

README.DOC

February 2004

Newsletter

Volume 20.2

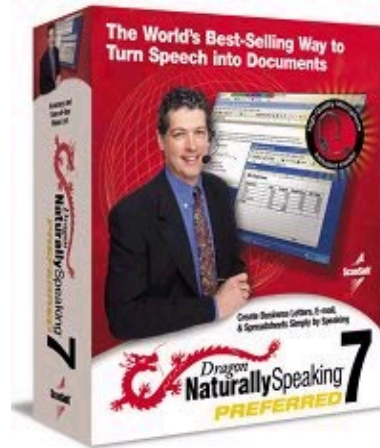
ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD IN THE COSTA MESA SENIOR CENTER 695 WEST 19TH STRET
AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF 19TH AND POMONA

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Dragon Naturally Speaking

Slap on a Headset and Start Talking



&

NeuDESK



Intelligent User Interface (IUI)™ and object searching technologies are designed to simplify user access to all personal and enterprise information from the desktop as well as wireless (mobile) and other devices of the future, using Natural Language commands, "The Dial Tone of Computing". Through this IUI one can search and manage contacts, e-mails, documents, songs, digital photos, schedules and more.



Orange Coast IBM PC User Group
695 West 19th St.
Costa Mesa, California 92626-3934

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Dragon Naturally Speaking

The Dragon Naturally Speaking 7 family of products is the fast, easy and accurate way to turn speech into text. Users can dictate into virtually any windows-based application at speeds up to 160 words per minute and achieve higher levels of accuracy than ever before. Dragon NaturallySpeaking delivers significant benefits to: Professionals who create documents themselves or dictate for a manual transcriptionist

(See our specialized editions for doctors and lawyers!) Disabled PC users looking to optimize productivity with their PCs Home users that want to have fun with their computers and See what's new!

Key Benefits of Dragon NaturallySpeaking 7:

Speeds up routine tasks on the PC, such as creating documents, entering data, launching applications, sending e-mail, completing forms, and browsing the Web. You can complete all of these tasks three times faster than healthcare, legal and government.

Increases productivity when away from the office by transcribing recorded dictation from mobile devices, including Microsoft Pocket PC and commercial digital recorders. Promotes prompt, standardized reporting and documentation procedures. Helps address ADA and Section 508 mandates.

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



Coming In March
Intel's
Hyperthreading
Technology
&
Smart
Computing
Magazine

NeuDESK

NeuDESK Productivity Suite Here is the basic concept of our product. Using a single, simple interface for all functions, you can find files based on file name using natural language commands. Let me give some examples: get me price for Intel stock write email for jeff in manhattan beach get map to jeff dolin open albro document view picture of Michael birthday (Michael = folder name and birthday = file name) play titanic theme turn on office light for 10 seconds Some programs require a macro or prior setup to accomplish the above, but in NeuDESK, they will work the first time with no "set up". Flexible language means you can ask for a file a number of ways and they all work. Furthermore, we don't need to click on a tab to pre-select a document, image, MP3, web search, or whatever. The same interface works for everything. It's so complicated, it's easy. Here's more. With each contact file, we give you the ability to associate or link various documents, images, etc., with that file. Think of hot links on a help file or web page, and tag your data in logical groups. Instead of using the database only for contacts, we make it easy to build any number of databases to be used as a journal, to track expenses, manage hobbies and

General Meetings are held from 9:00AM to noon on:
28th February 2004
27th March 2004
24th April 2004
29th May 2004
26th June 2004
For details see inside pages of this issue or Web Page
OCIPUG Web Page: www.ocipug.org

President
Vice President
Secretary
CFO/Treasurer
Director 2003
Director-2003
Director-2003-2004
Director-2002
Past President
Webmaster & Programs
Readme.Doc Editor
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Ed Leckliter	310-944-6453
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Leonard Stein	949-454-0158
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SCHEDULES AND REPORTS OF EVENTS

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (SIG)

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

The next SIG meetings will be:
OCIPUG Hardware SIG - Meeting Recap

Meeting Date: January 13, 2004

There were 15 attendees (including SIG Leader, Ed Leckliter)

Featured Topic(s): Your New System (2003 Update):

Sourcing Your Components

Hardware Submissions - None

Random Access - there were only 1-2 questions posed verbally, notes not recorded.

NO MEETING IN FEBRUARY (SIG LEADER OUT OF TOWN)

Next Meeting: March 9, 2004

Next Meeting Featured Topic(s): Your New System (2003 Update): Setting Up/Installing Your Motherboard, CPU and System RAM

Following Meeting: April 13, 2004

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

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

OCIPUG INTERNET SIG

Mark Borison

Mike Moore

Internet Sig Report

Feb, 03, 2004

We had 10 members at the last Internet Sig meeting and the first thing we did was to take a look at the Beta Ocipug website. There were some very good suggestions pertaining mostly to ease of navigation, questions about whether one needed approval to use someone's logo to link back to their site, I will use their names instead. Also one of the members, Irwin, thought he might volunteer to help scan the old newsletters for the archives. A page with the various Officers of the club on it. I am using an old OCIPUG logo to navigate to the top of any page and a suggestion was made to improve it so it could be better viewed. Also a suggestion to on the Newsletter Archives Page to reverse the order of the files with the most recent at the top was made. All in all the suggestions were helpful a



OCIPUG WINDOWS SIG

Robert Strader

Windows Sig Report

January 20, 2004

Red Davidson brought his computer in for assistance; he has Win 98 and Win XP on dual boot system. The problem is that he could not get the dual boot to switch to the second option, which was Win XP. I had researched the problem with Google. I had found various possible scenarios. The other possible problem was the wireless keyboard and mouse. Red then mentioned that the computer was intermittent response of the keyboard and mouse. At this point, Steve Schiffman remembered a similar problem. Steve said to check the bios for usb mouse and keyboard options. Low and behold we struck pay dirt. Red found two usb options, one was usb mouse, disabled and corrected it. He also found a usb keyboard option disabled and he corrected it. He rebooted the system and the system worked. We have another happy customer.

OCIPUG Digital SIG

David Wintle

Digital Sig Report

January 27th, 2004

During the open discussion at the January SIG there were questions that will be answered at the February SIG on February 24 at 7 pm. One of the questions was how and why do you need to calibrate the monitor. There will be a discussion on why you should calibrate your monitor along with a demonstration on how it is done.

Another question was the weight of paper. There will be a discussion on the various weights of paper and how that is changing. This SIG will be expanded from Digital Cameras & Scanners to add Printers. Taking a digital picture or scanning a picture that was taken with a film camera is of little value unless it is printed. Printing can be done by sending the picture over the internet. The picture can also be printed at a store like Costco or Sav-On Drugs. A picture may also be printed on your own printer. Until the meeting keep taking pictures.

Board Of Directors Meeting, November 23, 2003



The November Executive Board of Directors (Board or BOD) Meeting of the Orange Coast IBM PC User Group (OCIPUG) was held on November 22, 2003, at the Costa Mesa Senior Center. President Michael Moore called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm, with seven of the eight officers and directors, SIG Coordinator Robert Strader, and Webmaster Mark Borison present.

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

Note also that this Board meeting was conducted immediately after the November General Meeting. This practice will continue until further notice, as it eliminates the need for Board members to make two trips to the Senior Center.

