Orange Bytes

Award Winning Newsmagazine of the North Orange County Computer Club

NOCCC MEETINGS - December 1

9:30 a.m. *Irvine Hall*
NEW TECHNOLOGIES
Comdex Reviews

**Club members who attended
will report on what's new this year**

See Page 4 for details

1:00 p.m. *Irvine Hall*
MAIN MEETING
**Richard Katz of the McKatz Brothers
will show Microsoft's *new***
Tablet PC, Pocket PC, Picture It Pro V7

See Page 4 for details

8:30 a.m.
Visual Programming I .... *Science 109*
 Visual Basic and Visual Basic Script for Beginners

9:00 a.m.
Autocad .... *Wilkinson 111*
Linux for Desktop Users .... *Wilkinson 210*
 Desktop applications under Linux
Visual Programming II .... *Science 109*
 Visual C++ and Visual J++ for Beginners
Windows .... *Science 111*
 Windows Tips, Tricks, Q&A

9:30 a.m.
NEW TECHNOLOGIES .... *Irvine Hall*
 See box above
Computer Aided Investing .... *Wilkinson 221*
 Member Investment Strategies, Techniques and Software
Gaming PC & Mac .... *Science 203*
 Mac/PC gaming SIG newly forming. Bring your friends! :-)
Hardware Essentials .... *Science 306*
Intermediate Linux .... *Wilkinson 210*
 Linux for administrators or programmers

10:00 a.m.
Linux for Server Adminstrators .... *Wilkinson 210*
Vendors .... *Science 127*

Visual Programming III .... *Science 109*
 Intermediate and Advanced Visual Basic

11:15 a.m.
Computer Security .... *Science 203*
Linux Programming Concepts .... *Wilkinson 210*
Macintosh .... *Wilkinson 221*
Office Suites .... *Science 111*
PC Q & A .... *Irvine Hall*
 Jim Sanders • Most questions answered, some problems
 solved, assorted demos done
Understanding Operating Systems ..... *Wilkinson 111*
 Get Help with DOS, Windows 3.1, Windows 9x, OS/2, etc.
Visual Programming IV .... *Science 109*
 Office program development using VB

12:00 Noon
PIG SIG .... *Argyros Hall Cafeteria*
 A lunch get together and talk. See SIG Reports

1:00 p.m. Main Meeting, Irvine Hall
 See box above

2:30 p.m.
Genealogy .... *Irvine Hall*
 Discover your family history with modern tools
Hardware Essentials .... *Science 109*
OS/2 .... *Science 203*
 OS/2 News and Installation

NOCCC web site:
http://www.noccc.org

Future Meetings
Jan 5 • Feb 2 • Mar 2

• Box 3616 Orange CA 92857 • Founded April 1976 •

Table of Contents

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The Association of
Personal Computer User Groups

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HELP WANTED
User Group Web Page Reporter
To check other User Group's web pages for articles
that could be reprinted in the *Orange Bytes*

Founded
April
1976

North Orange County Computer Club

President's Message

This month, I think the world's computers were out to annoy me. Due to a telephone company error my phone got disconnected. It was frustrating. The repair service told me to call on Sunday morning. I did. After sitting on hold for half an hour, the supervisor couldn't help me. This is a business office problem not a hardware problem. I got the phone reconnected, and then found out that the wiring in the house was reversed! My house is wired for three phone lines. The phone service was restored and the lines were working, but not in the correct jacks. I called the business office and somehow managed to get a customer service rep who could not figure out that the phone company had screwed up and now they needed to send a technician, even though it was noted on my account! After half an hour of explaining, I finally convinced her to send the technician out that day at no charge. He was here exactly two minutes and fixed the problem. Now if I can only get them to tell me how to pay the bill! They have sent me two notices saying the money would be taken out of my bank account automatically. I'm still waiting! I don't even have an address to mail the check! AAARRGH!
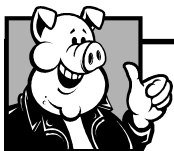
There were a few other things I'm not going to bore you with. Let's get back to Club business. We have sent out renewal letters for membership dues. Please return your payment promptly. Also, since we are incorporated as a 501 (c) (3) corporation, any money you donate to the club is 100% tax deductible. If you need a tax deduction, how about donating a few dollars to our scholarship fund? Chapman University students would appreciate it.

This month we are hosting the McKatz Brothers who will be showing Windows XP TABLET Edition as well as Pocket PC 2002 and Picture it V7 pro. We'll have a lot of fun with this stuff. They are excellent speakers and very entertaining. Let's fill the hall and make them feel all warm and fuzzy.

Per our bylaws, we have published the financial statement for our last fiscal year in this issue of the Orange Bytes.

Alan Pearlman
pearlmanA@aol.com

Pig SIG Open To ALL

Meet us in the Cafeteria in Argyros Hall around 11:30 am (until about 1pm). If you're hungry, there is a buffet lunch and snack bars open.

There are several sets of tables where NOCCC people gather, eat and chat. Just look for the badges, grab a chair, and join in! This is an informal group, so many different subjects are discussed. It's a great opportunity to mix, mingle and network. See ya there!

Membership Benefits

As a valued member, you receive discounts and offers, as part of the entire benefit of belonging. (Caveat - we are unable to endorse these companies and products but make these offers as a service to our members). If you have suggestions for items for this column, e-mail them to **Cathy Grammer-Margolin** *at:* cgmargolin@pobox.com.

Free Exhibits Pass to Comdex—Register online at: www.comdex.com/register and use the priority code # UCCUSS, Coupon Code #365 to get the free exhibits pass to Comdex in Las Vegas November 16-21.

New Fast Defragmentation Program - VOPT XP—VOPT XP is now out and will work with Win 95, 98, ME, 2000, and XP. By Golden Bow software (www.goldenbow.com). Download a free 30-day trial to see how fast it will defrag your hard drive. Mention "Margolin" to get the user group discount of $30 or $10 off the $40 price.

Orange Bytes on PDF earlier in the month! Members ONLY - Watch your e-mail every month for the Password to get the award-winning Orange Bytes much earlier in the month via PDF file on the www.noccc.org website. Make certain you let us know any e-mail changes (membership@noccc.org) so you can get the jump on all the great reviews and articles

PowerQuest- New Partition Magic 8
• PartitionMagic v8 (List $69.95) $35.00
• Drive Image v5 (List $69.95) Full System Backup Utility including DataKeeper $35.00

http://www.ugr.com/order/ with group code UGNOVNOCCC. Phone 801-796-7370

Redmond Technology Press—20% discount to User Groups. To receive the discount, user group members need only to order directly from the Redmond Technology Press web site at www.redtechpress.com and identify themselves as a user group member when they give their name (for example, John Doe, CUG member).

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O'Reilly Books at 20% off. Include code: DSUG. Order via phone: 1-800-998-9938, email: order@oreilly.com or online at www.oreilly.com

AOL, Earthlink and Compuserve—If you are a member of AARP, you can get up to 10-20% off each month. Visit AARP at http://www.aarp.org/benefits-computers/ ∎

November Board Meeting Minutes

Reported by
John R. Johnson
Secretary

NOCCC

Details are available in the Printed Orange Bytes which is mailed to members

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December 1st Meeting Preview

The New Technology 9:30 AM time slot will be devoted to the club members who attended this years Comdex show. They will be telling us about all of the neat new computer toys that they got to see, play with, and maybe even buy. Knowing George Margolin, I am sure that he will have at least a couple of pictures for us to view.

The Main Meeting will feature Richard Katz of the McKatz brothers presentation team. Most of you have seen Richard presenting the Intuit products. This time Richard will be presenting for Microsoft. The new products that he will be presenting include the new Tablet PC, the Pocket PC, and Picture It Pro version 7. The McKatz Brothers are noted for putting on fun and entertaining presentations, not technical ones, so be sure you bring your tough questions. As the above picture from a South West Regional Users Group meeting shows, Richard is an experienced hand at presenting "software." Shown in the background is our own Timothy Everingham, hurrying over with his camera to get a picture for himself.

The raffle at the Main Meeting will include two copies of Picture It Pro version 7, and a copy of Zoo Tycoon with expansion pack. Other goodies will be on the raffle table for you to check out and buy tickets for. See you there! ∎

Consignment Table

1. The consignment table is for members only. Only current members can place items for sale, but non-members are welcome to purchase items from the table. This is a great place to get some money for your surplus computer items, and help your Club at the same time.

2. The consignment table operates on a 90/10% basis — with the owner getting 90%, and the Club treasury 10%.
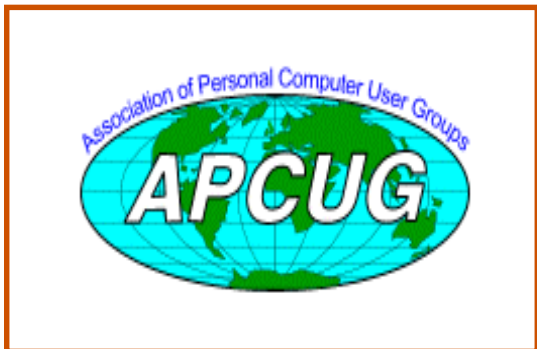
3. Fill out a tag on each item! It must contain: Seller's Name, NOCCC Membership Number, Item name, a short description and selling price.

4. Also, fill out the USER LIST with Name, Address, Phone Number. and a complete list of items and their selling prices.

5. All items and/or money may be picked up by the owner at any time, but MUST be picked up no later than 2 PM on day of sale.

6. Any items and/or money not picked up by 2 PM, will become the property of NOCCC and will he subject to disposal at the Club's discretion.

7. NOCCC is NOT RESPONSIBLE in any way for items bought and/or sold at the Consignment Table. Each item is placed and sold on an AS-IS BASIS.

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Windows XP: As Good as it Gets

By Steve Bass, Pasadena IBM Users Group

Bass discovers few crashes, great performance, and a minimum of headaches with XP Pro

Kvetching about an operating system is therapeutic. Believe me, I've done lots, saving regular visits to my shrink. But my complaining has almost bottomed out since I made the full-time switch to Windows XP Pro.

You caught that, right? I said almost. The reason is that even though I'm wildly pleased with XP, there are still a few features--and loose ends--I don't like. I'll describe a few of them in this and subsequent columns, and show you how XP has built-in ways to make the changes. (Of course, that's one of my primary kvetches - finding the spots to modify XP isn't obvious and requires digging.)

To play fair, I have to warn you that I'll also do some proselytizing. I'm going to do my best to win you over, so to speak, for your own good. That's because once you get over the hassle of Product Activation, and Microsoft's annoying single license policy, I really think your computing experience will increase substantially.

I need another soapbox minute or two. Many of the *PC World* letters I receive complain, sometimes bitterly, of a Microsoft conspiracy to force you into upgrading your system. Readers go on to say that in order to use XP, they'll need to replace some of their devices (printers seem to be the first one not to work), or stop using old, 16-bit programs written for Win 95.

