

THE NEWS MAGAZINE OF THE ALAMO PC ORGANIZATION

PC Alamode

PHOTOGRAPHY ISSUE

www.alamopc.org

June 2006

\$4.00

10 tips for photos on the road
page 37

Printing better pictures
page 45

Adobe Photoshop CS2
page 56

General Meeting:
page 9





SAVE ON INK

without the squid farm.


LEXMARK
Canon
EPSON
and more...

Discount Printer Ink

Ink Cartridges ♦ Laser Toner ♦ All Printing Supplies

Huebner Oaks
next to BBQ Galore

San Pedro
next to Hermes Music



The Forum
behind Hobby Lobby

Bulverde Road
inside Loop 1604

210-2-BUY-INK
(210-228-9465)
www.inksell.com

Printer
InkSell.com **INK**



 **New
Life
Toner inc.**

930-9300

5800 Rittiman Plaza
www.toner.net

Reduce Office Cost!
Save Up to 70%
on Supplies
Printer, Fax, & Copiers
Toner, Ink, Ribbons
Free Delivery
Volume Discounts
Money Back Guarantee
Huge Selection

New and compatible Toner & Ink Crtgs

We buy empty toner and ink cartridges.
Ask about the great deals on refurb. printers

**Authorized
Printer Service**
Hewlett-Packard
Xerox
Okidata
Brother

10%

Discount
On Parts and Labor

We also service
Lexmark
Canon
Sony
Computer Service
Coupon 1103



Alamo PC Organization

Alamo PC Organization is a non-profit organization whose mission is to increase its members knowledge and effective use of personal computers through presentations, instructional programs, other membership services and access to the expertise of other members.



To register for a Class, Study Group or Sr. Comp classes call:

Registration number **210.736.0080**

If you **didn't receive your issue** of *PC Alamode* or have questions about your **membership** e-mail:

membership@alamopc.org

If you have questions about Alamo PC call:

Learning Center number **210.736.0700**

If you have comments about classes call

Linda Bianchi **210.226.2460**

If you have questions about advertising call

Joseph de Leon
send e-mail to editor@alamopc.org

Please send change of address and other correspondence to:

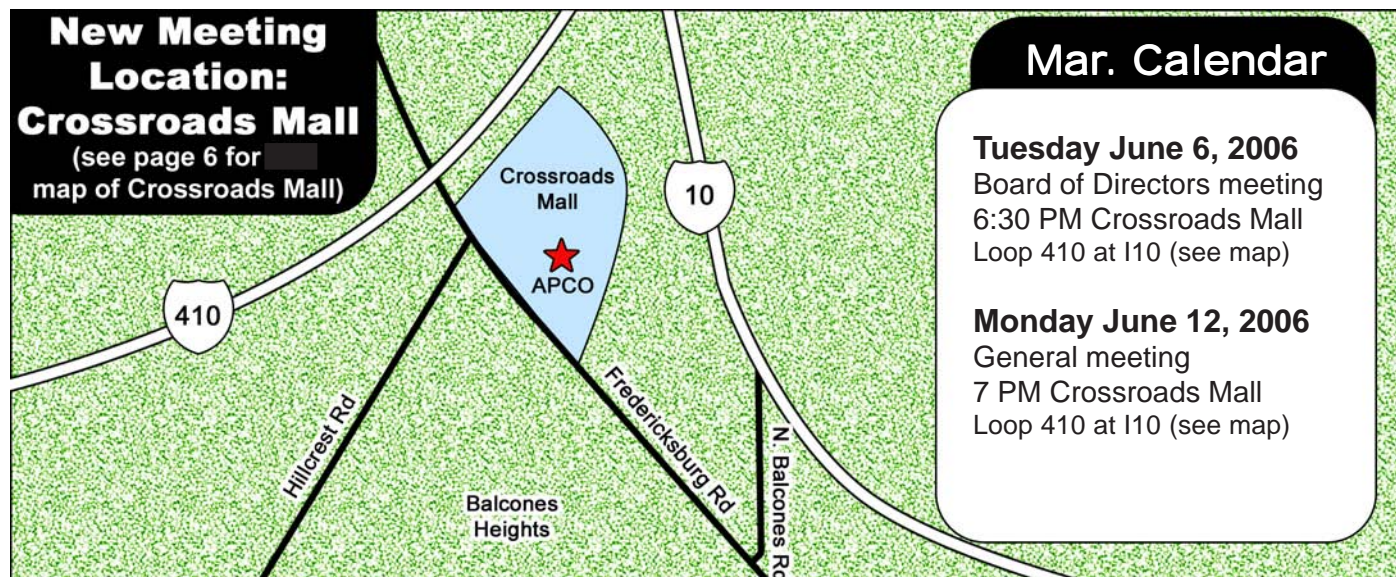
Alamo PC Organization
PO Box 65180
San Antonio, TX 78265-5180

Meetings

Monthly program meetings are normally held the second Monday of the month. Meetings are held at the Crossroads Convention Center (across from the Learning Center) located in the lower level of Crossroads Mall, Loop 410 at the intersection with I-10 starting at 7:00PM. Open to all members and the public.

The Board of Directors meets normally on the Tuesday prior to the monthly General Meeting. The BoD meets at the Alamo PC Learning Center located in the lower level of Crossroads Mall, Loop 410 at the intersection with I-10 starting at 6:30PM. Any changes will be announced via the Voice Mail/Hot Line (736-0700) and on the Calendar of Events. Open to all members.

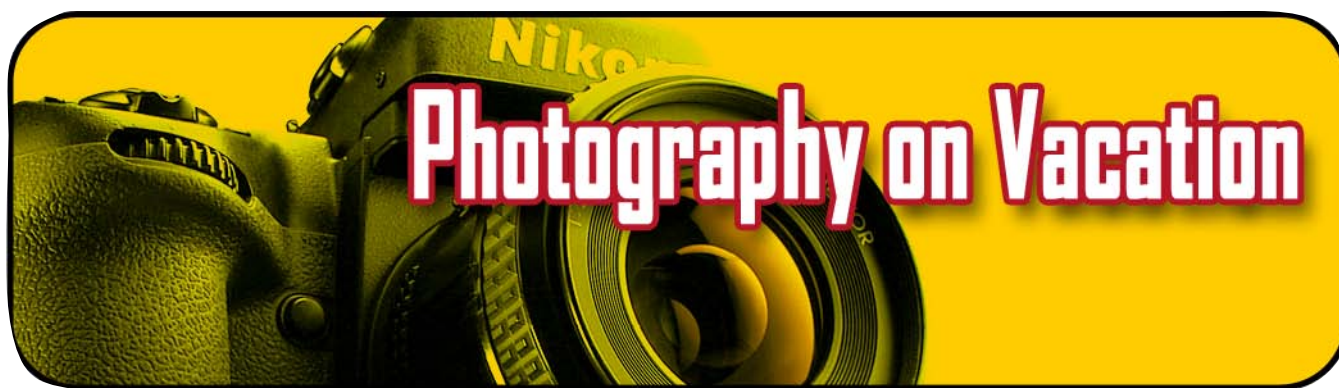
New Meeting Location:
Crossroads Mall
(see page 6 for map of Crossroads Mall)



Mar. Calendar

Tuesday June 6, 2006
Board of Directors meeting
6:30 PM Crossroads Mall
Loop 410 at I10 (see map)

Monday June 12, 2006
General meeting
7 PM Crossroads Mall
Loop 410 at I10 (see map)



columns

The Deals Guy <i>Bob Click</i>	13
Computer Law <i>John Brewer</i>	15
What is congress doing with the Internet?	
RAM & Reason <i>Rob Rice</i>	16
Barca E-mail - Poco grows up	
Computer Defense Dept. <i>Bruce Cramer</i>	19
The Money Trail	
Windows Tips & Tricks <i>Bill Beverley</i>	20
Internet Part V	
Business Solutions <i>James Duncan</i>	22
Access: Controlling the Controls	
PowerTalk <i>Shane Hicks</i>	24
Media Center Domain	
The Switcher <i>Shane Hicks</i>	25
Bootcamp	
Lazy Webmaster <i>Susan Ives</i>	26
Copy and Paste	
Best and Worst <i>Pim Borman</i>	27
Things Change	
The Graphics Guy <i>Paul Vaughn</i>	28
Quark Express 6	
PC 101 <i>Ron Ingraham</i>	30
Internet Explorer - Content Advisor	

departments

PC Alamo Links List	7
Enter <i>Joseph de Leon</i>	7
President's Message <i>Bill Klutz</i>	8
June Program News <i>David Steward</i>	9
Volunteer of the Month <i>Bill Klutz</i>	10
Funny Bytes	12

guest contributors

Save the Internet <i>Bob Hewitt</i>	32
Online Librarians never say Shhh! <i>Gabriel Goldberg</i>	33
What does cache do for a computer? <i>Brian K. Lewis</i>	34

Alamo PC Phone Directory	6
Map to Meeting Places	6
Alamo PC Calendar of Events	58
Study Groups and Classes	59-63
Help Numbers	64
Index of Advertisers	65
Classified Ads	65
Membership Application	66

PC Alamode

(501 (C) (3))

Featured this month

Photo

- 10 tips for photos on the road *Tony Northrup*
 Digital Photography *David Berkowitz*,
 What comes after your pictures *Donald Cummins*
 Where did all those photos go? *Jack Wilfore*
 Printing better pictures *Robert Spotswood*
 Why settle, do it your way *Lee Alexander*

37
40
42
43
45
48

PC Alamode (ISSN 1065-3708) is published monthly by the Alamo PC Organization, Inc., PO Box 65180, San Antonio, TX 78265-5180, an independent association of personal computer users, founded in January 1983, and incorporated in January 1984 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. COPYRIGHT © 2006 by Alamo PC or the author. All rights reserved. No part of PC Alamode may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means — mechanical, electrical, or otherwise — including, but not limited to, photocopying, recording, or information storage/retrieval, without express written permission from Alamo PC. However, unless otherwise indicated, articles may be reprinted by other user and education groups provided the articles are reprinted unaltered and the publication acknowledges the author thereof and PC Alamode. Articles, programs, reviews, and advertisements are compiled without verification of accuracy or applicability to a specific task, computer, or other equipment. Comments or claims are made solely by the individual author and do not necessarily represent the views of Alamo PC or of any other Alamo PC member. Trademarks have been used at random within the publication and are hereby recognized as such.

Periodical postage paid at San Antonio, TX and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to PC Alamode, PO Box 65180, San Antonio, TX 78265-5180.

EDITOR
Joseph de Leon

EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD
Joe Barth
Susan Ives

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Bill Beverley
Bruce Cramer
Shane Hicks
Tim Hoke
Bill Hudson
Susan Ives
Russell James
Larry Lentz
K. Joyce McDonald
Paul Vaughn

INTERIM PRODUCT REVIEW COORDINATOR
David Steward

ADVERTISING
Joseph de Leon

PUBLICATION SUBMISSIONS: Please check with the editor regarding submitting ads. **Deadline for submissions is the first of the month preceding publication.** e-mail to:

editor@alamopc.org

Joseph de Leon, Editor, PC Alamode
P.O. Box 12202
San Antonio, TX 78212
editor@alamopc.org

Ad rates effective January 2005

Rate frequency.	1 x	3 x*	6x*	12 x*
	Per insertion			
Full pg. (7 ¹ / ₄ " w x 9 ¹ / ₂ " h)	\$274	\$260	\$246	\$238
Half pg. (7 ¹ / ₄ " w x 4 ¹ / ₂ " h)	144	138	130	121
Half pg. (3 ¹ / ₂ " w x 9 ¹ / ₂ " h)	144	138	130	121
Quarter pg.(3 ¹ / ₂ " w x 4 ¹ / ₂ " h)	74	72	64	62
Bus. card (3 ¹ / ₂ " w x 2" h) **	43	41	39	37

*Consecutive months

**To be paid in advance

product reviews

Books

- Computer Crimes *Susan Ives*
 Mac OS X Tiger: Pocket Guide *Shane Hicks*
 Mac Tiger Server: Little Black Book *Shane Hicks*
 OS X for Hackers at Heart *Shane Hicks*
 Don't get burnd on eBay *Shane Hicks*

50
51
52
53
54

Hardware

- CardScan *Larry Lentz*

55

Software

- Adobe Creative Suite 2 *Beverly Bihn*

56

Board of Directors

President	Bill Klutz	532-9122 (Home)	president@alamopc.org
Secretary	David Steward	662-8606 (Home)	secretary@alamopc.org
Treasurer	Billy Samples	532-9122 (Home)	treasurer@alamopc.org
Education	Linda Bianchi	226-2460 (Home)	education@alamopc.org
Operations	Cary Hall	736-0700 (Learning Center)	learncenter@alamopc.org
Marketing	TBD (Steve Tech)	675-2880 (Home)	marketing@alamopc.org
Webmaster	Mike Bianchi	226-2460 (Home)	webmaster@alamopc.org
Communications	TBD		communications@alamopc.org

Executive Service Officers and other important numbers

Learning Center, Crossroads Mall

736-0700

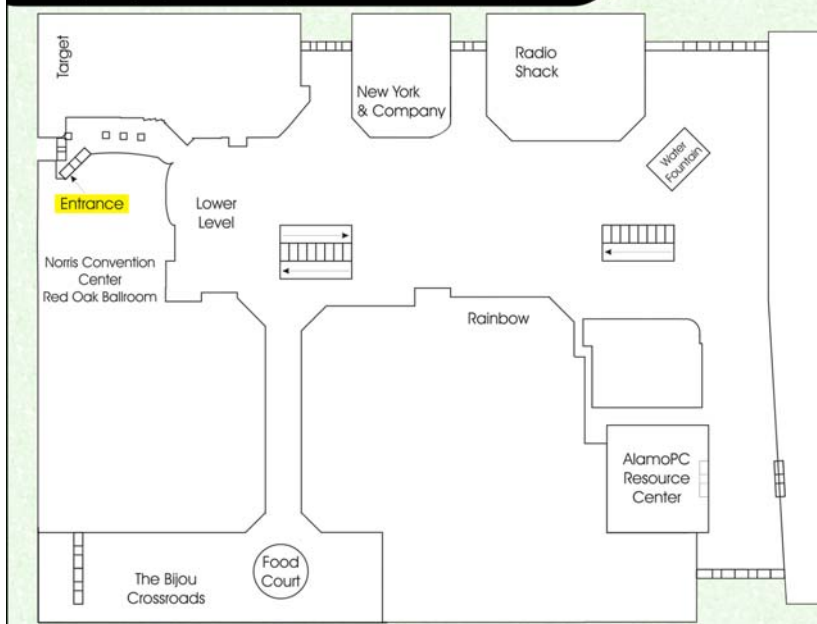
FAX 736-0032

Learning Center Manager	Cary & Jean Hall	736-0700 (Learning Center)	learncenter@alamopc.org
Past President/Programs	David Steward	662-8606 (Home)	dsteward@texas.net
Member Records	Steve Tech	675-2880 (Home)	membership@alamopc.org
Public Relations	Susan Ives	694-4582 (Home)	suives@texas.net
Product Review Coordinator	TBD (David Steward)	662-8606 (Home)	reviews@alamopc.org
Study Groups Coordinator	Linda Bianchi	226-2460 (Home)	education@alamopc.org
Special Projects	Joe Brazell	370-2207 (Office)	projects@alamopc.org
Registrar	Linda Bianchi	226-2460 (Home)	Registrar@alamopc.org
Webmaster	Mike Bianchi	226-2460 (Home)	Webmaster@alamopc.org
Lab/Network Administrator	Gary Grieve	492-5066 (Home)	netadmin@alamopc.org
SeniorComp Coordinator	Ed & Audrey Henkin	494-8227 (Home)	seniorcomp@alamopc.org
Trade Shows	Steve Tech	675-2880 (Home)	stephentechjr@yahoo.com
APCUG Representative	David Steward	662-8606 (Home)	dsteward@texas.net
Editor, PC Alamode Magazine	Joseph de Leon	unlisted	editor@alamopc.org

For Study Groups and Classes or for SeniorComp classes, phone: 736-0080

Crossroads Mall (lower level)

(See page 3 for map to Crossroads Mall)

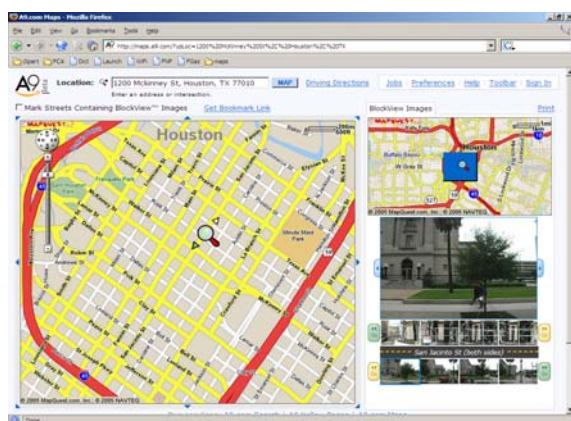


New Meeting Location

We are now meeting in the lower level of the mall near Target in the new Crossroads Convention Center. The new meeting location is on the opposite side of the mall as the Learning Center.

For more information, call the Learning Center at 736-0700.

PC Alamo Links List



A9 Maps

<<http://maps.a9.com>>

An amazing collection of block-view photographs plotted on a map. Sponsored by Amazon.com, this service is intended to give consumers a look at the storefront before you get there. (Not available for San Antonio, yet.)



JiWire

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

Find and safely use wireless hotspots anywhere! Founded in 2003, JiWire provides information and services to help mobile professionals and computer enthusiasts find and connect to the wireless Internet.

← enter

The photo issue is one of my personal favorites because I have been working in graphics and Web design for a long time. In this issue, you will learn all kinds of cool photo-related tips.

I know many of you will be going on summer trips soon. Be sure you review the tips shared in this issue. From taking great pictures to making sure you have the right equipment, this issue is a treasure trove of information.

One of the most exciting articles in this issue is Beverly Bihn's review of Adobe Creative Suite 2. Packed with programs like Photoshop, Illustrator and Acrobat, this software package is amazing!

Good luck this summer and don't forget to share your pictures with other Alamo PC members. We all like to see what you have been up to...

Joseph de Leon, Editor

<editor@alamopc.org>



Joseph de Leon, Alamo PC

Joseph has worked in the graphics industry for 8 years and teaches graphics and web classes at San Antonio College.

President's Message

Bill Klutz

"May I Please Have Your Attention!"

First, I have to apologize for missing the May general meeting. Had to go to the Houston area. Second, of behalf of Alamo PC I must apologize for the Microsoft presentation on Vista, that didn't take place. Apparently, difficulties on the part of the Microsoft representative, and her laptop computer, caused a "No Go!" With Microsoft pushing the availability of home user version of Vista into January 2007 (perhaps even later) there should be other opportunities to have Vista presented to Alamo PC members.

Malicious Software (Malware) is something we should all be interested in keep up with. It will help us try to stay as close to even as possible with those who want access to our computers for nefarious reasons. With that in mind, you might be interested in the information Alexey Zernov from Kaspersky Laboratories reported in a recent article.

"Kaspersky Laboratory, a leading developer of secure content management solutions that protect against viruses, Trojans, hacker attacks and spam, has published its second quarterly analysis of contemporary trends in cyber threats: "Malware Evolution: April June 2005". This report by leading Kaspersky Lab virus analysts offers insights into the activity of the computer underground, and contains detailed analysis of the technologies and techniques currently being used by cyber criminals.

The report offers readers professional analysis of the latest developments in information security: changes in network attack vectors, with a shift from wide range scanning of Internet segments towards targeted attacks on major nodes. Many major financial institutions have recently suffered from such attacks.

In addition to the above, the report highlights worrying trends such as the continued evolution of adware (such programs have now crossed the line between merely undesirable to actively illegal) the emergence of new virus technology, and many other issues. The quarterly report covers the following topics:

- Changing network attack trends
- Site hacking
- Adware
- The return of virus technology
- Cyber hostages
- Politics and viruses

You can find the latest quarterly report on cyber threats from Kaspersky Lab <www.viruslist.com/en/analysis?pubid=167244347>.

Part II. Yury Mashevsky, a Kaspersky Lab virus analyst, provides an overview of the criminalization of the Internet, looking at issues of relevance to both end users and IT professionals with an interest in malicious code. Topics examined include the changing focus of criminal groups, interaction between criminal groupings and the antivirus industry, and technologies such as rootkits used to increase profits through cyber crime. The report also includes an extensive list of recommendations for users....

...available at <www.viruslist.com/en/analysis?pubid=182974451>"

Contact Info: Kaspersky Lab, 10, Geroyev Panfilovtsev St, Moscow, 125363,

Russia; E mail: info@kaspersky.com; <www.kaspersky.com; www.viruslist.com>

Elections: The Elections Committee will try to seek members willing to serve at the BOD level. Members will be responsible for identifying individuals willing to serve at the BOD level, and will submit names at the July General meeting. There will also be an opportunity for nominations from those present. Once the list of individuals has been identified, individual biographies will be submitted for inclusion in the August PC Alamode. During August, the online election process will be conducted to determine the list of Board members for the coming year (Oct 2006 - Sep 2007).

Once again I ask each member to commit to being just a little more actively involved with the Alamo PC Organization. One of the great benefits that members often overlook is the classes that are offered. Consider taking advantage of this benefit by enrolling in one or more of the classes. (If one that you would like to have is not on the list, make it known to the people at the Learning Center.

They keep the "Wish List" of classes that people have requested. When several people express interest in a subject, the search begins for an instructor.) As stated before, one membership entitles one family member to vote, but it entitles each family member in the household to enroll in one or more of the free classes during, the time the membership is current.

Keep in mind that a membership also entitles each household member to receive help with computer problems (general, software, and/or hardware). The "Help Numbers" near the back of the PC Alamode magazine have a list of people willing to help, and this can often times be accomplished telephonically. Hardware, and some software problems, are usually best satisfied through the "Doctor Is In" assistance (each Fri morning from about 9 12).

Remember, someone must bring the computer to our Learning Center (lower level of Crossroads Mall, near the Mall entrance from the underground parking spaces that are accessed from Fredricksburg Road). The person must also be able to tell one of the "Doctors" about the problem, and stay with the "sick" computer while an attempt is made to fix the problem. As always, there are no guarantees given, but generally a "well" computer leaves for home. Although the service is free to members, donations are accepted.

Continued on page 9

Keep in mind that these donations help the "Doctors" purchase additional diagnostic equipment, and some supplies, to help fix "sick" computers at considerable savings to the member. The "Doctors" volunteer their time and conduct training sessions for "Doctors" on most Monday nights. This helps them become better at their job, and makes for more "well" computers and very happy members.

Membership renewals

We still are not retaining members at the level we need. If you do not choose to renew, please let us know "Why?" (Send an E-Mail to membership@alamopc.org), or to me through the organization account president@alamopc.org or privately wlklutzjr@juno.com. Also, if you have anything (comment, question, statement, concern), please make someone aware of it (preferably me). I welcome all communications, especially those on how we can improve the Alamo PC Organization and increase member interest! If membership continues to fall, the BOD will have to address changes that the organization will be required to make, if we are going to continue to have an organization. Remember, this is our organization. If you want to have your voice heard, attend a BOD meeting, General Meeting, write or call someone.

Alamo PC Organization now offers members private or semi-private tutorials

☞ Keyboarding/Typing
☞ Basic Computer Skills
☞ Microsoft Word

Rates for one student

\$35 per hour
\$300 for 10 hours

Rates for two or three students

\$20 per student per hour
\$150 per student for 10 hours

Enjoy private instruction on days and at hours that fit **your** schedule at our modern facility in Crossroads Mall.

Call or visit the Learning Center to register
(210) 736-0080

June Program

David Steward

A program has not been confirmed for June.
Please visit <http://www.alamopc.org>
for more information.

Computer Experts



Is your PC acting strange?
Wonder if it has a virus?
We've been fixing weird problems
since 1995. For PC or Mac
solutions, Call the experts...

Computer Experts

(210) 771-7075

Student Practice Lab

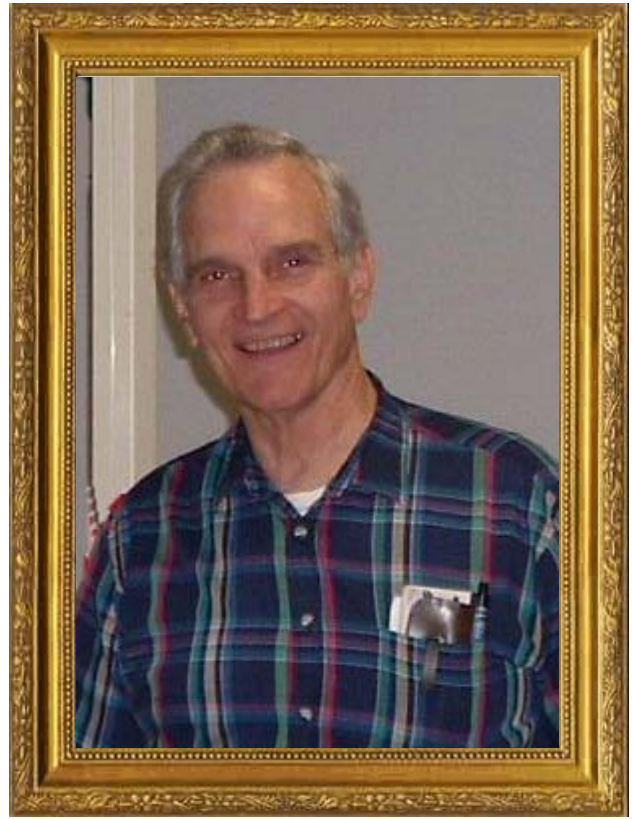
Polish those new skills - A specific time period for students taking Alamo PC Courses to use Computer Lab (Classroom One) to practice their class assignments. Students may also make up missed class days, if the instructor has provided the course material to the individual. Seating is limited and on a first come, first serve basis.

Call (210) 736-0080, or (210) 736-0700



Volunteer of the Month

Bill Klutz



News Brief

Microsoft Employee warns against downloading from unofficial site

A Microsoft employee has warned against downloading an unauthorized version of Windows XP Service Pack 3 (SP3) that has surfaced on Hotfix.net, a popular Web site that provides software patches. The employee told users that downloading an unofficial version of Windows XP SP3 provided on The Hotfix.net would likely harm their computer and put them “out of support” from Microsoft because it is not an official Microsoft package. Each of these hotfixes can be obtained for free from Microsoft by calling their support lines, the employee said. SP3 will be released after Windows Vista ships next year.

ComputerFest is a collection of local and statewide dealers under one roof offering rock-bottom prices on all your computer needs. All of our dealers are independent wholesalers, so each conducts business separately. Most of the dealers will accept credit cards, but with cash you can usually get the best deals. And new products are almost always backed up with a warrantee, so you and your wallet can always feel comfortable with your purchases.

What you can find at the show:

New Complete Systems
New Hardware
Newest Software Titles
Printers, Monitors, Scanners
Ink-Jet Recharge Kits
Imaging Devices
Internet Services
Used Hardware
Multimedia Upgrades
Shareware
Diagnostic Equipment
Cables & Connectors
Bare Bone Systems
Computer Related Books
Refurbished Systems, Monitors

Location:

Live Oak Convention Center
8101 Pat Booker Road
San Antonio, TX.

Show Dates and Times:

June 10, 2006
more info at <http://www.pcshows.com/>



Funny Bytes

Ken Nash & Randy Glasbergen



News Brief

Robotic Cars Make History

The Stanford Racing Team's robotic car, "Stanley," drove autonomously across 131.6 miles in the Mojave Desert in six hours and 53 minutes, finishing about 11 minutes faster than Carnegie Mellon's "Sandstorm." All of the teams made history during the weekend in November. They were the first autonomous vehicles to travel far within a specific time frame, as well as the first to finish the 2-year-old race (last year no one finished at all). A DARPA spokesman said this likely means the end of the Grand Challenge. DARPA is now hoping to see the technology take-off.

Volunteers Wanted

Call the Learning Center to volunteer to assist ongoing classes. For more info, call 736-0700.



From the Deals Guy

Bob (The Cheapskate) Click, Greater Orlando Computer Users Group

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

*Games Anyone?

TameStorm Games unveiled the newest version of 'Filler'. The inner structure of the game reveals features of puzzles and strategies combined, so they have a few games to put on the same list.

What you are to do here is to occupy half, or the majority of, the flowers on the field. The field is a meticulously crafted meadow picture, in which flowers are fresh and live and their petals still remember the touch of an artist's brush. You always start a game from the left side. The computer always starts from the right one. You always make the first move. The game field has flowers with coins, which you need to seize. The more coins you have, the more bonuses you can buy. If you have gathered enough money, you can repaint flowers in the color of your zone, randomize unoccupied space, and make your opponent miss one turn and more. Two modes of the game are available: classic puzzle and advanced puzzle. In advanced puzzle mode you will see black flowers that you can't seize.

Filler Features at a Glance (Full Version):

- Unlimited game play time;
- 100 layouts of the field and 100 levels in advanced game;
- 100 levels in classic game;
- 11 special bonuses;
- Interesting game for your children;
- Graphics designed by masters of Russian Khokhloma painting;
- Splendid relaxing game.

Pricing and Availability

Filler 1.2 runs under Windows98/ME/2000/XP and costs \$14.95 (USD). TameStorm Games offers user group members 15% discount. Use the coupon code TAME-HQBL-FILL on the order page. Additional information on Filler, as well as its evaluation version with 30 minutes of the game play and several locked levels is available as a free download at: <http://www.tamestorm.com/games/filler_puzzle_game/filler_demo_setup.exe>.

