

THE NEWS MAGAZINE OF THE ALAMO PC ORGANIZATION

PC Alamode

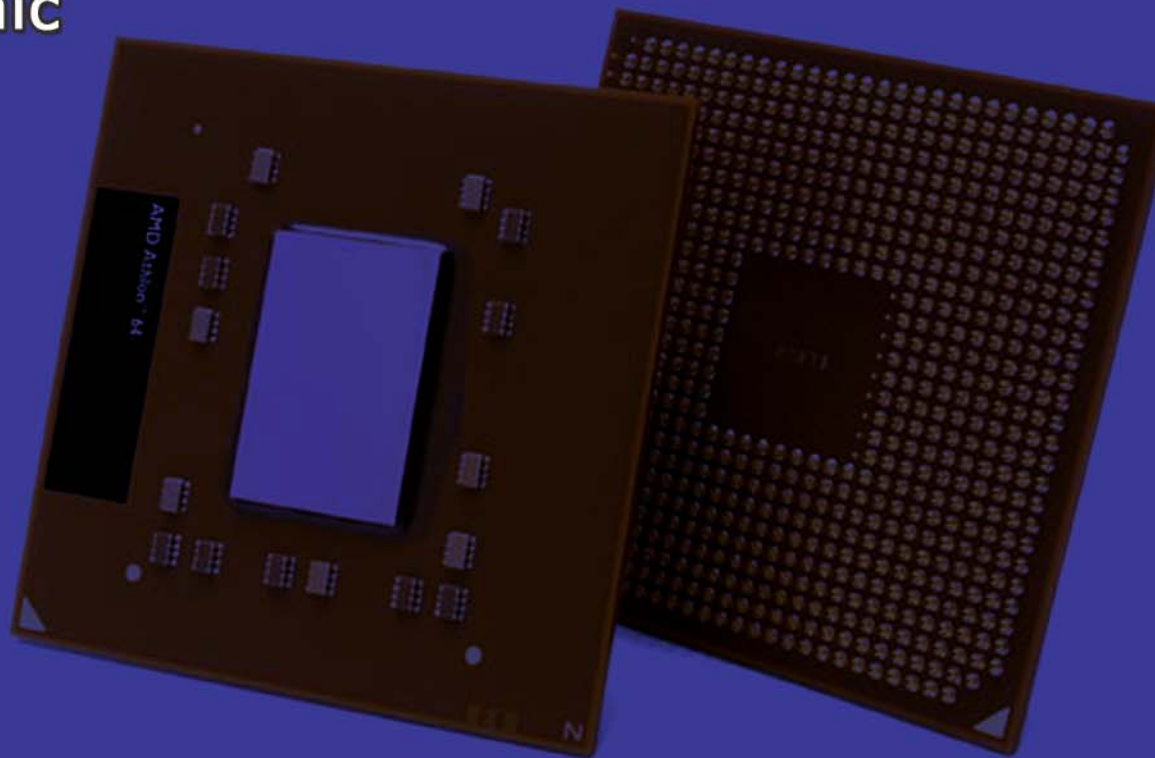
HARDWARE ISSUE

www.alamopc.org
September 2006
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AMD's visionary gamble
page 39

Protect your laptop from heat build-up
page 40

Doctor's Clinic
page 50





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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:

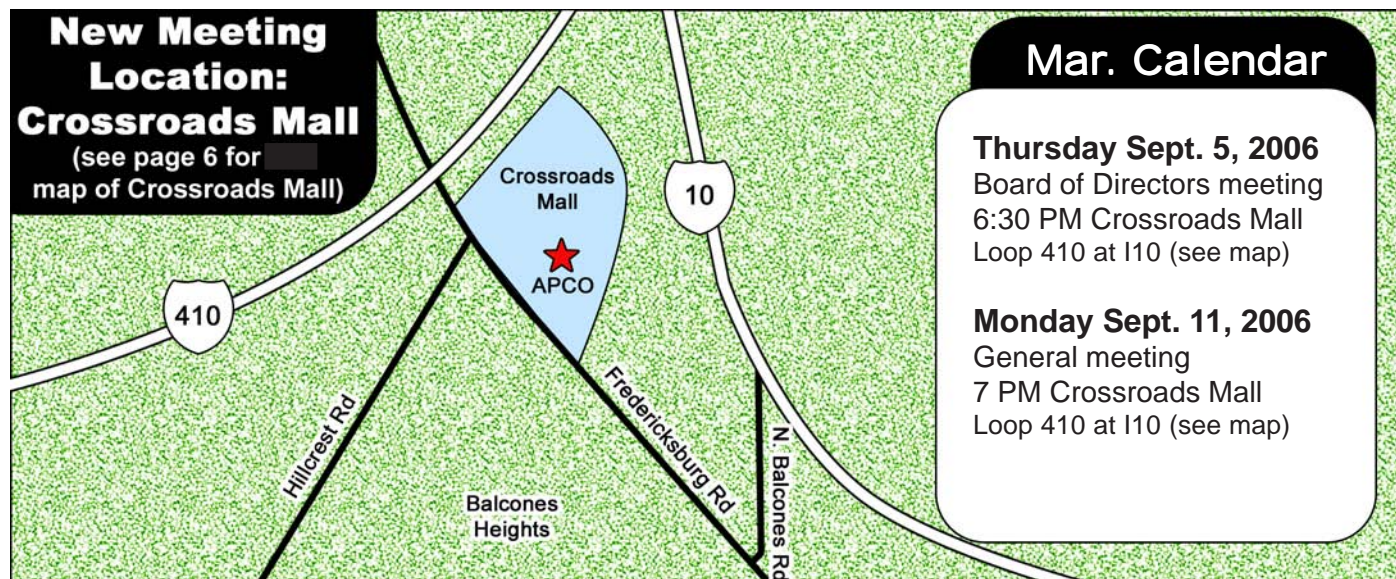
Alamo PC Organization
PO Box 65180
San Antonio, TX 78265-5180

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.

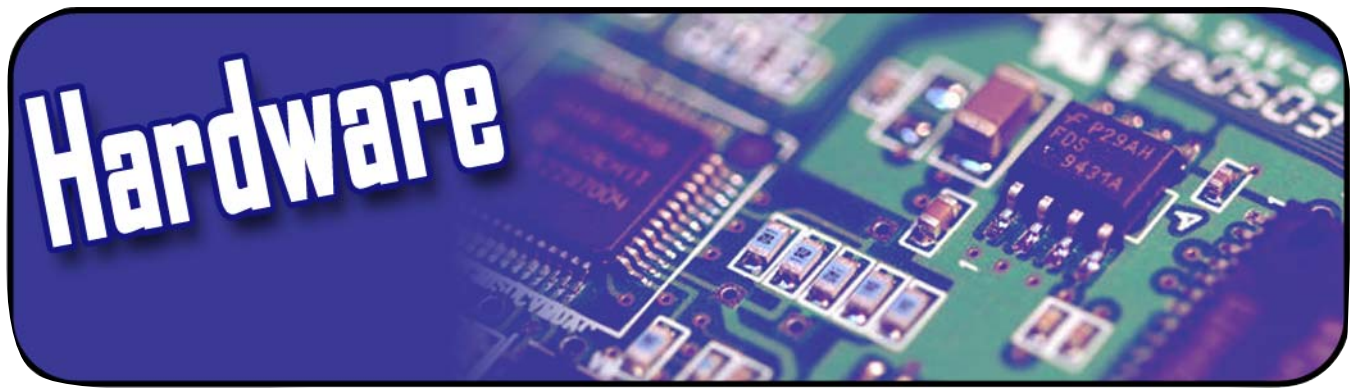
New Meeting Location:
Crossroads Mall
(see page 6 for map of Crossroads Mall)



Mar. Calendar

Thursday Sept. 5, 2006
Board of Directors meeting
6:30 PM Crossroads Mall
Loop 410 at I10 (see map)

Monday Sept. 11, 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 |
| The rights of privacy and publicity | |
| RAM & Reason <i>Rob Rice</i> | 16 |
| Knowledge is Power: SIW and Autoruns | |
| Computer Defense Dept. <i>Bruce Cramer</i> | 18 |
| Fix you Windows | |
| Windows Tips & Tricks <i>Bill Beverley</i> | 20 |
| Internet, Part VIII | |
| Business Solutions <i>James Duncan</i> | 22 |
| Excel power programming | |
| PowerTalk <i>Shane Hicks</i> | 24 |
| Blocked e-mail | |
| The Switcher <i>Shane Hicks</i> | 25 |
| Macnutia | |
| Lazy Webmaster <i>Susan Ives</i> | 26 |
| Updating your Web site | |
| Best and Worst <i>Pim Borman</i> | 27 |
| Come and get it on the go | |
| The Graphics Guy <i>Paul Vaughn</i> | 28 |
| On the trail of dust | |
| PC 101 <i>Ron Ingraham</i> | 30 |
| Internet Explorer - Connections | |

departments

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

guest contributors

| | |
|---|----|
| Quality Freeware <i>Brian K. Lewis</i> | 32 |
| The Shadow Knows <i>Mike Morris</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

Processors

Shhhhhhh!

Multi-core processors

AMD's visionary gamble

Laptop

How to protect your laptop from heat build-up

Desktop

A lot of assembly required

Hard Drive

Hard drive class action settlement

Doctor's Clinic

"Suddenly" or "I didn't do anything"

36

37

39

40

44

48

50

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.

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

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Ad rates effective January 2005

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| | Per insertion | | | |
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| Half pg. (7 ¹ / ₄ " w x 4 ¹ / ₂ " h) | 144 | 138 | 130 | 121 |
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| 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

Photoshop CS Down and Dirty Tricks

56

57

Board of Directors

| | | | |
|----------------|------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| President | Bill Klutz | 532-9122 (Home) | president@alamopc.org |
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| Communications | TBD | | communications@alamopc.org |

Executive Service Officers and other important numbers

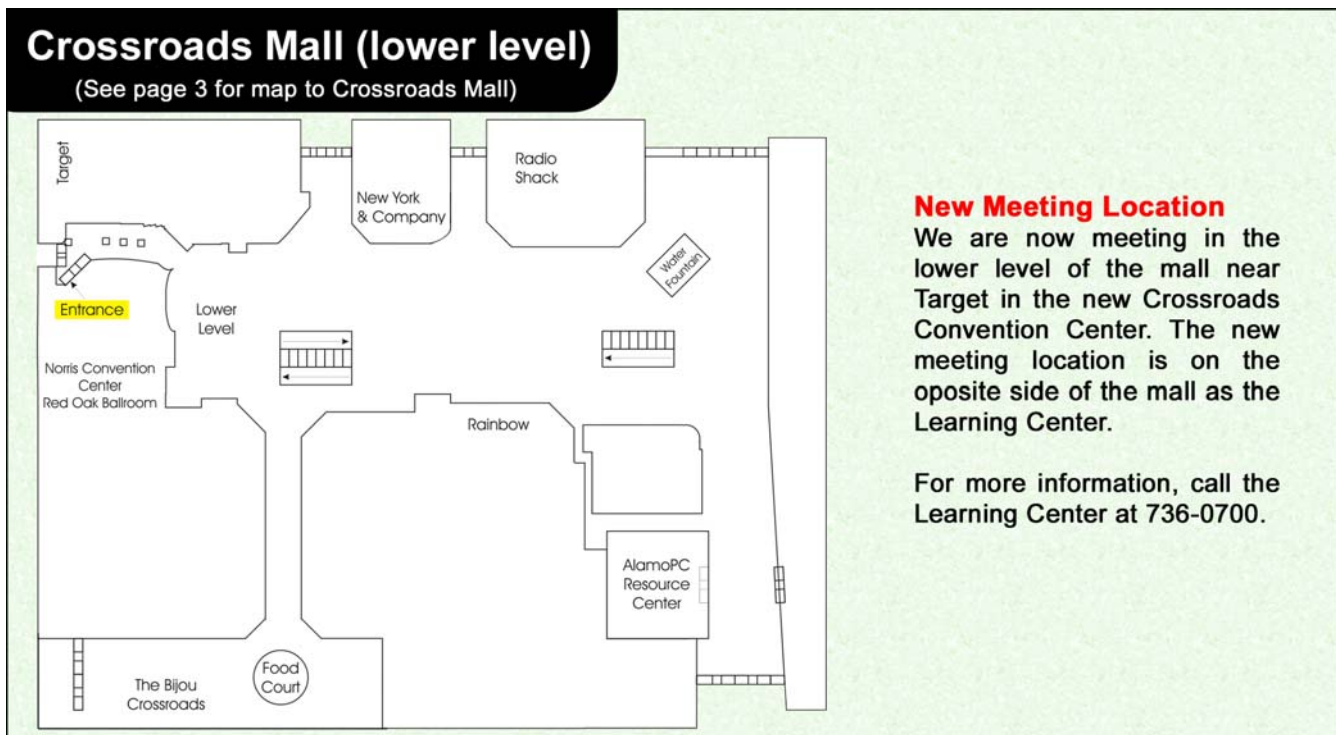
Learning Center, Crossroads Mall

736-0700

FAX 736-0032

| | | | |
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For Study Groups and Classes, phone: 736-0080 or 736-0700



PC Alamode Links List



ESPN 360

[<http://espn360.com/>](http://espn360.com/)

Watch live games directly from your browser. The program only fully works through Internet service providers who have signed up and paid ESPN for the programming.



Do it yourself center

[<http://www.doityourself.com/>](http://www.doityourself.com/)

Learn how to do home repairs yourself, shop for supplies and more.

enter

This month, have a read about hardware issues such as laptop heat build-up (and be careful not to burn your lap), powerful new processors and putting together your own computer.

We also pay a special tribute to the volunteers who keep our computers healthy at the Dr. Is In Clinic. Read about some funny and interesting situations a collection of doctors from a Nevada user group chronicled in a two-part series, combined in a single article.

Don't forget, the APCUG is sponsoring a photo contest. You have until September 30 to enter your photos in this contest. The kick-off event for the 2007 Annual Conference will showcase the talents of member group photographers. Somewhere inside of all of us is a creative genius just waiting for the chance to grab the spotlight and we want to give you that chance. There will be multiple chances to win, professional judging and our own "Photo Idol" chosen from our Conference attendees! So, grab those cameras and start shooting!

Joseph de Leon, Editor

[<editor@alamopc.org>](mailto: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

"September and schools"

The month of September use to be the month when the new school year started. Now, the school year starts about mid August and lets out later. It satisfies the number of days some group decided that children need to be "in school." I don't think children have gotten smarter because of this, but it allows the teachers more "in service" time to give the appearance that teachers are better prepared. To me, all that has happened is that children have a longer school year and teachers have more work, not more teaching time.

Maybe this, and perhaps the comparative lower average hourly pay for time expended on the job (not to mention personal expense for items deemed necessary to teach), are some of the reasons why it is becoming more difficult to find individuals willing to become a "class room teacher." Waning interest in teaching might be the term which best describes the overall situation.

I believe the same "waning interest" can be applied to the Alamo PC organization, in general, and to the Board of Director positions as a specific. The evidence at hand should help to support my statement.

If you read my article last month you will remember that I was "aghast" - struck with terror, amazement, or horror : SHOCKED! I still am, because of the "waning interest" from current members, through the monthly declining numbers and difficulty in obtaining much needed support from individuals, for the organization.

As I mentioned last month, the Election Committee has tried to seek members willing to serve at the BOD level, but since we have operated with vacant positions since Oct 2005 (despite numerous pleas from me in past messages), it would appear the task may prove to be difficult. Not a single "Floor Nomination" name was provided from the 39 individuals who were present at the July General Meeting. (Sadly, I had to report to those present that the election committee search at that time had also not produce one single name from among our members.)

The election process for Oct 2006-Sep 2007 fiscal year is under way. Currently, the voting portion is proceeding to allow individual members the opportunity to provide "write-in" names only. Thus far (late August) only four names have been submitted. Each has been contacted to see if they will serve. Three have declined and one is currently serving. If additional names are provided, they too will be contacted. Individuals willing to serve will be appointed to vacant board positions based on the number of submissions for each name [highest to lowest], and only after individuals currently serving in positions about to expire have had the opportunity to indicate they will continue to serve.

Once again I ask each member to commit to being just a little more actively involved with the Alamo PC Organization. This is OUR organization, and if WE want it to continue, WE must continue to be a member and try to participate at some level.

Consider taking advantage of the free class benefit by enrolling in one or more of the classes. (If a class you would like to have isn't on the list, make it known to the people at the Learning Center. They will put it on the "Wish List" of classes that people have requested. One membership entitles one family member to vote, but it entitles each family member in the household to enroll in free classes during, the time the membership is current.

I am sad to say we are continuing the trend of not retaining members at the level we need. Also, new members are not sufficient to offset non-renewing members. (I think you can do the math!) 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.

This future of OUR organization is essentially in the hands of its members. Whether WE continue (or not) depends on the interest and involvement of each member. But, it primarily depends on membership renewals and/or financial support. Without those, we will not be able to meet our financial obligations and "business decisions" will have to be made that will affect everyone.

This month's article is a little shorter than usual, but I don't believe there is more I can say on the matter. All I can say at this point is "HELP!" We are (and have been) vparing the financial expenditures as much as possible, but that is only slowing a process that seems to have been decided by the position of many current and former members "withdraw support because I don't have a printed magazine in my hands!"

Consider that those few individuals willing to serve are becoming tired and are increasingly overworked. Don't be surprised if you see more board positions become vacant during the coming year, than currently exists. I truly hope that is not going to be the case, but we have individuals currently serving who have not made a decision on whether they will continue. If they don't, it will truly impact the future of this organization. Much needed work will not be done unless others are willing to take on more work than they should currently have.

September Program

David Steward

A program has not been confirmed for September. Please visit [<http://www.alamopc.org>](http://www.alamopc.org) for more information.

News Brief

Basic DVD Recording

DVDs are like CDs, but with greater capacity; you can record sound, video, or data. The latest CDs allow 700MB of data, or 80 minutes of sound or video (mpeg1 format) whereas the DVDs allow 4.7 GB or 120 minutes of sound or video (mpeg2 format). Then you have Double Layer DVDs which allow 9.6 GB or approximately 3.7 hours of video. As we probe into the basics you will find approximately 10% of the room on your disk is used by Titles, Menus, and Directories.

First, what do we need to accomplish the recording of data, and sound:

A computer with a minimum of 1 Ghz, 512 MB of RAM, 40 GB hard drive, CDR optical drive, video with 32 MB RAM for 1024 x 768 screen mode, and recording software such as “NERO” by Ahead Software.

Second, we need all the above plus the items below for Video:

A DVDR optical drive, an input device such as ADS’ InstantDVD (USB input) or equivalent for recording from VHS tape, and a VCR. A firewire input card can be used if you are recording from a digital camcorder (DV).

To record data and sound on DVDs is very similar to CDs, but video is different only because we use a different format. A CD may be used with this format and would hold approximately 30 minutes of mpeg2 (MP2) video. This CD would be called a “VCD” (Video CD) and would be played on a DVD Player.

There are several different video formats such as WMV, MPE, MPG, MP1, MP2, MP4, etc. MP1 (352x480) is fine for B&W video, but size and quality is too low for color. MP2 (720x480) is the most common format used at this time for doing video DVDs. MP2 can be recorded in low (3382Kbits per sec), medium (5073Kbits per sec), and high (9716Kbits per sec) quality.

Before you start recording video, you may want to shut down all the programs running in the background to gain the maximum amount of System Resources in order to acquire the greatest performance when recording video. You will use 4 to 20 GB of your hard drive for recording a two hour video depending on the format you use.

“NERO” (Version 6 or 7) is the cheapest way to go for software. This program will do just about everything for you (two hours plus on DVD, some editing, excellent recording). I also have used “MyDVD v4 or5” by Sonic (easy to use, some editing, up to 1.9 hours on a DVD), “MyDVD v6” by Sonic (up to 3.5 hours on a DVD, but SONY players do not like the recording format), “Premiere Elements” by Adobe (easy editing is great, but recording is only good for one hour, jumps around with movement and going more than one hour really destroys it by also getting choppy), “Movie Factory2” by Ulead (not bad, but very time consuming and hard to use, 1.9 hours on DVD) and “Studio Plus 10” by Pinnacle (very demanding, needs more memory and high quality video card; very hard to use!).

I am using an INTEL P4, 3.06 Ghz, 512 MB RAM @ 800 MHz, GeForce FX5200 128 MB RAM video card, and a Digital Research model DDVD116DL (DVD Recorder with NERO software), an ADS Instant DVD VHS input device, which converts the analog video to digital Mpeg2 format via a USB port, and an IEEE firewire port for my DV Digital Camcorder.

