to a crawl. Prevent this slowdown by doing a little cleaning up and clearing out.

### Empty the Trash

The first and easiest thing that you can do to clean up your hard disk is to empty the Recycle Bin. If you are using a Mac, empty the Trash. The Recycle Bin is a temporary storage place for deleted files. You can often gain quite a bit of extra space simply by right clicking on it and choosing the Empty Recycle Bin option. Remember that once you empty the recycle bin, you will not be able to retrieve any of the files because they are now permanently deleted. In Windows 98/Me/XP you can also empty the Recycle Bin from the disk Cleanup utility that we will talk about next. It is, however, a good habit to occasionally empty the Recycle Bin even when you don't do a full disk cleanup.

### Windows 98/Me/XP Cleanup

If you are using Windows 98, Me or XP, the cleanup job is easy. Microsoft has included a disk cleanup utility that works quite well. Just click on the Start button, choose (All) Programs, then Accessories, then System Tools, then Disk Cleanup. You will be presented with a screen that shows you exactly which files are no longer needed and exactly how much room they are taking up on your hard disk. Click on what you want to delete, and Windows will remove those items when you click on OK.

### Removing Old Programs

The Windows 98/ Me/XP Disk Cleanup screen also has a tab labeled More Options. This will take you to the Add/Remove Programs screen where you will be able to remove unwanted programs. In Windows 95, you can use the Add/Remove Programs option in the Control Panel to do the same thing. If the program you want to delete is not listed on the Add/Remove Program screen, you will have to remove it manually. When you install a program, often files are scattered in many different areas. Therefore the best way to remove a program is to purchase an uninstall program such as those offered by Symantec and McAfee. When you purchase an uninstaller, make sure that you buy the version that is specifically written for your operating system. When uninstalling programs, it is always smart to first back up any important data on your hard disk. Also, remove one program at a time. Remove a program, make sure that everything is still working properly, then go back and delete the next program. No matter which operating system you use, you must

occasionally go through the documents that you have created, like letters, spreadsheets, pictures, etc., to weed out unnecessary files. Delete any file you will not need in the future. If you are hesitant about deleting a file, you can copy it to a CD or floppy disk, delete it from your hard disk, and keep the disk as an archival copy. If you are using Windows 98/Me/XP, your cleanup is now completed.

### Windows 95 Cleanup

If you do not have these newer operating systems and you are working on Windows 95, you will have to do a little more work. You can also clean up your "temp" files. Operating systems and programs use temporary files or "temp" files for storage during computing sessions. A well-written program will leave very few temporary files on your hard disk. However, not all programs are well written. Also, if you turn off your system without properly shutting down, temporary files are often left behind. Even if you carefully exit your operating system before you turn off the computer, there will be inevitable times when you have to reboot the computer because something goes wrong and other times when the computer shuts down because the power goes off. So even in normal use, unnecessary temp files accumulate on your hard disk. These files are usually found in a folder called Temp inside your Windows folder. You may also find another Temp folder on your main hard disk. You can delete any files with the extension (the three letters after the period) of tmp.

### Disk Compression

If your hard disk is still full, you might be tempted to consider compressing the disk. Compression programs work by removing redundant parts of the file and replacing them with smaller fillers or tokens that represent that data. This effectively packs the data into a smaller physical space. Compressing a hard disk can vastly increase your disk space. However, every time you access or save the file, the computer must compress or decompress it. This processor-intensive task can slow even a speedy computer. I do not recommend compression. I advise you to consider purchasing another hard disk instead. You can keep the hard disk that you have, add another one, and greatly increase your data capacity.

### Extra Storage

Those of you who use a scanner or work with graphics programs have probably realized that pictures, drawings, and scanned documents take up a lot of hard disk space. In fact, I recently talked to someone who had scanned an intricate photo into his computer using a high resolution. He quickly found that the file was so large that he could not save it to his hard disk. If you have a small hard disk and you use a lot of photos, you might want to invest in a writable CD-ROM to store your pictures. These work very well and allow you to easily increase your storage space. Many external versions are available that can be installed without having to open your computer. You can also hire someone to install an internal mechanism.

So whether you are lucky enough to have a newer version of Windows and are able to use a disk cleanup utility, or need to use the manual approach, keep your recycle bin empty and keep those temp files deleted. Remember, a clean computer is a happy computer!

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**MORE THAN 19 MILLION HOLIDAY TRAVELERS TAKE FLIGHT ONLINE, ACCORDING TO NIELSEN//NETRATINGS**

NEW YORK -May 28, 2004- Nielsen//NetRatings, the global standard for Internet audience measurement and analysis, reports that office workers flocked online to make Memorial Day travel plans, during the week ending May23. More than 19 million unique visitors, or 41 percent of active online office workers, visited an online travel site at work last week.

Hotel site Marriott jumped 76 percent to more than 1.2 million unique visitors, as compared to 698,000 visitors during the previous week. Hilton surged 56 percent to 718,000 visitors. Yahoo! Travel drew 1.1 million office workers, growing 50 percent. Travelocity spiked 49 percent, attracting three million visitors. AOL Travel rose 41 percent to 911,000 visitors.

Nearly 2.8 million visitors visited Orbitz.com, increasing 39 percent. TripAdvisor saw 798,000 unique visitors, rising 24 percent week-over-week. Rounding out the top ten fastest growing travel sites last week were American Airlines, MSN Maps & Directions, and Expedia.

"Office workers are taking time out of their workday to book holiday plans. For millions of Americans traveling during Memorial Day weekend, travel sites serve as their primary tool for vacation planning," said Ken Cassar, director of strategic analysis, Nielsen//NetRatings. "In addition to the convenience factor, many airlines offer promotions and discounts that can be found only online."

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**Sasser Creator Arrested**

**Sandy Berger**

The creator of the Sasser virus confessed to German authorities after being arrested late last week. Microsoft investigators led Germany police to the 18-year-old technical school student. Investigators suspect that this student is also responsible for the creation of the NetSky virus. In recent weeks, 28 variants of the NetSky virus have attacked computers around the world. The Sasser virus has infected millions of computers, shutting down several Finnish banks, causing flight delays for British Airways, and adversely affecting homes and businesses.

Last November Microsoft put \$5 million into a virus-author bounty program to encourage people to identify computer virus writers. It was that program that enticed some knowledgeable individuals to turn over the young virus creator. Microsoft investigators are considering paying the informants a reward of up to \$250,000. The same amount is still available for information leading to the arrest of the creators of the MyDoom virus, and several other recent viruses.

**Father of Interweb honoured**

Tim Berners-Lee gets first Millennium Technology Prize

**By Nick Farrell:  
Wednesday 16 June 2004, 08:01**

THE BRITISH inventor of the World Wide Web has received the first Millennium Technology Prize in recognition of his revolutionary contribution to humanity. Sir Tim Berners-Lee was given a £663,000 cash award presented by Finland's president, Tarja Halonen. The award is among the largest of its kind and was set up along the lines of the Nobel prizes.