Product page link: <http://www.tamestorm.com/games/filler_puzzle_game>

Web: <<http://www.tamestorm.com>>

*Get Modern With eBook

Smart eBook Maker for Richer Content and Stronger Copyright Protection

eBook Maestro released an update to its fully featured e-book compiler eBook Maestro 1.50. eBook Maestro is a robust compiler that makes rich standalone e-books out of HTML pages, multimedia files and scripts. The program now supports all popular multimedia formats and helps embed flash, shockwave, and other visual elements into a single executable. eBook

Maestro offers various means of content protection from disabling cut-and-paste and printout to on-line registration and limited use for unregistered copies. In response to copyright concerns, we provide multi-level protection of e-book contents. Not only can you effectively limit the use of a publication, but also protect its content against changes. Besides making e-books, it provides rich features for multimedia presentations, ezines, offline web sites, training and educational courses, advertisement and promotion letters, and other kinds of publications.

Pricing and Availability

eBook Maestro v1.50 runs under Windows 98/ME/NT/2000/XP. A standard version of the product is available at \$35.95 USD for a single user license. A professional version with extended support for commercial e-publishing is priced at \$69.95 USD for the same single user license. eBook Maestro with core functionality is also available as a freeware. eBook Maestro STANDARD and eBook Maestro PRO are offered at a 40% discount. Discount coupon "C2044NN1449" is redeemable at <http://www.ebookmaestro.com/purchase_discount.html>. The trial versions of eBook Maestro STANDARD and eBook Maestro PRO, and the freeware version of eBook Maestro FREE are available for download at <<http://www.ebookmaestro.com/download.html>>.

Product page link: <<http://www.ebookmaestro.com/>>

*Get Rid of Those Duplicate Files

We are the producer of NoClone, a file utility which uncovers true duplicate files and recovers valuable disk space. Reasonable Software House is offering a 20% discount to user group members on NoClone, a file utility which uncovers true duplicate files and recovers valuable disk space. To get the discount, follow this link: <<http://noclone.net/mybuy.asp?promo=HF89AW>>. Don't buy a new hard drive, buy NoClone. Uncover duplicate files; recover valuable disk space. Information at <<http://noclone.net>>

STUDY GROUPS

Call the Learning Center for schedule information 736-0700 or see page 59-63.



What is Congress Doing with the Internet?

John Brewer, Computer Club of Oklahoma City

John Brewer practices law in Oklahoma City, is a member of the Governor's and Legislative Task Force for E-Commerce, and enjoys issues relating to eBusiness and cyberspace. E-mail him at <johnb@jnbrewer.com>

There is a current issue being waged in Congress regarding "net neutrality." In summary, the issue involves the use of the broadband infrastructure of the telecommunication companies and the Internet by third parties and may also extend to use of the Internet by end users. It is a complicated matter.

Congress is currently considering the COPE bill (Communications Opportunity, Promotion and Enhancement Act). The COPE bill will modify the 1996 Telecommunications Act. The debate is rather spirited on both sides. The genesis of the current issue began in August, 2005, when the Federal Communications Commission issued a ruling that affected the telecommunications companies and DSL service. The ruling said that the Telcos were not subject to the same regulations when furnishing DSL service as telephone service. DSL was classified as an "information" service. The Telcos will not have to open their broadband networks to third-party ISPs.

The underlying concept behind the ruling was to "level the playing field" between the cable companies (unregulated) and the Telcos (regulated). A one year transition period was provided, after which the Telcos could arbitrarily end their agreements with third party ISPs. The FCC ruling followed a decision by the US Supreme Court that said cable companies could not be forced to open their infrastructure to third parties.

Apparently, European governments have taken the opposite approach to the open access issue as opposed to the ruling of the FCC. They have forced the incumbent Telcos to open access to their broadband networks to independent ISPs at terms and prices set by the government.

One vocal proponent of the "net neutrality" position is savetheinternet.com. The site states the following: "Congress is pushing a law that would abandon the Internet's First Amendment -- a principle called Network Neutrality that prevents companies like AT&T, Verizon and Comcast from deciding which Web sites work best for you -- based on what site pays them the most. Your local library shouldn't have to outbid Barnes & Noble for the right to have its Web site open quickly on your computer. Net Neutrality allows everyone to compete on a level playing field and is the reason that the Internet is a force for economic innovation, civic participation and free speech.

If the public doesn't speak up now, Congress will cave to a multi-million dollar lobbying campaign by telephone and cable companies that want to decide what you do, where you go, and what you watch online. This isn't just speculation -- we've already seen what happens elsewhere when the Internet's gatekeepers get too much control. Last year, Canada's version of AT&T -- Telus -- blocked their Internet customers from visiting a Web site sympathetic to workers with whom Telus was negotiating. And Shaw, a major Canadian cable company, charges an extra \$10 a month to subscribers who dare to use a competing Internet telephone service."

Scary stuff -- huh? Of course, the Telcos respond that they simply need the ability to compete with the cable companies and that "net neutrality" is balderdash.

CNet News reports that on April 26, the House Energy and Commerce Committee rejected a Democratic-backed Net neutrality amendment that also enjoyed support from Internet and software companies including Microsoft, Amazon.com and Google. The Committee voted 34 to 22 to reject the amendment to the proposed bill.

"I'm concerned about e-mails being blocked from advocacy groups, of all sides," said Jan Schakowsky, an Illinois Democrat who supported the amendment. "I'm concerned about startups that may be shut down."

"Did the Bells create the Internet? Did the cable companies create the Internet?" asked Rep. Ed Markey, a Massachusetts Democrat and sponsor of the amendment. "The answer is no. The Internet was built on a different model, a public interest model, funded by American taxpayers."

For their part, major broadband providers have repeatedly pledged not to block traffic or censor Web sites. Instead, they say, it will only be economically feasible to invest in higher-speed links if some bandwidth can be reserved for paid content. In an interview with CNET News.com, for instance, Verizon Chief Technology Officer Mark Wegleitner said movie-quality video could be delivered to DSL subscribers if the copyright owner would pay."

Common Cause says that end users could be affected in a number of ways.

Discriminating against the services of competitors - a provider could make sure that preferred content or applications load faster and more efficiently while competing services are slow or spotty. That would effectively create a tiered Internet - with a fast lane for those who will pay, and a slow lane for everyone else.

Limiting diversity of content - a provider can enhance its own web content and services by featuring prominent menus, program guides, start screens, etc. while systematically excluding competing content.

Favoring commercial services - the nonprofit and noncommercial sector could be distinguished from the for-profit sector of

Continued on page 15

the online community in terms of services offered, and would suffer because they cannot compete in an environment where they have to pay for better service.

Restricting Internet telephone - services that allow you to make low-cost, long-distance telephone calls using a high-speed Internet connection (sometimes called VoIP, or Voice over Internet Protocol) are becoming more and more popular. But traditional phone companies who are now getting into the Internet business don't want to lose their customers to Internet phone companies like Vonage and Skype. However, there is nothing stopping them from blocking their competition from using their network.

This author is uncertain at this point where the equities lie but there is one certainty, when 800 pound gorillas wrestle, it is important to watch to make sure you don't get "squashed" during the process.



Paying too much for healthcare?
discounted fees on:

- ♦ doctors
- ♦ dentists
- ♦ prescription drugs
- ♦ vision care
- ♦ chiropractors
- ♦ alternative health care
- ♦ and more

visit online:
<http://ushealthadvisors.net/davebobst>

USHA
United Service Association
For Health Care

News Brief

Real ID Act

The Real ID Act lays out minimum national standards for licenses, which will have to include a digital photo, anti-counterfeiting features and machine-readable technology. States will have to verify all documents presented to support license applications, such as birth certificates, Social Security cards and utility bills, with the issuing agency, and will be required to link their license databases so they can all be accessed as a single network. States will also be required to verify that a person applying for a license is in the country legally. Another Real ID Act requirement is that a person's license and Social Security card must bear the same name--not a nickname or shortened version.



Barca Email: Poco Grows Up

Rob Rice, Computer Club of Oklahoma City

Rob Rice is a computer specialist working in Anchorage, Alaska. Rob can be contacted at <articles@isp.com>

I had used Microsoft's Outlook Express and got fed up with its limitations. I next went to Mozilla / Netscape's built in email, but it would lose my folders (This was fixed later on). From there I went to Microsoft Outlook and was quickly irritated with the whole forced registration process every time I changed my hardware. So, I moved on to Pegasus for about two years, a nice free program that is rather clunky to use but was limited in its handling of photos and multimedia. Secure BAT, was terrific except when I lost the hardware key leaving all of my email locked away with no available access except to buy a new key.

I finally came across PocoMail and have not looked back; however, I have looked forward. One thing that PocoMail is missing is a calendar. This used to not bother me, but these days I find that I am increasingly in need of a personal information manager. So, I went back to Poco Systems, the creator of PocoMail, and found Barca version 2, which is PocoMail with a personal information manager.

If you are familiar with PocoMail then you will be right at home with Barca. It's Calendar, Planner and Notes are nicely arranged and logical. Events and appointments are brought to your attention with an easy to use interface.

If you have an older version of PocoMail, Barca will easily install over it, albeit a clean install is always the best way to go. You can easily import contacts from earlier versions and it supports direct import from several popular applications by going to File ? Import and then Import Wizard menu. Messages and contacts can be imported as well.

Setting up an account is easy with the Accounts Wizard. Here you will find the following:

- General tab of the Edit Account window stores the most important options for any account:
 - Personal Information section stores your full name and your email address, as you want it to appear when your email is received by your correspondents.
 - Server Settings details the information Barca needs to connect to your email servers to fetch and send messages.
 - Enable Check this account when checking mail if you want this account checked whenever you press Check Mail button from the main application window.
- Generally, you will not need to change options available under other tabs. When you need to tweak other account settings use the following tabs:
- Incoming tab: further options for incoming email, including setting automatic email checks for this account and enabling or disabling leaving of email on the server.
 - Outgoing tab: specify alternate authentication scheme for Outgoing (SMTP) server, an optional Reply-To address and signature for this account.

• IMAP tab: set IMAP-specific server settings if required by your IMAP server.

• Newsgroups tab: subscribe and unsubscribe to newsgroups for Newsgroup accounts.

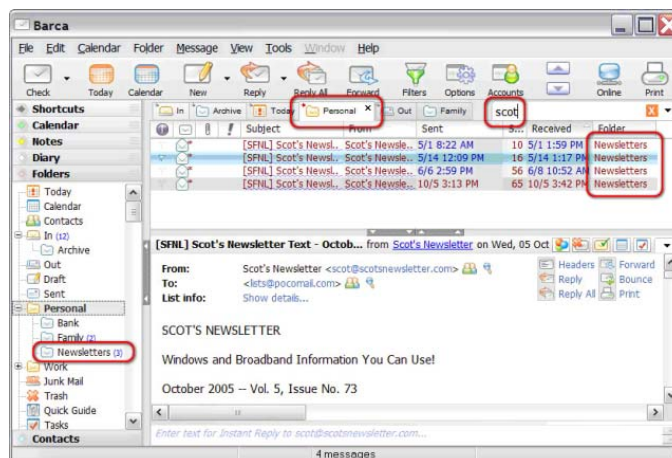
• Notification tab: change the way you want to be notified of new email arriving for this account, from sound alerts to dialog boxes.

• Folders tab: modify default Incoming and Outgoing folders for this account, so that new email arriving and sent email departing is automatically stored in correct folder without the need for filters.

• Templates tab: you can modify the default templates used with this account under Templates tab.

• Virtual tab: use to setup exclusion and inclusion lists for retrieved email, so that only matching senders are fetched or not fetched. It can be used to share a single POP or IMAP account with several users, but generally should be avoided if users have access to individual accounts.

• Privacy tab: setup encryption for saved incoming messages, and saved outgoing messages (sent messages are not encrypted, just the local copies stored in your Sent folder). Use with extreme caution, as password cannot be recovered and messages will be left unreadable in cases when password is lost.



A feature that I really liked in Pegasus and is found in Barca and PocoMail is the ability to view and delete mail on the server without the risk of downloading it to your computer. Pegasus handles this slightly better by giving you an enhanced look at the message headers and contents. My hope is that a future version of Barca will show expanded email headers and the first several sentences, or, paragraph of the mail sitting on the server. But as it stands now, it is great to have!

The Focus Box is a new search feature that is very handy and works well. It is a simple type box sitting out of the way on the menu bar (I almost missed it was so inconspicuous). From the PocoMail website:

- Focus on relevant messages within a mailbox as quickly as you can type
- Find matching contacts quickly on any field when used in Contacts folder
- Underlines columns containing found text in folder index
- Displays matching messages in any sub-folders as well
- Supports simple boolean expressions
- Allows quick commands and queries to be issued

If you grow tired the way Barca looks you can always add a new look by downloading some of the free (Licensed users only) and really nice looking skins from the Poco Systems website. Here are a few examples chosen to demonstrate the wide-range of styles available from the Poco Community. Skins can be used in PocoMail or Barca; they are not specific to product type.

Some of the new features found in Barca 2 include:

- Instant Reply feature for quick replies without opening a Compose window.
- Feeds and RSS support, with the ability to deliver feed updates with your regular email.
- New Unicode support throughout the program and more character sets supported.
- Brand new SMTP functionality, with full support for SSL and TLS.
- Newly redesigned Online Folders, Newsgroups and Feeds and RSS.
- New Email Support with Screenshot feature under Help menu.
- New Help On The Fly feature (Alt+F1) for instant tips.
- Improved Import Wizard..
- The ability to disable or enable individual accounts in Accounts Setup.
- New Quick Search Feature.

STUDY GROUPS

Call the Learning Center for schedule information 736-0700 or see page 59-63.



PocoToon by Enzo Brizio



egilDOTnet by Egil Helland



Other features include:

- IMAP support.
- Outlook import.
- Its own scripting ability (PocoScript) with ready-made scripts available for free download (Licensed users only).
- Junk mail filtering (Bayesian filter).
- Signature support.
- Spell check as you type.
- Message threading for following conversations.
- Automatic completion of phrases.
- Custom rules/filters.
- Very good security.
- Quick Guide in the program.
- PDF format user manual.
- Help on the Fly which provides help tips.

Much of this new version has been rewritten for performance and I have to say that I have noticed the speed increase. The program has performed flawlessly. There are many features and ways to customize Barca that I have not mentioned here. A demo is available, be sure to read the License Agreement before you buy this or any other software.

Barca and PocoMail are top of the line and are those rare programs that can really keep novice and advanced users happy. Email software that you can grow into - highly recommended.

Barca (Calendar, Email, Planner) \$59.95

Barca Pro (Shared Calendars, Email, Planner) network capable calendar sharing \$79.95

PocoMail (Email) \$39.95

PocoMail PE (Email on the Go) \$44.95

PocoMail + PocoMail PE Bundle \$69.95

EmailVoyager (USB Email on the Go) \$59.95 and up

Poco Systems Inc is a small, privately held company located in Victoria, BC, Canada, with an office in Charlottesville, Virginia.

PocoMail & Barca - <<http://www.pocosystems.com>>

GLOBAL TRAVEL TRENDS

We're Going Places!

Global Travel Trends has designed a fun, work from home, Associate Travel Agent Program, to provide an opportunity for people all over the world, a way for them to change their lives for the better.

Take advantage of tremendous savings when planning a family vacation or a romantic trip for two by visiting our website at www.greatratetravel.gttrends.net and click on the "Travel Center" button.

Rudy & Debra Flores

Associate Travel Agents

(832) 259-9910

(832) 372-4527

greatratetravel@sbcglobal.net

**** Cruise for \$40 a day***

**** All-Inclusive Resorts for \$30-\$50 a day***

**** Upgrades on Flights, Car Rentals and Hotels***

STOP PAYING RETAIL! BECOME A TRAVEL AGENT! SAVE & EARN!

TO LEARN MORE, WATCH THIS MOVIE:

www.gttmovie.com/greatratetravel



The Money Trail

Bruce Cramer, Alamo PC

A+, Network+, Microsoft Certified Professional (Windows XP). Bruce is retired from the Army. He is the owner/operator of PC Pro Computer Services <www.pcpro4u.com> where he provides in-home/on-site computer services. He is a regular at the Doctors Is In on Friday mornings, at the Learning Center and has never met a piece of malware that he couldn't get rid of. Bruce can be reached by e-mail at <service@pcpro4u.com>. See his ad for PC Pro Computer Services on page 23.

Why: The inevitable question concerning malware is why? Why do people produce and distribute this vile digital scum? If you can answer the question as to why people burglarize homes and sell drugs then you can answer that question – money. A study done by Webroot <www.webroot.com> found that of more than 35,300 systems across more than 18,000 companies at least one form of unwanted program (Trojan, system monitor, cookie or adware) was present in 87% of PCs. Excluding cookies, the other forms of spyware were present in more than 55% of corporate PCs. Adware was present on 53% of machines scanned within the enterprise. The spyware industry earned over \$2 billion distributing and installing applications that monitored and reported on its victims in 2004. However, the corporate anti-spyware industry only earned an estimated \$100 million the same year, and its revenue is projected to reach \$1.2 billion by 2010. The battle between the two will end up costing the consumer the most.

Background: Malware (to include spam, viruses & spyware), unlike the old viruses that disabled computers, disrupts computer user's normal activities. Malware takes over your computer either behind the scenes with key loggers unknowingly recording your keystrokes, capturing passwords, credit card information and other sensitive data or with in your face popups and Internet browser redirects called browser hijacking. A piece of spyware rarely "lives" alone: an affected computer can rapidly become infected with large numbers of spyware components. Users frequently notice unwanted behavior and degradation of system performance. A spyware infestation can create significant unwanted CPU activity, disk usage, and network traffic—slowing down legitimate uses of these resources. Stability issues—application or system crashes—are also common. Spyware which interferes with the networking software commonly causes difficulty connecting to the Internet.

How: You can obviously figure out how an individual or group can gain financially from using a key logger to steal your personal data, but how, you may ask, can they gain anything from using an unstealthy mode such as popups and browser hijacking. Here's one example, let's say your computer screen suddenly generates a popup that says "Your computer is infected with xxx, click here to download abc that will eliminate xxx". What do you do? A) Ignore the popup and close it? B) Click here and download the program? C) Close the popup and run a spyware scan with an antispyware program? Hopefully you would choose C. However there are many people that might choose B. Consider the example above just like junk mail or spam. The bad guys are gonna get some bites and those bites mean money. If that same popup appears on a million computers throughout the world and only 1% bites that's still 10,000. Multiply that by the price of whatever the program is being hawked at and well, you do the math. Above is an example of a "Rogue antispyware" program which I went into detail a few months back, you can read this article online at <<http://www.pcpro4u.com/rougantispy.htm>>

Now let's look at browser hijacking. A browser hijacker takes over control of certain operations of your web browser. By doing this they can redirect browsers to sites of their choice where they may gain a commission from you, the user going there or to increase traffic to their site generating higher ad revenue. Even worse, these hijackers can redirect search results from their own search engines to you. So when you do a search on a popular search engine like Google you may be redirected to their search



site. If you are familiar with the pay-per-click business you know that every time you click on a pay-per click link the person or organization that submitted gets paid a few cents and there you have that money trail.

Who does this: Russian Mafia? Chinese hackers? Most people do mistakenly assume that nearly all attacks come primarily from "foreign ports". The reality is that nearly 35 percent of all attacks originate in the US. The remaining top sources are the Republic of Korea, China, Germany, UK, Japan, Taiwan, Romania, France and Canada. To be fair, nearly 20% is split between Korea and China in these regards but it is still the US that reigns as the source of these attacks. What does this say – it's a global problem and only user vigilance and maintenance will keep the evil vermin away from your computer.

Recommended resources: Spyware 101, <www.pcpro4u.com/no2malware.htm>; Hijack This, <<http://www.spywareinfo.com/~merijn/downloads.html>> SpySweeper, <www.webroot.com>, Windows Updates, <www.windowsupdate.com>

To help keep the digital scum out of business stay alert, don't shop from unwanted popups or spam.



Internet, Part V

Bill Beverley, Alamo PC

Bill is retired military and an intermediate computer enthusiast who has been an APCO member for seven years. He has contributed for the past six years.

Whether at work or at home, you can easily obscure your surfing visits by cleaning out the Temporary Files and cookies from your Web Browser. In Internet Explorer (IE) click Tools, Internet Options, and the General Tab. In the Temporary Internet files area, click the Delete Cookies and Delete Files buttons. In the History area, click the Clear History button and then OK. This aforementioned process will clear those records from your computer. But, deleted files are not necessarily erased because simple undelete tools can potentially recover them. If you really need to cover your tracks, a utility, such as Webroot Software's Window Washer, <www.webroot.com>, can thoroughly scrub those deleted files. For any one working in the corporate environment, corporate IT departments typically maintain their own logs of employee Internet use. It's a good idea to check your company's Internet use policies before visiting non-work Web sites.

Anagram

An anagram is a word or phrase that can be formed by rearranging the letters in another word or phrase. For example, the word dormitory can also spell "dirty room." At <<http://www.wordsmith.org/anagram/index.html>> enter your name, a word or a phrase and this site will create anagrams for you.

Coupon Sites

Internet coupons can save you a lot of money, e. g. 10-15% off many products. Some of the Web sites where you can find them include: <www.amazing-bargains.com>; <www.ebates.com>; <www.gotapex.com>; <www.slickdeals.net>; and <www.techbargains.com>. These sites don't charge you any fees and the best ones do a good job of tracking and sharing great bargains. There are a few things to keep in mind in using them. One, deals can disappear quickly. Two, you should check the discussion forums that appear on many of these sites for their tips. Finally, it helps if you know what products are of interest to you otherwise a lot of time may be spent just browsing these sites looking only for bargains.

Disabilities Web Sites

If you have or know of people with disabilities who need help in using their computers, then this tip may be of interest to them. For example, people who have had strokes can still use their computers with special software programs, such as Read and Write Gold. This program is made by Texthelp and costs \$645. Texthelp is located at <<http://www.texthelp.com>>. Gus Communications <<http://www.gusinc.com>> makes a number of assistive devices for stroke victims and for people with other disabilities. The Alliance for Technology Access is a network of organizations and individuals who are dedicated to improving access for people with disabilities. AssistiveTech.net has links to much disability related information. It is run by the Georgia Tech Center for Assistive Technology & Environmental Access. The two sites are located at respectively: <<http://www.ataccess.org>> and <<http://www.assistivetech.net>>. Dragon Naturally Speaking is continuous-speech software that is popular with people who have MS. The Cyberlink is a brain-actuated program that allows hands-free computing. It is made by Brain Actuated Technologies. According to

the Cyberlink Web site, the computer can be controlled through brainwaves, facial muscles, and eye movements. The Cyberlink site is at <<http://www.brainfingers.com>>. You can also check with the American Stroke Association at <<http://www.strokeassociation.com>> to see what else is available to users.

Internet Explorer

There's a core set of IE skills and features that you can use to speed up your Web browsing. Unless you have a very slow Internet connection, every IE user should know these three time-saving key combinations: Ctrl+Enter: If you type the middle part of an address in the Address bar, such as Dummies, and then press Ctrl+Enter, IE immediately puts an http://www. on the front, and a .com on the back. Type Dummies and press Ctrl+Enter, and IE immediately knows to look for <<http://www.dummies.com>>. Ctrl+F5: If you think that the Web page is "stuck" or "it isn't being updated properly, pressing Ctrl+F5 forces IE to go out and get the latest copy of the current page.

In theory, IE even blasts past copies that are cached with your Internet Service Provider (ISP). Shift+click: When you click a link, sometimes the new page replaces the old window; or the old window stays around and the new one appears in a window of its own. Usually, the person who designs a Web page decides what happens to it, but you can take over this process. Sometimes you want to leave the old page in place while you look at the new page, for example, or if you're going through Google and want to look at several search-results pages at the same time. To force IE to open a Web page in a new window, hold down Shift while you click the link.

If you want IE to run faster, you need to get a faster Internet connection. But if you're stuck with a slow connection and desperate, there's one trick that will speed up IE. You can turn off graphics. When you tell IE to load a page without the graphics, the browser displays an empty box where the image would be on your screen. For this tip, choose Tools, Internet Options. When the Internet Options dialog box opens, click the Advanced tab. Scroll down to the Multimedia section and deselect the "Show Pictures" check box and click OK to close the dialog box.

IP Address

If you use an ISP, you have a dynamic Internet Protocol (IP) address. If you don't have a static IP address, as is the case with most home broadband services, you'll receive a random IP address every time you connect to the Internet. To find out exactly what IP address your computer is using, visit [WhatIsMyIP.com](http://www.whatismyip.com) <<http://www.whatismyip.com>>.

IP Numbers

IP numbers are IP addresses that come in this form: 255.255.255.255. Web sites have IP numbers. But it is easier to remember web sites by the use of "http://www.whatever." When you enter that domain name on your web browser, it is sent to a domain name server. The server translates the name to an IP number, and then your wanted web site shows up in the browser. You can get information on IP numbers on the Web just go to the Arin WHOIS Database Search. Enter the IP number. Arin will tell you who owns it. You can find the Arin site at <<http://www.arin.net/whois>>. There are also programs that will help you identify intruders. One program is called VisualZone and it's free. You will find it online at <<http://visualize.phenominet.com/visualzone/visualzone.htm>>.

Java Applets

Java applets are special, self-contained applications that you embed inside Web pages. Some popular applets display fancy pop-up menus while others add interactive games and animated effects. When users download a Web page that contains a Java applet, it is loaded onto their machines right along with the HTML code for the Web page. Java applets execute locally, right inside users' Web browsers. Both IE and Netscape Navigator provide support for running Java applets. Although you can create your own Java applications using a Java development toolkit, applet development is challenging even to the professionals. You can find a variety of Java applets on the Web. Some are free, but others, will cost you a fee. There are several popular sites that offer Java applets.

They are: JPowered <<http://www.jpowered.com/>> with navigation and menu components, graph and charting applets; Java Boutique <<http://javaboutique.internet.com/>> which offers free applets appropriate for personal Web sites, such as banners, text animators, calculators, and games.; and Applet Collection <<http://www.appletcollection.com/>> which offers a collection of text-related applets as vertical scrolling, typewriter, and dissolving effects.

Monitor Magnification

There are a number of products that will help those with sight problems. Windows has a built-in magnifier. There is a useful tip at: <http://www.komando.com/tips_show.asp?showID=7918>. There are a number of products available, too. Software that magnifies parts of the monitor screen is made by ABF. You'll find it at: <<http://www.abf-soft.com/magnifying-tools.shtml>>. Fellowes also makes hardware magnifiers that fit over the screen. There is a big selection of magnifiers at Independent Living Aids. Those two Web sites are, respectively: <<http://snipurl.com/bman>> and <<http://snipurl.com/bmap>>. There's plenty of information on the Web to help anyone with macular-degeneration at: <<http://www.eyesight.org>>, <<http://www.macular.org>>, and <<http://www.macular-degeneration.org>>.

Netscape 6

Mail: Netscape 6 Mail can automatically check the mail for you. Just run Netscape and press Ctrl + 2 to open Mail. Now, in the Mail window, choose Edit, Mail & Newsgroups Account Settings. Click Server Settings and then select the "Check for new

messages every minute" and type the number of minutes you want to use into the entry box. Click OK to close the dialog box and record your selections.

Reloading Pages: If a web page appears to hang up, try clicking Stop, Reload. This step will often open the page for you. If you click Stop and Reload and you still have a problem, click Stop, hold down the Shift key, and click Reload. This additional step causes Netscape 6 to reload from the original site rather than from the cache files on your computer or the cache files of a proxy. Sidebar: To eliminate permanently the Netscape 6 sidebar, click the small handles that appear at the right side of the sidebar. This causes the sidebar to disappear off the left side of the screen. To restore it, you just click the same handle again.

Netscape 7 Shortcuts

There are a few Ctrl key combinations that can help you speed up your Netscape 7 operations. You can close Netscape 7 by simply pressing Ctrl + Q. To open Mail & Newsgroups, press Ctrl + 2, and to start Instant Messenger, press Ctrl + 3. To start Composer, you can press Ctrl + 4. To open the Address Book, you can press Ctrl + 5.

Netscape Search Engine

When doing a search on the Internet, you often need to try more than one search engine. Although locating search engines is not a huge problem, you can shorten your search time a bit by having several search engines immediately available for use. So, check out Netscape's Search page <http://wp.netscape.com/escapes/search/netsearch_7.html>. You can select from Netscape, Ask Jeeves, LookSmart, Lycos, and Overture.

Networking computers can be a difficult task unless you are a computer tech or geek. There is a valid perception that networking is not yet mass market friendly to all computer users. Here are a few tips that may help you network your computers. First, make sure the workgroup name is the same for all networked computers. For Win98, right-click Network Neighborhood (My Network Places in WinMe), now click the Identification tab, and enter the workgroup name. In Win2000, right-click My Computer and select Properties, Network, Identification, and Properties. Click the Workgroup radio button, and then enter the name.

In WinXP, right-click My Computer, select Properties, Computer Name, and, if the workgroup name needs to be changed, click Change and select the Workgroup radio button. Secondly, check to see if you have properly installed the driver. Win98/Me users must have their Windows installation CD-ROMs handy or know the whereabouts of the installation files on their hard drives. WinXP/2000 users need not worry about this issue because the driver files are located on the hardware's installation CD-ROM. For more help and tips on networking, check out <www.HomeNetHelp.com>. If you just want to keep this networking problem simple, call in a professional for help.

Volunteers Wanted

Call the Learning Center to volunteer to assist ongoing classes. For more info, call 736-0700.



Access 2003: Controlling the Controls

by James D. Duncan, CPA

James is a member of the Computer Club of Oklahoma City and an expert in Access and Excel. He can be contacted at bj4duncan@aol.com

Ever wonder how the grayed-out selections got that way? Ever notice that on entry screens with save buttons or void buttons that they were not available all the time? And I am sure you have noticed that when you clicked on the buttons they performed some task (save, void, clear, etc.) and then went to an unavailable state. These buttons are just a control with a fancy cover on them.

Let me show you how these buttons work and how you can control them. First open a new form. Choose a command button and put it on the form. Then either duplicate (copy and paste) it 2 more times or put 2 more command buttons on the form. If the wizard is turned on just press the cancel button when Access wants to help you with the command button.