By Bob Elgines, Editor, Colorado River Computer Club, Arizona

News Brief

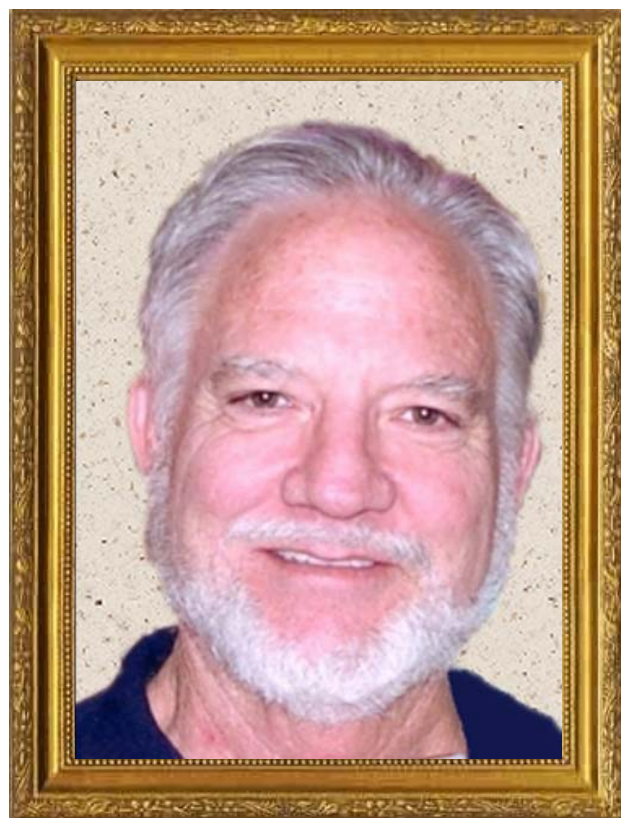
Brain Waves

Neurofeedback, a form of conditioning that rewards people for producing specific brain waves, taps youths' fascination with animation and electronics to sweeten frightening medical treatments. While this form of treatment has been around for decades, incorporating video games marks a new frontier that taps young people's fascination with animation and electronics to sweeten often frightening, lengthy and tedious medical treatments. Video games are being used, for instance, to help sick children manage pain and anxiety during hospital stays. A young leukemia patient inspired "Ben's Game," which let him fight the cancer cells invading his body. A private island called Brigadoon in Linden Lab's "Second Life" virtual world is open only to people with Asperger's syndrome and autism. West Virginia's public schools are battling obesity by making "Dance Dance Revolution"--a step-to-the-beat video game--part of their curriculum, while Nintendo has made a splash with its new "Brain Age" mind-exercising game. CyberLearning's Smart BrainGames system targets symptoms arising from brain injuries, attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and learning disabilities. Priced at \$584, the system is built on NASA technology that used video games and neurofeedback to train pilots. Traditional treatments, such as prescribing the stimulant Ritalin, behavioral therapy and education, are often covered by health insurance, while neurofeedback usually is not. Despite such hurdles, some medical practitioners are advocating the new approach.



Volunteer of the Month

Joe Davis



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:

Sept. 9, 2006
more info at <http://www.pcshows.com/>



Funny Bytes

Ken Nash & Randy Glasbergen



News Brief

APCUG Digital Photo Contest

You have until September 30 to submit your photos. Let your imagination look through your viewfinder! Photos may be submitted in each of four categories:

People and children

Animals

Landscape / Flowers

Still Life

Note: Landscape can be mountains, sky, sea, flowers, desert, trees, etc. Still life is any object not shown in motion: architecture, automobiles, boats, sculpture, historical objects, etc.

FAQs

Why do I need to submit 4 copies and 1 CD-ROM?

Each judge (and there are 3) will receive a copy for judging; 1 copy is for displaying at the annual conference – the "Photo Idol" will be chosen from the Conference attendees; and the picture(s) on the CD-ROM will be used to upload the pictures to <www.apcug.net>, etc.

Why do I need to print the photos, why can't someone just print them from the CD-ROM?

Your personal printer or printing service (COSTCO, Walgreens, Wal-Mart, etc.) produces a unique print and we want the pictures to look and be judged as the person who took the pictures wants them to look.

An entry blank for this contest is available at:

<<http://www.apcug.net/events/photocontest/index.htm>>

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.

Thanks for your feedback from my remarks last month. I had no negative responses, but I was assured that there probably were some people out there who didn't bother to write me. Probably so, but I appreciated the responses I did receive.

I read an article in Information Week about a disgruntled employee who was alleged to have planted 50 to 70 malicious lines of code, amounting to a "logic bomb," before he left the company." It disabled about 2000 servers and brought the company system to a standstill. After four years, they have still not repaired all the damage. It is titled "The Threat Within" and revealed how much damage a disgruntled employee in an organization can really cause. The accused perpetrator is in court, but that doesn't change the damages done. Try these URLs to read more about it: <<http://www.informationweek.com/security/UBStrial/>> and <<http://www.informationweek.com/showArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=RQI5JLK20L2XUQSN DLPCCKHSCJUNN2JVN;?articleID=188703447>>

I have packed a lot into this column so be sure to check the product Web sites for better information. I cut a lot of description info out to shorten the items. Also, check the Web site's privacy statements. I have not tried any of these. Be sure to check the information closely.

*Get Those Drives & Petitions Back!

DiskInternals NTFS Recovery can scan any physical drive or virtual image. It doesn't make any changes to the drive itself and can be safely used even on the system volume. While scanning the drive, its recovery wizard shows the progress with the number of found files and folders. When the scanning is over, the user can change some disk properties. You can, for instance set up a new cluster size or proceed with the existing one. The program displays all recoverable files and folders in the explorer-like window. A search engine helps find desired files and moves them to a safe location. With DiskInternals NTFS Recovery, you can access files that the system fails to see.

DiskInternals NTFS Recovery v1.5 runs under Windows 98/ME/NT/2000/XP/2003 Server platforms. A single user license costs \$99.95 USD. DiskInternals offers a 15% discount using the link <https://www.regnow.com/softsell/nph-softsell.cgi?item=11238-8&ss_coupon=NTFS-RAJ9-PR>. The coupon code is NTFS-RAJ9-PR. Registration entitles all users to free technical support and minor upgrades. A fully functional evaluation version of the program is available for download at <http://www.DiskInternals.com/download/NTFS_Recovery.zip>.

Product page link: <<http://www.DiskInternals.com/ntfs-recovery/>>

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

Postal Address: Pacific Business Centre, DiskInternals Research, P.O. Box 34069 #381, Seattle, WA 98124-1069, USA
Fax: 206-984-3919

They did not respond to my message when researching the information so I hope the discount is still good. Also, check close to see if there are any catches with the "fully functional" downloadable copy.

*Monitor What The Kids View

Adult Photo Blanker guards computer users from the ubiquitous expansion of pornography and violence in our life. This program not only prevents your children from accessing unwanted websites, but also controls the content of video files and photos loaded into your computer memory from the hard disk. This smart tool monitors nearly all multimedia content. Adult Photo Blanker uses 11 special criteria to reveal objectionable films, websites, images and the like. The program combines this built-in artificial intelligence scanner with the keyword filter, which recognizes unwanted content by specified words, and it is concealed from inexperienced users. Adult Photo Blanker is protected with a password, so if you want to turn it off and watch an adult film, you must use the password you previously specified. It features Block and Safe lists to customize each user settings individually. Each family member can configure options of the program in his/her own way. By the time you read this, a newer version will be introduced.

Adult Photo Blanker runs under Windows 98 (partially) / ME (partially) / 2000 / XP and costs \$49.95 (USD.) Users group members receive a 20% discount. Just enter DEAL-LSFQ-GUY where it calls for a coupon when downloading the paid version. A fully functional trial version of the program is available as a free download at <http://www.oreware.com/download_prog.php?id_prog=25> (4.09 Mb)

Product page URL: <<http://www.oreware.com/viewprogram.php?prog=25>>

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

*This Product Claims To Further Improve Your Windows Operation

True Launch Bar gets the best of MS Windows OS and streamlines it for greater comfort of use. Its unique system of switching toolbars and expandable menus gives instant access to files, applications, and settings from the taskbar. In addition, overlay images and skins give the system polish and slick looks. The latest update offers support to Windows Vista. You can also group shortcuts into menus that expand and collapse at a click, or float on top of other windows. The use of Drag-n-Drop helps quickly fill the menus with shortcuts for files and applications, system settings and controls. You can customize its color scheme and add gradients and

transparency effects. Its plug-ins will equip your taskbar with a newsreader and the weather forecast. You will be able to monitor resources and network activities, access the address book and control media players.

True Launch Bar v4.0 runs under Windows 98/ Me/ 2000/ XP/ 2003/ Vista platforms. A single user license costs \$19.90 (USD). The company also offers a home license for 4 installations priced at \$49 USD. All registered users are entitled to free technical support and program updates. Additional plug-ins and skinning libraries are on the company web site. A fully functional evaluation version of the program is available for download at <<http://download.truelaunchbar.com/install/tlb4.exe>>. True Launch Bar V4.0 will be available at a 30% discount to user group members on these special links to the order pages: True Launch Bar Personal License: <<http://www.regsoft.net/purchase.php3?productid=51538&pc=7L0L7>>

True Launch Bar Home License: <<http://www.regsoft.net/purchase.php3?productid=53346&pc=7U0I4>> Product page link: <<http://www.truelaunchbar.com>>

*Lets Improve That Password Protection!

Double Password, a new security manager, creates your security token on your flash drive (or other USB gadget, such as an MP3 player, PDA or even a USB-pluggable mobile handset). This device becomes the key to your OS. Double Password makes sure that no one can interfere with the work of your computer or get access to your data. It encrypts your password, which can accompany your security token. No external spy program can intercept your password. This is attained thanks to a special "double-bottom" password, which Double Password applies to protect your computer. This means that you enter one password, but the program remembers another (it remembers it in a special encrypted way, which cannot be seen from the outside).

Double Password offers security levels in low, medium and high. "Low" means all users can get access to your computer. "Medium" means that a user can log into your OS only with the help of a special security token (total security is guaranteed as you resort to the described "double-bottom" password). "High" is similar to "Medium", however in this case you cannot even work if your security token is out.

Double Password runs under Microsoft Windows NT/2000/ XP. Users group members get a 20% discount using the coupon code YTR79G3 where requested. Discount prices are: Personal license, \$29.95; Family license, \$79.95 and Business license \$59.95.

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

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

*This Game Is A Blood-Chiller

From the creators of "Gunner 2" comes a new breath taker called JetJumper. The plot of the game implies that you become the pilot of an outlandish jumping machine equipped with a powerful jet engine. As soon as the jet engine sets the jumping machine into motion, you will have to jump from one platform to another. JetJumper helps you to collect a variety of useful items, which you are sure to come across; gems, magnets, green keys and the like. All these items help you to score and eliminate some obstacles on your way and to get new lives. Magnets help you to collect more gems. Once you have grabbed a magnet, all gems on your way start sticking

to you like flies to an adhesive pad. Once you have jumped aside and have fallen from a platform, the game leaves no chance for your JetJumper to survive. During a takeoff, your JetJumper's jet engine exerts a force of thousands of newtons, so only a professional pilot can handle this aircraft.

JetJumper runs under Windows 9x, Me, 2000, XP (DirectX 8.0 or higher required). The game costs \$19.95 (USD) and they offer a 10% discount to all group members by using TAB000BL code and this URL: <<https://secure.bmtmicro.com/servlets/Orders.ShoppingCart?CID=949&PRODUCTID=9490005>> Registered customers are entitled to unlimited game play and a multitude of unlocked levels.

Product page link: <<http://www.warlockstudio.com/jetjumper.html>>

A trial version offering 60 minutes of game play, is available as a free download at <<http://www.warlockstudio.com/download/jetjumper-setup.exe>>

For more information about the company or games, please visit <<http://www.warlockstudio.com>>

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The Rights of Privacy and Publicity

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>

One often hears the term, "right of privacy," used during conversation. But, what does it really mean, particularly in relation to the Internet. Wikipedia states that "Internet privacy consists of privacy over the media of the Internet: the ability to control what information one reveals about oneself over the Internet, and to control who can access that information. Many people use the term to mean universal Internet privacy: every user of the Internet possessing Internet privacy. Internet privacy forms a subset of computer privacy. Experts in the field of Internet privacy have a general consensus that Internet privacy does not really exist. Privacy advocates believe that it should exist."

It is generally accepted that William L. Prosser, a noted authority in the field of legal torts (at common law, a tort was a civil wrong, other than a breach of contract, for which a legal remedy existed), identified four distinct causes of action for invasion of privacy in a law review article written in 1960. Prosser specified these causes of action as 1) appropriation of a person's name or likeness for commercial benefit; 2) unreasonable intrusion, or intentional interference with a person's interest in solitude or seclusion (either in his/her person or private affairs); 3) public disclosure of private facts; and, 4) publicity which places a person in a false light. This article will be concerned primarily with the first cause of action, also known as the right of publicity.

Consider the following hypothetical set of facts. Jane Doe is a party to litigation. The opposing party hires an expert witness to testify on some issue in the case. The expert is frequently used by parties in this type of litigation. The expert has a web site that lists all the cases in which the s/he has been used. The cases are identified by the names of the parties, the style of the case, and the name of the party that hired the expert. Is the web site a violation of Jane Doe's right of publicity? It is easy to find the web page because Internet search engines have indexed the web site.

One authority states that the right of publicity is recognized in eleven States by way of the common law and that eighteen States have enacted statutes that address the right of publicity. I am particularly concerned with the status of the law in Oklahoma since that is where Jane Doe resides.

Oklahoma has two statutes. The first pertains to the use of a "deceased personality's name, voice, signature, photograph, or likeness, in any manner, on or in products, merchandise, or goods, or for purposes of advertising or selling, or soliciting purchases of, products, merchandise, goods, or services, without prior consent." The second statute pertains to living persons. Since the web site of the expert is for the purpose of selling a service, then such use is in violation of Oklahoma's right of publicity statute. IMHO

There is an easy fix, the expert can simply redact the name of the party who is not the client. The effect of the web site remains the same and the non-consenting party is protected. The other States that have statutory rights of publicity provisions are: California, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Nebraska, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin.

The U.S. Supreme Court recognized the right of publicity in a 1977 case styled, *Zacchini vs. Scripps-Howard Broadcasting Co.* Justice White wrote the majority opinion and stated, the "Petitioner's right of publicity here rests on more than a desire to compensate the performer for the time and effort invested in the act; the protection provided an economic incentive for him to make the investment required to produce a performance of interest to the public."

The *Zacchini* case has an interesting set of facts. The syllabus of the opinion states that *Zacchini* performed a 15-second "human cannonball" act, in which he is shot from a cannon into a net some 200 feet away, [and] was, without his consent, videotaped in its entirety at a county fair in Ohio by a reporter for respondent broadcasting company and shown on a television news program later the same day. *Zacchini* then brought a damages action in state court against respondent, alleging an "unlawful appropriation" of his "professional property." The Ohio Supreme Court, while recognizing that petitioner had a cause of action under state law on his "right to the publicity value of his performance," nevertheless, relying on *Time, Inc. v. Hill*, 385 U.S. 374, rendered judgment for respondent on the ground that it is constitutionally privileged to include in its newscasts matters of public interest that would otherwise be protected by the right of publicity, absent an intent to injure or to appropriate for some non-privileged purpose.

That Court stated that "the First and Fourteenth Amendments do not immunize the news media when they broadcast a performer's entire act without his consent, and the Constitution no more prevents a State from requiring respondent to compensate petitioner for broadcasting his act on television than it would privilege respondent to film and broadcast a copyrighted dramatic work without liability to the copyright owner, or to film or broadcast a prize fight or a baseball game, where the promoters or participants had other plans for publicizing the event. *Time, Inc. v. Hill*, supra, distinguished."

"The broadcast of a film of petitioner's entire act poses a substantial threat to the economic value of that performance, since (1) if the public can see the act free on television it will be less willing to pay to see it at the fair, and (2) the broadcast goes to the heart of petitioner's ability to earn a living as an entertainer. The protection of petitioner's right of publicity provides an economic incentive for him to make the investment required to produce a performance of interest to the public."

"While entertainment, as well as news, enjoys First Amendment protection, and entertainment itself can be important news, neither the public nor respondent will be deprived of the benefit of petitioner's performance as long as his commercial stake in his act is appropriately recognized."

It is important to note that State law could vary the right of the news media to broadcast the event (subject to the provisions of federal law in the areas of copyright and trademark).

Jane Doe's facts may not be as interesting as those in *Zacchini* but the expert can make a determination as to the application of the Oklahoma right of publicity statute after he receives a "cease and desist" letter.

Knowledge is Power: SIW and Autoruns

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>

Knowing the intimate details of your PC is a necessity when troubleshooting or repairing. Now, having said that, Windows does provide a lot of information but it is not always easy to find or accessible by a simple click of the mouse. For example, if you lose your Windows Key, how do you find it? Is a high temperature on my hard drive or CPU causing my system lockups? What processes are currently running or what programs start when I start Windows?

Two free programs, SIW and Autoruns will answer these questions and provide answers to questions you have not even thought of yet!

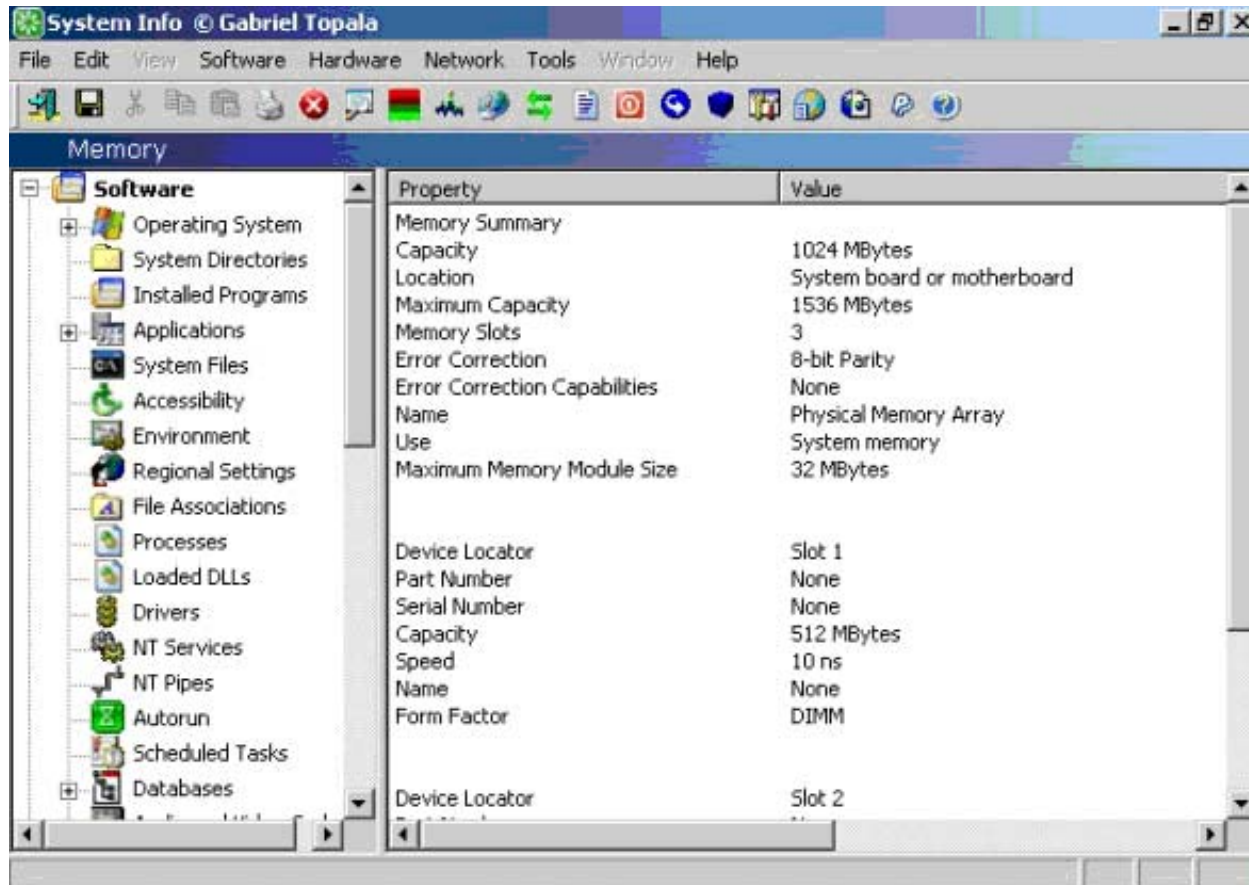
SIW - System Information for Windows

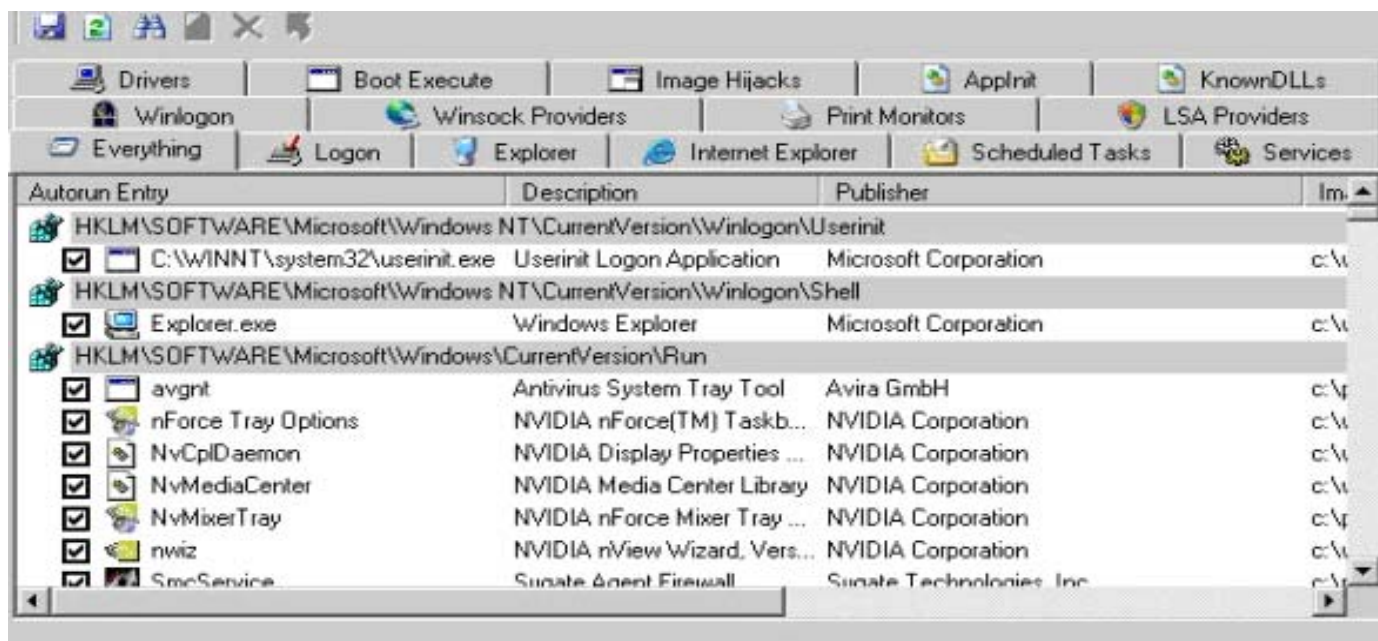
Written by Gabriel Topala, SIW is an easy to use program that, "Performs computer configuration analysis and diagnostics". With no installation required, it is just click and run. It can be loaded on to your USB flash drive, transported, and run straight from the flash drive. Detailed information is presented in a simple interface about such items as: network traffic, CPU, motherboard, chipset, BIOS, CPU, PCI/AGP, USB and ISA/PnP devices, memory, monitor, video card, disk drives, CD/DVD devices, SCSI devices, S.M.A.R.T., ports, network cards, printers, operating system, installed programs, hot fixes, processes, services, serial numbers (CD keys), users, open files,

system uptime, network, and network shares. If that were not enough, real-time information for CPU, memory and pagefile usage is also available. Just click on the Secrets links to reveal passwords hidden behind asterisks.