I'll concede and agree with many of the readers that Microsoft should have done a better job with previous Windows versions, then we wouldn't be stuck in the corner having to upgrade.

But the reality is that if you want a slick operating system, one that's likely to make your computing day smoother and your workday more productive, you'll have to upgrade. [Set Soapbox to Off].

No More Stinkin' Crashes

You probably know that XP is a pretty interface hung on Windows 2000's architecture, so it resists crashes extraordinarily well. That's true for XP but not necessarily for programs that still plow headfirst into the bit bucket. For instance, Eudora, my e-mail program, locks up when I try embedding what it considers a too large image into a message. And Internet Explorer also has a way of choking and freezing on some sites, doing its best to imitate a deer in headlights.

With Win 9x, the Eudora and IE crash could bring the system down; even if it didn't, I'd reboot to clear out any leftover holes in memory. Win XP contains the crash and stops it from contaminating the rest of the system. Using Control - Alt - Delete, the three-finger, soft-boot salute, calls up Task manager, one of XP's shining lights. Click on the toasted app and it's history.

Crash Reports? No, Thanks

Of course, with Microsoft at the helm, nothing as cool as Task Manager's handling of a crash can be left alone. Microsoft insists on meddling by sending itself the details of the crash. No doubt, the crash report does provide clues, often vital ones that you can review, to explain why a program crashes.

But once I've looked at a report -- say, Eudora's paige32.dll bug that Qalcomm won't fix -- I'm no longer interested in seeing it pop up. So I've turned parts of the feature off. (From Start, Control Panel, Advanced tab, Error Reporting.) This dialog gives me choices, and they're good ones. I can get the report but not send it, opt to hear only about programs or XP's errors, or even add specific programs to watch.

Zap, You're Restored

GoBack was the first successful utility to save snapshots of a PC's hard drive and let you restore the drive to a time when things were running well. It shouldn't surprise you to see a similar feature in Windows XP.(Roxio's GoBack, $40, download at www.roxio.com.)

Quick aside: Many of Microsoft's niftier features are from the brain trusts of third-party companies. Woody , creator of dozens of Office, and specifically Word add-ons, said that to me in a private e-mail recently. More in another column.

XP's System Restore does just about everything does, just not as well. Nonetheless, it's an improvement over the way it worked in Windows ME, and a handy tool. I create a Restore point just before installing a new application. If the installation goes kaflooey, I use System Restore to jump five minutes into the past and get my system going again.

I use it so often, I pinned it onto my Start Menu for easy access. Try it: Find System Restore in All Programs, Accessories, System Tools and right mouse click on the icon and choose Pin on Start menu. Easy, no?

System Restore's Problems

The problem? System Restore isn't perfect. While I haven't had a problem in the 25 times I've used it, some reports on the Internet talk about DLLs that should be gone after a System Restore, are still on the system.

One thing Microsoft doesn't tell you is that each Restore Point (and system checkpoints, those restore points XP does automatically) takes up disk space.

☞

You can dump all but the last system point by using XP's Disk Cleanup tool. Open Disk Cleanup, by clicking Start, choose All Programs, Accessories, System Tools, select Disk Cleanup, and choose the More Options tab. (Shortcut: From Start, Run, type cleanmgr.)

In the next series of columns, I'll show you other features built into XP that can keep you focused on productivity rather than rebooting two or three times a day or recovering from crashes. ∎

Steve Bass is a Contributing Editor with PC World and runs the Pasadena IBM Users Group. He's also a founding member of APCUG. Check PCW's current edition at www.pcworld.com/resource/toc/index.asp and sign up for the Steve Bass online newsletter at www.pcworld.com/bass_letter

Windows XP: More "As Good As it Gets"

By Steve Bass, Pasadena IBM Users Group

More ways to take advantage of XP's terrific features

Have you made the jump to Windows XP yet? At a recent user group meeting, I asked the audience— almost 400 people—how many of them were using XP. Almost 75 percent raised their hands.

Despite MS's greedy licensing policy, the move to XP is a wise one. The product has more stability than previous Windows versions and is imminently more tweakable. In this month's column, I'll show you two more valuable XP features and if you feel like playing around, two tips you might enjoy.

The Last Good One

Unlike previous Win 9.*x* versions, XP fortifies its ability to restore your PC to a previous state. In a previous column I mentioned XP's System Restore, a feature that monitors and restores all drives and partitions on your PC. XP has another way to bring your system back to health, especially if you've messed around and honked up a few drivers.

That happened to me. I foolishly tried installing Peterson Multimedia Guides, North American Birds, a Win95 program. A few video and audio drivers were knocked out of place; three landed on the floor.

Win XP Pro keeps a second set of configuration information safely tucked away. If you modify XP by adding or removing drivers, the changes are saved in the Current control set. When you reboot your PC, the info's copied to the Clone control set; once you logon, the data in Clone is copied to the Last Known Good control set.

Have problems with this next reboot? Restart your PC, press F8 while its booting, and choose Last Known Good configuration. (Crossing you fingers has been known to enhance the process.) Your system configuration will roll back to the last one Win XP used and all should be well.

NTFS, XP's Best Friend

Most of you are familiar with FAT32, the allocation table that first appeared with Win 95. What was terrific about FAT32's introduction was the way it handled hard drive clusters. All of a sudden users regained disk space--or at least didn't waste as much. NTFS, which stands for New Twisted Font Services (or was that New Turbo Floppy Sequence—I never remember which), brings valuable features to XP. Instead of a FAT (File Allocation Table), NTFS uses a Master File Table (MFT) which maps all the files and directories on the drive. It also stores metadata files which describes file and directory attributes, such as compressed, security settings, and location on the disk. Below are some of the more important characteristics of NTFS. If you're intrigued and want more details, type NTFS into the Win XP's extraordinarily useful Help and Support Center's Search field.

Recoverability: NTFS uses transaction recovery logging of data to automatically log all file and directory updates. That means you can have a better shot at restoring data if your system fails due to, say, a power failure.

Less Defragmentation: NTFS has data storage smarts. It holds back enough space for the MFT to expand, thereby reducing fragmentation. Compared to FAT32 drives, disk fragmentation isn't a big issue for NTFS-formatted drives. Nonetheless, defragging weekly will keep your NTFS drive in top-notch condition.

Compression: Individual files and directories can be compressed. With astronomical 80- and 100GB drives, it almost feels unnecessary to risk degrading performance by compressing drive, right? Maybe, but compressing rarely used files--such as humongous home videos--is painless. Try it: From Windows Explorer, highlight any file. (No, don't pick the swap file, okay?) Right mouse click, select Properties, Advanced, and check Compress contents to save space.

Security: You can use permissions to restrict access to files and directories; if you're feeling particularly concerned, you can also encrypt sensitive files, reducing your paranoia.

Large Drives: NTFS handles large drive partitions really well. In fact, NTFS supports up to 16 exabytes--16 *billion*

gigabytes. (BTW, Fry's has these drives on sale for $29.95, after rebate.) There's no performance degradation as the drive size increases because of NTFS's better scalability to large drives. The maximum drive size for NTFS is much greater than FAT32, and as drive size increases, performance with NTFS doesn't degrade as it does with FAT32.

Make The Transition

You can convert to NTFS from Fat32 relatively easily, without much muss, fuss, or reformatting. But it's a one-way street; you can't go back to Fat32. Open a DOS box (or, if you've never heard of DOS and you're feeling a little nervous, open a command prompt window instead). Do it from the Start Menu—select Run, and type CMD. In the window, type:

convert *drive_letter:* **/fs:ntfs**

In the above example, typing *convert D: /:ntfs* would format drive D: with the NTFS format. That's all there is to it. One note: It's a good idea to defrag the drive before and after the conversion. For more details, read MS's support doc at http://tinyurl.com/v7f.

Two Tips You Can Use

Crusty Cursors: If you're using an LCD monitor or notebook, you might have trouble seeing the flashing cursor on some applications. The fix is easy. From Control Panel, select Accessibility Options, choose the Display tab, and change the width of the cursor.

Beeping Caps Lock: While you're in Accessibility Options, choose the Keyboard tab and check the Use Toggles box if you want to hear a beep when you set the Caps-, Num-, or Scroll Lock keys. ■

Steve Bass is a Contributing Editor with PC World and runs the Pasadena IBM Users Group. He's also a founding member of APCUG. Check PCW's current edition at www.pcworld.com/resource/toc/index.asp and sign up for the Steve Bass online newsletter at www.pcworld.com/bass_letter.

Games As A Realm of Possibilities

By Timothy Everingham, NOCCC

The computer gaming world is evolving in some unique directions. It not just like Japanese anime characters joining up with well known Disney characters such as Mickey Mouse, Goofy, and Donald Duck to thoroughly thrash bad guys in Disney Interactive's Kingdom Hearts or using time shifting as a weapon as in Microsoft's Blink: The Time Sweeper. We are talking about some real conceptual shifts.

A lot of games today state what your objectives are and how you go about achieving those goals. At the SIGGRAPH 2002 Conference, Will Wright of Electronic Arts, creator of SimCity and The Sims, stated that, in the future, games will be created where the players will determine their objectives and have some control over how they achieve them. The game may not even need to be told what the objective is; the game will sense it by the players' behavior. It will then start to put obstacles in the players' path to increase the drama in the game; therefore, increasing the players enjoyment. An example of this would be if you decide to get to the top of a mountain; the game will sense this, collapse a bridge along your path so you have to figure our how to repair it or build a new one plus place some bad guys along your path who you have to defeat by force or cunning or find a way around them.

People dream of having a holodeck in their own home. However, we will have a few interim steps in that direction before the full holodeck. That will probably take the form of setting aside a virtual reality room. The room could be darkened to low light conditions and built for reduction of outside sounds. A platform would sense your waking movements toward direct directions even though you would only be walking in place (shown at the SIGGRAPH Conference by the Tokyo Institute of Technology). A classic VR helmet and gloves, though not a full VR sensory suit, would be connected to a control center wirelessly. The control unit would not just send its output to those experiencing virtual reality in the room, but to the residence's home theater so their friends and family could share in the experience. With broadband Internet access, a person's virtual reality experience could be shared with another person on the other side of the globe, including a shared VR experience with other people in similar VR rooms. This way you can journey to far-away places together as virtual tourists or share in a fight against an evil horde. Imagine you and another person sharing the experience of jumping off a mountain and gliding on your parachutes to the floor of the glacier-carved river valley far below, yet your partner is thousands of miles away. This is something we can look forward to later this decade.

Let's not just make a room your gaming venue, but your entire house. A lot of people have artificial plants in their homes. What may be coming is something similar to artificial plants with artificial intelligence. At the SIGGRAPH Conference the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Media Lab showed a miniature garden with simulated robotic life forms driven by artificial intelligences that look like the sponges and tube worms that attach themselves to rocks on the ocean floor. They thrive or sulk according to how they are treated by humans and their environmental surroundings. What could develop from these may be a number of robotic life forms that look like plants and act like a cross between plants and animals. Your entire house can turn into a game by placing these robotic life forms around the house. Your interactions with then and what you do to their environment will reflect back on how they behave. Of course, if you have live houseplants, you are doing something like this already; the major difference is if you mess up with the real plants they die and with the robotic life forms you just have to reboot them.

