

Orange Coast IBM PC User Group

README.DOC

May 2004

Newsletter

Volume 20.5

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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**The May 22nd, 2004
General Meeting will Feature:**
**Author & Consumer Advocate
Carey Holzman**
**Will Tell us about his new Book &
Answer All or Most of our Questions**



&

OCIPUG's own Cheryl Wester
The Dynamic User Group Zealot
Will Give us a Look at:
Jasc Paint Shop Photo Album 4

Everything you need to enhance,
organize, and share your digital photos



Orange Coast IBM PC User Group
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Costa Mesa, California 92627

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



General Meetings are held from 9:00AM to Noon on:
 22 May 2004
 26 June 2004
 31 July 2004
 28 August 2004
 25 September 2004
 For details see inside pages of this issue, Web Page, or Information Line 714-535-0608

Meetings of the Executive Board will be held at 12:00PM on:
 22 May 2004
 26 June 2004
 31 July 2004
 28 August 2004
 25 September 2004
 All OCIPUG members are welcome

Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings are held monthly as follows:
 1st Tuesday 7:00 PM - Internet
 2nd Tuesday 7:00 PM - Hardware
 3rd Tuesday 7:00 PM - Windows
 4th Tuesday 7:00 PM - Digital Photo



The Healthy PC
 With Carey Holzman

Carey Holzman has been working on PCs professionally for more than 14 years, and as hobby (with a TRS-80 Model I and, later, Atari 400) for more than 20 years. Born in Detroit, Michigan, he currently lives in and has been a resident of Glendale, Arizona since 1980. He hosts his own weekly Internet-based computer talk show "Computer News And Views" which airs over C-Band Satellite radio as well (www.danapretzer.com). Carey considers himself to be a consumer advocate, warning people of industry cover ups, such as the recent leaking capacitor issues that have plagued most motherboard manufacturers in recent years, as well as warning of software scams, e-mail hoaxes and other related 'rip-offs'.

His new book, *The Healthy PC*, was released in early November of 2003 and has sold out of its first printing in the first 14 weeks. The book empowers users to take back control of their PCs from unscrupulous marketing companies and other Internet 'bad guys' using plain English and recipe-like steps that explicitly show the user exactly what to click and why each step of the way. At 230 pages, the book covers each topic with three different recipes: One for Windows 98, one for Windows Millennium and one for Windows XP. These are the three main consumer-based operating systems in use today and will be until Microsoft releases its successor to Windows XP, not due until 2006.

Carey's presentations are not what you might be used to. Carey likes to get the audience involved and, rather than read from a scripted Power Point presentation with the lights off, instead, he prefers to customize each presentation based on the interest of the group he is speaking with. As a result, you never know quite what to expect and two presentations are never the same.

May 22nd
General Meeting



Jasc Photo Album 4

With Cheryl Wester



Get your photos out of your camera and into your life with Jasc Paint Shop Photo Album. Now you can quickly and easily make the most of your digital photos. Get your photos from camera to computer in just two clicks. Then enhance, organize, and share those digital memories in a flash with Photo Album's fast and easy-to-use tools. It's all right here. Dash off a quick e-mail filled with your photos or create a fabulous Video CD slide show with music. Click once for Quick Fix color corrections or create a keepsake in sepia with a classy photo edge. Do a quick search of your collection or develop your own personalized keyword checklist system.

Here is a little info about Cheryl:

As a high school computer teacher I'm constantly helping my peers as well as my students. They know that if they need help I'm there for them. I do the same for my User Group and other User Groups as well. As a Pocket PC fanatic, I've also presented on the PPC to several groups and had the privilege of presenting at a regional meeting in San Diego this last August. PowerPoint and Outlook are my next scheduled presentations. I'm always eager and willing to help others learn more about computers.

Enthusiasm for computers has brought me a lot of fun and opportunities to grow and learn. I've even converted several people in my group from Palms to a PPC and the Windows CE operating system! Helping members of my group helps me grow as an individual. It feels good to see others learn and benefit from the little bit of knowledge I do have. Nothing feels better than seeing someone's eyes light up as they understand a new concept or find a long last relative on the Internet. Realizing that we are never too old to learn something new is an awesome feeling that I love to share.

SCHEDULES AND REPORTS OF EVENTS

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (SIG)

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

SIG MEETINGS

June 1st 2004

Internet / Web Publishing 1st Tuesday 7:00PM
Mark Borison webmaster@ocipug.org
Michael Moore president.bod@ocipug.org

June 8th 2004

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

June 15th 2004

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

June 22nd 2004

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



Support Our Sigs

Public Service Announcements

Join Class Action Against Dell Computer

A Class Action is forming against Dell Computer for its warranty practices and tech support. If you purchased your Dell computer or notebook in 2001 and 2002, we would be interested in talking to you.

Please call attorney
Randy Rothschild at 310/207-8530.

Randy Rothschild
 randy.rothschild@verizon.net

Westminster Senior Center Needs an Instructor

The Westminster Senior Center needs a volunteer to teach a basic computing class. Anyone interested in devoting a couple of hours on Monday mornings to help bridge the digital divide should contact me at webmaster@ocipug.org or mborison@yahoo.com. The computer center there is equipped with almost new computers and a very nice projection system. The center is located near the intersection of Beach and Westminster.

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Internet SIG

Recap of May 4th Internet Special Interest Group (SIG)

Michael R. Moore

The May 4 Internet SIG started at 7:10 pm, and was attended by nine 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, Mark also gave out a couple of handouts showing such things as keyboard shortcuts in windows. How to create bookmarks/favorites, and an easy, and inexpensive way to move your favorites to another computer using web based e-mail, And how to change your internet browsers homepage.

During the course of the evening, the following web sites were introduced and discussed to those in attendance.

- ◆ <http://www.vlaurie.com/> - contains a collection of computer education resources with emphasis on the Windows operating system and on safely using the Internet
- ◆ <http://www.kbb.com/> - find out how much your car is really worth, with the help of Kelly Blue Book
- ◆ <http://www.belarc.com/> - Creators of Belarc Advisor builds a detailed profile of your installed software and hardware and displays the results in your Web browser. All of your PC profile information is kept private on your PC and is not sent to any web server.
- ◆ <http://www.aida32.hu/> - touted as AIDA32 is the ultimate system information utility
- ◆ <http://www.pcdon.com/> homepage of Don Edrington, Local PC GURU, who has created a one-stop shop clearing house for a vast amount of Microsoft Windows (and Related) Information
- ◆ <https://gmail.google.com/> - update on google's upcoming e-mail service
- ◆ <http://www.microsoft.com/security/protect/> - Information from Microsoft, including steps you can take to improve your computer's security.

The meeting was then closed at 9:00 pm. The next Internet SIG will be on **Tuesday June 1, 2004** and will start at 7:00 pm in the upstairs meeting room. Hope to see you there. . .



Windows

Sites discussed at the April 2004 Windows Special Interest Group (SIG)

Reported By: Michael R Moore

The April 20, 2004 Window SIG started at 7:10pm, and was attended by 11 members and two guests, Including (SIG Leader, and primary) presenter Robert Strader.

The evening's discussion started with tips & advice relating to the installation of and the general use of smart media drives with Windows XP. On a new computer, what software/hardware should you consider purchasing with your computer?

- 1) Anti Virus Software (such as Macafee Antivirus, or Norton AntiVius)
- 2) Firewall {ether Hardware (such as a Router) or software (such as Zone Alarm from zonelabs.com)}

BlackViper.com details what Items are are/not needed when your computer boots. Using the (new and improved) Microsoft Help files to assist during systems diagnostics. Removing Spyware and adware programs on your computer Using Spy Bot Search & Destroy (<http://security.kolla.de/> or <http://www.safer-networking.org/>), Zone Alarm (<http://www.zonelabs.com/>), Adaware (www.lavasoftusa.com/) Union Asia Network Technology (<http://www.uant.netindex.html>) advocates of Internet Privacy and Security includes information and resources on removing adware and spyware from your computer Gibson Research Corporation, (<http://www.grc.com/>) homepage of former OCIPUG Member Steve Gibson, manufacturer of Shields up (internet based utility for checking your fireware, also includes information and solutions on keeping your computer safe while online. Belarc (<http://www.belarc.com/>) maker of Belarc Advisor. This program, builds a detailed profile of your installed software and hardware, including Microsoft Hotfixes, and displays the results in your Web browser. Alda 32 (<http://www.aida32.hu/>) A Hungarian company, which makes a program similar to Belarc useful in benchmarking your computer

The next Internet SIG will be on Tuesday May 18. 2004, and will start at 7:00 pm in the upstairs meeting room.

Hope to see you there. . .



OCIPUG Hardware SIG - Meeting Recap

Meeting Date: May 11, 2004

There were 10 attendees (including SIG Leader, Ed Leckliter) — some flimsy excuse about a Laker’s game.

Featured Topic(s): Your New System (2003 Update): Installing Your OS and Device Drivers; Functional Testing

Hardware Submissions - Eugenia Frerichs brought in her semi-finished “new system” on which she had already installed XP/Pro. She had been experiencing an error message when booting and Ed traced it to the floppy power cable being unplugged (probably occurred during the process of tying down the power and data cables). Once reconnected, the error went away. The OS appears correctly installed. Ed went back into the system BIOS and changed the boot drive to IDE-0 (Eugenia’s hard drive) - it had still been looking for a boot CD from the OS installation.

Random Access - several questions were responded to during the OS installation process (none recorded or recalled). None remained by the time we reached the “formal” random access segment.

Next Meeting: June 8, 2004

Next Meeting Featured Topic(s):
Upgrading the OCIPUG General Meeting Room Computer (pending Board approval of Ed’s contribution of the motherboard, CPU, and RAM from the just completed series).

Following Meeting: July 13, 2004

Following Meeting Featured Topic(s): TBD

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

Presentation slides in Microsoft PowerPoint format (.ppt).

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

General Meeting Notes

Reported By:

Michael Moore

(Filling in temporarily for Frank Mastroly)

The April 24, 2004 General Meeting was called to order at 9:05am by (yours truly) President Michael Moore.

This months meeting was attended by 22 Members, and 1 guest (Members attending included Karl Cook (Member# 1742)) who has come back to us after an 8 year absence. Welcome Back Karl! ! !. (Hopefully this is a sign of things to come, with former members coming back again to OCIPUG) and we will see him again before April, 2012.