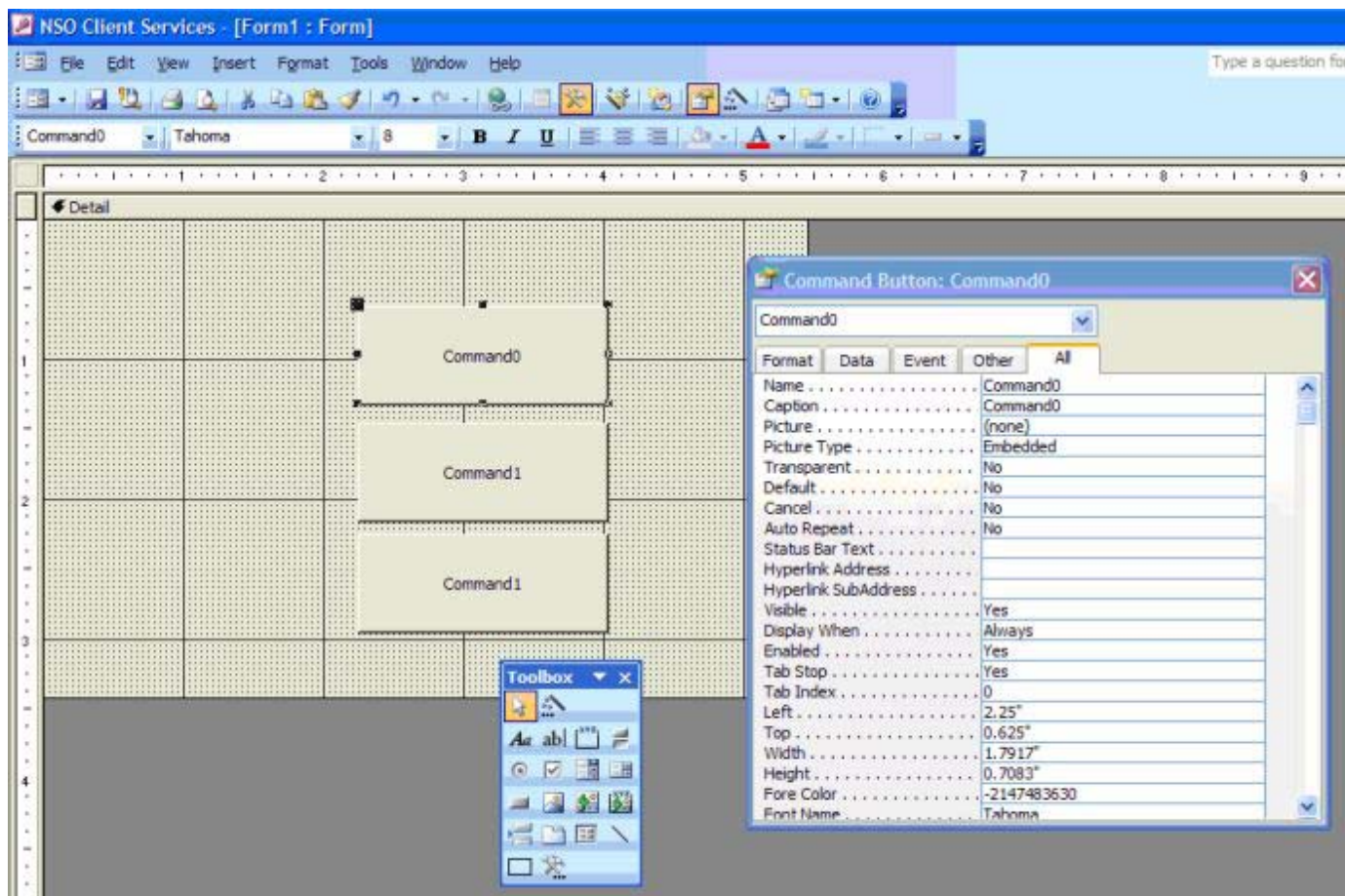
Next let's us change the names of the command buttons to cmdButton1, cmdButton2 and cmdButton3. Do this by right-clicking on either of the buttons, selecting the name field on the All tab and keying in cmdButton1 or what ever name you like. I used the prefix cmd so when I see this name I know this is a command button. While you are there change the captions to Enable Command3, Disable Command 3, and Command 3.

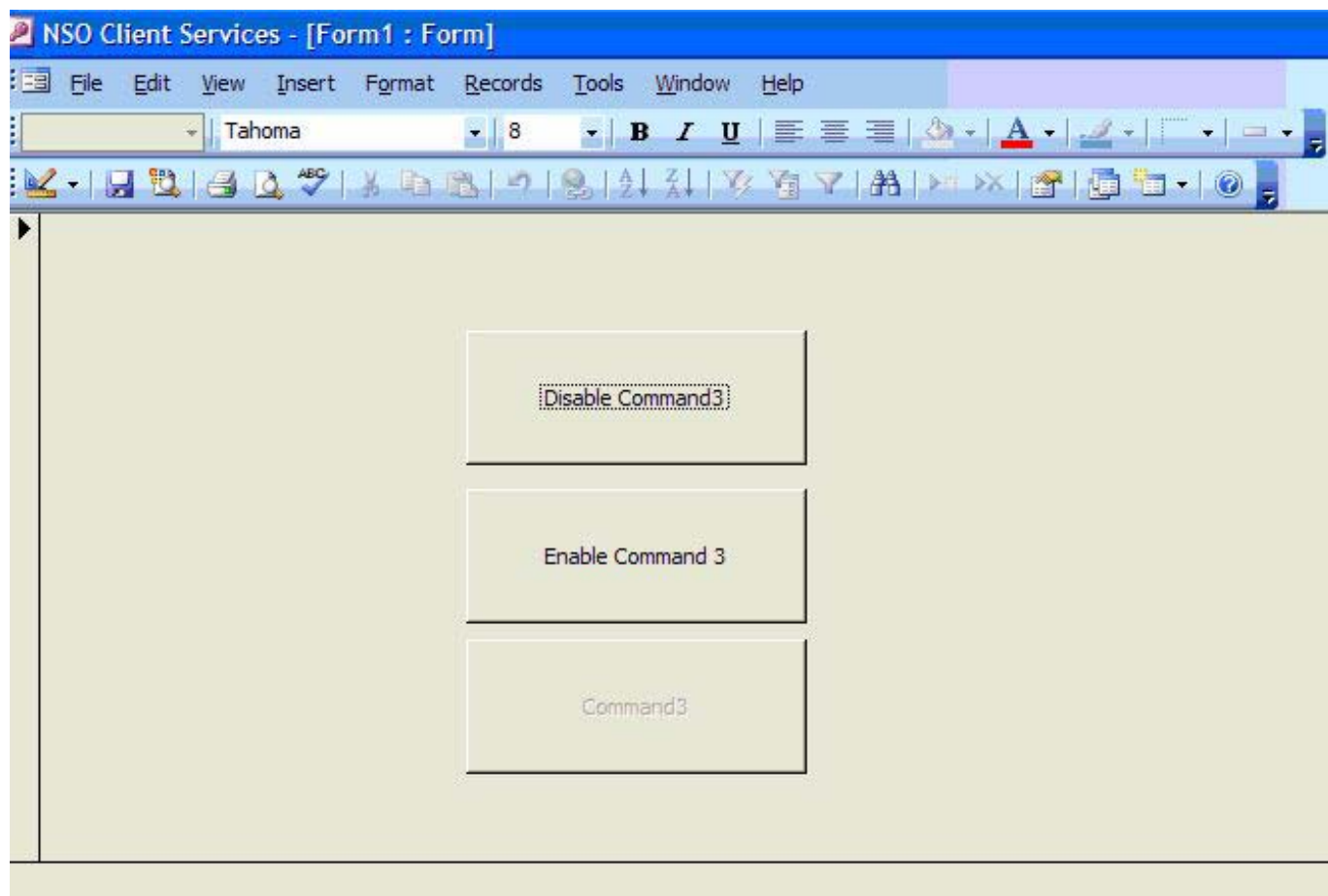
Now, on cmdButton1 open the properties, click on the Event tab, select On Click, select the Event Procedure from the drop down and double click on the 3 ellipses.

This will take you to the VBA code section. Access will create a subroutine called cmdCommand1_Click. Enter the following line of code in the routine.

cmdCommand3.Enabled = False

Do the same thing for the cmdButton2, except put "true" where we put "false" the first time. Now run the form. Click on the Disable Command 3 button and notice that the button grays out and you cannot click on it. It has been disabled.





Click on the Enable Command 3 and notice that now the button is available. Nothing to it, when you know how.

If the Disable Command 3 button were a Save button, it would run code to save a record and then disable itself. Somewhere in your code when you wanted the form to be able to save again you would enter the code that is on the Enable Command 3 button. I am showing you the code; you will have to do the logic. There are a lot of sites that help you and give you sample code. I am thinking of writing an article on just sites I use or have used for help and sample code.

One more thing, if you save this form, get out and get back in you will notice that Command 3 button is not disabled. Right-click on the button in the design view, select the Data tab, change the Enabled from yes to no. This is how the control is when the form opens. On a save button you would not want it enabled when the form opens. You could set this in the form open subroutine, but this does it and requires no code. However, the advantage to doing it in code is that you can see the code and do not forget where the property for this is hidden. I will give you three guesses why I say that.

Practice your code. A good place to practice is at a charity of your choice: Your church, your scout troop, or any organization that needs some help. If you do not feel comfortable programming for them, just donate some of your time. Trust me, you will love it.

Computer Problems?

**Call Now to
get your
computer
working for
you!**

**Cramer's
Computer
Services**

*(Formerly known as
PC Pro Computer Services)*

New name

Same great service

(210) 865-2933

www.pcpro4u.com

In-Home/On-Site Service Specializing in:

- Troubleshooting & Repair
- Virus/Spy ware Detection & Removal
- Hardware Upgrades
- Networking & More



Bruce Cramer
A+ Microsoft Certified Professional





Joining a Domain with Media Center 2005

PowerTalk

Shane Hicks, (certified certifiable)

Shane uses a PC. E-mail him at <shane@vpwn.com.>

Does it seem like every PC you purchase these days comes pre-loaded with Media Center 2005 on the desktop? That's great if you want to use the thing to store pictures, play music, or record live television. But what if you bought it to use in the office, with the "entertainment" features as an added little bonus? Will it operate on your company network the way that a Windows XP Professional computer system would? That depends on your environment.

Most professional offices today operate in a Domain, which is defined as a logical group of users and computers. Computers must be able to physically join a domain in order to utilize the full security features offered by modern server operating systems (OS) such as Windows Server 2003 or Small Business Server. This is a feature not available in consumer-level OS like Windows 95, Windows 98, or even Windows XP Home Edition. Users were required to upgrade to Windows XP Professional in order to have true Domain functionality on their systems.

Microsoft's development of Media Center 2005 created an interesting question. Clearly this was intended to be a consumer level OS. However, if you dig into the guts of the OS, you learn it was built on top of Windows XP Professional. So, the question is: Can it join a domain?

The answer: with what is known as the BANANA hack, you can join any Windows Media Center 2005 PC to a Windows Server 2003-based domain. Following these simple steps:

[NOTE: You alter your registry at your own risk. If you break something you can't fix, it's your own fault. You knew what you were getting yourself into!]

1. Insert Windows XP CD
2. Start > Run > X:\i386\winnt32.exe /cmdcons
3. Click on "Yes" then Click on "Ok" after installation completes
4. Restart the machine
5. At boot menu, select "Microsoft Windows Recovery Console"
6. Select the Media Center installation (default: 1) and hit "Enter"
7. Enter your Administrator password if needed
8. Type: cd system32\config and press enter
9. Type: copy SYSTEM C:\ and press enter
10. Type: exit and press enter
11. At boot menu, select "Windows XP Media Center Edition"
12. Click Start > Run > Type: regedit

13. Click on HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE
14. Click File > Load Hive...
15. Browse to and select C:\SYSTEM
16. Specify the key name "BANANA" and click OK
17. Expand HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE > BANANA > WPA > MedCtrUpg
18. On the right-hand side, double-click IsLegacyMCE value
19. Change selected value to 1 (one) and click OK
20. Click on BANANA subkey (under HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE)
21. Click File > Unload Hive
22. Click to Confirm
23. Click Start > Shutdown > Restart
24. At boot menu, select "Microsoft Windows Recovery Console"
25. Select the Media Center installation (default: 1) and hit "Enter"
26. Enter your Administrator password if needed
27. Type: cd \ and hit enter
28. Type copy SYSTEM C:\WINDOWS\SYSTEM32\CONFIG\SYSTEM and hit enter. You do want to overwrite the existing file, so type y and press enter.
29. Type: del SYSTEM and press enter
30. Type: exit and press enter
31. At boot menu, select "Windows XP Media Center Edition"

You can now join a Domain through the normal process.

Now, realize this is a totally unsupported feature from Microsoft. If it doesn't work the way you expect, or if you lose some functionality from your Media Center (i.e. the ability to stream your media files across the network to an Xbox 360) then you're out of luck. Media Center 2005 was not truly intended to be used in a professional environment, so you can always upgrade to Windows XP Professional—but then you won't be able to DVR *Desperate Housewives* while working on the company books and reading your Exchange e-mail in the office off your portable media center. But you weren't doing that anyway, right?

The Switcher



...the ongoing tale of a Man and his Mac Bootcamp

Shane's a Mac user. Assist in his quest to learn OS X — e-mail him at [<mac@vpwn.com>](mailto:mac@vpwn.com).

Anyone who's been following my articles over the last several months has known of my fascination with being able to run Windows on a Macintosh machine. I've talked about doing it using Microsoft's Virtual PC software. With the switch to Intel processors inside Macintosh machines, I've even talked about doing it natively through different software booting methods.

Apple surprised the world when they introduced the Boot Camp Assistant, a piece of software allowing you to dual-boot between OS X and Windows XP. Since Apple is providing the software, it's legal! In a recent interview with Macworld, Brian Croll, the senior director of Software Product Marketing at Apple, said that so many people were requesting the feature, which will come built-in to the next version of OS X, Apple decided to go ahead and provide it.

The Boot Camp Assistant runs from within OS X, setting up two partitions: one for OS X and one for Windows XP. It also walks you through burning a CD with a set of drivers required to get Windows XP configured and running on your Macintosh. You then reboot with the Windows XP CD and install the OS. A third reboot, and you install the drivers from the CD you burned with the Assistant. From then on, when you boot your Macintosh, you'll see two hard drives to choose from: one for OS X and one for Windows.

To make this process work, you **MUST** install from a Windows XP SP2 installation CD. This means that if your version doesn't have SP2 included, you can't use it. You must also have OS X 10.4.6 or later, with all the latest firmware updates installed from the Apple website, in order for all of your devices to boot properly.

There are some compatibility issues. On the hardware side, there is limited driver support. Apple provides audio, video, networking, Bluetooth, keyboard, and mouse functionality. If you've added anything else that requires special Windows drivers, support is going to be problematic. Windows can't use the iSight camera or the Apple remote. It also can't use Apple's backlit keyboards or certain keys on Bluetooth keyboards. On the software side, OS X can read and write to FAT32 partitions. But most users of Windows XP are now accustomed to using NTFS volumes, which OS X can only read. Plus, Windows XP doesn't have the ability to read the Mac HFS volume.

Does Windows XP run well on a Macintosh?

Since I've yet to get my hands on an actual Intel-based Macintosh, I traveled to the San Antonio CompUSA. They've got an iMac setup to dual-boot already. With preliminary web browsing and basic applications, I didn't notice any difference between using Windows on a PC and using Windows on a Mac. A trusted friend who plays with the systems a lot told me he's used them quite a bit and hasn't noticed a difference.

If you can run Windows XP natively, then why use Virtual PC anymore?

The answer is simple. If you only run one or two applications that require Windows, you don't want to spend all day rebooting

your machine. You'd much rather just bring up Virtual PC as an application and get your work done.

However, while Microsoft has announced plans to continue with their next version of Office for Mac, they've not yet committed to continuing the Apple version of Virtual PC. Amanda Lefebvre, of Microsoft's Mac Business Unit, was quoted by Macworld as stating, "We still don't have all the answers, but we are trying to understand what changes need to happen in their operating system and what changes we need to make."

But if Microsoft doesn't step-up with Virtual PC, there are other players out there. Two other companies are offering emulation choices: WinTel and Parallels' Workstation, though both products are still in BETA format.

The primary trade-off when using emulation software like Virtual PC, as opposed to running Windows XP natively on a separate partition, is the speed at which the system performs on your hardware. Emulation always runs more slowly.

You'll have to decide on your own if you're more productive in an emulated environment with Virtual PC or in a native environment with Boot Camp.





Copy and Paste - Your Way to Fame and Fortune

Susan Ives, Alamo PC

Susan Ives is a former president of Alamo PC. She archives these columns on her Web site, <www.susanives.com/>. If you visit, you can cut-and-paste the code instead of retyping it from the magazine - the ultimate in lazy Webmastering!

Copying and pasting are the lazy Webmaster's salvation. No, I'm not talking about stealing content. Everything on the Internet is copyrighted because it is saved permanently. If you write a poem or draw a picture and scribble it on a piece of paper, attach it to an e-mail, put in on a Web page or save it on a floppy, it's copyrighted. And so is the other guy's stuff. So don't go grabbing other people's intellectual property.

What I'm talking about is copying-and-pasting to save time and energy. If your basic Windows skills have atrophied:

* Copy text by highlighting it (drag the mouse across it while clicking the left mouse button) and then pressing Ctrl+C. Or, all Windows programs have a menu bar at the top of the screen - you can select edit-copy.

* Paste text somewhere else - even into another program - by positioning your cursor where you want to drop the text and press Ctrl+V. That V is meant to represent a copy editor's caret, which means insert, but you can think of it as vomiting it back onto the screen if that makes life easier for you. Edit-paste also works.

I've found that some of my students don't realize that they can copy and paste between applications. The copy command places the copied data into RAM, random access memory. It's floating in computer memory, available to use in any program until you copy something else, which writes over it. You can copy something from your browser, for example, and then paste it into your HTML editor.

Yes, you can copy right off of the browser screen! If you want to be mean, you can prevent others from doing this to your site. Just put this line of code in the <BODY> tag:

```
<BODY ondragstart="return false" onselectstart="return false">
```

This is JavaScript, so it won't deter those who turn their scripting off or use browsers that don't support Java. People can also view the page source and get the marked up text. However, it does make it harder for people to "borrow" your text.

When I am creating links to other sites, I always, always copy and paste the URL from the address box to make sure I get it exactly right. O and 0 look alike. So do l and 1.

Copying and pasting text sometimes creates weird line breaks. If you are copying from e-mail you will get those >>> that indicate quoted text. I use a free utility called "the Cleaner" to get rid of both the line breaks and the >>>. You can download it from ronbrandon.com

You probably know that you can save most graphics from the Internet to your hard drive by right-clicking your mouse on the graphic and then choosing "save picture as. ." In Internet Explorer, make sure to add the file extension to the graphic when you save it. If you don't want people taking your graphics, you can disable the right-click with another JavaScript (put this anywhere on your page):

```
<SCRIPT LANGUAGE="JavaScript1.1">
<!-- Begin
```

```
function stopthief(ie) { var warning = "Right clicking this
page is not allowed.";
if (navigator.appName == 'Netscape' && ie.which == 3) {
alert(warning);
return false;
} else
if (navigator.appName == 'Microsoft Internet Explorer' &&
event.button==2) {
alert(warning);
return false;
}
return true;
}
document.onmousedown = stopthief;
// End -->
</SCRIPT>
```

They will get a dialogue box that says, "Right clicking this page is not allowed." You can see where those words are in the script. Change them to something nastier if you prefer.

Background images, often seamless tiles, can also be copied and saved. Place the cursor somewhere on the background, but not over another image. Right-click your mouse, and from the dropdown menu select "save background as.."

View source:

You do know about view-source, don't you? This is the best tip I got when I was a new Webmaster. You can look at the source code for just about any HTML document by going to view-page source from the menu bar. This is a useful way of seeing how another Webmaster created a certain effect, or where a script originated, or even, sometimes, what program was used to create the page. You can copy code snippets directly from the source. Copying an entire design would be immoral, if not illegal.

Lorem ipsum:

When designing a site, I work on the structure first, then the colors and design, and add the content last. I do need text as a placeholder, however, to see how a site will look. Since the 16th century, the convention is to use "lorem ipsum," paragraphs of garbled Latin, as placeholders. It keeps me - and clients - from being distracted by specific words in sample content. I found a handy lorem ipsum generator on the Internet - it will create as much as you want. You can even select a specific word count, so if your content is always 650 or 900 words, you can get exactly that. It's at lipsum.com.

Copying and pasting is critical to everything I have talked about for the last six months. It's a minor skill, but one that you will use every day.



Things Change

Collected by Pim Borman,
SW Indiana PC Users Group, Inc., IN; <m>

Leafing back through old copies of The PSee UrGent, I notice that I started this monthly column in February 1998. That makes this about the 80th installment – hard to believe. It started out as a discussion of things New, Best or Worst in the computer world, but much has changed since then. We are no longer impressed with incremental improvements in CPU performance. Arguments over the most proficient Web search engine have pretty well been settled for now. Discussions of viruses and other malware have grown way beyond the scope of this column. LCD monitors are no longer "prohibitively expensive, suffer from poor brightness, a narrow viewing angle, and relatively sluggish refresh rates."

I began to look for long-range trends in computer technology. In my July-August 1999 column I mentioned the birth of a new Web search strategy based on evaluating hyperlinks to identify the most relevant Web sites for a given search term. I specifically described a search program, called Clever, that was being developed by the clever folks at IBM and was highly successful. Typically, IBM used it only internally and did not make it publicly available. As a footnote, I added that a similar program being developed at Stanford University was made available in beta form. Its name? Google.com. IBM missed the boat again.

It is no coincidence that I read about Google in the June 1999 issue of Scientific American. The most interesting new developments with potential long-term importance are not first reported in PC Magazine or PC World, but in high-quality publications with a more general readership. I often find interesting developments reported in The Economist, the outstanding British weekly news magazine, as well as on the Web site of the BBC News. Other good sources are national newspapers such as The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, and USA Today, but I don't get to read those regularly. As a sign of the times, the April 22nd issue of The Economist carries three full-page in-your-face ads touting the energy advantages of AMD Opteron processor-based servers (e.g. "You could've hired 250 engineers, 570 IT support people, 5,235 interns, and one new CIO with the amount of money wasted by non-AMD powered servers"). No mention of Intel (which is feeling the competition). David is starting to kick sand in Goliath's face!

On the other hand, PC Magazine is now mostly dedicated to gadgets, including a re2 view in its May 9, 2006 issue of the Mercedes ML 350, which is loaded with electronics and sells for up to 70 thousand dollars. A 20-page review of Vista, not expected to become available until January 2007 at the earliest, reports that only 50% of current computers will be able to use it. Very few will be ready for the muchballyhooed Aero Glass interface without upgrading their graphics capabilities.

PC World stays closer to specific computer topics, but how many "50 Best New Sites" and "Best Free Stuff" do we need? The most important contributions of these PC Magazines are their product evaluations. Otherwise, how would we have known that AMD managed to overtake Intel in CPU technology?

Wi-Fi Progress

In just a few years, as equipment cost dropped to affordable levels, wireless connections between computers in households have become commonplace. Several IEEE standards assure interoperability between different makes of equipment. The most

popular standard today is 802.11g, capable of connecting at speeds up to 54 megabits per second (Mbps). It is backwards compatible with the older 802.11b, which operates at up to 11 Mbps. A third standard, 802.11a, operates at up to 54 Mbps and uses a different frequency range to minimize interference with other equipment. It is not often used.

The IEEE has almost completed work on a new standard, 802.11n that should increase the transmission rate to a maximum of 540 Mbps. In anticipation of the new standard, several wireless connection providers have been marketing new products that provide faster connections over greater distances. According to PC World (February 2006) Netgear's \$180 RangeMax 240 Wireless Router and \$100 Notebook Adapter can connect at close range at about the same rate (100 Mbps) as a standard wired 10-100 Ethernet connection. The router has three antennas and transmits over three nonoverlapping bands within the allotted 9.4 MHz frequency band to achieve this performance.

The high speed may be useful when you use bandwidth-gobbling applications such as VoIP telephony, network gaming, or streaming audio and video. If you mostly use a wireless Local Area Network (LAN) in your home to share an Internet connection, you have no need for premium high-speed Wi-Fi equipment. The fastest download speed available from my local cable provider, SIGECOM, is six Mbps with its premium Xstream service. At that speed, even the slowest 802.11b equipment is adequate for short distances. The 802.11g standard is preferred for connections at greater distances while maintaining sufficient transmission rates.

Since I bought a new computer, I moved the laptop upstairs to my den at the other end of the house. As a crow would fly, if it were allowed inside and capable of penetrating floor joists and air conditioning ducts, the distance between the computers is about 35 feet. This is well within the range of 802.11g equipment in open areas, but due to the intervening obstacles, I was unable to establish a reliable connection between my standard Netgear router and the Dell laptop with its built-in Dell-brand, 802.11g capable Wi-Fi adapter. I disabled that adapter and plugged in a standard Netgear wireless USB adapter (WG111v2) with the included USB cable. This gave me a strong connection to the router at the other end of the house, with a reported transmission speed of the full 54 Mbps. Although the cable allowed me to set up the adapter within several feet of the laptop computer, it was actually sufficient to Velcro the adapter to the lid of the computer so that it was roughly parallel with the antenna of the router. It goes to show that the quality of the Wi-Fi equipment can make a significant difference in the results when conditions are less than optimal.



QuarkExpress 6

Paul Vaughn, Alamo PC

Paul Vaughn is a freelance graphic artist, writer and web designer who has yet to object to anything smart. If you would like to see the Graphics Guy address a specific topic, email Paul Vaughn at <paulv@mac.com>.



Way back in the Paleolithic age of computing, otherwise known as the 1980s, there was an earthquake in the publishing world. The convergence of Apple's Macintosh computer, personal laser printers that used Adobe's PostScript printer language and Aldus PageMaker meant that the world of the printed page would never be the same. PageMaker, now owned by Adobe, lost a lot of ground in the 90s to an upstart page layout program, QuarkXpress from Denver-based Quark, Inc. Adobe countered back with the well-received InDesign, but now the long-awaited Quark 6 has been released.

First, the basics. A page layout program is used to assemble and format the component parts that go into any printed page. This means getting the text, photographs, illustrations, typestyles and any other pieces, positioning them on the page, assigning colors and other properties and then ensuring that the layout will then be able to be printed correctly. The best

of these type of programs give you a lot of tools to deal with common situations that come up...missing images, letters spaced slightly too far apart, wrapping text artistically around an image. This sort of miniscule control has always been Quark's strong suite.

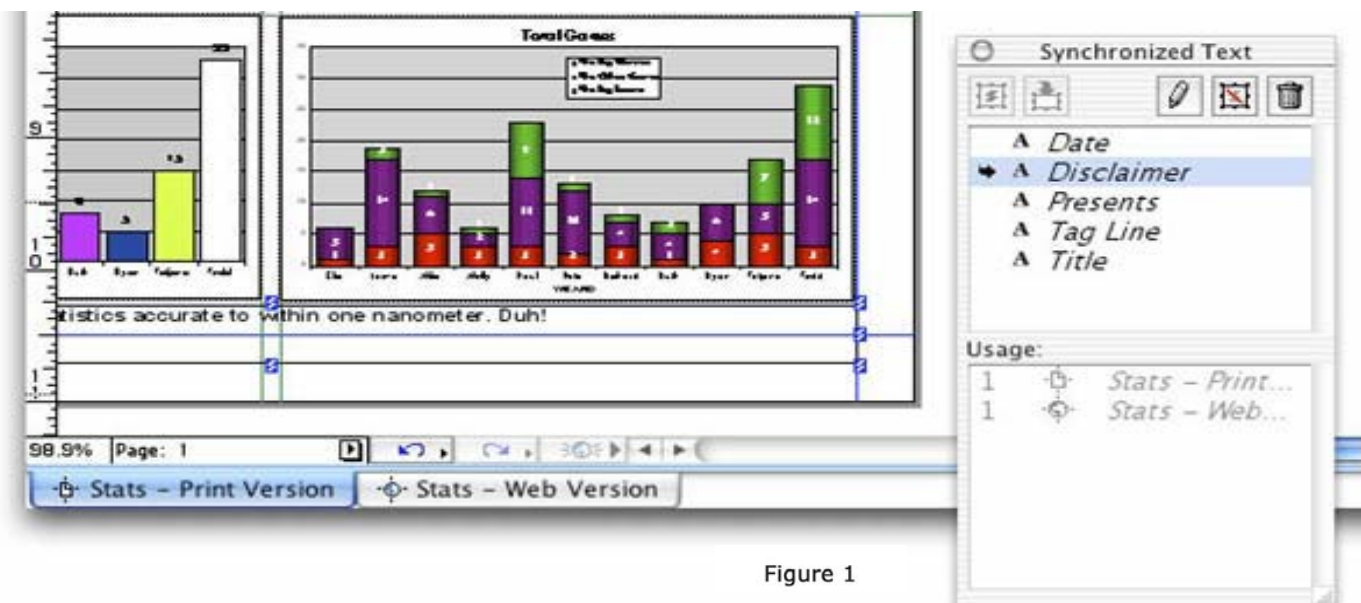


Figure 1

Quark 6 will feel very familiar to users of previous versions; it maintains its sleek, minimalist interface, while adding a raft of new features. The most impressive of these is the new Layout Spaces, which allow you to have one QuarkXpress document containing different layouts of the same design for different applications. You can have one layout for your brochure layout, another for the company web page and yet another for a billboard advertisement. Quark allows you to synchronize the text between layouts so that if you edit one layout the text will be updated in the others while maintaining the formatting unique to that layout space. This is all controlled through a series of tabs at the bottom of the screen and by using the new Synchronized Text palette (Fig. 1).