There are and will be some good computer gaming ☞

experiences while you are waiting for this high tech future. The most anticipated online game is Star Wars Galaxies, a joint venture by Lucas Arts and Sony Online Entertainment. It is a massive multiplayer game that makes Everquest look puny and will be released before the end of 2002. Electronic Arts' "The Sims" broke the belief that you cannot have a major hit where a majority of the players are women. The Sims Online, to be released this fall, should continue the virtual human interaction; this time with real humans behind the virtual ones. One of the trends is, instead of blasting your way through a problem, you instead use stealth, which Ubi Soft's Tom Clancy's Splinter Cell is the most celebrated. If you just want to vent there is Sierra's Malice where you get to play a redheaded teenage girl with a mallet as big as she is. For those who want to vent with guns there is Microsoft/Budgie Studio's Halo. Kingdom Hearts and Blink mentioned earlier are good and innovative. Fans of classic platform games will gravitate toward the most recent Mario Brothers title, Super Mario Sunshine (Nintendo); but, Sly Cooper and the Thievius Raccoonus (Sony) is probably better. Coming soon will be Lionhead Studios' Ego Project where you develop a character through its entire life and your success reputation, and how people treat you will be determined by the decisions you make. Will you be a hero admired by all or a feared villain? You start at 18 and the game ends when you are 70 (Black & White is out now with some similar themes). Look for Rise of Nations by Microsoft/Big Huge Games in Spring 2003, which is a significant step forward in the real-time strategy category. In 2003 look for a force feedback sword possibly in conjunction with a VR helmet (Courtesy the University of Tokyo, I used it to fight off some virtual ninjas at SIGGRAPH and loved it). There is a lot of good games out there, but be cautious of those based on movies and TV because sometimes so much is paid for the rights to produce the game that there is not enough money left to develop a good game. There are a lot of game reviews online, so do some research before you buy.

We have a great line up of computer generated interactive entertainment now, but it is nothing compared to what is coming. As Will Wright expressed, we are entering an age where computer games will become "A Realm of Possibilities." This probably holds true for computer-generated entertainment in general as well. I expect to see you in a few years on the holodeck. ∎

Mr. Everingham is CEO of Timothy Everingham Consulting in Azusa, California. He can be reached at teveringham@acm.org. Further information can be found at
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Share Your Expertise

We wish that all of the articles in the *Orange Bytes* were written by NOCCC members! Why don't you share some of your expertise with the rest of us by writing an article for our Computer Talk section?

What's Your E-mail License Number?

Bass explores ways to send better e-mail, not waste your recipient's time, and make sure your mail is read

By Steve Bass, Pasadena IBM Users Group

Washington is considering legislation that will force you to get a license before you can send e-mail. No, don't worry, you'll still be able to receive e-mail without any restrictions.

Sure I'm kidding. But it's no joke: People send out lots of email, with much of it needlessly long, valueless, bandwidth-hogging, inaccurate, and, of course, dumb. (Did I miss anything? Right—e-mails full of Fwd: Fwd: Fwd: and >>.)

Over the years, I've collected e-mail tips: ways to help you create e-mail that not only doesn't annoy others, but actually makes your e-mail worth reading.

Think in Paragraphs: You'd be surprised how many e-mails have one, long paragraph. Oddly enough, you may be using paragraphs but your e-mail program may be missing the hard carriage returns. Suggestion: send yourself, or a buddy, an e-mail and see how it looks. If necessary, add two "returns" between paragraphs when creating the e-mail.

Write Short: Keep your sentences short and limit yourself to three short paragraphs. Go beyond the Bass Int'l. limit of, say, four paragraphs, there's a good chance it won't be read.

No Subject? Adios: Here's my steadfast rule: If I don't know you very well and your message has a blank subject line, it goes into the trash. The reason is there's a strong possibility a virus or worm is attached.

Use Smart Subjects: Say the right thing in the subject line and your recipient gets fair warning what to expect in the message.

For instance, even before I started using Yahoogroups, I started my message subject with "PIBMUG." For one thing, it helps AOL and Hotmail users, the people who get tons of spam, sort out real messages. (Others thought PIBMUG messages were spam, but that's another story.)

More important, it makes applying rules or filters to e-mail easy. For example, after a Home Office column hits the newsstand, I sometimes receive 100 messages a day. That's in addition to the usual stuff from PR flaks and PIBMUG correspondence. So I've encouraged everyone who sends me jokes to start the subject line with "jokes" enabling me to separate them from business messages.

"Fwd Fwd Fwd": Of course if you get lots of email, your threshold for junk isn't very high and subjects can give strong clues for what to delete right off the bat. For instance, if I see more than two "Fwd: Fwd:" in the subject, it's immediately sent to the trash. Adios. ☞

That's Not Funny: Make sure you at least read the joke before sending it. That's a great technique for determining if it's really funny. No, really—people often send me lame jokes that are excruciatingly bad. Keep a mental note of the type of joke you send and match it up with their response (or non-response). You may notice you rarely hear back when you send a text joke but often get an "LOL" from a cartoon.

Want to see if people are reading your mail? Flood them with lame jokes—I mean fifth generation forwards of ribald stories or cartoons that weren't funny when they first ran in Playboy 20 years ago. Then slip in a legit e-mail and see if you get a response.

And if you're still going to send jokes, remove the millions of ">>>" brackets. The damn things make everything difficult to read.

No Reply Needed: I send dozens of e-mails each day with an explicit message that the recipient needn't reply. That's only polite because in many times the e-mail's just an FYI. So right above the message, I type, "This is just an FYI so no reply is necessary or expected. –Steve."

Who Are You? Many users haven't changed the "Reply to" name in their e-mail program, and it drives me crazy trying to figure out who's writing. For instance, one person uses a period—that's right, a dot—as his name. So when I look at the e-mail header, I haven't a clue (and still don't) who he is. Another person didn't know what to use so she stuck "Netscape" into the field figuring, well, something needed to go there. Head for your e-mail program's Options and poke around until you find a spot that asks for a "Reply with" or "Real Name" and put in your name.

Mail List Netiquette

Many of you subscribe to interactive mail lists. I'm on many, and I moderate quite a few, including my broadband and CD-ROM yahoogroups. When you reply to a message on this sort of list, it's essentially the same as sending e-mail, but with added restrictions.

Here are a few list rules to consider:

Don't Waste Bandwidth: So many messages, so little time, right? Well, avoid responses that the entire list won't find useful and feel obligated to at least glance at. So don't reply to the entire list with "thanks," "good idea," or "I'll try it!" Instead, reply to the sender. Look carefully and you'll probably see the sender's e-mail address near the top of the message.

Good one, Steve! In case you weren't clear about Wasting Bandwidth, consider this: When replying to messages, do it only when you have something substantive to say. Sorry, "Good one, Steve" does not qualify as substantive.

Snip, Snip: When replying, it takes a few seconds to snip extraneous junk and leave only essential portions of the previous message. No matter what you do, get rid of the tag line—the info about subscribing and unsubscribing—from the previous message.

Keep Snipping: Did I explain that it's best to quote only those brief portions of the previous message, and only items

that are necessary to make your point? Good. I'm not kidding.

Avoid HTML: Stick with straight text when replying or sending messages on lists. Not everyone's e-mail program can read all your fancy fonts and formatting.

Keep Files to Yourself: Attachments are usually frowned upon on mail lists to avoid any chance of getting a virus. ■

Steve Bass is a Contributing Editor with PC World and runs the Pasadena IBM Users Group. He's also a founding member of APCUG. Check PCW's current edition at www.pcworld.com/resource/toc/index.asp and sign up for the Steve Bass online newsletter at:

www.pcworld.com/bass_letter

JVC's New Digital VHS

by Jim Sanders NOCCC

In today's world where which DVD format is going to win the popularity contest, a little noticed alternative has slipped on to the stage. Without getting into the debate about the superiority of disk over tape, I would invite you to review the new unit's specifications. Street price; around $900.00

• Digital Set-top box ready with Digital-to-Digital connection via i.Link (IEEE 1394) terminal
• HDTV Digital Broadcast Bitstream Recording/ Playback
• Built-in MPEG2 Decoder for Direct Connection to HDTV
• Able to Record Any Type of Broadcast including HD, SD or Analog
• HS mode (28.2 Mbps) for up to 4 hours* HDTV recording STD Mode (14.1 Mbps) for up to 8 hours* SD recording LS3 Mode (4.7 Mbps) for up to 24 hours* long-time recording * Per DF-480 cassette
• D-VHS (HS, STD, LS3) S-VHS (SP, EP) S-VHS ET (SP, EP) HiFi VHS (SP, EP) VHS (SP, EP)
• Full Spec HDTV Compatible (with all 18 ATSC broadcasting formats)
• DigiPure Technology for high resolution analog recording and playback
• 5.1 Dolby Digital Output (optical)

☞

- 2 channel Linear PCM Audio Output capability
- 1080i, 720P, 480P and 480i
- 3 Sets of AV inputs
- 3 S-Video inputs
- 2 Sets of AV outputs
- 2 S-Video Outputs
- 1 Component Video Output (Y, Pb, Pr)
- 1 x Optical Digital Output
- 2 x I.Link Terminal (IEEE 1394), DV input only for camcorders
- Front Inputs (AV, S-Video, i.Link)
- Video Navigation- Tape Number, Record date and Category sorting
- D-Theater compliant with the advanced D-VHS security system
- Frame Synchronizer for pristine analog-to-digital dubs
- MTS Decoder for SAP programs
- VCR Plus+ with provided cable box controller
- Express Programming
- Plug and Play for automatic tuner and clock set-up
- 1-year / 24-event programmable timer
- Av Compu Link
- Multi-Brand TV Compatible Jog/Shuttle Remote Control
- 90 days labor and 1 year parts
- Weight: 13.3 lbs.
- Width: 17-15/16?
- Height: 4-3/16?
- Depth: 13-5/8?

The D-VHS Format

D-VHS is a totally digital recording format, separate from analog S-VHS and VHS. You can use it to record from HD (high definition) digital sources at 28.2 Mbps (HS mode) and maintain all the quality of the original. The 50 Gigabyte capacity of the D-VHS tape will let you fit an entire HD feature film broadcast on a single cassette with room to spare. You can also record an SD (standard definition) digital broadcast as-is at 14.1 Mbps (STD mode), or convert analog NTSC broadcasts to digital and record them at 4.7 Mbps to store 24 hours of programming on a single cassette.

Although D-VHS is a totally digital recording technology separate from analog VHS, JVC nevertheless made sure that people who buy the HM-DH30000U can continue enjoying their accumulated analog collections too. With the HM-DH30000U's multi-format recording/playback capability, users will be able record and view in analog VHS, Super VHS, and Super VHS ET, in addition to digital D-VHS.