His graphical point-and-click browser, "WorldWideWeb", was the first and it was him that fleshed out HTTP and HTML codes. According to the Scotsman the prize committee was impressed by Berners-Lee's decision to never patent his contributions to the internet.

Berners-Lee who has always avoided the spotlight, said that if he had done that there would be lots of little webs, not one big one.

**A Look Back at the History of OCIPUG**

OCIPUG's 2nd ever Newsletter



## Use Run commands for fast access to almost everything

by Linda Gonse,  
Editor, Orange County  
PC Users' Group, California

**D**id you know that the Run command is the Swiss Army knife of Windows' built-in apps? Using it can make your computing time move along more quickly and smoothly. Available since Windows 3.1, the Run command is often overlooked by users except as an option for installing programs, although techies use it frequently to access various system diagnostics and information.

But, the average computer user should take a closer look at Run for its versatility to start programs and utilities, to open files and folders, to open web sites (when connected to the Internet), and as an alternative to placing shortcuts on the desktop.

To use Run, left click on the Start button. Click on Run. If you hate to take your fingers off the keyboard to access Run, you can avoid using the mouse by pressing the Windows key on your keyboard and the letter "r". Commands are typed into the open box.

For example: In the open Run box, type msconfig to give you quick access to the Startup Configuration tab. Click on the StartUp tab, and check or uncheck boxes of programs you want to run on Startup. (You will be prompted to restart your computer. If you want your custom startup to take effect immediately, click OK.) Msconfig is one of the Run commands you will probably use often.



**F**ollowing are other Run commands for you to try out. (If you get hooked on Run, you can search Google for "run commands" to find others. There are lots of them! Many will include "switches," familiar to DOS users, that will allow some of the commands to be customized.)

calc (opens calculator utility)  
cdplayer (opens cd player)  
charmap (opens character map utility)  
clipbrd (opens clipboard utility)  
command (opens DOS window at command line)  
defrag (opens defrag utility)  
drvspace (opens drive space utility to compress drives, etc.)  
dxdiag (for DirectX, sound, input devices-joysticks, etc. info)  
freecell (opens freecell game)  
mplayer2 (opens Windows Media Player 6.4)  
msconfig (accesses programs that run on startup)  
mshearts (opens hearts game)  
msinfo32 (accesses system resources info)  
notepad (opens program)  
regedit (accesses command to edit the registry)  
rsrctr (loads resource meter utility in system tray)  
scandisk (accesses scan disk utility)  
scanregw (registry scan)

sndrec32 (opens sound recorder)  
sndvol32 (opens sound volume utility)  
sol (opens a solitaire game)  
sysedit (accesses the System Configuration Utility)  
sysmon (opens system monitor utility)  
win.ini (accesses file that loads some Windows components)  
winipcfg (displays Internet connection/adaptor info)  
winver (displays the Windows version installed on the computer)  
wmplayer (opens Windows Media Player)  
wordpad (opens program)  
wupdmgr (connects to Windows update)

Using the Run box can also give you a jump start on addressing your email messages. Go to Run and type in mailto:<desired email address> and press OK. (Example--mailto:editor@ocropug.org.) Your e-mail application will open to display a blank new message that already has the email address you typed in the 'To:' field! You can even check websites by typing in a web address in Run. (Ex-ample-http://www.ocipug.org.) When connected to the Internet, you will be whisked to wherever you want to go.

**A**mong the switches you can type in the Run box to customize tasks are attrib, move, and xcopy. DOS command and switches, and instructions on how to use them in conjunction with Windows Run, are at [http://www.Techiwarehouse.com/DOS/XP\\_DOS\\_Tutorial.html](http://www.Techiwarehouse.com/DOS/XP_DOS_Tutorial.html), and <http://www.computerhope.com/msdos.htm#02>

As you type commands in the Run box, a list of your Most Recently Used (MRU) commands--a history of the commands you've used--accumulate. The growing list can come in handy, because you can just click on any command to activate it without retyping it.

On the other hand, you may not want to wade through a long list, or you may not want others to have access to the visible commands. In these cases, you need to clear the MRU commands. Here are two ways you can do that.

1. Right click the start button and go to properties. Click on the radio button next to Start Menu and click on the Customize... button. Then, click on the Advanced tab. Locate the Run box and check the box on the left. Then, click on clear history.
2. You can navigate to HKEY\_CURRENT\_USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\RunMRU. This is where you will find all the commands in the Run history. Delete the ones you don't want. But, backup the registry first!

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.

## What Do I Need in My New Computer?

by

**Brian K. Lewis, Ph.D.\***

**Member of the Sarasota Personal Computer Users Group, Inc.**



It's a very common question. Should I upgrade my current system, should I buy a new desktop system or should I buy a portable computer? The first part of the question is relatively easy to answer if your current system is running anything other than Window XP or Windows 2000. Get a new computer! Upgrading an older system to run XP is very likely to be much more expensive than buying a new system. This is simply because of the major changes that have occurred in hardware configurations. For example, you now have serial ATA hard drives, DDR RAM memory, USB 2.0 ports, DVD writers and more. Trying to configure an older system with this and a new, faster central processor can be a very expensive proposition as you have to start with a new motherboard. That means new RAM, new CPU, new hard drives, possibly a new case. So you might as well get a new computer with a complete warranty. So now you want that new computer, right? How do you decide among all the possible options? Basically, you need to list the things you want to use the computer to do now and in the foreseeable future. You also need to consider whether or not you need a computer that you can easily transfer from one location to another. That gets us into the argument between a desktop system and a portable or laptop system.

If you travel between two or more locations throughout the year, you might want to seriously consider a laptop as your main computer. A few years ago, that might not have been true. But in today's marketplace you can find laptops with all the power and accessories of a desktop system. Now such a system won't weigh in at 2-4 pounds. It is much more likely to be 7-8 pounds by the time you include system CD's, external mouse and other accessories. However, compare that to moving a desktop system with tower, CRT or LCD monitor, keyboard, mouse, etc. That can run 50-75 pounds. And the desktop system has to be packed carefully, as it is not designed to withstand the shocks that can occur during a move. Laptops are built with mobility in mind.

There is another consideration, ease of repair. A desktop system can be repaired by almost any computer facility or computer savvy individual. Laptops are much harder to repair. If you have ever opened up a laptop and tried to identify components you have some idea of what I am talking about. Another problem is that parts are frequently available only through an authorized dealer or service center. So if you consider purchasing a laptop, and expect to do some traveling, you need to have some idea as to the availability of service centers. Laptop computers are quite prone to theft. If you travel you need to be certain that you have a means of securing your computer. Laptops are frequently stolen out of locked cars in situations where they were visible from the outside. Now with all that said, what's the next step? What are you going to use this computer for? If your primary use is e-mail and maybe some word processing, then just about any low-priced computer will fill the bill. If you plan on using a digital camera, video cam, and photo manipulation, music, and/or graphics software then you definitely want a fast processor, lots of RAM, fast hard drives, USB ports and possibly a FireWire port. Since it is not possible for me to determine all the possible uses someone might have for their computer, let's just take a look at some of the hardware possibilities.