Our very own Mark Borison gave us two excellent presentations. The first was on what e-Bay is, and how to use it., Mark showed us how the world’s biggest auction works, how to buy things, and how to sell things. He also highlighted some of the hidden features on e-bay (including the online multimedia tutorials). The website for e-bay is <http://www.ebay.com> . The audio tour can be accessed by going online to: (<http://pages.ebay.com/education/>)

Mark also highlighted information from the book e-Bay Hacks (Author: Karp David A ISBN: 0-596-00564-4 List Price: \$ 24.95) information on this book can be found online at <http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/ebayhks/> Also, another part of Mark’s presentation focused on a e-bay oriented website from a North Carolina Based Antiques Dealer, Drexel Antiques, who have created their own Tutorial on how to use e-bay. This can be found on the internet at <http://www.drexelantiques.com/ebayhelp.html>

The second presentation showed our new and ever improving internet website <http://www.ocipug.org/>, including links to various internet Reference Sites, Tutorials, and even some of our own OCIPUG members personal websites After Mark’s Presentation on the OCIPUG web site. We held our Monthly raffle, the results of which were:

Name	Prize(s) won
Robert Walker	Flip Album 4.0, SureThing CD Labeler
Ed Fitch	E-Bay hacks (book)
Mark Borison	Play Poker (Software)
Warren Frandsen	P. Cuzanne CD (Software)
Eujenia Fredrichs	50 Great Utilities CD (Software)
Warren Frandse	Office 97 (Book)
William Paradee	Windows 98 for Dummies (Book), Tamagotchi (CD)
Herb Huey	Airline Manager (CD)

After the conclusion of our drawing, the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm.

Our next meeting will be Saturday May 22nd, check our website (<http://www.ocipug.org/>) for current information as to our programs, and general club information.

(Please Note: This is a week earlier than we normally meet, because of the Memorial Day Holiday the following week.) Invite a friend look forward to seeing everyone there for 2 excellent presentations.

PRESIDENTS REPORT



**By:
Michael Moore**

Hello again. We are quickly approaching the summer season, which means a couple of things to OCIPUG.

1) The summer vacation season, which is where the attendance of our general meeting and our SIG meetings tends to fluxuate, which means that it is even more important for you to attend.

2) Our Annual elections where you will decide who will lead your organization into the future, and what path the club will take to preserve its longevity. While it has been my pleasure to preside over the organization over the past 10 months it is my hope that more members will decide to take a more active role in their club. Although please remember, that you don't have to be a member of the board of directors to make a difference in your club. The simple act of your attendance at both the SIG meetings, and the general meetings, and your continued assistance in both the setup and the subsequent tear down afterwards speak volumes.

3) The **Southwest Regional Users Group Conference** in San Diego, will be held 8/6 - 8/8. OCIPUG's attendance has been slowly increasing over the years, to the point where OCIPUG has one of the larger delegations at the event. I hope that this is a trend that will continue and if you have not attended this event in the past, it is a great event, where you will spend 2 1/2 days talking about computers, feasting and enjoying the company of User Group members from all over the Southwest Region.

Even though the conference does not start until August 6, 2004, I've found, that the sooner that you register for the conference and lodging, the more money you can save. Follow the link from our homepage for all of the details on the conference.

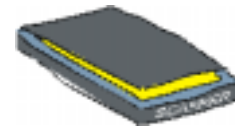
Even though everyone was not at the April General Meeting, we still did manage a respectable turnout, as I noted in the meeting minutes of the secretary's report. I feel that if we can continue to do this, it will make the job of our program director that much easier when it comes to approaching computer vendors and requesting products and presentations from them.

Also I hope that you have had the opportunity to check our OCIPUG's ever evolving internet website. As I know how hard, our webmaster Mark Borison has worked to make it more than just your ordinary website, Mark has succeeded in making our website into more of a web portal, and I hope that you (like me) are finding the site to be more and more useful every time you visit. Our website is just one way that we can help keep you informed between meetings. OCIPUG also has implemented new e-mail addresses for the officers. If there is anything that you ever need or have questions about, I hope that this will be another way for us to exchange thoughts and ideas between meetings. This month's General Meeting includes presentations By the Author of *The Healthy PC*, Carey Holzman, as well as OCIPUG's own Zealot, Cheryl Wester who will show us Jasc Photo Album 4!

I know that our Program Director Mark Borison appreciates your attendance and participation during our meetings which was so clearly displayed during last month's meeting. As you can tell, we have a lot of exciting things ahead of us, which with your continued support and enthusiasm will contribute to a successful entry into our 20th Anniversary..

Respectfully,
Michael Moore
OCIPUG President

Digital Photography and Scanning Sig



Recap Of April 2004 Scanning and Digital Photography Special Interest Group (SIG)

**Reported By:
Michael R Moore**

The April 27, 2004 Internet SIG started at 7:15 pm, and was attended by 13 members And 3 guests, Including SIG Leader, (and primary) presenter Dave Wintle.

Dave Wintle gave an extremely informative presentation on how digital cameras and lenses interact in the typical digital camera to produce pictures.

The next Scanning and Digital Photography SIG will be on Tuesday May 25, 2004, and will start at 7:00p in the upstairs meeting room.

Getting to Know Google

by Billy Mabray,
Oklahoma City PC Users Group



These days, whether you consciously choose it or not, your Web search engine is probably Google (<http://www.google.com>). That's because most search sites, whether they admit it or not, are powered by Google. And, why not? Google rose to the top of the search engines because its formula provided more relevant search results than any other. Also, its deceptively simple page makes it fast and easy to use.

I say deceptively simple because, underneath that friendly, colorful logo is a powerful search system that can accept queries as complex as you want to make them. Many people don't realize that if they do not find what they want on the first try, there are techniques they can use to improve their results. There are also ways to search Google that are more appropriate for certain specialty queries. And, Google is hiding a few extras that take it beyond a search engine into an amazing reference tool.

Let's start with an example. We're cooking dinner tonight, and we need a recipe for spaghetti sauce that does not use sugar. We might go to Google and type in this:

no sugar spaghetti sauce recipe

Google tells us we have about 56,000 results to wade through. A daunting task, considering the first page doesn't seem to contain anything relevant. The first thing we will try is grouping our search terms into phrases, using double-quotes. This tells Google that certain words should be searched for together. So, we try this:

"no sugar" "spaghetti sauce" recipe

That certainly narrowed things down, didn't it? This is a good technique to use when your search contains a lot of common words that could appear together in different contexts than what you are looking for. Unfortunately in this case, our first page of results is still not as relevant as we would like. The next thing we will try is searching for pages that do not contain a certain term:

-sugar "spaghetti sauce" recipe

This tells Google that we want pages that are about "spaghetti sauce" recipe, but specifically do not contain the term sugar. That seems to have done it—our first page of results is chock full of spaghetti sauce recipes that don't use sugar. "Subtracting" a term can also be useful when what you are

searching for has multiple meanings. For example, if you are researching the "Holy Grail," you might want to add "-Python" to your search to eliminate all the references to the movie Monty Python and the Holy Grail.

Now, maybe spaghetti sauce is too specific—we might want to also consider marinara sauce. In that case, we use Google's or syntax:

-sugar "(spaghetti / marinara) sauce" recipe

When there are multiple words that will satisfy our search, we can group them with parentheses and separate them with the "pipe" character—a vertical line that is most likely on the right-hand side of your keyboard. Google will then search for references to "spaghetti sauce" or "marinara sauce."

At this point, we've become so intrigued by what we can find with Google, we've completely forgotten about dinner. Now we are interested in just how many different chicken casserole recipes we can find. Here's one way:

"chicken * casserole" recipe

Notice the asterisk. This is called a wildcard. It tells Google that we don't care what word comes between chicken and casserole, but there should be something there. This can be particularly useful when you know most of a title of something, but are unsure of all the words. This particular search brings back all kinds of chicken casserole recipes. Something tells me we better just eat out tonight.

Besides its standard Web search, Google has many specialty searches that are triggered either by a keyword or simply by what you are searching for. For example:

site:microsoft.com "Internet Explorer" patches

This searches for references to "Internet Explorer" patches on microsoft.com only. If your favorite Web site does not offer a search function, this is a pretty good substitute.

Maybe we want to know which sites on the Web link to the OKC PC User's Group Web site:

link:okcpcug.org

We can also tell Google that what we are looking for is in an Adobe Acrobat PDF file:

filetype:pdf refrigerator manual

Google pays attention to what you are searching for, and offers helpful services based on what it thinks you want. For example, have you ever noticed Google shows your search words in the blue bar above your results? The search terms that are underlined link to a definition of that word at dictionary.com. If you spell a word wrong,

Cont. Next Page

Google Cont. From Previous Page

Google will prompt you with the correct spelling and ask if you would like to search for that instead.

Google has many tricks like this up its sleeves. Search for a phone number, and Google will do a reverse lookup on the number. Search for a name with a city and state and/or zip code, and Google will look up their phone number. Search for an address and you will get links to maps of that location. Include a zip code with your search terms, and Google will offer you local results—Web sites for locations near the zip code, ordered by distance. You can even type in a shipment tracking number, and Google will figure out who the shipping company is and give you a link to the tracking information.

Google offers some services that have nothing to do with searching. Try this:

$$68.12 + (68.12 * .2)$$

The Google calculator will return the result of this computation. Fun, although, admittedly, not particularly useful. The Google calculator can be useful though, for things like conversions:

$$68mm = ? inches$$

You can do all kinds of conversions using Google—a handy tool whenever you get around to making that spaghetti sauce.

Google is much more useful than most people realize—we've only scratched the surface of what Google can do. If you are interested in more, check out *Hacking Google* by Tara Calishain and Rael Dornfest. It includes many more search tips, and information for programmers who want to include Google search results in their applications. As you explore what Google can do, you will probably discover that Google feels like more than just a Web site.

In fact, Google is your friend.

Billy Mabray and his wife, Angela, own Smart Goat, a local software development and web design business. They are members of the OKCPCUG. Comments or questions on the article are welcome and can be addressed to: billy@smartgoat.com.

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.