A down side to this new form of home recording is the price of the special tapes. Like most things when they are new to the market, the tapes are pricey at around $10 for a DF-300 ∎

A Tablet PC for Christmas?

For $2200 you can own a Fujitsu ST4000.

"The launch of the Tablet PC marks an exciting new era of mobile computing that is limited only by the imagination of its users," Gates said. *"The Tablet PC is a great example of how computers are adapting to how people really work, whether they're taking notes in a meeting, collaborating wirelessly with colleagues or reading on screen. We're just scratching the surface of what is possible."*

About the Tablet PC

Microsoft Windows XP Tablet PC Edition enables next-generation personal computers to be optimized for mobility, convenience, reduced weight and comfort. The Tablet PC operating system enables Windows-based applications to take advantage of various input modes, including keyboard, mouse, pen and voice. With software developed and optimized by Microsoft for the new platform, the Tablet PC can function as a sheet of paper. Handwriting is captured as rich digital ink for immediate or later manipulation, including reformatting and editing. The link between the pen input process and a wide range of Windows-based applications will give users new ways in which to collaborate, communicate and bring their PCs to bear on new tasks. Its high-resolution display makes Tablet PC ideal for immersive reading and rich multimedia applications.

The Tablet PC's full Windows XP capability will enable it to be a user's primary computer. Utilizing a high- performance x86-compatible chip architecture, the Tablet PC takes advantage of key technology improvements in high- resolution, low-power LCDs; efficient batteries; wireless connectivity; and data storage to deliver a rich set of functionality that adds the dimension of pen-based input. More information on Windows XP Tablet PC Edition is available at

http://www.microsoft.com/presspass/events/tabletpclaunch/default.asp. ∎

November 3rd New Technologies/Main Meeting

Cathy and Alan start the Main Meeting for our speaker ●

Todd demonstrates the remote support feature between two machines

Todd waits patiently for the
Restore Function to finish

Why Windows XP Professional

		Home	Pro
Mobility	Fedbire		
	Wireless support		
Security	Remote Desktop		
	EFS for offline files	x	?
	Internet Firewall		x
	EFS		
	User Access Control	x	x
Reliability	IPSEC		x
	Kerberos / Smart card		x
	New Windows Engine		x
	Defective Driver Blocking		x
	System Restore	x	x
Performance	Automated System Recovery	x	x
	Faster boot / application load	x	x
Connectivity	Multiple processor support		x
	Internet Connection sharing	x	x
	File and Print Sharing	x	x
	Domain Support	x	x
			x

The advantages of XP Pro

Cathy Shimozono of the Consignment table, has a special Holiday request for <u>YOU</u> on Page 23 ⬤

Adobe Photoshop 7.0 Review

By Cathy Grammer-Margolin, NOCCC

Adobe Photoshop is the leading image-editing program and, the new version 7 adds to that popularity. It will do "retouching, painting, drawing, and has Web tools." With nearly everyone using digital cameras, and generating tons of digital photos, Photoshop has come into it's own. Photoshop will allow you to crop, resize, cut and paste several pictures together, add text, even take out that telephone pole that somehow grew out of someone's head, and many more features too numerous to mention.

Why Photoshop? Photoshop 7 is an image-editing program that gives you endless options of how to manipulate and enhance your pictures. It works in layers allowing you to place different picture objects on different layers to create what we used to call in the photographic world a "sandwich picture." I was able to pull a head shot of a person from one photograph, delete the background and merge it with a cloudy sky background and add a plane coming over his left shoulder. I would have waited until the cows come home to get that as a straight photographic shot.

Another fabulous use of Photoshop is to fix old pictures you may want to add to your genealogy album. It has a clone (stamp) tool that you can use to cover up scratches, or breaks in the picture, by copying the colors from another section of the picture. The new "Healing" brush really adds quite a bit to this area, by being able to smooth out wrinkles in faces. Also many pictures have oxidized or faded over time. There are many ways in Photoshop to correct the colors, such as with the new Auto Color tool. Adobe has added some very nice new features to this version of Photoshop, such as Web Photo Gallery, and file browser that I will discuss later.

Photoshop 7 does include a new version of Image Ready 7.0 that helps to optimize graphics for the web. You can create animations, image maps and slices from your images. Using Image Ready, you can save as jpg's or even animated gif files.

Installation It installs very easily on Win 98/ME/ NT/Win 2000/ Win XP. I did try it on a Windows 98 hard drive, then later on a Windows XP hard drive (I did a new install of Windows XP after my Win 98 crashed….grin), and boy, did it really work well and much faster on Windows XP (a multi-tasking operating system).

New Features The new version Adobe Photoshop 7 has some very nice new features such as a file browser, spell checker and "healing" brush that are worth the upgrade from Photoshop 6. I love that the icons in Photoshop itself are now 3-dimensional.

Free Training Video One of my favorite items that was included is a Photoshop 7 training video on CD from Deke McClelland's (Photoshop Bible, Photoshop for Dummies) Totally Training company. It is very easy to follow and helps with many of the new features and tips. Deke's Photoshop CD training set is considered the best way to learn Photoshop, and Adobe includes over 60 minutes of free training video from this noted expert. You do need Quicktime to view the videos on this CD though.

File Browser On the upper right, you can click the new file browser feature and browse files on your computer with the preview of the picture shown I used jpg, psd and gif and all showed well. You can then double click to select the file to open it in Photoshop, without trying to remember which file is which, from the often very cryptic file name. It also has a new batch file rename in the file browser. Just select all (ctrl-a), right click and select rename. This works well on digital camera pictures since they are often names such as p915020001.jpg. You can now easily make them meaningful names such as rick001.jpg

Healing Brush Jokingly, the new Healing Brush has been called the "Botox Tool", since it takes out wrinkles. It is a new tool that looks like a band-aid. From the Adobe help file," Like the cloning tools, you use the healing brush tool to paint with sampled pixels from an image or pattern. However, the healing brush tool also matches the texture, lighting, and shading of the sampled pixels to the source pixels. As a result, the repaired pixels blend seamlessly into the rest of the image." What I did was to take a picture of myself squinting into the sun and I took out the squint. It has also been called the "digital iron" since it irons out the wrinkles. You can also use the fade to change the opacity of the brush, after you have brushed the wrinkles out.

Tool Preset The new Tool preset is how you save a setting that you use for your favorite tool. Say you like using Brush 29 Star (creates random stars all over). Open the brush drop down, and there is a new little icon that looks like a piece of paper with the bottom edge curled up. Click it and you can save this brush and name it what you would like and use it at anytime and not have to recreate it.

Save Workspace With many programs, when you have your tools and desktop all set up, it changes it every time you open the program back to the default. A new feature of Photoshop is that you can save your workspace (how you have the palettes open and toolbars set up) by choosing Window, Workspace, Save

☞

Workspace, and name the workspace such as Cathy's startup. That way you don't have to reset the palettes every time you open Photoshop.

Spell Checker We have been waiting for the spell checker for a long time. Since Photoshop 7 also includes Image Ready, which can be used to create web graphics such as banners and text buttons, the need for the spell checker was increasing and Abode listened to their users. You just enter the text, hit edit, and then check spelling.

Web Photo Gallery You can create a web photo gallery with thumbnails and larger pictures from a group of pictures automatically by going to File, Automate, Web Photo Gallery. You can them select a number of formats including a slide show for the web, which changes pictures every 10 seconds.

Pattern Stamp I just finished a great class in Photoshop at Golden West College and I really wanted a way to make a pattern into a stamp, which you can now do in Photoshop 7. You select the set of pixels via the rectangular marquee tool, then edit, copy, then filter pattern maker, and then generate.

Rollover buttons It has a new capability to generate rollover buttons in Image Ready. That is when you move a mouse over a button and it changes color and links to another web page. It now creates the JavaScript that does this.

There is also a new painting engine and an auto color adjustment which easily will take out a green cast or other tint inadvertently added by your lighting with your digital camera.

Documentation The user guide is 441 pages, but truthfully, I found the help included in the program to be the most useful. It was easy to get to and very well organized by functions. A plus was that when the help referred to an icon, it included a picture of the icon in the text. A nice feature was an entire section on Windows (or Mac) shortcuts, with well-drawn tables of shortcut keys/keystrokes including icon pictures.

Conclusion Overall, Photoshop 7 is a must have for any serious digital photographer or web-graphics artist, to be able to change each picture to get the look that you really want! It does have a steep learning curve, but the functionality it has is fantastic! It is also expensive, so if both of those scare you, you may want to consider a more wizard driven program such as Adobe Photoshop Elements (currently around $79), which has many of the more common features found in Photoshop but is wizard driven for ease of use. To really learn the Photoshop program from the ground up, I recommend the Adobe Photoshop 7.0 Classroom in a Book as it is very easy to use and well worth the price to aid in learning the features of Photoshop. There is also a user group discount of 20% off any Adobe Press (or Peachpit Press) book, which is ordered by calling 1-800-283-9444.

Requirements Photoshop 7 requires a Pentium III or 4 processor, Win 98/ME/NT/2000, or Win XP, 128 MB of RAM (192 MB recommended), 280 MB of available hard disk space, 800x600 monitor and 16 bit color.

Adobe Photoshop 7.0 suggested retail price $609, street price about $588, street upgrade about $150. ∎

Programming PHP

By Tommy Hugh Crenshaw, NOCCC

This book, authored by Ramus Lerdorf & Kevin Tatroe, explains the intricacies of "creating dynamic web pages." It is a well-written, informative book on programming server-side scripts for web pages. O'Reilly publishes Programming PHP. A few months ago, I reviewed an O'Reilly book by different authors that gave a more cursory explanation of PHP but also included an explanation of the MySQL database. The prior book was more a tutorial around developing a website online store. This book details more features and covers PHP in more depth. Because of the depth, an intermediate programming background is necessary and a "working knowledge of HTML." It is not a beginner's book.

The authors say, PHP was introduced in 1994, and it "has swept over the web." My personal observation of PHP and its use agrees with their statement. My opinion is based on looking at web sites and observing web pages with ".php or.php3" file extensions. Personally, I like PHP, and I use it on my website. Reading the book sparked my interest and I've begun rewriting my web site as an "object" oriented site. A "class" is one of the objects explained in chapter six about objects.

Object-oriented code will permit the reuse of code in other web sites without writing the same code as new code. For example, I'm going to use the table tags in HTML code along with all the tag properties as a class file, an object. Web pages consistently have table tags. Each time a web page is written, the tags have to be typed into the web page. In contrast, an object can be called by reference and values can be sent to the object changing the page appearance. The values can be set and sent from a simple configuration page. Changing a value on the configuration page is much easier than retyping an HTML page of code. Another benefit of objects is the pages are consistent in code but have a different appearance and different content based on the values sent to the object.

Some of the other features of PHP discussed are functions, strings, arrays, graphics, PDF documents, XML, and security. Chapter thirteen covers templates, buffering, errors, and suggestions for performance. Those features I'll have to leave for later to learn and use.