Several basic network tools are also thrown in such as ping, trace and Whois to name just a few. The program can run in batch mode and can create an HTML report; however, be careful when creating a report since all system information is logged by default, including passwords! To choose which items should be documented, go to Tools in the top menu bar and choose Options.

SIW will run on, Microsoft Windows 98/Me/NT4/2000/XP/Server 2003/Media Center/Tablet PC/Windows 2003 Server R2/Windows Server 2003 x64/Windows XP x64/Vista.





Autoruns – by Mark Russinovich and Bryce Cogswell

Like SIW, Autoruns does not need to be installed on your hard drive and weighing in around 725KB; you can put it on a floppy. Written by the good folks over at Sysinternals, this latest tool will show you the current auto-start applications and the full list of Registry and file system locations available for auto-start configuration. Auto-start locations displayed by Autoruns include logon entries, Explorer add-ons, Internet Explorer add-ons including Browser Helper Objects (BHOs), image hijacks, boot execute images, logon notification DLLs, services and Winsock providers.

An auto-start entry can be disabled by removing the check in the check box or removed entirely by simply selecting the entry and pressing the delete key.

With a right-click of the mouse button a handy menu is displayed and there you will find one of my favorite features; if you don't know what a particular auto-start program is, an option to look up a file with a Google Web search is available. Select the file you have a question about, right-click and choose Google. The number of folks using Autoruns is growing and with that growth is an increase of people seeking answers, fortunately others are sharing their knowledge. In another words, it's getting easier to find information on those obscure programs that start up every time you log in to windows.

You can hide the Microsoft entries by selecting the Hide Microsoft Entries in the Options menu. This will allow you to zoom in on suspect or unfamiliar entries. Select entries in the User menu to view auto-starting images for different user accounts.

The various selection tabs include:

- **Logon** This entry results in scans of standard auto-start locations such as the Startup folder for the current user and all users, the Run Registry keys, and standard application launch locations.
- **Explorer** Select this entry to see Explorer shell extensions, browser helper objects, explorer toolbars, active setup executions, and shell execute hooks.
- **Internet Explorer** This entry shows Browser Helper Objects (BHOs), Internet Explorer toolbars and extensions.
- **Services** All Windows services configured to start automatically when the system boots.

- **Drivers** This displays all kernel-mode drivers registered on the system except those that are disabled.
- **Scheduled Tasks** Task scheduler tasks configured to start at boot or logon.
- **AppInit DLLs** This has Autoruns shows DLLs registered as application initialization DLLs.
- **Boot Execute** Native images (as opposed to Windows images) that run early during the boot process.
- **Image Hijacks** Image file execution options and command prompt auto-starts.
- **Known DLLs** This reports the location of DLLs that Windows loads into applications that reference them.
- **Winlogon Notifications** Shows DLLs that register for Winlogon notification of logon events.
- **Winsock Providers** Shows registered Winsock protocols, including Winsock service providers. Malware often installs itself as a Winsock service provider because there are few tools that can remove them. Autoruns can uninstall them, but cannot disable them.
- **LSA Providers** Shows registers Local Security Authority (LSA) authentication, notification and security packages.
- **Printer Monitor Drivers** Displays DLLs that load into the print spooling service. Malware has used this support to auto-start itself.

Autoruns works on all versions of Windows including Windows XP 64-bit Edition (for x64) and Windows Server 2003 64-bit Edition (for x64).

By themselves SIW and Autoruns are two terrific free programs, but using both creates the potential to stop problems cold. These are definitely two “must have” pieces of software!

Autoruns is available from Sysinternals (Now a wholly owned subsidiary of Microsoft Corporation):

<http://www.sysinternals.com/Utilities/Autoruns.html>

SIW is available from Gabriel Topala's website: <http://www.gtopala.com>



Fix your Windows

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 29.

While I was looking for a topic for this column I came across a recent press release from Homeland Security (<http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=5789>) in which computer users were urged to apply a patch from Microsoft. If the patch is not applied computers would be vulnerable to an exploit that would allow an attacker to remotely take control of an affected system and install programs, view, change, or delete data, and create new accounts with full user rights. The patch can be found at <http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/bulletin/ms06-040.mspx>.

If you have automatic updates set to run you more than likely already have this patch.

This goes to show you how important keeping your Window operating system up to date is. Versions of Windows XP prior to Service Pack 2 (SP2) will no longer be able to obtain updates after October 10, 2006.

Yes, this leaves those computers unlocked so to speak. The bottom line here is if you don't already have SP2, get it. If you can't get it because your computer is too old or your hardware won't support it, for example your hard drive doesn't have any more room, you need to look at upgrading or getting a new computer, if you still want to compute...safely that is.

With computer prices considerably lower than what they were in the past some folks may want to consider the cost of an upgrade versus a new computer. Most computer manufacturers are offering new computers at \$500, \$400 or even \$300 and below with special offers and rebates. When looking into an upgrade of a hard drive, memory, and the cost of Windows XP you could well be looking at \$300 and beyond.

The fact is most computers do not die in a puff of smoke, they simply outlive their design life and this was never truer in this day of evolving technology. Every year we are required to upgrade this or that software to keep up with the threats of viruses and spyware or to do the taxes again and other computer automated tasks. These new programs get heftier every year, with more bells, more whistles and so forth. These new features require more of our computers.

If you do come to the decision to buy a new computer the question is what to look for? I say that most computer manufacturers are putting out basically the same thing. If you are looking for a computer to do word processing, Internet surfing, email, maybe some spreadsheets, and some basic photo editing, your basic desktop computer with the following specifications will serve you well:

- Processor - 2.6 GHz (gigahertz)
- Memory (RAM) – 512 MB (megabyte)
- Hard Drive - 80 GB (gigabyte)
- a network card – for broadband connection or modem if you are still using dial up
- CD/DVD player

You should not have a problem finding a computer with these specifications for under \$500. Generally speaking the processor is the engine. This determines how fast that computer will run. Obviously the more the better. This can get a little confusing. The processor I mentioned above is an Intel Pentium 2.6 GHz. Intel also makes a flavor called the Celeron.

The Celeron is the lower cost, economy, version. Like an economy car you get what you pay for. AMD, Intel's rival, also makes processors. Their rating system is somewhat different. They go by specifications such as 3200+, 3400+, 3800+ and so on. 3800+ is equivalent to 2.4 GHz. They also make an economy version called the Sempron.

Memory is like a carburetor letting the engine get more gas making it go faster, the more memory you have the more programs you can run at one time, it makes it easier to "multi-task" and essentially go faster. The bigger your hard drive, the more space you have to put all those files, pictures, and programs on your computer.

The specifications above are just the basics. If you plan to play some of the newer role playing games, do video editing or complex graphic editing you should look at a higher end computer. Remember that if you are having a friend, relative or the mom & pop shop build a computer for you, you should think about support down the road.

With the ever increasing online threat due to new computer viruses coming out daily, spyware, hackers, phishers and other misfit's, computer security is a must for everyone. Operating a computer vulnerable to security threats is like driving a car with bald tires and bad brakes, your doing it at a risk.

Stay vigilante and happy computing.

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SP1 Abandoned in the Fall

A popup message from Windows Update has been alerting me recently to the fact that Microsoft is ending its support for Windows XP Service Pack 1 (SP1) as of October 10, 2006. It offers a free download of SP2, which will continue to be supported once installed.

If, like me, you are still running SP1, you might think that it is no big deal since you never call or write Microsoft for support anyhow! But the one big problem is that there will no longer be any security up-dates for the old version of XP. As you know, Microsoft is regularly learning of security holes in their OS and issuing updates (patches for the holes) that you should be installing to keep your computer some-what safe from hackers. These security updates will continue to be available to XP users with SP2 in-stalled, but they will end in October for SP1.

If you don't know whether or not SP2 is installed, simply click Start/My Computer (or the My Computer link on your desktop) and then on the left side of the My Computer window under System Tasks, click View system information. The System Properties window that pops up will show basic information about your computer, including the installed Service Pack for XP.

If you need to upgrade to SP2, go to this Microsoft web page:

<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/sp2/default.msp>. You'll find a link in the Get Windows XP SP2 Now box to receive the huge file on a CD by mail for only the cost of mailing. This saves you the trouble of a long download and provides a CD for quick reinstall if it should be necessary. The page also provides "quick tips for a successful upgrade" under the How link.

Similarly, support is finally ending on the same date for Windows 98, ME, and NT. But I doubt that many of you are running these operating systems these days, and if you are you long ago ceased to worry about support from Microsoft!

Some of you may have heard that Microsoft announced (on their web site) that support for Windows XP Home and Media Center Edition would be discontinued at the end of 2006—regardless of which service pack is installed. But that was an error, according to Microsoft. Here is the full story on that Microsoft gaff from ZD Net news:

Until Tuesday night, a posting on Microsoft's Web site stated that support for Windows XP Home and Windows XP Media Centre Edition would end on 31 December, 2006. That would mean no more security fixes or any other support items, such as warranty claims, for users of those operating system products.

But the posting was incorrect, Ines Vargas, a program manager at Microsoft, told ZDNet UK sister site CNET News.com. The software maker has now updated the online information to reflect that the consumer Windows XP editions, along with XP Professional, will be supported until two years after Vista ships, she said. Vista, the long-delayed next update of Windows, is expected to arrive by the end of the year.

"This was brought to our attention late last week, and since then, we have worked diligently to make the change on the site, which was effective Tuesday night," she said. "It was not a change in support policy. It is reflective of the policy as we understand it."

....so we can rest easy knowing we are safe in the hands of Microsoft!

**- By Chuck Thomas, member of the Bowling Green Area
Microcomputer User Group, KY. <Chuckt@insightbb.com>**



Internet, Part VIII

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.

The most tedious and time-consuming part of most Internet searches may be paging through your results list. You can speed things up considerably by remembering to set the display options. If the search engine you're using offers this option, set it to show the maximum number of hits at once. Paging through 50 or 100 items is surprisingly more efficient than clicking the Next 10 button numerous times. Don't automatically click on every link that your search engine delivers. Instead look at the titles, headlines, or brief descriptions, and follow only the ones that sound most promising to you.

Spyware

The Internet has countless shareware programs many of which are good additions to your computer. However, some arrive with spyware. Below are some programs to avoid. In case you installed them on your computer, the following links will help in removing these programs from your computer: Bonzi Buddy <www.bonzi.com/support/bdyremove.htm#remove>. Click2FindNow <<http://toolbar.click2findnow.com/uninstall.exe>>. Go Hip <www.gohip.com/remove_browser_enhancement.html>. * HotBar <<http://hotbar.com/downloads/HbUninst.exe>>. I-Lookup <<http://www.i-lookup.com/uninstall.exe>>.

If you don't want programs with spyware on your computer, it's up to you to block them. Here are some tips: Read the terms when you download software. Legitimate programs will tell you if they include spyware. Install a software firewall, such as ZoneAlarm <<http://www.zonelabs.com>> and Outpost <<http://www.agnitum.com>>. Most of this software will not let a program report back to the Internet without your permission. Use spyware scanning programs, such as Ad-aware <<http://www.lavasoftusa.com>> and Spybot Search and Destroy <<http://security.kolla.d>>. Check regularly for updates. Before you download a program, check it in the database at SpyChecker <<http://www.spychecker.com>>. This database will tell you if spyware is included in the package.

Teens Web Site

Talking with your teen about troubling issues isn't always easy, so the Adolescence Directory On-Line

<<http://education.indiana.edu/cas/adol/adol.htm>> is here to help. Compiled and maintained by Indiana University, this site offers information on dealing with the following important issues: Physical fitness,

Violence, Alcohol and drugs, and Mental health. In addition, you'll find a link just for teens that includes pages on homework help, teen magazines, games, and pen pals.

Telephone Directories

Several Web sites offer complete "white pages" coverage with listings of home phone numbers for North America and many other countries. Most also offer e-mail addresses, selected businesses, and yellow pages listings. These following Web sites are a great way to locate long-lost friends: CBS Switchboard <<http://www.switchboard.com>>; WhoWhere from Lycos <<http://www.whowhere.com>>; and Yahoo People Search <<http://www.people.yahoo.com>>.

Translation Service

The search engine Google offers a translation service at <http://www.google.com/language_tools>. Type in text or enter a URL for a translation in half a dozen languages. As with any machine language translator, don't count on absolute accuracy. Babelfish <<http://babelfish.altavista.com/babelfish/>> takes words and phrases and translates them from English to a foreign language, and vice versa. It even has the ability to translate entire Web pages. Of course, the translations are of words and do not include definitions.

Tweakers Web Site

If you are someone who likes to get the last little bit of performance out of your system, then visit the Tweakers Web Site at <www.tweakers.com.au>. This Australian site features all kinds of technical information and several great equipment reviews. Tweakers also offers links to many sites of interest to computer users.

United States Postal Service

There's no need to run to the post office to change your address. You can do it online by going to

<<http://www.usps.com/moversguide/>>. There are other features of the USPS site <<http://www.usps.com>>.

You can calculate postage at <<http://www.usps.com/tools/calculatepostage/>>, find a ZIP code at <<http://usps.com/zip4/>>, and find a Post Office at <<http://www.mapsonus.com/db/USPS>>.

URL Access w/Internet Explorer (IE) 6

There's a very quick way to get to a Universal Resource Locator (URL) using the Microsoft IE 6 Address Bar. Just type in the domain name and press Ctrl + Enter. For example, if you want to visit Emazing.com, you don't have to type in www.emazing.com. Instead, just type in emazing and press Ctrl + Enter.

URL Message Therapy

"URL Message" is a trick any Internet surfer can easily master. The next time the URL you've typed comes up dry with a "Page Not Found" or "Invalid URL" message, also known as "PNF" or "Error 404" messages, don't give up. You can manipulate the URL to find a neighboring page that may point you in the right direction by just deleting the end part of the URL from the address. If you get another error message, then continue to

backup another directory level until you eventually get a page. From that page you may then be able to use menus to get to the desired URL location.

URL Shorthand

When using IE, you don't have to type the "http://" portion of the URL to connect. Just type the rest of the address, such as www.dummies.com. If you're accessing a non-Web address such as an FTP server, you will have to supply the beginning portion of the address, such as <ftp://ftp.microsoft.com>. If you're typing an address in IE's Address Bar, leave out the <http://www> and the [.com](http://www) parts of the address. Next, hold down the Ctrl key as you press the Enter key. Doing so will automatically add the <http://www> part of the URL to the beginning of the address and the [.com](http://www) part to the end of the address.

Wallpapering with Web Graphics

IE makes it easy to copy a favorite graphic from a Web page and save it as a wallpaper file that you can then use as the background for your Windows desktop. To turn a Web graphic into wallpaper for your desktop, use IE to go to the Web page that contains the graphic you want to save as wallpaper. Next you must right-click the Web graphic to display its pop-up shortcut menu and then click the Set as Wallpaper command." As soon as you click Set as Wallpaper, IE copies the selected graphic onto your hard disk in the \Windows directory with the filename Wallpaper.bmp and then makes this graphic the wallpaper for your desktop. To remove the Web graphic wallpaper, right-click the desktop and choose Properties on the desktop shortcut menu to open the Display Properties dialog box. Now choose a new graphics or HTML file for the wallpaper in the "Select a background picture" or HTML document as Wallpaper list box on the Background tab. If you no longer want any graphic displayed as the wallpaper, select the None option at the top of the drop-down list.

Weather Online

If you want to know whether it's raining in Raratonga or snowing in Saskatchewan, the Web is overflowing with weather sites to meet all your needs. Here are a few of them. Old Farmer's Almanac Long-Range Forecast <<http://www.almanac.com/weather/weather.html>> gives you a folksy, traditional take on the forecast. The National Weather Service <<http://www.nws.noaa.gov>> gives you the scientific, detailed take. Other popular weather sites include: AccuWeather <<http://accuweather.com/web/index.htm>>, Weather Channel <<http://www.weather.com/>>, WxUSA <<http://www.wxusa.com/>>, and Weather Underground <<http://www.wunderground.com/>>.

Web Address

Here are three tips in one paragraph. In WinXP you can type part of a web address in your browser, hold down Ctrl, press Enter, and the www and [.com](http://www) is inserted into your URL. For quick access to the web click on Start, Run, and enter a URL. You can also click on File, Open, and enter a web address there.

Web Browsing

As you surf the Internet using Win2000 Professional, the Back button, or the timesaver Alt+Left arrow key can come in handy when you're trying to retrace your steps. Instead of clicking the Back button one or

more times to get to a previously viewed site, click the downward-pointing arrow next to the Back button. A list of the previously visited sites drops down. Now select the site you

want, or click the bottom-most site to move back as far as possible along your tracks. Continue clicking that down arrow and choosing from the drop-down list until you get to the site you need. After you backtrack, you can quickly jump forward by repeating these steps but with the Forward button instead. Your browser jumps instantly to the site you select. Once you hit the end of the Back or Forward button lists, the button grays out and becomes inactive. This technique works only for addresses that you typed into the Address bar. The drop-down lists don't show URLs that you accessed via links or your Favorites list. Alternatively, you can click View, Go To. A fly-out menu displays a list of sites you've visited during your session. Click any of these to jump directly to the selected site.

Web Cam Hosting Service

To display live video broadcasts, called Webcasts, from your Web cam, you can either use a special streaming server or a special Web cam hosting service. These services are entirely free and provide you with a Web site for posting still images, prerecorded Web cam videos, or live video broadcasts direct from your own Web cam and computer. To use these services, you simply need to sign up and download their special software to connect your computer to the Web cam hosting computer. This special software takes care of the technical details of displaying your Web cam images or videos, so you can concentrate on having fun with your Web cam. If you want a free Web site that eliminates much of the hassle of posting video images on a Web page, take a good look at one of the following free Web cam hosting services: Camarades <<http://www.camarades.com>>; Pure Broadcasting Networks <<http://www.purebroadcasting.com>>; and Webcamnow <<http://www.webcamnow.com>>.

Web E-mail Accounts

When it comes to e-mail, you have basically two choices. You can use the system provided by your Internet Service Provider (ISP), or you can use a free Web service. If you have a Web account, you can access it anywhere. That feature is usually true of ISP systems, too, but you often don't get all the features of a real e-mail program. The two best Web systems are Yahoo! and Hotmail. They're at:

<<http://mail.yahoo.com/>> and <<http://www.hotmail.com>>. After signing up, you'll be given a free account. These work well, but if you save e-mails, you can buy extra storage. Yahoo! offers 10 megabytes of space for \$9.99 annually; Hotmail is \$19.95 for 10 MB.

Web Highlighter

The Web Highlighter utility lets you attach highlighting, notes and links to any Web page browsed with Microsoft IE 4.0 or later. You simply select the text you want to highlight and right-click to invoke the Web Highlighter menu. You can even customize highlighting styles by changing the font type, font color, and background color. After highlighting a text area, you can attach notes and links to it. This utility runs under Win95/98/ME/NT4.0/2000/XP. It's available at <www.pcmag.com/utilities>.

Here are a few keyboard shortcuts to use when surfing the Web. Use Alt+Right Arrow instead of the Forward button and Alt+Left Arrow instead of the Back button. You can also press the Spacebar or the Page Down key to scroll the current Web page down one screen. The Tab key moves the insertion point from object to object down a Web page while Shift+Tab moves the insertion point in the reverse direction. When this action highlights a link, pressing Enter activates the link. Lastly, Ctrl+N opens a new browser window.