A draft copy of the minutes of the October 2003 Executive Board of Directors Meeting had previously been e-mailed to all board members for their review. Although no comments were received via e-mail, Secretary Frank Mastroly reported that he had received some corrections verbally from Director Ed Leckliter which Frank read to the board. In a motion by Director Red Davidson, seconded by Director Ed Leckliter, and carried, the minutes of the October 2003 Executive Board of Directors Meeting as corrected were approved.

President's Report: - President Michael Moore made several announcements: Michael thanked Past President Leonard Stein for assuming the office of Treasurer/CFO and that we need to have a budget adopted ASAP. Michael is coordinating with Darryl Kim of the Senior Center Staff to have a copy code established for OCIPUG, with the club paying a set fee per copy. We are now using the Senior Center as the OCIPUG mailing address and will have to send change of address notices, including APCUG, as required. MicroCenter is receptive to our putting OCIPUG flyers at their check-out stands. Michael will mail a copy of a previous flyer to Secretary Frank Mastroly to use as a guide for preparing a revised one.

Secretary's Report: - No report.

Treasurer's Report: - Treasurer Leonard Stein reported that he has all of the past records, etc., to set up his books using Quicken with appropriate back-ups for security. Leonard wants all receipts that had been held by Secretary Frank Mastroly pending his assuming office, and Frank will mail all he has to Leonard.

Committee Reports:

Program Committee Report: - Program Committee Chairman Member Mark Borison distributed a handout showing the link to Bill Gates' Comdex 2003 Keynote Address (<http://www.microsoft.com/billgates/speeches/2003/11-16comdex2003.asp>). This link has both the text of the speech as well as a link to the video which will be

available on-line until mid December 2003. The handout also covered two other items as follows: A link to the O'Reilly books user group program (<http://ug.oreilly.com>) An announcement from Smart Computing Magazine (www.smartcomputing.com) that for every five paid subscriptions they receive from OCIPUG, the club will receive a free subscription that can be used as a raffle prize. At the November General Meeting there was a "presentation in a box" on the Intel Centrino Mobile Technology (CMT) for laptops. This was followed by a portion of the video of Bill Gates' Comdex 2003 Keynote Address (see above for the link). Other "presentations in a box" are planned for the future.

For the December 20 General Meeting (moved up one week because of the Christmas Holiday) there will be a presentation by Don Edrington, a teacher, author, senior tutor, and columnist (both in print and on the web) who will talk about sites that contain good information. He has everything from great tips to useful keyboard shortcuts, and seasonal and interesting art to fascinating stories. He can show you how "Using a PC Can Be Hazardous to Your Health." He has written a virtual cyber Autobiography that shows people the various ways that they can utilize a web page to express themselves. This presentation will be followed by the Christmas Potluck for which each member should bring a dish of their choice suitable for serving six. See also Old Business for more on the pot-luck.

SIG Reports:

The Upcoming SIG schedule is as follows:

Internet and Web Page Design: (Michael Moore and Mark Borison), 1st Tuesday of each month. On December 2, Michael and Mark will continue their presentation on web page design as well as address questions from the audience

Hardware: (Ed Leckliter), 2nd Tuesday of each month. On December 9, Ed will begin a five-part series on building your own PC. The December meeting will cover planning, with subsequent meetings covering sourcing the components, two meetings on assembling your computer, and the last meeting in this series covering installation of the operating system and component drivers, and checkout.

Windows 9x/XP (Robert Strader), 3rd Tuesday of each month. On December 16, Robert will continue to cover Windows tips and tricks.

Digital Photography and Scanning (David Wintle), 4th Tuesday of each month. On November 25 David will discuss scanner and printer resolution.

Robert Strader is considering starting a Pocket PC SIG early in 2004

and wants to know who might be interested in attending and also is soliciting ideas on the format. Finding a room for this SIG may be a problem, but one possibility would be to use the SeniorNet computer room for the meetings, as it should be able to accommodate this. There is interest in Steve Schiffman continuing his workshop on networking, but this needs to be coordinated with Steve. (In passing, a workshop is intended to run for only a prescribed number of sessions, whereas a SIG is more or less ongoing indefinitely.) Webmaster Mark Borison stated that he would be willing to conduct an eBay SIG or workshop if there is sufficient member interest. One club member has indicated interest in a digital video SIG, but the consensus was that this may be of limited interest.

The problem of the Chronicle being consistently wrong relative to our meeting and SIG schedules was discussed, and President Michael Moore will contact Darryl Kim of the Senior Center staff

SeniorNet Report: - Secretary Frank Mastroly reported that the

Continued from Page 4

The next session of classes will begin on Monday, January 12, 2004 and, as usual, the SeniorNet team is in need of additional coaches,

with the only requirement being to be able to follow what the instructor is saying and to be one step ahead of the students. Webmaster Mark Borison is working on having a 5th anniversary celebration for the Costa Mesa SeniorNet Learning Center sometime next year and is coordinating this with SeniorNet, the Senior Center, and vendors to have a vendor fair.

The SeniorNet team is considering offering workshops on scanning and burning CDs. We are also looking for someone who can teach a course on using Family Tree Maker to process, but not obtain, genealogical data.

Community Service Report: - Robert Walker was absent, but it was reported that this is a continuing work in progress.

Long Range Planning Committee Report: - Continuing work in progress.

Facilities Report, Maintenance, and Improvement: Continuing work in process. The Senior Center has decided for financial reasons not to install a wireless network for the Center at this time. However, some members have expressed interest in setting up an OCIPUG wireless network. A wireless-enabled notebook connected directly to the projector (a frequent scenario when we have a guest presenter) would allow the speaker to access the Internet through such a wireless LAN connection during a presentation. This would involve replacing our current router with a combined Wireless Access Point/Router - cost about \$100 + tax for a good Linksys 802.11g unit (802.11g also supports 802.11b). Combined with relocated power access, noted below, that would allow us to dispense with all the cables that currently are strung from the wall along the floor. At the suggestion of Director Red Davidson, this topic was tabled for more study. In a motion by Director Ed Leckliter, seconded by Secretary Frank Mastroy, and carried, Director Red Davidson will install a spring-loaded, reel-type power cable at or near the ceiling projector (which we never use). We will then use that cable, and our surge protector/power strip, to power our regular projector and any notebook and/or other device that might be located near that location, thus eliminating the need for a power cable running from the side wall (safety problem - tripping opportunity). Still open is the purchase of additional extension cables to connect the keyboard and mouse to the computer.

Operations (Policy and Procedures): - No report.

Publications Report: - No report as Newsletter Coordinator Robert Walker was absent.

Webmaster Report: - Webmaster Mark Borison reported that he is reviewing other user groups' websites and is collecting resources for revising the OCIPUG website which should be up-and-running by mid to late January of 2004. Mark has already collected old copies of the Readme.Doc to scan and ultimately post on the OCIPUG web site. Because of on-going problems with our present host provider (InReach), in a motion by Director Ed Leckliter, seconded by Director Red Davidson, and carried, it was decided that we should switch our web host to Fat Cow (www.fatcow.com). This is the service that Director Ed Leckliter uses and is very pleased with. For an annual fee of \$99, we would get: 100 Megabytes of disk space for our Files (Note that it is understood from Director Ed Leckliter that Fat Cow is offering to upgrade current subscribers to higher levels with a one year extension).

next SeniorNet team meeting will be on Wednesday, December 23, 2003, at 2:00 pm (note different day of the week and time).