First of all, let's consider the central processor (CPU). For personal computers you have the Intel family of processors or the AMD family. Within the Intel family you have the Celeron, the Pentium M for portables and the Pentium IV. Even for a laptop you should be looking for a processor in the 2.5 - 3.0 GHz range. Most of the lower priced systems are using 1.0 - 1.6 GHz Celeron processors. I certainly would not consider anything in this range unless price was the overriding consideration. Next, I would combine this CPU with 512 MB of DDR RAM. You can find new systems with 256 to over 1GB of RAM in both laptop and desktop configurations. I really don't recommend less for any system running Windows XP. If you normally have multiple programs running at the same time, then you might want to consider more RAM than 512 MB, but it is a good starting point.

The next consideration is the video screen. Laptop screens can be a real problem under some lighting conditions. You need to consider the contrast ratio as well as the size of the screen. The same applies if you are thinking about an LCD monitor for a desktop. Laptop screens range from 12" to 17". Desktop LCD's or CRT's range from 15" to 21", more if you are willing to pay the price. Just remember that a 17" CRT has an actual size of less than 16" inches, measured diagonally. A 17" LCD usually measures 17" and that really increases the total area of the screen (289 sq. in. vs. 252). Of course, the larger the screen on the laptop, the more room it takes and the greater the weight. If you select a 15" screen on a laptop you have a good compromise in size and weight. It also compares favorably with a 17" CRT. Now that you have your screen selected you need to consider the video card which controls the output to the screen. This is probably the most important component of your video system. Many systems today are being sold with "integrated" video cards that share memory with the main RAM.

**Cont. on Next Page**

## My New Computer Cont.

That's fine if you have little or no need for high-speed graphics. Otherwise, you want to look for a system that has dedicated video RAM of 32-64 MB. On a desktop, a separate video card can be easily replaced if needed, not so for the integrated video. It is built into the motherboard. If you do have integrated video, be certain it can be disabled if it fails so you can install a separate card as a replacement.

One last major component: the hard drive. Most of the laptops I see advertised have drives with 30 or 40 GB drives. Depending on how you use your system you may want to look for drives in the 60 - 80 GB range. On a desktop you can get drives that are more than 100 GB in size and I would suggest looking for Serial ATA drives if you need a big fast hard drive. Just always keep in mind that you also need some system for backing up the hard drive. You can use a combination of an external hard drive and a DVD burner to backup the important files. All of my downloaded software and software upgrades are burned to a DVD-RW as are data files. Then, if I have to use the system restore CD, I have everything else available to restore after the system is running again. On a desktop, you can always use a second hard drive for backup purposes.

There are a number of auxiliary items that you might or might not need. Laptops and desktops are configured with two to four USB 2.0 ports. Some laptops also have an IEEE 1394 (FireWire) port, PC card slots, Ethernet port, SD card slot, and built-in Wi-Fi. You should also consider whether you have a need for a 56K modem, parallel port and a floppy drive. Many laptops are eliminating the floppy drive to save weight. And, you should consider a DVD/CD combination burner.

There are other components you can put on your hardware list. For example, a sound system, a definite requirement if you listen to music on your computer. The speakers on laptops certainly don't deliver high fidelity. However, some laptops do have special sound output for external speakers or headphones that do deliver high fidelity. Another consideration is the mouse. You have choices of optical or wireless mice or just the built-in touch pad or pointer found in laptops. Even with a laptop you should consider a good external mouse. The optical variety wired or wireless, are a great improvement over the older mouse with the rolling ball. Now, I can hear some of the comments. Any laptop with all those bells and whistles obviously has to cost multi-bucks. Well, I grant you a system like this isn't cheap, but you can find them priced in the \$1500-\$1600 range. That places it close to the price of a desktop with similar equipment. Yes, you do pay more for portability, but if you check out the available systems, it's not a lot more.

With this as the basic information, I hope you can design a system that you will be happy with when the time comes to replace that "old clunker". Just one last comment. If you don't opt for a preinstalled Linux operating system on your new computer, select Windows XP professional. It networks more easily. With cable or DSL connections, you will have fewer complications in connecting to the Internet. Overall, I certainly prefer it to the Home edition :

\*Dr. Lewis is a former university & medical school professor. He has been working with personal computers for more than thirty years. He can be reached via e-mail at [atbwsail@yahoo.com](mailto:atbwsail@yahoo.com).

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## Anniversary of Computer Virus No Cause for Celebration Beverly Rosenbaum, Member, HAL-PC (Houston Area League of PC Users), Texas

Over several decades, viruses and worms have grown from academic exercises to online threats, wreaking havoc on millions of computers worldwide. Not everyone agrees on their exact origin, but they date back at least 20 and maybe even 30 years. The idea of using the term "virus" to describe unwanted computer code was first published in 1970, and some accounts detail the spread of the first virus in 1975 as simply the distribution of a game on UNIVACs (Universal Automatic Calculators). The virus Elk Cloner that infected Apple IIs followed in 1982. In 1984 a professor at the University of New Haven wrote a research paper describing possible threats from self-propagating viruses and explored potential defenses against them. He wanted to further investigate antivirus countermeasures, but the National Science Foundation denied his request for funding.

The term "worm" was first used in a 1982 paper by researchers at the Xerox Palo Alto Research Center to describe the automated program they used to update an Ethernet performance-measuring application. However, a bug in the program eventually crashed all 100 of the experiment's computers. The paper cited a 1972 science fiction novel describing a "tapeworm" program spreading around the global networks as the inspiration for the term.

Many virus historians believe that two Pakistani brothers created the first IBM personal computer virus in 1986 as a way to advertise their company, Brain Computer Services. They programmed the Brain virus to overwrite the boot instructions found at the start of system disks, displaying the message "Beware of this VIRUS.... Contact us for vaccination..."

That was only the beginning of viruses that infected floppy disks, hard disks and files. Although viruses and worms took more than a decade to emerge in significant numbers, they soared in subsequent years. By the end of 1990, about 200 viruses had been identified. Today, that number has jumped to more than 70,000.

**Cont. on Next Page**

## Computer Virus Cont. From P. 13

Even if viruses aren't designed to be intentionally malicious or dangerous, there can be unexpected results if they get outside a controlled environment. The exponential doubling of viral code greatly magnifies minor errors and becomes the difference between a harmless prank and a devastating attack. The ability to propagate across the Internet has allowed this kind of malware to spread very quickly. Although many programs quickly fizzled out, others have far outgrown the intentions of their authors, and small modifications of the original code produced new variants that continued the attacks.