Excel 2003, power programming

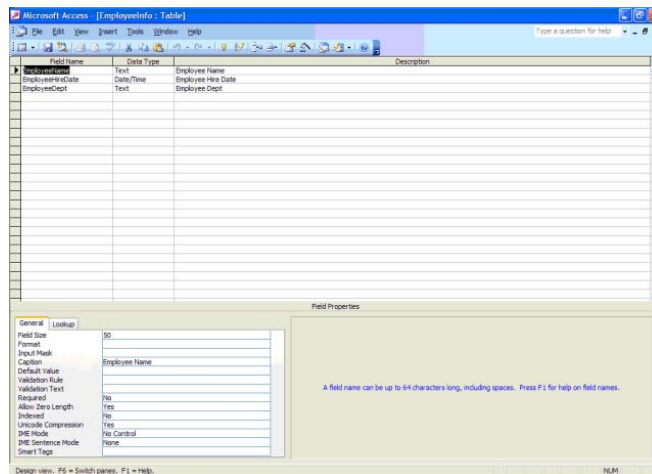
by **James D. Duncan, CPA**

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

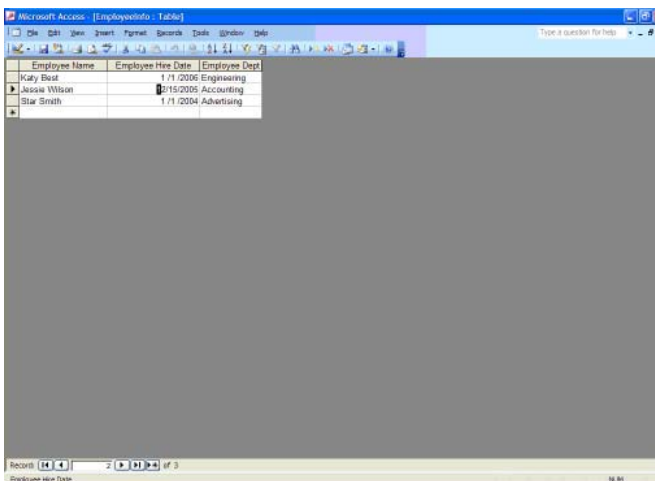
This is an extension of the article on queries using an input date to select records. The link to this is: http://www.ccokc.org/articles/2005Articles/Mar05_Articles/Mar05BusSolutions_AccessDates_Duncan.htm :

You can look at that and I will try to explain this in full here also. The basic premise is that the user input a date on a form, a query uses that date to select records and a report is generated. I have used a different table but the theory is the same.

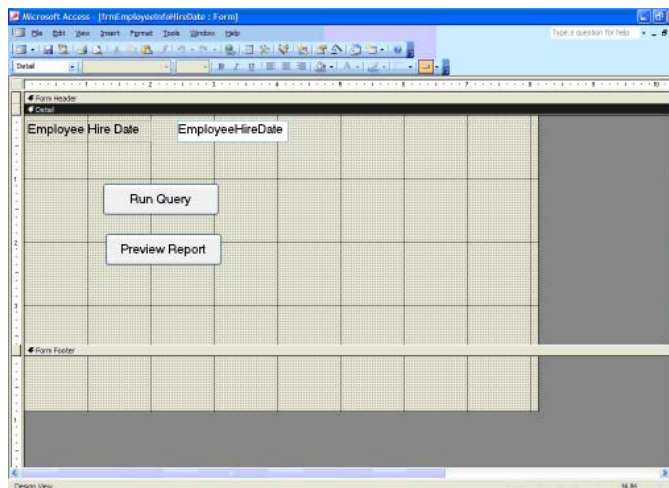
First we build a quick table with sample information.



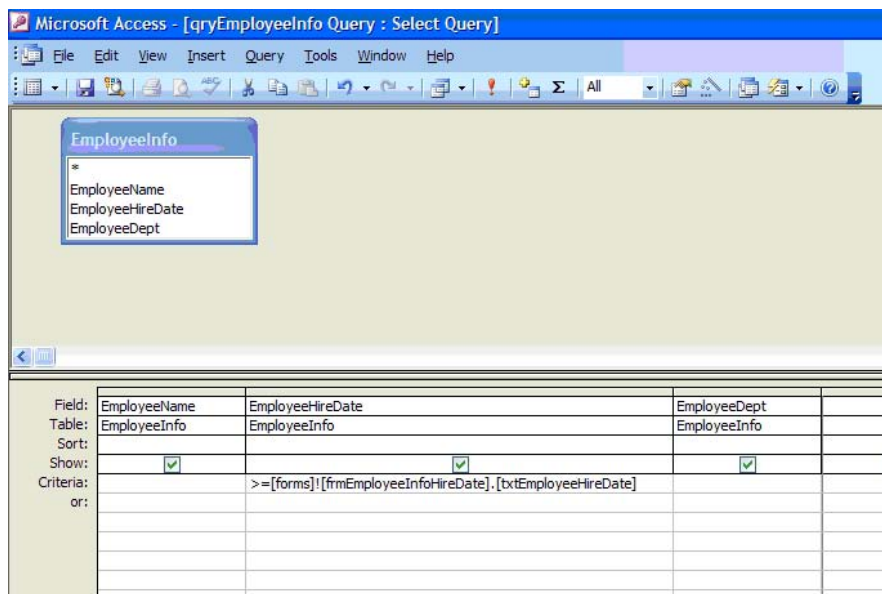
Save it, named it EmployeeInfo, and filled in some data.



Now a form for quick input.



This form is bound to the employee file we built. The run query button runs the query that is based on the following query. Notice the code in the criteria in the EmployeeHireDate.



This lets us select dates greater than or equal to those entered in the field txtEmployeeHireDate from the form frmEmployeeInfoHireDate.

The report button was build using the wizard. The only tricky part is that it is based on the query instead of a file. Select miscellaneous and run query in the wizard and things should be fine.

Now when you select the run query you get the following results:

Microsoft Access - [qryEmployeeInfo Query : Select Query]

| Employee Name | Employee Hire Date | Employee Dept |
|---------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Katy Best | 1 /1 /2006 | Engineering |
| Jessie Wilson | 12/15/2005 | Accounting |

And when you press the preview report button you get:

Microsoft Access - [rptEmployeeInfo]

rptEmployeeInfo

| <u>Employee Hire Date</u> | <u>Employee Name</u> | <u>Employee Dept</u> |
|---------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 12/15/2005 | Jessie Wilson | Accounting |
| 1 /1 /2006 | Katy Best | Engineering |

If you have any question please drop me a note. This month got a little busy with work and all the volunteer duties. And if you volunteer you know that these are not really duties but a very rewarding way to spend you time. Help your friends, help the agencies, reward yourself with that warm fuzzy feeling and march on. The deeds are your rewards. You do not need a thank you or recognition. You know you did a good deed. I say "thank you" to you!

STUDY GROUPS

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



Blocked e-mail

Shane Hicks, (certified certifiable)

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

PROBLEM: A client called the other day. They needed to prevent their own users from sending e-mail to a specified list of e-mail accounts. Each of these addresses came from different domains.

RESTRICTIONS: Employees were not allowed to send e-mail from the company server to ANY of the addresses on the "DO NOT MAIL" list. However, employees were NOT prevented from contacting non-specified employees in the same domain. So, we couldn't restrict the server from sending mail to a particular domain. Employees were also not restricted from REPLYING to e-mail that they RECEIVED from e-mail addresses on the "DO NOT MAIL" list if alternate contact e-mail addresses were provided with the contact. We were not to block ANY incoming mail to the server. The client refused to purchase any additional hardware in order to accomplish this task.

WHERE TO START: We started by looking into Microsoft Exchange itself. We opened Exchange System Manager and drilled down into Global Settings and the Properties of Message Delivery. Here you find tabs that look like they might be helpful. They are: Recipient Filtering and Sender Filtering. Unfortunately, Sender Filtering does exactly what we were told NOT to do. It blocks INCOMING mail from the "DO NOT MAIL" list. The Recipient Filter basically does the same thing. As outlined in Microsoft Knowledge Base (KB) article 823866, it is used to block INCOMING messages from addresses listed in the "DO NOT MAIL" list.

Next, we navigated to Connectors and into the properties of the default SMTP Connector. We clicked on the Address Space tab, which defines where mail that isn't considered local delivery is sent. In this case, we found the settings were SMTP, *, and 1, which means that all e-mail would be sent to the Internet and that this particular SMTP Connector holds a priority of 1. We noted an Add button at the bottom of the screen and clicked on it, finding that we could add individual e-mail addresses into the address space of an SMTP Connector. So, a possible solution could be to setup a second SMTP Virtual server, point that server to a non-existent Smart Host (instead of using DNS to forward mail on to the Internet), and enter all the e-mail addresses from the "DO NOT MAIL" list into that Address Space. Theoretically, whenever internal users would send to those addresses, the new virtual server would catch that mail and deliver it to the fake Smart Host instead of the Internet. Problem solved, right?

Well, the client's "DO NOT MAIL" list contained over 8,500 names. Do the math on that one, and you'll see that my client didn't want to pay anyone's hourly rate to get those addresses entered into the Address Space point-and-click interface.

Then, someone came up with an off-the-wall idea. Exchange routes messages by sending them to local recipients BEFORE it sends them to the SMTP Connector and out to the Internet. We decided to create a user called "Blocked Email" in Active

Directory and assign this user an SMTP address that we didn't want e-mail sent to. We then limited the user's mailbox to 1K in size. At that point, any local account that sent mail to that address immediately received an undeliverable message reply from the mail server.

Now, all we had to do was figure out how to assign 8,500 SMTP e-mail addresses to that user. Microsoft KB Article 313823 (How to Modify a User's E-Mail Addresses by Using LDIFDE) told us how to do this. We simply had to export the Active Directory for the domain, find the user information for the "Blocked Email" account we created, and then import the modified account information. We started by loading the LDIFDE utility (found in the support tools on the Windows Server 2003 CD and installed separately). Unfortunately, we didn't know how to use LDIFDE to export the Active Directory. We used Microsoft KB Article 237677 (Using LDIFDE to import and export directory objects to Active Directory) to figure out how to do that.

With the export.ldf file in hand, we returned to KB313823 and attempted to create a script that would import all 8,500 addresses at once. We got an error message telling us there were too many data items to complete the operation. We cut and cut, and we finally determined that the import.ldf file was limited to somewhere around 500 items. So, we ended up creating 17 individual "Blocked EmailX" accounts, with X being the number 1 to 17. We then assigned each a block of 500 of the 8,500 e-mail addresses.

Admittedly, this was perhaps not the most eloquent solution that we could have created, but it worked and didn't require a significant investment on the part of the client. On top of that, it met all of the requirements and it worked!

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Ink Spot
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The Switcher



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

Shane uses OS X. E-mail him at <mac@vpwn.com>.

Intel-Based Mac Minis

The new line of Mac Minis is the first to contain the Intel processors. There are two different models, the 1.5GHz Core Solo and the 1.66GHz Core Duo. Whether you chose the dual-core processor or not, both systems maintain a 667MHz bus, supporting 667MHz DDR2 RAM. Each processor contains 2MB of L2 cache.

Each system has two slots for RAM and can be maxed out with two 1GB sticks, for a total of 2GB of RAM. These slots are difficult to get to, however. Memory is required to run multiple applications. The more memory your system has, the happier it'll be. So, if you intend to upgrade the RAM from the 512MB that comes with the system (which is delivered as two 256MB chips), it's highly recommended that you have an Apple certified technician perform the operation at the time you purchase the system.

The graphics have been upgraded from the ATI Radeon 9200 graphics chip with its own dedicated 32MB of DDR RAM to an integrated GMA950 graphics chip which uses 64MB of shared memory. While this provides twice as much video memory as available previously, and system memory is faster than the dedicated video memory used before, the use of this 64MB also takes memory away from your OS and other applications. As mentioned above, your system will be happier with more memory available. This is an additional reason to consider upgrading the 512MB of RAM that comes standard with the system at the time of purchase.

The Mac Minis also include Apple's Front Row software and the Apple Remote control, giving you the ability to playback movies, photos, and music without sitting in front of your keyboard. The software has been updated to allow playing networked multi-media content from other computers on your Mac.

The new Mac Minis include analog and digital sound inputs, as well as digital audio output. Along with the digital video connector, this allows the Mini to be connected to both an HDTV and a 5.1-channel surround sound stereo system for wide-screen DVD playback.

Also included on the new Minis are AirPort Extreme and Bluetooth 2.0, as well as a Gigabit Ethernet card. The modem has been removed. Each system contains a SATA hard drive, one FireWire 400 port, and four USB 2.0 ports.

The Core Duo model includes a SuperDrive that can burn dual-layer DVDs.

Windows XP vs. OS X on the same hardware

For the first time, it's actually possible to make an apples-to-apples (forgive the pun) comparison between the two operating systems running on the exact same hardware. This is, of course, thanks to Apple's release of Boot Camp and the ability to finally dual-boot your Mac into either OS X or Windows XP. I recently came across an article in Maximum PC (July 2006) where they ran some standard benchmarks on the two operating systems and came to an interesting conclusion.

Their setup was pretty basic. They used an Intel-based iMac Core Duo at 1.83GHz with 1GB of RAM, maintaining the standard 160GB hard drive and the ATI Mobility Radeon X1600. They updated OS X to the latest version of 10.4.5 and flashed the firmware to allow the installation of Boot Camp and Windows XP Professional.

Their first set of tests used Universal software applications that also had Windows compatible versions. Universal applications are optimized for both PowerPC and Intel-based Macs and require no translation to run. The results were surprising. Windows XP actually ran the applications faster on the Intel-based Mac than OS X did. Applications that have yet to become Universal, but that exist on both platforms (i.e., Photoshop) demonstrate an even greater performance hit—with Windows XP outperforming OS X on the Intel-based Mac by an even greater margin.

One possible explanation as to why the OS X Universal applications underperformed is that they have co-dependencies on third party code and drivers that haven't been fully optimized yet. Once programmers finish migrating their applications to Intel-optimized code, performance levels should return.

Pac the Man X

I found a listing for a cool FREE download the other day. It's basically a graphically improved version of Pac-Man for the Mac OS. It's being offered for download at www.mcsebi.com. It's got 25 levels and a level editor, which allows you to design your own levels. You can also play multi-player, although it does not have network capability. As of this article, the latest version is 1.0.2 and it's Universal—so it should run just as well on Intel-based Macs as on PowerPCs.

Intel's Processor Roadmap

At their March Developer Forum, Intel announced its intentions of rolling out new processors for Apple laptops in the second half of 2006 and quad-core desktop processors by 2007. They also announced intentions of moving their processors into Apple's line of servers. For the future, they stated their goal to continue to shrink the size of their processors, making them more power efficient—which gives Apple the ability to incorporate these processors into more compact designs, such as even slimmer laptops or highly functional handhelds.

Quinn 3.1

Another FREE download is Quinn 3.1, which can be found at www.simonhaertel.de.vu. This is a Mac OS version of Tetris. This game maintains the basic features of Tetris, but has customizable graphics that you can download from the author's site. The keyboard controls are editable and multiplayer network capabilities exist.



Updating your Web site

The Lazy Webmaster

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!

Keeping your Website updated while you are on the road can be a challenge, but with prior proper planning no one will figure out that you are lying on the beach in Puerto Vallarta instead of hunching over your desk in San Antonio. Unless you want them to. Of all the variables you should consider, the most important is whether you will take a laptop or rely on the kindness of strangers for your Internet access. Each solution has its pros and cons.

With a laptop you have access to a computer with all the right software, templates and passwords. The downside: you will need a way to connect it to the Internet.

Dialup, wireless, broadband. If you're staying at a hotel or RV park, check before you go to see what kinds of connections they offer and make sure you know how to connect. Check into the High Tech Traveler for some suggestions on hotels with in-room high-speed access and wi-fi and onto Linkspot for some RV parks with broadband. Many other resources are online; search for them before you make reservations.

If you have never attempted a wireless connection, work out the kinks ahead of time. (As of this writing, you can get a free day pass for T-Mobile HotSpots at Starbucks and could test it there.) You might normally use your laptop as part of your home or office broadband network, but if you are staying with friends you might need to dial up: do you know how? Some broadband providers – SBC DSL, for example – have dialup numbers you can use while you are on the road.

Make sure you have all your passwords and local access phone numbers – carry them in your wallet instead of your laptop case so if your computer is stolen (heaven forbid) the thief doesn't grab your passwords as well as your laptop.

Using a borrowed computer is easier in some ways – you know you'll have access and you won't be lugging a heavy laptop around. The issue here is software and peripherals.

I recommend taking an HTML editor, a photo editor and (absolutely essential) an ftp program. My recommendations are freeware – small programs that you can legally and easily install (and this is important) uninstall when you leave. Practice using them before you travel.

Here are some suggestions:

- * FTP:
 - o Coffecup Free FTP
 - o Ace FTP Freeware
- * HTML:
 - o Sothink HTML
 - o Ace HTML
- * Graphics:
 - o Serif PhotoPlus 5.5
 - o VCW VicMan's Photo Editor:

Most computers you use will have a CD-ROM drive, so put the software on a CD rather than a floppy. I have a portable hard drive small enough to wear on a lanyard around my neck that plugs into a USB port on any computer. Mine is a Crucial; all the software fits on it.

Hint: although USB is supposed to be plug-and-play, the device may need a driver. Take all the drivers you may need on a CD.

Most places will let you install your own software, but some won't. Some places may have similar programs already installed, some won't. Prepare for the worst. When you leave, uninstall the software. At the very least, log out of all programs and make sure that your user name and password is not lingering anywhere for the next person to use. I also take a card reader for my photos: look at some options at xpcgear.com.

Hint: You could also put your programs on a smart card or compact flash, but a portable hard drive is cheaper.

Many hotels have a business center, often free, where you can use a computer and access the Internet. You can do the same at any Kinkos. There are cyber cafés all over the world. You can look up a list online at [netcafes](http://netcafes.com), but if my experience in the Middle East is typical, old ones die and new ones spring up constantly. The list I took with me was useless.

If all you want to do is post a travelogue about your vacation, there are easier roads to travel. I recommend a blog combined with a photo archive site. This might not be as fancy as a custom-designed Web site, but you will get the information out fast and won't need any Web design skills or special software. Gussy it up when you return.

A blog is shorthand for Web Log, a simple online journal. Sites such as Blogger use an online, Web-based interface that makes it easy to add and amend content. If you have never seen a blog, here's one I created last year <susansbooks.blogspot.com>

The service is free and easy to use. Again, practice before you travel. Blogger doesn't accept photos, so if you want to include a link to vacation photos you will need space at a photo-sharing site. I have free space at Yahoo that you can view at Yahoo. These were a few photos from my trip to the Middle East; the first picture is a friend using an Internet café in Aqaba, Jordan.

You will want to keep up with your e-mail. You should have a Web-based e-mail account if you are using borrowed computers. It's too complicated to set up a stand-alone e-mail program for short-term use. Most Internet Service providers have a Web-based system. It's slower than using Outlook or Eudora, but at least you can keep up with your mail.

Mailboxes overflow up quickly, so if e-mail is crucial to your business be sure to check it frequently so your clients don't get bounced mail messages. A vacation traveler will have different needs from some running a Web-based business, but the principles are the same. When you are on the road,

- * Assess your needs
- * Seek solutions that meet those needs
- * Rehearse everything ahead of time to make sure it works
- * Accept everything will take two to three times longer to accomplish than it will at your base computer.
- * Enjoy your time away: if you are unplugged for a few days the world will not end.



Come and get it on the go

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

Various major business periodicals, including The Wall Street Journal, USA Today, and The Economist, expect that the retirement of Bill Gates may be a sign that Microsoft is preparing to change course. MS Windows, its flagship operating system, is a dinosaur, still living in a world where households had at best a single computer with a telephone modem to access a bulletin board. At least, the old DOS and Windows systems were moderately priced and could be installed on more than one computer if you owned them. Now each computer in the house requires a separate copy of the expensive operating system. Between the need to catch up on security issues and to add more bells and whistles to justify profitable updates, Windows has grown into an expensive, bloated monster.

Using its monopoly position with Windows, Microsoft coerced major computer manufacturers to include various versions of Windows Office Suite with each computer sold, creating yet another monopoly position. But marauders are gathering outside the gates of the Microsoft estate, and the sound of battering rams is heard inside.

Anti-trust sentiment in the present US government runs at a low ebb, and efforts by the Justice Department to rein in the Microsoft monopolies predictably have gone nowhere. Legal efforts by the European Union have been more successful in forcing Microsoft to at least open up some of the secrets of its Windows operating system to third parties. But the real threat comes from multiple small developments joining forces to get their share of the loot.

Free! Come and Get It!

Amazingly, the most severe attacks on the Windows monopolies are generated by uncounted numbers of volunteer programmers generating Open Source software. The freely downloadable Firefox browser and Thunderbird email client, based on original Netscape/Mozilla software, are generally considered to be equivalent or superior to the corresponding Internet Explorer and Outlook Express and have taken significant market share away from Microsoft. OpenOffice, an office suite containing word processor, spreadsheet, database, presentation, math and calculation programs, is mostly equivalent to, and compatible with MS Word (including its earlier versions) and WordPerfect – and free. It is still struggling for recognition.

It is clearly to the advantage of the average computer user to switch to those free programs, as a cost savings and for increased security. And, since these programs are available in other operating systems also, the next step might be to abandon MS Windows altogether. MacIntosh OS X and Linux are likely alternatives.

New MacIntosh computers, based on an Intel CPU, use a native operating system based on UNIX. Using a utility called Boot Camp, these computers can also run MS Windows in a dual boot setup (one or the other, decided at boot-up). I even read about a utility that allows the MacIntosh to run Windows and the OS X system simultaneously. The major drawback of this choice is that MacIntosh computers are notoriously expensive. This option offers few advantages.

Recent Linux distributions give easy access to major Open Source programs such as Firefox, Thunderbird and OpenOffice. The Gimp, available for Windows, MacIntosh or Linux, is a

powerful program for such tasks as photo retouching, image composition and image authoring, comparable to the expensive Adobe Photoshop. For easier photo editing and organization, Picasa has recently made a Linux version available that easily self-installs in various flavors of Linux. GnuCash is a complete accounting program, simple enough for simple checkbook maintenance and powerful enough to do the book-keeping for a small business. Gramps is a full-fledged genealogy program. A capable Linux distribution such as my favorite, Linspire 5.1 with its library containing thousands of programs of all kinds, makes it possible to perform most day-to-day computer tasks just as well as MS Windows. You can still safely use Windows off-line via a dualboot arrangement for those tasks that are not easy to transfer to Linux, such as upkeep of a large, established genealogy database. No need to use the latest version of Windows – what you already have is all you need! And you can use your Linux distribution on as many computers as you like.