Here's a Tip: PC User Groups Are Great By Steve Bass From the June 2002 issue of PC World Posted Wednesday, April 24, 2002

Imagine that you have a problem with your PC. (Not particularly difficult, I know.) Now visualize describing your dilemma to an auditorium packed with 300 bright, well-informed, and witty computer professionals and enthusiasts. In no time flat, your problem is solved. That's a computer user group, folks. These amazing resources were the center of the PC user community in the pre-Web era. They may be less prominent these days, but they're still alive, kicking, and worthwhile. You'll find user groups in most cities, and membership usually costs less than \$50 per year. To prove just how valuable these groups can be, I rustled up a sampling of PC tips from group members.

Instant System Properties: You needn't go through a series of cascading menus to open System Properties.

TIP If you have a Windows keyboard, simply hold down the Windows key and simultaneously press Pause (at top-right of the keyboard) to access information on your PC.
-Roger Griffin, The Users' Group Network,
Granada Hills, California

Jump the print queue: Sometimes you realize that you've just sent several documents to your print queue, but the one you sent last is the one you want printed first.

TIP Double-click the printer icon in your system tray and drag the last document to the top of the list of files in the queue. It will print immediately after the file currently being processed.
-Mean Drake, the Colony Computer User Group,
Murrieta, California

How old is that Web page? Have you ever wondered when the Web page you're visiting was last updated? Here's a neat Internet Explorer 6 trick for finding out.

TIP In IE 6's Address field, simply type javascript:alert (document.lastModified) and press Enter to see the most recent update's time and date in a pop-up window.
-Dennis Courtney, the Capitol PC Users Group,
Washington, D.C.

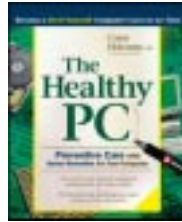
Old modems for new broadband: If you've switched to a cable-modem, DSL, or other broadband service, your old dial-up modem still has a good use.

TIP Leave your modem connected to the phone line and attached to the phone. When you want to call a phone number you see on a Web site or in your contact manager, have your modem dial the number with only a few mouse clicks. Windows' Phone Dialer applet makes this possible.

Cont. on P. 10

Book Review

The Healthy PC by Carey Holzman



Book review written by Bob Click Greater Orlando Computer Users Group.

This 230-page book will assist you in the preventive maintenance and tweaking of your home PC. It is intended for novices and seems to fill the bill pretty well. It covers Windows 98/ME/XP. The first thing I noticed is that he wants the reader to be on the same page, so to speak. He begins by having you easily alter certain settings on your computer (telling you step by step) so that any time he is giving instructions you will see the same screen that he is describing and the same examples that are shown in the book so there is no confusion. Good plan.

Next he describes cleaning up your hard drive. That means deleting temp files and some other unnecessary trash. He did it much different than I would have and I think I learned a better way, but would later read how to do it my usual way. Then he went into Scandisk and defragging along with an explanation for why to do it. Not only that but he has you bring up the Scandisk Report and helps you read it by pointing out the important information you may not even know you are looking for. Nice touch.

He quickly gets into your computer's performance issues and right to one of the greatest problems, spyware, along with a good explanation of it. All the warnings are there along with the "Read the EULA (End User Licensing Agreement)" warning when installing new software, as well as a warning about the messages you get enticing you to download some "great" software to prevent your computer from "sending out your personal information." He talks about the most popular spyware removers, then goes into antivirus products, even telling you how to acquire a free antivirus tool. So far I like this book for its thoroughness and its simplicity.

He spends some time on software bugs and updates (or patches), and the reasons for each. In that regard, he confines that discussion to Microsoft products.

From there Carey plunges into a great explanation of modems and their different specifications. He guides you through steps to possibly increase your modem speed and covers a lot of territory. Through it all, I never got lost once and understood it all. My brain can be pretty bad at times, but I did well here. He covers both dialup and broadband connections, even giving you places to go on the Internet to check your modem performance for either kind.

Chapter 4 covers Internet items. There is a great section on cookies (people often misunderstood them) with good explanations. Temporary Internet files are well covered as well as pop-

ups and how to cope with them. I thought that chapter was pretty thorough with its 26 pages.

He then talks about E-mail, spam and hoaxes. It even covers help for AOL users and filtering for some popular email sources such as Hotmail, NetZero and Yahoo. That chapter covers quite a bit about filters.

The firewall chapter gives a pretty good explanation of the concept as well as covering both software and hardware firewalls. 14 pages go into detail and cover Universal PnP as well as PnP and explaining the difference. I was unaware of the difference between the two. It gives step-by-step instructions to turn UPnP off in Windows ME and XP.

The next chapter contained "basic computer tips" and this is where I really started to pay attention. He explains DMA (Dynamic Memory Access) and goes into settings for it, advising you to make settings that are against the Windows warnings. That was interesting. He talks about downloading and using Tweak UI (an unsupported but helpful download from Microsoft) offering some guidelines to keep you out of trouble. A nice explanation of font limitations (how many are installed) follows and ways to control them. There is information describing swap files and steps for making adjustments.

Next he gets into computer resources and has a brief explanation. He also delves deeply into startup and the problems that too many items in the startup folder can cause. Along the way URLs are offered for a more complete explanation of each item discussed. He gives tables showing the suggested settings for many items you might see in your "msconfig" startup tab. Also covered is the use of the Add/Remove tool with a brief warning about items that could become installed on your computer via the Internet without your knowledge. He shows how to turn off "error reporting to Microsoft" and how to disable Windows XP's automatic restarting of your computer when it encounters a serious error. Also discussed in that chapter is when and why to convert your file system from FAT32 to NTFS, which he considers a more robust system.

Next he offers several items starting with a discussion about power management and related items. It goes into a short explanation of USB, and even discusses "flash drives" along with a short instruction about backing up your data.

Chapter 10 is about upgrading and compares old technology with new. It covers most components and peripherals, but does not go into detail about doing it. Remember that this book is for the novice and not meant for a more advanced person with additional experience.

Following that he touches on preventive maintenance such as blowing out dirt and debris from inside your computer with suggestions on the different ways your case might come apart. It's interesting that he pointed out looking for the possibility of leaking capacitors that might be on motherboards made during certain years. It has a nice section about updating drivers and how to check if a new one is needed, plus how to find it. He

Healthy PC Review Cont.

suggests places on the Web to get help with updating drivers if Chapter 12 talks about light trouble-shooting of your computer. It explains some special troubleshooting features included in the different versions of Windows and how to use them if something goes wrong. Since this book deals mostly in improving the performance of your PC, it is not written for any technical trouble-shooting that might get the novice PC user into trouble. Carey warns about downloading certain types of software from the Internet that is said to improve your PC's performance, and explains the possible consequences. A number of instructions are included in that chapter for the later versions of Windows.

In the appendix, he supplies places on the Web to get free technical support and offers you the URLs. He even recommends user groups as a place to go for help (I agree wholeheartedly) and I'm not surprised since he is a member of Phoenix PC User Group <www.phoenixpcug.org> and plans to retain that status indefinitely. I know it is not that simple unless you already belong to a user group and are known, but it certainly has great possibilities if you are sincere when you attend a meeting. I have seen many people who only come to a meeting trying to get free help, but do not intend to join the group.

I was disappointed to see that Carey merely explains what a network is, but does not say anything about setting one up, but then again, this book is intended for the novice and networks are a bit complicated, in my opinion. I still don't understand how to set one up after all these years. However, he does give you some URLs for where to get information, in that regard, including his own URL.

I was also disappointed when I came to his reference to explaining the difference between resources and memory. He mostly recommended some URLs for that purpose, but I do agree that it is a complicated and lengthy subject.

There were about four pages of the most popular questions and answers for problems in Windows 98/ME and two pages of the same for Windows XP. In my opinion, that would only scratch the surface, but where do you stop with the possible questions? There are also a few suggestions for a few very useful "free" programs that you can download. The book is easy to read and not that long. If he had included some of the items in it that I would have liked in addition, the book would probably be lengthy and might even get the reader into trouble, so he probably did it right.

The publisher is McGrawHill/Osborne and, again, the author is Carey Holzman. The retail price is \$16.99, which seems reasonable for this 230-page book with lots of information for the novice. It is doubtful this book would get you into any trouble and will, more than likely, help you learn some simple steps to keep your PC running faster and more reliably than ever before.

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.

PC User Groups Are Great Cont. From P. 8

To open Phone Dialer in Windows 9 x, Me, and 2000, click Start, Programs, Accessories, Communications, Phone Dialer. If it's not there, open Control Panel, double-click Add/Remove Programs, and choose the Windows Setup tab (Add/Remove Windows Components in Windows 2000). Select Communications, click

Details, and check Phone Dialer (you may need your Windows CD-ROM to install it). To place a shortcut to Phone Dialer on Internet Explorer's Links toolbar, first open IE. (If the Links toolbar isn't visible, click View, Toolbars and check Links.) Then select Start, Programs, Accessories, Communications, hold down Ctrl, and drag the Phone Dialer icon to the Links toolbar. Now when you want to dial a phone number listed on a Web site, copy the number, select the Phone Dialer shortcut on the Links toolbar, paste the number into Phone Dialer's "Number to dial" field, and then click Dial. Pick up your phone and click Hang up once the dialing is complete. No more misdials from clumsy fingers or faulty memory.

-Steve Shank, the Golden Gate Computer Society,
San Rafael, California

TIP It's good to be grouped: Two great resources for finding a user group in your vicinity are the Association of Personal Computer User Groups and Ash Nallawalla's list. And no, not all group members are pocket-protected propeller heads. Some members are IT executives and consultants, but many are ordinary folks who just want to get the most out of their PCs. Nearly all groups produce a newsletter, often with member listings (some with phone numbers) in case you need help. Groups frequently hold smaller meetings-called Special Interest Groups-that focus on specific topics. For example, the Pasadena IBM Users Group had Windows, Networking, Visual Basic, and Macromedia SIGs. By the way, that's the group I was president of, but don't let it keep you from joining.

Contributing Editor Steve Bass can be contacted at homeoffice@pcworld.com. He also pens a free, weekly Home Office newsletter. Here's the link to subscribe to his rantings: http://www.pcworld.com/resource/newsletters/index.asp?sub_source=PCWXH4
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Email Etiquette

In order to efficiently communicate on the Internet it is critical to understand the unwritten rules of email communication. Please use these tips as a guideline to online email communication.