The web authoring and export features are also very extensive. While Xpress won't supplant a program like Macromedia DreamWeaver or Adobe GoLive, it does a credible job of turning a layout into a web page. You can determine which elements on the page you want to be text or graphics, set links, generate cascading style sheets and create rollovers, image maps and cascading menus (Fig. 2). This is a boon to graphic artists already familiar with page layout software who want to be able to easily publish a page to the Web.

Many features introduced in QuarkXpress 5 have been updated as well. The Layers are now more robust. When you lock a layer, objects on that layer cannot be selected or edited with only a few exceptions. Text will still be reflowed into linked text boxes and the Spell Checker will catch errors on locked layers. Layers can also be set to suppress printout, which is great if you need to have template or other objects for reference that you don't want in the final output. The visual cue to indicate which layer an object is on is clumsier than it should be for a program of this sophistication, Xpress uses a parallelogram in the upper right corner of an object's frame in the color designated for that layer. Although you can turn these indicators off, it adds a clunkiness to the program's otherwise streamlined interface (Fig. 3).

Other new enhancements include long-needed Multiple Undo capability. For far too long Quark users have been limited to a single undo and you could only undo certain actions. The list of actions that you can undo has grown, including text linking, picture and text import and style sheets changes, and you can now undo up to 30 steps. Quark also now gives you the option of having a full-resolution preview of imported images, allowing you to more accurately position elements in a layout. And, of course, Quark continues to have the best Print dialog box of any professional graphics program (Fig. 4).

Probably the most anticipated new feature of QuarkXpress 6 is that it is now fully compatible with Windows XP and Mac OS X. Users have been waiting a long time for this updated version. In the print publishing world, a bastion of Mac OS users, the lack of a Mac OS X native version of QuarkXpress has significantly slowed adoption of Apple's latest operating system. Many graphic artists and designers have put off the upgrade, sticking with Mac OS 9 and version 4 or 5 of Xpress.

QuarkXpress 6 lists for \$945, upgrades start at \$199 depending on the previous version you have. Quark also offers a competitive upgrade from products like Adobe InDesign, check their web site (www.quark.com) for details. QuarkXpress runs on either Microsoft Windows 2000, Windows XP or Mac OS X v10.2 (Jaguar) or higher. You will need at least 128MB RAM and 230 MB of free drive space for installation.

Having switched to Adobe InDesign because I wanted Mac OS X compatibility, going back to QuarkXpress feels like putting on some comfortable, well-worn shoes. It takes very little time to get back in the Quark frame of mind. The upgrade is a very nice one for professional graphic artist or those in the print/publishing industries.

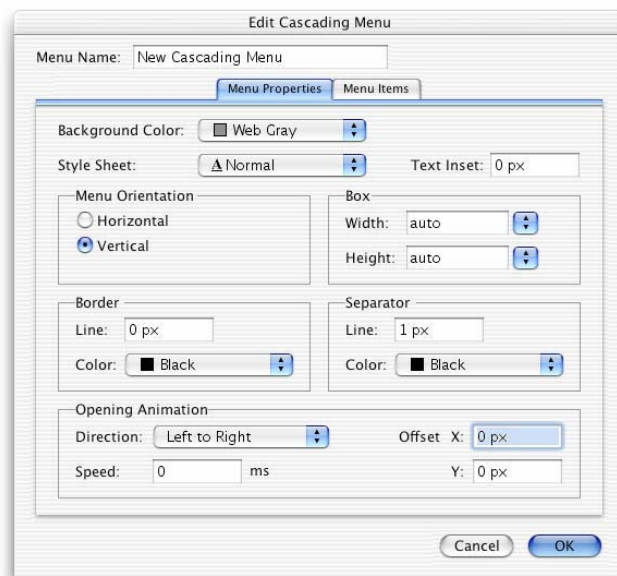


Figure 2

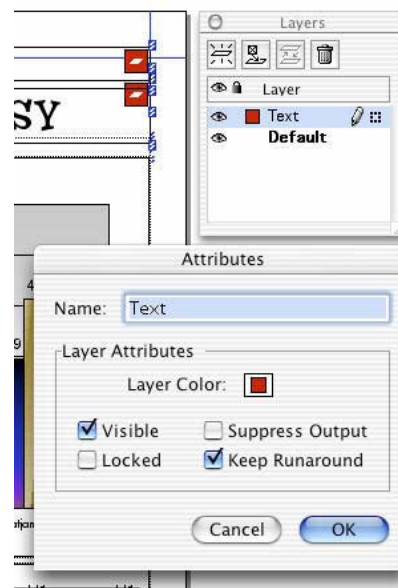


Figure 3

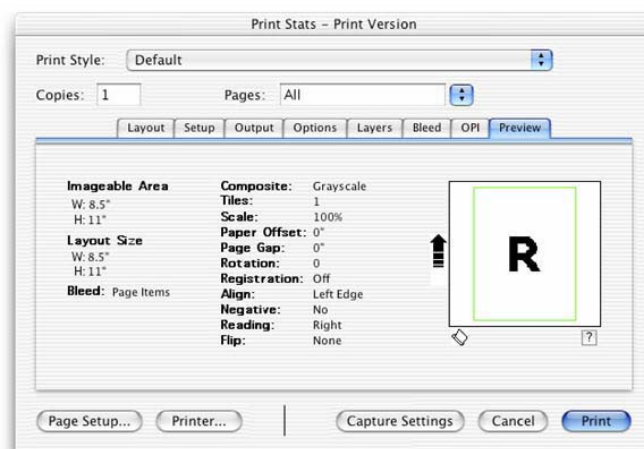


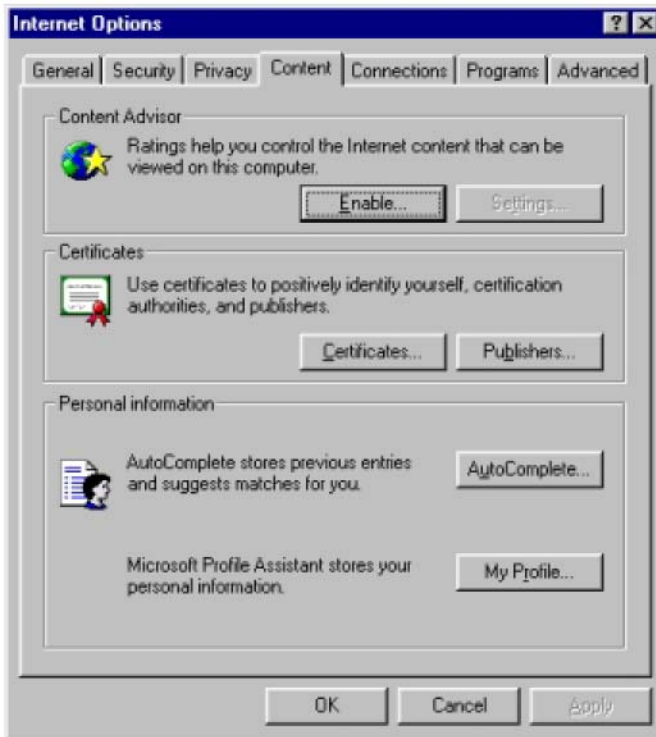
Figure 4



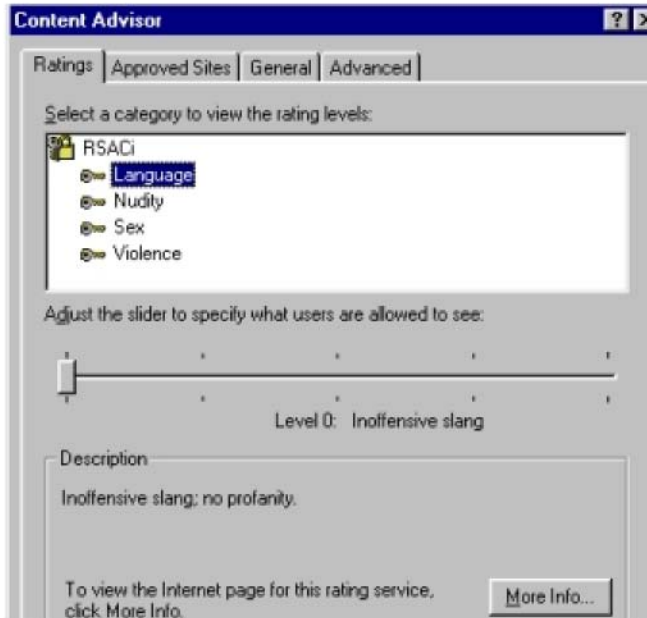
Internet Explorer - Content Advisor

Ron Ingraham, Space Coast PC User Group

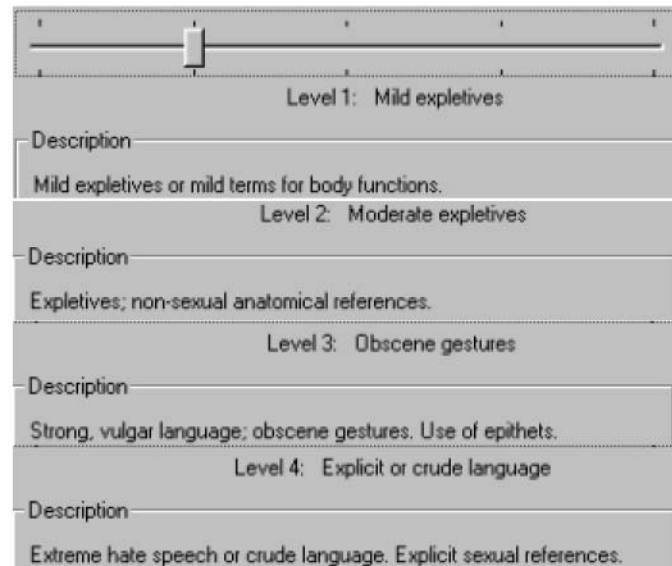
Ron is a member of Space Coast PC Users Group. Instructions in this column were created on a Windows 98 system. E-mail Ron at <ringram728@earthlink.net>



Content Advisor covers all aspects of Internet sites, Language, Nudity, Sex, and Violence. Clicking on the Enable button provides the window below.



As you can see, there is a slider with five positions, each of which allows increasingly explicit content.



You have full control of what can be heard on your computer. Moving to the Nudity content key provides similar choices for the following levels:

0. No nudity
1. Revealing attire
2. Partial Nudity
3. Frontal Nudity
4. Provocative display of frontal nudity

The Sex key also offers 5 levels of control:

0. No sexual activity portrayed. Romance
1. Passionate kissing
2. Clothed sexual touching

I think you get the idea by now. You can view the remaining choices for this and the violence key on your computer.

If you're interested in the rating system itself, click on the More Info button in the Description Box. Here you'll find the following information:

Recreational Software Advisory Council

RSAC

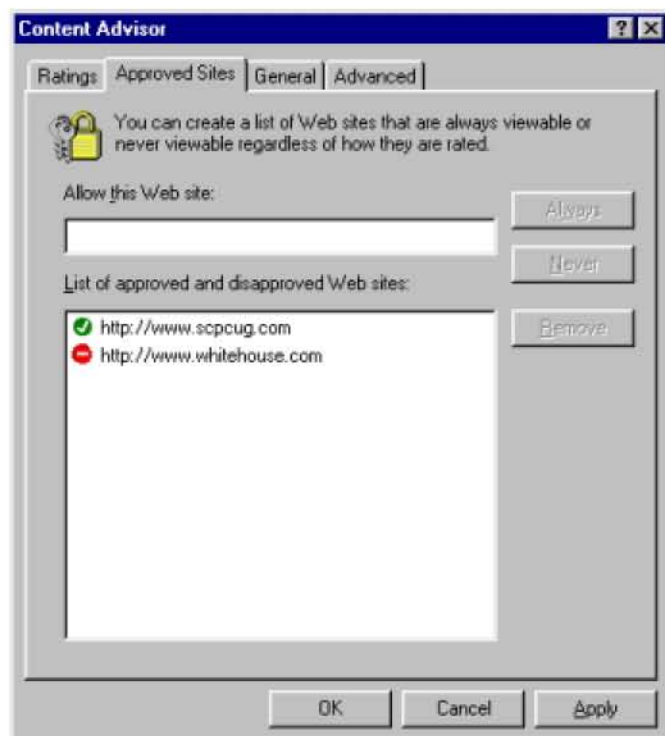
RSAC no longer exists. In 1999 it was “folded into” a new organization, the Internet Content Rating Association (ICRA). The original aims of RSAC, to protect children from potentially harmful content while preserving free speech on the internet, continue to provide the cornerstone for ICRA’s work, backed by the biggest names online.

Please follow the links to the ICRA website below to find the information you’re looking for:

- For general information about ICRA, please [click here](#).
- For information about labelling your website, please [click here](#).
- If you are looking for **technical support**, particularly with Microsoft Internet Explorer’s Content Advisor, please note that we are not responsible in any way for this software, however, we are able to offer advice on its use. The most frequently asked of frequently asked questions (Content Advisor’s “Missing information” error message) is answered in FAQ 2.7. For ICRA’s support pages, please [click here](#).

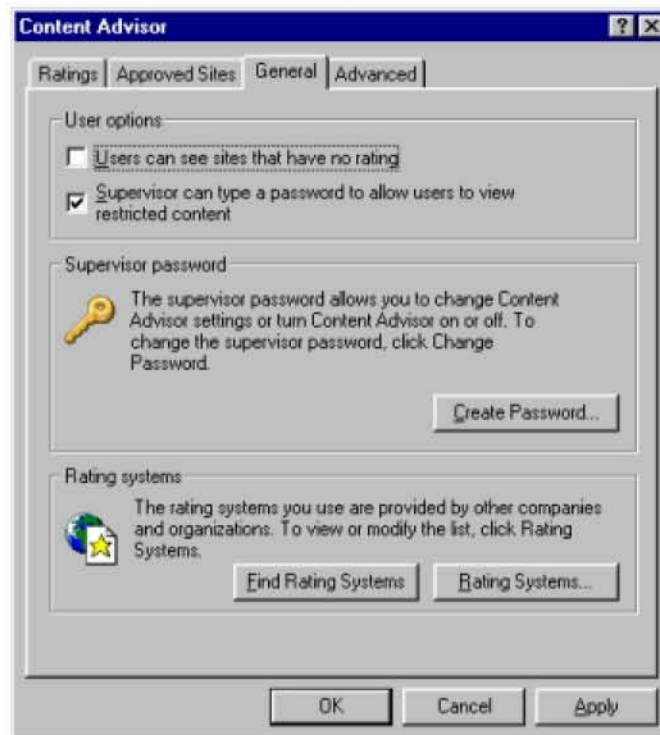


The Approved Sites tab gives you the window below:



Here you may make permanent selections as to sites which may always or never be seen. Just type in the url of the sites you wish to place in either category and click the Always or Never button when they appear.

The General tab offers many more choices. You may



allow users to see only sites that have no rating, or you may create a password. The Create Password button lets you create a password just as you do for other Internet or email accounts. The Find Rating Systems takes you to a Microsoft page which explains, perhaps better than I have, how the Content Advisor works. On my computer, the Rating Systems only finds the RSAC.

Finally, the Advanced tab gives a window which in my case offers no new information. It refers to Ratings Bureaus which provide Internet ratings to some rating systems. They caution that using a ratings bureau may slow down internet access time.

The next area covers PICS Rules files which control which sites may be viewed. It works in much the same manner as the Approved Sites tab. Again, on my computer there is no information regarding the Rules or the source for them.

Next month we’ll move on to Certificates. The use of certificates can help you get around the Internet by allowing you to accept certificates from sources you select, as well as creating certificates for yourself which facilitate your access to secure email and other secure sites. You establish your identity in a fashion which makes accessing such sites simpler.

Continued on page 32.

Save the Internet

By Bob Hewitt, Editor, The Journal of the Sun City Center Computer Club, FL
Former 21-year editor for United Press International
 <rsh1916(at)juno.com>

Current legislation in both houses of congress threatens to change the internet as we know it. The House Commerce Committee approved the COPE bill 42-12 after voting down an amendment by Democrat Ed Markey of Massachusetts to guarantee net neutrality-- the principle that net users should be able to access any web content they want, post their own content, and use any applications they chose without restrictions or limitations imposed by their internet service providers. The Communications Opportunity, Promotion and Enhancements Act now awaits action on the house floor where it faces little opposition.

Subsequently, Markey filed a bill of his own H. R. 5273 known as the Network Neutrality Act which would open broadband networks and innovation, foster electronic commerce and safeguard consumer access to online content and services. That bill has been referred to the House Commerce Committee which had defeated his amendment to the COPE bill.

Senator Ted Stevens of Alaska, Chair of the Senate Commerce Committee, has introduced a massive, 135-page bill called the Communications, Consumer Choice and Broadband Deployment Act of 2006.

The COPE act, about to be considered by the full house, would limit FCC authority to prevent abuses of market power by the few broadband ISP's in control of the "last mile." The Stevens bill goes even further. It would eliminate it altogether.

The House strips the FCC of any power to create net neutrality rules, limiting it to enforcing its Broadband Policy Statement by case-by-case complaints. The Stevens Bill removes the ability of the FCC to even adjudicate complaints about violations of the four principles.

The four principles of broadband policy are that the consumers should be able to:

- 1-Access all legal content,
- 2-Use all legal applications and services of their choice,
- 3-Attach any device to the network that won't harm the network,
- 4-Enjoy competition.

The Miami Herald says companies such as Verizon and Comcast have already announced plans to create a two-tiered Internet, where some websites and services would travel up the 'fast lane' --for a fee, of course---and the rest of the web would be relegated to the "slow lane"

"Universality is essential to the web," says its inventor, Tim Berners-Lee. "It loses its power if there are certain types of things to which you can't link."

Currently internet providers do not voluntarily censor the web as it enters your home. This levels the playing field between the tiniest blog and the most popular website.

It is up to us--computer people---to keep it that way. It is a vital matter to us but has not been getting any media attention. One way to get around that is to let our Senators in Washington know where we stand. I have done so and hope

we can generate a wellspring of attention by generating a torrent of emails telling of our desire for continued Internet Neutrality. You can find you Senator's email address at <<http://www.webslingerz.com/jhoffman/congress-email.html>>

The Senate Commerce Committee is scheduled to consider the bill June 8.

Members of the committee:

Ted Stevens - Alaska
 John McCain - Arizona
 Conrad Burns - Montana
 Trent Lott - Mississippi
 Kay Bailey Hutchison - Texas
 Olympia Snowe - Maine
 Gordon Smith - Oregon
 John Ensign - Nevada
 George Allen - Virginia
 John Sununu - New Hampshire
 Jim DeMint - South Carolina
 Daniel K. Inouye - Hawaii
 John D. Rockefeller IV - West Virginia
 John F. Kerry - Massachusetts
 Byron L. Dorgan - North Dakota
 Barbara Boxer - California
 Bill Nelson - Florida
 Maria Cantwell - Washington
 Frank Lautenberg - New Jersey
 E. Benjamin Nelson - Nebraska
 Mark Pryor - Arkansas
 David Vitter - Louisiana

Student Practice Lab

Polish those new skills - A specific time period for students taking Alamo PC Courses to use Computer Lab (Classroom One) to practice their class assignments. Students may also make up missed class days, if the instructor has provided the course material to the individual. Seating is limited and on a first come, first serve basis.

Call (210) 736-0080, or (210) 736-0700

Online librarians never say Shhh!

*By Gabriel Goldberg, APCUG Advisor; Columnist,
AARP Computer & Technology Website, <www.aarp.org>*

GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

Libraries have improved since baby boomers attended grade school. Research assistance once only available in person or by telephone is blossoming into diverse online "ask a librarian" services, handling questions ranging from general curiosity and homework-related to business research.

Friendly Online Librarians Never Say Shhh!

Growing up, I was lucky to live just a few blocks from a great neighborhood library. I fondly remember the children's librarian encouraging my love of reading and books. The library was rebuilt while I was in elementary school; I was recently shocked that the "new" library was undergoing renovation and improvement. Then I realized that what seems like yesterday was five decades ago!

The good news for us all -- near libraries or not -- is that libraries have greatly improved in that 50 years. Research assistance once only available in person or by telephone is blossoming into diverse online "ask a librarian" services. These handle all sorts of questions: general curiosity, homework-related, business research, etc. Just don't expect medical or legal advice.

E-mail assistance has been available for some time. Librarians sometimes like it because they can answer questions as they have time, and it avoids people waiting on line or holding on the phone. But it can be slow if a question must be clarified -- that's important, since people often don't ask what they really want answered! And online interaction lacks face-to-face intimacy, voice tone, body language, which all help communication.

In addition to accepting e-mail, libraries use Web forms for submitting queries, take questions via instant messaging, and offer interactive Web chats. Highly interactive instant messaging and Web chats allow quick conversations, often providing answers within a few minutes. Newer technologies such as VoIP (voice over IP, Internet telephony) and MS (cell phone text messaging) may soon increase research availability.

Library policies vary regarding answering non-resident questions; some specialized queries (local history, obituaries, newspaper clippings, etc.) must be handled by a library near the area of interest. That brings genealogy questions from far away as people research their ancestors.

Most queries are handled at no cost, though some searches incur charges. A library card usually isn't needed. Some libraries currently mail printed research results; e-mailing images will provide faster service and reduce costs.

Behind-the-scenes technology helps librarians manage queries, ensuring that all questions are answered and eliminating duplicate responses. Shortcuts fill in frequently used answers.

The same sorts of questions are asked online as are posed by phone or in person, with addition of sensitive areas such as sexual issues. Queries often deal with homework -- math, science fair challenges, etc. -- and country reports. Librarians enjoy the occasional obscure gem, such as being asked about "modeling the economic infrastructure of railroads in Great Britain".

The geek expression "24x7" means that something is available all day, every day. Since people expect this full-time access to e-mail, the Web, shopping, banking, and other online services, they're enthusiastic about being able to ask questions whenever they occur.

But it's hard for libraries to provide this never-anticipated level of service, especially when off-hours demand may be limited. So they support each other locally/nationally/ internationally by sharing round-the-clock assistance chores. Questions are entered locally and routed to on-duty librarians -- who sometimes work from home in pajamas, answering off-hours long-distance queries.

Even librarians sometimes need help -- so their world-wide Stumpers mailing list lets them share baffling questions.

Librarians and the public are learning together to use electronic tools. New technologies facilitate supporting diverse clienteles by -- for example -- facilitating non-English services.

Here are a few tips regarding online queries: provide your name/e-mail/phone for answering and clarification; use plain text (not formatted) for easy reading; don't nag, allow time for an answer -- but follow up in a week or so. Finally, contact the correct library. A library in Plymouth, Michigan has received queries about Plymouths in Massachusetts and England!

Using online library services is easy once you have an Internet connection. Some libraries favor PCs with Windows and the Internet Explorer Web browser, but Linux and Macintosh systems are increasingly supported. There's generally no software download or install. Browser pop-up blockers or firewalls sometimes get in the way but they're easily customized.

Start by finding your library's Web site. For example, I locate my library by submitting "fairfax county" library to Google [www.google.com]. Or I could click from my county government Web site to the library pages. Or Googling library questions yields many library sites offering answers. Then look for links like Ask-A-Librarian! or "Homework Help!". Links and services will vary; when I click Ask-A-Librarian, I can choose between chatting, e-mailing, or (of course) actually visiting a library.

In researching this article I challenged my library with two questions. I was delighted that they quickly named the obscure British TV show whose name I couldn't remember (The Duchess of Duke Street) and found a science fiction book containing a short story I wanted to reread.

No matter how they evolve, whether as buildings or online, libraries' core mission is everlasting: providing timely information in a customer-friendly format.

What Does a Cache Do For a Computer?

By Brian K. Lewis, Ph.D., Member Sarasota PCUG, Florida
[<www.spcug.org>](http://www.spcug.org)

A cache (pronounced “cash”) is a form of memory storage that generally operates faster than RAM memory or the time required to access a hard drive. The cache is smaller, faster memory that stores copies of the data from the most frequently used memory locations. Computer processors (CPUs) utilize both internal and external caches. You will also find references in the specifications of hard drives, CD & DVD drives to caches of various sizes. In order to see how these caches benefit computer operations we'll look at the operation of the internal caches on CPUs.

Before looking at the cache function, you need to have some understanding of the architecture of a CPU. Much of the internal structure of a CPU is composed of registers that hold small bits of information and also can be used in manipulating information. As one example, the Intel Pentium 4 processors have 128 registers. Some registers hold instructions, others hold data, others have memory addresses and others are arithmetic manipulators. The instructions are found in the program code and they tell the processor what to do with the data.

The processor loads instructions from memory and then loads data that is manipulated based on the instructions. So the registers hold data to be processed, the results of calculations, or addresses pointing to the location of other data. The processor can act on data in registers almost instantaneously. However, the registers are far too small to hold all the data required. Instead, instructions and data have to be read from or written to RAM.

If the program code were always loaded directly from memory and all the data were written directly back to memory and then to the hard drive, the overall process would be quite slow compared to what we normally see. It is the use of caches that greatly speeds up the total process so the processor isn't stalled waiting for either instructions or data. The fastest cache is the one that is part of the processor and is referred to as the L1 cache. It can operate at the same speed as the processor. So if you have a 30-gigahertz (GHz) CPU, the L1 cache also operates at 30 GHz. Thus data can be accessed in one clock cycle. This cache is generally 128 kilobytes (KB) in size or smaller, although the Pentium 4 has an internal cache of 16 KB plus an internal Trace cache of 150 KB.

The following diagram displays the relative relationship of the RAM memory and the components of the caches in the CPU body:

RAM Memory

The components within the box run at the same rate as the internal CPU clock. The next cache in distance from the processor is the L2 cache. In older CPUs this was totally external to the processor. In most cases, the L2 cache is now integrated on the CPU chip. The data path in these processors is 256 bits wide allowing for the transfer of more bits per clock cycle than the older processors that had 64 or 128 bit paths. The data path between the CPU and the external RAM is usually 64 bits or 128 bits wide. In a system with an 800 MHz bus, the real clock rate is 200 MHz, but transfer occurs

in 4 blocks per clock cycle. This gives an effective transfer rate of 800 MHz or 6.4 GB/second. Still considerably slower than the transfer rate within the CPU.

The theory of using caches is that instructions and data in the cache will be the next set of information requested by the CPU for processing. If the requested information is in either the L1 or L2 cache, it will not be necessary to go to RAM. Thus it can be accessed at the internal clock rate. If it is present, it is referred to as a “hit”; otherwise it is a “miss”. (Logical, right?) Now, the bigger the memory cache, the better the chances of finding the data required by the CPU.

However, there is a catch to this. The bigger the cache, the more time that is required to find the data. This is referred to as the “latency” time. In an ideal setup you would have a single cache with a high hit rate and a low latency. This is very difficult to achieve in practice. Consequently, we have two caches, a small one with low latency and lower hit rate combined with a large cache with higher hit rate and high latency.

Now that we've reviewed the architecture, we need to see how all this works. Let's start with the Fetch unit that is used to load information from memory on demand from the processor. It first checks the caches to see if the required instructions or data are there. If not, it will load the information from system RAM. This information is then passed to the Decode unit. Note that when I refer to information it can either be instructions or data.

If the information is a program instruction, the Decode unit will figure out what that particular instruction does. It does that by consulting a ROM memory that exists inside the CPU called microcode. Each instruction that a given CPU understands has its own microcode. The microcode will “teach” the CPU what to do. It is like a step-by-step guide to every instruction. If the instruction loaded is, for example, add a+b, its microcode will tell the decode unit that it needs two parameters, a and b. The Decode unit will then request the Fetch unit to grab the data present in the next two memory positions, which fit the values for a and b.

After the Decode unit has “translated” the instruction and grabbed all the data required to execute the instruction, it will pass the data and the “step-by-step cookbook” on how to execute that instruction to the Execute unit. There is an exception to this in the newest Pentium 4 processors. In these processors the L1 Instruction Cache has been relocated to after the Decode unit. It now contains the translated instructions and is referred to as the Trace cache.

The Execute unit will finally execute the instruction. On modern CPUs you will find more than one execution unit working in parallel. This is done in order to increase the processor performance. For example, a Pentium 4 CPU with six execution units can execute six instructions per clock cycle. In theory it could achieve the same performance as six processors with just one execution unit. After the processing is over, the result is sent to the L1 Memory cache. From there it can be written to RAM or sent elsewhere.

Modern processors have another feature called the "pipeline". This is the capability of having several different instructions at different stages of processing in the CPU at the same time. On Pentium III processors the pipeline was 11 stages – each a unit of the CPU. The latest Pentium 4 processors have 31 stages. With the greater number of stages, fewer transistors are required per stage, resulting in a higher clock rate. O.K, so what's the value of stages in the pipeline? After the Fetch unit sends an instruction for decoding, it grabs the next instruction. This can be sent on as soon as the first instruction is sent to the Execution unit. If an instruction has to be processed by all 11 (or 31) stages, it takes the most time, while other instructions might require fewer stages. Only when the first instruction is finished processing can it be sent out, but others that required processing by fewer stages might immediately follow. The consequence of this is that multiple instructions can be processed simultaneously. This greatly increases the overall processing throughput.

Other caches found in computers are not associated with the processor. One such type of cache that you use frequently, probably without being aware of it, is the web page cache managed by your web browser. When you visit a web page, it is downloaded to your computer. If you visit that same page within a few days, your browser pulls the page from its temporary cache, compares it with the current page on the web server and updates only the changed portions. This speeds up the appearance of the page on your computer. For example, my home page is Yahoo.com. The major part of this page doesn't change from day to day, so the downloading of the page is limited to those parts that have actually changed. This allows the page to appear on my screen quite rapidly.

So in CPU processing, the use of caches has greatly increased the speed of data handling. The same is true of caches used elsewhere in the computer. In all cases they are short-time storage of information. Luckily, you don't have to have a complete understanding of caches to use your computer. Let the computer do the work!