Continued on Next Page

100 E-mail accounts

President Michael Moore and Webmaster Mark Borison will handle all of the details of our switching from InReach to Fat Cow.

Membership Committee Report: - As mentioned at the October Board meeting, we need a new Membership Committee Chairman, as Director Morris Fier is temporarily unable to perform this function. This started a discussion on amending the bylaws as a Director, in this case Morris Fier, cannot also be chairman of this committee. Director Red Davidson, who was involved in creating the current version of the bylaws, stated that this would require formation of a bylaws committee and also that the bylaws should probably be revised to reflect the current conditions. No further action was taken on this issue at this time.

Advertisings and Public Relations Report: - No report. Continuing work in progress.

Old Business: - There will be a pot-luck brunch following the December General Meeting which will be held on Saturday, December 20. Each member is requested to bring a dish of their choice suitable for serving six. There will be an announcement relative to the pot-luck in the December Readme.Doc. Director Red Davidson volunteered to provide the soft drinks. President Michael Moore will contact the Senior Center regarding the use of the Arts and Crafts Room for our pot-luck and also will provide paper plates, eating utensils, and napkins.

New Business: None.

Adjournment: - Moved by Director Ed Leckliter, seconded by Vice President David Wintle, and carried. The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 pm The next OCIPUG Board meeting will be on Saturday, December 20, 2003, immediately after the December General Meeting but before the pot-luck.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Mastroy, Secretary

Too Good To Be True

Recognize & Avoid Internet Scams

by Tracy Baker

Reprinted from Smart Computing Magazine
November 2003 • Vol.14 Issue 11

Want to lose weight, earn millions without leaving home, get prescription drugs without having to see a doctor, and nab free prizes that are just sitting there waiting to be claimed? If you have Internet access and an email account, you can do all that and more, or at least that's what online con artists want you to believe.



In 2002, the IFCC (Internet Fraud Complaint Center), run jointly by the National White Collar Crime Center and the FBI, received more than 48,000 Internet fraud complaints, and that represents a small fraction of the total number of scams people fell for.

Judging by the hundreds of unsolicited email messages sitting in a dummy account that we provided when signing up at a number of Web sites, all of them sent within the past month, it also doesn't come close to representing the millions of "offers" average Web users are faced with every day. Every-one with Internet access should have some basic knowledge of what kinds of scams are out there and what they can do to avoid them.

Auction Fraud

eBay (<http://www.ebay.com>) and similar online auction sites have turned the World Wide Web into a global yard sale, and although most users spend their time trying to sort the trash from the treasures, they also need to be alert for unscrupulous sellers waiting to prey on the gullible. Internet auction fraud was responsible for nearly half of the complaints sent to the IFCC in 2002. De-spite efforts by auction and electronic payment sites to reduce the amount of fraud, it remains an ever-expanding problem. The sad thing about Internet auction fraud is that people can take advantage of you whether you are buying or selling. The most common type of fraud involves people setting up a dummy account, posting bogus items for sale, and never delivering the goods. Buying only from sellers with a large number of positive feedback ratings is the best way to avoid this type of fraud, and your security and peace of mind are worth much more than the few dollars you'll potentially save taking a chance on someone with low or no feedback. Buyers also have a number of tactics at their disposal that let them take advantage of you. One popular example requires two

people (or two accounts). One bidder submits a low bid for much less than a product is worth, and then he uses another account (or an accomplice) to place a ridiculously high bid that guarantees nobody else will bid on the item. He then retracts the high bid at the last second, reverting the auction to the lowball bid. Most auction sites have instituted policies to curtail this type of abuse, but it still exists. If you see suspicious bids on your items, especially if they're from people with low or negative feedback ratings, seriously consider canceling the auction. The popularity of online auctions has spawned many other related scams, including fraudulent escrow services. Legitimate escrow companies hold your payment until you receive your merchandise, and the seller is willing to send the goods to you because he knows you're good for the money. Bogus escrow companies just steal your money and close down shop. Investigate online (or offline) escrow companies carefully, and if a seller insists that you use a certain escrow service, don't bid on his items until you're 100% sure that he isn't setting you up for a big rip-off.

Loan & Credit Offers

Everybody needs more money, and scammers capitalize on the cash-strapped by offering loans, credit cards, and credit repair services that are bogus or fraught with hidden expenses. If you're in need of credit repair, prepare for a long wait because time is the only thing that'll fix the problem. If you need a loan, go through your bank or prepare to lose a fortune in advance fees or exorbitant interest payments. The rule is: If an online company makes you spend money to get access to a loan or credit card, you've been scammed. Also, if a company offers to help you qualify for a loan for a fee, forget it. The FTC (Federal Trade Commission) reports that many times you just end up buying a worthless list of banks to contact, and there's no guarantee you'll get a loan. Get-Rich-Quick Schemes Who needs credit when you have millions of dollars or are raking in the cash by sitting at home doing next to nothing? Email has made it easy for the old pyramid scheme to flourish, so be on the lookout for chain letters that ask you to mail money or anything else of value. These schemes are illegal, and simple mathematics prevent you from making any money unless you are among the first few people in the chain. Most offers for information on how to make money at home require an initial fee, and all that usually buys is an information packet on how to email people to tell them how to make money at home. In an ad we responded to for a previous article, the company sent us a sample packet of Buddy Tags—dog tags with a toll-free number for calling a lost-and-found service—and instructions on how to buy more tags and sell them door-to-door to make money. In all cases, the only people who actually get rich quick are the scammers. A number of scams involve investment opportunities that are anything but. Many are Ponzi schemes, variations on pyramid schemes that Charles Ponzi used to scam investors in the early 1900s. In a Ponzi scheme, investors are told they'll make a great amount of interest (50% to 100%) in only a few months. The scammer pays the first few investors with money he gets from later investors (a "rob Peter to pay Paul" proposition), skimming money off the top for himself in

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the process. The initial investors generally gain enough confidence to invest even larger sums of money. Word of mouth fuels the scheme by offering recommendations and testimonials based on investors' initially positive experiences. In the end, hundreds or even thousands of people lose most, if not all, of their money, and the Ponzi artist makes a fortune. Finally, we get to the reigning king of big money scams, the Nigerian Letter scam. It's so named because many scams of this type originate in Nigeria; sometimes is called a 419 scam in reference to the Nigerian legal code designed to stop this type of fraud. The letters also come from many other countries, but the premise is always the same. Someone in a foreign country has access to a vast fortune, but she needs your bank account number to transfer the funds.