- 1.) Unless you are using encryption, Internet E-mail is not secure.
- 2.) Do not use all capitals in email exchanges, it is considered SHOUTING and is considered rude.
- 3.) Keep in mind that the Internet is international, words and humor can be perceived differently by different cultures.
- 4.) When replying to messages be aware of "cc:" field. Recipients listed in the "cc:" field will receive a copy of the post. (The "bcc:" field sends messages blind, meaning recipients don't know that someone else has received a copy of the email or been carbon copied)
- 5.) Use emoticons :-) or <g> to indicate expression.
- 6.) When forwarding email be sure not to create a loop in the system. In addition, be sure not to setup auto-responders to reply to every email, or endless loops will be created.
- 7.) There can be costs associated with Internet connectivity and downloading emails. Do not send attachments that take a long time to download, without the recipients consent.
- 8.) Include in the "subject" line a heading that relates to the message body.
- 9.) Use 4-6 lines for your signature line, this is an opportunity to highlight your business or company information, but don't be ostentatious..

Mailing Lists & Newsgroup Etiquette

In order to participate in news groups, you must have an understanding of newsgroup etiquette.

- 1.) Be familiar with lists/newsgroups prior to posting, read posting.
- 2.) Keep in mind that newsgroups and mailing lists are frequently archived and that posts will be preserved.
- 3.) If you are replying to a message be sure to include the text of the original message which you are replying to. Use ">" indicators if your mail program does not do this for you.
- 4.) Don't get involved in flame wars (or material which is personal and unproductive).

- 5.) Keep in mind that the Internet is international, words and humor can be perceived differently by different cultures.
- 6.) Use 4-6 lines for your signature line, this is an opportunity to highlight your business or company information, but don't be ostentatious..
- 7.) When responding to a post, keep the subject line the same, so that it will appear in the same thread.
- 8.) Cross posting to multiple lists is often prohibited. Read posting guidelines.
- 9.) Expect delays in moderated forums, each posting must be approved.
- 10.) Anonymous posts are unaccepted in many newsgroups.
- 11.) Be aware that some people use aliases when posting to Usenet groups to avoid SPAM (unsolicited email). Also keep in mind that anything goes on unmoderated Usenet.
- 12.) Most lists don't allow for binary attachments.

Resources -

Library of Emoticons -

<http://www.instant-messaging-software.com/instant-messaging-emoticons.htm>

Library of Email Acronyms -

<http://www.email-software.org/email-acronyms.htm>

Email Client Software -

<http://www.messaging-software.net/e-mail-client-software.htm>

About the Author -Sharon Housley manages marketing for NotePage, Inc. <http://www.notepage.net> a company specializing in alphanumeric paging, SMS and wireless messaging software solutions. Other sites by Sharon can be found at <http://www.softwaremarketingresource.com> , and <http://www.small-business-software.net>

A Look Back at OCIPUG's Past The Newsletter Before it was named README.DOC

I recently found the 1st 4 issues of OCIPUG's newsletter while looking through some papers, I received from Director Red Davidson. The Newsletter at this point was fairly crude but it did express some of the tenets that OCIPUG adheres to even today.



In the editorial Tom Sutro the editor says the one of the 1st needs is a name for the newsletter and when suggestions are submitted the membership will vote on 5 that the advisory committee feel are the best. Also in the newsletter is a software Library report by Bonnie Ulanovsky, the software librarian that at the time there were 200+ programs available.

In Tom Sutro's Membership report it was stated that currently there were approximately 45 people who had attended at least one meeting and 17 had already paid their dues. The rest of the newsletter is made up of minutes from previous meetings (General & BOD) that I will be posting to the website so I will not go into here. The newsletter was made up of the Front Cover & 3 typewritten mimeographed pages. I will post the front cover and a short reprise of OCIPUG's 2nd newsletter next month.

Mark Borison

Secure Passwords

Keeping Your Passwords Secure

As the web has evolved, so have the methods of collecting personal information. A large number of websites require visitors to register to gain access or participate. While the need for registration is understandable, tracking user names and passwords can be burdensome. Consider using software to store your passwords, in a safe accessible manner.

Most websites have privacy policies, but the value of privacy statements are only as honorable as the people behind the websites. Here are suggestions for keeping passwords and your information secure:

- 1.) change your password frequently
- 2.) never share your password with anyone
- 3.) try to choose a password so it doesn't need to be written down, but not so obvious others would easily guess the password
- 4.) be sure your password is at least 6 characters
- 5.) don't use a password containing all the same characters
- 6.) don't send your password via email or provide it over the phone
- 7.) don't use pet, family or friend names
- 8.) don't use your telephone number, zip code or address
- 9.) use a different password for each account
- 10.) don't use user name
- 11.) deactivate accounts for terminated employees
- 12.) don't allow shared accounts
- 13.) password contains upper, lowercase letters, non-letter characters and numbers

Resources

Password Software - <http://www.password-software.com>

Passwords are not foolproof. Do not rely on a password alone to protect sensitive information. Monitor accounts closely to ensure that security is not breached.

About the Author -Sharon Housley manages marketing for NotePage, Inc. <http://www.notepage.net> a company specializing in alphanumeric paging, SMS and wireless messaging software solutions. Other sites by Sharon can be found at <http://www.softwaremarketingresource.com> , and <http://www.small-business-software.net>

TECH TV STAFF GIVEN THEIR 60 DAYS NOTICE

It looks as though TechTV may be nearing its final days. The Laporte Report... Uh. . . reported this week that the TechTV staff has been given 60 days notice and that the Channel as it is now known will be gone by July. G4 the parent company will move operations from San Francisco to L.A. Where it will do something that probably won't be TechTV. Sad to see them go, but the network hasn't really been very good for the past year and a half or more. A channel that used to be an authority in computers and technology has evolved into MTV for adolescent computer nerds. Just an opinion...

1.5 MILLION DOWNLOADS PROVE PC USERS HAVE LEARNED LESSON

As the Sasser (not sure if it deserves a capital S) worm spread across the Internet this week Windows users demonstrated that they are learning how to combat viruses and worms. Microsoft quickly placed a fix tool and patch on their website when they found out about the new worm. 1.5 million people downloaded the worm in the first five days of the viruses known existence.

WATCH OUT FOR SHOE HACKERS OF THE FUTURE

Smart phones are telephone/PDA combos - but what are smart shoes?

A smart shoe, according to Adidas, is a shoe containing micro processors, activity monitors, motors and pressure devices that will work together to adjust the fit of the shoe according to the wearers activities. The goal is to have a shoe that reduces stress and other problems with the wearers joints by making adjustments on the fly.

No word whether you will be able to get online updates for the new shoes or whether Adidas will offer free tech support for the new shoes. Rumor has it that Symantec may be working on a new loafer and walking shoe edition of its security software.

Customize Your Computer by Sandy Berger

Take a good look at your television. There are probably thousands of other televisions that look and act just like yours. Compare that to your computer and you will find that your computer is uniquely your own. Once you have used your computer for even a few days and have installed programs, set preferences, and created data, your computer is like no other in the world. It is as unique as a snowflake. Yet there is still some hidden human need to personalize a computer even more. I have never seen a television with stickers, stuffed animals, or beads hanging from it. Yet, I have seen computers filled with stickers, surrounded by teddy bears, and covered with photos of family and friends. I have even seen some painted bright colors and draped with alumni flags. Perhaps a computer is more like a refrigerator where you might see notes, magnets, and photographs. Certainly as the kitchen has always been a family-gathering center, the computer is now also becoming a center for every member of the family. Other than painting your computer or draping it with photos and other paraphernalia, there several other fun ways to customize the computer.

Windows XP

If you are lucky enough to have Windows XP installed on your computer, you can easily set up a different, customized look for each user in your home. Click on Start. Then choose Control Panel, then User Accounts. While in this area you can set up an account for each user, choose a password for them and even choose an icon to represent that user. I highly recommend that you set up a user account for any visiting friends or grandchildren that use your computer, as well. This will allow them to have fun with their own settings and will also keep them from messing with your programs, icons, and settings. You can also set up users with older operating systems like Windows 98 or Windows Me, but it is much easier and works much better with Windows XP.

Color Your Desktop

If you are sick of Microsoft blue, you can change your computer desktop to any color of the rainbow. You can also fill it with a pattern, an image, or a favorite photo. Just right-click on any blank part of the Windows desktop and choose Properties. Then look through the Appearance and Desktop tabs. You will find that you can use this area to customize just about everything about your computer desktop. You can use any picture as your desktop background, even one you find on the Internet. Just right-click on any picture and choose Set as (Desktop) Background.

Screen Savers & Themes

Screen Savers appear on your computer screen after a certain period of inactivity. They are colorful, sometimes animated graphics that are made just for fun. Right-click on any blank part of the Windows desktop and choose Properties, just as you did to color the desktop. This time however, you will want to focus on the Screen Saver tab. Here you can set the amount of time that will lapse before the screen saver turns on. You can also choose from all the screen savers that are installed on your computer. If you don't see anything you like, go to any search engine like Google or Yahoo and type in the words Screen Saver. You will be presented with a list of Web sites that offer every type of screen saver from tasteless to truly artistic. Mac users needn't be left out. There are plenty of sites for you. Some, like Mac Screen Savers are exclusively for Mac users.

If you are using Windows XP, while you are looking at the Screen Savers, you should also investigate the Themes tab. If you are using an older version of Windows, you won't see a theme tab, but various themes are available. A theme is a background plus a set of sounds, icons, screen savers, and other elements that will set everything up with a single click. Free themes can also be found on the Internet or purchased from Microsoft in a package called the Microsoft Plus!.

Customize Icons

Change any icon on your computer by right-clicking on the icon and choosing properties. Click on the Change Icon button and choose any icon you like. Windows comes with a set of standard icons, but you can find millions of others on the Internet, if you desire.

Move the Taskbar

There are a lot of things that you can change in your Windows settings. You can even move the Taskbar that normally resides on the bottom of the screen to the top or sides of the screen. Just place your cursor in any blank portion of the Taskbar and drag it to any other edge of the screen. If it doesn't move, you may need to unlock it first. Do this by right-clicking on any blank area of the Taskbar, then click Lock the Taskbar to clear the check mark.