I was surprised that PHP is capable of producing PDF files dynamically. I think I can use that instead of saving files in a PDF format to download. The text can be supplied from a database and dynamically created much like the dynamic pages on a web site. Furthermore, the book explains how to use code written in other programming languages where a specific feature is required. This permits better performance, for example, an extension may be written in "C" and compiled. Using the "C"

Programming PHP *CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE*
file or extension, which is an executable file, is faster than an HTML file that must be interpreted to be executed and perform a similar process.

One thing I didn't like was the extent of the examples. The examples are adequate in number and simple but were not what I'll call working examples, something I could type in and see work. They were usually complete, but included dummy words that needed replacement before they would work. For example, if I wanted to try an example it was for me to develop a scenario to test it. Now of course, I can dream up something, but having a working example just by following the printed example is easier. This is a criticism that is not serious, but I saw some examples I would have tried and didn't until I was ready to try writing code for my new web site. Having a purpose, the examples as provided were easy to apply.

Each chapter has an introductory paragraph that spells out what is following in the chapter. I expect to be able to put other features to use as I did the object-oriented chapter. The book requires considerably more than a single reading; at least for me, it requires concentration and application to understand. Following reading, it can be kept as a reference book for future PHP use. ■

Ethernet:
The Definitive Guide

Review by Joe Mizer, Member of NOCCC

Written by Charles E. Sprugeon, this book is absolutely the most complete collection of information about the Ethernet I have found in one location. The book is organized into five parts. The first part is an introduction describing the evolution, basic elements, media access control, full and half duplex operation, and the details of Auto-Negotiation. The second part covers media fundamentals, twisted pair systems, fiber optic systems, fast twisted pair systems (100BASE-TX), fast fiber optic systems (100 BASE-FX), Gigabit twisted pair systems (1000 BASE-T), Gigabit fiber optic systems (1000 BASE-X), and guidelines for connection of different configurations into the same system. Part three may prove the most useful for most readers since it covers the building of your own Ethernet System. Chapters 14 and 15 cover twisted pair cable construction, Chapter 16 does the same for fiber optic cables and fittings, and chapter 17 and 18 covers switching and repeater hubs. The fourth part of the book is devoted to system performance and troubleshooting. The fifth part consists of the appendixes, glossary and index.

Several years ago I took a class on networking at the local community college and the text did more to confuse then enlighten. This text cleared up a lot of the topics and although I do not need this level of detail frequently, I am glad I have this book for reference. I did not understand everything but trudged

through to the end anyway just for the background it will give me. My home system is absolute simple with a cable modem, linksys router and a hub to complete my network of three stations. The section on cables saved me when I was forced into making some longer cables. I had been told that all I had to do was have the wires in the connector match up the same at each end. This was easier than following the wiring charts and worked fine for cables up to 25 feet, however when I tried to make some longer cables they would not work. I thought at first my cable was not up to specification for category five connections, I discovered there are three common grades of wire available CM, CMR and CMP. Cables designated CM are general use and the lowest grade, CMR cables are better and acceptable for use between floors, while CMP cables are rated for use in air conditioning plenums and are the best grade. I was aware that in the section on making cables the recommended pattern has pair 1 on pins 4 and 5, the second pair is on pins 3 and 6 followed by pair 3 on pins 1 and 2 and pair 4 on pins on 7 and 8. Identification of the pairs is also easy the first pair is blue like the sky above our head, the second pair is orange like the sunrise in the morning, the third pair is green like the grass, and pair four is brown like the dirt in the garden. The last thing to remember is the white stripe is on the odd numbered pins. I did not follow the book at first and was getting cross talk and longer cables would not work properly. After cutting off about three inches from each end and terminating the cables by the book my problems were gone. I recommend reading the book and following all of the advice it offers. This is a great reference text and it has more answers than I have questions.

Published by O'Reilly and Associates, this book is available at most book stores and on line from the publisher at www.oreilly.com. The list price for this valuable reference is only $44.95. This is a great reference book for anyone setting up their own network, and making their own cables for home use. One other recommendation I picked up involves the use of short patch cables in applications where connections are frequently changed. These cables should be purchased and be made from stranded wire with molded ends. Do not make these yourself from solid wire because they have a greater chance to break. ■

MacDrive 5
for Windows

By John Szary, NOCCC

The **Macdrive 5 for Windows** program allows users to read and transfer files on Mac formatted media on Windows-based personal computers. This cross-platform program, running transparent to the user, allows file transfers between most removable and external drives. File transfers are a snap with Mac-formatted disks, i.e. 1.44 MB floppies, Iomega Zip

disks. It also works with Jazz, CD-ROM, SCSI, USB, and FIREWIRE ported drives.

Installing Macdrive 5 is quick and easy. It puts a multicolored icon in the system tray. All their icons have an identifying red apple in the bottom right corner of the icon. It also puts on entry into the Programs Applications List with pointers for properties and help. But one selection is noticeably missing. There is no executable for Macdrive 5 here or on the desktop. There is none because it runs seamlessly as if it were part of your Windows operating system. My system is an Intel-powered PIII, 512MB memory, 2 large capacity hard drives, a 250MB Zip, a 100MB Iomega Zip and a 1.44 MB floppy running Windows 98. It is compatible with Windows Me, 95, 98, NT 4.0, 2000 and XP.

When viewing the available drives in "MY COMPUTER", the drives containing Mac formatted media will have the signature red apple graphic on the lower right side. Install an IBM-formatted disk and the apple disappears. When you right click on the removable drive, you will find on the pull-down menu the function Macdrive. Highlighting Macdrive will give you two choices: format Mac disks or copy Mac disks which opens a window for its function. Formatting a Mac 100MB Zip disk took 20 seconds.

Macdrive 5 has additional features like: create MacBinary files, extract original Mac files and View Mac resources. Through Macdrive Properties, one can select enhanced disk icons, make Mac disks read-only, display file names with appropriate extension, remove extensions when creating files, save full-length Mac OSX file names or show Windows-compatible file names. Note the windows-compatible file name option should only be used under NT, 2000, and XP in order to preserve the original Mac file names. The program will distinguish between Mac HFS and the HFS+ formats.

View Mac Resources is another feature in Macdrive 5. For files that contain resource fork data, MD5 provides both a combination hexadecimal and ASCII display of selected resource data and an option to save that data as either a raw binary file or a hex/ASCII text file.

This MD5 cross-platform software works with Microsoft Works, Office, Word, Excel, FrontPage, Powerpoint, Access, Appleworks, Photoshop, Illustrator, Pagemaker, indesign, Painter, Director, Freehand, QuarkXpress, and FilemakerPro. The Mac files opened just as if they were PC based. Not only did the program work seamlessly but also flawlessly. Macdrive 5 for Windows users could include students, teachers, graphic artists and people in advertising, computer-aided design, publishing, audio, video, film and network administrators.

MacDrive 5 is priced as $49.95 for the Internet download and through most retailer at $59.95 single copy, $19.95 for the upgrade, $199.95 for the 5 stain pack and $397.95 for the 10 user version. My program was packaged with Stuffit Expander 7.0 for windows; a powerful cross-platform decompression program. Mediafour also sells the Xplay and TechTV programs. Mediafour Corporation is located in West Des Moines, Iowa and can be reached at (515) 225-7049 or at www.mediafour.com. It has won awards for Macdrive 5 for Windows from Photo Electronic Imaging magazine and an Editors choice award from Macworld. ■

Sygate Personal Firewall Pro 5.0

Addendum to November Review

Ted Littman, NOCCC

In addition to Sygate's Security Testing site, which was mentioned in the November 2002 Orange Bytes review, beginning users will find the following free resources helpful and invaluable:

1) The **Sygate User Forums** located at the following URL: http://forums.sygate.com

Product feedback, user questions, technical support, troubleshooting, custom rules, etc. This has proven to be a most useful resource for novice or beginning users.

2) The **Product support** site: http://soho.sygate.com/ support (FAQ's, Technotes, Userguide, Quickstarts, etc) ■

TOM'S HARDWARE GUIDE

by Joe Sherry, NOCCC

Allow me to introduce *Tom's Hardware Guide* to those of you who are not familiar with this fantastic website and newsletter.

It is interesting to me at present because of its recent article on the 2 Ghz Celeron processor and the attempts at overclocking it to as high as 3 Ghz!

Though Intel locked in the multiplier at the factory, Tom's increased the FSB from 400Mhz to 533Mhz and then ran it at 266 Ghz. (Your motherboard has to have the 533 capability.) With sufficient cooling it ran fine. This may not be all right for all of the manufactured 2Ghz processors but it is worth a try.

They then increased the system speed to 600Mhz (4x150). It worked, but they don't recommend it for long-term operation. If you are into compressing media files then the 533Mhz should serve you well.

Tom's Hardware website is a very interesting and informative one for those who are hardware oriented and "tech savvy." It has excellent searches for prices, special articles, and archived info. It seems to be objective and unbiased.

For the main website page, go to www.tomshardware.com. For the write-up on the new 2 Ghz Celeron, go to tomshardware.com/cpu/02q4/021016/index.html. ■

Reviews Editor's Corner

If you write a review for the *Orange Bytes*, you may keep the item. If you would like to review a specific product (software, hardware, or book), please let me know and I will try to obtain it. If you are interested, please contact me:

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> - **(714) 779-1936**
> - **reviews@noccc.org**
> - **TedLit@Adelphia.net**

Products Available for Review

A number of products have been obtained from vendors for review by qualified NOCCC members. If you are interested in doing a review (which will be published in Orange Bytes), please call or E-Mail me and provide your membership number, phone number, and E-Mail address. **Remember, you get to keep the product!** A current list of available products can be obtained by sending an e-mail to **items@noccc.org.** Your response will be the listing. Available as of early November were the following software programs:

Print Shop Deluxe 15 - The latest version of this outstanding program to create your own greeting cards, invitations, brochures, and much more.

NaturePainter Digital Canvas 1.0 - A new realistic painting program that makes it easy to learn how to paint with oils and acrylics before spending a bundle on supplies.

Jasc's After Shot Premium Ed. - The easy way to organize, fix, and share photos from your digital camera.

Jasc's Quick View Plus 7 - View, copy, and print files and e-mail attachments from programs you don't have! Supports over 200 different file formats.

Red Earth Software's Policy Patrol 2 - Protect yourself against e-mail security threats with virus scanning, spam blocking, and other tools.

IconLover 1.11 - A great solution for extracting, cataloging, and managing PC computer icons.

PhotoBase 3.0 for Windows - A multimedia management/presentation-making app

Handy Backup 3.5 for Windows - Automatic backup of critical data to any storage type

Essential Net Tools 3.1 for Windows - A suite of network tools

Xplay - Enables Windows users to use Apple's i-Pod. It brings to you the power of the ultimate portable MP3 player.

Apycom Java Menu Applets 3.0 - Create cross-browser drop down menus, bars, and buttons for your Website.