If you help, she'll give you millions of dollars. People sucked into this scam end up losing all of their money and sometimes even their lives because they're eventually lured to the foreign country on some legal pretense and then kidnapped or murdered. Variations of this scam continue to crop up. A recent scam involved some-one from Nigeria (or another country) buying a privately-sold vehicle or another expensive item with a cashier's check written for far more than the agreed purchase price and asking the seller to forward excess funds back to the buyer or to a third party. The cashier's checks are forgeries, but by the time the bank finds out (it can take several weeks) and informs the seller, he's already forwarded the "excess" money to the scammer. Stay away from these offers; you have better odds with a Powerball ticket. Bargains & Freebies We love bargains, and scammers know that if you put the word "free" in an email or on a Web site, many people will do nearly anything to collect their rewards. In most cases the item you sign up for is sent, but regardless, you've just parted with valuable personal information for a cheap bauble. It's bad enough if you give out your name, address, email address, or phone number to nab freebies, but if you also supplied your credit card number, Social Security number, or other information that could affect you financially, prepare to cancel your accounts and keep an eye out from then on for identity thieves. Also, if scam email messages contain Unsubscribe links, don't click them. Doing so just tells the scammers your account is active, and your Inbox will be inundated with spam. If you ever must submit personal or confidential information online, make sure the connection is secure. Look for https:// in the Address bar of your browser and also make sure an icon of a locked padlock is visible in the bottom bar of your browser window if you use Internet Explorer or Netscape. Opera has a padlock icon next to the address bar. Diet Aids & Drugs Health care is a multi-billion dollar business, and scammers cater to people who are looking to quickly fix their problems or discreetly buy prescription products. In many cases, when you respond to these offers you actually receive the product, but in the case of diet pills and other "miracle drugs," you're likely to pay through the nose for cheap placebos or diuretics. In the case of prescription pills, some scammers are in cahoots with unscrupulous doctors and can mail you the medicine you need, but you pay an enormous premium for the special treatment. In a worst-case scenario, the scammers will simply take your money and personal information, and then you'll really need some painkillers. If you need medicine, go to your doctor. It's

that simple. Doppelganger Web Sites This is classic spam. It offers questionable services, has a link to a Web site that does not show the real URL (uniform resource locator), and contains a fake "opt-out" link that merely verifies your address.

Scammers are increasingly crafting email messages that appear to come from legitimate Web sites. They create fake copies of business Web sites to make you think you're responding to a legitimate company's request or offer. A recent example of this is an email message with the subject line "Fraud Alert." It looks like it came from BestBuy.com (<http://www.bestbuy.com>) and asks for all manner of personal information, but actually links to a scammer's site. In fact, the message came from and linked back to a fake Web site. Legitimate companies almost never ask for your credit card number or Social Security number via email, and if they do, simply refuse to supply that information. It's better to have a botched order than turn a thief loose with your credit card number. See the "Unravel The URL" sidebar for some tips on determining whether an email message or Web site is legitimate. Beware Of Downloads If a message asks you to download a file, or you visit a Web site that asks the same thing, carefully consider before bills. Sites that install spyware, which monitors your browsing habits, logs your keystrokes to grab passwords, or otherwise tracks your behavior, are increasingly common. Don't download a file if patches. Get Out Fast The best way to avoid getting scammed is to keep your inbox clear of spam in the first place; see "Stop Spam Now" on page 64 for several tips for doing that. Also install antispyware software, such as Spybot Search & Destroy (free; <http://spybot.eon.net.au>), and keep it updated. If you've been suckered into a scam, however, there are many things you need to do to protect yourself that go far beyond scanning for spyware and filtering email. First, you need to report the email message or fake site. Use the numbers, addresses, or email addresses listed in the "Report Fraud" sidebar to get started. If the thieves have your credit card number, debit card number, or any other account number, cancel those cards or accounts immediately and pore over the final statement to find purchases you did not make. If you report any suspicious activity within 60 days, you'll be protected under the Fair Credit Billing Act and Electronic Fund Transfer Act. Also, request credit reports from the three major reporting agencies (see the "Report Fraud" sidebar) and dispute any negative findings as soon as possible. The road to recovery from fraud is long and hard, so use common sense to avoid that route in the first place.



From The DealsGuy For March 2004
by Bob Click
Greater Orlando Computer Users Group

This Is No Hoax This may sound like a broken record, but I find this stuff interesting. In the 12/22/03 issue of InfoWorld, columnist Ephraim Schwartz wrote an article about exploding batteries in cell phones and laptops. It concerns the change from nickel metal hydride to lithium-ion batteries. Seems the new technology can lead to "thermal runaway." He says it is not a frequent problem for a battery to explode, but it is certainly a distinct possibility and has happened, although he did not mention anything about gas stations. <G> His article should be posted at [http://www.infoworld.com/article/03/12/19/50OPreality_1.html].

Two of my readers told me that gas stations in their area have signs posted forbidding cell phone use while pumping gas. I'm not the only one who wants to be careful. I've also had messages explaining to me that Hydrogen power is NOT any safer than gas. In other news of note, one of our favorite vendors is being bought. It was reported that VPN and firewall vendor "Check Point Software Technologies Ltd." acquired desktop firewall maker Zone Labs Inc. for \$205 million. It was said that Check Point must integrate more security into the desktop and that they plan to do that. I hope the free version of Zone Alarm remains free for home use. You might be interested in knowing that Microsoft is reconfiguring the jobs of the managers in charge of operating system development. It is supposed to improve the product quality and a lot of other things. Haven't we heard that one before? I hope it works. I imagine it does become a big problem when you sell the most prolific operating system in the entire world and all the hackers lay awake nights trying to exploit it, and often succeed before it is even officially released.

In the category of old business, I've received only a couple of messages with comments about my possible plans for the monthly column. After doing it for over nine years each month without a miss, I have established an excellent network to many user groups and would hate to see it come tumbling down. I still have a little material so we'll see where it goes. Since I have tons of announcements for new products, I may start posting some of them on my Web site for the time being although so far I have heard little interest in these mostly unknown products.

Why Pay For Income Tax Preparation!! If you have a simple income tax to make out, don't pay for the tax return prep because you just might qualify for the IRS's very own FREE File Service. Check further for that at [<http://www.irs.gov>] and if you feel its really not that simple, or you are a klutz with the computer, call 1-800-829-1040 to find the closest Volunteer Income Tax Assistance location. That free service is meant for the elderly, low-income people, disabled folks, or people with problems speaking English. My wife says I seem to qualify in all those ways when she has a honey-do job. Don't forget the free income tax service for uncomplicated tax returns by AARP volunteers, most of whom are actually specialists donating their time. Call your local AARP chapter for more information.

Internet Talk

By
Frank Chao,

GS-BUG
(February 2004)

Welcome to the second month of the new year ! This is the 66th "Internet Talk" article and it is part of "The Bug Bulletin", a monthly publication of the Greater South Bay PC Users Group. Since December, news and announcements have appeared in red font at the club's Website at <http://gsbug.apcug.org> .These timely announcements are especially useful in these editor-challenged times.

FREE WIRELESS INTERNET

Free and fee-based wireless hotspots are proliferating around the United States and the world. Fueled by the profit-motive, fee-based "hotspots" are more prevalent than free ones, but many computer laptop owners with low or fixed incomes prefer to only utilize the free ones. A directory of free hotspots can be found at <http://www.jiwire.com/> and <http://www.wififreespot.com/> The success of these advertising-based, totally-free hotspots are totally dependent on you and me. The advertising revenues which fund these wireless connections are totally dependent on their popularity of use. The Internet accessing public has supported Netzero and Juno and turned them into successful providers of free (and non-free) providers of dial-up Internet access. Hopefully, we will do the same for free wireless Internet. For laptop owners in the South Bay area of Los Angeles, California, the following free hotspots are listed at the "jiwire" directory:

MORE SBC YAHOO! DSL WOES

Liz and I continue to hear horror stories about DSL". In the latest case, the telephone salespeople of SBC Yahoo! DSL exaggerated the ease of doing a "self install" from their do-it-yourself installation kit, as reported by one of my relatives in Burbank, California. We are not impressed by their lack of "truth in packaging". However, do not let these impediments discourage you from getting a DSL connection to the Internet. DSL continues to offer a dedicated, unshared connection between your computer and the Internet which is more reliable and predictable than the shared pathway of a cable modem. We recommend that you educate yourself and get an appropriate amount of assistance when installing a SBC Yahoo! DSL connection.