Dr. Lewis is a former university & medical school professor. He has been working with personal computers for more than thirty years. He can be reached via e-mail: <bwsail@yahoo.com>.



SAN ANTONIO • PC-HELP

(210) 748-5311 • SAPCHELP@ATT.NET

Seniors — Computer troubles ?

We understand that making the jump to computers, E-mail and the Internet can be a real challenge.

When you are stuck or your computer just doesn't seem to be working as you expected, call us. In the comfort of your own home, let us help you work through the problem. We provide on-site service for the individual PC user and small to medium size business.

Call PC-Help today!

SE HABLA ESPANOL

(210) 748-5311

9 AM - 4 PM • Monday - Friday

Swissbit – Do Everything USB, MP3 Swiss Army Knife

Father's Day

By Ira Wilsker, APCUG Director; Columnist, The Examiner, Beaumont, TX; Radio & TV Show Host
<Iwilsker@apcug.net>

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

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

<http://support.swissbit.com/pdf/s.beat_Fact_Sheet.pdf>

<<http://www.victorinox.com/index.cfm?page=242&lang=E>>

Hey dads! With Father's Day fast approaching, maybe you should get copies of this article, and leave the copies at strategic places around the house where key members of the family are likely to see them. Dads are often hard to buy gifts for, and all too often end up with that ubiquitous neck tie that typically works its way into the back of the closet, and eventually accidentally falls into the bag headed for the rummage sale. Maybe instead of the well intended, but often useless gift that we dads sometimes receive, perhaps a really fun high tech gift would be more appropriate.

The most intriguing item that I have seen, that would make a fantastic gift for dad on his special day, is a combination Victorinox Swiss Army Knife, USB flash drive, FM stereo radio, voice recorder, and remote control MP3 player, manufactured and distributed by Swissbit (www.swissbit.com). Named the "S.Beat", this device is true to the multi-function traditions of the classical Swiss army knife, but with a modern twist. Externally, it looks like an aluminum scaled Swiss army knife, complete with the white cross logo, sharp knife blade, spring opening scissors, and nail file. Internally, it contains a removable USB 2.0 high speed flash drive (available in 1 GB, 2 GB, and 4 GB capacities) that also contains an MP3 player, FM stereo radio, voice recorder, and rechargeable lithium polymer battery. A separate remote control also bears the trademarked Victorinox white cross logo, and contains an earphone jack, volume and track controls, and power on and off. The remote control can be worn around the neck with the included lanyard. For international travelers, the built-in lithium polymer battery can be recharged using the included "USB World Charger", which can handle voltages from 110v to 220v, and is compatible with the outlets in over 150 countries. The battery, which may take up to 2.5 hours to fully charge, will power the player for about eight hours. The tiny FM radio can be preset to listen to up to 15 stations, and the MP3 player (which also supports WMA and OGG Vorbis formats) has a three line backlit high-contrast display.

Victorinox and Swissbit have taken the flying traveler into mind with this device which has earned a "FlySmart" logo. Since the knife and scissors component would be banned on commercial airline flights, but many travelers would still like to listen to the MP3 player, the player itself can be separated from the knife, maintaining full functionality. The knife portion of the device can then be appropriately placed in the checked luggage, and can be reunited with the player at the destination.

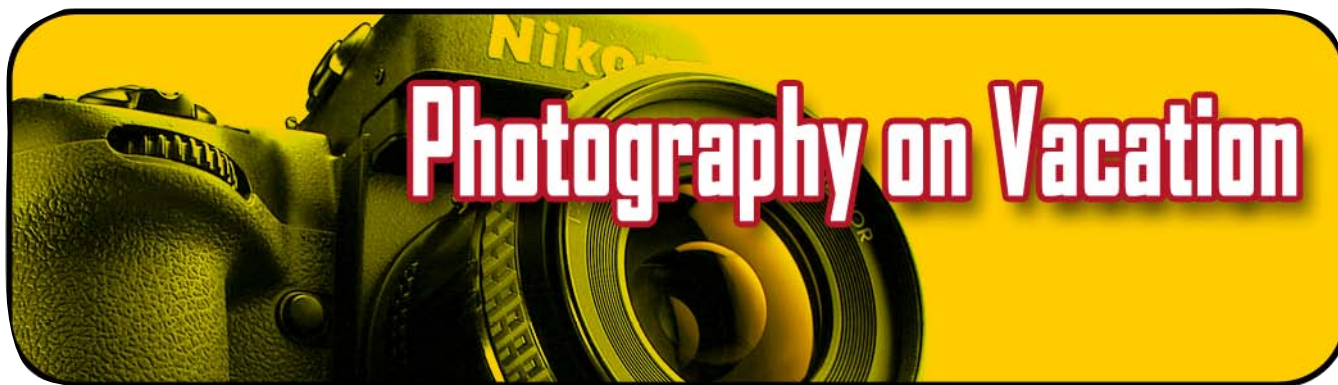
This device is simply amazing, fitting all of the components in a standard sized Swiss army knife about three inches long, half an inch wide, and about, three-quarters of an inch thick, and weighs a scant three ounces. The box containing the S.Beat included the knife and MP3 player unit, remote control, high quality stereo headphones with neck strap, a protective cap (covers the USB plug when the player is removed from the knife), arm strap for outdoor sports activities, USB extension cable, USB world charger, instruction book, and CD containing the software utilities.



Since this device is just being introduced in this country, but has been available in Europe for a while, it is something that dad will find both unique and exclusive. It should be available shortly at any retailer stocking a large assortment of Victorinox products, but is currently available from several online sources. The version with the 1 GB capacity has a retail price of \$189, with some domestic outlets offering this S.Beat at a small discount. The larger capacity 2 GB and 4 GB models were recently introduced in Europe, and should be available shortly in this country.

Being so new on the market, there have only been a few reviews published, but they have been universally positive. One such published review is quite representative of the several that I found. It says, "Fantastic product! Beautiful metal finish, sturdy and compact. The included headphones are top-notch - no need to spend another 50 bucks for a real pair like with all other players you buy nowadays. Sound quality will blow you away, menu user interface is comprehensive yet simple and intuitive to use/learn. Didn't even have to read the manual. And best of all; it works without some special drivers or software. Just use what you're used to for your audio and data files."

Come to think of it, maybe we should not wait until Father's Day; maybe we should not only consider this extremely useful gadget for dad, but mom, and our new graduates as well. In fact, this would make a great gift for anyone special, including yourself!



10 tips for managing digital pictures on the road

By Tony Northrup

Don't miss an important picture because your camera's memory card is full. Here are 10 tips to help you prevent the dreaded Out Of Memory message.

1. Delete bad pictures right away. Check your camera's screen after you take a picture. If the flash didn't go off, if someone's eyes are closed, or if the picture is out of focus, delete it immediately. Most digital cameras have a button with a trashcan icon that you can press to quickly delete the picture. Checking your pictures right away will also ensure that you got the one you wanted.

2. Delete wasted pictures every night. Everyone takes a few bad shots during the course of the day. Each night, use your digital camera to preview the pictures you took that day, and delete any pictures that didn't turn out the way you'd hoped.



3. Upgrade your memory card. The memory card that came with your camera probably isn't big enough. Typically these cards are only capable of holding about a dozen images. A new memory card is one of the most useful and least expensive digital camera accessories that you can invest in to make your experience better. This table shows approximately how many pictures you can fit onto different sized memory cards. (These estimates will vary depending on the resolution size at which you're saving your pictures.)

	16 MB	128 MB	512 MB	1 GB	4 GB
1 megapixel camera	38	312	1,250	2,500	10,000
3 megapixel camera	23	184	737	1,474	5,896
6 megapixel camera	6	50	200	400	1,600
12 megapixel camera	3	25	100	200	800

Tip: 1GB memory cards offer the best compromise of storage capacity and cost.

4. Buy extra memory cards. If you're not ready to replace your current memory card, you can continue to use it and buy extra memory cards. If you decided to carry more than one card, be sure to label them so you can remember which ones you've already used. There are a variety of different cards that today's digital cameras use such as CompactFlash cards, SD cards, SmartMedia cards, and xD-picture cards. Be sure to choose the type of memory card that's right for your camera.



5. Move your pictures to a laptop computer. If you take your laptop with you on the road, you can download your pictures to your computer each night, freeing up the space on your memory cards. Be sure to remember to bring your camera's cable to connect directly to your computer.






6. Pick a higher compression. All digital cameras compress your pictures before storing them on your memory card so they take up less space. The higher the compression, the more pictures you can fit on a memory card. However, high compression levels (which might be called "basic" with your camera) can introduce jagged edges in your pictures. For example, low compression levels (which might be called "fine" with your camera) will show the sky gradually fading from light blue near the horizon to dark blue near the top of your picture, while high compression levels will show the sky fading in a number of distinct stages, which might be distracting. Experiment with

your camera's settings to find the compression setting that offers the best compromise of quality and capacity.

7. Choose a smaller picture size. Most digital cameras can capture small, medium, or large pictures—these designations relate to the quality of the picture. Typically the larger the size the better the options are for printing the picture at larger sizes. If you have enough memory, you should always capture large pictures, because they'll look great when you make large prints. You can fit many more small pictures onto your memory card, however, and smaller pictures are just fine for e-mailing and printing standard prints. Some cameras show picture sizes as "Full" (which means large), "XGA", which means medium, and "VGA", which means small.



	Fine	Normal	Basic
Sample Picture			
1 megapixel camera	0.6MB	0.35MB	0.25MB
3 megapixel camera	1MB	0.6MB	0.4MB
6 megapixel camera	3.75MB	2.25MB	1.5MB

8. Use a lower ISO speed when shooting outdoors on sunny days. The "ISO speed" controls how sensitive your camera is to light levels. If you manually adjust your camera's settings, use a lower ISO setting whenever possible, because your pictures will take up less space on your memory card. For example, on my six megapixel camera, a picture taken at ISO 200 is about 1MB in size. Pictures taken at ISO 1600 are about four times larger, because the higher ISO setting has more noise, and noise reduces the effectiveness of image compression. Noise in a digital picture is random specks of color, like static on a television channel or grainy film.

Tip: If you use your camera's automatic settings or if you don't understand ISO speed, don't worry because your camera is doing the lighting work for you. You might notice that you'll be able to fit more pictures on your memory card on sunny days than you can on cloudy days, though. When the lighting is dim, pictures have extra noise in them, which makes the pictures bigger.

9. Switch from continuous to single-shot. Continuous shooting is great when you're taking pictures of fast-moving activities, because taking multiple pictures with a single button press ensures you capture the action. However, using the continuous shooting setting on your camera can cause you to accidentally take two pictures when you only meant to take one, which wastes memory. Switch to single-shot mode when you're not photographing fast action.



10. Disable interpolation. Some cameras are capable of interpolating pictures to increase the picture's size. Interpolating increases the number of megapixels in a picture by adding extra computer-generated pixels between the pixels in your camera's sensor. Interpolation doesn't add more detail to your pictures, but it does use more space on your storage card. Turning off interpolation saves space without significant disadvantages.

This article is provided by our friends at Microsoft® Windows®. Please go to <<https://s.microsoft.com/mindshare/license.aspx>> and read and accept the Microsoft License Agreement prior to using the article in your newsletter.

If you have comments or questions about this article or the Microsoft Mindshare program, please contact us at <mindshare@microsoft.com>.

News Brief

Some Camera Models Have Defective Sensors

Several major camera makers have announced plans to replace faulty CCD sensors in digital cameras and camcorders. CCD sensors capture images. As a result of the defect, images are distorted or nonexistent. The CCDs were manufactured between October 2002 and March 2004. Konica Minolta, Canon, Fujifilm and Nikon have sold models that are affected by the problem. More information can be found on their respective sites: <<http://www.fujifilm.com/JSP/fuji/epartners/ServiceSupportHome.jsp>> ;<http://www.nikonusa.com/email_images/nikonusa/service_advisory>

Digital Photography

photos

By David Berkowitz, Pasadena IBM Users Group

I have a couple of URLs -- and a series of tips -- that I can recommend to the other members. Anyone who is going shopping for a camera should learn a lot more about them before going near a store. One more thing: Before I bought my HP Photosmart P1100, I took a compact flash card to the store, inserted it into the display model at Staples, then printed "my own" photos to judge the quality. When I saw what this printer could do on plain paper, I was sold. It was really nice to be able to use photos that

I took -- instead of a canned, optimized photo that was purposely created as a demo by the manufacturer.

You can't do that with many printers, but for those who are considering the 900 or Photosmart series from HP, I highly recommend it. The P1000 and P1100 have both Smartmedia and Compact flash support, so anyone that already owns a camera, or can borrow a memory card with some personal photos on it, should give it a try.

Batteries

Some cameras ship with two types of batteries: Alkaline and Nickel Metal Hydride.

The alkaline batteries are intended for temporary use while the Nickel Metal Hydride batteries are charging. They have to be conditioned before first use, which takes several hours.

The alkaline batteries go fast and that type of battery should only be used if nothing else is available. On the other hand, the Nickel Metal Hydride batteries are excellent.

I can usually get over one hundred photos per charge with my Epson 850z--and that includes use of the flash and LCD. I bought a spare set of four at Radio Shack for less than \$20 and I always have a spare set ready if I expect to take lots of pictures.

AC Adapter

Nice to have, but not necessary if you do what I do. For less than \$8.00 I bought a compact flash-to-PC Card adapter and I use that to transfer the images to my notebook.

For those who need to transfer images to their desktops, there are CF-to-USB readers that sell for around \$30. Either solution makes transfers directly from the camera unnecessary.

Storage

Compact Flash memory is a good buy these days and will get even better. My camera shipped with a scrawny 8MB card, so I bought a 64MB card. With that card, I can take 91 photos at 1600 x 1200 (with moderate compression) or over 940 images at 640 x 480.

If you are going to take the camera outdoors, an AC adapter will not do you much good. Anyone who buys a digital camera will have to buy more memory or be very selective about which photos he/she keeps.

Some cameras come with Smart media memory and Sony is trying to make their memory sticks the memory of choice. Most people go for CF these days, for its higher capacity and for its compatibility with the PC card standard.



It's important to look for type II support. Nikon has been criticized because their otherwise great cameras only support type I. Luckily, there are fairly large capacity type I cards on the market.

Some cameras that support CF type II also support the IBM microdrives, which follow the CF type II standard. How about 340MB of storage for about \$450? Expensive, but much less expensive per megabyte than CF memory.

User Interface and Operational Features

Some very good cameras have controls that are a pain in the elbow to use. Some others take almost all control away from the user. My Epson has a very good interface and lots of nice features, but much of the interface requires use of the LCD. The LCD is almost impossible to see well in bright sunlight, so some of the options are hard to use outdoors. Luckily, this camera can be used as a point-and-shoot model -- and the results are pretty good in fully automatic mode.

One reason why I bought it was because it can also be used in a virtually manual mode. Though I do not have much experience with photography, I felt I might miss the ability to select the settings I want.

Having more control makes taking pictures more fun. It also provides a learning experience. I don't like products that take control away from the user, but that's my choice. Others may seek out that type of product.

LCD vs Viewfinder

You expressed your preference for using the viewfinder over the LCD. That only works well if you are taking pictures at some distance from your subject. Almost all digital cameras are rangefinder cameras: The viewfinder is a separate element and it is positioned away from the camera lens assembly.

When you compose a picture, you are seeing a different view of the subject than the one the CCD sees. Because of that you have to deal with parallax error. If you don't know how to deal with it, you will not get the shot you intended, and you will probably cut off someone's head in the process!

Another problem with almost all cameras is that the image area seen in the viewfinder/LCD is different from the area captured by the CCD. Because the manufacturers are conservative (want to help the user), the image captured is usually larger than the one you saw in the viewfinder/LCD. It varies from one model to another, but it means that you may have to crop the final image to remove an unwanted part of the picture. That removes valuable pixels and reduces the effective resolution of the final product.

A Few Terrific URLs

Steve's Digi-Cam is one of the best sites on the web for reviews and general information about digital cameras. His product reviews are more thorough than what you will find in any magazine. (The reviews contain so much detail they can be used as an owner's manual.) Check it out and you will that some people just like to vent and/or trash the products or companies they don't like. <<http://www.steves-digicams.com/>>

Scantips is a great site for information on scanners and how to use them. Wayne Fulton does an excellent job of explaining why you scan for your target device -- not for the maximum resolution. The user group presenter was trying to make that point, but she got drowned out by all of the noise surrounding her. <<http://www.scantips.com/>>

Digital Camera Resource Page One user group member used this extensively when he was shopping for a digital camera about 18 months ago. <<http://http://www.dcresource.com/>>

As usual, I've been at this for longer than I intended, but I think the information will be of use to others. Everything I said above (and much more) can be found on the web sites that "focus" on photography.

David Berkowitz can be reached at <daberk@mindspring.com>.

Visit the Alamo PC Learning Center

Media Center

Learn all about computers with hundreds of books and dozens of video tapes. Enjoy our large selection of techno-fiction.

A comfortable seating area is available.

Call (210) 736-0700

News Brief

Chip-enabled Soccer Ball

Engineers working on a chip-enabled soccer ball are optimistic about the technology being used at the FIFA (Federation Internationale de Football Association) World Cup soccer tournament in Germany next year. FIFA has shown interest in the technology--largely to help referees make crucial goal-line calls--but has yet to make a final decision. The radio-based tracking system could also be used to determine whether a ball has gone out of bounds, to compile statistics about individual players, and more.

What Comes After You Have Your Pictures in Tip Top Shape?

photos

by Donald Cummins, APCUG Representative,
Fresno Personal Computer Users Group, California

Paper and ink are a team – one without the other is just paper or ink. Paper is one of the least understood or overlooked items. Paper should be used with care. A wedding picture may be a total loss if you put it on the incorrect type of paper. If the picture is taken on the soft side (not very sharp) and printed on very glossy paper, it will make it look out of focus. It would be much better if it is printed on less glossy paper or, even better, on a matte-finish paper. Many of the wedding photos may need to be printed on a number of different types of paper to find the best results. At the same time, the ink cartridges may need to be changed from one group of photos to another.

Some people feel you should use only one brand of paper that is made for your brand of printer; e.g. Epson printer should only use Epson paper and Epson original ink cartridges. They say do not “mix and match.” Others say stick with one brand of paper or ink and know everything about them. This can be a huge effort at the beginning but may pay off later. Each photo should be and must be looked upon as being unique unto itself.

Now this is where ink comes into play. There are two types of ink dye and pigment. Dye inks produce somewhat brighter colors and are prone to fading. They now may last 10 years or longer. Pigment inks are less bright and last longer than dye ink on photos.

Some feel that the larger number of dots per inch is one of the biggest things that will enhance the finished photo. The other side says 1440 dpi is all you really need. The droplet size may be the finishing touch to the photo if your printer can put down a droplet size of four picoliters and/or smaller; this is too small for our eyes to see. Some printers are even putting down droplets as small as 1.5 picoliters.

Does the ink bleed through or run or take forever to dry and cause the paper to cup up? Some will lay down the ink in a number of passes and others may lay the ink down in one pass. One may require the paper to move through a number of rollers and others will pass straight through.

One item which can affect the finished photo is how thick the paper is. You need to check how the paper moves through the printer because the way it moves will control how thick the paper can be.

Printers now have many more capabilities than four or five years ago. They have more ink colors, ink placement size, and speed than ever before.



**20+ YEARS
SERVING
SAN ANTONIO**

TAKE IT TO BJ's - THE LAPTOP SPECIALIST!
IF WE CAN'T FIX IT, NO ONE CAN!

AWARD WINNING SERVICE SINCE 1982
Residential, Corporate,
Education, Government,
No job is too small.

WE SERVICE ALL BRANDS!

- New/Refurbished Notebooks
- Accessories Notebook Drives
- Ac/Adapters Wireless Solutions
- Batteries Networking
- Parts/Memory LCD'S/Screens

YOUR MOBILE COMPUTING PRO!

BJ ASSOCIATES OF SAN ANTONIO

10823 GULF DALE, ISOM AND 281N NEAR THE AIRPORT
HOURS: 9-6 MON-FRI Carry in/On-site
EMERGENCY/AFTER HOURS SERVICE AVAILABLE

210-344-4563 San Antonio
800-366-7104 Metro and out of Area
www.bjassociates.com info@bjassociates.com

TOSHIBA DELL SONY
IBM Gateway hp
COMPAQ

Where did all those photos go?

File Management

photos

By Jack Wilfore, Hilton Head Island Computer Club, South Carolina <www.hhicc.org/>

Do you find that when photos get transferred from your camera to the computer, you feel you have lost control? For now, let's see if we can't gain back just a little of that control. When photos transfer from your camera to your computer, it's really important for you to know exactly where they go and where they get "filed". There is nothing more frustrating than having your photos or other images or documents, or letters or scans get filed in your computer, and then you can't find them later.

FILE MANAGEMENT

This brings us to the subject of this article, "File Management". Let's begin with the thought that your computer is nothing more than a big filing cabinet. Now it's up to you to decide where and how to organize your "files" on your computer, just as it is with the file cabinet in your office.

DISK DRIVES

Before we get to actually managing your files, a brief review of how your computer stores data. Computers store data on "drives", some drives are inside the computer and some may be outside or external to the computer. You probably already know that the "C" drive stores everything inside the computer. It is the heart and soul of your computer, and when you have a disk crash, it's usually your "C" drive that goes, and you are out of business. Other drives may include an "A" drive for use of a floppy disk, and a "D" drive designated as CD-ROM drive which is for your CD's. Other external drives, also get assigned letter designations, and could include removable or external drives such as zip drives, or memory cards, or docking stations, or cameras, etc. If you left click on the "My Computer" icon on your desktop, you can see these disk drives. You can also view what's on each drive by using your left mouse button to double-click on the A, C, or D icon.

There is one very important icon I want to point, when you are looking at "Windows". The top bar (usually blue) across the top of a window is the Title Bar, the next bar down on the above window is a Menu Bar, and the third bar down is the Task Bar. On this screen shot, I want to point out one very important icon, the UP ONE LEVEL icon within the red circle, which usually looks like a folder with an up arrow. Get familiar with and use this icon to move around within your "drives", or file cabinet.

Try it! If you left mouse click that UP ONE LEVEL icon, the next window you see is the Desktop. Within the Desktop window, you can see the "My Documents" folder, which is the cornerstone of the file management structure.

FILES, FOLDERS AND THE FILE CABINET

I like to think of drives as file cabinets. They store electronic items such as documents, photos, images, spreadsheets, programs etc. Drives may have individual files (usually not a very good idea), and folders which usually contain a collection of files on a particular topic or a particular use.

Recall that the "C" drive stores everything. Now as these files come in, we just can't let them go anywhere, this is where we can actually put them into an appropriate folder of our choice. And this is how you will get your file cabinet organized.

Let's review two key items:

Folders provide that organizational structure to a disk drive, just as they do in a file cabinet. First, you will put labeled folders into your cabinet/drive. Each folder will have a name. When you view the contents of a disk drive, folders are normally listed in alphabetical order. New folders can be created by right clicking on your desktop, and selecting New > Folder. The new folder appears on your desktop with the blue title where you can now type the name you have selected for that folder. These folders can now be dragged and dropped, wherever you want them.

Files can and usually are put inside folders. This is where you will put your documents, your photos etc. In order to be able to find your documents later within an overstuffed folder, you give each document a unique name. On a PC, it is wise to use the following naming conventions for both folders and files: A file name is made up of two parts: (1) the name of the document and (2) the file extension which is usually assigned by the computer. If you don't see the file extensions in Windows XP, go to Desktop>Tools>Folder Options>View Tab and then unclick "Hide extensions for known file types." You may name a file anything you wish (with some punctuation limitations), but it is preferable to name a file something you are likely to remember later. File names should be no longer than 8 characters whenever possible. Although Windows (and Mac) allow longer file names, you may get in problems while transferring files to other computers if you use longer file names. Also, use only letters and numbers in your file names. Special characters like "-", "/", "&", or blank spaces must be avoided in the file name. The second part of a file name is the extension. In the file text.doc, the word text is the file name and the .doc is the extension, identifying this as a Word document. A period always separates the two. The extension identifies what kind of a document you have. Some examples of file extensions are:

.txt : plain text
.doc : Microsoft Word Document
.htm or .html : Web document
.gif , .jpg , .bmp , .tif , .tiff : images
.ppt : PowerPoint Presentation

THE STRUCTURE

The File Management structure has a tree type organization or is "hierarchical". And, you have the ability to set up that structure just as you would with the file cabinet in your office.

(Start > Programs > Accessories > Windows Explorer) is one way of looking at the internal file structure of your computer. The following screen capture shows many parent folders, also known as directories, with sub-directories (or sub-folders) and then files expanding beneath them.

In this example, clicking the plus sign beside My Documents expands the files and additional sub-directories inside, or beneath My Documents.

Clicking the minus sign collapses the sub-directories and files.

To clarify how this new knowledge can help, when photos are transferred to your computer, whatever the transfer method might be, somewhere you will be asked to decide "where do you want these photos to go?" Sometimes the program will want to put your photos in either 1) a folder it creates, sometimes named with today's date or 2) into a folder which already exists perhaps as part of your camera software. If this is your preference, make note of both the folder name and its location or path. Sometimes the program will ask you ... and then you can browse and select the destination folder of

your choice. In my case, I created a special folder called "from camera" and located that folder in My Pictures, which is in My Documents, which is on my Desktop. Every time I do a photo transfer, I make sure the pictures are going to the "from camera" folder. I can decide later which photos to keep and where I want to store the "keepers". Either way, you should now be able to sketch out on a piece of paper, ahead of time, exactly where your photos are going, which was the objective of this article.

If you have any questions, comments, suggestions, please feel free to send Jack an email at <jwilfore@hargray.com>

More information on the subject of "File Management" is readily available on the Internet, especially from academic sources. Some of the material for this article has been extracted and credit is due these four excellent references:

Furman University's File Management or Where Did It Go?

<<http://facweb.furman.edu/~pecoy/mfl195/tutorial/>>

Duke University's Window's Explorer: Managing Your Files

<<http://www.duke.edu/~dhewitt/tutorials/explorer/explor.html>>

University of Virginia File Management

<<http://www.itc.virginia.edu/desktop/docs/fms/pc/structure.html#hierarchy>>



We specialize in individual and small business tax preparation

Laura B. Grover, E.A.
Tax Preparation & Financial Consulting
14350 Northbrook Drive, Suite 240
San Antonio, TX 78232

(210) 402-6100
Fax (210) 402-2888

laurab@lauragrover.com
www.lauragrover.com

Enrolled to practice before the Internal Revenue Service



Printing Better Pictures

photos

by **Robert Spotswood**, Member of HAL-PC, active in the Linux SIG and a freelance computer professional <www.hal-pc.org>, <Robert@spotswood-computer.net>

When a dot is not a dot

Have you ever tried to print out a picture that looks good on your monitor only to be disappointed with the result? Does it come out way smaller/bigger than you expected or look really grainy? This is not a random act by your computer. In order to understand why it happens, and more importantly, be able to prevent these problems, you have to understand when a dot is not a dot.

This is not an easy subject to grasp initially, but if you play with it just a little, the light bulb will light and it will become almost second nature very quickly.

Conventions

There are two types of graphic images: bitmap and vector. This article focuses exclusively on bitmaps. If in doubt about which type your picture is, it's probably bitmap. Bitmap pictures are composed of a series of dots called pixels.

While the terms DPI (dots per inch), PPI (pixels per inch), and SPI (samples per inch) technically have different meanings, in practice they are all interchangeable. Only DPI will be used in this article.

Any printer referred to is limited to the inkjet variety unless stated otherwise, although almost everything here applies equally to laser printers. Although this article focuses on examples using the GIMP, all the theory and much of the practice applies to almost all graphic software.

Monitors

Your monitor displays everything as a series of dots, regardless of the picture type. For instance, if your screen size is 800x600, then you are looking at 800 dots by 600 dots. The dots can be almost any color and they do not have a fixed size. A typical 17" monitor can have screen sizes from (at least) 640x480 to 1280x960. Since the physical size of your monitor can't change, the size of the dots must change. The more dots you have making up your screen, the smaller those dots will be.

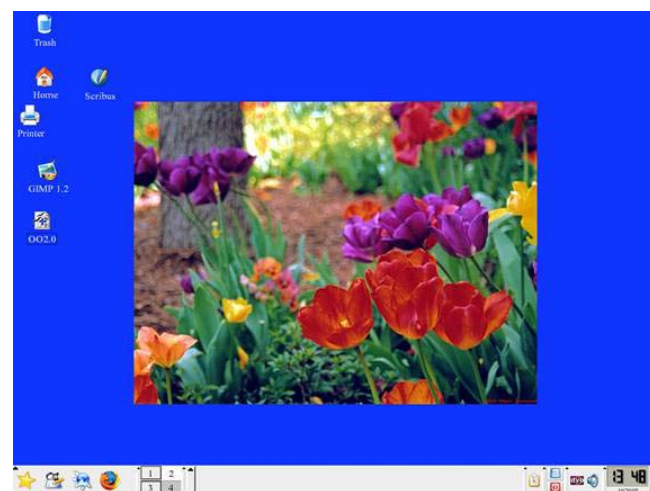
As far as your monitor is concerned, one pixel (see the definition of pixel above) equals one dot. Because the icons (including text) and wallpaper on your desktop are composed of a fixed number of dots, shrink those dots and the icons and wallpaper get smaller (see Fig. 1 and 2). Be aware that most desktops have a scaling feature for the wallpaper, called stretch in Windows, so you may not see the wallpaper actually change size if this feature is turned on. However, the quality of your wallpaper may go down dramatically if the wallpaper's actual size is small and you increase the screen size too much.

The same thing applies to any pictures you may have. A picture with 640x480 pixels will display fully (at 100% resolution) on any screen size at least 640x480. A picture 1600x1200, on the other hand, will require scrolling on any screen smaller than 1600x1200.