Later, worms evolved into two categories. Some camouflage themselves as interesting e-mail attachments, which execute when opened, infecting systems and mailing themselves to every name listed in the computer's address book. Other worms need no human interaction, infecting computers that have certain security flaws and then using the new host to scan for more computers with the same flaw. These worms are modeled after the Cornell Internet Worm, which overloaded an estimated 3,000 to 4,000 servers, or about 5 percent of those connected to the early Internet, in November 1988.

The growth in popularity of computers and Internet use along with the vulnerability of the Windows platform and other Microsoft programs have allowed the rapid spread of viruses and worms. In 1995 Microsoft accidentally shipped the first macro virus that could infect Word documents. The Concept macro virus rewrote the rules for viruses and they began spreading via e-mail and the Internet. In the early days of viruses it would take months for a virus to spread into the wild. The first successful mass-mailing computer virus was Melissa, a macro virus that started spreading in March 1999, and contained a lot of code from previous viruses.

Today, a virus can spread around the world in a matter of minutes, and virus writers quickly pass techniques for creating the latest worms by posting their toolkits in the virus-exchange underground. Many worms are written in one of several scripting languages, which can be read by even semi-knowledgeable virus writers and changed to release variants in only hours after a major virus epidemic. For example, virus writers latched onto LoveLetter, which struck in May 2000, and cranked out more than 40 variants.

Boot viruses began to diminish in 1997 as macro viruses flourished until 2000, when they too declined as worms began a steady rise. Soon the worms dominated the top ten variants of malicious code. Two months after the major Code Red worm attack of July 2001, Nimda hit the financial industry hard, giving Microsoft a security wake-up call and illustrating the dangers of self-reproducing threats that used multiple vectors of attack. Nimda infected computers through the same flaw Code Red used but also infected shared hard drives, spread itself through e-mail, and created Web pages that spread the worm. Even after Microsoft issued patches for the vulnerabilities, most people were apathetic and failed to download and apply the patches.

To stave off future attacks, companies and Internet providers began filtering e-mail attachments at their gateways, the connections to the Internet. Antivirus software companies try to beat worms at their own game by distributing new virus detection faster than the viruses can spread. However, if a new virus doesn't match any of the types contained in the filtering software's definitions, the scanner won't flag the attachment as malicious code.

The latest Mydoom virus was effective because it initially passed the scanning software. It posed as a harmless text file containing an e-mail message that claimed to be a failed mail transaction from a colleague or friend, offering the believable explanation that the original message had to be translated into a plain-text file for delivery. Even some savvy recipients were duped to open the attached file, which was really an executable

## APCUG plans Fall Conference in Las Vegas

by Ed Van Meter,  
Region 11 Advisor

Mark your calendars! The APCUG 2004 Fall Conference is scheduled for Friday, November 12 through Tuesday, November 16, at the Stardust Hotel & Conference Center, Las Vegas.

### New this year:

- ◆ Conference is open to all User Group members,
  - ◆ Round Tables start Friday afternoon,
  - ◆ Spouse program, and Repeating Round Table sessions.
- Information will soon be sent about Registration dates—don't miss the "early bird" pricing.

Don't Forget this Year's OC Fair  
For information go [www.ocfair.com](http://www.ocfair.com)



## DONA'S COMPUTER CAPERS

By Dona Z. Meilach

### GOOGLE BOGGLES; ACCURADIO OFFERS NEW SELECTIONS

**L**ike most everyone else, Google has been my search engine of choice. But until I read David Pogus's article in the NY times recently, I realized I had only been skimming the surface.

Pogus interviewed Google executives and requested their favorite Google tricks. Here are a few, plus some that I had discovered, and others I had gleaned from my associates. If you'd like to add to this list, send me an Email.

Pogus recommends adding the Google toolbar to your computer. This isn't necessary. The same features are on the Google home page and with a Google icon on your desk you can get right to what you need instantly from the words at the top of the address bar. An installed bar appears in my email screen, not in other software applications until I use the Google icon on my taskbar. Here are some of the features you may have overlooked (I did until I read Pogus' article) Froogle, for instance, is a shopping guide. It appears much as other shopping lists on various sites. The reason? Those sites license their search information from Google. The "More" option will give you gaggles of information. Try some of these under the "more" option:

**A**sk questions, avoid just putting in phrases. This is perfect for homework assignments. Where is Machu Picchu? How high is Mt Everest? You'll get more information than you ever thought possible. Google also provides a global White Pages and Yellow pages directory. Try it with your own address first. Type in: Phonebook:your name city, state. Don't put a space after the colon following phonebook. Use it to try other's names and it's the fastest look-up site I've seen yet. Quick map locations can be found by typing in an area code that brings up a MapQuest link, then a link to the to appropriate map.

Need to pick up someone at the airport? Type in an airline and flight number. It will take you to the Travelocity link, then directly to the map with the flight's progress and information. The news command and/or the newspaper icon on the Google task bar will bring up a page with the day's news. From the side listings, you can access additional information. You can elect to have information on a particular event show up on your email until the event is over. I had news daily on the Tennis matches without going to any site. Need information on a stock? Enter the stock's name for a link to current Apple or Microsoft stock prices, graphs, financial news, and more. Want to follow the progress of a FedEx or UPS package? Enter the shipping number and Google will offer a link to the tracking information. The Google calculator is excellent for quick

formulas. For example: enter numbers such as  $456-250+17=$  and your answer appears immediately as 223. Easier than looking for a calculator or opening Excel when you want a fast check book balance.

Need to convert measurements when cooking? Traveling? Figuring gas prices in different countries? Try 2 pints to liters. Google's units-of-measurement converter is handy. Type "teaspoons in a gallon," or "centimeters in a foot." Click Search for the answer. Use for liquid, and dry measures, distances, and money changing. I tried \$2.00 US to pesos and was rewarded with conversions, and images of bills for every country that uses pesos.

It's an image finder, too. I wondered what the area around Capadoccia, Turkey looked like. I typed in Capadoccia and was rewarded with images, plus a history of the area. Maybe it saved me a trip there?

Another time-saving feature is the ability to fill in forms. Click on Options on the Google toolbar, then select the "fill in form" tab. Next time you have to fill in a form, use this feature. There's another screen that lets you enter a credit card number, so you needn't fumble for it when you want to charge something on the Net. Not sure I would use this feature given the state of spyware on the NET. They claim it's absolutely safe and they will never give it out. It could be stolen despite Google's option to not use your name.

I had never paid attention to the "groups" title, but gee, there are a lot of people putting messages up for their families, friends, and anyone who will read what they have to report. Dig into the screens that appear under "Advanced Search" and you'll have no trouble finding almost anything you want. With a little analytical thinking and research curiosity you can spend hours, days, plumbing Google's rich stores of information.