HELP FOR INSTALLING FAST INTERNET

When installing a DSL or cable modem connection to the Internet, you might need some technical assistance. Here are some that we recommend:

"Rich's Computer Repair" is operated by Rich Bulow, a GSBUG member with expertise in computers and net-

works.

He can be reached at
mail address is
richbu@netzero.net

"Geek Squad" is a company that will send a computer technician to your home or business to help you with computer or network problems. Their Website is at <http://www.geeksquad.com> and their landline phone is 1-800-433-5778

The Torrance branch of this company operates out of the "Best Buy" store at Pacific Coast Highway and Hawthorne Blvd.

CompUSA Technical Services will send an "A+ certified" computer technician to your home or business. Details can be found at http://www.compusa.com/tech_services/default.asp

You can also hire your fast Internet provider to send a technician to your home or business: SBC, Time Warner, Comcast, and Earthlink all have technicians that they can send to your home or business to assist you with installation and networking problems.
0,4149,1435597,00.asp

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A letter to the editor mentions "SeniorNet", a non-profit organization which provides senior citizens with access to and education about computer technology and the Internet See <http://www.seniornet.org/php/default.php>

"PC Magazine" continues to be our favorite computer magazine and we read both the paper version which arrives via snail USPS mail and the on-line version at <http://www.pcmag.com>

WAYS TO CONTACT ME:

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

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

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

Or sell your computer and take up knitting instead !!

Is That a PC in Your Pocket/Purse?

By

Lee Schwab

KISS = Keep It Simple Schwab
Napa Valley California
Personal Computer User Group, Inc.
Hewlett-Packard iPAQ 3800 series

For some people, the Pocket PC (PPC) is an incredibly useful tool while other people are not familiar with the Pocket PC. Some people confuse the Pocket PC with a Palm which is similar in appearance but is a different device that uses the Palm operating system. Below is an overview of what is included in a Pocket PC and how it helps me organize and simplify my life.

The Pocket PC uses a scaled down version of the Microsoft Windows operating system which is called Microsoft Windows Mobile 2003 (replaced Microsoft Pocket PC 2002 in June 03). Pocket PCs ship with lots of software, are very powerful, lightweight (4-7 ounces), small enough to carry in your pocket or purse (approximately 3" wide and 5" long), and easily synchronize with your desktop or notebook PC.

Here are some of the Pocket PC features:

ActiveSync: This third party software automatically synchronizes the data on your Pocket PC with your desktop or notebook PC. You can also use it to transfer files between the devices. Because I use the Pocket PC extensively, I synchronize them almost every day.

Calculator: Use it as you would any simple math calculator. Use it to figure the tax on a purchase, the unit price of grocery items, the percent of a discount, tips, etc. Third party calculators are also available for more sophisticated or specialized calculations (i.e., financial, scientific, statistical).

Calendar: Keeps track of your appointments (who meeting with, where to go, what time, and notes). You can also set up recurring appointments, a reminder alarm, or cut and paste appointments. Information can be viewed by day (with a choice of two formats), week, month, or year.

Communications: Wi-Fi and/or Bluetooth may be included in the Pocket PC or added using the SD (Secure Data) or CF (CompactFlash) slot.

Contacts: Use to organize address book information (i.e., name, address, phone, email).

Excel: This Pocket version of Excel supports 100 functions and formulas, rows, columns, and spell checker. Use it to keep track of expenses when traveling, rosters, fundraisers, etc.

Expansion: Many Pocket PCs include slots for CF (CompactFlash), SD (Secure Data), and/or PC Cards. Use them to add memory, a camera, communications capabilities, etc.

Find: Search the entire Pocket PC or a specific area (i.e., calendar). Use it to find a contact, a specific appointment, something in a Word or Excel document, etc.

Games: Solitaire and jawbreaker are included with the Pocket PC. I am not a gamer but there are lots of third party games available.

Inbox: An email application that lets you send, receive and synchronize email.

Infrared beaming: Beam information between devices. My husband and I beam appointments and documents between our Pocket PCs.

Internet Explorer: This software program is included on the CD-ROM that accompanies the Pocket PC.

Memory: Pocket PCs come with 32-128MB built in RAM and 32-64MB ROM.

Microsoft Reader: This eBook reader can be used to read electronic books. Use it to read the Pocket PC manual, books that are on the accompanying CD-ROM, or books that are downloaded. It includes search capabilities to help find a section or word in the eBook.

MSN Messenger: Instant Messenger application.

Notes: Create handwritten or typed notes, drawings, or make a short voice recording.

Pictures: View your .JPG pictures in thumbnail or full screen. This is a good place to keep an electronic picture of your spouse, children, or special events because it can easily be updated and the edges do not get frayed.

Power: Many Pocket PCs include a main battery, back up battery, and power cord for external power. The suspend mode and brightness levels can help conserve battery life so the Pocket PC can be used all day without a charge. If the Pocket PC battery is allowed to run all the way down, data may be lost. It is recommended to fully charge the batteries every night.

Price: Depending on features and manufacturer, the prices range from \$199 - \$649.

Processor: Chips (Intel, Samsung) and speeds (200-400 MHz) vary depending on the device manufacturer.

Screen: Most screens are 3.5" (measured diagonally) and are Transflective TFT or Reflective TFT.

Tasks: Keep track of your "to do" or "honey do" tasks. You can prioritize the tasks so the most important tasks will be at the top of the list.

Text Entry: You can enter text using the software keyboard, block recognizer (graffiti), letter recognizer, or transcriber (cursive, print, or mixed handwriting recognition). As you enter text, words are suggested to help you complete the words. Some Pocket PCs have built in miniature keyboard where your thumbs are used to enter or you can purchase a foldable keyboard (Targus makes good and sturdy keyboards).

Voice Recorder: Make short recordings and playback using the Notes application.

Windows Media Player: Use to play MP3 or Microsoft Audio Format music, or Microsoft Video Format videos.

Word: The Pocket version of Word is incredibly useful for keeping reference documents, taking notes in meetings, writing articles, keeping shopping lists, etc.

Continued on Next Page

Pocket PC Cont.

The Pocket PC also includes lots of systems software (Asset Viewer, External Keyboards Functions Support, File Explorer, Infrared OBEX beaming, Server Sync Client, setup/configuration utilities, Terminal Server Client, VPN Client, etc.).

I bought Hewlett Packard iPAQ 3800 series Pocket PC in 2001 and my husband is using it now. This year I bought a DELL Axim5 but I would not recommend a DELL because the screen was badly scratched within one month, the calendar intermittently and randomly changes appointment times (i.e., 1:00PM becomes 2:00PM). I will probably buy a Hewlett Packard iPAQ but there are many choices.

Pocket PCs and cell phones have teamed up and are called smartphones. These devices use the Microsoft Windows Mobile for Smartphone software. The smartphones have to make some compromises in their form and function. To learn more about Pocket PCs or to make a purchase, check out the following. My favorite is the Pocket PC magazine (their 2004 Buyer's Guide is available now).

Magazines:

Handheld Computing (PPC & Palm devices)

Mobility (mobile and wireless)

Pen Computing (mobile computing & communications)

PocketPC (Windows Mobile PPC reviews, comparisons, & smartphones)

Wireless (wireless communications)

Websites:

amazon.com hpshopping.com

mobileplanet.com PocketPCmag.com

pcconnection.com

tigerdirect.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.