There are many different ways to customize your computer. Once you start, it can be difficult to stop. But go ahead and have some fun. Start off with these simple customizations, and before long you may be ready to create your own icons, customize the sounds on your computer, and change your mouse and pointer settings, as well. What ever you do - go ahead - make it your own.

Sign up for Sandy's Newsletter at

<http://www.compukiss.com/>

Click on Newsletter at the top of the site in center.

She is also the host for AARP's Technology Section which is excellent,

you can find it at: <http://www.aarp.org/computers>

Software Review of: Photo Album 4

By

Mike Runnels

From the October, 2003 issue of
PC Alamode Magazine

Got a digital camera? Do you collect digital images from the Internet? Do your friends and family e-mail you pictures? Do you know where they all are?

for  Jasc Paint Shop Photo Album 4 (Photo Album, short) is a software package that's really a Swiss army knife of tools designed to help you manage all those digital images. You can create albums (hence, the product name), digitally clean them up, and even distribute them. Don't let the name fool you, though; it may be called "Photo Album 4", but there never was a "Photo Album 3". Jasc took some of the image manipulation tools from its award-winning Paint Shop Pro and merged it with another of their packages called Media Center 3; Photo Album has some of the good attributes of both packages, but it left some out, too.

System Requirements

Jasc give you some pretty low-end requirements for getting the system up and running. For instance, it mentions a PC with a Pentium processor, but it doesn't give a minimum speed, and it says it needs 64 MB of RAM and 24 MB of free hard disk space, along with a CD-ROM. It does mention, though, that it can run on any version of Microsoft Windows from 98SE all the way up to XP; hence, your true minimum system requirements are really based on the operating system you choose. The user manual also states that you need a video card and monitor capable of viewing 256 colors, but in my opinion, that's only to install the software. To make the maximum use of the application, go with a video card and monitor capable of supporting 24-bit color or better; that way, you can manipulate digital photographs as they would best be viewed and printed.

Given all the information in the previous paragraph, remember that working with digital photography is memory and hard disk intensive; maybe not as intensive as digital video, but intensive nonetheless. Short answer: fast processor, fast hard drive, more memory. Your digital photographs will thank you.

Hands-on

Installing Photo Album falls into the "piece of cake" category. If you've got Autorun enabled for your CD-ROM, pop the disk

in and you're off. I tend to keep everything spread across partitions and hard disks, so I didn't accept the defaults (which are to put everything on the C: drive) and installed the application to my graphics drive, but even that was easy. Like most applications these days, this one put the usual entries in my "All Programs" menu from the "Start" button (I'm using Windows XP) as well as one on my desktop and even offered to put one on my system tray.

I've used both Paint Shop Pro and Media Center for years, so I thought I knew what I was in for when I fired the program up. Well, you know what they say about assuming; Photo Album was both more and less than I was expecting. First off, it doesn't really create standalone albums like Media Center did, i.e., thumbnails, but instead bases the album off the contents of your directories on the hard drive. With Photo Album, if you delete the thumbnail, you delete the image, too. Also, if you create a new album from the contents of other directories, it copies the image to the directory of the new album; this can be pretty space intensive, especially if you tend to duplicate the contents of other albums to make new ones.

Creating a basic album is real easy, though. Launching the application defaults to a Windows Explorer-style tree structure; clicking on a folder immediately builds an album from the digital image contents of that directory. See Figure 1. Additionally, the album doesn't have to have digital photographs, but can be any file format it recognizes (GIF, TIFF, PNG, PSD, QIF, SGI, TGA, JPG, BMP, FPX, and PSP) as well as movies (MOV, AVI, DX, and FLC).

If you click on the Info tab on the left, you can get information on the album or on images in the album. See Figure 2. You can also add information about the album and/or images. For instance, you can add an album or image title and description that go beyond the benefit of a simple file name. There's also a Keyword tab and a Search tab; the latter takes great advantage of the Info and Keyword tabs, allowing you to make an image search as broad or as narrow as you wish. But let's look at the other side of the coin - the photo stuff.

Jasc put a lot of power in the tools for handling digital photographs. Double-clicking on an image opens it in its own window and presents the tool bar at the top. You can expand or contract the tabs on the left to give you more working space, plus you can zoom in or out to vary your work space. With the single image, you can do a lot of the same things you can with Paint Shop Pro (or most image manipulation programs), like rotating and cropping the images, red-eye reduction, etc.

Some of the tools, though, are targeted at the novice, but are powerful nonetheless. For example, the Quick Fix button. Selecting an image and then clicking Quick Fix automatically adjusts the contrast, brightness, and color balance. And "quick" is right, too; it doesn't give options, it just makes the adjustments.

Cont. on Next Page

PS Photo Album Cont. from Previous page

On the other hand, every time I used it, the end result was as good or better than my attempts at making the same changes. To top it off, if you find that every change made by Quick Fix to images from the same camera look right, you can do batch quick fixes. Just select the thumbnails you want to change (using Ctrl-click for individual images or Shift-click for contiguous images) from the Browse tab and then click on the Batch button on the toolbar and select Quick Fix. Voila! They've all been adjusted. If you want more control over the changes made to your image, click on the Adjust button and select either Adjust Wizard or Adjust.

There's even a Panorama tool. If you've ever really liked a wide view of the countryside but couldn't capture it with a single shot, this one's for you. Take several overlapping pictures with your digital camera, import them into an album (using the Camera button on the toolbar, natch), click on the Panorama button, arrange them in the order they should appear, and let the tool do the rest. The pictures are stitched together and the total panoramic image is cropped horizontally and vertically to remove any jagged edges and overlaps. You then save it under a new file name and you're done.

The output options are impressive, too. Printing could take an entire article by itself, but suffice it to say that you're not likely to waste paper when printing one image or an entire album. Contact sheets, wallet sizes, 5X7s, and combinations are all possible, plus many more. You can take multiple images and turn them into a Quick Time movie, or you can output one or more albums to a video CD which you can share with others.

Where to get it

The price for Photo Album appears pretty consistent everywhere I looked in town. CompUSA and Best Buy are your most likely candidates to have the product, and both offer it for about \$50. Surprisingly, you can get it directly from Jasc for less than the retail cost; \$42 will get you a full boxed package, while downloading it will only cost you \$38 (you'd better have broadband, though). Jasc's web site can be found at www.jasc.com. They're based in the States, so you can contact them directly at:

Jasc Software, Inc., 7905 Fuller Road, Eden Prairie, MN 55344. Phone: (952) 934-8888.

Information about buying or registering the product has a toll-free number you can call (800-622-2793), but tech support issues are on a regular long-distance line (952-930-9171). Everything has to be done, though, between 8am and 5pm Central Time.

Conclusion

Would I recommend the product? Yep. If you're going to be doing a lot of digital photography and have loads of images spread out across several different media (hard disks, CDs, floppies, etc.), and you don't need the horsepower of Paint

Shop Pro, this is for you. The quick tools and output options are excellent and the album function is a definite plus. Have fun with it!

Oh, and by the way; they even throw in two recordable CD-ROMs to get you started on sharing your images.

SENIOR CITIZENS

Senior citizens are constantly being criticized for every conceivable deficiency of the modern world, real or imaginary. We know we take responsibility for all we have done and do not blame others.

HOWEVER, upon reflection, we would like to point out that it was NOT the senior citizens who took:

The melody out of music,
The pride out of appearance,
The courtesy out of driving,
The romance out of love,
The commitment out of marriage,
The responsibility out of parenthood,
The togetherness out of the family,
The learning out of education,
The service out of patriotism,
The Golden Rule from rulers,
The nativity scene out of cities,
The civility out of behavior,
The refinement out of language,
The dedication out of employment,
The prudence out of spending,
The ambition out of achievement, or,
God out of government and school.

.....And we certainly are NOT the ones who eliminated patience and tolerance from personal relationships and interactions with others!!

.....And, we do understand the meaning of patriotism, and remember those who have fought and died for our country. Does anyone under the age of 50 know the lyrics to the Star Spangled Banner? or O Canada
Just look at the Seniors with tears in their eyes and pride in their hearts as they stand at attention, on veterans day and our great country's birthday .

YES, I'M A SENIOR CITIZEN!

I'm the life of the party..... even if it lasts until 8 p.m.
I'm very good at opening childproof caps... with a hammer.
I'm usually interested in going home before
I get to where I am going.
I'm awake many hours before my body allows me to get up.

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A Few Fundamentals For Emailing Photos

By Don Edrington

One of the first rules of sending photos as email attachments is to crop them whenever possible. The larger a photo is, the longer it takes to upload and download, not to mention taking up more disk space. Many snapshots feature one or two people surrounded by acres of blue sky and green grass, or by walls and furniture that do nothing to enhance the subject of the photo.

The easiest program I've found for cropping is Irfanview (free from <http://www.irfanview.com>). Use the left mouse button to draw a rectangle around the important part of a photo and click the toolbar scissors to CUT the selection. Then click the toolbar PASTE icon to replace the original picture with the cropped one. Finally, go to File > Save As and give the cropped picture a new name with a JPG extension.

Why JPG rather than one of the other 18 file formats listed? Well, JPG has become the accepted standard for compressing a snapshot's file size while maintaining its visual integrity. Beyond that, one can choose different size/quality ratios when saving JPGs — however, Irfanview's default "80%" setting works very well for most "family snapshots."

As for the other format extensions (BMP, TIF, etc.) they are best left to photo technicians.

Nonetheless, it's helpful to know a little about the GIF format. Although JPGs can contain millions of colors, GIFs are limited to 256 and are often used for creating drawings seen on Web sites. Furthermore, some GIFs can be animated and used as attention-getters on Web pages and in emails. (However, GIFs should not be confused with FLASH and other high-tech/high-resolution animation files.)

Getting back to making pictures smaller, you may want to reduce a large one to fit on a standard 8-1/2x11 page or into a particular pre-defined space. Go to Image > Resize/Resample and make your choices.

What About "ART" Files?

Although Irfanview works with most image formats, it does not recognize files with an ART extension. ART is a compression format peculiar to AOL and CompuServe, and is their default for downloading images from the Web.

AOL and CS users can defeat this default by going to Settings > Internet Options > AOL Browser, and choosing "Never Compress Graphics," whereupon their downloads will be in the same format as everyone else's.