### **ACCURADIO OFFERS CLASSICS NOW, TOO**

AccuClassical is a brand new Internet radio station from AccuRadio, featuring six varieties of beautifully performed classical music. Young vocal phenoms like Josh Groban and Charlotte Church, instrumentalists like Yo-Yo Ma and Bond, opera stars who've embraced a pop audience like Andrea Bocelli and Luciano Pavarotti, and even pop stars who've tried their hand at classical, like Elvis Costello and Paul McCartney. On the main channel, "Classical Crossover," you can hear popular, contemporary pieces, performed by well-known artists like the Three Tenors. If you enjoy beautiful singing, try "The Human Voice" sub-channel, which features all vocal pieces. Or if you're just looking for some relaxing background music for your home or office, there's the "Instrumental" sub-channel, with the world's best-known melodies and virtuoso performances.

AccuClassical is nice way to hear six varieties of classical music Visit AccuClassical at [www.AccuClassical.com](http://www.AccuClassical.com) — or just click on the "Classical Crossover" link on the AccuRadio home page. In addition to the classical music, AccuRadio, has more than a dozen channels of other great music, including "A Flock of Eighties," "Motel California," and "Twang." To listen to a

## Dona Cont. from previous page

selection, you click on the album cover. You may have to download Windows Media Player, which is free. So far the site requires a PC, Internet Explorer and Windows Media player. There's an option for using your current installation of Media Player; there's another to download a new version. A Macintosh version is coming later. If you like any selection, you can purchase the CD via a link to Amazon.com.

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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>. Put her name in the search box. Other computer organizations interested in running this column should contact the author. The column is also available as a free E-zine. Subscribe DCC: Contact [Dmeilach@msn.com](mailto:Dmeilach@msn.com). Dona's Computer Capers may also be found at <http://www.smalladdictions.com/Skateboard>.



## SeniorNet Learning Center of Costa Mesa, Ca A COMPUTER LEARNING CENTER

By  
**Mark Borison & Victor Olcott**  
OCIPUG

The next eight-week session of the computer classes sponsored by SeniorNet will begin on Monday 21 June 2004 at the Costa Mesa Senior Center. Designed for those 50 and older, these seven-student classes feature a student-to-instructor ratio of two-to-one. No one gets left behind. The following special 4-week class is suitable for those who can barely spell computer:  
New 4 week class:  
Computer Fundamentals.  
[Total cost: \$20.]

Eight other classes are available to seniors who have some familiarity with computers:

- ◆ Introduction to Computers (Using Windows XP),
- ◆ Print Shop,
- ◆ Digital Photography (Photo Shop Elements 2),
- ◆ Money Management (Quicken),
- ◆ Word Processing (Microsoft Word 2002),
- ◆ E-mail,
- ◆ Internet,
- ◆ Exploring Windows XP

The Costa Mesa Center has just installed 7 Of the latest, state-of-the-art, IBM computers made possible by a generous grant from IBM through a program whereby retired employees involved with eligible Non-Profit groups are supported in their projects by grants from the company.

This was complemented by the fact that we will be showing the Seniors how to use the Web Adaptability program developed by IBM in collaboration with SeniorNet. This is software for those with visual or motor limitations or if you just have difficulty seeing some web pages. If you are a SeniorNet member living in the United States and are interested in being able to use this technology, you can fill out a Online Signup Form and we will send you the information you need to download and use this software. For information about this program go to: <http://www.seniornet.org/ibm/>

The fee for the 8-week classes is \$65 for Costa Mesa Senior Center members and \$75 for nonmembers, plus a fee of \$40 for a yearly membership in SeniorNet which since 1986 has helped has educate millions of older adults about computers and the Internet to enrich their lives and enable them to share their wisdom. A membership enables Seniors to take classes and use facilities at hundreds of centers located in the US and internationally, such as Australia, New Zealand, Europe and Japan.

The fee includes use of the supervised computer lab from 3PM to 5 PM, Monday through Thursday where the lab aids help the Seniors with homework from the classes or with personal projects enhanced by the Scanners, Printers and CD Burners available in the lab. There is also a Broadband(High-Speed) cable internet connection for those who would like to access their email.

The Learning center recently celebrated their 5th anniversary and has had nearly 2000 Seniors partake in its classes during that time. For info go to:

<http://www.seniornet.org/usa/costamesa/> or

Sign up now at the:

**Costa Mesa Senior Center**

**695 W. 19th St**

**(19th Street and Pomona Avenue)**

**or call**

**(949) 645-2354.**

**INTERNET TALK**

by  
**Frank Chao**  
**Greater South Bay**  
**PC User Group**  
**(GSBUG)**  
**(June 2004)**

**W**elcome to the 70th "Internet Talk" article for "The Bug Bulletin", a publication of the Greater South Bay PC Users Group (GSBUG). Liz and I hope that you are enjoying your computer and making good use of the billions of dollars worth of information that you can access with it.

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT FOR GSBUG**

Joyce Oliver, the membership director of GSBUG, reports that as of the end of May, our membership count is 154, down one from last month. If you have received a renewal notice, please mail in your payment or give it to Joyce at any general meeting. She is also available at many SIG meetings.

**ORANGE COAST IBM PC USERS GROUP**

**S**ince March, my "Internet Talk" articles have appeared in the "Readme.doc", the monthly newsletter of the Orange Coast IBM PC Users Group.

Their Web site is located at  
<http://www.ocipug.org>

In addition to general and SIG meetings, this energetic users group also interacts with the community through it's scholarship fund and as instructors for the Costa Mesa Senior Center's "SeniorNet Learning Center".

**TERRASERVER**

To get an aerial map of anywhere in the United States and many other parts of the world go to

<http://terraserver.microsoft.com/default.aspx>

This Microsoft-owned Web site is a repository of free aerial photographs. The United States photographs have been obtained from the U.S. Geological Survey.

**"FREEBAY" !!!**

People are now listing free stuff that they wish to give away on the Internet. You can now use the Internet to find "treasure" by seeing what "junk" other people want to give away to you. To start your search for free "junk", I mean "treasure", go to:  
<http://www.freecycle.org> and <http://www.craigslist.com>

Let me know what you find.

**BEFORE DOING  
SOFTWARE-BASED MAINTENANCE**

**K**ostek Haussman and other GSBUG members have indicated to me that when running "Error checking", "Disk Defragmenter", or "Disk Cleanup", their computers often hang up and these Windows utilities often fail to complete their tasks. Prior to performing any "soft" maintenance procedures on a Windows computer, you should perform the following "Shut Down Processes" procedure. The effects of this procedure are temporary and no permanent changes to your computer occur, so whatever you turn off with this procedure is started again by your Windows operating system after the next re-boot.

**"SHUT DOWN PROCESSES" PROCEDURE**

**STEP 0)** Close all windows that are open or minimized. When you are finished with this, 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 one of the "Alt" keys on your keyboard and leave it pressed down. (Unless you have three hands like the Hindu god, it is best to press on the right-most "Alt" key.)

**STEP 3)** Then press on the "Delete" key on the keyboard and leave it down.

**STEP 4)** Leave all three of the above-mentioned 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" and your anti-virus background scanner software is gone from the "Task list".