Trivia from the Internet

Butterflies taste with their feet.

A duck's quack doesn't echo, and no one knows why.

In 10 minutes, a hurricane releases more energy than all of the world's nuclear weapons combined.

On average, 100 people choke to death on ball-point pens every year.

On average people fear spiders more than they do death.

Ninety percent of New York City cabbies are recently arrived immigrants.

Thirty-five percent of the people who use personal ads for dating are already married.

Elephants are the only animals that can't jump.

Only one person in two billion will live to be 116 or older.

It's possible to lead a cow upstairs but not downstairs.

Women blink nearly twice as much as men.

It's physically impossible for you to lick your elbow.

The Main Library at Indiana University sinks over an inch every year because when it was built, engineers failed to take into account the weight of all the books that would occupy the building.

A snail can sleep for three years..

No word in the English language rhymes with "MONTH."

Average life span of a major league baseball: 7 pitches.

Our eyes are always the same size from birth, but our nose and ears never stop growing. SCARY!!!

The electric chair was invented by a dentist.

All polar bears are left-handed.

In ancient Egypt, priests plucked EVERY hair from their bodies, including their eyebrows and eyelashes.

An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.

TYPEWRITER is the longest word that can be made using the letters only on one row of the keyboard.

"Go," is the shortest complete sentence in the English language.

If Barbie were life-size, her measurements would be 39-23-33. She would stand seven feet, two inches tall.

A crocodile cannot stick its tongue out.

The cigarette lighter was invented before the match.

Americans on average eat 18 acres of pizza every day.

Almost everyone who reads this email will try to lick their elbow.

didn't you?

A LOOK BACK AT THE

TIMOTHY W. SMITH



Our OCIPUG General Meetings are opened by the President, who then turns the microphone over to Tim Smith, our program coordinator to describe the presentations and introduce the speakers. That simple statement scarcely describes the considerable effort entailed in organizing these presentations. Tim meets once a month with Dave Lorenzini and Richard Sabin to plan and coordinate them. Currently they have worked out our programs until December 1988 as well as some backup in the event of no-shows. Patience, according to Tim, is a special requirement of his job. Nerves of steel too I would think. Tim, however, seems to have become very good at learning to punt. He has done a terrific job.

To ensure that speakers have been contacted well ahead Tim generates four to five letters per month, besides making from ten to fifteen telephone contacts negotiating with sources. It is his responsibility to make sure that any equipment needed for a presentation is available and working. He is also on the long-range planning committee of our Board. Tim and his wife Penny live in the lovely community of San Juan Capistrano. They are the proud parents of a six-year-old boy, and two daughters ages 3 years and 20 months. Their son loves to use mouse and paint programs and has his own Apple Computer. In kindergarten he is already taking computer classes, thereby like many of his age, getting a giant step over the rest of us in computer literacy.

After receiving a BA as an accounting major in college, Tim worked in a family owned accounting business. In 1986 at a Las Vegas Computer Conference he met the owners of a Boston based computer exchange company. He later purchased a franchise from them to operate the West Coast PC Exchange. You have probably noticed the ad in README.DOC.

Tim knew relatively little about computers when he attended his first OCIPUG meeting in October 1985, but was very impressed with the dub, which then met in an S. & L. on Harbor Blvd. He joined in 1986 and was elected to the Board of Directors later that year. He has since become well versed in Procomm, WordStar, WordPerfect, and Lotus 1-2-3, and has acquired the knowledge needed to make his business a success. The sharing of information Tim considers the most valuable asset of OCIPUG, combined with its superb internal resources. New members he says do not have to be shy about asking for help and can be assured they will receive assistance. Few clubs are as fortunate.

Tim attends many computer conferences to gather additional information about new developments in the computer world. It is of course a monumental task trying to stay atop such a fast moving industry. He is a member of UCLA PC

HISTORY OF OCIPUG

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Tim attends many computer conferences to gather additional information about new developments in the computer world. It is of course a monumental task trying to stay atop such a fast moving industry. He is a member of UCLA PC UG, Pasadena UG, Saddleback UG, & the San Diego and Boston C.S.'s. These clubs, and their newsletters, provide information that Tim is always willing to share with us. He uses an IBM himself, and either owns, or has on consignment, various types of computer equipment.

Let Tim know of your program ideas. Take a minute to inform him how much you appreciate his efforts. For all contributing members it makes the job a little nicer to know you are appreciated. You might consider checking with him if you are in

Editor's Note:

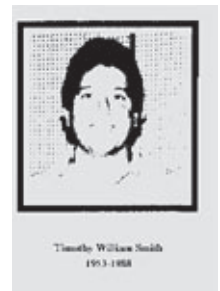
The article above which is reprinted from the June 1988, README.DOC appeared shortly before Tim died. The following appeared in the July, 1988 README.DOC.

IN MEMORIAM

Timothy William Smith

September 12, 1953 to June 27, 1988

We've lost a wonderful friend. Tim Smith, OCIPUG director and program chairman, died suddenly on Monday, June 27, 1988. We will miss Tim's capable and enthusiastic contributions to OCIPUG, but most of all those of as who worked with him, will miss his friendship. In addition to all the time and effort he put into OCIPUG since becoming Member #80 in January, 1986, Tim owned and operated a franchise business out of his home in San Juan Capistrano, the West Coast PC Exchange. After receiving a BA degree in Accounting, Tim worked in a family owned manufacturing business before starting his own business in 1986. We are honored to have featured Tim in the Member Spotlight section of README.DOC in our June, 1988, issue. Tim Smith is survived by his wife, Penny, seven year old son, Dustin. two daughters, Whitney (4 years old) and Abby (20 months old), his parents, Mr & Mrs. Victor Smith of Ohio, two brothers, Matthew of Ohio and David of Newport Beach, and his sister, Vicky of San Juan Capistrano



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Cont. on next page.

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A Look Back at the History of OCIPUG Cont.

The funeral was held Saturday, July 2nd in Galion, Ohio. Cards and letters may be sent to Penny Smith, P.O. Box 127, San Juan Capistrano, CA. Out of courtesy to the family all inquiries should be directed to Dave Lorenzini or Richard Sabin.

One of Tim's many friends in our group, Paul Curtis, asked for the opportunity to make a more personal statement about the impact of Tim's passing.


I am moved to share some thoughts with you concerning the passing of Tim Smith from our midst this past month. Needless to say, it is a shock to the system, to have it called to our attention in such an abrupt manner, that life is so fragile and fleeting.

I am not at all certain that the majority of the members are able to recognize what a fine job Tim did for the club and what a large contribution he made to its successful operation. The reason for this is that most people don't notice who is responsible when everything is going smoothly and as planned. People notice when things aren't going as planned. This is just human nature.

People don't notice clean and well maintained walls. They are just there. They serve a purpose and do the job that is expected of them and no one notices. However, have someone spray paint some graffiti on a wall in your neighborhood and watch the outrage and indignity. Worse yet, have someone drive a car through the wall so that it can no longer serve its purpose and then everybody notices.

Tim shared. He received a lot from the club in the way of information and help. He returned it to us tenfold. If his passing points out anything to us at all it should be that we each come to this organization and receive something. Pass on what you have received. You and those with whom you share will all benefit.

Tim, we loved you and we will all miss you.