Greenface: The Virtual Reality 2.01 - An action puzzle/game for all ages.

Win Task 4 Professional - One of the most powerful Windows process viewers to help optimize performance.

Murach's Beginning Visual Basic .Net - A 725-page book to get you started.

Watznew 1.9.5 – an award-winning software that regularly checks your favorite web sites and mailboxes and notifies you of changes.

Sygate Home Network 4.2 for 6 Users – The top-notch firewall to protect your home network system.

Advanced CATaloguer 2.3 – easy-to-use cataloguing software for finding files stored on all kinds of removable media.

Sammy Suricate 1.45 - a 3D action/puzzle game designed for all ages.

Membership Drive

Please tell more people about the advantages of membership in NOCCC.

Preparing a Review Article for the Orange Bytes

by Ted Littman,
NOCCC Reviews Editor

The following suggestions for preparing a review article for the Orange Bytes were extracted from an OCIPUG article and are intended as a guide only. As a reviewer, your audience wants to know your opinion (as an end user) of the product (hardware, software, book) you are reviewing. Please fully identify the product and its cost so that interested club members may be able to purchase it. After you have tested the product, consider these questions:

I.   What is the product's stated purpose and does it meet it?

II.   Within its category of software (i.e., word processor, spreadsheet, database, etc.), does it stand out?

III. What are its major features?

IV. Is it easy to use? Can a novice use it?

V.   Can you quote or reference articles/reviews in the computer magazines?
The following list contains more specific questions that apply to either software or hardware:

VI. Requirements:
    A.a Operating systems?
    A.b Windows?
    A.c Memory?
    A.d Disk space?
    A.e Is a Mouse supported?

II.   Installation (do not overemphasize details):
    B.a Was it difficult?
    B.b Copy or write protected?
    B.c Does it allow drive and directory selection?

B.d Does it automatically configure system? Can you control it?

III. Information about your system:
    C.a Hardware?
    C.b Operating system? Version?
    C.c Memory?
    C.d Video display?

IV. Documentation:
    D.a What is supplied? Manuals (paperback, electronic) Tutorial? Templates? Table of Contents? Index?
    D.a Was it clear, concise and helpful?
    D.c Is there a troubleshooting section?

V. Product Support:
    E.a How is the vendor's tech support?
    E.b Does it cost anything?
    E.c Is it a toll call?
    E.d Does the vendor provide Internet support?

VI. About the product:
    F.a What comes with the product?
    F.b What is the cost? (list & street)
    F.c Version number and release date?
    F.d How difficult is the learning curve?
    F.e Would you buy/use the product?
    F.f Do you recommend it?
    F.g What don't you like about it?
    F.h What improvements or changes would you like to see?
    F.i Can the software be downloaded from the vendor's Web site; is there a free trial period before buying?
    F.j What warranty is there on hardware?

VII. What are the Name, Address, Phone number (including 800 number), and WEB address (e-mail and URL) of the vendor?

After you have answered all these questions you should have enough information to write your review. Please be precise but do not make it so technical that only a few people can understand. Please advise the *Orange Bytes* Editor if you need graphics, pictures, or illustrations to get your point across. ∎

Guidelines for Submittal

Important! Please limit the length of your submittals. We request you limit general articles and software reviews to a maximum of 1300 words, SIG reports to 700 words, book reviews to 600 words, low cost CD- ROM titles to 600 words, and more sophisticated CD-ROMs to 1000 words. As far as the minimum is concerned, we'd just like to see you do justice to any general article or to any product that is reviewed. An expensive software package ($300-700) deserves at least 1,300 words. An inexpensive program ($50 or less) might have 500 words. Reviews must be completed within two months so that the Reviews Editor (Ted Littman) can, in a timely manner, send a copy to the vendor. If you change your mind about doing the review, please call him at (714) 779-1936 ASAP to make arrangements for returning the product for reassignment. We hope you enjoy writing your review.

You can now e-mail articles directly to the Editor through the North Orange County Computer Club's Web Site: editor@noccc.org Or just give the file on disk (with a printout) directly to Alan Pearlman (President), Jim Sanders (Publications Chairman), or Ted Littman on the next meeting day. If you e-mail your review, please also send a copy to TedLit@Adelphia.net.

To transfer your article from your Windows word processor, click at the beginning of the article with your mouse, shift down arrow to the end of the article, then Edit Cut (C), open your e-mail program, and Edit Paste (V). This will convert the file to ASCII. If your article is too long to include in an e-mail, please save as an ASCII file with a .TXT extension. Then zip the article and attach it to your e-mail.

All documents should have flush left margins, and double carriage returns (skip a line) between paragraphs. The editors will bold your paragraph headings, etc., in order to obtain consistent formatting throughout the *Bytes*. Don't use CAPS for emphasis; that's like shouting at someone! We usually have to delete and retype them, which can be a lot of work. CAPS are reserved for computer commands or file names, like AUTOEXEC.BAT or KNOW.TXT. For titles of books and software, capitalize the first letter of each word. We will add the underlining in PageMaker.

Also, please spell-check your article and try to follow the ordinary rules of grammar. Do not use columns, tabs, indents, justification, hyphenation or formatting codes. (If columns or tables are absolutely needed, send us a hard copy to guide us.)

We will look forward to seeing your review in print and on the Web site. ∎

November General Meeting

by Eric Saca NOCCC

In November, we had a visit from one of Microsoft's ace technical seminar presenters – Todd Stallard. He explained and demonstrated new productivity features in Windows XP. This was a follow-up presentation to his earlier one in the New Technologies meeting.

President Alan Pearlman opened the meeting. After the usual announcements and random access, Jim Sanders introduced Todd Stallard. (Jim was responsible for getting Todd to join us in the first place.)

Before Todd started the presentation, however, Jim explained a special raffle being conducted thanks to Todd. Everyone attending was given a free raffle ticket. With these tickets, free copies of Windows XP Pro were being given away to lucky members of the audience. Also, Todd had donated a free copy of Office XP for our regular raffle.

Todd began with a short PowerPoint slide show providing basic Windows XP product information – the three editions, the XP Home, Professional and 64-bit Editions; minimum system requirements; performance benchmarks, superior to previous Windows versions; and the extra features making it compelling to buy Windows XP Professional instead of the Home Edition. Todd also mentioned reliability, explaining that Windows XP is at least as reliable as Windows 2000. Most of the information he covered can be found on the Microsoft website at www.microsoft.com/windowsxp.

(As Todd worked with PowerPoint, the paperclip Office Assistant appeared and Todd remarked about how much people tend to be annoyed by the paperclip. In response, Gerry Resch mentioned that the paperclip was actually invented by a bright Chapman University student who had received a scholarship from NOCCC.)

Todd next began the demonstration part of his presentation. He explained and demonstrated the following:

Windows File Protection. Critical system files are maintained in a hard drive cache, in case they are accidentally deleted. This helps to ensure the operating system's reliability. (As a Microsoft joke, the built-in games, such as Solitaire, are also maintained in this cache.) Consequently, it is almost impossible to delete these important files. Using Windows Explorer, Todd deleted Framebuf.dll, an integral system file, from the System32 directory. He then closed Windows Explorer and re-opened it. When he looked back in the System32 directory, Framebuf.dll was there – although it had been deleted seconds earlier.

New driver features in Device Manager. Todd explained driver signing, a process by which Microsoft certifies third party drivers as being fully compatible with Windows XP. He showed us the area in Device Manager where driver signing is maintained for each driver. He also showed us the button for rolling back a driver to its previous version – in case the new version causes problems. (This can only be done once after a driver is upgraded. Drivers cannot be rolled back multiple revisions.)

System Restore. This can be more effective than an uninstall routine. A system restore point is set before installing a software package. If it turns out that the installation causes problems and needs to be undone, you can use System Restore to return the operating system to the way it was before the installation. Any changes to the registry and system files will be completely undone. Those items will be restored exactly to what they were when the system restore point was set.

Windows tracks restore points by date and provides a calendar to let you access them. You can also custom name your restore points.

Product Activation. Todd explained that no personal information is sent to Microsoft during Product Activation. Microsoft is not interested in gathering its customers' private information. All you provide is your serial number and country. The purpose of Product Activation is simply to reduce casual piracy. It ties a copy of XP with the computer on which it is installed.

Remote Assistance. Todd had his two laptops networked together with a small hub. He demonstrated how Remote Assistance allows one user (the support technician) to manipulate the desktop of another (the client requesting support) through a true Terminal Services connection. When this occurs, both the technician and the client share control of the system. If at any time, the client is uncomfortable with what the technician is doing, he can cut off his connection simply by hitting the Escape key.

Nevertheless, Todd provided a serious warning about being careful not to allow just anyone to access your system through Remote Assistance. This feature gives them almost unlimited access to your PC. They can do anything to your PC through Remote Access – including wipe out the hard drive.

Remote Assistance can work effectively over a network, over the Internet or even over a slow modem line. It refreshes the technician's view of the screen in a way that adapts well to slow connections. Todd said that he even ran PowerPoint presentations effectively with Remote Assistance over a 28.8 modem line.

Remote Desktop. Like Remote Assistance, this feature allows you full access to your computer from a remote location, through a network, the Internet or a dial-up connection. (This is similar to functionality provided by Symantec's PC Anywhere. Users familiar with that product will appreciate Remote Desktop.)

Todd pointed out that use of Remote desktop over an intranet or the Internet requires the Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP). This in turn requires access to TCP port 3389 (the RDP port).

Application Compatibility Mode. This ☞

allows XP to mimic previous versions of Windows and thus 'fool' older applications into thinking they are running on the older OS version. Todd demonstrated this by setting XP to act like Windows 95. He first opened Notepad before establishing Compatibility Mode. He opened "Help:About Notepad". It displayed the standard version that ships with Windows XP. He closed Notepad. Then after establishing Compatibility Mode, he opened Notepad again and clicked Help:About. It displayed version 4.0 – the old version that had shipped with Windows 95. Thus, Compatibility Mode affects the operation of most features of Windows – even down to the Help:About screens in various applets.

Todd also announced the following popular Microsoft products:

Small Business Server. A powerful and affordable BackOffice solution for small businesses. It is basically a combination of Windows 2000 server, Exchange e-mail server, SQL database server and a firewall server all in one.

SharePoint Team Services. With this package, wizards can guide you to easily set up your very own intranet server. SharePoint Team Services comes with FrontPage in Microsoft Office XP.

Before concluding, Todd mentioned the upcoming free Microsoft Big Day event. It occurs on Thursday, November 21st from 8 AM to 12:30 PM at the Sheraton Anaheim Hotel. These events also occur all the time, all over the country. More details are available at "http://www.msbigday.com" www.msbigday.com .

After Todd concluded his presentation, the regular raffle was conducted and a lucky member won the copy of Office XP. Then Todd brought up his laptop screen with the random numbers for the special Windows XP raffle. The lucky people who had those numbers on their raffle tickets lined up to get their free copies of Office Pro.