Non-AOL/CS users who find themselves with an ART file can double-click it so it opens in their default browser.

Then they can use File > Save As to change its format to BMP. Finally, open the BMP with Irfanview (or any other image-editor) and use File > Save As to make it into a JPG.

Emailing Multiple Photos

When you attach multiple photos to an email, they are automatically compressed for faster uploading/downloading, and then decompressed on the receiving end to appear in their original form. However, different email clients have varying file-size limitations, which may explain why a particular batch of photos could not be transmitted. Spreading the photos over additional emails can fix this.

Copying a Picture from the Internet

To copy an image from the Internet, right-click it and choose Save Picture As, followed by giving it a name and choosing a location. An easier way is to simply drag it onto your Desktop. However, dragging doesn't work with an image that is a "hyperlink" (showing a pointing finger) — so use the right-click method.

DONA'S COMPUTER CAPERS

By Dona Z. Meilach

MORE ON IDENTITY THEFT and WI-FI SERVICE WITH YOUR FRIES AND COFFEE

Two new words bursting into the computer lexicon are "phishing" and "carding." They target a serious new e-mail scam being used by thieves and scammers to "fish" for users' financial information and password data with sophisticated lures.

In one common ploy, criminals pretend to be from legitimate businesses. They tell recipients that they need to confirm or validate their information to keep their accounts active, then direct them to look-alike Web sites luring consumers into submitting sensitive personal data. I've had them already from my Visa account and the US Postal Service.

Scams like these are having a serious impact on growing identity theft crimes. According to the Federal Trade Commission, reports of stolen identities rose 88 percent last year, growing from 86,000 in 2001 to 162,000 in 2003. "We recommend that consumers not reply or click on the link in the e-mail unless they are certain they are linking to a secure Web site," said Diana Don, Capital One's financial education director. "The FTC recommends you contact the company requesting the data by phone to verify that the request came from them and that they need this information." Capital One also suggests reviewing bank and credit card records on a regular basis and reporting suspicious activity to the police.

Cont. on Next Page

Computer Capers Cont. from Previous Page

Of utmost importance is that consumers act quickly to save themselves from fraudulent expenses charged on credit cards. Prompt action can also save the government valuable time in their efforts to curb online crime and catch “phishing” criminals. (NUE)

COMPUTER CONVENIENCE CROPPING UP EVERYWHERE

T-MOBILE SERVICE AT KINKO’S

Kinko’s, in partnership with T-Mobile, begins offering high-speed wireless Internet access in more than 1,000 U.S. Kinko’s locations. Subscribers to T-Mobile’s service can access the Internet, send documents for production, connect with their corporate networks or check e-mail — all wirelessly, from anywhere inside a Kinko’s store.

It’s easy to connect with the T-Mobile service. You will need three (3) items to get started.

1. A laptop or PDA with Wi-Fi 802.11b wireless capability—Your device may already have this capability built-in. If not, you can purchase a compatible card from any major electronics retailer or Web store. If you have a PDA, you can purchase a wireless card directly from your device manufacturer.

2. A subscription to the T-Mobile service—Visit www.t-mobile.com/ to sign-up for one of T-Mobile’s wide range of subscription plans.

3. A Web browser—Use any standard Internet-ready browser on any operating system. No additional software is required. You can locate Kinko’s services offering T-Mobile service, from www.kinkos.com and learn about T-Mobile at www.t-mobile.com.

MCDONALD’S OFFERING HOTSPOT

INTERNET SERVICE

rWherever you travel, it may be easier than ever to connect to the Internet. McDonald’s announced that it will provide HotSpot (wireless internet) service in its restaurants. It may not pose a serious threat to Internet cafes, as one must still have a laptop or PDA to use the wireless service. Chances are a large percentage of McDonald Patrons don’t run around with their equipment, or even have it. And those who do typically dash in for a fast food snack and probably have Internet access at their homes or offices.

McDonald’s is hoping to attract more Internet users and a clientele that might otherwise be snacking elsewhere. The problem may be that such users will occupy tables longer than the usual table patron turn around. With more than 13,000 locations, the fast-food chain could provide a significant boost

to the Wi-Fi market while it aims to increase foot traffic into its restaurants.

The success of the service will depend on the location and charging the right amount for the service. McDonald’s and its partners have tried a number of strategies for payments, such as offering free service for a limited time with a meal purchase. Pricing has differed in each of its locations. The company has been bullish on urban areas and has said it won’t offer the service in all its restaurants. Final pricing and locations are still being determined.

Wi-Fi providers have targeted a growing number of potential venues within which to establish access points, including hotels, airports, phone booths, and restaurants. Coffee vendor Starbucks and deli chain Schlotzsky’s have already launched commercial Wi-Fi services aimed at driving more foot traffic into their stores and keeping customers there longer, and they’ve reported some early signs of success. Barnes & Noble is planning to install HotSpot networks in about 650 bookstores by September.

McDonald’s could be the largest potential partner for a HotSpot operator in the United States because it has 13,000 locations and an All-American sort of audience,” said John Yunker, a business analyst with Pyramid Research. The chain is using an “at” sign (@) with an M in the middle as a logo to help HotSpot subscribers identify locations that offer the service.

CUSTOMERS WHO HAVE WI-FI CAN ADD MUSIC, TOO

Starbucks has the largest number of stores offering HotSpot service in the United States, in partnership with T-Mobile USA. The two companies have been working on the service since 2002. Starbucks won’t reveal how many people have used the service to date, or financial details. However, a company representative said the service has helped keep users in its stores longer, with the average session time lasting about 45 minutes.

“That more than likely leads to a second cup of coffee,” said Anne Saunders, vice president of marketing at Starbucks.

Schlotzsky’s also found that by offering free HotSpot service in select restaurants, it could encourage people to stay longer. According to a survey conducted by Schlotzsky’s, 6 percent of customers to restaurants with HotSpot service say the service is the primary reason they come. Those are the kinds of statistics that are raising interest at McDonald’s.

A side benefit for McDonald's could be improved store management, something Starbucks has experienced. Starbucks district managers have used the HotSpot service to log into the corporate network to order new supplies for each store and update sales data. "One manager said that (HotSpot service) was the single best thing they've been given to improve their productivity"

Starbucks is also offering a music service. Working with Hewlett-Packard, they will open a service so customers can make personalized CDs while they sip. Starbucks's first "Hear Music" store opened in Santa Monica, California in March 04 with plans to install music kiosks in 2500 stores over the next 2 years. The system will allow users to choose from more than 250,000 online songs and to burn CD's for \$6.95 for five songs with each additional tune costing \$.1.00 more.

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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. Dona's Computer Capers may also be found at <http://www.smalladdictions.com/Skateboard>.

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Senior Cont. from P.16

I'm smiling all the time because I can't hear a thing you're saying.
 I'm very good at telling stories;
 over and over and over and over...I'm aware that other people's grandchildren are not nearly as cute as mine.
 I'm so cared for ---
 long term care, eye care, private care, dental care.

I'm not really grouchy,
 I just don't like traffic, waiting, crowds, lawyers, loud music, unruly kids, Jenny Craig and Toyota commercials, barking dogs, politicians and a few other things I can't seem to remember right now. I'm sure everything I can't find is in a safe secure place, somewhere.
 I'm wrinkled, saggy, lumpy, and that's just my left leg.
 I'm having trouble remembering simple words like.....
 I'm beginning to realize that aging is not for wimps.
 I'm sure they are making adults much younger these days, and when did they let kids become policemen?

I'm wondering, if you're only as old as you feel, how could I be alive at 150?
 And, how can my kids be older than I feel sometimes?
 I'm a walking storeroom of facts..... I've just lost the key to the storeroom door.
 Yes, I'm a SENIOR CITIZEN and I think I am having the time of my life!

Now if I could only remember who sent this to me, I wouldn't send it back to them, but I would send it to many more!
 Now- Have I already sent this to you??????
 If so, I'll try not to do it again (for a while.)

Gateway Closes Stores



**By
 Sandy Berger**

Although many in the industry expected the computer-maker's move, most consumers were shocked by Gateway's announcement that it will close its 188 retail stores. Gateway plans to lay off 2,500 employees, over one-third of its current workforce. The closings were announced on April 1st and the stores were to be completely shuttered by April 9th. The speed of the closings left many consumers in the process of purchasing computers, repairing computers and/or taking classes in a lurch.

If your Gateway product is currently in process through a Gateway store, there is recourse. Go to the [Gateway Web site](#) and click on the "Find A Store" link at the top of the home page. You will see a section with the header "Find out how the Gateway Store closure announcement affects you" with two links below it. If you click on the "Consumer" link it will take you to a Frequently Asked Questions section with all of the appropriate contact information for various situations. Those who purchased in-store training are instructed to contact the Learning Customer Service team at 1-888-852-4821. Telephone numbers and contact information for other situations are also listed. Industry experts expect Gateway to now forge alliances with retail stores. Gateway's recent purchase of eMachines may lead the way for Gateways to be sold in Best Buy's retail outlets since eMachine's and Best Buy already have an excellent working relationship. CompUSA and Circuit City are also mentioned as possible Gateway retail outlets. Gateway's Shawna Ploen states, "We hope to sell Gateway products through other retailers and we're currently in the midst of those discussions, but at this point nothing has been finalized."

The DealsGuy For June, 2004, by Bob (The Cheapskate) Click Greater Orlando Computer Users Group

Because of all the great feedback, I'll start this month off with more about interesting trade shows we have worked, but I'd like to change the topic next month to technology for homes. March began with one of my favorite shows called MegaCon, otherwise known as the "Comic Book" show. I first worked it last year and was warned I would be seeing all those crazies and weirdoes. Well, I WAS certainly surprised, but I didn't interpret the attendees that way at all. I saw many people who loved their hobby and had even hand crafted their costumes to represent certain characters, such as comic book, game, space and other characters. Many costumes were absolutely gorgeous. I saw bodies and faces that required much time for makeup to get the necessary effect, and yes, some looked weird (like they are supposed to). I enjoyed the folks with the space suits and those looked pretty awkward to wear. One young woman was a bit too daring with her costume, but she was quickly noticed, escorted from the show and informed that paint does not substitute for wearing an upper garment in public, especially when there are children present. Never mind that the men loved it. We stopped another woman with extremely skimpy lower attire and referred her to show management.