Tim Smith Memorial Fund	
<p>In memory of our recently deceased program chairman, Timothy W. Smith, OCIPUG has established a memorial fund. It will be used to fund a scholarship for a deserving student pursuing studies in computer science at Orange Coast College.</p> <p>As you will see on page 20</p>	<p>of this issue, we now have \$1,290.00 in that fund. Contributions (which are tax-deductible under both Federal and State tax law) are still being solicited. We will include a report on the progress of this fund in the financial report each month at the back of the <i>README.DOC</i>.</p> 

More PC Annoyances



By Steve Bass,
Contributing Editor, PC World
(and allegedly famous author)

My name is Steve Bass and I hunt down PC annoyances. What's funny is that it doesn't matter how many annoyances I fixed in PC Annoyances: How to Fix the Most Annoying Things About Your Personal Computer. More sit-in-the-corner dumb things keep cropping up.

Admittedly, most annoying things are easy to find—just boot up your system, spend a few minutes with Windows, and blammo, you're annoyed. The challenging part, and the reason I wrote the book, is the thrill of finding fixes for the annoyances. I dug around and found solid solutions that work instantly and don't require a degree in computer science to understand.

Oddly enough, as I wrote the book, I bumped into even more Windows, Office, Internet, email, and hardware irritations. I didn't have time to include all of them in the book, but rather than waste them, I thought I'd share them with you. (Caution: shameless plug to follow.) And if you like what you see, well gosh, maybe you'll be motivated to buy the book. Several copies of the book. Maybe a case of books (you know they're ideal for gift giving...). You can get a copy here: <http://snurl.com/annoyances>

By the way, you don't know me so this may come as a surprise, but I'm inherently lazy and will always find something to do other than meet a deadline. My favorite deadline avoidance trick is nothing new—I browse the Web; I'll share a few time-wasting, funny, and occasionally weird sites I've discovered.

Six Irritating Annoyances—and Six Fixes

These are actual annoyances contributed by annoyed PC World readers.

System Restore on Your Desktop

The Annoyance: I took the advice in your book about creating a Restore Point every time I install new software or fiddle with my PC's settings. The hassle is navigating the Start menu to get to the System Restore dialog. There's gotta be a quicker way.

System Restore icon and drag it onto the desktop and when the dialog appears, choose "Create Shortcuts Here.")

As you might imagine, you can do the same for other items. For instance, open Control Panel, right click on any icon, and choose "Create Shortcut." Then answer Yes to the following dialog.

This dialog appears when you drag and drop the System Restore icon onto the Desktop. Answer Yes.

If you want to create a shortcut directly from the desktop, right-click any empty spot on the desktop and select New-->Shortcut. In the "Command Line" (98 and Me) or "Location" (2000 and XP) field, type %SystemRoot%\System32\restore\restore.exe. Click the Next button, give your shortcut a name-like SysRestore, and click the Finish button. Double-click the shortcut and up pops the System Restore dialog.

Remove Weird Lines in Word

The Annoyance: Whenever I enter underlines by themselves in a Word 2002 document, they're automatically transformed into solid, thick horizontal lines. That's not what I want. I think it's a bug in Word and it's driving me nuts.

The Fix: So you're saying you don't like Word's overly ambitious AutoFormat feature that turns your lines into borders? Because that's exactly what's happening--every time you type more than three asterisks, hyphens, underscores, or equal signs, Word applies a character or paragraph border style. It's an easy--dare I say, gratifying--fix. From Word's toolbar, choose Tools-->AutoCorrect, click the AutoFormat As You Type tab, and uncheck the Border lines box. (In Word 2000, uncheck the Border box.)

If you uncheck Border lines, you won't have to suffer with Word automatically turning your lines into borders.

Stop Annoying Crash Reports

The Annoyance: I'm getting really tired of XP asking me if I want to send an error report to Microsoft every time a program crashes. I think the company should spend its time reducing crashes, don't you?.

The Fix: I'll bet Microsoft's tired of taking all your reports, too, but that's another story. Stopping these report prompts takes five minutes. From the Start Menu, click the Control Panel, then double-click the System icon. If Windows XP is in the Category View, click Performance and Maintenance, then double-click the System icon. In the System Properties box, click the Advanced tab, then the Error Reporting button. If you want absolutely no notification about errors, check "Disable error reporting" and make sure the "But notify me when critical errors occur" box is unchecked. (FYI: I leave notification checked so I can see details of the crash, something that helps me troubleshoot system problems.) Click OK then OK again.

Eliminate annoying error reporting by marking "Disable error reporting."

Big Hard Drive Corruption

The Annoyance: Ever since I upgraded my PC with a 160GB hard drive, hibernation has stopped working correctly. Every so often,

my system annoyingly restarts rather than resuming from hibernation. I've run ScanDisk and defragged the drive, but the problem still occurs. What gives?

The Fix: Someone once said you can never have too much RAM or too big a hard drive. Unfortunately, without a fix from Microsoft, Windows XP will choke--and possibly corrupt data--on any drive that exceeds 137 GB. There's a quick and easy downloadable fix at <http://snipurl.com/atapi1>. And if you're interested in the background, check out Microsoft's Microsoft Knowledge Base Article: 331958 at <http://snipurl.com/atapi2>.

The Annoyance: Whenever my cursor hovers over the Quick Launch toolbar, enormous yellow pop-ups appear with tons of text. It blocks the other icons, and besides, I already know what program the icon represents.

The Fix: The biggest offenders are--surprise, surprise--Microsoft applications. Word's descriptive pop-ups are billboard size, and definitely annoying.

Hover your mouse over Word's Quick Launch icon and it insists on providing a lengthy explanation of what it does for a living.

Rather than eliminate the pop-up, shrink it down to size. Right-click the icon in the Quick Launch Toolbar, choose Properties, and change--or remove--the text in the Comment field. Easy, eh?

Remove the text in the Comment field and you'll no longer see Word's built in advertising.

Ban Annoying Boot Logos

The Annoyance: I just bought a new PC. When the system boots, all I see is the manufacturer's irritating logo.

The Fix: IMHO, watching the logo screen is more than just annoying; it's depriving you of valuable troubleshooting and diagnostic information that's served up while the PC's booting. This annoyance is pretty easily dispensed with, provided your system's BIOS allows you to turn off the logo screen.

As you're booting up, tap the Delete or F1 key. (Pay attention during boot-up: The system usually displays the proper key on screen.) Browse through the various BIOS options until you find something similar to "disable the Logo Screen," and change the setting to not show the logo.

Copyright © 2003 by Steve Bass and O'Reilly Press. Reproduced with permission. Steve Bass is a Contributing Editor with PC World and a founding member of APCUG. He's also the author of PC Annoyances: How to Fix the Most Annoying Things about Your Personal Computer, O'Reilly Press. It's available on Amazon at <http://snurl.com/annoyances>

A Grandchild's Guide to Using Grandpa's Computer

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Bits Bytes Chips Clocks
Bits in bytes on chips in box.
Bytes with bits and chips with clocks.
Chips in box on ether-docks.

Chips with bits come. Chips with bytes come.
Chips with bits and bytes and clocks come.

Look, sir. Look, sir. read the book, sir.
Let's do tricks with bits and bytes, sir.
Let's do tricks with chips and clocks, sir.

First, I'll make a quick trick bit stack.
Then I'll make a quick trick byte stack.
You can make a quick trick chip stack.
You can make a quick trick clock stack.

And here's a new trick on the scene.
Bits in bytes for your machine.
Bytes in words to fill your screen.