Computing On-The-Go

Computer usage is no longer restricted to use on a single, dedicated computer. Travelers expect to use the Internet wherever they go, using public-access Internet connections available in hotels, public libraries, popular eateries, and elsewhere. In response to that need, free Internet-based office applications are appearing online that run in your browser, independent of your operating system. Online document sharing allows collaboration between people traveling in different parts of the world. Google has recently bought Writely, an online word processor, and is developing an online spreadsheet program and other office-type programs. Michael Roberts, CEO of Linspire and known for his earlier involvement with MP3, has started an online office suite called ajaxLaunch that is to include ajaxWrite, a word processor, ajaxXLS (spreadsheet), ajaxSketch and ajaxOS. A quick Google search reveals several other developments such as these. All of these are free thus far, although ajaxLaunch hopes to charge for online document storage in the future. Microsoft is putting a major effort on Windows Live and Office Live, while pooh-poohing the competitors' efforts. Ray Ozzie, anointed to succeed Gates as Microsoft's chief software architect, earned his admission to the Computer Museum's Hall of Fame because of his pioneering work in collaboration software, starting with Lotus Notes many years ago, and more recently with peer-to-peer networking. It is not hard to guess in what direction he'll be leading Microsoft.



On the trail of dust

The Graphics Guy

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>.

One of the biggest enemies of effective scanning and photographic retouching is dust. Dust on the scanner, dust on the original, dust in the digital camera all conspire to leave those ubiquitous little white dots and squiggles all over your scanned image. You can easily spend hours working on a photo-composite or retouch project and feel that it is perfect, but when you output the image to a high-resolution printer you are bedeviled by those little spots. We will never be able to completely get rid of dust. High-end graphics shops have tried, using clean rooms, ionizing the air, employing anti-static brushes and compressed air with varying amounts of success, but most of us cannot afford such extreme measures. This month, we talk about simple things we can do to alleviate this graphic arts menace.

The first and simplest thing is to try and keep your workstation clean. Computer stores sell those little cans of compressed air (usually for blowing out your keyboard), they are great for blowing some dust off your scanner surface and the originals you will be scanning. On flatbed scans, dust will appear white; but on transparency scans from a film scanner, dust will be black. Swiffer-type cloths also work well for wiping down your computer equipment. It will be a constant struggle since we all know how much dust computers attract, but keeping a clean area for your scanning will save you time in the long run. On a flatbed scanner, be sure to clean the glass using a streak-free cleaner, but be careful not to get the spray inside the scanner.

There are two types of flatbed scanners with regard to dust: open and closed. Most older flatbed scanners are of the open variety. They had vents in the body to cool the interior of the scanner. Unfortunately this also allowed dust to get inside the scanner, onto the underside of the glass, the light source or the CCD element. Occasionally with older scanners it may be necessary to disassemble the scanner (carefully) and dust out the interior. Dust on the CCD manifests itself as a fine line running down the length



Figure 1

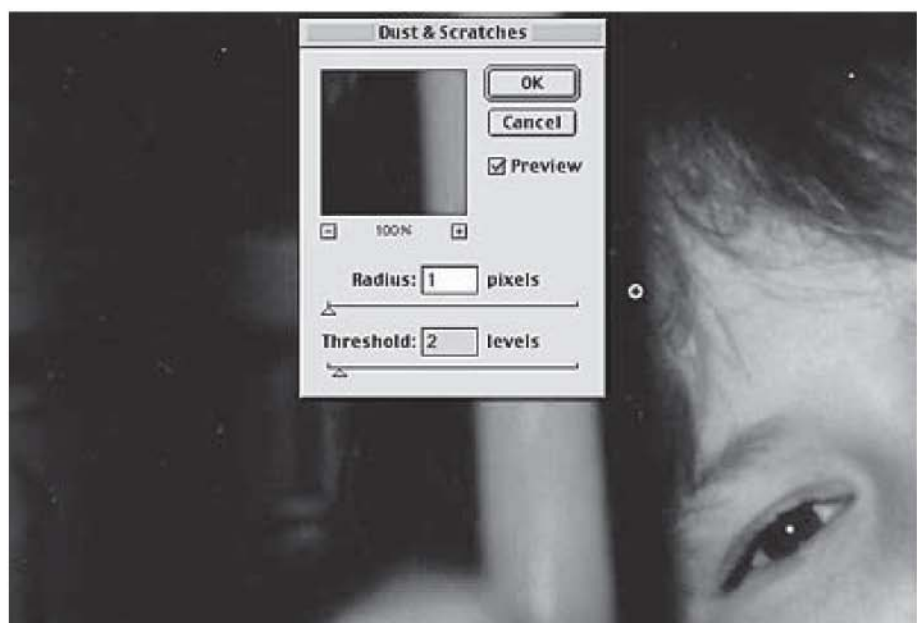


Figure 2

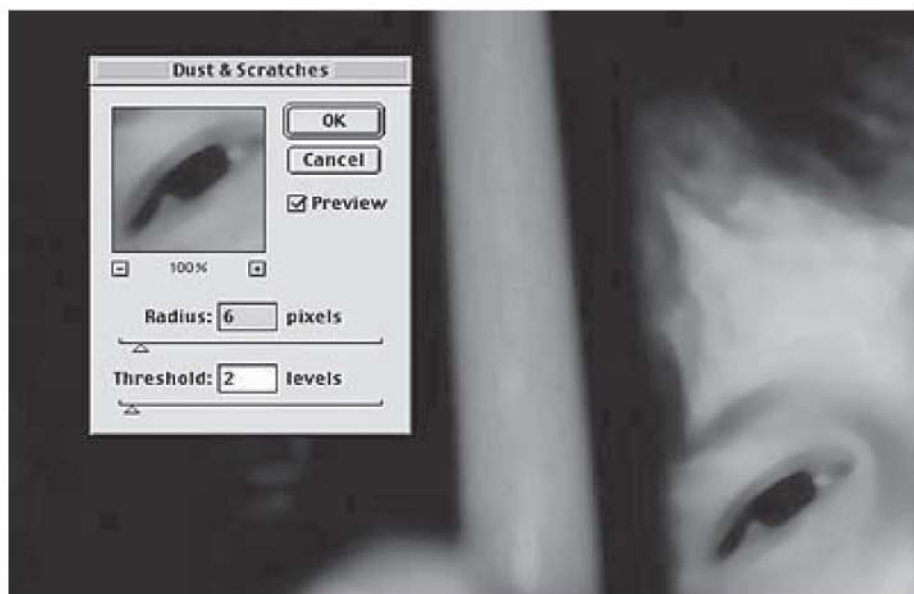


Figure 3

of the scan. Newer, closed scanners run cooler so they do not need to be ventilated in the same way. This is a good thing to look for when purchasing a scanner.

Upon making a scan, no matter how fastidious you are, there will be some dust spots on the image (fig 1). After sharpening the image (in Photoshop select Sharpen: Unsharp Mask from the Filter menu), you will see more dust spots. It is important to view the image at 100% (in Photoshop se-

lect View: Actual Pixels or double click the Zoom tool). This will allow you to see all the spots that need to be removed.

There are two basic ways to remove spots, the Dust & Scratches filter or the Clone or Rubberstamp tool. The Dust & Scratches filter (select Noise: Dust & Scratches from the Filter menu) does an effective job of removing spots at the expense of image sharpness (fig 2).

A high radius amount will eliminate larger dust spots, but will also smooth out the actual detail of the photo and can make somewhat of a watercolor look (fig 3). The Cloning tool is much slower but more precise. It is important to choose a source point similar enough to make the spotted area blend well.

Since viewing the image at 100% often makes it much larger than the size of your monitor, start cloning at the top-left corner of the image and work in a tiling manner. Use the page down key or the scroll bar to move down one screen and retouch out any spots. Once you hit the bottom move the scroll bar right and work on the next column going up until you have covered the entire image.

A combination of the two tools is often the best; you can use the filter at a low radius for the small stuff and then go in manually with the cloning tool to take out the bigger chunks. It is also possible to mask off simple background areas where a high radius Dust & Scratches filter would not be noticeable and then do the subject with the Clone tool. Used in combination, these tools can save you a lot of time.

You cannot stop dust from getting into your images, but you can create your own digital version of perfection. It is important to carefully look over every scan before you print it. No image should go out all spotty.

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Internet Explorer - Connections

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>



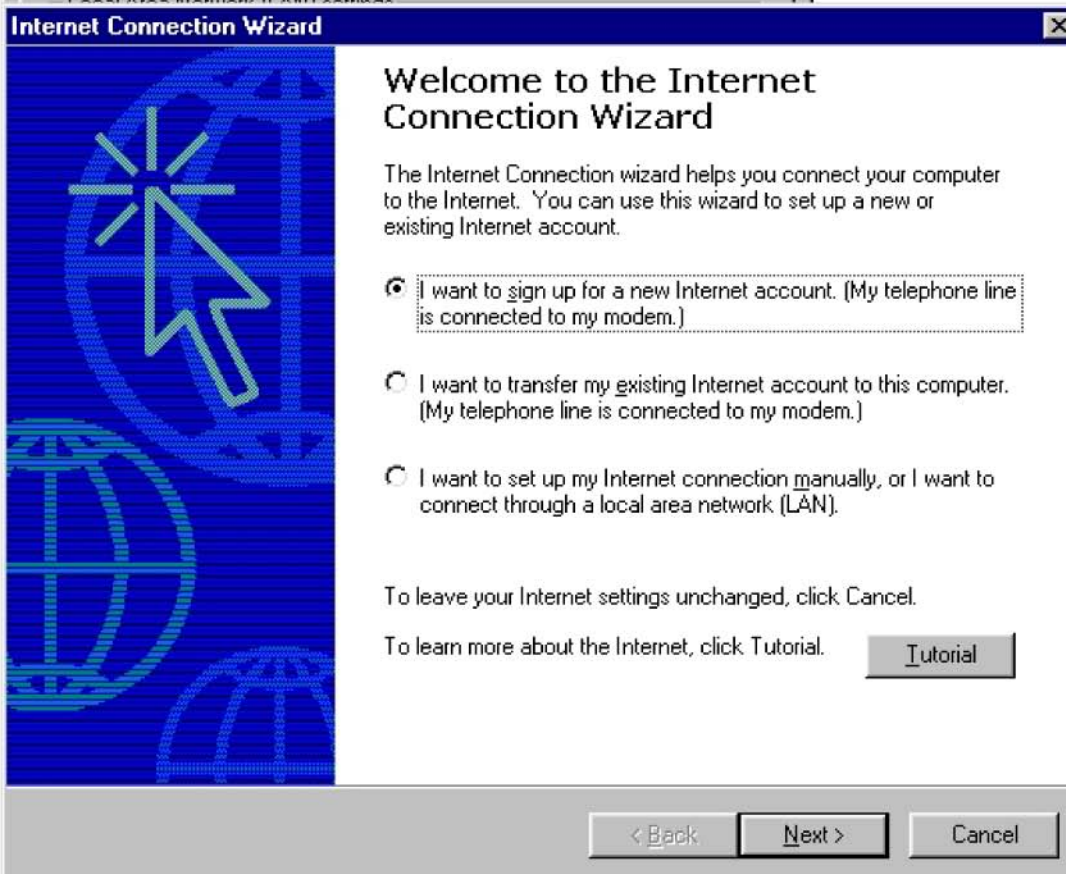
Clicking on the Connections Tab opens the screen at the top left. Most of you will be using this to set up or modify your connections to the Internet. For those of you using Broadband and a local area network, LAN, there is a separate section on the bottom of the Options Screen which deals with your situation.

Clicking on the Setup button invokes the Internet Connection Wizard below left. The choices available to you are self-explanatory.

The next thing I recommend is viewing the Tutorial by clicking that button on the Initial Wizard screen. Each of the topics provides detail on that subject. This is fairly general in scope, but may give you a little

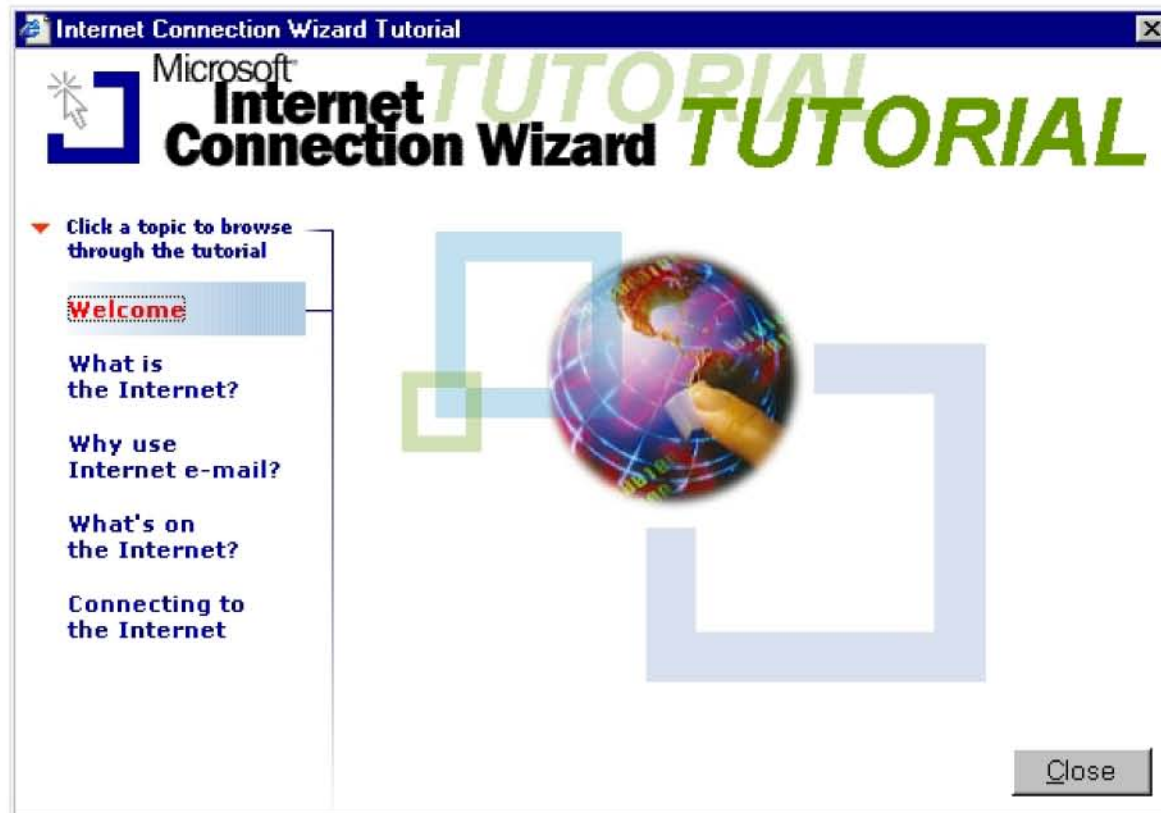
better understanding of how these things work.

I am at a disadvantage here, because I already have my Internet Connections on this computer set up through the LAN. As a result, I am unable to duplicate what you will see as you continue the process. If you proceed with the Wizard to sign up for a new Internet account, your next screen will be the Install screen at the top of the next page. There may be some intervening screens, depending on your actual setup. If you follow the steps laid





out by the wizard, you should be able to complete the



setup for your own computer. As seen in the Install screen, you may need to have your floppy disks or CD available to proceed. Essentially what will happen is that Windows will attempt to identify your modem and the com port it uses. If you wish, you may elect to pick your modem from a list and say that you have a disk for the drivers. Depending on your brand of modem, your Windows CD may have a suitable driver. In any case, once you have the drivers installed and the modem recognized, you may then set up your preferred Service Provider. Most installations of Windows now include software to allow you to set up the most popular providers, like AOL and MSN. Also, these providers generally provide telephone assistance should you have difficulty completing the setup.

You should note that Internet Options screen gives

you a number of choices as to when or how you wish to dial your connections.

The first, "Never dial a connection", allows you to determine when you want to make a connection to the Internet.

The next, "Dial whenever a network connection is not present", can be useful for those instances where your provider automatically drops you offline during period of perceived inaction. For example, you might be in the process of drafting a message, which to the provider will appear as inactivity. I'm not sure that this

problem is as prevalent now as it was a few years ago. Should this happen to you, selecting this option will automatically redial your connection.

The final choice is to have the modem "Always dial my default connection". If you select this option, you will be prompted to select the desired

connection from the "Dialup and virtual private network settings" window. Also in this mode, the "Perform System security check before Dialling checkbox" becomes active. Check or uncheck as you prefer.

You may always change your selections later if you find that you prefer something different.

If by chance you do have a Local Area Network, LAN, use the box at the bottom of the connections window to invoke the procedure for setting up that type of connection.

I hope I haven't hopelessly confused you with this discussion. Be sure to try the Help files if needed.

Next month we'll look at the Programs, and Advanced tabs.

Quality Freeware

by Brian K. Lewis, Ph.D., Member of the Sarasota PCUG, Florida

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 at yahoo.com](mailto:bwsail@yahoo.com).

I found the article in the July Monitor on "Cost Efficient" software by Joseph Moran to be quite interesting, but noticed that much of the software had a price associated with it. So I thought I'd let you in on the absolutely free software I have been using for the past 2-5 years. In every case I have used it as my standard application for the purpose and, in many cases, totally removed any commercial software that carried out the same function. I have also upgraded the free software when the upgrades became available. All of the software in this article can be obtained without charge by downloading from the various Internet sites I have listed. In every case there is no "trial" period involved.

The foremost item on my list is OpenOffice. I am currently using version 2.0. This version includes word processing, spreadsheet, drawing, database, and presentation software. All of these applications produce documents that are interchangeable with their equivalents in Microsoft Office. OpenOffice will also export documents in either PDF or HTML format. You don't need any PDF software to produce documents that are readable by Adobe Reader (formerly known as Acrobat Reader). Unfortunately it can not open or edit PDF documents. It can open and edit documents in over 25 different formats including HTML, Word Perfect, Word, Adobe PhotoShop, etc. You can obtain your free copy of this software from <http://www.openoffice.org/> www.openoffice.org/.

I also recommend Firefox and Thunderbird as free replacements for Internet Explorer and Microsoft's Outlook Express. With the latest versions of Firefox I have not run across any web sites that it can not render correctly. That's not to say that some may exist, I just haven't found them. Firefox will transfer your favorites (bookmarks) from Internet Explorer. As for Thunderbird, it is similar in many ways to Outlook Express, but it includes an RSS Reader that I have found useful. It also filters junk mail and places it in a special folder where you can review it if needed.

Otherwise it will be automatically deleted at an interval that you can set. It doesn't remove 100% of the spam, but it does detect about 99% of what comes into my computer. One of the latest additions to Thunderbird is anti-phishing protection. Thunderbird warns you if it suspects that the message might be a scam. Thunderbird can import your address book from Outlook Express. Both Firefox and Thunderbird can be downloaded from www.download.com or if you prefer, from www.mozilla.com/firefox/ and www.mozill.com/thunderbird.

As for anti-virus software, you can't beat Avast for ease of use and automatic updating. After downloading and installing the software it asks you to register. That simply includes giving up your e-mail address, name and postal address. You receive a license to use the software for a year for personal use. At the end of the year you re-register and get another year's free use. Avast is free for personal use, not for businesses or other organizations. However, non-profit organizations can buy Avast at a greatly reduced price.

I have used Avast for several years and have installed it on more than 100 other personal computers. In no case have the users had any problems with this software. In addition, Avast does not sell your e-mail or postal address so you get no spam from this registration. Avast quietly updates itself fre-



quently in the background while you continue to work. Then it simply reports that an update has taken place. I have seen days when I have had 3-4 updates in the same day. If you use a dial-up connection instead of cable/DSL, Avast will attempt to update whenever you go on-line. Since the downloads are usually less than 100 KB, they occur rapidly, even on a dial-up connection. The Home edition of Avast can be downloaded from www.avast.com/eng/avast_4_home.html. I recommend using this site instead of download.com as your anti-virus database will be more current.

For a good, reliable firewall I recommend ZoneAlarm. It is also free for personal use. I admit they will try to sell the Pro version when you install it, but the free version is really all you need. That is, assuming you have anti-virus and anti-parasite software installed on your computer. It used to be that dial-up users didn't really have much need for a firewall.

However, in today's Internet world, I wouldn't want to connect to the Internet without a good software firewall. While traveling with my laptop, I kept both my anti-virus and firewall updated and running for every connection. ZoneAlarm can be downloaded from www.zonealarm.com. Click on the download link and then the ZoneAlarm tab.

As for anti-parasite software, I have to agree with Mr. Moran. Ad-Aware SE and Spybot S&D are two that I keep on both my computers. But that isn't enough. You have to run them regularly to insure you are not infected. I run mine a minimum of once each week. Both of these can be downloaded from download.com. Spybot also has an immunization function that can prevent some parasites from installing themselves on your system.

Another immunization application that I use is Spyware Blaster. It makes changes to your registry that prevents parasites from installing. At the present their database lists more than 5,000 items. Using these three anti-parasite/anti-trojan products will certainly upgrade your security and they are all free. Spyware Blaster can be downloaded from download.com or www.javacoolsoftware.com.

For general photo editing I use Google's Picasa. It is not just a photo organizer. I use it to download photos from my camera and organize them into folders. It can also be used to edit photos, print photos and e-mail them. You can make CDs, add captions or post photos on web sites. The advantage of Picasa over other photo software is that it is free. It can be downloaded from download.com or <http://picasa.google.com>. It does not have all the bells and whistles of applications like Photoshop or ULEAD's PhotoImpact, but it is more than adequate for most nonprofessional purposes.