(Many versions of Windows do not show "Explorer" in the "Task list". In versions of Windows that show it, "Explorer" represents the Windows operating system and performing an "End task" on it will shut down your computer.) or, instead of Steps 1 through 9, you can run "EndItAll" or "EndItAll 2" to shut down as many "processes" as possible. It is a lot faster than going through the above Steps 1 through 9 repeatedly. See <http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,4149,1935,00.asp> for details.

**Cont. Next Page**

## FIXING A VIRUS-INFECTED COMPUTER

It is not hard for your computer to catch a virus or two or three. You forget to update your anti-virus software or you never install one to start with. (Save yourself a lot of aggravation by installing one of the free anti-virus software applications mentioned in the previous article.) All of a sudden, your digital day of reckoning arrives and your computer is really slow and locks up a lot. Pretty soon, one or more of your software applications fails to start up. If you have an anti-virus software application installed in your computer, your first indication of a computer virus is usually when your anti-virus software starts opening multiple warning boxes telling you about one or more viruses it has found inside of your computer.

**L**et's resolve this problem logically and start with small, non-invasive actions, followed by increasingly aggressive procedures:

If you have an anti-virus program such as AVG Free Edition, Avast!, McAfee Viruscan, or Norton Antivirus installed in your computer, start it up, and run a "scan" on your computer.

If your anti-virus program will not run, perform the "Shut Down Processes" procedure. After completing the above "Shut Down Processes" procedure, try to start your anti-virus software. If it starts successfully, use it to scan your computer for viruses. Tell it to expunge or quarantine any viruses that it finds.

However, if your anti-virus software still does not start, locate the "rescue diskette(s)" that you made when you installed your anti-virus software. Insert the lowest-numbered rescue diskette into the diskette drive of your computer. Then perform a re-boot on your computer. If your diskette drive is working and configured as a bootable device with more precedence than your hard drive, your lowest-numbered rescue diskette will boot up your computer and you can then use it to run a scan of your computer.

If your lowest-numbered rescue diskette fails to boot your computer and your computer boots from your hard drive instead, turn off your computer, bring it to a power off state. Then start it up and get into your CMOS configuration screens. Then change the "boot order" of your various drives to boot to a: (your floppy diskette drive) before it boots from your hard drive. Then try to boot up your computer with the lowest-numbered anti-virus rescue diskette.

If you do not have an anti-virus rescue diskette or if it fails to boot up your computer, you need to be more aggressive as follows:

[http://www.pandasoftware.com/activescan/comactivescan\\_principal.htm](http://www.pandasoftware.com/activescan/comactivescan_principal.htm)  
and run "Panda Activescan" which is a free Web-based anti-virus application.

Get it started and run it for as long as it takes. It sometimes runs for a day or two. You have to keep your computer connected to the Internet during the scan for viruses. "Panda Activescan" does a better job of removing viruses from infected computers than any other anti-virus software that I have ever used. It is just plain tough. It succeeds where their competitors fail.

If "Panda Activescan" removes one or more viruses from your computer, re-boot your computer and run it again.

If "Panda Activescan" fails to run or fails to find any viruses on your computer,  
Go to

<http://housecall.trendmicro.com/> and run "Housecall" which is a free Web-based virus scanning utility from Trend Micro. If "Housecall" removes one or more viruses from your computer, re-boot your computer and run it again.

Assuming that the above elongated procedure expunges one or more viruses from your computer, run Lavasoft's "Ad-Aware" and/or "Spybot" to remove adware and spyware from your computer, since these digital pests can format and fdisk your hard drive and re-load Windows and all software applications or see the last line in this article (just kidding!).

### 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](mailto: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 get some regular sleep instead !!**



Go to

## Planon DocuPen Scanner

By Terry Currier  
Winners



There are times that you wish you had a scanner but, of course, you didn't. The times you're away from home such as at school, the library or someone's office. Even if you happen to have your notebook with you, and by chance a scanner, where would you plug it in?

It is for these times that Planon developed the DocuPen Scanner. Small, and mobile? It is 8 inches long to fit standard paper and less than an inch wide. It only weighs 2.2 ounces, batteries and carrying case included. It is powered by four 1.55v silver oxide coin cell batteries. Planon includes ScanSoft's PaperPort 8.0 SE with Text-bridge OCR software. It's Twain-compliant, it attaches easily to your computer via USB. It will store up to 100 pages at 200 dpi before you have to download it.

Don't think you will be able to go out right away and start scanning everything you need. You can, but I guarantee you the first 20 won't be very good. It takes a bit of practice to get it right. I have done now about 30 scans and I don't get them all perfect. I notice I always get the top third perfect and then my hand will slide or go too slow. That was (and is) something I had to overcome. I thought going slow would make a better scan, but with practice, I found I did better with a quick slide.

To begin the scanning, you push down on the button in the center. You also must hold it down during the scan. You want to hold it upright-not an angle-and slide it down what you want to scan. The sliding activates the green scanning light. You know you are doing it correctly when the green light stays on. If you go too fast or slow, there are some LED lights on the left tip that will blink.

There really was much frustration at first since I did not get the right scan speed. It is not just the speed that can cause trouble. To scan, you press the center button once to scan at 100dpi (Dots Per Inch) or press it twice to scan at 200dpi. There were a few times that I thought I did a good job, and even looking at the scan in PaperPort it did not look bad. Yet, putting it through the Textbridge OCR so I could use it in a document was like throwing it away. I don't want to be unkind to Textbridge, since I know they have a good reputation, but here it just did terrible. I then realized it is not just Textbridge. It is the scan that is hard for it to read.

I then did a scan at 200 DPI which it could read and come much closer to the original. Still, it was not good enough. I could tell it was not good enough since I still had the original in front of me. So I tried something different which admittedly not everyone will be able to do. After downloading it from the pen, I exported it to a file (tif format). I then took it into my Caere OmniPage Pro 10 OCR software. Here is the difference: With Textbridge it just runs it through the OCR and presents it to you with "this is the best I could do." With OmniPage it reads the scan and presents a window to you asking if you can read where it is having a problem. That way I could see the scanned document (again at 200 DPI) and was able to figure out what to put in.

Scanning is only black and white for now. I think what is needed is for Planon to put on an on/off switch. Forcing the user to keep the button pressed makes it awkward to hold down and scan evenly. Actually I also think they should make it about one inch wider so that the scanner would be easier to hold steady. Put the scanning light between two sets of rollers to make sure it is steady and level. It would be a little bigger but still smaller than anything else. It is the difference in the ease of riding a bicycle as opposed to a unicycle. Who I thought would really love this would be a genealogist wanting to scan in some document he just came across and had to have.