Figure 1 (above) A 640x480 wallpaper on a 640x480 screen.

Figure 2 (below) A 640x480 wallpaper on a 1024x768 screen.



Printers

Printers, like monitors, create the printed picture/output image by using a set of dots. But that is where the similarities end. Unlike a monitor, a printer's output isn't a screen with variable size pixels, but a piece of paper with fixed dimensions. Paper is measured in inches, not pixels.

Printers create the image (and text) by using a grid of dots. The number of dots the printer can make in one inch is what's known as DPI or Dots Per Inch. Obviously, the higher the DPI, the better the output the printer is capable of. A higher DPI means more detail and a lower DPI means less detail. If the DPI is set too low, the picture will look very grainy and poor. For a normal piece of paper, the graininess usually starts to show somewhere below 200 DPI. For things like highway billboards, the DPI used can be from 36 to 72 DPI.

Unlike a monitor, the dots are of a fixed color. A black and white printer cannot actually print gray, but only black. The paper is usually white, so white is just the absence of printing. Grays are simulated by printing dots in a grid. These grids are called halftones. Newspapers use halftones that are very coarse and usually visible even without a magnifier. The more black pixels, the darker the gray. Conversely, the fewer the black dots in the grid, the lighter the gray will be. Thus, one image pixel can require several printer dots. Some printers are capable of varying the size of the printer's dots, but for simplicity's sake, this will be ignored.

The size of the grid and the max DPI of the printer affect how well the printer can reproduce shades of gray (and color). Gray includes the colors black and white. For a 1200 DPI printer:

- A 1x1 grid shows 2 shades of gray with an effective DPI of 1200 (1200/1 aka line art).
- A 3x3 grid shows 10 shades of gray with an effective DPI of 400 (1200/3).
- A 6x6 grid shows 37 shades of gray with an effective DPI of 200 (1200/6).
- An 8x8 grid shows 65 shades of gray with an effective DPI of 150 (1200/8).

Thus, the more shades of gray you need, the more image detail you have to give up, or the more detail you want, the fewer shades of gray you will get.

Color printers are similar to black and white printers except they usually have four ink colors (CMYK - Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, and black). Instead of orderly grids, color printers use dithering (with error diffusion).

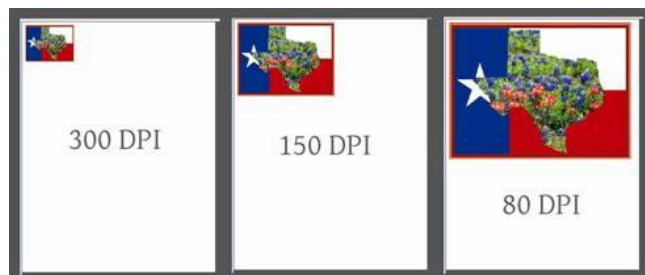


Figure 3 (above) The exact same picture printed at 3 different DPI's.

Dithering is the use of somewhat randomized scattered dots. This tends to look smoother than grids, but the theory is similar. One image pixel can require several printer dots.

In practice, the upper limit for inkjets comes about because the dots of individual color become larger than the grid to hold them. In addition, the ink can bleed, especially on regular paper (photo paper lessens this problem). The practical upper limit is (on good photo paper) between 240 to 300 (maybe 360) DPI. On regular paper, due to ink bleeding, 150 DPI is about as good as it gets. For other than inkjet printers, try not to go much below 200 DPI if you want a good print out.

Converting between the effective DPI (which is the same as the DPI you or the software pick), the printer's max DPI, and picking the colors to use at a given DPI is handled by the printer driver and not something you can really change. Just be aware that using a high DPI may not give you the detail, or color reproduction, you expect.

DPI and Print Size

In addition to affecting the number of colors, DPI also affects the physical size of the printed picture. The print size on paper is determined by two things: the number of pixels in the picture and the DPI setting used by the software for that picture.

Some software and some file formats do not support changing the DPI setting. Some programs do support changing the DPI and just don't mention the term DPI (or PPI or SPI). Some programs such as desktop publishing software and word processing software will show you a WYSIWYG version of your picture at its relative print size. This is usually based on the DPI of the picture.

The physical print size is just the picture size (in pixels) divided by the DPI. For instance, a 400x800 pixel picture printed at:

100 DPI will be 4 (400/100) inches x 8 (800/100) inches

200 DPI will be 2 (400/200) inches x 4 (800/200) inches

300 DPI will be 1.33 (400/300) inches x 2.66 (800/300) inches

Figure 3 shows the same picture (640x480) printed on letter paper using 3 different DPI values. The only thing changed between the three is the DPI. As you can see, the higher the DPI, the smaller the picture. This is another reason that trying to print at your printer's maximum DPI is not the best choice.

Setting the DPI in the GIMP for versions 1.2 is done by right clicking on the picture and choosing "Image" -> "Scale Image" and setting either the DPI or the print size (see Fig. 4). The DPI is called "X resolution" and "Y resolution". Both the X and Y values should almost always be set to the same number. As you change one, the other will automatically adjust. As mentioned above, DPI and print size are intertwined and one can not change without the other changing.

photos

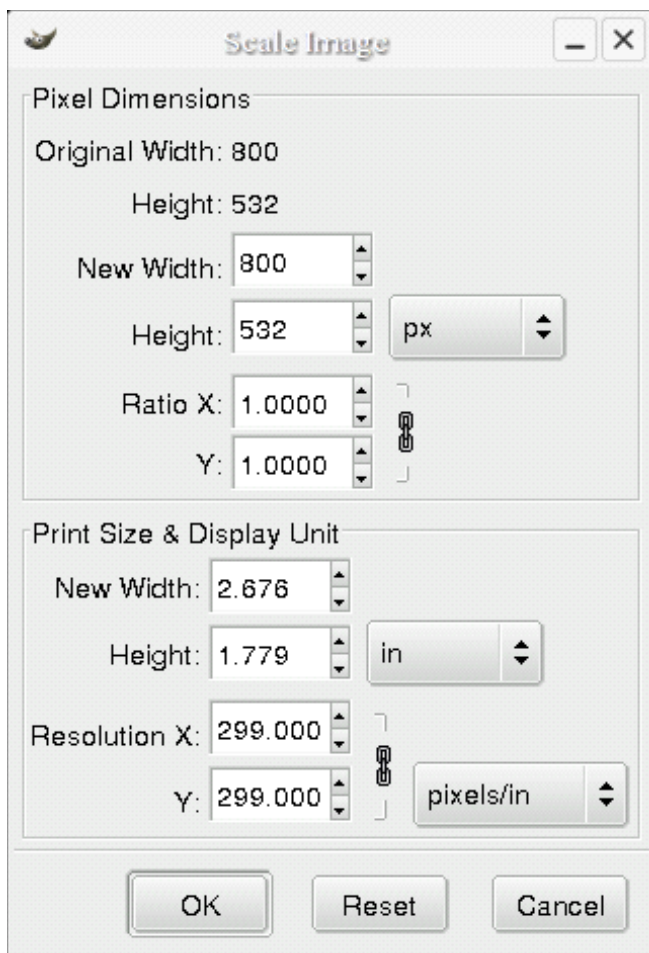


Figure 4 (above) The GIMP 1.2 DPI and print size control.

For the GIMP 2.2 (everyone using version 2.0 should upgrade to 2.2) the DPI (or resolution) control is found in "Image" -> "Print Size" (see Fig. 5 and 6). While it is also found under "Image" -> "Scale Image", do not use it there. It is too easy to change your picture size by scaling accidentally.

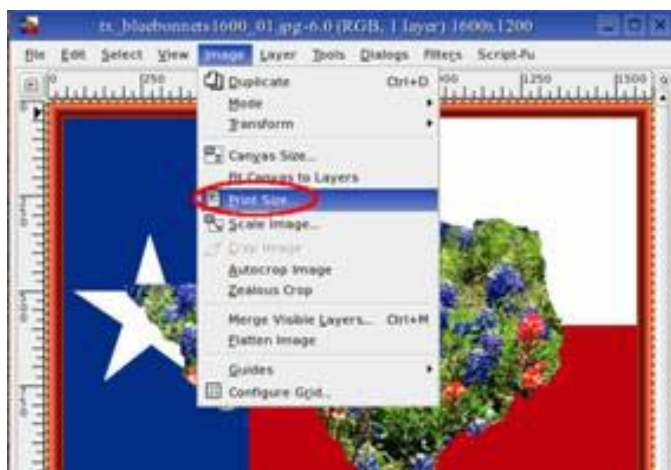
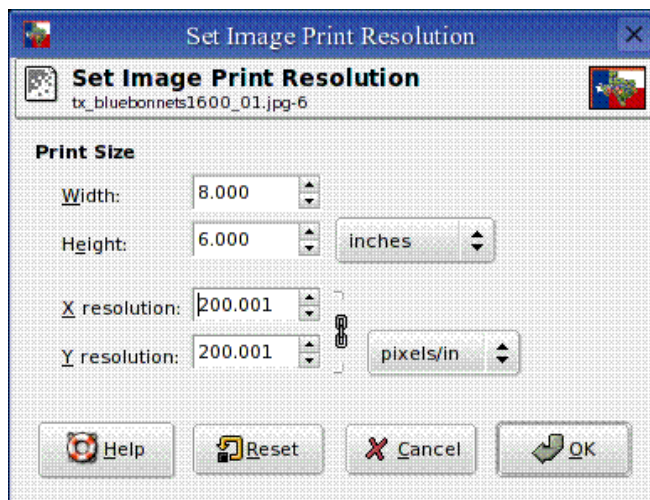


Figure 5 (above) Getting to the GIMP 2.2 DPI and print size control.

Figure 6 (below) The Gimp 2.2 DPI and print size control.



Conclusion

By understanding DPI and how to control it, you can dramatically improve the quality of your printed pictures. Say "goodbye" to accidentally printing posters and postage stamps. Say "hello" to better printouts.

dvnation.com

The miniPC: The smallest Windows / Linux PC ever
 * small spaces * CAR COMPUTER * any room * point of sales machine *

POWER DVI / VGA S-video out (TV) LAN (internet) firewire USB 2.0 USB 2.0 microphone stereo audio out

BASE MODEL FEATURES:

- * Window XP computer
- * dimensions: 6.5 in X 6.5 in X 2.5 in !!!!
- * 1.4 GHZ Pentium M (Celeron)
- * 512 GB RAM
- * 40 GB hard drive
- * DVD / CD-RW combo drive
- * 10/100/1000 (GIGABIT) LAN
- * 2 x USB, 1 X firewire (IEEE 1394) ports
- * DVI video output - VGA adapter included
- * TV output, S-video & component HDTV out!
- * Sound: stereo out, mic input, internal speaker
- * Software included: Nero CD burning, Drivers, Windows XP, full Office suite (Open Office)
- * Unlimited expansion via USB and firewire

UPGRADES

CPU	up to 1.7 Ghz
Hard drive	up to 160 GB
RAM	up to 1 GB
b / g wireless LAN	
Optical Drive DVD Recordable	
Install your own OS	subtract \$50

ALL this for just \$599
 (Only \$549 if you install your own operating system)

Call Jason, 210-669-2156

Why Settle, Do It Your Way

photos

by **Lee Alexander**, Member of the Macon Users Group, Franklin, NC
<<http://www.maconusersgroup.org/>>, <sawdust21@verizon.net>

You can make your PC more colorful and distinguish folders by using icons other than the ubiquitous manila folder. Right-click a folder and select properties; under the Customize tab, click the Change icon button and you will see more than 250 icons to choose from. Actually, the file, Shell32.dll, contains 1484 icons on my system. A good many of these are duplicates in different sizes and color depths. Sizes range from 16 x 16 pixels through 96 x 96 pixels; color depths can be 16, 256, or True colors (24-bit for a range of 16,777,216 hues).

Using one of my favorite free utilities, IrfanView, you can view and do minor editing such as changing size, color depth, and rotating the image.

TIP: Open an IrfanView window and Drag the file Shell32.dll into it. You can then see previews of the icons, one by one. If you want to do extensive editing of folder icons, create a shortcut to shell32.dll on your desktop. Then right-click on it and choose "Open With" - Irfanview.

I have created an Excel spreadsheet with a brief description of about 100 selected icons - Shell32Icons.xls.

Acrobat Reader

This free utility is much in demand of late as many program manuals are now written in the .pdf (Portable Document Format) format. A few handy keyboard shortcuts are:

Adobe uses <Ctrl> L (instead of F11 as in Microsoft products) to toggle full screen view.

Toggle the toolbars with F8.

Use the right/left arrow keys to advance/go back a page.

Adobe Photoshop, Etc.

You can hide the floating palettes in Adobe products (such as Elements), by hitting the <Tab> key. It is a toggle; hit it again to bring them back.

Word Toolbars

You can create a toolbar button for easily inserting a symbol into a document. Right-click a toolbar and select Customize and the Commands tab. In the categories pane scroll down and click on All Commands . In the right pane, Commands, click on Symbol: and drag it to a toolbar. This will open the Symbol dialog box. Click the symbol to be attached to the button and click OK.

The toolbar button now displays the font name (Symbol) followed by the symbol number. Since this is not very friendly information, we can change the button's appearance. With the Customize dialog box opened, right-click the button and choose Name: . To make the button resemble the symbol it's attached to, use the <Alt> key and the four digits on the number pad for that symbol. You can add a graphic to the button

by clicking on Edit Button Image. You're then presented with a simple grid and color palette upon which you can draw simple shapes.

Tips on Digital Photography and a PC Windows Picture and Fax Viewer

This versatile (for photos) utility is often overlooked in the availability of photo editors. As it is included with the Windows Operating System it is a "freebie" readily at hand. Typically, unless you have set file associations otherwise, double clicking on a photo will open it in the Viewer. The toolbar at the bottom has some handy features that are not immediately intuitive. The Previous and Next buttons allow you to view all the images in the folder of the first photo you selected. The Screen icon will start an automatic slide show; the Zoom, Rotation, and Delete are self explanatory. However, the Print icon can surprise you - it opens the Photo Printing Wizard. As you step through the Wizard, the Layout Selection provides a variety of print configurations from 8.5 X 11 to a 35 print "contact sheet."

If you have set a file association to open your photos in an editor, you can create a shortcut to the Picture and Fax Viewer on your Desktop or in the Quick Launch Tray. Right-click in the area you want the shortcut and choose New | Shortcut. In the Shortcut wizard, enter C:\Windows\system32\shimgvw.dll (assuming your Operating System is on the C: drive). Name the shortcut and click Finish. On the first use you will have to choose the program, Picture and Fax Viewer, and check the box to "Always use selected program ..."

Note that if you right-click and choose Edit, you will open the Paint program. The next-to-last button closes the viewer and opens the photo editing program associated with the file type.

Harrys Filters

Harry's Filters 3.0 is a Photoshop-compatible plug-in which can be used in dozens of different image editing applications e.g. Photoshop, Paint Shop Pro, Corel Photo-Paint and many other. It includes 69 effect filters, an Animation feature, options for saving and opening presets and an instant preview feature.

Harry's Filters 3.0 is freeware. You can use them for whatever you like, but you aren't allowed to distribute them without the author's permission.

photos

Be sure to read the instructions about extracting the zipped file to the folder containing your photo editor.

At this point, the website link I had entered is no longer valid. This brings up a salient point – rather than hold on to old links (the dynamic nature of the World Wide Web is in constant flux, always changing) it is better to Google the topic or subject to get the latest information.

LCD Usage with a Digital Camera

The disadvantage of using the LCD, as opposed to the optical viewfinder, the camera is not braced against a body part (your head). It is difficult to avoid camera shake when the camera is held at arms length. Try tucking your elbows into your sides and exhale before pressing the shutter release -- don't punch it.

Flash as a fill-in.

Using flash as a fill-in in outdoor shots, such as when the subject is backlit, can reduce the shutter speed. If your camera has the ability, check the shutter speed and aperture after such a shot. When flash is forced, digital cameras typically compensate by lowering the shutter speed and/or increasing the aperture.

White Balance.

If your photos have an overall cast of color it could be a function of the White Balance. In a photo editor, find a patch of near-neutral gray and check the RGB color levels. They should

be nearly equal in value. A free utility, Pixie, can check this for you. You can download the program from www.nattyware.com.

Color Management Schemes

Color schemes can conflict, if you use more than one of them. Select the color profile of either the printer or the photo editing software, not both. With inkjets, a greenish tone could indicate that no color scheme has been applied; a reddish hue may indicate two color schemes have been applied.

See More Thumbnails in Win Explorer

Hold down the <Shift> key when selecting the Thumbnail view to eliminate file labels = more pics per screen.

Auto-reduce Photo File Sizes

Windows XP has a neat feature to adjust the file size of photos for transmission over the internet. Select the photo(s) and right-click on one. From the pop-up menu, choose Send to and Mail Recipient. This will bring up a dialog box, Send Pictures via E-Mail. The radio button Make all my pictures smaller is selected by default. Click on Show more options to see 3 degrees of reduction.

Although it creates a message with the reduced file size photos as attachments, you do not have to send the message. You can right-click on an attachment and from the pop-up menu select Save as or Copy to put it on the Clipboard. You then simply delete the message without sending it.

News Brief

Feature-Heavy Office 12 to make a splash in Fall 2006

Microsoft Office 12 (Office 2007) will offer new features, including an all-new user interface and new XML-based file formats, but no significant price increase. Office Standard will sell for \$399, while Office Professional will sell for \$499. Microsoft released an initial beta of Office 2007 in November 2005, with a second beta planned for this spring. The company is replacing its Student and Teacher edition with a \$149 Home and Student edition that can be used by all home users and removing the Outlook and including OneNote. The Student and Teacher edition and the home version of Office can be used on up to 3 PCs in a home, but cannot be upgraded. The ProPlus version will include Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, Access and Publisher plus the Office Communicator, InfoPath and server-based content management and forms management capabilities. Many of the new capabilities will be included in SharePoint Portal Server, which has been expanded to handle forms management, spreadsheet hosting and content rights management. The "Core CAL(client access license)" combines licenses for Windows Server, Exchange Server, Office SharePoint Portal Server and Systems Management Server. The new "Enterprise CAL" includes those licenses, as well as Microsoft Operations Manager, Microsoft Office Live Communications Server and rights-management and security products. Microsoft is also using the SharePoint brand for a new Web site development program. Microsoft Office SharePoint Designer 2007, like Microsoft's Expression Web Designer software is based in part on FrontPage. Office 12 is scheduled for release in fall 2006.

Computer Crimes

Susan Ives, Alamo PC

The Bug

By: Ellen Ullman,
Hardback,
Doubleday, 2003,
\$23.95, 355 pages



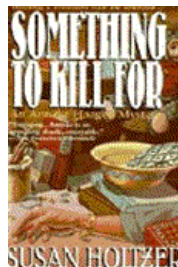
It's 1984 and Ethan, an admitted mediocre programmer working on one of the first graphical, mouse-based interfaces for a database, has a persistent bug in his program. It's intermittent, and the testers keep failing to get a core dump. Finding the bug starts consuming his time and eroding his confidence; his home life falls apart, his neighbors threaten to kill him.

If you do any C programming, read this book NOW. There are vast swatches of code reprints and you can test your skills to see if you beat the bug before the fictional programmers do. The nar-

rator is a quality assurance tester, and her perspective is also enlightening. At heart, this is a philosophical novel about the boundaries between man and machine. Highly recommended.

Something to Kill For

By: Susan Holtzer,
Reviewed by Susan
Ives Paperback, St.
Martin's Press, 1995,
\$5.99 242 pages



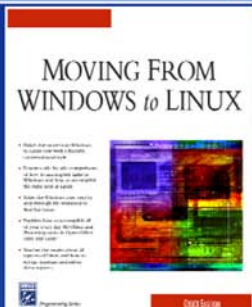
While foraging for Art Deco treasure on the Saturday morning yard sale circuit, Ann Arbor computer consultant Anneke Haagen stumbles across a bludgeoned woman just in time to hear her dying words: "The Jap?" Concerned that suspicion will wrongfully fall on the city's only Japanese-American dealer, the antiques association asks Anneke to use

her contacts as a consultant to the police department to help them unmask the real killer and the "big score" that lead to murder.

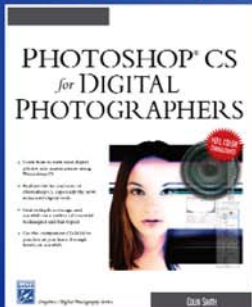
This is the first in an award-winning series that will delight those interested in antiques and yard sale lore. The computer stuff is on the periphery but solidly written and insightful about the day-to-day work of a computer consultant. Recommended.

Susan Ives, past president of Alamo PC, claims that computers are a mystery to her. Remember the Alibi Bookstore at 8055 West Ave. #101, San Antonio, TX (at the corner of West Ave. and Lockhill-Selma), (210) 344-7776, tries its darnest to keep the recommended books in stock.

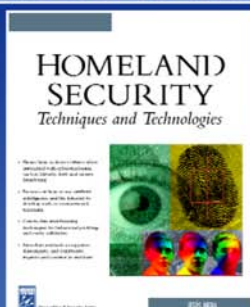
COMPUTER BOOKS THAT DELIVER



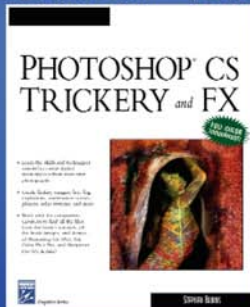
1-58450-280-0 \$44.95



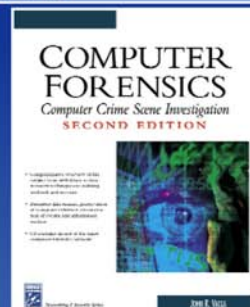
1-58450-321-1 \$39.95



1-58450-328-9 \$49.95



1-58450-297-5 \$39.95



1-58450-389-0 \$49.95



1-58450-387-4 \$41.95



20% OFF AT WWW.CHARLESRIVER.COM

ALSO AVAILABLE AT AMAZON, BARNES & NOBLE, BORDERS, AND OTHER FINE RETAILERS.



Book Review

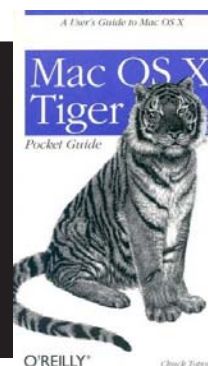
Mac OS X Tiger: Pocket Guide

by Chuck Toporek

\$9.95 US

Published by O'Reilly

Reviewed by Shane Hicks, Alamo PC



My latest reading on Mac OS X Tiger came from the OS X Pocket Guide from O'Reilly books. It's right at 223 pages, including the index. The book is broken into eight sections, with several categories listed in each, followed by the index.

Introduction

I liked the fact that the author started out by covering the previous versions of OS X, up to the present version 10.4 Tiger. He also states that this is not the only book that one should consult in order to become an expert on the operating system.

PART 1: What's New in Tiger?

Chuck begins by covering the new features of Tiger. These are the standard features discussed in numerous other books that I've reviewed previously. However, he also discusses some lesser known features that I don't recall seeing before. For instance, he lists a built-in dictionary feature that you can use in any open file by highlighting the word and pressing CNTL-D. He also talks about some features for adding important dates to iCal.

PART 2: Mac OS X Survival Guide

This section starts by familiarizing users with user accounts and the common folders that are created and associated with these accounts. Chuck covers how to quickly switch between different users and how to manage passwords and parental controls. He then discusses software updates and a method for downloading these updates and saving them to a CD or DVD so they can be applied to multiple machines without being downloaded multiple times. Next, he covers security principles, such as firewalls, passwords, and encrypting data. The end of Part 2 provides a very handy list of keyboard shortcuts.

Part 3: Mac OS X Basics

Part 3 is very basic, as the title states. It simple introduces the user to the different interface options available in Tiger. Of interest in this part were pointers on there to go to find additional Widgets that aren't included with OS X out of the box and some tips on using Spotlight to search for items on your computer.

Part 4: System Preferences

Chuck didn't spend much time here and basically just covered the different icons available inside the Systems Preferences settings area.

Part 5: Applications and Utilities

This is another chapter where Chuck simply outlines the basic programs, mostly Apple's iApps that are included with OS X.

Part 6: Unix Basics

I always enjoy these sections of Mac books because they show where the meat of the OS can be found, using the Terminal application. Chuck does a good job of providing details and examples of using the Unix shell. This is a fun, and potentially dangerous, chapter of the book all at once!

Part 7: Configuring Your Mac

This is an interesting section on customization. One cool tip talks about managing password complexity. The next section discusses how to set up files and folders to appear as you would like to work with them each time they're opened. There's also a section on setting up wired and wireless networking, followed by a section on configuring printers.

Part 8: Special Characters

The last section shows you how to use the OS X keyboard viewer to produce special characters that don't appear on the normal keyboard. This comes in handy if you find yourself having to use the trademark symbols and other such characters on a regular basis.

Summary

Overall, this book is good. While I found the actual textual formatting in the book a little hard to read through at times, the content is good. The technical information that Chuck provides certainly makes the book worth its minor price tag. I recommend picking it up.

Visit the Alamo PC Learning Center

Media Center

Learn all about computers with hundreds of books and dozens of video tapes. Enjoy our large selection of techno-fiction. A comfortable seating area is available. Call (210) 736-0700

Book Review

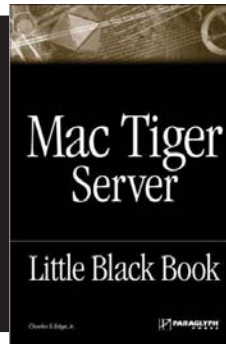
Mac Tiger Server: Little Black Book

by Charles Edge

\$34.99 US

Published by Paraglyph Press

Reviewed by Shane Hicks, Alamo PC



Charles Edge has produced a book titled Mac Tiger Server: Little Black Book from Paraglyph Press. It's 378 pages long, broken into eighteen chapters and an appendix.

Introduction

Edge states that the intent of this book is to assist those that are both using Tiger Server and those that are considering using Tiger as their server. It can be used as a planning guide. Since I've no experience using OS X as a server in such an environment, my approach to this book will be as one who is planning such an implementation.

It is also not intended to be a straight read. Charles states that his book makes a great reference, where you can use the table of contents and the index to search for any particular topic that you, as an administrator, may be in a particular crisis to fix.

Chapter 1: Network Essentials

Charles provides this chapter as a simple primer on basic networking. For those new to the field, it's a must. For those that have networking experience, it can be skipped.

Chapter 2: Planning and Installation

This chapter talks about the uses for tiger, system requirements needed to run Tiger as a server, and provides an overview of the options available to an aspiring system administrator during installation.

Chapter 3: Management Utilities

These are the tools that are required to keep the server running smoothly. Charles discusses these and tells you, as the administrator, when to use each one.

Chapters 4 – 14, and Chapter 16 all cover various services available when using OS X Tiger as a server operating system. Some of these chapters can get really in-depth if you aren't a hard core system administrator.

For instance, Chapter 4 jumps right into Directory Services and whether you may want to use the systems in a Workgroup or in an integrated Windows Active Directory environment.

Chapter 5 is a great chapter on integrating Windows services into OS X when using Tiger as a server. Chapter 6 talks to you about setting up file shares. Chapter 7 covers network services such as Firewalls, DHCP services, using Tiger as a DNS server, and synchronizing the time across your network. Chapter 8, Chapter 9, and Chapter 10 cover setting up the system as a print server, web server, and mail server respectively. Chapter 11 talks about using Tiger to stream media using QuickTime. With being able to log on to a local network from a remote location being so popular these days,

Chapter 12 deals with establishing a VPN connection. Chapter 13 provides details on how to manage individual workstations in a Tiger server managed environment.

Chapter 15: Backups

Perhaps one of the most important chapters available to the system administrator, this chapter covers performing system backups and what tools to use to protect important data.

Chapter 17: The Command Line

Since OS X boasts being more powerful due to its Terminal functionality, and its Unix core, no system administrator can function without being somewhat knowledgeable about what's available at the command line level. Charles uses this chapter to discuss some of these features.

Chapter 18: Maintenance

No server will simply run forever without some form of continuous monitoring and maintenance. This chapter highlights the best practices that Charles recommends in keeping OS X Tiger up and running in the long term. The two major areas of this chapter that I found the most useful were the sections on software updates and using the disk utility.

Summary

I thought this was a great book. I felt the text was formatted well and written in a plain fashion that was easy to read and understand. There were plenty of illustrations and screen shots to help along the way. I found it very useful in providing some insight into how OS X Tiger might be used to replace a Windows server should I find myself in such an environment. For anyone considering bringing a Tiger server into the network, this is a recommended read.

Compatible
inkjet Cartridges
starting at \$5

www.tdinksales.com
tdinksales@satx.rr.com

L & M Bookstore
1716 N. Main Ave.

Qwik Pack & Ship
1205 N. Loop 1604 W Suite 221

Great Northwest Postal Center
8745 Grissom Road

American Shipping & Mail Boxes
8452 Fredericksburg Rd

Ink Spot
6420A Bandera Road

Book Review

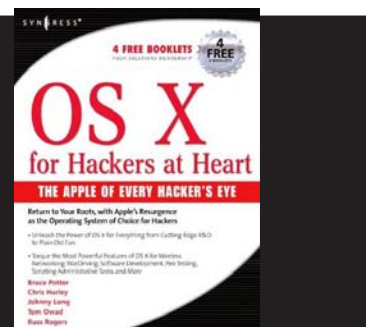
OS X for Hackers at Heart: The Apple of Every Hacker's Eye

by Ken Caruso, et al.

\$49.95 US

Published by Syngress

Reviewed by Shane Hicks, Alamo PC



Syngress has published a book with Ken Caruso and others entitled *OS X for Hackers at Heart: The Apple of Every Hacker's Eye*. It's a whopper, coming in at 439 pages including the index. The book is broken into seven chapters with a single appendix.