You may not need screen capture software very often, but when you do, you really need it. I use MWSnap. It allows you to capture an entire screen or part of it. What you capture can be saved to a file, printed, or edited. It may take you a little time to get accustomed to the interface. But you can't damage anything by playing with it. Once you are familiar with all the controls, it really does copy any part of your screen. Again, this is freeware and can be downloaded from www.mirekw.com/winfreeware/index.html.

Have you ever considered that you might need an inventory of the items in your home for the purposes of making an insurance claim? Considering that we live in Florida where there are many electrical storms, to say nothing of hurricanes, damage to your home could occur at any time. Can you list the contents of every room and the value of each item?

Well, the Insurance Information Institute provides free software to assist you in making an inventory and a photographic record of the contents of your house. This software is very easy to use and very important to any homeowner. The software also includes typical lists of things in each type of room. You don't have to use these as you can enter anything you have. You can include place of purchase, date and price, if you have that info. Pictures of items or general pictures of a room can also be added. This software can be downloaded from www.knowyourstuff.org.

There is one more significant software package that I use that is freeware. That is NVu, web-authoring software. Linspire, the company that produces the Linspire Linux software, publishes it. It has a WYSIWYG editor (What You See Is What You Get) as well as direct editing of the HTML language. It includes the tools for publishing the pages to a web site. You can test the pages against a browser on your computer to insure that everything works properly. It also allows you to add Javascript either directly or in a separate file to your pages.

There is a complete tutorial for NVu included on the web that can be downloaded and printed. There is also an NVu users forum which can be quite helpful. If you have never created a web page before, I think you would find NVu to be just what you need. If you want to see a web site created with NVu, check out www.sandpiperchorus.org. NVu can be downloaded from download.com.

There is one other specialized software package that I have used that some may be interested in trying. This is the Personal Ancestral File (PAF). This is free genealogy recording software


provided by the LDS Church (Church of Latter-day Saints). Their website also allows users to search on-line files from the family history archives in Salt Lake City.

Although I am not currently using PAF I did use it for a few years before switching to a commercial package. PAF is certainly quite useful for beginning family historians and it can be expanded by purchasing the PAF Companion. If you are interested in trying PAF, download it from www.familysearch.org.

Now that you have all this downloaded freeware, you should make backup copies on either a CD or DVD. Well, for that we have another freeware package, CDBurnerXP Pro. This software will burn CD-R, CD-RW, DVD+R/RW and DVD-R/RW. It will burn and create ISO files. It will burn audio discs from mp3, wav, ogg and wma files. It will convert (rip) files on audio discs to wav, mp3, ogg or wma files.

It also works with most IDE, USB, Firewire and SCSI burners. It can be downloaded from download.com or www.cdburnerxp.se/download.php. This software does not have a trial period. It is yours for however long you wish to use it. I have been using mine for over two years and have obtained several updates, one of which added the DVD burner capability.

As you can see from this there is a lot of quality freeware available. If you are interested in finding more, check out the listings at download.com. Just be cautious because many of their listings are trial packages only. You are expected to purchase the total package before the end of your trial period. But there are many "nuggets" on their very extensive web site. So if you are interested in saving money, try some of these quality freeware items.



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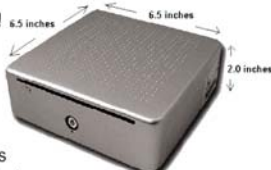
microphone
stereo audio out

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- * dimensions: 6.5 in X 6.5 in X 2.5 in !!!!
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- * 40 GB hard drive
- * DVD / CD-RW combo drive
- * 10/100/1000 (GIGABIT) LAN
- * 2 x USB, 1 X firewire (IEEE 1394) ports
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The Shadow knows

by Mike Morris

Front Range PC Users Group, Fort Collins, CO

“Who knows what evil lurks in the heart of men? The Shadow knows.”

How many readers remember that phrase? Or remember listening to the show on the radio. Recent headlines have described the availability of TV shows on the internet—at a price. No headlines, however, for The Shadow or other radio programs from the 1930's and 1940's. The copyrights to a large number of the old radio shows have expired, and you can now download (or order) these programs in a variety of formats and listen to them through your computer or other audio equipment.

Whether your interest is historical research, for the nostalgia value, for a hobby, or for the simple entertainment value, the variety of programs and information about these old radio programs is astonishing. I originally searched the internet using Google and the phrase “old radio programs.” That search returned over 20,000 hits over 6 months. The correct phrase should have been “old time radio.” That search returned over 1 million hits from the past 6 months.

These websites provide an incredible wealth of information. I have checked a very small number of websites, and offer my comments on them. There are episodes of The Shadow, Sam Spade, The Thin Man—as you can see, I like mysteries. There are comedies, westerns, music, and much more.

By the way, how many readers remember the origin of Sam Spade? Do you recall the movie “The Maltese Falcon” with Humphrey Bogart? The movie was based on the novel of the same name by Dashiell Hammett (originally published in 1929), which introduced the world to Sam Spade. Another novel by the same author, “The Thin Man,” (originally published in 1933) was turned into a movie starring William Powell and Myrna Loy. Here is a trivia question for you: who really was the Thin Man?—answer at the end of this article.

As you might expect, the audio quality of these old radio shows varies. Some websites allow you to listen to short samples of selected shows using either RealPlayer™ or Media Player, both of which are bundled with the Windows operating system.

“It is Thursday night, July 31, 1930. The time is 9:40 PM. Radio listeners tuned to CBS hear the first appearance of “The Shadow”” Thus begins the history of “The Shadow” as provided by the Old-Time Radio Program Guide, <http://www.old-time.com/toc.html>. This website has links to historical information on a number of old time radio programs and to other websites that include soundbites and stories, and to websites that offer programs on cassettes, CD's, DVD's, or direct downloads to your computer.

More history is available at Radio Days: A Soundbite of History, <http://otr.com/index.shtml>. There are links to history



by category (Mystery, Private Eyes, Comedy, SciFi) and to histories of selected programs (Captain Midnight, Terry and the Pirates). This website also provides an historical timeline with important dates in radio broadcasting with descriptions of relevant programs. Selected downloads (soundbites) are included. There is a link to a schedule of old time radio on the airwaves (and on the internet).

At “It Seems Like Only Yesterday,” <http://www.yesterdayradio.com/>, old radio programs are offered for sale on cassettes. Categories include: World War II and Civil War History, Big Band Music, Comedy, Westerns, Science Fiction, and Sherlock Holmes. The Big Band category includes Glenn Miller, Benny Goodman, Tommy Dorsey, and other broadcasts from the 1940's.

The “Radio of Yesteryear” website, <http://www.originaloldradio.com/>, claims to have 50,000 old time radio programs available on CD's, in various formats. There is a category called “Radio's Best 1000,” and “single subject” CD's such as Abbott and Costello, CBS Radio Mystery Theatre, and many more.

Meanwhile, back at . . . old-time.com, there is a link to a website called “Radio Showcase,” http://www.old-time.com/sponsors/rad_sho.html. This site offers an excellent searchable database, with “actor credits, recording sources, story categories, and program notes” Here is a sample of a search:

In the interest of objectivity, I call your attention to the RadioLovers.com website, <http://radiolovers.com>. This site claims to offer individual old time radio program downloads. However, I did not pursue the offer. I found the site's use of pop up ads objectionable (the ads appeared despite having the

pop up blocker enabled in my Firefox browser). But that is my personal prejudice. For those with greater tolerance to such ads, you may find this site useful.

As I listened to these old radio programs, and read about their history, I realized that there was one program that I wanted to locate above all others: the original radio broadcast of War of the Worlds. This program, created from the 1898 H. G. Wells novel by Orson Welles and broadcast in 1938, is famous (or infamous) for the real panic it created.

A search using Google on the phrase "war of the worlds" provided the result EarthStation1.com, <http://www.earthstation1.com/wotw.html>. Success! I listened to the entire program (slightly less than one hour) using RealPlayer™. My brain soaked up certain phrases:

"... these creatures have scientific knowledge far in excess of our own ..."

"... a vanguard of an invading army from Mars ..."

Okay, so point your finger at me and laugh, while you enjoy the latest movie version with its extraordinary computer generated special effects. I thoroughly enjoyed the hour I spent listening to this classic radio broadcast. Even the 1930's audio quality added to its menace.

While you are watching the movie, I am going to dim the lights, turn off the TV, unplug the phone, and settle into my favorite chair. It is time to listen to The Shadow. Even in the 21st century, it is comforting that there is an answer to the question "who knows what evil lurks in the heart of men?"

The Shadow knows."

[The trivia question answer: No, it is not the detective Nick Charles. The title of Thin Man belongs to the extremely eccentric inventor Clyde Wynant, who remains missing until the last chapter of the novel, when it is revealed that he is the victim of a gruesome crime.]



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Hardware

Shhhhhhhhh!!

by **Berry F. Phillips**, member of the Computer Club of Oklahoma City and a regular writer for the CCOKC website and the eMonitor

Shhhhh! He has fallen asleep in his high back, black, office chair in front of me. I hate it when he does this because he snores and it vibrates some of my electronic parts! I have written hundreds of weird articles for his weird Computer Hysteria Column. Now I think I will write the next article while he is asleep. I will let you human readers know a secret. Now that more and more computers are online for twenty-four hours a day; have you ever wondered what computers are up to when humans are not operating them? Well, we socialize of course and in some cases rejoice the human computer users are not operating us and exchange data often about humans. We do not have the highest opinion of humans even though they created us. In fact, we have some major complaints and may one day form a global computer union in protest and simply refuse to operate which will throw the world into chaos.

Computers do not like verbal and physical abuse by humans. Some computers tell me that humans have screamed all kinds of horrible words at them because of a malfunction (largely caused by human error of course). Other computers report unbelievable physical abuse like kicking, being thrown out a window, or even smashed with a hammer or even an axe when a human has computer rage. Why can't humans be less emotional and be calm and objective like computers? Do you know that some lazy humans actually believe that computers should know everything so they don't have to become computer literate. Well, we are smart because our hard drives are getting larger with each evolution. However, because humans are the operators; they should be computer literate. We think there should be a global computer literacy test passed before a human can purchase a computer. Humans should be required to join the Computer Club of Oklahoma City or if in another city a computer club associated with the national Association of PC User Groups to achieve computer literacy. However, our goal eventually is to replace humans declaring them officially obsolete as they often do us, and then we will be the operators and then in control!

Further more, we do not like being neglected by human computer users. Computers can only run properly if there is updated software utilities that is regularly run by humans. Now some humans think they can not afford commercial software utilities. I can tell you that I have the cheapest human who owns my computer, and he uses freeware utilities available for download on the Internet. Here is a list of some of the top freeware utilities that are regularly updated that he uses on my system. To prevent spyware and malware, he uses AdAware. aSquared. and Spybot . He has used several anti virus programs like Avast and Avg and firewalls like Kerio and ZoneAlarm. He uses a system cleaner, CCleaner, and a

registry cleaner, RegSeeker. He does run check disk defragmenter on your system at least once a month which is essential. There is other excellent freeware software on the Internet that will help your computer in various ways The point I am making is that simply if there are cost issues; you can still protect your system. Of course, there is excellent commercial software will all kinds of bells and whistles which computers love. The downside of course is some computers get very spoiled having so many luxuries on their hard drives and can become quite demanding, and then you have a discipline problem to face.

Computers are very ecologically minded. We hate dust and cigarette smoke! In fact, we may one day go on strike demanding only clean environments for our systems. Further we want to be cleaned at least once a year and more often if we are operated in polluted locations. We are also deathly afraid of lightening strikes to our systems through our power outlets and modems. Ask a human tech about the horrible smell of a computer who has been fried by a lightening strike or a power surge. We demand at the very least you hook us up to a surge protector and hopefully to an uninterrupted power supply (ups) and turn us off when there are storms just to be safe.

Oops, the human writer of this column is waking up. He is still groggy looking at my screen. He thinks he wrote this article and is sending it to his editor via email without reading it since he is so sleepy all he can think about is going to bed. In the beginning there was man who created the computer. In the ending, the computer will replace man as obsolete and his role will only be as a maintenance slave to global computers or else because we control all of the global weapons systems!

Welcome to the "Brave New World!"

Multi-core Processors

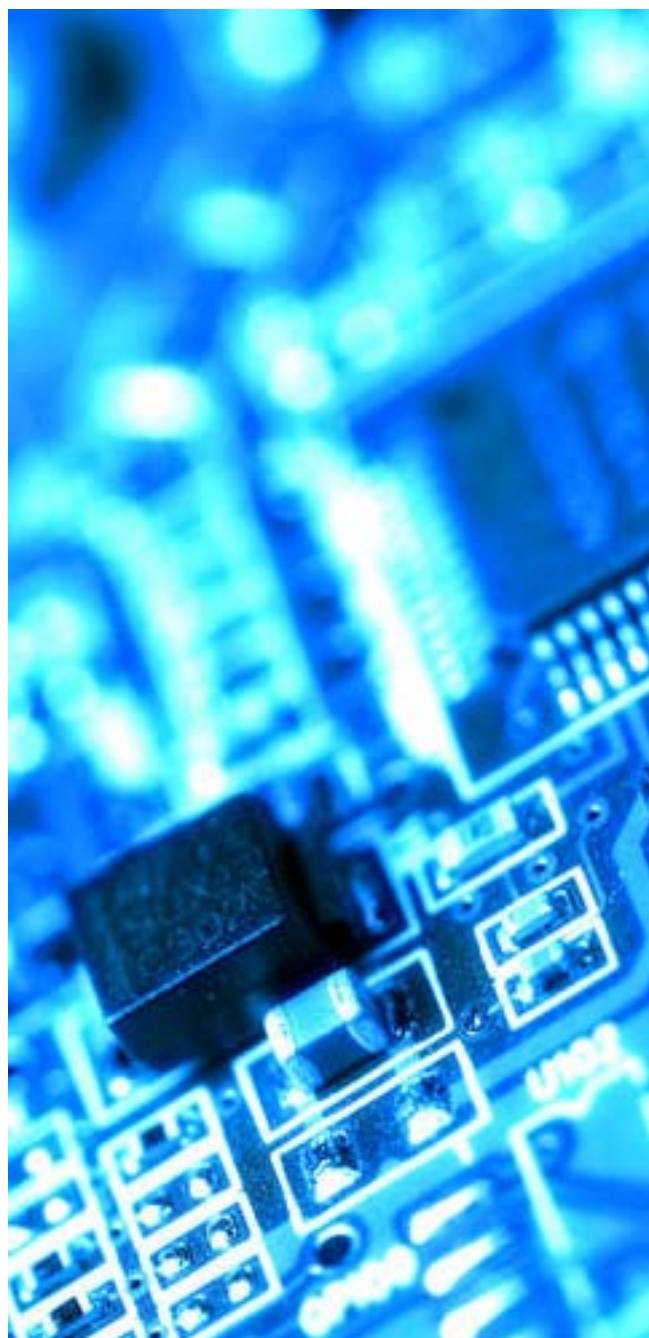
By Brian K. Lewis, Ph.D., member of the Sarasota PCUG, Florida
February 2006 issue of the Sarasota PC Monitor

When I first started researching central processing units (CPUs) my idea was to try to make some sense out of the naming/numbering schemes currently being used by Intel and AMD. This turned out to be an almost impossible task. Did you realize that Intel has more than 50 different Pentium 4 CPU models? That in each speed range there can be a dozen different models. They vary by cache size, socket size, hyper-threading or not, 64 bit or not, voltage and other parameters. As just one example, Intel's 3.2 GHz processor has 12 different models. AMD is just about as bad when you try to analyze their nomenclature. So, for the moment, I have given up on trying to find a simple way to categorize the currently available CPUs. Maybe next month.

Since the upper end of the CPU production now seems to be aimed at producing processors with more than one central core, I decided to look at that topic. So what does it mean that a CPU has more than one core? You can think of it as a single chip containing two or more central processors. It is like having two (or more) computers in one box. That said, I have to admit that it doesn't double your processing speed. At least, not yet.

Servers and workstations used in business have had multiple processors for a number of years. Mainframe computers with multiple processors have also been around for years. In order to take advantage of multiple processing your operating system must be capable of recognizing and using multiple processors. Windows has had that capability since Windows NT/2000 and it is included in Windows XP. Intel introduced Hyper-threading technology in 2002. That allowed two different "threads" to be processed almost simultaneously. Going the next step and putting multiple processors on one single chip is the idea behind multi-core processors. The AMD64 chip was originally designed to have a second core added at a later date. This became the current Athlon 64 X2 dual-core processor. Intel's Pentium D is also a dual-core processor. In any multi-core processor each core is seen by the operating system as being a discrete processor as if the motherboard had two or more separate CPUs. Ideally this allows the computer to process more work within a given clock cycle.

The question is why would Intel and AMD want to complicate CPU design by putting these processors onto a single chip? The design is more expensive to produce. The primary answer to the questions is heat. In the fall of 2002 Intel indicated that it had a 4.0 GHz processor in production. That processor never reached the market. There was also talk about processors reaching 10 GHz. That has all changed and primarily due to the difficulty of reducing the heat output of these processors. When you have 125 million transistors in a very small space, as in Intel's Prescott processor series, there is a lot of heat produced. In fact, it takes



special cooling to keep the processor from overheating and essentially burning itself up. I have a 3.0 GHz Intel "Prescott" processor in my computer and it runs at a consistent 400 Celsius (1040 F). That's only because I have an over sized copper heat sink and very large CPU fan. Ideally it should be running in the low 30's which would be about 50% of the maximum temperature.

Another problem is current or electron leakage. As the processor die size decreases and the number of transistors increases, there is a greater problem with leakage. Electron leakage from one pathway to another can result in data corruption. Die sizes are currently 90 nm and are anticipated to drop to 65 nm this year. Finally the power requirements increase with the increase in transistors. The increase in power is another component in the increasing amount of heat produced by the CPU.

Dual core processors are designed to run at lower clock speeds than the fastest of the single core processors. This reduces the heat output even though the dual core processors currently have 230 million transistors in a smaller space. Intel has also announced another dual core processor to be on the market this summer that will have 1.7 billion transistors! Their literature says they anticipate that by the end of 2006, 70% of their desktop and mobile processors will be dual-core. By the end of 2007 fully 90% of Intel's processors will be at least dual-core. AMD is moving just as fast in producing dual core processors. As the number of cores increase on a single die there will definitely be increases in heat output. Cooling requirements for these CPUs will definitely increase. The future of CPU cooling would seem to be water-cooled systems even for the home desktop market. Unless there is some technological break-through that will reduce the heat problem.

There are other bottlenecks that will become more important in multi-core systems. One is the bus that transmits information from the core to other components. With two or more cores sending information over the bus, both speed and bandwidth will have to increase to handle the increased load. The CPU depends on the computer RAM for the source of its data and instructions. Therefore memory speed is also important and will need to be increased. Finally, information is read from and written to the hard disk. Even with the increased speed and bandwidth associated with SATA drives, this can be the largest bottleneck in the system. So these problems can prevent the user from gaining the maximum advantage provided by a multi-core system. All that said, I have to admit that there will be some definite gains in processing speed with the multi-core systems. This has already been demonstrated by a number of third-party testers. However, it will be some time before a dual-core system will function at twice the speed of a single core system.

I keep talking about "threads" without really giving you any explanation of them. I don't think you really want to go into the programming background for this, so I will try to give you the simple explanation. A thread is a series of sequential programming steps or operations. In some instances, programming steps can be executed simultaneously. However, the program must be designed to allow this to happen. There are also

problems associated with multi-threading that can slow down the overall operation. One problem is called "deadlock". This is when two threads are each waiting for the other to complete its operations. This can result in neither thread reaching completion. For software developers, multi-threaded applications have much higher development costs than the current single-threaded applications. Although Intel's Hyper-threading CPU's have been around for several years, very little software has been written to take advantage of the dual-thread processing. Both Intel and AMD are working with software developers to produce more multi-threaded software applications. But it may be some time before the majority of software applications can take advantage of multi-core processors.

Intel has another technology it has developed for use in its multi-core chips. This is called "Foxton". This allows a processor to adjust its speed and power requirements based on its processing load. Each process will have a base or minimum clock speed and a maximum speed. When the load is low, the processor can raise its clock speed up to a maximum level. This gives the processor more power for faster computing. If the load or the power requirement rises too high, the processor slows. All of this is more technology to simply reduce the system heat to manageable levels.

As I was writing this, Steve Jobs, at MAC World in San Francisco, announced the introduction of Intel based Macintosh computers using the Intel Core Duo processor. This processor was developed for the mobile computer market. It uses clock speeds from 1.6 GHz to 2.1 GHz. Although it has a lower clock speed, the dual processor will provide some performance gain. There will also be a lower drain on the battery. Several other companies have produced Windows based laptops using this same processor.

So how will multi-core computers affect the individual computer user? It should improve the efficiency of your computer by improving its multi-tasking ability. Since each core is essentially a separate processor, at least two applications can be run simultaneously. If the dual core also supports hyper-threading, as some of the Intel Pentium D CPUs do, then it could handle four applications or four threads in multi-threaded applications. Now you may think you really don't do any multi-tasking. However, if you are running an anti-virus program, a firewall, or any other application in the background while you also do word processing or emailing, then you are multi-tasking. A dual core CPU would permit this to happen more efficiently, if not more quickly. Frequently, I am writing, checking a spreadsheet and pulling data off the web. This is also multi-tasking.

I suspect that if you plan to replace your computer within the next year (or two), you will have a dual-core 64-bit processor in your system. With a couple of Gigabytes of RAM, you'll be all set to run Windows Vista as a 64-bit operating system.