Next Meeting – YEA!!! We're going to have "King Richard the Katz" — of the McKatz Brothers team of wild, woolly, whacky and wonderful computer technology presenters. He and his brother

(by different mothers and fathers) Matt McCann are now making nationwide presentations for MICROSOFT.

Either one of them is an absolutely MUST SEE. Together, as they will be in COMDEX, shortly before the December meeting – they are almost too much to bear. Don't miss this meeting. It would be great even if Richard were talking about dog food. But it will be even greater since he'll be giving us loads of food for thought about everything Microsoft. AND, if this is typical of other Microsoft presentations, there will be LOTS of hot raffle prizes and/or handouts. Remember the copies of XP given out in November? Don't miss out. Be There! ■

Computer Aided Investing (CAI) SIG

by Bob Krishfield NOCCC

A Great October Rally — But Will It Continue?

It was nice for a change to have the markets rise for 4 weeks in a row, up by 989 points since last month¹s meeting. None of our members anticipated this with our vote. Maybe I've reduced our members optimism with too many scary technical indicators. But it's better to be a skeptic in these markets than a fool. Our vote for next month favored an upturn by next month.

So what's next in the charts? There is still hope that the markets will rise by years end, but there is a lot of uncertainty of what may happen before then. For the Dow, S&P500 and OTC, we haven't seen enough advancement to cross above the down trend line formed over the last 2 1/2 years. This means from a big picture,

we are still in a downtrend. Over the last few months we are seeing higher bottoms of these indices, but the peaks formed since July are lower.

In addition we need to get above the August high to get this market to begin a sustained rally. Until then, investors need to be cautions about putting new money into the market. If this Dow rally turns downward in the next few weeks, the chances are great that we will see a new bottom. Those following market cycles believe the 4 year cycle bottom is due in this time frame (late Nov — early Dec.). After the cycle bottoms, a market rally can be expected to continue into Spring 2003. Of course, a war with IRAQ could change things too.

The special topic for the meeting was determining a stocks value, and how one can use various tools and models to determine if a stock is overvalued and should be sold, or undervalued and a good candidate to buy. A report from Morningstar.com made the point that many stocks are still overvalued even though the market is down from recent highs. This point was shown to exist using some of the best stocks selected from Investors Business Daily (Screen of the Day). Target prices were computed using the current PE times Earnings Per Share, and only 5 of the 40 stocks had targets that were more than 10% above current prices (undervalued), while 15 of 40 were overvalued. This simple technique is a practical tool to used to screen candidate stock picks, but is not sufficient to justify a buy recommendation.

A short demo was provided of Investor/RT from Linnsoft.com. This program runs on both Macs and PCs and features: real time and end of day charting, technical analysis, data base scans of both fundamental and technical data (like TC2000), trading systems and custom indicators (like Metastock). It handles stocks, options, futures, mutual funds trading. It has recently been setup to run on Mac 10.2 and has a few bugs in this version.

Next month we will look at stock screening tools to find stocks that will do well when the market takes off again. ■

Gaming SIG

by C. Lemire, MA NOCCC

Gaming Jobs For Graduates

Our first few Gaming SIG meetings introduced the world of gaming to NOCCC members through Tech TV Extended Play current events and reviews. The recurrent theme was with all the success of gaming platforms, where are the gaming jobs of today and the future?

Gone are the days of 15 year old kids creating programs in their parent's garage. Success has brought in the administrators, says Tim Everingham, Developer and SIGGraph LA Assoc. VP. With them, has arrived the educational prerequisite that was overlooked in order to hire young, or recruit students before they completed engineering college. Now, a typical job profile would be for a graduate from a reputable engineering college program (Stanford, USC, UCLA, Berkeley, etc.), that interned concurrently with a major company and be hired after completing a masters or contract to complete a graduate degree while working.

The key reason for the criteria, says Tim, is the need for state of the art hardware (HW) and software (SW) savvy engineers who understand the scope and best-fit of modern HW/SW systems. Gaming players need to be SW coders who know the HW limits to make constructive criticism, most likely making the changes themselves as needed anywhere along the gaming construction AND doing it by yesterday.

As a recruiter for the University of California system, I have seen the demand for graduate-level engineering programs where undergraduate programs were before. Tim warns that only the most prominent computer science graduate programs are recognized by the Gaming Developer industry. Other 1-2 year tech-only educational programs are seen as secretarial or maintenance support.

Join us this month as we talk about the hardware for gaming — are computers out? boxx or PS? or a hybrid of both? Build it or buy it? The SIG time is 9:30-10:30 a.m. in room 203 Science at Chapman College on NOCCC Sunday. Contact me at:

NOCCCGamingSIG@earthlink.net to learn more, suggest topics, and submit questions. :-). ∎

Computer Security SIG

By Dave Keays

In November, we talked about evaluating different spam filters, some of the new vulnerabilities that have popped-up this last month (literally—in one case), and the attack the previous Monday.

While I'll evaluate SpamExam as soon as it's released, we need people to evaluate other programs such as Mail Washer, Spam Assassin, Popfile, or anything similar. If you use one of these programs or are planning to, email me at dave@rdksoftware.com.
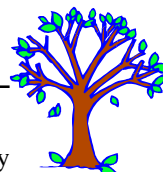
We also went over some of the new Internet nasties and how to avoid them: We need to keep an eye on the system tray to make sure anti virus and personal firewall programs are running (the first thing the Bugbear worm does is shutdown AVs and PFWs). Because of a new kind of spam, it is advised that windows NT/2000/XP have Messenger Services turned off.

Next month, we'll be looking at Microsoft's new security platform, Palladium and what people are saying about it. ∎

Genealogy SIG

by John Johnson

The meeting was led by John Johnson, who is taking over leading the SIG. It was brought up that the LDS web site now has the 1880 census available. We went to it (familysearch.org) and found it has the British, Canadian and U. S. census reports. We went to the U. S. census and looked up a few names suggested by those in the audience. This was quite an interesting search. The database not only will list someone that was recorded in the census, but you can also see their next neighbor and previous neighbor. One of the names we looked up had the parents listed as the next neighbor. Both listed occupations as farmers, so they were not next door as we think of it today.

The meeting ended at 4:00 p.m. Please bring your questions next month. ∎

Macintosh SIG

by John Willner NOCCC
willner@earthlink.net

New members were welcomed. The range of Macintosh's owned was from one to half a dozen. Therefore, in the main, these newcomers are heavy users. Several expressed delight at being able to attend a "can do" meeting, as opposed to those filled with fatal problems.

We started out talking about eBay for buying and selling, plus the great power of Apple''s Sherlock to locate sources. Several examples were given. One was the problem of locating an Apple Studio monitor to replace one that had been demolished by UPS. By taking advantage of bidding rules within eBay, this 17" monitor (original cost $1000) was bid to $175, where an overbid was encountered at the last minute. The vendor then entered a "buy now" duplicate that I was able to capture for $75. Instructions for using eBay to buy, sell and pay for services were passed around. They now have their own escrow service. Another example was finding a $5000 Proxima LCD projector for $950. It was available simply because the older (higher quality) model had been superseded with a lighter version. It took about 15 minutes to complete the transaction. ☞

With MacWorld coming up in January, all kinds of MUG (Mac User Group) discounts are becoming available. Several offers were passed around. Aladdin's *Ten for X* utility package made popular at the last MacWorld conference was one. Several game vendors were represented, and those were passed on to Claire for use with her Gaming SIG.

We then watched a DVD of the recent Seybold Conference held in San Francisco. This is a multimedia conference mainly for professionals. The principal Mac speaker was Bill Schiller, a manager at Apple. He spoke about some of the 150+ new features in Jaguar that respond to requests from these professionals. First, he gave statistics. Apple has a goal to get five million copies of Jaguar into the hands of users by the end of the year. 100,000 copies were sold in the first week after release. This operation is on target with 3.5 million delivered by early October. A goal to have 5,000 applications written for OS X available by the end of they year (exclusive of Java and Unix programs) is on target. 3,900 were released by the end of July. Then, the main features of Jaguar were covered, starting with Quartz Extreme. This software combines 2D, 3D and video imaging in one package so that any combination plays seamlessly. Compositing was awesome. Advantage has been taken of high performance video cards and the dual processors to obtain superb quality at 25 frames per second. Quicktime 6 was reviewed. MPEG 4 is accommodated. New image capture software was demonstrated that was matched to the best of the new digital cameras, a professional level Nikon that can use existing lenses at 5 megabytes per square inch. Moreover, automatic coupling with all of the latest cameras is provided. Multimedia outputs based on PDF that will play on any platform was demonstrated.

Because of time constraints we didn't watch this movie to the end. However, there were further discussions of Rendezvous, Color Sync, Symmetric Multi-Processing, TWAIN, Inkwell, and about $10,000 worth of new fonts. In short, Apple has set out to satisfy the needs of consumers with high quality products that are completely professional and with direct applicability that avoids nuisance steps to become operational. For example, one does not have to find, install and check drivers using rigidly sequenced procedures. Most interconnections are automatic.

Next month we'll demonstrate some of Jaguar's features using an LCD projector and discuss objectives for the MacWorld Conference. Claire and I will represent the NOCCC at MacWorld, there being a 2 person limit per user's group. ■

AutoCAD SIG

By Joe Mizer, SIG Leader and Adam Rodriguez

At the November 3rd meeting, we covered projecting geometry from one object to a sketch plane. This feature is available in both Mechanical Desktop and Autodesk Inventor. The advantages are when making a new part, that must mate with an existing part, both need to have a common bolt pattern. When one of the parts is already modeled the bolt pattern or the entire face can be projected onto the second part. This will save time and avoid mistakes as long as you are sure of the first model. The pattern that is projected can be profiled, and then extruded the same as any other sketch you would draw. We will be spending more time on Inventor each month at the meetings. Inventor displays only the tool bars you need for the operation you are trying to perform. When you are in sketch mode, the sketching tools are displayed; when you leave sketch mode you do not have to profile and add dimensions as you would in Mechanical Desktop, you can immediately extrude, or revolve your sketch. You should, however, use the general dimension tool and make the dimensions of your sketch match what is needed in your part before leaving sketch mode. The dimensions can, of course, be modified later but I find it best when I start with my best guess at the final dimensions. You will also notice that the erase and copy commands are missing. The erase command is now just the delete key on the keyboard, requiring you to select the line or object in advance. The copy command is now combined with both the line and rotate commands, and has been given some additional functionality.

The AutoCAD Users group meets for two hours on the club meeting days for demonstrations and to answer questions. Bring specific questions and we will get you the best answers we can. At the December meeting we will give a demonstration of constructing a part within an existing assembly and will project some more surfaces. We will also demonstrate part assembly manipulation. ■

United We Stand

Consignment Table

by Cathy Shimozono

Hi there, all you NOCCC'ers. Have I got a scoop for you! December is traditionally our big Game & Gift month. But this year we will also feature crafts and goodies too. Do you have a unique hobby or craft you make? Bring it! If you have any special cookies or other tasties bring them too. You might want to bring copies of the recipes and either sell them or offer them as a free bonus for buying your tasties. Be creative. We'll do all the selling work so you don't have to.