Foreword by Tom Owad

Tom talks about the history of Apple computers, from the Apple II to the present OS X. He talks about the cycle of how Apple's gone from being expandable to closed systems to being open again. He comments on how OS X won him over to using a single platform for all of his computing needs, from applications inside OS X to hardcore tasks in the Terminal shell. He won me over to actually reading this entire book!

Chapter 1: A Network Admin's Guide to Using Mac OS X

Ken starts by discussing running a headless Mac, one without a monitor. This leads to a discussion on Apple's remote desktop feature—which is a key component added to OS X. He then shows how to perform some of the remote functionality from outside the GUI using the Terminal shell. The next section demonstrates how to set up a Macintosh to function as a router, allowing it to transfer traffic across different IP networks.

Chapter 2: Automation

This chapter starts with a discussion of the Automator. Ken walks the reader through how to set up tasks using the actions available through the Automator to create a workflow. Once he finishes going over the graphical method, he talks about automating using scripts and an entire section on AppleScript. This section took me very close to programming and scared me through the chapter rather quickly at that point.

Chapter 3: OS X in a Microsoft Environment

This was probably my favorite, most useful, chapter. For those that don't know Windows, Ken starts out with some Windows basics. He then shows how to set up Windows file shares. Again, he goes to the command line, this time to show how to access Windows machines from the Mac. He continues to demonstrate how to connect to Windows protected Web and tunneling servers. He closes by talking about some remote desktop alternatives when running in a mixed Windows and Macintosh environment.

Chapters 4: WarDriving and Wireless Penetration Testing with OS X

This chapter was pretty simple. Ken talks about setting up your Macintosh to scan for wireless network connectivity and to check for open networks. He talks about software used for logging signal strength and creating a map of wireless locations. Once networks are located, the same software can be used to perform

penetration tests to see if the network is indeed open. This is definitely a hacker's chapter!

Chapter 5: Mac OS X for Pen Testers

A Pen Test stands for Penetration Test. The author describes this as an authorized simulation of attacks that might be perpetrated on a client network. This chapter provides a list of several techniques and tools to use when performing these tests. According to Ken, there are a lot of open source programs available out there that can be compiled for OS X. On top of that, he provides examples from the "Top 75 Security Tools" that run on OS X.

Chapter 6: Mac Tricks (Stupid Powerbook Stunts That Make You Look Like a God)

This chapter is actually pretty funny. It shows you how to add really simple things to your Mac that make you look like a power user without you really knowing a whole lot of anything. There are examples of adding really cool widgets to your desktop. Of course, there are also some more powerful tips, like an example that lets you find all files that have been accessed since a certain time. Overall, a great chapter!

Chapter 7: OS X for the Road Warrior

The final chapter talks about using your e-mail safely and securely. It covers being able to connect to your Macintosh from almost anywhere. It also covers battery management when you're Macintosh also happens to be a laptop. This was a short, light chapter.

Appendix A: Hacking the iPod

Well, this wasn't much use to me—because I don't have one. But this chapter is good for anyone that wants to know the ins and outs of one of Apple's most popular products. It covers opening the case, replacing the battery, and upgrading the internal hard drive. Of course, doing any of these things will invalidate your warranty—so you've been warned.

Summary

This is the best Mac book I've read in a long time. First off, the layout was terrific. The size of the text was large and plain to read. The headers were laid out nicely and spaced well. There were enough pictures and examples to be useful, but not distracting. The content was good for everyone. There were enough basic level hacks to interest a beginner. There was enough hardcore to challenge more advanced users. I highly recommend this book to anyone that wants to get deeper inside Mac OS X Tiger.

Book Review

Don't Get Burned on eBay: How to Avoid Scams and Escape Bad Deals

by Shauna Wright

\$16.99 US

Published by O'Reilly

Reviewed by Shane Hicks, Alamo PC



Shauna Wright teams with O'Reilly to produce an invaluable guide on how to avoid the many pitfalls that can befall an individual when closing deals on eBay. It's a light read, with just 160 pages in six short chapters.

Introduction

Shauna is quick to point out this book is for the uninitiated and the experienced alike, and that it will provide a series of true stories (with the names changed to protect the innocent).

Chapter 1: Don't Get Burned on Bidding

Shauna provides some good warnings concerning bidding. First is not bidding on the same item in multiple auctions. If you win more than once, you'll be expected to pay more than once. She talks about tracking bids, retracting bids, and tracing bidding history. She also goes on to talk about how to deal with particular sellers and problems that can arise with them.

Chapter 2: Don't Get Burned on Payment

Shauna tackles PayPal at the beginning of this chapter. This is fitting since it's the most popular form of payment on eBay. Having been burned myself using PayPal in the past, I found her warnings hitting close to home and ringing true. Keep a good paper trail when it comes to tracking the shipment of goods. Make sure you are shipping to confirmed addresses. Shauna also covers various forms of fake payment and how to avoid those.

Chapter 3: Don't Get Burned on Packaging

Anyone who's conducted dealings on eBay knows that packaging is important. Shauna covers the inadequacies of bubble wrap, paper, and writing "don't bend" on the packaging. She also talks about taking special precautions and some items that should not be shipped through the mail.

Chapter 4: Don't Get Burned on Shipping

Shipping is another big eBay issue. Miscalculating the cost of sending an item to a buyer can be quite costly. She covers tips regarding the major three shipping services: USPS, UPS, and FedEx. The best tip that I read was on using USPS to ship items outside the United States, since the other two shipping companies tack on additional brokerage fees on top of other international taxes and import fees. She also discusses insurance and how important it is for the seller to include insurance when sending items, whether the buyer requests it or not.

Chapter 5: Don't Get Burned by Other eBayers

The first thing Shauna talks about in this chapter is feedback and not being too quick to judge. She also demonstrates how to take back criticisms when they've been found to be unfair. Even more important, however, are her tips on how to handle bad eBay buyers who work to damage a seller's reputation through various means. You'll have to read these stories yourself to believe what some people have actually done!

Chapter 6: Don't Get Burned by Scammers

The first warning Shauna gives here is on eBay Phishing schemes. Those are the e-mail messages you get that state that you need to follow the links inside the message to update your eBay information. These aren't real. They're trying to steal your information. They then use this information to hijack an eBay account. Shauna provides an extensive list to determine whether an eBay account has been hijacked or not. She warns about Second Chance Offers (SCO) as well as sellers that offer items, but only if payment is done through direct wire money transfer. She ends the book with a couple of horror stories of people who sent money to a seller only to never receive their items. Buyers beware!

Summary

This book was excellent. I liked the layout and the use of whitespace. The font was of a nice size, the tables and pictures were well placed, and the headings were clear. The content was terrific. It was written clearly for novice and advanced users alike. I related directly to many of the stories and just wish I'd had this book before I found myself in many of those situations. I'd recommend this book to anyone who wants to sell items on eBay, as well as to anyone who's had bad experiences and wants to know how to avoid them in the future.

WaterWare

Home and Small Office
Computer (Win & Mac) Support



support@waterware.net
In business since 1983

- All Types of Computer Training
- Hardware & Software Installation
- Web Page Development
- Your Location / Your Schedule

210-219-2560

www.waterware.net
Durand C. Randy Waters

Hardware Review

CardScan

\$124.00 US

Manufactured by CardScan Inc.

Reviewed by Larry Lentz, Alamo PC

This past Thursday was the San Antonio Manufacturers Association (SAMA) annual Trade Show. As always, I was 'in charge of' Registration. I say it with little quotes because the SAMA Admin, Debbie, is great and lined up all the volunteers, etc. But at the last minute, of course, I came up with a brilliant idea. Why not use CardScan (www.cardscan.com) to capture all attendee information for the show. Since my official duty post was the registration booth (we don't have advanced registration) and everyone coming to the show would pass by, what better way to capture the info, real time.

But, I didn't come up with my great idea until the weekend before the show. I started a conversation with the folks at CardScan which culminated with a phone call on Wednesday morning, which we finally connected at 9:44 AM with a cut off for overnight shipping at 9:50! I received my CardScan scanner and software at 9:45 AM the next day, the morning of the show!! I loaded the software and tried it out. Oops! Problem. I call their tech support, explaining that I have to be at the show in less than a hour. After taking my registration info (ugh, but necessary), they quickly solved my problem. Then I prepared to go to the show. Oops, another question. I call again. 'Didn't I just speak with you?' They answered my question quickly and accurately. Off to the show.

I arrive and set up my laptop at the registration desk with the scanner sitting up on the counter. I quickly show a few of the volunteers at the booth how to scan cards and what the 'drill' is. They are delighted. The whole booth is energized to be sure that everyone entering the show is asked for their business card so it can be scanned and then entered into the big rotating drum used for the prize drawings (over \$1,000 in cash!). I was interested to see over the course of the day that the various shifts showed each other how to scan the cards, being sure that everyone's card was scanned. It was so easy! Didn't seem to matter whether they entered the cards top first or bottom first or lengthwise. The scanner handled it. Those that didn't have a business card were asked to fill out an info slip, a little bigger than a business card. These had to be entered lengthwise since they were too wide for the scanner otherwise. The scanner handled those fine. All in all we scanned over 400 cards that day, in about 6 hours. It was a quick process.

After the show, I took the CardScan database and went home. That night I spent several hours entering the info from the paper slips for those that didn't have a card. The scanner was great at capturing the image of the card but not the data. I had to enter all that info manually. But, it was MUCH easier than it would have been trying to enter the data from those slips of paper. The image was displayed on my screen just below where I needed to enter it. I also had to verify the info from all the other business cards. Some were great, many needed minor changes, some were more challenged. It was interesting to see how various business cards were recognized. I spent a few hours cleaning up the database. It could have been less but this was the first time I had used the software. I think next time it will go even faster as I learned how it works as I went along. Overall, it was



David's Essential Domains



Website Hosting Starting at \$3.95/month!

Economy	Deluxe	Business
\$3.95/mo.	\$9.95/mo.	\$29.95/mo.
50MB storage	1GB storage	2GB storage
1 GB transfer	15 GB transfer	30 GB transfer
50 e-mails	unlimited e-mails	unlimited e-mails

Domain Names

.COMs starting at \$7.85!

FREE with every domain:

- FREE! Change of Registration
- FREE! Parked Page w/ Domain
- FREE! Domain Name Locking
- FREE! Status Alerts

Website Tonight

Click 'n build your site online, in minutes!

- Hosting is built in
- 5 Page Site - \$4.95/mo
- 10 Page Site - \$8.95/mo
- 20 Page Site - \$12.95/mo
- 100+ professional templates

SECURE SSL Certificates
Build trust, build confidence, and build your online business - with a Secure SSL Certificate!

TRAFFICBLAZER™
Prepare your site so the search engines find it!

<http://www.davidsessentialdomains.com>

a heck of a lot faster than entering the data by hand from the cards themselves!

Next I had to do something with the data. Naturally I transferred it to Microsoft CRM. When transferring cards, you have two choices; Leads or Contacts. Leads is the appropriate entity for this kind of data. But CardScan lets you transfer directly into a Contact as well. To do so, you must specify the Account, if any, the contact is to be associated with. Transferring the CardScan data to Microsoft CRM took about 40 minutes, about 10 Leads per minute. Included in the transfer was the image of the business card! This is kept as a Note for the Lead. This has been handy when going back and verifying info. Once I had the data in CRM, I used the bulk edit function to add the 'Topic' (SAMA Trade Show 2006) so I will know where the Lead came from and the lead source and venue. I was able to edit all the Leads pretty much all at once.

My next step was to send an e-mail to each Lead (attendee) thanking them for attending the trade show. It included their name and their company name. Other personal information could have been easily included as well. But this was sufficient. Sending this thank you was a good way to verify the e-mail addresses provided. There were a number of 'bounced' e-mails. Many of these were caused by errors in the e-mail address. The 'dot' before the 'com' was sometimes dropped and other simple errors. Actually, considering the number of cards entered, the number of bounces was minimal. I easily fixed those and resent the thank you e-mails.

Once I had pretty much verified the e-mails, which also helped me correct a few other errors, I had a 'clean' database. Then I used the Advanced Find feature of MS CRM along with a custom 'View' that I created which included all of the appropriate contact fields (name, company, address, etc) to provide a listing of all the Leads from the show. Then, using the export to Microsoft Excel feature of MS CRM, I was able to export all this attendee info to an Excel spreadsheet which I was then able to e-mail to SAMA. Now SAMA will have a record of the attendees, including their e-mail, fax, and other info for use in promoting future trade shows, etc.

All in all, I was quite impressed with CardScan. It's going to make future business card data entry a snap.

Larry Lentz is a Microsoft MVP on Dynamics CRM, an MCSE + Internet, an MCSE on Windows 2000, a Microsoft Certified Database Administrator, an MCSA: Messaging on Windows Server 2003 and Exchange 2003, and Past President of Alamo PC. He is the owner of Lentz Computer Services, www.LentzComputer.Net, which he founded in 1989. LCS is the first Microsoft partner in San Antonio to earn the Microsoft Small Business Specialist designation and is a Microsoft Certified Partner. Larry has over 24 years as a computer professional and specializes in Microsoft Small Business Server and CRM. He chairs the Alamo PC CRM Study Group (MCSE Advanced SIG) affectionately called 'The Geeks' and the Alamo PC Small Business Server Special Interest Group (SBS SIG). Larry is available for presentations on technology for small business and can be reached via e-mail at Larry@LentzComputer.Net

Software Review

Adobe Creative Suite CS2

Published by Adobe

\$1199.99 US

Reviewed by Beverly Bihn, Alamo PC Photoshop Instructor



The Creative Suite 2 Premium is an awesome combination of Adobe Photoshop CS2, Adobe Illustrator CS2, Adobe InDesign CS2, Adobe GoLive CS2 and Adobe Acrobat 7.0 Professional with Version Cue CS2, Adobe Bridge and Adobe Stock Photos. This Premium combination enables image editing, illustration, page designs, Adobe PDF creations - all put together in one environment that work together and share common tools, user interface elements and support for native file formats.

Is that enough for you? It certainly should be enough for any professional graphic artist and designer who wants all graphic possibilities and tools at the tip of his or her fingers. If you already know all the previous versions of these software programs, it's just a hop and a skip. If not, you better plan on 100 hour days. There are texts you can purchase to help instruct each program unless you can figure everything out by yourself (I want to meet that person).

"Adobe Bridge" (fancy word for Browse) lets you look and scale previews of whatever you are looking for; it also has multipage PDF viewers that connect with InDesign, Photoshop, Illustrator and GoLive (as soon as you learn all those programs). You can use the Slide Show to see your

images full screen. Raw digital images can be edited using Adobe Camera Raw. Batching and automating tasks can be used on selected images or folders directly. You can access the Adobe Stock Photos also through the Bridge. It just goes on and on.

"Version Cue CS2" lets you track all versions of a file automatically and also prepares versions for a client to review, puts those versions into a cycle and determines which version the client wants to use (for those who have clients, of course).

"File Sharing Management" lets you share files with others working on the same file without messing up their work. "Version Cue" saves all the different versions under the same name but shows the different views to allow everyone to complain about someone else's version.

Photoshop CS2:

As a Photoshop instructor at Alamo PC and enthusiast of this program, I found the bounce from Photoshop 7 to CS to CS2 to very be very smooth and easy. Some of the new features include the Photomerge (from Elements software), Red Eye Correction which is different from the Elements version or the Channel Mixer Version from Photoshop 7. Style of text is

sampled, text can follow circles, curves, etc. You can warp an image (put it on a coffee cup, bottle, or just whack it any way you like). Same ways of doing things are in different locations (you know how you have to always look in different nooks for an upgrade version of the same thing).

They've added a "spot" healing brush where you just click to heal a blemish or wrinkle. Boy, we can all use that feature.

"Vanishing Point" lets you keep the proper perspective when you clone, brush, paint, or copy and edit images.

"Multiple Layer Select" allows you to select multiple layers at once in the Layers palette. You can then delete them (what a time saver), move them or put those layers in sets. The "link" icon is now at the bottom of the layers palette in full view instead of clicking in the blank square in front of layers to link them (big deal).

"Smart Objects" allow you to scale rasterized objects without losing quality, copy and paste live vector objects from illustrator into Photoshop and update them automatically.

"Custom Menus & Workspaces" allow you to save various versions of your workspaces for different tasks and easily switch between them. You can also highlight new or often used menu items it color to identify them quickly.

You will learn and use all these Photoshop features in our classes at Alamo PC. There's never a dull moment and you will experience more than you think your brain can handle, but you won't mind because you will have so much fun and eventually it all sinks in.

Illustrator CS2:

"Live Trace" automatically changes bitmaps into wonderfully detailed vector graphics that you can edit and transform easily without distortions. It reduces the time it takes to recreate a scanned drawing on screen.

"Live Paint" can fill any area that looks like a shape (even if it isn't). You can apply spot-colors to grayscale images and effects, like drop shadows and glows.

The Stroke Palette lets you decide whether the stroke should go inside, outside, or centered on a path.

It gives you the choice of supporting Photoshop files by being able to choose a layer comp when placing a PSD file.

Other procedures in Illustrator CS2 are better "Flash" (SWF) export choices, ability to save a tiled-page document as a multi-page PDF directly, support for SVG 1.1, SVG-t and SVG-basic for cell phones and handheld wireless devices.

InDesign CS2

Designers can now import Microsoft Word documents and preserve local formatting as well as map Word styles directly to InDesign styles. You can now use the Apply Next Style command so InDesign automatically applies styles across an entire document.

"Object Styles" may combine any of the object formatting options, such as drop shadows, feathering, fills and strokes, line weight and style, text styles and layout frills, such as anchored object options and text wrap.

"Layer visibility" lets you try different graphic variations by importing a single linked file; then turn layer visibility on or off.

"Snippets" allow you to export any elements from a layout into your file system or drag them into the Adobe Bridge - those items become Snippets (text and image or whatever). You can even e-mail a snippet to another designer.

"Quick Apply" lets you access all styles directly from the keyboard. Press Ctrl + E (Windows) or Command + Enter (Mac) to get a small window on your screen. Type the first few letters of the style name, press Enter and the style is applied without having to use the mouse.

"INX Format" files are backward compatible files- you can create a design in InDesignCS2 and open that in InDesign CS. Future versions of InDesign will also be backward compatible. Snippets can also be saved in the INX format and dragged all over the place - forwards, backwards, etc.

There are text enhancements in InDesign CS2, like drag & drop text, spell-check, and font menus that let you preview a font (like Photoshop CS2) before you use it. You can link graphics to text so your images move with the text. If your masterpiece designs have graphics or captions on the outside margins, anchored graphics automatically adjust their layout to the spine as they flow.

GoLive CS2:

GoLive offers CSS visual layout tools that make it easier to visually lay out mobile sites for the best display on specific handheld devices such as cell phones, wireless devices and

Review of Creative Suite 2 Premium popular browsers. It restricts the size of the layout and the kinds of objects allowed. It also integrates better with Illustrator CS2.

You can create "favicons" (little icons that appear in the URL bar in your Web browser) from native PSD files.

You can develop mobile content using the XHTML mobile profile platform for mobile development.

Visual MMS authoring combines different standard mobile media formats, such as 3GPP movies and JPEG images, with text to create MMS slide shows to cell mobile device users who ask for the content.

Acrobat 7.0 Professional

You can now work with clients who don't own a full version of Acrobat by letting them comment on review PDF's using the free Adobe Reader 7.0. When the client opens the PDF in Adobe Reader, a set of commenting tool opens automatically along with instructions on how to interact with the file, save or return it with comments.

You can use the new PDF correction tools, such as the new Ink Manager to map excess spot colors in order to get better separations. You can convert RGB images in a PDF file to CMYK with exact control or make sure on screen the conversion worked

Enhanced output preview lets you make corrections to problem areas before you print.

So that's it! Run to inhale these exciting new software procedures before the weekend, because the upgraded versions of all these programs are sure to come out in two weeks and you don't want to be left behind to start all over again.

June 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Student's Practice Lab 9:00 A.M. - Noon Class 6 of 6 *PRR* Digital Camera & Photography 9 - 11 A.M. Class *PRR* Photoshop TBA 1 - 5 P.M. (ar) HCSI 5:30 - 8:30 P.M. Net Web Development 7 - 9 P.M.	2 *PRR* Small Business Server 2003 8 - 10 A.M. Dr. is In 9:00 A.M. - Noon Class 1 of 9 *PRR* Photoshop TBA 1 - 5 P.M. PC Alameda Magazine & PDF 7 - 9 P.M.	3 *PRR* MCSE (Adv) 8:30 A.M. - Noon Class 2 of 6 *PRR* Windows XP 1 - 3 P.M. C++ 2:30 - 4:30 P.M.
4	5 Genealogy 7 - 9 P.M.	6 Class 6 of 12 **PRR** Digital Photo Editing 9 - 11 A.M. Class 5 of 6 **PRR** Windows XP 1:30 - 5:30 P.M. BOD 6:30 P.M.	7 Class 3 of 6 *PRR* Intro to Windows 10 A.M. - Noon Class 3 of 6 *PRR* Internet & E-Mail 1 - 3 P.M.	8 Student Practice Lab 9:00 A.M. - Noon Class 1 of 6 *PRR* Digital Camera & Photography 9 - 11 A.M. Class *PRR* Photoshop TBA 1 - 5 P.M.	9 Dr. is In 9:00 A.M. - Noon Class 2 of 9 *PRR* Photoshop TBA 1 - 5 P.M. Class *PRR* Photoshop TBA 1 - 5 P.M.	10 *PRR* MCSE (Adv) 8:30 A.M. - Noon Class 3 of 6 *PRR* Windows XP 1 - 3 P.M. Commodore 1 - 4 P.M.
11 Mother's Day	12 General Meeting @ Crossroads 7 - 9 P.M. Presenter:	13 Class 7 of 12 **PRR** Digital Photo Editing 9 - 11 A.M. Class 6 of 6 *PRR* Windows XP 1:30 - 3:30 P.M.	14 Power Internet 10 A.M. - Noon Class 4 of 6 *PRR* Intro to Windows 10 A.M. - Noon Class 4 of 6 *PRR* Internet & E-Mail 1 - 3 P.M. Home Page Jumpstart 5:30 - 7 P.M. Cancelled class will start again in the fall	15 Student Practice Lab 9:00 A.M. - Noon Class 2 of 6 *PRR* Digital Camera & Photography 9 - 11 A.M. Class *PRR* Photoshop TBA 1 - 5 P.M.	16 Dr. is In 9:00 A.M. - Noon Class 3 of 9 *PRR* Photoshop TBA 1 - 5 P.M.	17 *PRR* MCSE (Adv) 8:30 A.M. - Noon Class 4 of 6 *PRR* Windows XP 1 - 3 P.M. C++ 2:30 - 4:30 P.M.
18	19	20 Class 8 of 12 **PRR** Digital Photo Editing 9 - 11 A.M.	21 Summer Begins Class 5 of 6 *PRR* Intro to Windows 10 A.M. - Noon Class 5 of 6 *PRR* Internet & E-Mail 1 - 3 P.M.	22 Student Practice Lab 9:00 A.M. - Noon Class 3 of 6 *PRR* Digital Camera & Photography 9 - 11 A.M. Class *PRR* Photoshop TBA 1 - 5 P.M. Access 7 - 9 P.M. (Dot) NetNuke Portal 7 - 9 P.M.	23 Dr. is In 9:00 A.M. - Noon Class 4 of 9 *PRR* Photoshop TBA 1 - 5 P.M.	24 *PRR* MCSE (Adv) 8:30 A.M. - Noon Class 5 of 6 *PRR* Windows XP 1 - 3 P.M. Learning Center Desk Staff Meeting 1 - 3 P.M.
25	26 CoreIDR [®] w 12 6 - 8 P.M.	27 Class 9 of 12 **PRR** Digital Photo Editing 9 - 11 A.M.	28 Class 6 of 6 *PRR* Intro to Windows 10 A.M. - Noon Class 6 of 6 *PRR* Internet & E-Mail 1 - 3 P.M. (ar) WordPerfect 7 - 9 P.M.	29 Student Practice Lab 9:00 A.M. - Noon Class 4 of 6 *PRR* Digital Camera & Photography 9 - 11 A.M. Class *PRR* Photoshop TBA 1 - 5 P.M.	30 Dr. is In 9:00 A.M. - Noon Class 5 of 9 *PRR* Photoshop TBA	



The Learning Center

Alamo PC Organization classes and study groups

COMPUTER CLINIC

The Doctor Is In

Each Friday morning, volunteer "Computer Doctors" share their time at the Computer Learning Center to handle technical hardware and software questions and solve problems. They attempt to troubleshoot hardware and sort out software problems on site. If the problem is beyond their means, the member is referred to one of the repair shops that advertise with Alamo PC. The repair shop does charge for the problem. We do the work at the Computer Learning Center as a member-to-member benefit, with donations requested.

What to bring with you:

- Your Alamo PC membership card
- Your computer and all connecting cables, cords, software drivers or programs related to the problem area
- You do not need to bring your monitor, mouse, or keyboard unless you are having a specific problem with those items. Make sure you have the keycode for all of your software.
- If you are having problems with your scanner, printer, or something that hooks up to your computer; bring that item in addition to your computer etc. plus all connecting cables and software (don't forget the keycode for your software)

When: Every Friday 9 am to noon

Where: Alamo PC Organization
Computer Learning Center

Prerequisites: Bring your hardware and all connecting cables, cords, software drivers or programs related to the problem area

Tuition fee: Donations for this service are requested, the funds are used to purchase testing and other equipment to use at the Dr Is In sessions.

Technical Rating: ★

STUDY GROUPS

Student Practice Lab

A specific time period for students taking Alamo PC Courses to use Computer Lab One (Classroom One) to practice their class assignments. Students may also make up missed class days, if the instructor has provided the course material to the individual. The Practice Lab is monitored and the instructors will help when possible. The Practice Lab is for Class Work Only. Those abusing the system will be asked to leave. Seating is limited and on a first come, first serve basis. If necessary a time limit will be imposed.

Lab Instructors: Joe Gentry, Sarah Thomas
When: Thursday mornings, except Holidays, 9 am to Noon.

Where: Computer Learning Center

Pre-registration: No

Technical Rating: ★

C/C ++ Study Group

Please note we are currently a study group and no longer a Class. C/C++ Study Group Our group consists of 3 to 6 regular members who meet twice a month to discuss their plans and progress on development of software for experimental use. We do not plan to offer C or C++ courses in this study group. To join the study group, get acquainted with some of its members and consider preparing a brief presentation of your planned or current efforts.

Contact:
Bruce McAlexander
<mcalexb@satx.rr.com> 210-680-0231
Murry Adams
<mnadams@texas.net> 210-696-0047
Carl Deneke
<cdeneke@Texas.net> 210-496-6397

When: First and Third Saturday, 2:30 pm

Where: Learning Center.

Pre-registration: No

Technical Rating: ★★ - ★★★

Commodore Users of SA

Contact: Diana Jones
830-303-1220

When: Second Saturday, 1-4 pm

Where: Learning Center.

Pre-registration: No

Technical Rating: ★ - ★★★★★

Genealogy Study Group

For everyone interested in using their computer for genealogy. We will discuss currently available genealogy software, their pros and cons and meeting participants views as to best software to use for both beginners and advanced genealogists.

Contact: Jim Collier
<jcinquiry@earthlink.net>
210-710-5660

When: First Monday, 7-9 pm

Where: Learning Center.

Pre-registration: No

Technical Rating: ★ - ★★

HGSI Study Group

The premise of the HGS Investor SIG is, "Knowledge becomes stronger when passed on to others." We have created an environment for continuing education and open discussion between well informed members and guest speakers in matters of using Fundamental and Technical Analysis for the buying and selling of equities. Meetings are held on the First Thursday of each month in the UBS Conference Room, in Suite 300 at 200 Concord Plaza Drive, at 6:30PM to 8:30PM. If you wish to be added to our mailing list or for more information, contact below.

Contact: Maynard Burstein
<maynardb@juno.com> 735-3288

When: 1st Thursday, 6:30-8:30pm

Where: UBS/Paine Webber, 200 Concord Plaza Dr. Suite 300

Pre-registration: Call Maynard

Technical Rating: ★ - ★★

Technical Content Ratings

- ★ For the beginner, no experience necessary and no prerequisite.
- ★★ Assumes some basic familiarity with the subject but is not a technical course.
- ★★★ Assumes that the student is somewhat familiar with the subject and will discuss.
- ★★★★ Assumes that the student is competent in the material and will be technical.

STUDY GROUPS (cont.)

DotNET Study Group

This is a study group for those interested in developing Windows and Web applications using Microsoft's .NET technology. We will use development modules and applications for the DNN Portal using VB.NET and C# as a basis for demonstrating .Net development. Guest speakers occasionally present new technology and development tools available for .Net Developers. Door prizes (books, software, shirts, etc.) are distributed at most meetings.

Contact: Joe Brazell 345-2207

When: 1st Thursday, 7-9pm

Where: Learning Center

Pre-registration: No

Technical Rating: ★★★

DotNetNuke Portal Study Group

Learn DotNetNuke portal software for hosting your website. Focus on hands-on configuration and use of the DNN 3.x portal. The class will discuss the portal framework and configuration of a DNN site. Setup web pages, insert modules on the pages, modify and edit the look of the pages and data in the pages. Modules include Calendar, Announcements, Forums, Blogs, Contacts, Links, Surveys and HTML.

Contact: Joe Brazell 345-2207

When: 7PM – 9PM Sept. 29, Oct. 27 (no November or December meeting)

Where: Learning Center

Pre-registration: No

Technical Rating: ★

MCSE Advanced Study Group

The MCSE Advanced SIG, affectionately known as 'The Geeks', is currently studying Microsoft's new ISA Server 2004 in anticipation of it's being included in the soon to be released Service Pack 1 for Small Business Server 2003. The SIG meets every Saturday morning from 8:30 until noon. Space is limited and the subject matter is very advanced. Therefore membership is restricted. Please contact Larry Lentz before attempting to attend.