**Cost: 199.95. You can get it at CompUSA or on line at <http://www.planon.com>**

**The DocuPen system requirements:**

**Windows 98/2000/ME/XP**

**CD ROM 32 MB RAM**

**Minimum 60 MB Hard Drive space**

**USB port**

### The Deals Guy

by

**Bob (The Cheapskate) Click**

**Greater Orlando Computer Users Group**



### \*Some Rebates Aren't So Bad

We've all heard horror stories about rebates and I seldom purchase anything with a rebate unless it's a good deal even without the rebate. I recently

## Deals Guy Cont.

purchased an 80-gig external Western Digital hard drive for \$110 that had two rebates, one for \$30 and another for \$20. After mailing them, I noticed I had mailed the wrong barcode. A month later I received a postcard telling me I had not included the UPC barcode and offering the opportunity to resubmit it, which I did for the \$30 rebate. Several days later, I received the same notice for the \$20 rebate, but misplaced that card. Since I had only seven days to resubmit it, I thought all was lost when I finally found it too late. I gave up on that rebate, but was filing another for a free telephone and was confused about something. I called the 800 number they provided for questions, and got my answer. Before she hung-up, she asked if she could be of any further help and I laughingly told her about the one I had misplaced and the time had expired. She said it was no problem and after giving her my information, she fixed it and got it back in the process. It was an OfficeMax rebate, which I have since received.

Since then, I called the OfficeMax rebate center about another one I hadn't received after almost a year. I was told the Seattle rebate center it was mailed to was closed, but he would fix it. I received the acknowledgement by e-mail the next day, and the check a week later. Fortunately, I have not lost any rebates so far.

## \*Ain't Technology Grand?

Trade shows often have magazine stands with interesting ones to read. At the Home Electronics Expo I found ElectronicHouse [ <http://www.electronichouse.com> ] which I enjoyed, and this item caught my eye. We have often looked in our bathroom vanity's mirror. What about one that may seem like it morphs? Royal Phillips Electronics has developed a new twist for the bathroom vanity called Mirror TV, and it might be looking back at you, sort of. It will turn into a TV screen that could be showing your favorite news broadcast or stock reports. How about that --- turned off, it's a mirror, or on, it's a TV! When offered, it will first appear in hotels, then to home users sometime in 2005. If the news is interesting though, how long might those BMs take? What about if your stock is dropping? Don't watch it too long or you may shut off the circulation to your legs. Can they be sued for that? Probably!

ElectronicHouse also had an article about putting your audio system on IP. Giving your speakers their own IP address properly can make amazing improvements to the sound. I was also looking through an issue of FlatPanel World that had interesting articles. It is a new publication by CE-Pro. One article offers explanations about various types of flat panel displays. I didn't see a Web site except for the parent magazine's [ <http://www.ce-pro.com> ] Author Robert Archer stresses that dealers should know the difference between LCD (Liquid Crystal Display) and LCOS (Liquid Crystal On Silicon) as well as plasma display technologies when giving their sales pitch. He explains them all including DLP (Digital Light Processing) and explains the importance of calibration on a thin screen, which can cost upward of \$300. He discusses some technologies of plasma displays. I saw several great articles about FPDs (Flat Panel Displays) and audio techniques.

## In Digital Connect Magazine's March issue

[ <http://www.digitalconnectmag.com> ], I read an article concerning the licensing of low voltage integrators (installers). I'll bet many of you didn't know that in some states, integrators who work with low voltage systems, such as remote controlled lighting, audio/video or telephone systems, must be licensed. Their license presently specifies 50 volts or less. One state is considering a bill requiring home installers performing electrical work at more than 50 volts to obtain high voltage licenses. CEDA (Consumer Electronic Design and Installation Assoc.) is lobbying the state to classify high-voltage projects as starting at 100 volts, a level that would not shut out integrators with a low voltage license from working with audio, video and home telephone systems. You might think that anybody could pull in some low voltage cables and hook them up according to the color code, but an experienced integrator for that type of wiring would know the importance of the proper wire and routing to eliminate interference and other problems. From my own experience installing auto audio, wire placement is extremely important. Not just anybody is capable of always installing a successful integrated digital system without experience.

With home wiring turning toward IT more and more, appliances and controls are also changing. For example, you are all familiar with your AC/heat thermostat, which originally had only the ability to turn the system on or off. Times are changing --- new controls are capable of talking to the appliances as well as controlling them. Other appliances will become the same way in the future. New technologies pretty much lets your home think for itself. I hope mine doesn't get mad at me for neglecting it!

## \*Last Minute Changes

Two vendors pulled out at the last minute because their material suppliers are raising prices at a dramatic rate and they want that to stabilize, so here are some things I have kept in reserve. Also, if you forgot to take advantage of the great Executive Software Deal, I think they will still honor it, but act soon [ <http://consumer.execsoft.com/home.asp> ]. Don't forget also the MailWasher deal from last month. [ <http://www.firetrust.com/products/pro/> ].

## \*A Nice Tool For Teaching About Computers

This item has limited interest at best for my readers, but since we have teachers in our user groups, I am including it. Some larger user groups also have hardware SIGs, some of which are structured and might be interested in this product, although it may be too costly for a SIG. While browsing through the "Association For Technical And Education Show" I saw many types of training stations and this one caught my eye. It is a "Personal Computer Training Station" with the motherboard, keyboard and some other components mounted on the top, easily accessible right before your eyes. Pull out a drawer and you will find the drives, which can be snapped out of their respective holders and quickly unplugged. It has a custom-built 350-watt UL power supply and supports AT/ATX/P4 motherboards. It also offers high-speed hard drive duplication capability.

## Deals Guy Cont.

### \*Accidentally Deleted Those Pictures?

Don't worry, if you were using your digital camera and, with a slip of the finger, you deleted something from your Smart Media or Compact Flash Card that you later want, here is the answer. Just go to [ [http://www.z-a-recovery.com/digital\\_image\\_recovery.htm](http://www.z-a-recovery.com/digital_image_recovery.htm) ] and download Zero Assumption Digital Image Recovery at no cost to you. Even though it says no image is there, if it used to be there, this program will recover it. Thank God for freebies, and for Bob Schuchman of San Diego PC UG who wrote about this one some time ago in their newsletter.

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](mailto:bobclick@mindspring.com) ]. Visit my Web site at [ <http://www.dealsguy.com> ] for interesting articles from user group newsletters. I also posted some interesting NEW Web site pages for your viewing. They contain new product announcements that I received over a period of time. More will be forthcoming.

## Viruses Worsen

Sandy Berger



Computer viruses have been rampant for years, but 2004 is proving to be a record-breaking year for viruses. In the first three months of this year, Symantec, a premiere Internet Security Company, listed sixteen viruses as Level 3 or Level 4, which translates to "Code Red" in their alert system. In all of 2003, only seventeen viruses reached that level of danger.

Many new viruses are created by the "teen-age", "hobbyist" group. That segment of virus-writers is still very active in the virus community. Recently, several such virus authors engaged in a viral war which pitted the Netsky creator against architects of the Bagle and MyDoom worms. Innocent computer users were, and still are, being caught in the crossfire as new versions of these viruses have been released at an escalating rate.