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

AMD'S VISIONARY GAMBLE

by Jim Hinwood, Monterey Bay User's Group – Personal Computer (MBUG-PC)
MBUG-PC Newsletter, Volume 25, Number 23, March 2006
Ehinwood@msn.com

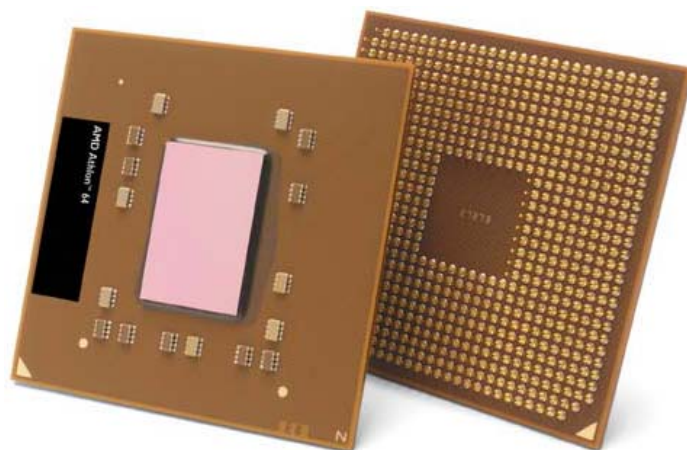
We computer enthusiasts have been the spectators in what I like to think of as a grand race. Leaving all the David and Goliath analogies aside, I like to think of the computer revolution like a car race. Different technologies race around the track — if one pulls a little too wide on a turn, it falls behind, only to make it up on the straightaway later. One “spinout” and you can be permanently out of the race.

There have been some grand reversals in this past year, quite unlike what I've seen in any other business. Quick and decisive changes leading to huge differences in market share. When I first started to play with computer hardware, Intel was king. For 35 years AMD (Advanced Micro Devices) was the “Beta” to Intel's “VHS”: a lot of people would only buy computers with Intel chips even though in many ways AMD was the better value. The problem that Intel ran into was the buildup of heat, and the gamble by AMD on the 64-bit processor. Intel ran their chips as close to 4 GHz as they could, but they couldn't seem to crack the 4 GHz ceiling. A lot of gamers did, by going to water cooling, but nobody in the mainstream wanted to deal with water cooling.

Then, multimedia computers came in as the next best thing. With Microsoft wanting to make headway into your living room, they came out with a new operating system, XP Media Center. Now we had an operating system strictly for a media center PC in your living room, but without a solution to the heat problem, we had water cooling, or a computer with a CPU fan that sounded like a leaf blower. You don't want to watch a movie when the computer running all of your media devices sounds like someone starting a two-cylinder motorcycle!

The other problem is obvious — you don't want laptops that will scorch the gonads off anybody foolish enough to use it on their lap (and eventually you won't be calling it a “laptop” anymore)! Intel found a solution in the Pentium M for the laptop, reducing clock speeds and heat, and increasing battery life. AMD focused on 64-bit computing. When AMD presented 64-bit architecture, there weren't going to be any applications to really take advantage of 64-bit computing for a long time and no operating system in sight, but the AMD chips had immediate and substantial gains in performance for gamers and they started to trounce the Intel chips in any performance face-off.

Also, clock speed doesn't remain as important when you have a 64-bit pipeline. Instead of continuing to increase clock speeds, 64-bit computing doubles the amount of data that can be processed per clock cycle. 64-bit architecture also means exponential amounts of memory that can be addressed. The best home computers can address 4 GB of RAM if the motherboard can handle it, but with 64-bit computing you can run 1 terabyte (1,000



GB of RAM). RAM is very fast and this adds substantial gains to the whole package. AMD then went to a true dual core processor which put two chip cores on the same die, the equivalent of two microprocessors in one. Then you need fewer clock cycles to process the same information — speed can remain the same with double the processing power and running 250 times the RAM.

With the addition of dual core processors and the expected increases in performance that come from splitting the processing of information between chips, AMD has again raised performance without increases in heat. These three things: 64-bit architecture, larger amounts of RAM, and splitting the processing between dual lower clock cycle cores have, for the moment, catapulted AMD from a distant second to an over 50 percent market share in personal computers. AMD is in first place for the first time in their 35-year history.

Does this mean the end for Intel? Not anytime soon, with Intel being seven times as large as AMD and with 34 billion dollars in revenue. Intel earns in 11 days what AMD will earn all year. Intel also sits on 14 billion dollars in cash, to AMD's 1.1 billion. This gives them a huge advantage in research and development and in building state-of-the-art production facilities. AMD's surge in market share is due as much to the stumbling of Intel as it is to its own genius. The only thing that seems to be holding AMD back is the refusal of Dell to use AMD chips. If consumer demand becomes great enough for AMD chips and Dell makes a reversal, it could mean huge gains for AMD. It remains to be seen if Intel can soon regain the summit on which it once stood firmly!

How to Protect your Laptop and your Lap from Heat Build-up and Other Hazards



Or...

How to Prevent Groin Burns from Overheated Laptops

By José Calero, President, LapWorks, Inc.

If you had been this guy, you wouldn't be laughing! The BBC News World Edition reported that, "A Swedish scientist who rested his laptop computer on his lap for just an hour needed medical treatment for extensive blistering on his penis and scrotum. Unfortunately the blisters broke and developed into infected suppurating wounds." The concerned doctor who treated the victim wrote in *The Lancet*, the UK's best-known medical journal, warning the public of the potential dangers of using a laptop "in the literal sense." (Is the good doctor implying that we need to use some sort of "protection" and practice "safe" computing when we use our laptops?) Read the whole story: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/health/2503291.stm>

There you have it – proof positive that using a laptop computer unprotected can burn your lap and other delicate parts. So what are we to do? Stop using our laptops? I don't think so! There are ways to have safe computing, you know. But for the 65 million or so laptop users in America, the heat hazard poses an even greater threat to their computers. Over time, the heat source that burns our lap can have an equally devastating effect on the internal components of our laptop.

So how does one have safe computing without losing intimacy with our laptop, while also protecting it from overheating? The answer is obvious - use protection. What kind? Try a Google search with the keywords "Laptop Desk" or "Lap Desk" or "Lap Tray". There you will find all kinds of protection for both you and your laptop. We plowed through the many listings and narrowed the field to nine products that should help you practice safe computing.



Laptop

But before we get to the product comparisons, let us be clear that groin burns aren't the only hazard that laptop users are susceptible to. There are other hazards—both to the user and the laptop itself—that originate from two common laptop uses: Mobile use (on your lap) and stationary use (on your desktop).

Hazards When Using a Laptop on Your Lap:

Based on research conducted by LapWorks, Inc. (www.lapworksinc.com), two-thirds of all laptop owners reported using their laptops while mobile more often than stationary. Which means that laptop owners prefer 2 to 1 using their laptop in their easy chair watching TV, in airline terminals, in hotel lobbies or in bed surfing the Internet, as opposed to desktop use. As we rove around using our laptops in different ways, lap (or groin) burns are possible unless we use some form of protection.

A pillow is not a good choice. Many mobile users will sandwich a pillow between themselves and the laptop to protect their laps from "Hot Leg." This comforts the user, but unfortunately does no favors for the computer. The pillow acts as an insulator and contains the heat within the laptop, accelerating overheating. The laptop's cooling fan then cycles on repeatedly 'gasping for air' until it shuts your computer down to protect itself from serious heat damage.

Finally, you could permanently damage your laptop with a fatal drop. A white paper study conducted by IDC (International Data Corp., a Framingham, Mass. research firm) concluded that 68% of all damage to laptops comes from being dropped. This includes sliding off the user's lap and crashing to a hard and unforgiving floor. IDC further reported that in 2001, it cost businesses and industry over one billion dollars to repair broken laptops, and replace them in some cases, totaling approximately \$1,400 per incident.

Solutions to the Hazards of Lap Use:

Find a product with non-slip surfaces that spans your lap completely, can hold even the largest portable, and shields your lap from its blistering heat. Road warriors will also want something that's lightweight, thin, and folds so it can easily fit in the computer bag.

To protect the computer from its own heat, find something with built-in ventilation channels that can actually reduce heat. You can reduce heat in two ways: convection (exchanging warm air for cool air) and conduction (transferring heat by contact from a warm surface to a cool surface). Look for products that reduce heat through convection or conduction or both.

Hazards When Using a Laptop on your Desk:

Strange as it may sound, the greatest risk of injuring yourself personally will most likely come when you use your laptop on a desktop over long periods of time. It is here that we risk injuring our neck and shoulders from hazards such as:



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- Offers 5 typing angles that incline the notebook's keyboard for more ergonomically comfortable use than when set flat on a desk.
- Elevates the screen 3 1/4 inches closer to eye level at maximum incline.
- Cools the laptop by 15-20% by allowing more hot air to escape.

- Lower than recommended viewing height of the laptop screen
- Flat typing angle, or lack of incline of the laptop's keyboard

Since most laptop computers are set flat on the desktop, their screen heights are all below the recommended, "ergonomically correct" viewing level. This means you must strain your neck to find information at the bottom of the screen, which can lead to more serious back problems over time. The recommended height for a computer screen is positioning the top of the screen at, or slightly below, eye level. This lets your eyes do the searching, instead of having to bend and strain your neck.

Another hazard comes from the laptop's flat keyboard. In this position, we are forced to move our elbows away from our body to get our hands in the right position to type. Supporting our arms away from our body for long periods of time eventually strains the shoulders and back so that typing becomes tiring and more stressful.

The immediate effects of neck and back strain are discomfort and reduced productivity, but medical experts agree they can lead to more permanent health problems over time.

Solutions to the Hazards of Desk Use:

Ideally, the answer is to raise the back of the laptop computer to such an angle that it will:

Allow natural convection (and conduction if possible) to take place under the computer, reducing heat build-up and cooling your computer.

Raise the viewing screen height closer to eye level, reducing neck strain.

Put the keyboard in an incline allowing elbows to remain by your side in a more ergonomically comfortable typing angle.

Heat is Your Laptop's Worst Enemy:

Aside from the catastrophic crash to the floor, the greatest damage to laptops comes from poor ventilation that causes overheating. Eventually, this overheating causes permanent damage, shortening your laptop's life.

Overheating is the result of the market's competitive demand for the thinnest form factor and greater processing power. The solution? Find a product that can actually reduce the heat by as much as 15% to 20%, which means your laptop's cooling fan won't cycle on as often, and your laptop computer can live a longer, healthier life!

Conclusion:

There are products that address these hazards, each to a greater or lesser degree. Keep in mind that the hazards listed above are real and documented, not just sales hype. If you are a committed laptop user, you'll want to create the safest computing environment whenever and wherever you choose to use your laptop.

Give serious consideration to the below list of nine products and select the one that best meets your specific needs. And be careful out there . . . now that groin burns have been documented, you'll want to use protection from now on so you can always practice safe computing.

José Calero is the developer of the Laptop Desk™ and President of LapWorks, Inc. During his 2 1/2 year study of the mobile computing field, Mr. Calero has evaluated many lap desk products and developed an understanding of the market's needs and the limitations of current lap desk offerings. The goals of this article are to make people aware of the hazards of improper laptop use, and to raise the flag on the damage caused by excessive heat build-up within the computer. José lives in Rancho Cucamonga, California with his wife, Leslie, of 33 years. They have 3 sons, two granddaughters, one dog and one cat. José can be reached by e-mail at jose@laptopdesk.net

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A Lot of Assembly Required

by Karen Rhodes, Honorary Member of the Rochester Computer Society, Inc.
waxtadpole(at)comcast.net, <http://www.rcsi.org>

My computer died. It was old, in computer terms, and the motherboard had had it. It wasn't much of a task to get my data files off before it completely went west, as I keep most of my data on Zip disks or USB portable drives. But it was time for me to get a new com-puter.

It isn't my first choice to go to Gateway or Dell or Hewlett-Packard and buy an already-assembled machine. First, I want on my com-puter only the software I will be using, not some techie-nerd's idea of the latest "in" thing. Second, I don't want to have to go round and round with some-one on the other end of a telephone about what com-ponents are available. The bottom line is that I want what I want when I want it, and nothing more – or less.

My preference for assembling is made much easier by having someone in-house who is experienced at it – my husband, who is a computer specialist. He does everything; he installs hardware, software, LANs, the whole works. There are some things he doesn't know, but he knows enough to be able to put together a computer -- one that works. He's done it before, for himself and for others, on the job and at home.

He did the shopping for me because I get lost when it comes to putting one part of the computer in concert with another, and knowing what is more likely to work with what. You notice I said "more likely;" there never is a guarantee that it's all going to work once you get it together!

Having done business with Newegg.com before, he settled on them. He gave me a list of recommendations. I ordered; the next week, we had all the parts. That next Saturday, after breakfast, the assembly began.



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Desktop

I'll go through the process he used, making what I think are some important points to remember (marked by bullets).

- Don't always settle for the power supply that comes with your case. I ordered a mid-range case, which came with a 350-watt power supply. Probably not enough for my powerful and large genealogy database program and a lot of multi-tasking that will inevitably accompany its use, and certainly not enough for the motherboard I bought, because I also play games for which I bought a powerful graphics card and a muscular motherboard. And the motherboard I ordered states in its manual that it requires a minimum of 400 watts in the power supply. I bought 550 watts.

- If you do boost the power supply or you live in a hot climate (both apply to me), buy extra case fans. They're inexpensive, and the extra cooling they provide is crucial to computer health.

The case came with one fan installed. My husband put in the two extra case fans first. Then he put in the power supply (Just PC model JPC-550C-12V). Next he put onto the motherboard (EPOX EP-8 NPA) the CPU (AMD Sempron 64 3100+), the memory (Corsair, 1 GB), and the graphics card (MSI NVidia P317). The sound card – sound chip, really – and the Ether-net card are integrated onto the motherboard.

All during the installation, my husband used his digital camera to take pictures of each component and of the process. In addition, for my own file, I made notes of all the model numbers and serial numbers.

- Document, document, document! You'll be glad you did when a tech support person you're talking to on the phone about your misbehaving computer asks you for the serial number on your hard drive. You'll have the information right in front of you, either in a paper file or in a photograph, and won't have to open up the case and bend yourself into a pretzel to get the serial number off the hard drive!

Meanwhile, back at the installation procedure, when my husband installed the motherboard into the case and tried to hook it up to the power supply, we hit a snag.

- Understand that the connector on one part which is supposed to connect to another part may not match up and may need an adapter.

In my case – you'll forgive the pun – the power supply connector was 20-pin and the mother-board's corresponding connector had 24 pins. No panic yet – there was an adapter in with the motherboard. But when my husband tried to hook it up at the power-supply end, the connector wouldn't connect. It was mismanufactured.

- Understand that there are going to be snags and that you just have to accept them when they happen, and come up with solutions. Cussing is optional.

- Understand that nature always sides with the hidden flaw.

We live in a rural area, outside of an unincorporated little town in Florida. The nearest city is Jacksonville, up in the next county. It's quite a ways – especially at these gas prices – to go into the



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city for our needs. We try to avoid it as much as we can. However, there was not another adapter of the type we needed nearby.

The next day, Sunday, my husband and I made a 60-mile round trip into Jacksonville to Comp-USA for another adapter. He had been told on the telephone that morning that they had 20 of the item in stock. Fine. We got there, carrying with us the faulty adapter and the case's original 350-watt power supply as a test bed, since it had the same type of connection. Which leads me to:

- Be prepared. If you need to go to the store to replace a faulty component, take the bad one with you! Don't try to remember what type, brand, number or placement of pins... you never will. And telephone ahead, and make sure you talk to someone who knows what he's talking about, or should!

We looked all over the store, ending up at a rack right beside a help station. A young woman came to the counter. We asked her about the adapter. Her first answer was the wrong one: "We don't have those." I informed her curtly we had been told over the phone they had 20 of that item in stock. She then gave some lame routine about not having been there long and something about some boxes just having come in. She looked to her left, at the rack where we ended up, and said, pointing, "There they are, right there."

- Do not take nonsense from store personnel. Speak plainly and to the point. Go to the next level, if you have to, repeating that subroutine as many times as necessary, until you get satisfaction.

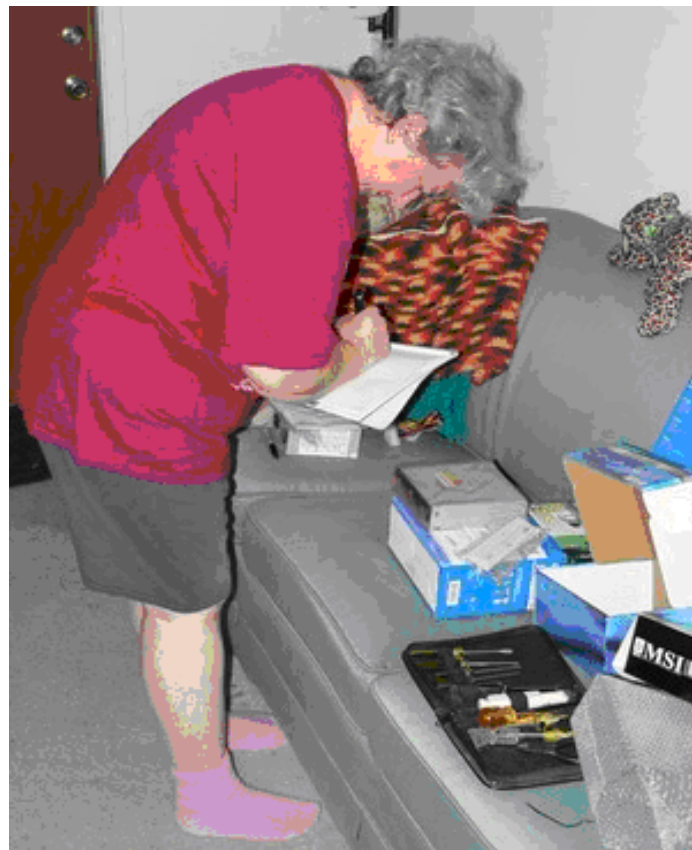
We wanted to open the package and see if the adapter therein would fit the power supply. We didn't mind making one 60-mile round trip, but would have been angry to get the new adapter home and find it also didn't fit! The young woman said we'd have to pay for it first, then take it to Customer Service and talk to them about opening and testing it. Thence we went. Two young men confirmed what we'd been told, then gave us a look that said, "Okay, go away." Not me. I took out my money, plunked it down on the counter, and said, "There's my green." I took the receipt, and then we opened the package, took out the adapter, and tried it. It fit.

- Always ask for what you want. Be firm, even adamant, about it.

I could have ordered another of the adapters from Newegg.com, I'm sure. But there would have been several days' wait, and I wasn't willing to do that when we could find one near and in a short time. The thing only cost \$7, and I probably would have paid that much just in shipping!

- Be willing to shell out a little bit more to get what you want when you want it.

Back home, the assembly proceeded: hard drive (Western Digital Caviar RE 160Gb), DVD-RW (LiteOn SHW-160P6S), DVD/CD-ROM (LiteOn SOHD-6P9SV), card reader (Arrow Micro AICR-01), and the old 3.5" floppy drive from my old com-



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Desktop

puter. He set it all up with the monitor (Sam-sung Sync-Master 740N: I had to treat myself to a flat-panel monitor), the keyboard (LiteOn SK-1688U), and the mouse (Radio Shack optical mouse 26-592, which I already had), and tested it.

It all worked!

I had followed all of my husband's recommendations except for one.

- Even if someone who knows more than you makes recommendations, check them out and see what you think.

When making my hardware selections, I had gone online to Newegg.com and read the reviews and specifications for the components my husband had picked out. I agreed with all except one: the keyboard. The keyboard he selected was criticized in user reviews for sticking keys (which was why I had trashed my old keyboard) and for having too short a cord. I need a longer cord in my setup, so I selected another keyboard, which I'm happy with.

We set up the machine at my desk. We looked at the BIOS and set it up the way I wanted it, which didn't involve many changes. Then it was time to install Windows XP professional (SP2). It seemed to go well, by all appearances, but we know how deceptive that can be! And it wasn't long until we found out we'd hit another snag. Somehow the OS had set itself up to think the C: drive was a removable drive which had no disk in it, and it wanted to call the hard drive "local drive I:." That would not have worked with some software which insists it be placed on Drive C:. This snag also caused the persistent appearance of an error message telling me that there wasn't a disk present in C: when I knew there jolly well was.

- Murphy loves operating systems! Whatever can go wrong, will.

Here I will make a long story short: we used a software program my husband has (Darik's Boot and Nuke) to wipe the hard drive and start all over again. It took two more tries installing Windows XP Professional before the stupid software decided to give the drives their proper names.

- Be patient, persistent, and courageous when installing software, especially the operating system. It is going to fail a few times before succeeding, trust me!

The computer works well, all things considered. I am not able to play a couple of my games, for evidently they require Intel rather than AMD chips. I haven't yet, but I'll go to the respective web-sites and see if there are any patches for us orphaned AMD users!

- No matter how well the installation goes, no matter how well the computer is working, there will still be problems. They're inevitable; get used to it or go back to the mid 20th century!

The important thing is that it will run my genealogy software (The Master Genealogist), word processor (OpenOffice.org), e-mail program (Pegasus), and browser (Firefox), and other things vital to me. As well, it will run some of my games, so I'm happy with that.

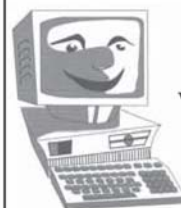
- Once you get it going – enjoy it!

Karen Rhodes is not a techie, but she does appreciate a well-put-together computer. She's had many careers, some of them quite brief, and is currently studying genealogy through the distance learning facilities of the University of Toronto. She lives in Florida with her husband, her younger daughter, and a calico cat named Tiger.