Looking for a badge or wristband on people entering with costumes was not easy, but some held them out or pointed to them for us. The show occupied 108,000 sq. ft. of exhibit space with about a quarter of it devoted to special artistry tables, celebrity autograph tables, game tables and the food area. The rest was vendor booths. There were lots of things other than comic books, including robots and digital badges. This show also used several large meeting rooms off the lobby area that worked with such things as games and animation movies in 3D. They well exceeded the 20,000 expected attendees and the show floor was very packed. There were eight famous celebrities, such as June Lockhart and Angela Cartwright (of Lost In Space fame) signing autographs. We met most of them since they went through our entrance, and they were great people. My grandson took home my show guide so I can't list them all.

I talked to many attendees asking how they acquired their beautiful costumes and most said they had hand crafted it themselves with help from family members. I talked to many people with professional jobs and good incomes that loved this hobby. Even though I had a very intensive job, I was entertained all day long just by watching the people. I saw more daring cleavage during this show than any other I have worked. Remember, a badge or wristband (some won't wear a wristband on the wrist) might actually be looped anywhere so they are difficult to spot. Of all the shows I have worked, this show's attendees were by far the nicest to work with. We were never angrily challenged for trying to enforce the rules and

everybody simply asked what they had to do. Mostly, acquiring a proper badge or wristband was the answer. Even though this show was mostly young people, there were some older generation and a few seniors. Since there were three other trade shows in the building at the same time, some tried to use other badges.

We also worked the Home Electronics Expo [<http://www.ehx2004.com>] and [<http://www.virtualEHXspring.com>] in March and I was impressed with all the amazing technology that can improve your lifestyle (at a price). Most of it was about automated/remote lighting (low voltage), video and sound. All this can be controlled from anywhere in the house that you desire, and even remotely if you prefer. You can dial home (phone or computer) and check your refrigerator (if you're stopping at the store), start the food preparation, have your favorite music going and set the house temperature as well as take a look at the children or pets through a camera. There were lots of wall mounted thin screen TVs in the show, but the largest I saw on display was only a 60" plasma screen (they come as large as 80"). Many vendors specialized in cabling, or switching, only. Others specialized in audio or video specialty installations and a few distributors such as Worthington had booths. There were a multitude of audio speaker designs, including some wall mounted ones that blended in with the decor, but had great sound.

There were also electrically operated driveway gates, garage doors, and even windows that would close automatically, such as by a rain sensor, or by remote control. A couple of booths offered timed or remote controlled drapery rods and vertical blinds. My favorite booth was the one with weather stations. [<http://www.peatbros.com>] I was devastated when my own weather station went out a year ago, but it was a 20-year-old Heathkit and that company was gone years ago. I need a new one. I liked the design of these because of the illuminated readings rather than LCD, and it so happens their offices are within driving distance for me to check on a deal.

Unfortunately I missed working the Microsoft Show being held at the Gaylord Palms Resort, but we prefer not to work for the company that was given the security job, although they had asked us. Now here is what I have:

*Reminder On A Great Software Deals

Colleen Toumayan from Executive Software called to remind us all that their special offer for Diskeeper Professional Edition 8.0 bundled with Undelete Home Edition for just \$49.95 is still good. Check at [<http://consumer.execsoft.com/home.asp>] to order this bargain. We all know what great products Executive Software produces.

*We All Like Freebies

Sally Springette, Editor for The Rochester Computer Society Monitor [<http://www.rcsi.org>], sent me this URL that I found interesting and felt you might like it also. If you don't like

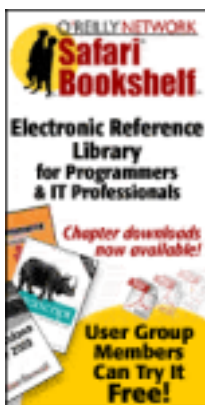
rebates, then skip this and keep going. This URL [<http://www.freeafterrebate.info/index.php?topic=Hardware>] offers leads to purchasing products that will be free after the rebates. Be aware that third-party vendors offer these products and you should do your own homework diligently before you decide to order. It might even be an older or discontinued product and you will probably pay a shipping charge. With that caveat in mind, check it out and I imagine that it will change quite often.

*Help For Your E-mail

I have a couple of friends who use MailWasher and say it works pretty well to eliminate spam, although it stopped a few legitimate e-mails at times. I questioned Hewie Poplock, a good friend whose opinion I value, who has used MailWasher for a two years and he is completely sold. He says if you set it up right, it won't filter out good messages, but if you get too fussy, it could happen. Sounds logical, but I have not had enough experience as yet. It incorporates learning by Bayesian statistics and uses FirstAlert!, a real-time global spam database. Something else I like is that you can check your e-mail right on the server instead of on your own computer, if you prefer.

Mathew Miller, Product Development Manager for MailWasher, made a special offer available for user group people and I asked him to extend the deadline so I could include it in my June column. He agreed so you get the price advantage. Mathew is offering us MailWasher Pro and a one-year subscription to FirstAlert for just \$29.95, a saving of \$7.00. You will need the promotional code of QTUGAD to order. This offer is good until July 31, 2004. Get more info on this tool for all that disgusting spam and download at [<http://www.firetrust.com/products/pro/>].

That's it for this month. Meet me here again next month if your editor permits. This column is written to make user group members aware of special offers or freebies I have found or arranged, and my comments should not be interpreted to encourage, or discourage, the purchase of any products, no matter how enthused I might sound. Bob (The Cheapskate) Click [bobclick@mindspring.com]. Visit my Web site at [<http://www.dealsguy.com>] for interesting articles from user group newsletters. I also posted some interesting NEW Web site pages for your viewing. Explanation on the Web page.



<http://safari.oreilly.com/>

Minutes for the March 2004 OCIPUG Board of Directors Meeting, March 27, 2004

The March Executive Board of Directors (Board or BOD) Meeting of the Orange Coast IBM PC User Group (OCIPUG) was held on March 27, 2004, at the Costa Mesa Senior Center. President Michael Moore called the meeting to order at 12:10pm, with five of the eight officers and directors, and SIG Coordinator Robert Strader present.

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

As Secretary Frank Mastroly was absent from the February 2004 Board of Directors Meeting, there was no motion to approve the minutes of the February 2004 Board of Directors Meeting.

President's Report: — President Michael Moore stated that his President's Report was published in the March 2004 Readme.Doc. A summary of the items follows.

During the past several weeks, after a lot of hard work by our Webmaster, Mark Borison, OCIPUG has a new and greatly improved website (www.ocipug.org). A few of the improvements include:

- 1) All of the SIG Groups have their own webpage where announcements, and other relevant tips, tutorials, and information that relates to that particular expertise will be posted.
- 2) Our website now has a search function, where you can not only search for information on our web site, but you can also search the internet from our website. Also you can click on the site map if you are having trouble finding a page on the site.
- 3) Webmaster Mark Borison has also compiled some of the best computer tutorials that I have ever seen (including Free Web Based Training) on all of the Microsoft Office Products.

Because of the new OCIPUG Website, we have recently received an e-mail from Jorge Schulz, who was (and technically still is) OCIPUG's member # 007. In his e-mail, Jorge stated that he is the Technical Support Manager of the Latin Division of Brother International and that he was pleased to see that OCIPUG was still alive and to keep him informed about any anniversary plans. In passing, Jorge was the member who came up with the name README.DOC for our newsletter.

This month marks the 19th Anniversary of OCIPUG, and it is probably an appropriate time to start thinking about next year's 20th Anniversary. If you have any suggestions/ideas on how we should mark this momentous event, please feel free to let either myself or any of the other members of Board of Directors, know your ideas, because after all, OCIPUG is your Club.

In March the General Meeting program includes a presentation on Intel's New Hyperthreading technology, presented by Vice President, Dave Wintle, and we will also have a presentation on the Smart Computing (www.smartcomputing.com) web site.

Cont. on P. 24

RAM Size vs Hard Drive Size

By

Don Edrington

The Senior Computer Tutor

<http://www.pcdon.com>

Rarely does a week pass that I don't get an email from someone saying an error message tells him he has "insufficient memory," whereupon he tells me he has free hard disk space of, say, 20 GB. Shouldn't that be plenty of spare memory? Well, the message refers available RAM (random access memory) rather than the amount of free storage space on his C-drive.

Most Windows-based computers will run on 128 MG of RAM, but really should have 256 MG to work at peak efficiency. The additional 128 MG can be purchased and user-installed -- but I prefer having it installed by a technician at an established computer store or service center. The additional RAM is not all that expensive -- and will make most PCs run faster and more efficiently.

To see how much RAM you have, click on Start > Help & Support and type "RAM" into the Search box.

To check your free hard disk space, double-click My Computer and then right-click the C-drive icon. Click Properties to see the ratio of used/free disk space. The mammoth sizes of today's hard drives give many of us all the storage space we will ever need, unless we tend to fill it up with tons of graphic and/or media files.

Good Time to Do Routine Maintenance

While in Properties, you can click on Tools and perform important hard drive maintenance for pre-WinXP computers, by choosing ScanDisk and Defrag; or by choosing Defrag and Check Disk on XP machines. If these programs get hung up in any way, additional "run" options can be found at www.pcdon.com/page82.html.

Automatic File Saving

Another frequent question is "Can I recover a file that crashed, but which I had not saved?" Well, unless an automatic backup option had been established within the program, the answer is normally no. MSWord users can find these choices by going to Tools > Options > Save.

Many folks will type a lengthy email message, but lose it if the email program suddenly crashes. Outlook Express users can protect against this by doing a periodic Ctrl+S (Save) which will place a copy of the current message in their Drafts folder. This copy will be automatically deleted after the completed message is sent.

AOL/CompuServe users can go to File > Save As and keep a newly-typed message as an HTML or as a plain text file, by giving the message a name and location. However, I can find no way outgoing Juno messages can be saved while being typed.

Incremental File Saving

In any case, the best way to save any new email message is to create it off-line in your favorite word processor, followed by saving it and copying and pasting it into your email client's outgoing message box.

Even this method, however, is not fool-proof if the backup copy is deleted or over-written. Those who are serious about backing up any kind of lengthy document will give its copies periodic incremental names, such as Message-1, Message-2, etc. By the time the document is completed as, say Message-10, the preceding nine versions will still be in place as extra insurance.