In March, ten variants of these viruses have appeared in just six days. There have already been more than sixty variants of these three viruses and new variations are being released almost daily. The so-called virus war erupted because the Netsky virus removed the MyDoom virus from infected computers, angering the Bagle and MyDoom authors. The programming code of the new viruses, contain messages from both sides blasting each other. The new variants are not just being used to exchange taunts. Each variant is being written to keep ahead of the anti-virus companies and as each one is tweaked it can become more dangerous to the computer user.

There is also another type of "more professional" virus-writer in today's world. Creating viruses has become a way to generate money by stealing data. Many of the current crop of viruses send information back to the virus creators. These viruses can collect and sell credit card numbers and other personal information. They can also take over your computer to send out spam without your knowledge.

Many of these viruses are extremely tricky. Last month, the Bagle.J virus spread quickly though many universities and corporations because it was personalized to look like it was from the computer user's e-mail administrator. Bagle.J tells the computer user that their e-mail account will be disabled unless they open the attachment and enter a numeric code. Of course, when the attachment is opened, the virus is unleashed. This and other realistic-looking e-mail is tricking many computer users.

Although many of these viruses are spread by e-mail attachments, some can infect a computer through operating system holes. These viruses can take hold of any unpatched computers without any action by the computer user. Please be sure that you use Windows Update to update your Windows operating system frequently.

Anti-virus manufacturers are struggling to keep up with the number of new variants. Although the anti-virus manufacturers do a very good job, the Bagle.J virus started entering my in-box hours before Norton and McAfee updated their anti-virus software to detect them. Since my operating system was up-to-date and I did not open the virus-laden e-mail attachments, my computer remained uninfected. However, it's a dangerous world out there. As always, don't open any attachments unless you are expecting them. Use "Windows Update" regularly, and update your anti-virus software often. If you use your computer daily, updating your anti-virus software daily is good insurance. Also be sure to keep a look out for new viruses. Let's be careful out there!!

## Mr. Modem's Desktop The Ins & Outs Of Drive Partitioning



Welcome to Mr. Modem's festive summer column, not to be confused with Mr. Modem's festive spring, fall, and winter columns. Each month, I'll present an eclectic assortment of digital tidbits and virtual snippets culled from the thousands of items that slither across my modem each month.

### Taming Unruly URLs

If your eyes glaze over and your fingers cramp up when you try to copy long, convoluted URLs into your browser's Address field, TinyURL (<http://www.tinyurl.com>) is just what your fatigued phalanges need.

This free service has a singular mission in life: To shorten URLs. To use Tiny (we're old friends), simply copy or paste in a long URL, and then click the handy "Make TinyURL" button. Presto Shrinko! The long address is assigned a much shorter, unique address that you can then use ad infinitum-which is Latin for "We don't care what you do with it."

Let's use this 115-character finger-twister as an example: <http://www.smartcomputing.com/forms/TrialAccessSignup.asp?guid=134AFC3E9C154147B16343274082EC2D&trialtype=newsstand>.

After running it through TinyURL, it becomes a more manageable <http://tinyurl.com/2b29u>, shortened by 91 characters.

I'll be using TinyURL throughout this month's column to shorten addresses that would otherwise compromise the aesthetic integrity of this presentation.

### Get Shorty!

People are always asking me for great keyboard shortcuts. Rather than dazzle them with my snappy "ALT-F" and "CTRL-A" repartee, I prefer to show them how to Google their way to keystroke nirvana. To find keyboard shortcuts for Microsoft Word, for example, in the Google (<http://www.google.com>) Search field, type keyboard+shortcut+word and click the Search button. For Outlook Express, type keyboard+shortcut+OE. Do the same for any other program.

### Tracking Mouse Mileage

Have you ever paused to appreciate just how hard your mouse works to keep up with you? That's OK, I haven't either. But now, using the free Mouse Odometer (<http://www.modometer.com>), you can document how far your mouse has traveled, how many keys you've pressed, and how many mouse

clicks you've used for every program. You can even determine how far your mouse has traveled relative to climbing the Statue of Liberty, hiking Mt. Everest, or mushing along all 1,151 miles of the Iditarod Trail.

### Favorite Site

Recently, a reader asked me what my all-time favorite Web site is. I can't narrow it down to one particular site, but on my list of Top Ten Web sites, right up there with "URLs Gone Wild," is the "Powers of Ten" site at <http://tinyurl.com/2d27u>. If you haven't had the pleasure, stop what you're doing-well, go ahead and finish this issue of Smart Computing first, and then visit this site. You'll start out in a galaxy far, far away and then move through space toward the Earth in successive orders of magnitude until you reach a leaf on a tree located in Florida. From there, you'll enter a microscopic world and explore cells, nuclei, atoms, and drill down to the subatomic world of electrons, protons, and futons.

### Fast Max

When you want to maximize a window or make it less than maximized, you probably try to click one of the little buttons in the upper right-hand corner of your screen, right? And if you're like the bifocaled Mr. Modem, you sometimes fumble and bumble trying to place your mouse pointer on the correct button. Next time, double-click the big title bar that appears across the top of each window. I can even find it without my glasses-assuming I can locate my mouse.

### It's Your Turn

Throughout the year, I spoon through the virtual gruel we've come to know and love as the Web in my lifelong quest for the most dreadful sites, the most moronic software, and the most ill-conceived ideas. With so much to choose from, I'm never disappointed. Later this year, I'll share some of my personal favorites-and I use the term loosely. If you know of a site, software, or service that heralds the beginning of the digital Apocalypse, send an email to [MrModem@smartcomputing.com](mailto:MrModem@smartcomputing.com) and share your find. If your recommendation is selected for publication, you'll receive an autographed Mr. Modem mouse pad. I'll even autograph it myself.

**Mr. Modem (Richard Sherman), is an author, syndicated columnist, radio host, and publisher. "Mr. Modem's Weekly Newsletter" provides personal responses to subscribers' computer and Internet questions, plus weekly computing tips, Web site recommendations, virus alerts, hoax warnings, and more. For additional information, visit <http://www.MrModem.com>.**



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Publication Guidelines

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**Publication Deadline**

Material for the **July** issue must be received on or before

**July 15th, 2004** by  
**mborison@yahoo.com**

**Publication Guidelines**

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

Send all submissions as follows:

1. Send via Internet e-mail to: editor Mark Borison  
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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- \* Subscription to OCIPUG's monthly newsletter, *Readme.Doc*, with up to-date information on meeting schedules as well as the newest software and hardware.
- \* Free monthly General Meetings with speakers from industry and academia describing advances in technology.
- \* Free Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings/seminars to exchange tips and tricks and to solve problems.
- \* Free technical support from knowledgeable fellow members via telephone and/or e-mail.
- \* Pleasure in helping your fellow member solve their problems.
- \* Camaraderie with those of similar interests.
- \* Discounts from vendors on software, hardware, and other items.

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**Costa Mesa Senior Center  
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Costa Mesa, Ca  
Southeast Corner of 19th and Pomona**

**Orange Coast IBM PC User Group**

**695 W. 19th St  
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