By the way, please bring lots of money and join in the fun . I am sorry I was in the hospital during the October meeting, but all is well and I am back so expect to hear Ho! Ho! Ho! Merry Christmas and what can I sell you, that you just can't live another day without. ■

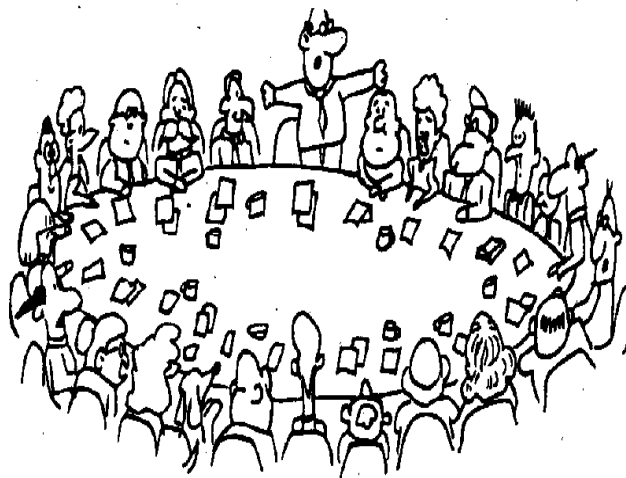**Note! There are 3 new SIGs:** Computer Security, Gaming - PC & Mac, Linux Programming Concepts

SIG List

Those who have listed an e-mail address would prefer to be contacted by e-mail rather than by phone whenever possible

SIG	Bldg	Room	Time	Leader	E-mail	Phone
Autocad	Wilkinson	111	9:00	Joe Mizer	jmizer@earthlink.net	909-688-9848
Computer Aided Investing	Wilkinson	211	9:30	Bob Krishfield	bobkrish@socal.rr.com	714-532-3096
Computer Security	Science	203	11:15	Dave Keays	rdksoft@sbcglobal.net	714-821-4792
Gaming - PC & Mac	Science	203	9:30	Claire Lemire	NOCCCGamingSIG@earthlink.net	714-740-1058
Genealogy	Irvine Hall	—	2:30	John Johnson	jrosjohnson@juno.com	714-991-3314
Hardware Essentials	Science	306	9:30	Herbert Wong	ocug@singularitytechnology.com	714-968-7264
Hardware Essentials	Science	109	2:30	Herbert Wong	ocug@singularitytechnology.com	714-968-7264
Linux for Desktop Users	Wilkinson	210	9:00	Bob C. Ray	bobcray@pacbell.net	714-634-7520
Linux for Server Administrators	Wilkinson	210	10:00	Bob C. Ray	bobcray@pacbell.net	714-634-7520
Linux Programming Concepts	Wilkinson	210	11:15	Bob C. Ray	bobcray@pacbell.net	714-634-7520
Macintosh	Wilkinson	221	11:15	John Willner	Willner@earthlink.net	714-838-1434
New Technolgy	Irvine Hall	—	9:30	George Margolin	Inventor@pobox.com	949-645-5950
Office Suites	Science	111	11:15	John Heenan	jc_heenan@csi.com	714-998-7660
PC Q&A	Irvine Hall	—	11:15	Jim Sanders	jsanders@ligasmicro.com	714-636-5523
Understanding OS's	Wilkinson	111	11:15	Charlie Moore	mooreca@adelphia.net	714-529-9071
Visual Programming I	Science	109	8:30	Anson Chapman	aeccrc@hotmail.com	909-860-9515
Visual Programming Ii	Science	109	9:00	Anson Chapman	aeccrc@hotmail.com	909-860-9515
Visual Programming Iii	Science	109	10:00	Anson Chapman	aeccrc@hotmail.com	909-860-9515
Visual Programming Iv	Science	109	11:15	Anson Chapman	aeccrc@hotmail.com	909-860-9515
Windows	Science	111	9:00	James Smith	jamescsmith@bigfoot.com	714-751-2922

Please report SIG changes to .... Linda Russell   goodnewsent@compuserve.com
909-949-4930

The new 105 keyboards arrive tomorrow, and they all include the anykey.

NOCCC Help Line

The Help Line is in the true spirit of NOCCC, which is to help others to learn more about computers. The following is a list of Help Line Volunteers. The list is organized by the topic that each volunteer is willing to help you with. Please help us to keep this list current. Call or e-mail Ted Williams at 639-1009 or TedWilliams@alum.MIT.edu with additions, deletions, or corrections.

AI
Amiga
Apple
Apple II
Apple/Educator
C/C++
Computer Boards
Corel Draw
Excel(IBM)
Excel(Mac)
MacIntosh
MacIntosh
Memory/Interrupts
Modem Hardware
Modem Software
Neural Networks
OS/2
Pagemaker 6.0/6.5
PC, Beginners
PC Hardware
Quicken 6.0
Quickbooks 5.0
Quicken 2000,2001
Quickbooks
Quicken Home &
Business 2000, 2001
Powerpoint
Realtime Control
Robotics
Tcl/Tk
Unix
Windows 9X
Windows 9X
Windows 2000
Word
Word
WordPerfect

Details are available in the Printed Orange Bytes which is mailed to members

New volunteers for the Help Line would be appreciated!
Macromedia volunteers needed.

North Orange County Computer Club
Profit & Loss Statement

July 2001 through June 2002

Ordinary Income

Interest Income **120.97**

Membership Income
    New Family Dues 90.00
    New Regular Dues 870.00
    Renewal Family Dues 330.00
    Renewal Regular Dues 10,050.00
Total Membership Income 11,340.00

Other Income

Advertising Sales 1,607.00
Consignment Table Income 818.40
Entert Books Sales 430.00
Miscellaneous Income 278.31
Raffle Income 954.00
Shirt Sales 50.00
Total Other Income 4,137.71

Table Payouts 117.20

Total Income 15,715.88

Cost of Goods Sold

Entert Books Purchase 344.00
Total COGS .... (344.00)

GROSS PROFIT **15,371.88**

Ordinary Expense

Misc Expense
    Bank Service Charges 380.32
    Contributions 2,000.00
    Dues & Subscriptions 50.00
    Liability Insurance 558.00
    Licenses & Permits 235.00
    Web Page 2 .... 61.49
Total Misc Expenses 3,484.81

Office Supplies 862.71
Postage
    Membership Postage 112.00
    Orange Bytes Postage 910.31
    Other Postage 223.65
Total Postage 1,245.96

Printing
    Orange Bytes Printing 7,913.62
    Other Printing 37.07
Total Printing 7,950.69

Professional Fees
    Accounting 430.00
Total Professional Fees 430.00

Telephone Expense
    714-633-9259 .... 173.02
    714-998-8080 .... 208.67
    AT&T 633-9259 .... 109.09
    Other 13.76
Total Telephone Exp 504.54

Travel & Entertainment
    Meals & Entertainment 447.67
Total Travel & Entertainment 447.67

TOTAL EXPENSE 14,926.38

NET INCOME **445.50**

Publication Information

Membership Renewal

When you turn in your Membership Renewal check, PLEASE fill out a Membership Renewal Application.

Memberships may also be re-newed on our Website noccc.org

QUICK MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

Date:_____   ☐ I am a new member

☐ This is a renewal; my membership number is _____
PLEASE PRINT!

Name _____

Address_____

City _____

State_____Zip _____   Phone_____

email_____

Fees: $30 per year plus $15 for each additional family member

Amount enclosed $_____

☐ MC   ☐ Visa _____ Expires _____

Please make check to **North Orange County Computer Club**
and mail with application to:

North Orange County Computer Club
PO Box 3616
Orange, CA 92857

Are You an NOCCC Member?

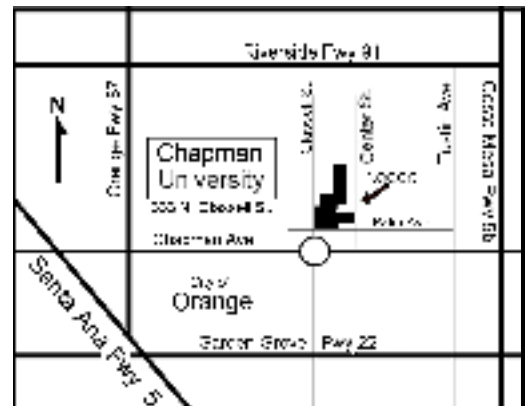**Consider all that you get with membership and Join Now**

- **Meetings**. Keep up with what's going on in the computer world. Hear outstanding industry representatives make presentations of the latest and greatest in computer products.

- **Special Interest Groups**. Our 20 SIGs cover a broad spectrum of user interest; they invite you, whether you rank as beginner or seasoned computerist, to the lectures and demonstrations they sponsor, and to share computer knowledge.

- **Get help with your current computer problems**. In the Random Access portions of the meetings you ask your question of the entire assemblage, and more than likely someone will have the answer.

- **The NOCCC HelpLine**. Some 20 NOCCC volunteers, experts in their fields, stand ready to assist with your problems, as close as your telephone.

- **The *Orange Bytes* Newsmagazine**. Our Award Winning newsmagazine mailed monthly to your address reports on current activities and gives you articles and reviews geared toward your needs.

- **Raffles**. We have distributed thousands of dollars worth of hardware and software raffle prizes at our New Technologies and General meetings.

- **Product Review.** Write a review for this newsletter and keep the software, hardware, book or CD-ROM. Members review several products a month

- **Consignment Table**. We have a thriving consignment table on our regular meeting day in which we assist members to sell or buy all kinds of computer items.

- **Volunteer Work**. You are given opportunities to help our activities with interesting assignments. An all-volunteer organization, you can join with other members in a variety of activities, write articles for our newsletter, conducting a seminar, running a SIG, maning the help desk, showing new members around, help the membership commitee, and more.

Parking Information — Chapman University's main parking lot is on the north side of the campus (enter from Walnut) and is free of charge for NOCCC's meetings on Sunday. Please feel free to park in the parking lots.

Parking is also free on the **campus-side** of the surface streets. The city of Orange's parking laws prohibit parking in front of residential housing which is across the street from Chapman University. **Expensive parking tickets will be issued to violators.**

The NOCCC Information Desk, Membership Desk, Reviews Desk, Consignment Table, and most of the meeting rooms are in Irvine/Hashinger Hall and the Science Center on the east side of the campus (near Center Street).

Become an NOCCC member by signing up at the Membership Desk on our general meeting day, usually the first Sunday of the month. Or simply fill out the form on the reverse side of this page and send it in!

For current meeting information, please call **(714) 998-8080** for a recorded message.

North Orange County Computer Club
PO Box 3616
Orange CA 92857

Address Service Requested

Members:
Your expiration month and year
appear on your mailing label.
Please renew promptly, using
the application inside.

Dated Material - Please Expedite