(Editor's note: Don Edrington lives in Costa Mesa Ca where he writes a bi-weekly newspaper column called PC Chat. He also teaches computer applications part-time at local schools and does freelance tutoring. His clients are almost exclusively seniors who are new to computers and who appreciate being taught by someone of their own generation. The thing he loves most, however, is maintaining and updating his website, www.pcdon.com, which is dedicated to giving seniors more information about computing, along with telling some funny anecdotes about things that happened while coming of age in post-WWII Hollywood. You may send your questions to Don at Don@pcdon.com.)

SeniorNet Costa Mesa

**IBM Contributes 7 Computers To
The Costa Mesa SeniorNet Learning Center**

**By Mark Borison
Editor README.DOC**

As the Costa Mesa SeniorNet Learning Center quietly celebrated it's 5th year in existence this month, IBM generously contributed seven completely new, state of the art computer systems. The grants were obtained through a program it conducts whereby retired members of their corporation who have volunteered and become involved with Non-Profit organizations, may obtain grants to further their organization's work. Since the Learning Center at the Costa Mesa Senior Center was fortunate to have three former IBM employees, Norm Beres, Margie Lord, and Nickie Sierp, a proposal was developed and approved, whereby The Costa Mesa SeniorNet was able to receive the new equipment to replace our outdated Pentium 1 & 2's with the following:

DESCRIPTION

MACHINE TYPE	8433 (THINKCENTRE A50P SERIES)
MODEL	98U
PROCESSOR	INTEL PENTIUM 4/2.8 GHZ
MEMORY	256MB
DISKETTE STORAGE	1.44
HARD DISK	40GB
CD-RW	YES (48X)
MODEM	NO
AUDIO	YES
ETHERNET	YES
DISPLAY	65176LN 17"
(MULTIMEDIA)	
MICROTOWER	FORM (BLACK)
KEYBOARD	ENHANCED
MOUSE	YES
EXPANSION BAYS	4
EXPANSION SLOTS	2
PRELOADED SOFTWARE	WINDOWS XP PROFESSIONAL

All we need to do now is upgrade the ram from 256 to 512 and before long the SeniorNet members will be Knowbies not Newbies! As soon as this session ends (next week) the new computers will be set up for the Summer Session which starts the week of June 21st.

In other SeniorNet news, David Wintle (OCIPUG VP) and Mark Borison (Newsletter Editor, etc etc) were honored at the recent Costa Mesa Volunteer Appreciation Dinner by being inducted into the CMSC Volunteer Hall of Fame!

**Fun In the Sun and Computers, Too!
Patricia Hill and Judy Taylour
Co-chairs, SW User Group Conference**



Web Site Contest! Door Prize Drawings! Networking! T-shirts and Welcome Kits! All this and more can be found at the 11th Annual Southwest User Group (SWUG) Conference. This year's activities run from Friday evening, August 6 through Sunday, August 8 at the Mission Valley Hilton in San Diego. Planned activities include workshops, vendor-sponsored presentations and meals, a Saturday evening Vendor Faire, numerous prize drawings as well personal contact with participating vendors. "The leadership of the conference always finds good vendors who make excellent presentations about their software. In many cases these vendors will give each attendee a copy of their software to take home and learn," said Ed Zarr, Sunland Village East Computer Club.

There will be newsletter and web page contests for all user groups with officers in attendance. All attendees will receive a t-shirt and Welcome Kit stuffed with all sorts of promotional materials, most with special pricing. User group members will have an opportunity to interface and network with user group leaders to share ideas and experiences, as well as solutions to problems. This year's user group leader and PC skill enhancement workshops will be even more exciting.

The conference registration fee is \$40 per person if paid by July 16. If registered and paid between July 17 and 23, the fee is \$50; July 24 through the conference date is \$60. The conference registration fee includes admittance to all workshops and Vendor Faire; meals and vendor presentations; a Welcome Kit and a T-shirt. "I especially enjoyed the Vendor Faire on Saturday night when I had an opportunity to see close up and hands on the many products, applications, and equipment that the company representatives brought along for display and sale," Delvina Fiducia, SIG leader, Temecula Valley Computer User Group said.

The conference will be held at the Mission Valley Hilton, 901 Camino del Rio South in San Diego. Reserve your room at a special group rate of \$109, single or double occupancy. To make your reservations, call the toll-free reservation number 800-733-2332 by July 16 and tell them you are attending the Southwest User Group Conference. Stay at the host hotel and you are automatically entered into a drawing to receive one of your conference nights FREE!

For more information contact Judy Taylour at judy@swugconf.org, Patricia Hill at swugconf@aol.com, or visit www.swugconf.org.

BOD Minutes Cont. From P. 21

This is a presentation that we had postponed in January, due to the fascinating presentation by the Digital Photoguy. While the Attendance at the Tuesday Night SIG Groups is slowly improving, we are still missing one important person. YOU! I've said this before and I'll say it again that the SIG Groups are an excellent way to get more specialized assistance with your computer and related equipment. Most of our SIGs have members there that have probably experienced the same questions/problems. IN fact, you may even learn a trick or two about your computer that you may not have thought of. Once again, remember that the OCIPUG website (<http://www.ocipug.org/>), the SIGs, the Newsletter, and the General Meetings are here for you, and I hope that you will consider them as a resource for use on a regular basis to help take some of the mystery out of your personal computer. I hope to see you not only at the upcoming General Meeting, but at one or many of the upcoming SIG Meetings.

Secretary's Report: — No report.

Treasurer's Report: — Treasurer Leonard Stein reported that during March he had deposited \$372 from the raffles and the auction of Office 2003. In addition, he wrote a check to Red Davidson to cover OCIPUG's donation to SeniorNet for purchase of a PCI video card for the instructor's computer. Finally, during the March General meeting we received six membership renewals. In a motion by Director Ed Leckliter, seconded by Vice President Dave Wintle, and carried, the March 2004 Treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

Committee Reports:

Program Committee Report: — No report as Program Committee Chairman Member Mark Borison was absent (see also President's report)

SIG Reports:

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

- ♦ **Internet and Web Page Design** (Michael Moore and Mark Borison), 1st Tuesday of each month. On April 6, Mark will discuss web sites containing sources of information for web site development.
- ♦ **Hardware** (Ed Leckliter), 2nd Tuesday of each month. On April 13, Ed will present the fourth in a five-part series on building your own PC covering the installation of the hard drive and other drives. Ed is soliciting ideas on future hardware topics, as the present series will terminate in May.
- ♦ **Windows 9x/XP** (Robert Strader), 3rd Tuesday of each month. On April 20, Robert will continue to cover Windows tips and tricks. If you have any questions or problems, send them to Robert via e?mail for discussion at the SIG.
- ♦ **Digital Photography and Scanning** (David Wintle), 4th Tuesday of each month. On April 27 David will continue his presentations of the book "Complete Digital Photography – see the March Readme.Doc for a review of the book. There was a brief discussion relative to the life projector bulb, with the concern being that the one we use may no longer be available when the present one burns out, which may not occur for two or three years. On the other hand, we may be able to purchase a new one then for the same money that we could buy

a new bulb today. This item remains unresolved.

SeniorNet Report: — Secretary Frank Mastroly reported that the next SeniorNet team meeting will be on Friday, April 16, 2004, at 3:00 pm. The current session of classes began on Monday, March 12, 2004 and, as usual, the SeniorNet team is in need of additional coaches, with the only requirement being to be able to follow what the instructor is saying and to be one step ahead of the students. It was also noted that the new OCIPUG web site has links to the SeniorNet operation.

Webmaster Report: — No report, as Webmaster Mark Borison was absent. However, as noted in the President's report, the new OCIPUG website is operational. Mark would appreciate e?mails with suggestions for additions and/or corrections. One suggestion made was to have individual OCIPUG email addresses for each office, e.g., president.bod@ocipug.org, with any e?mail sent to that address automatically forwarded to the officer's or director's home e?mail address. This should not be a problem as we have 100 available from our web hoisting service.

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

Advertisings and Public Relations Report: — No report.

Sunshine Committee Report: — This committee, under the direction of Director Sandi Tierney, is responsible for sending congratulations for achievements and condolences for family losses. For instance, she recently sent condolences and flowers upon the death of long time OCIPUG member Kenneth Paeth.

Old Business: — President Michael Moore has mailed a letter to Aviva Goelman, the Costa Mesa Senior Center Executive Director, formally requesting permission to use the Senior Center as the OCIPUG mailing address. Secretary Frank Mastroly reported that the UPS Store we currently use requires a payment of \$69 plus late charges for the first three months of 2004 before they will release the mail that has accumulated since December. Frank was authorized to take care of this.

New Business: — As SIG Coordinator Robert Strader will be out of town from April 29 through June 6, he is looking for volunteers to set up the projector and seats for the SIGs and general meetings. It was noted that the Senior Center staff sets up the tables and seats for the SIGs and then breaks the room down afterwards.

Adjournment: — Moved by Director Ed Leckliter, seconded by Treasurer Leonard Stein, and carried. The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 pm. The next OCIPUG Board meeting will be on Saturday, April 23, 2004, immediately following the April General Meeting.
Respectfully submitted,
Frank Mastroly, Secretary



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Publication Guidelines

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Publication Deadline

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

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

- 1. Send via Internet e-mail to:Editor Mark Borison 714-963-8296 mborison@yahoo.com
2. Mail a 3.5" disk so as to be received by the deadline by the Newsletter Coordinator at the OCIPUG mailing address above.
3. Hard copy to Editor at the OCIPUG mailing address above.

Membership

Benefits of OCIPUG Membership include, but by no means are limited to: Subscription to OCIPUG's monthly newsletter, Readme.Doc, with up-to-date information on meeting schedules as well as the newest software and hardware. Free monthly General Meetings with speakers from industry and academia describing advances in technology. Free Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings/seminars to exchange tips and tricks and to solve problems. Free technical support from fellow members via telephone/email Pleasure in helping your fellow member solve their problems. Camaraderie with those of similar interests. Discounts from vendors on software, hardware, and other items.

Orange Coast IBM PC User Group

695 West 19th Street
Costa Mesa, CA 92627

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Make check payable to OCIPUG and mail to the above address or bring to the General Meeting.

Individual \$30.00 \$ _____
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