Contact: Larry Lentz, MCSE on NT & W2K, MCDBA, MCSA:Messaging <Larry@LentzComputer.Net>

When: Every Saturday, 8:30-noon

Where: Contact Larry

Pre-registration: Yes - contact Larry

Technical Rating: ★★★★★

Small Business Server Study Group

The Alamo PC Organization Small Business Server Special Interest Group (APCO SBS SIG) celebrated its first birthday on Friday, July 8th. We had a record turnout of 24 despite several 'regulars' having to be out of town or taking care of clients. The technical portion was a brief discussion of how to configure Internet Over the Internet (RPC over HTTP).

Our next meeting will be on Friday, August 5th. After the Taco Social we will have a discussion of WSUS, Windows Software Update Services.

For more information, please contact group chair, Larry Lentz at Larry@LentzComputer.net, or visit the group web site at <http://www.LentzComputer.net/SBS.>

Power Internet Study Group

Current Internet users can learn more. Each month a different Internet application will be discussed, such as 64 bit computers, SATA HDD technology, e-mail, browser use, MS Outlook, and virus protection in communications. This is a good place to share interests and insights about your experiences on the World Wide Web.

Contact: John Woody

<jwoody@texas.net>

210-494-5684

When: 2nd Wednesday, 10am-noon

Where: Learning Center

Preregistration: No

Technical Rating: ★★

WordPerfect Evening Study Group

We demonstrate projects and features of the latest version of WordPerfect. We also like to work on real life situations with our members who have questions.

Contact: Cynthia Thompson

210-655-1058

When: 4th Wednesday, 7-9pm

Where: Call Cynthia for directions

Pre-registration: Yes - Call Cynthia

Technical Rating: ★ - ★★

Technical Content Ratings

- ★ For the beginner, no experience necessary and no prerequisite.
- ★★ Assumes some basic familiarity with the subject but is not a technical course.
- ★★★ Assumes that the student is somewhat familiar with the subject and will discuss.
- ★★★★ Assumes that the student is competent in the material and will be technical.

CLASSES

Alamo PC offers Free and Fee-Based classes. Classes showing a \$ next to the title indicate that either a Registration Fee or a Tuition Fee will be required.

Student Practice Lab

A specific time period for students taking Alamo PC Courses to use Computer Lab One (Classroom One) to practice their class assignments. Students may also make up missed class days, if the instructor has provided the course material to the individual. The Practice Lab is monitored and the instructors will help when possible. The Practice Lab is for Class Work Only. Those abusing the system will be asked to leave. Seating is limited and on a first come, first serve basis. If necessary a time limit will be imposed.

Lab Instructors: Joe Gentry, Sarah Thomas

When: Thursday mornings, except Holidays, 9 am to Noon.

Where: Computer Learning Center

Pre-registration: No

Technical Rating: ★

The next three free or low-cost classes provide instruction on the basics of using a computer, the Windows Operating System, and how to use Adobe Acrobat to obtain your PC Alamode online magazine. The successful completion of the Windows XP class (or classes) would then enable those students to take the other classes offered by Alamo PC.

Introduction To Windows - \$

The Introduction To Windows class is designed for people who do not have a computer yet or have just obtained one and don't know how to "turn it on". Students will learn about the parts of the computer, acquire keyboard and mouse skills used in many software programs, and some word processing. Instruction proceeds at a slower pace than most computer courses and time is allotted for "hands on" practice. Taking the next course, Windows XP, will still be necessary for students who want to be productive with their computers, but the students will be better able to understand what the Windows XP Instructor is teaching. Internet and e-mail will NOT be covered in this course.

Instructors: Andy Roca, Donna Dudley

When: Six sessions, Wednesdays; 10 am to noon, choose one set:

Set 1) May 24, 31, June 7, 14, 21, 28

Set 2) August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Sep 6

Set 3) Oct 4, 11, 18, 25, Nov 1, 8

Fees: Registration fee is \$10.00

This class will use the Easy Windows XP book, purchase of the book will be helpful and is strongly recommended but is not required. The book may be purchased from Alamo PC for \$20

Pre-registration: YES Call Learning Center at 210-736-0080

Where: Learning Center

Technical Rating: ★

Windows XP - \$

Our Windows XP course reviews the fundamentals of using a computer, and provides instruction on using the Microsoft Windows XP operating system. In this class you will learn how to: Open, Close, Save, Delete, Copy, and Move files; work with Files and Folders; customize your Desktop Layout; and to Resize and Move program windows. You will also be introduced to several "free" programs already on your computer, including: Wordpad - for basic word processing; Paint - for basic graphics work; Computer Solitaire and other games; and a Calculator.

Prerequisites: Students should have completed the Introduction To Windows course or have the equivalent knowledge. Choice of two class sessions:

Instructor: Audrey Henkin

When: 6 sessions, Tuesdays 1:30-3:30 pm; Choose one set:

Set 1) May 9, 16, 23, 30, June 6, 13

Set 2) August 15, 22, 29, Sep 5, 12, 19

Set 3) October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, Nov 7

OR

Instructor: Don Robinson

When: 6 sessions, Saturdays 1-3 pm; Choose one set:

Set 1) May 27, June 3, 10, 17, 24, July 1

Set 2) August 5, 12, 19, 26, Sep 2, 9

Set 3) Oct 7, 14, 21, 28, Nov 4, 11

Fees: Registration fee is \$10.00

This class will use the Easy Windows XP book, purchase of the book will be helpful and is strongly recommended but is not required. The book may be purchased from Alamo PC for \$20

Pre-registration: YES Call Learning Center at 210-736-0080

Where: Computer Learning Center

Technical Rating: ★

Adobe Acrobat - PDF Class

How to download, install, and use Adobe Acrobat Reader. How to view the PC Alamo magazine online or download it to your computer or a CD. Students who want to download the magazine to a CD in class should bring a blank CD-RW (a read / writeable or recordable CD)

Instructor: Steve Tech
stephentechnjr@yahoo.com

When: first Fri. of the month, 7 pm to 9 pm

Pre-registration: YES Call Learning Center at 210-736-0080

Where: Computer Learning Center

Technical Rating: ★

APCO Retro (Antique Computer Users Group)

We're initially only going to meet on-line, through the mailing list I've established using Yahoo! Groups. Membership is limited to Alamo PC members, but anyone can join the list by sending a message to <apcoretro-subscribe@yahooogroups.com>." Or, if you're reading the electronic version of the PC Alamo where this text appears, you can join APCO Retro simply by going to

<<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/apcoretro/join>>

Contact: Shane Hicks

<shane@absolutepowercomputing.com>

When: Anytime

Where: Cyberspace

Pre-registration: Must sign-up on
<APCORETRO@yahooogroups.com>

Technical Rating: ★ - ★★★★★

CorelDRAW I Class

This basic class discusses basic tools and effects, concentrating on fills, blends, envelopes and other special effects for the next few months.

Contact: Steve Tech

<stephentechnjr@yahoo.com>
210-675-2880

When: 4th Monday, 6-8pm

Where: Learning Center

Pre-registration: No

Technical Rating: ★★

Introduction To Photo Editing

An interesting and informative class teaching the basics of photo editing. We will primarily use Photoshop Elements software although we will also use Corel Photo-Paint and ArcSoft PhotoStudio from time to time. Students will also learn how to put together a short "movie" using Microsoft Movie Maker

Prerequisites: Students must have completed the Introduction To Windows course or have the equivalent knowledge, and have a graphics software program on their home computer.

Instructor: Clarke Bird

When: Meets for 8 sessions, once a month, on the Second Sat. of each month, 8 - 10 am

Pre-registration: YES Call Learning Center at 210-736-0080

Where: Computer Learning Center

Technical Rating: ★ - ★★★★★

Digital Camera & Photography Class

Digital Cameras have become an integral part of our computerized lifestyle. They come in all shapes and sizes; some are simple, some not. Yet many of us look at this wonderful tool and think, "Now what is that doohicky for?" Sometimes learning to use our digital cameras can be a confusing and frustrating experience and the manual may even make it worse. Then when you do figure out how to use the camera, the photo never seems to come out quite right. Learn how to use your digital camera, plus all the tips and tricks to get better pictures when you take them. This class will include field trips to interesting local spots to learn photography techniques.

Instructor: Joe M. Davis

When: Class meets once a week for 6 weeks on Thursdays 9-11 am (some sessions may be longer)

Choice of two class sessions:

Thurs., April 27, May 4, 11, 18, 25, June 1st

OR
Thurs., June 8, 15, 22, 29, July 6, 13

Pre-registration: YES Call Learning Center at 210-736-0080

Where: Computer Learning Center Plus Field Trips

Technical Rating: ★ - ★★

Digital Photo Editing Class

The companion class to the Digital Camera and Photography Class. Students will learn the basics of digital photo editing using Microsoft Digital Imaging 2006 and if time permits, extra tips and tricks about matting and framing plus interesting uses for your photos. The photo editing basics used in this class can be applied to almost any photo editing program. The Microsoft Digital Imaging 2006 software is not required for the class but it would be helpful to have on your home computer.

Prerequisites: Students should have completed the Windows XP course or have the equivalent knowledge.

Instructor: Joe M. Davis

When: Class meets once a week for 12 weeks on Tues., 9-11 am May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, June 6, 13, 20, 27, skip July 4, cont. July 11, 18, 25

Pre-registration: YES Call Learning Center at 210-736-0080

Where: Computer Learning Center

Technical Rating: ★ - ★★

Photoshop Classes for use with Photoshop 7, CS, CS2 - \$

These courses will teach you how to modify and combine images to create realistic composite images. You will learn to use several tools for selecting parts of images, and will move, duplicate, and resize images. You will also learn to use layers, and to apply layer effects and filters to create special effects. Additionally, you will use painting tools and blending modes to create blending effects, and will perform adjustments to enhance images. A text is supplied to new students, and a CD with the images for the entire class is provided. Photoshop Classes are offered as two separate classes, teaching the basic tools, palettes and procedures. Instruction class "A" using Photoshop 7. includes adaptations for Photoshop CS and CS2

Technical Content Ratings

- | | |
|------|--|
| ★ | For the beginner, no experience necessary and no prerequisite. |
| ★★ | Assumes some basic familiarity with the subject but is not a technical course. |
| ★★★ | Assumes that the student is somewhat familiar with the subject and will discuss. |
| ★★★★ | Assumes that the student is competent in the material and will be technical. |

Instruction class "B" with different lessons and text, using Photoshop 7 includes adaptations for Photoshop CS and CS2

Prerequisites: 1) Students need to have completed the Windows XP course or have the equivalent knowledge to be able to function properly and progress in these graphics programs. This is Not a course for beginning students.

2) Students need the Software for Photoshop 7 or Photoshop CS or Photoshop CS2 on their home computers to join these graphics instruction classes.

Instructor: Beverly Bihn assisted by Jane Montgomery

When: Photoshop Basic Instruction for CS and CS2 will meet 9 weeks on Fridays, 1-5 pm June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, July 7, 14, 21, 28

Fees: Tuition fee: \$90 for New Students; Tuition fee \$40 for Previous Students to re-take the Instruction A or B class, you may be asked to purchase a book.

Previous enrollment in the Photoshop Elements 2 class does not count as a previous student.

Pre-registration: YES Call Learning Center at 210-736-0080

Where: Learning Center

Technical Rating: ★★-★★★

Photoshop Workshop for use with Photoshop 7, CS, CS2 - \$

Written creative lessons are given to participants and demonstrations of the lessons are given during class for students to follow. Extra exercises at the end of the lessons encourage students to do similar tasks on their own without demonstrations. They can bring a blank recordable CD or a jump drive, to copy the images for the lessons to take home for more practice.

Prerequisites: 1) Students need to have completed the Photoshop Instruction Class A or Photoshop Instruction Class B, or have the equivalent knowledge with the permission of the Instructor.

2) Students need the Software for Photoshop 7 or Photoshop CS or Photoshop CS2 on their home computers to join these graphics instruction classes.

Instructor: Beverly Bihn assisted by Jane Montgomery

When: Dates and times to be announced

Fees: Tuition fee: \$20

Pre-registration: YES Call Learning Center at 210-736-0080

Where: Learning Center

Technical Rating: ★★-★★★

eBay - Bid with Confidence: An Introduction to Internet Auctions

This 4-session class shows you how to buy and sell at Internet auctions using the eBay system (excludes real estate and automobiles).

Contact: Learning Center 736-0080 <learncenter@alamopc.org>

When: Date and time. To be announced. Call the Alamo PC Computer Learning Center at (210)

736-0080, or (210) 736-0700 to place your name on a Waiting List for the class. You will be notified when the next class is available.

Where: Learning Center, Room 1

Pre-registration: Yes

Technical Rating: ★

Excel Class - Basic

This class is intended for people who want to do significant projects or develop skills for the workplace. As such it moves at fairly brisk pace and includes homework assignments. Students will become familiar with Excel 2000's basic functionality, menus, toolbars, icons and shortcut keys. Learn how to create, format, save and print an Excel spreadsheet. Also, understand and use formulas, work with worksheets and workbooks, and learn the basic productivity elements of Excel. The Excel 2000 Class will use the Excel 2000 Step By Step book. This book will be helpful but is not required.

Contact: Bill Eastridge <weastridge@satx.rr.com>

When: First four Tuesdays of odd numbered months (Jan, Mar, May, etc.) 7-9pm **no class July, Aug.**

Class will resume Sept.

Where: Learning Center

Pre-registration: Yes

Technical Rating: ★ - ★★★

Excel 2000 Class - Intermediate

This class is follow-on to the Excel Basics Class and is intended people who want to do significant projects or develop skills for the workplace. It covers conditional formatting, absolute addressing, sorting, subtotaling, filtering, charting, functions and other subjects as time permits. The Excel 2000 Class will use the Excel 2000 Step By Step book. This book will be helpful but is not required.

Contact: Bill Eastridge <weastridge@satx.rr.com>

When: First four Tuesdays of Feb., June and Oct. 7-9pm

Where: Learning Center

Pre-registration: Yes

Technical Rating: ★★★

Home Page Jumpstart

A general introduction to developing your own Internet web page. It is *not* a course on HTML. Includes a 20+ page manual and a training disk. Not hands-on.

Contact: Susan Ives <suives@texas.net> 210-694-4582

When: 2nd Wednesday, 5:30-7pm

Where: Learning Center

Student Practice Lab

A specific time period for students taking Alamo PC Courses to use Computer Lab One (Classroom One) to practice their class assignments. Students may also make up missed class days, if the instructor has provided the course material to the individual. The Practice Lab is monitored and the instructors will help when possible. The Practice Lab is for Class Work Only. Those abusing the system will be asked to leave. Seating is limited and on a first come, first serve basis. If necessary a time limit will be imposed.

Lab Instructors: Joe Gentry, Sarah Thomas

When: Thursday mornings, except Holidays, 9 am to Noon.

Where: Computer Learning Center

Pre-registration: No

Pre-registration: No

Technical Rating: ★ - ★★

HTML and Beyond Class

Learn how to design, build and manage your own web site using HTML.

Students should attend the Home Page Jumpstart Class and have familiarity with the Windows Operating System. The Six (to Eight if needed) Session class will begin a new cycle each March and September.

Contact: Mike Bianchi <webmaster@alamopc.org>

When: Saturdays, 4-8 pm

Where: Learning Center

Prerequisite: Home Page Jumpstart Class, familiarity with Windows

Pre-registration: yes

To register e-mail Mike at <webmaster@alamopc.org>

Technical Rating: ★★

Technical Content Ratings

- ★ For the beginner, no experience necessary and no prerequisite.
- ★★ Assumes some basic familiarity with the subject but is not a technical course.
- ★★★ Assumes that the student is somewhat familiar with the subject and will discuss.
- ★★★★ Assumes that the student is competent in the material and will be technical.

Internet And E-Mail - \$

The Internet and E-mail course will cover basic techniques needed to effectively and enjoyably "surf the net." Students will learn how to find information on the net, download files, applications and graphics, and how to purchase items from "e-commerce" sites. Depending on student interest, the class will learn about important Internet issues like privacy, credit card security, and information reliability. Depending on time constraints, students may also cover more advanced topics like using the Internet for long distance communication, "Web Cams," and enjoying "streaming" audio and video.

Prerequisites: Students must have completed the Windows XP course or have the equivalent knowledge.

When: 6 weeks, Wednesdays, 1 to 3 pm
Choose one set:

Set 1) May 24, 31, June 7, 14, 21, 28

Set 2) August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Sep 6

Set 3) Oct 4, 11, 18, 25, Nov 1, 8

Instructor: Don Robinson

Fees: Registration fee is \$10.00

Where: Learning Center

Pre-registration: YES Call Learning Center at 210-736-0080

Technical Rating: ★

Power Point class

This course features a structured curriculum for Microsoft PowerPoint. Students will be introduced to PowerPoint and will experience hands on development of an entertaining PowerPoint presentation. Emphasis will be placed on Inserting Graphics, Text, Layout, Titles and Slide Transitions.

Contact: Learning Center 736-0700

When: Dates and time to be announced

Where: Learning Center

Pre-registration: Yes

Technical Rating: ★

Word 2000 Class

Become familiar with Word 2000's basic functionality, menus, toolbars and shortcut keys. Students will learn how to create, view, format, save and print a Word document. Optional textbook: Word 2000 Step by Step book (this will be helpful but is not required). Student should have basic knowledge of Windows and be familiar with operating the mouse and keyboard.

Contact: Linda Bianchi at

education@alamopc.org

When: To be announced

Where: Learning Center

Pre-registration: Yes, call Learning Center at 736-0080

Technical Rating ★ - ★★★

Private or Semi-Private Tutorials - \$

Develop your skills at your own pace and at a time that fits your schedule. Introductory private tutorials for one, two, or three students. Choose from:

- Microsoft Word
- Microsoft Excel
- Basic Computer Skills, or
- Keyboarding/Typing

Contact: Learning Center (210) 736-0080 or 736-0700

When: Days and hours are arranged between the student(s) and teacher.

Where: Learning Center

Fees: 1 student: \$35 per hour, 10 hours for \$300. 2 or 3 students: per student—\$20 per hour, 10 hours for \$150

Pre-registration: Yes—call or visit the Learning Center

Technical Rating: ★

Student Practice Lab

A specific time period for students taking Alamo PC Courses to use Computer Lab One (Classroom One) to practice their class assignments. Students may also make up missed class days, if the instructor has provided the course material to the individual. The Practice Lab is monitored and the instructors will help when possible. The Practice Lab is for Class Work Only. Those abusing the system will be asked to leave. Seating is limited and on a first come, first serve basis. If necessary a time limit will be imposed.

Lab Instructors: Joe Gentry, Sarah Thomas

When: Thursday mornings, except Holidays, 9 am to Noon.

Where: Computer Learning Center

Pre-registration: No


Technical Content Ratings

★ For the beginner, no experience necessary and no prerequisite.

★★ Assumes some basic familiarity with the subject but is not a technical course.

★★★ Assumes that the student is somewhat familiar with the subject and will discuss.

★★★★ Assumes that the student is competent in the material and will be technical.



100% gray cotton golf shirts with pocket and embroidered full-color

Alamo PC logo

Available at the Learning Center in a wide variety of sizes.

\$20.00

Call the Learning Center at 736-0700

Visit the Alamo PC Learning Center

Media Center

Learn all about computers with hundreds of books and dozens of video tapes. Enjoy our large selection of techno-fiction.

A comfortable seating area is available.

Call (210) 736-0700

Help Numbers

Can you help a new member with a new computer? Are you proficient in software not listed? Can you help with a title currently showing only one volunteer? Call Linda Bianchi at 226-2460 or email her at <education@alamopc.org>.

1 Look down the list for the software program you need help with; note the number in front of the title.

2 Then look down the list to the right for the corresponding number for the person who may be able to help you.

Please observe the times given by the volunteers name to call for phone help.

Step One

1 Computers for Beginners

2 Windows 98

3 Windows XP

Microsoft Office

4 Word

5 Excel

6 PowerPoint

7 Publisher

8 WinFax Pro

Corel Office

9 WordPerfect

10 CorelDraw

11 Quattro Pro

12 Paint Shop Pro

Photoshop

13 Adobe Photoshop

Internet and E-mail

14 Internet Basics / ISP Connection

15 Web Page Development

16 Internet Explorer

17 MS Outlook Express

18 Opera

19 Mozilla

20 Dreamweaver

21 .Net

22 Flash

23 RoadRunner

Open Office

24 OpenOffice

Financial

25 Quick Books

26 Quicken

Auction Online

27 eBay

Genealogy

28 Family Origins for Windows

29 Genealogy

Communications / Management

30 Time&Chaos

31 Act

32 Goldmine

Data Base

33 Access

34 AlphaFour

35 dBase

36 Paradox

37 MySQL

Networking

38 Networking

Other

39 Hardware / Setting Up A New PC

40 Maintenance and Security

41 Home Help

Step Two

Expertise	Name	Phone	Availability	E-mail
(1, 5, 6, 3, 12, 23, 26, 38, 41)	John Bolton	658-3060	6pm-9pm M-F	
(1, 3, 14)	Joe Barth	696-5783	7pm-9pm Tu, Th, Sat	jbarth@swbell.net
(2, 3, 4, 16, 17, 23, 29, 38, 39, 40, 41)	Bruce Cramer	865-2933	9am-3pm M-F, Sat	service@pcpro4u.com
(3, 5)	Bill Eastridge	223-8743	10am-6pm M-F, Sat, Sun	
(4, 15, 17, 33)	Bill Hudson	490-6513	7pm-10 pm M-F, Sat, Sun	bhudson3@satx.rr.com
(4, 9, 14, 27)	William Hudson	824-6910	3pm-8pm M-F, Sat	rwsh@earthlink.net
(19, 24, 30, 37)	Chris Montgomery	490-2415	7pm-9pm M-F / noon-6pm Sat, Sun	
(3, 16, 17)	Ted Ressler			catechist@gmail.com
(1, 3, 14, 16, 17, 40)	Don Robinson	497-3737	9am-5pm M-F, Sat, Sun	dl7266@swbell.net
(10)	Stephen Tech, Jr	675-2880	5:30pm-9pm M - F	stephentechjr@yahoo.com
(9)	Cynthia Thompson	655-1058	7pm-9pm M-F / 10am-4pm Sat, Sun	cynthom@satx.rr.com
(4)	Christel Villarreal			christel.villarreal@gmail.com

If you are unable to find help in the list above, consider contacting the desk staff volunteers at the Alamo PC Computer Learning Center. 736-0700 or 736-0080. 10am - 4pm M-F, Sat Remember these volunteers are all levels of expertise and some may not be able to answer your questions, but may be able to find someone who can.


Advertisers Index

BJ Associates of San Antonio	42
Charles River Media	50
Computer Experts	9
Computer Fest	11
Cramer's Computer Services	23
David's Essential Domains	55
DV Nation	47
Global Travel Trends	18
Holiday Ink	52
Inksell	IFC
Laura B. Grover, E.A.	44
New Life Toner	IFC
SA PC Help	35
Senior Lifestyle Show	51
Texas Recharge & Toner Company	56
United Service Association for Health Care	15
Water Ware	54

Classified Ads

E-mail or snail mail (address on page 3) your ad to the Editor, PC Alamo at: editor@alamopc.org. Copy deadline is 10th of month preceeding publication. Classified ads are free to members of Alamo PC.

- For Sale** Old dusty computer found in my garage. No power source, no mother board, no RAM. It's basically a plastic box full of dust. \$2,000 or best offer. Call 555-5555
- For Sale** Invest in antique computer junk. Box of old 5.25" disks. Paid \$45, will take \$600, plus delilvery fee. Call 555-5555
- Wanted** Classified ads from members of Alamo PC. It costs nothing and it's a good way to sell or buy any computer-related thing.
- Missing** Alamo PC members from the classifieds section. Answers to the name of 'Apconian.' Last seen about 5 issues ago. Reward of free classified ad offered.



100% gray cotton golf shirts with pocket and embroidered full-color **Alamo PC logo**
Available at the Learning Center in a wide variety of sizes.

\$20.00

Call the Learning Center at **736-0700**

Alamo PC Organization has your Number!

Your membership number entitles you to a full year of membership privileges. Established in 1983, this non-profit, all-volunteer organization is dedicated to helping members keep up with trends and technologies.

Monthly Meetings

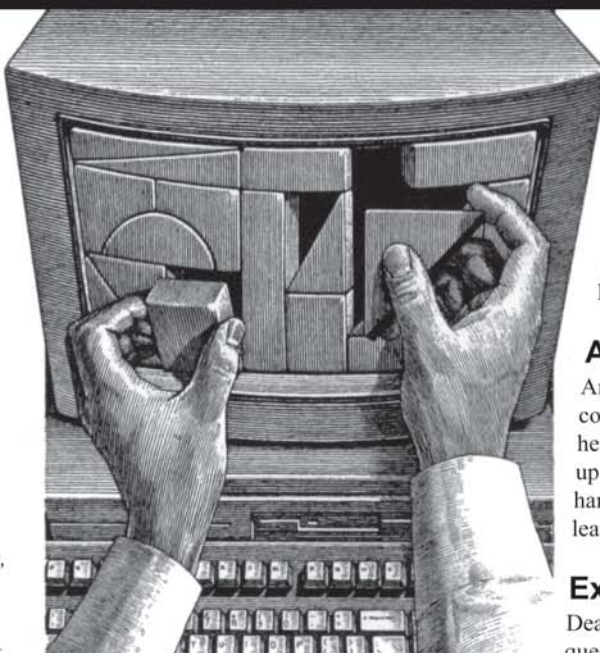
Every month you can attend a presentation meeting, which is open to our 2,500 members. Local and national companies provide the first glimpses of new products and discounts on existing products. There are also drawings for FREE hardware and software.

Award-Winning Magazine

When you join Alamo PC, you'll receive its award-winning magazine, *PC Alamode*, each month. You'll learn of group activities and you'll enjoy the reviews of new products from your fellow members. Regular columnists will give you insight to this fast-paced, dynamic industry. As a member, you can sell your outgrown stuff in our FREE Classified ads section.

Special Interest Groups and Classes

Alamo PC offers more than 30 Study Groups and classes on specific software programs for beginners to expert. These small groups typically meet once a month in one of our two hands-on computer labs or classrooms and provide an opportunity to get answers in an informal setting. There are groups for word processing, Web design, graphics and programming and even study groups to help you get Microsoft Certified. You can attend as many SIGs as you'd like and, as you become experienced, even lead one!



Internet (www.alamopc.org)

Alamo PC is on the Internet, and more importantly, Alamo PC can help you get on the Internet too. If you're already on the Internet, attending one of Alamo PC's Internet SIGs will help you to become a savvy Internet surfer.

Alamo PC SeniorComp

Are you age 45 or older and not into computers or the Internet yet? Let us help. Contact Alamo PC today and sign up for the very next class. Classes are hands-on at a pace to match your learning style.

Expert Help

Deadlocked with a computer problem or question? Get access to personal help from expert Alamo PC members. Just call! If you need someone to diagnose hardware and software problems, try "THE DOCTOR IS IN," a free clinic where members bring in their computers and allow our experts to help diagnose and often fix many PC ailments.

APPLY FOR YOUR NUMBER -- JOIN NOW!

To join, return the application below or sign up online at www.alamopc.org. Your \$45 dues covers your entire family!e. You may use your credit card or send your personal check. If you need more information, call (210) 736-0700. Shortly after joining, you'll receive a membership card entitling you to all rights and privileges and discounts. **JOIN TODAY!**

GIFT MEMBERSHIPS NOW AVAILABLE: Call 210-736-0700 for details.



Membership Application -- Apply for your number today!

PLEASE ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS. This information will be kept in confidence - it will be used for planning purposes only

FIRST: _____ MI _____ LAST: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE H: _____ W: _____ FAX: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: ____/____/____ OCCUPATION: _____

EMPLOYER: _____ TITLE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

Please accept my membership for: ☐ 1 year - \$45 ☐ 2 Years - \$85 ☐ 3 Years - \$125 ☐ New Member ☐ Renewal

Method of payment: ☐ Check ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express

Credit Card # _____ EXP DATE: ____/____ SIGNATURE: _____

Make checks payable to Alamo PC Organization and mail to: **Alamo PC, PO Box 65180, San Antonio, TX 78265-5180**

IMPORTANT ☐ I do not authorize Alamo PC Organization to release my name address and phone to selected vendors

PCA JAN05

Alamo PC Organization, Inc.

Renew Now!

Isn't it about time for you to consider all the benefits of membership with Alamo PC? Renew your membership before the year is over!

For more information call the Learning Center at
210.736.0700



Consider A Matching Donation, or a Donation To Alamo PC Organization

Increasing members knowledge and effective use of personal computers, and providing other membership services and access to the expertise of other members, does not happen without an associated monthly expense. In recent months, although member dues and ads have offset the majority of the required monthly expense, and cost-saving measures are constantly being reviewed, the total amount of monthly funds generated has been less than the monthly expense. The shortfall has had to come from reserve funds, which have been severely depleted. We would like to offer everyone the opportunity to help rebuild the reserve fund.

If your employer has a "Matching Donation" program, please consider that you can double a donation amount by participating. All donations are tax deductible and can be dropped off at the Alamo PC Learning Center in Crossroads Mall (near the underground parking entrance, accessed from Fredericksburg Road) or mailed to **Alamo PC Organization, PO Box 65180, San Antonio, TX, 78265-5180**. Checks, Money Orders, etc., should be made payable to Alamo PC Organization and identified as "Donation."

On-line donations can be made at <<https://training.alamopc.org/donations>>. If you do not have on-line access, credit card donations can be made by mail if you legibly provide the following information on a piece of paper: Full Name, Address, City, State, Zip, Phone Number (to verify you want your card charged), Name of Card, Card Number, Card Expiration Date, Donation Amount, and your usual Signature. Please help us keep our membership dues low, meet our monthly expenses and rebuild the reserve fund.