Now we come to ticks and tocks, sir.
Try to say this by the clock, sir.

Clocks on chips tick.
Clocks on chips tock.
Eight byte bits tick.
Eight bit bytes tock.

Clocks on chips with eight bit bytes tick.
Chips with clocks and eight byte bits tock.

Here's an easy game to play.
Here's an easy thing to say....

If a packet hits a pocket on a socket on a port,
and the bus is interrupted as a very last resort,
and the address of the memory
makes your floppy disk abort then
the socket packet pocket has an error to report!

If your cursor finds a menu item
followed by a dash,
and the double-clicking icon
puts your window in the trash,
and your data is corrupted
cause the index doesn't hash,
then your situation's hopeless,
and your system's gunna crash.

You can't say this? What a shame, sir!
We'll find you another game, sir.

If the label on the cable on the table at your house
says the network is connected
to the button on your mouse,
but your packets want to
tunnel on another protocol,
that's repeatedly rejected
by the printer down the hall,
and your screen is all distorted
by the side-effects of gauss,
so your icons in the window
are as wavy as a souse,
then you may as well reboot
and go out with a bang,
cause as sure as I'm a poet,
the sucker's gunna hang!

When the copy of your floppy's
getting sloppy on the disk,
and the microcode instructions
cause unnecessary risc,
then you have to flash your memory
and you'll want to RAM your ROM.
quickly turn off your computer
and be sure to tell your mom!

(God bless you Dr. Seuss wherever you are!)

Gene_Ziegler@Cornell.edu
Gene is Director of the Technology Services Department at
Cornell University on America's East Coast.

The History of this Poem

This poem has probably received more attention and circulation than anything I have ever written. It was created in an hour, late one night in the fall of 1994 after my four year old grandson and his older brother had significantly rearranged the resources on my Macintosh. It was originally a gift to internet friends and was passed from person to person, and posted on newsgroups and web sites in several countries. It has since been published in NetGuide Magazine, March 95, p86, and in the Seattle Times, Sunday Edition August 13th, 1995, and has generated more than 300 fan messages. A Web search will usually turn up 50 or more copies posted hither, thither, and yon.

Unfortunately, the internet being what it is, some scoundrel whose editing skills exceeded his or her ethical standards

The Culprits



Don't forget to pass these weird facts on to everyone you
15know.
They will get a kick out of it. You tried to lick your elbow,

Status Report on Pat Cohen

For those who do not know Pat, she was the Secretary of OCIPUG before I took over so that she could devote her full energies to genealogy. She is a member of the Orange County California Genealogy Society (OCCGS) and has conducted a SIG for beginners. I also see Pat frequently during Mass at Sts Simon and Jude Catholic Church on Saturday afternoons where she is an Eucharistic minister, or one who distributes Holy Communion.

Anyway, her husband Stan writes a weekly human interest article in the Orange County Register "Wave" (a Thursday insert in Huntington Beach). Last August Stan reported that Pat had a serious abdominal cancer and that he was taking some time off to care for her. However, Stan soon reported that he was back on the job as Pat's treatment was progressing well. Last November Stan reported that he and Pat had gone to their children's home in North Carolina for Thanksgiving and that Pat was continuing to do well. Just two weeks ago he reported that Pat had purchased some large trash cans and he hoped that they were not intended for him! When I mentioned this to Pat she laughed.

For the past several Saturdays I have frequently talked to Pat and she has told me that her chemo is going well and the she is to undergo surgery in February. From my own observations she appears to be as strong as ever and regularly distributes Holy Communion even though it requires her to stand and walk for several minutes without using her cane. On several occasions she has even gone out of her way to say hello to me and ask how I and OCIPUG were doing. Obviously things can change when we least expect it, but for now things seem to be going as well as expected for her. Our prayers and best wishes are with Pat.

Frank Mastrolly

Sorry; Wrong Number

A woman suspects her husband is cheating on her.

One day she calls home and a strange woman answers.

Wife: Who is this?

Maid: This is the maid.

Wife: We don't have a maid.

Maid: I was hired this morning by the man of the house.

Wife: Well, this is his wife. Is he there?

Maid: He's upstairs in the bedroom with someone who I assumed was his wife.

The wife is fuming. She says to the maid,

"Listen, would you like to make \$50,000?"

Maid: What will I have to do?

Wife: I want you to take my gun from the desk and shoot him and the woman he's with.

The maid puts the phone down.

The wife hears footsteps and the gunshots, then more footsteps.

Maid: What do I do with the bodies?

Wife: Just drag them out and throw them in the swimming pool.

Maid: But there's no pool here.

A long pause.....

Wife: Is this 832-4821?

Editorial

By Mark Borison
Remember: Share it with Others!

There are a few people I would like to commend and recognize for their UNSELFISH efforts to make this truly a NON-PROFIT group. The first is Bob Walker, who has shouldered the BURDEN for sometime now at one point in time being President, README.DOC Editor, and Program Director, gee I wonder why he had enough? All of that in addition to all the other charitable work he does and the 2 classes he teaches at SeniorNet. Next time you see Bob, Thank him, it's the least you can do. The second person I'd like to recognize is Bob Strader, without Bob S. and Bob W. there would be no OCIPUG period. Bob S. is there to set up every meeting both general and Sig and there to make sure everything is in running order and at the end once again, he is there to make sure everything is safely put away. He is also there for you/me when your computer crashes or you need an archive of Newsletters or advice. These two men stand for everything a Non-Profit User Group should exemplify in that they give openly and freely for no other reason than that is the way things should be done. They are truly very special and I'm sure they receive their rewards in the knowledge of a job well done and that others can also benefit from.

As I have gone through the old newsletters of OCIPUG's Glory Days, I have often wondered about some of the leaders who did so much and then totally distanced themselves, it is possible these folks just got tired of shouldering too much of the work, while others were content to do little or nothing.

A couple other members, I'd like to mention are David Wintle who has indeed been a great asset both to OCIPUG and to the SeniorNet Learning Center which enables us to have a great facility to meet at with little or no expenditure to the members of the club. David has probably forgotten more than most of us will ever know about computers and is always willing to extend a hand to anyone who may need some expert information and he has a true talent for expressing it in very simple terms. I cannot address this subject without mentioning Frank, our esteemed Secretary and SeniorNets also. We owe him a debt for all of his contributions. Also, Kevin Moser, the one man who has been there from Day 1 and continues to be very active now. We should thank him for starting something and seeing it through for nearly 20 years. That's right 20 years! Let's see some people step up and help to create some energy and momentum as we head into our 20th year so we can experience the magic that happens when a group works together toward a common goal for the good of the community. The Whole is more than the the Sum of its parts.

As John Goodman once said in a README.DOC Editorial, after Tim Smith passed away: We mourn our losses, as is only proper, then we wipe our tears and shoulder the load once more. Life is a joy, to be savored each day we are here. The Joy is all the more Delightful when we are Contributing members of our society. Get Involved!

And Dan Likens who said " The Best Way to Get is Through Giving. " Beware of Apathy! Teaching others Helps you Learn More! Remember: Share it with Others!



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Publication Deadline

Material for the March 2004 issue must be received on or before February 25, 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

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Costa Mesa, CA 92627

Membership status: New Renewal - Member # _____ Membership type: Individual Family

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Make check payable to OCIPUG and mail to the above address	Individual	\$30.00	\$ _____
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