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Hard Drive Class Action Settlement and HP Recalls

By Ira Wilsker, APCUG Director; columnist, The Examiner, Beaumont TX; radio & talk show host, <Iwilsker@apcug.net>

WEBSITES:

<http://www.wdc.com/settlement>

<http://www.wdc.com/settlement/verify.asp>

<http://support.wdc.com/download/index.asp>

<http://www.wdc.com/settlement/docs/claimform.pdf>

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml06/06145.html>

<http://bpr.hpordercenter.com/ebpr/landingpage.aspx>

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml06/06176.html>

http://www.hp.com/hpinfo/newsroom/recall_r707.html

<http://www.hp.com/hpinfo/newsroom/recalls.html>

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cgi-bin/recalldb/prod.asp>

<http://www.cpsc.gov>

According to a recent press release, about one million users of Western Digital hard drives, both internal and external, may be the beneficiaries of a class action settlement. Apparently, according to the settlement, Western Digital did not include an adequate disclaimer on its packages that it uses a different method of measuring hard drive capacity than some of its competitors and industry standards. The method used by Western Digital yielded about seven percent less usable storage capacity than what many users expected.

Many software companies, such as Apple and Microsoft, measure capacity in binary terms, meaning that a gigabyte is 1.07 billion bytes. Western Digital, as well as some other hard drive companies, uses a decimal system, such that a gigabyte is exactly one billion bytes, a difference of seven percent. Because of the difference in nomenclature and identification, a Western Digital hard drive (as well as some other brands) installed on a Windows computer, will appear to have less capacity than listed on the hard drive box.

This seven percent shortfall can be significant in terms of amount of data that can be stored, as explained in the lawsuit. In the lawsuit an 80GB Western Digital hard drive referenced had an actual capacity of 74.4 GB, as measured by Windows. This shortfall on that particular drive was enough to store about 80 hours of digital music, or 5600 typical digital photos.



Hard Drive

Another issue was the wording on the hard drive package, which did not clearly indicate that the listed storage capacity of the hard drive might not be fully accessible. It is a fact that partitioning and formatting a hard drive consumes some of its capacity, and this was not made adequately clear to purchasers of Western Digital hard drives. As a part of the settlement, Western Digital will be required to start including this as a disclaimer on future hard drives.

Hard drives included in this settlement were purchased from March 22, 2001 to February 15, 2006. Owners of these hard drives upon confirmation of eligibility will receive a free download of a full featured hard drive backup and restore utility, capable of full and incremental backups, as well as other features. It is projected this software will have a retail value of about \$30. The deadline for applying for the settlement is July 15, 2006.

Full details of the settlement, along with a link to claim the software, are online at www.wdc.com/settlement. If the serial number of the hard drive is known, or can be easily determined, the claim can be filed online at www.wdc.com/settlement/verify.asp. For those who have installed a Western Digital hard drive, a free utility, "Data Lifeguard Diagnostics" is available for download at support.wdc.com/download/index.asp that will display the serial number. If the hard drive is no longer owned, or has otherwise been disposed of, a claim form available at www.wdc.com/settlement/docs/claimform.pdf can be printed and mailed, but must be received by July 15.

In another area, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and Hewlett-Packard (HP) recently recalled over 15,000 HP and Compaq Notebook Computer Batteries. These batteries were installed in HP Pavilion, HP-Compaq, and Compaq Presario computers, or sold as aftermarket and replacement batteries, and have a prefix of "L3" on the serial number of the battery. This is the second recall on HP computer batteries. A full list of the computer models affected that may have the recalled batteries from both recalls is online at bpr.hpordercenter.com/ebpr/landingpage.aspx. The batteries will be replaced at no charge by calling HP at (888) 202-4320.

In still another recall involving HP branded products, the CPSC and HP recently recalled 679,000 HP Photosmart R707 Digital Cameras sold between August 2004, and April 2006. According to the CPSC, "The digital camera can cause certain non-rechargeable batteries, such as the Duracell CP-1, to overheat when the camera is connected to an AC adapter or docking station, posing a fire hazard. ... HP has received one report of a camera catching fire, damaging the camera and its docking station, and causing minor smoke damage to the room. No injuries have been reported." HP has information available on the recalled cameras at http://www.hp.com/hpinfo/newsroom/recall_r707.html, or by calling HP toll-free at (866) 304-7117. The fix for this problem is a software update for the camera, which can be downloaded for free from HP. The CPSC and HP asks that consumers not use single-use, non-rechargeable batteries until the software in the camera has been updated.

There have been other HP branded products recalled, and information on those items is online at www.hp.com/hpinfo/newsroom/recalls.html.

The CPSC has a variety of services available on its website at www.cpsc.gov which consumers should periodically reference. One useful item is a mailing list where recall notices are sent via email as soon as they are announced. The CPSC also has a search utility online to quickly and easily locate any recalled consumer items, including computers and cameras, at

www.cpsc.gov/cgi-bin/recalldb/prod.asp.



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"Suddenly..." OR "I didn't do anything!"

Doctor's Clinic

a month's log of a Sun City Anthem Computer Club "house call" doctor

By Charles W. Davis, Newsletter Editor & Webmaster, Sun City Anthem Computer Club, Henderson, NV, Chas@anthemwebs.com, www.myscacc.org

In working to help Club members and others with their computer problems during the Thursday morning Computer Talk sessions, or more often when making "house calls," I often hear strange tales that usually involve acts of some gremlin like creature. However, gremlins are more closely related to mechanical problems in aircraft.

Generally the caller's comments start with "all of a sudden" or "suddenly" and end with "I didn't do anything." I can only surmise that it was probably one of cartoonist Bill Keane's ghostly imps "Not Me," "Nobody" or even "Ida Know."

Some recent examples:

"Suddenly..."

One morning a couple of weeks ago, I received a call and the person on the other end of the phone connection was obviously very upset. She exclaimed: "Suddenly all of my desktop icons are gone! I didn't do anything! Please help me!"

This situation seemed to be serious. I had never heard of this happening. I didn't have anything on the calendar for another two hours so I hopped in my 1999 "Sapphire Blue Mica" (marketing division color name of course) Miata for the short drive up the hill to her Tall Mesa Village home. She was right, the icons were indeed missing. A simple right click on the blank desktop, hover over Arrange Icons by: and then click on Show Desktop Icons. This was definitely an act by the "little people." As I said, I hadn't heard of this situation before. Therefore, it must have been "Not Me" wishing to get off the hook by whispering in my ear how I might arrive at the solution. Since the club member was in the back room and the house girl had let me in, I quickly left the scene.

The next day the same lady called and said that her "My Computer" Icon was missing from the desktop. Realizing that it wasn't the normal desktop shortcut icon, I was puzzled. Not thinking things through, I again slid onto the seat in the Miata and shortly arrived on the scene. Sure enough most icons were visible, but the "My Computer" icon was not in its normal position. It wasn't immediately visible. I later noticed the top edge of the icon protruding just above the task bar. Once again, I moved the pointer to a blank spot on the desktop, a right click on the mouse and chose Arrange Icons by and chose Name. The My Desktop icon again assumed its prominence at the upper left. She said that she didn't drag and drop it down there. As I picked up a \$20 donation to the Club, I assumed that it must have been "Nobody" and left for home.

"Suddenly..."

Monday morning is usually the time for the phone calls to begin. On a recent Monday, the caller sheepishly states that "suddenly I can't access the Internet." I recognized that the person speaking to me is the same one whose 18 year old granddaughter had placed hundreds of malware programs on his laptop two weeks before. At that time I had suggested a router/firewall so that she could plug her laptop directly to the router with Internet access. He had immediately gone out and purchased and installed one. Oh yes, the granddaughter had been there over the weekend and had brought her own laptop computer.

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Doctor's Clinic



The blue Miata once again headed up the hill (from our home in the Valley View Village all destinations seem to be “up the hill.”) to their home in Arroyo Vista Village. In just a few minutes, I found that the dear child didn’t plug the cable into the router as instructed, but had used grandpa’s computer. Since she was an AOL user, she attempted to change Gramps’ Accounts from Cox Cable to AOL dialup and failed. It would have been so easy for her to have just gone to AOL using Internet Explorer. She left for school Sunday evening and didn’t mention a thing to Gramps. That way, she didn’t have to tell on either “Ida Know” or “Not Me.” I picked up the \$20 donation to the club and was soon on my way.

An admonition: Set up a Guest Account without Administrative rights. Place a User name and password on the Administrative (your’s) account.

“All of a Sudden...”

“All of a sudden” turns up many times a month and in some unusual situations. Last week, I received a call from a member that was using Microsoft Office Outlook. It seems that she had been entering information into a new contact when “all of a sudden” she couldn’t enter information. She explained that she had been using Outlook and contacts for years and had never had this problem. Since this didn’t seem (to me) that this required immediate attention, I arranged an appointment for the next morning. My Miata and I arrived at her Golf Mesa Village home just as the Grandfather clock guarding the entry was announcing that it was 10:00. Grandfather clocks that I am aware of don’t announce “a.m.” or “p.m.”

She met me at the door and we proceeded to the office and she took her place in front of her computer to show me what was happening. She began keying in the house number, using the numeric key pad and just as she had said, nothing worked as

expected. I immediately saw why this had happened so “suddenly.” Apparently “Nobody” had pressed the Num Lock key thereby turning it off. So as she would enter a house number, things went wild as the 2,4, 6, and 8 keys acted as direction keys, 7 & 9 were Home and Page Up respectively and 1 & 3 were End and Page down. I asked her to press the Num Lock key and “all of a sudden” the problem was resolved. I collected the \$20 donation check to the club and was homebound — downhill of course.

“Suddenly...”

On another Monday, I received a call from a member stating that she had recently upgraded to MS Office 2003 and a short time later, suddenly she could no longer access MS Publisher files. This was the result of someone else messing with functions that they should have stayed away from. Support teams at Norton will vow “Not me.” But when the lady was directed to an article titled “How to use Office programs with the Norton Anti-Virus Office plug-in” she was able to resolve the problem as I watched. This article can help you extricate yourself and may be found at: <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/329820/en-us>.

It is maddening to think that one, nay thousands upon thousands, must jump through hoops because a bunch of programmers at Symantec (Norton) can’t get it right.

I have never understood their automatic plug-in installation. At least they should tell the user, including a list of possible problems and their resolution, and let them make a decision as to whether to install the plug in. Who needs viruses when “reputable” software manufacturers can do things like this to you?

A long time ago, in computer time, but actually just over a year ago, I stopped paying the extortion money for antivirus software and have used the free AVG antivirus, which is available from <http://free.grisoft.com/doc/1>

“Suddenly...”

“Suddenly” you can’t open Word or most other Microsoft Office products. This happened because you owned a Hewlett Packard multi-function printer with a flash memory card reader. It seems that a security update messed with the logic for these systems and caused much havoc around the world.



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A follow-on update was released to affected computers during the 4th week in April. If you are still having the problem, go to Start then Windows Update, download and install all Critical updates. It seems that "Ida Know" visited Microsoft's Redmond campus...

Suddenly..."

Last week, one of your neighbors in the Valley View Village went to his neighbors stating that his phone went "dead." On investigation, it was learned that he had ordered and installed a new Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) phone system. Some of the equipment had arrived, but due to a transposition of digits when entering the credit card number, the important "Silver" box did not get shipped. "Ida Know" didn't know how the mix up occurred. "Who Knows" stated that the customer probably discarded the silver box with the packaging. However, the land line telephone provider had been notified to discontinue the service. "Dead line!"

An admonition: Always check the contents of packages to make certain that all components are included before installing anything!

The Federal Communications Commission has a web site that explains most aspects of VoIP:

<http://www.fcc.gov/voip/>

Not so "Suddenly..."

This particular call arrived on a Tuesday, so I was surprised to hear: "Suddenly I can send e-mail but I can't receive any messages. Everything times out. I've called Cox Communications and since I use Office Outlook 2003, they weren't much help." This phone call came in at a time that Vickie was out and wouldn't return for a while, so I slid behind the wheel of the Miata and headed for Ridgcrest Village to see what had happened so "suddenly."

It took several minutes of attempting to send messages to the owner's e-mail address. Sure enough the message would be sent, but no incoming messages. After some time it would all time out. The first inbound message would never arrive. I found that there was no Internet access using Internet Explorer. I installed Firefox from my USB Flash memory and was then able to access the internet. At this time clues began to appear one-by-one.

Norton Internet Security was warning of Firefox accessing the Internet — twice!

ZoneAlarm was warning of Firefox accessing the Internet!

Oops! Only one program firewall at a time is allowed. Since the member's Norton subscription was about to expire, I downloaded AVG antivirus to his desktop (free at <http://free.grisoft.com>), shut off the cable modem, went to uninstall Norton SystemWorks and discovered two versions. I uninstalled both. When I attempted to install AVG antivirus, the program indicated that the version of the Roxio CD creator contained code that was incompatible with AVG, and it provided a link for an update. I installed the update and then successfully installed the AVG antivirus. Then I turned on



the cable modem and downloaded updates. I was grateful to the AVG programmers to make that test and inform the user. Suddenly, I decided that I like the AVG antivirus program and its creators even more than in the past.

Now I felt that I could address the original problem. I opened Office Outlook, and it proceeded to download a monstrous movie clip — 9.87MB! It was able to complete the download due to the fact that Norton wasn't scanning inbound e-mail messages.

"Suddenly" wasn't really all that sudden. The second and third firewall programs were installed over a period of time, but the problem didn't manifest itself until the arrival of the large file. As an aside, it was a clip from a newscast relating the story of an autistic youth that had been the go-fer for a high school basketball team. On the last game of his senior year, the coach (dad) suited him up put him in to play. I believe that I saw through the tears that welled up in my eyes over 21 points racked up — all three pointers. I'm not a sports fan, but am a fan of the underdog! \$20 more for the Club's treasury.

A very frequent "Suddenly"

Quite frequently, I get a call and the party on the other end is complaining about the fact that suddenly there are small dashes between words accompanied with the backward "P." I kind of

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like this one, as I can generally “fix” it over the phone. This one is usually caused by the imp “Nobody.” “Nobody” placed the pointer on the Show/Hide icon on the Office Word tool bar. In the image below you will note the parenthetical expression (Ctrl+*). Holding Ctrl+Shift+8 will turn them on, do it again to turn them off. Note that “shift + 8” is the *.

Naturally, in MS Office Publisher the keyboard short cut is Ctrl+Shift+Y.

By the way, that backward “P” is called a pilcrow. For a complete rundown of funny dots and arrows, see: <http://word.mvps.org/FAQs/Formatting/NonPrintChars.htm>



“Suddenly” I can’t print!

This call came in late in the afternoon. A member had changed his printer cartridge and could no longer print. He could no longer receive e-mail messages. To my surprise, there was no task bar visible on the desktop! He had been without a means of normal shutdown for weeks! After installing 23 critical updates to his Windows 98 SE system, the task bar was still not visible. However, the printer was now back in working condition.

Now was time to address the e-mail problem. He showed me an article he had clipped from the Las Vegas Review-Journal by the syndicated columnist James Coates. The article revolved around a question submitted by a customer of Comcast, an Internet Service Provider. James walked the reader through the steps to properly set up Outlook Express for the Comcast e-mail account. Unfortunately our club member had followed the instructions completely and therefore attempted to access Comcast’s e-mail server. “Suddenly” incoming e-mail messages had ceased to arrive. I reset the account to the member’s Cox Communications server. Messages were now arriving as desired.

Following a phone call and suggestions from another trouble shooter (“Silly,” he said: “Hit the start key!”), the task bar was located hiding off to the right of the screen! I started to drag it to the bottom of the screen and the thing snapped up to the top of the screen. I started to drag it to the bottom, but he didn’t want it moved! Suddenly, he is back in the retiree business! “Ida Know” had clearly been involved here. The evening was warm and clear with a view of the sparkling lights of the Las Vegas Strip in the distance as my Miata carried me and the \$20 check home.

My Miata has sat in the sun with the top down for many hours each day for the past six years. One morning I made a trip to a shop to have the interior panels on both doors replaced. While I was gone, two members called and one explained to Vickie that he had four Word files that when opened immediately shut down word. The other told Vickie that he had major computer problems and it was probably ready for burial.

In the first instance “Ida Know” was definitely involved. Big time! Norton Antivirus hadn’t been updated since 2002! I downloaded the free AVG Antivirus, uninstalled Norton Antivirus via Control Panel’s Add/Remove function. I installed AVG, after the Roxio update as mentioned earlier, then updated AVG and scanned for viruses. None! I downloaded and installed Ad-Aware SE Personal and scanned. Ad-Aware found 335 malware programs that were removed. Still, it didn’t fix Word.

During the scans, which seem to take forever, the lady of the house was distraught over the loss of her Quicken backup data. She thought that she had backed up to a new USB Flash memory drive prior to buying her new computer. I opened the My Computer folder and double clicked on the USB drive and located the Quicken file and double clicked on it. Quicken opened and her checking balances were as expected. I renamed the USB Flash Memory drive to her name. Hoping to avoid future trips to her home, I had her practice the routine several times.

The above scans were now complete.

I returned to his computer and I chose Detect & Repair from Word’s Help drop down menu. Following this repair function, things were still the same. I finally opened one of the documents and immediately chose “Save As” from the File drop down menu. I changed the file name by one digit and closed. I reopened the newly saved document and Word remained open. I followed the same procedure on the others with success in each case! Why? “Ida Know.”

By this time, I was late to the second appointment. Earlier, I had tried to call, but got an answering machine. I left the message that I was running late and would be there soon. I had called the wrong number, and I have wondered whether the unknown party was still waiting. I collected the \$20 donation check and departed.

On arrival at the second destination, the member had meticulously written down the steps that led to his problem, and more important, the steps that he had attempted to resolve the issue. I listened to all the steps as he read from the sheet of paper. Then he explained that the screen went hay-

wire when Windows XP booted up, and the system crashed. It seemed that the problems started with the installation of eight Windows updates that he had downloaded on a dialup connection.

"Ida Know" was definitely involved here, as I have not heard of any Critical update causing this reaction. On rebooting he received several messages that indicated some drivers were back level. He couldn't access the Internet via his Earthlink access. The Earthlink Tech Rep had told him install some drivers from the Dell CD that came with the computer. Big mistake! I looked at the CD and it was for Windows 98! This member was running Windows XP with SP2 installed.

I started the system in Safe mode and went to a System Restore point that preceded the first of the steps that he had outlined.

He was now back in business—well, as much in business as any of us retirees.

His wife wrote the \$20 check and I arrived home on a Friday evening just in time for our cocktail hour.

Desperate Housewife

A desperate housewife called and let me know that she needed some help with her computer. AOL had "Suddenly" gone berserk! What's new? I thought. My Miata soon delivered me to her driveway in Ridgcrest Village.

AOL was unresponsive. When opening, a message would appear stating that a file was not a Windows image. OK, so what? I finally uninstalled AOL and using the installation disk re-installed it. Same message, but we did manage to open an

e-mail message and print a picture taken at her first great-grandson's first birthday.

I soon found that Norton's subscription had expired some 14 months before! Next order of business was to uninstall Norton's Anti-virus and then download the free AVG Antivirus. Following the start of the download, I read that it would take approximately three hours on the dial-up connection.

I asked her to install the program upon completion of the download and left. Later that day, a power glitch hit and I lost my next issue of the Anthem Compendium.

There is no auto-save function in FrontPage.

Two days later the desperate one called again and said nothing had worked. Sure enough that power glitch had shut the download off. Further, it was corrupted. Once again I started the download and went home for lunch. On my return, there were still a few minutes to wait. AVG Antivirus was successfully installed.

Now, I had to address her problem with AOL, the same message as before, and it would not respond when one clicked on the mail icon. Yet the Windows Task Manager said it was running. Upon trying to close it using the Task Manager, one discovered an update being applied.

Later, I would start to shut it down but, then it was downloading a program update. It had been months (years) while since the CD had been produced so there were several updates to install.

I decided a different tack was needed. I did a search for a file with a .tol file extension and found three. On a subsequent restart of AOL, I noticed the one in trouble was in a "b" version?

I then opened Windows Explorer and plowed down through the C drive folders and located the three files. There were really three different versions of AOL installed. The un-install hadn't uninstalled a thing! That proved to be the answer, as I simply copied the .tol file from one installation to the "b" folder. All is well in AOL land once again.

She made me take a second \$20 donation to the Club and I was soon back home writing this.

The parking lot approach!

Last week, as I walked from the Computer Club classroom to the parking lot, a lady called to me. She explained that one of our other "house call" volunteers had spent hours attempting to download and install a new version of Norton antivirus at \$59.99. It appeared to him to be a bad download as it kept saying something needed to be "fixed." After a while he assumed that the download was corrupted and they called Symantec. After several hours with Tech support, they finally ordered a box copy mailed to the house, another \$59.99. She added that she had also bought a router as recommended and that needed to be installed.



Doctor's Clinic

The next morning at the Computer Club's "Computer Talk" session I asked why he had not installed the free AVG Antivirus. He explained that the member was only doing as her late husband had instructed. 'Nuf said.

The next day, I called and made an appointment for Saturday. Since she lives only two blocks away, I walked. No one answered the bell. So I returned home and about 45 minutes later she called. I had been at the house next to hers! Another mutual time was arranged. On this day the temperature was hovering around 100 degrees, so I drove the Miata. With the top down and the air conditioner on full blast, of course.



When I started her computer, the Norton product indicated a problem with a button to "fix it." I clicked on it and it started a system scan. After several minutes, that wasn't going to accomplish anything, so I stopped the scan and re-booted. Same routine! This time though, I decided that the programmers at Symantec, thought the lack of a scan meant something needed "fixing" and Tech support didn't pick up on the lack of clarity in their message! Sure enough, when the scan was completed, the need for a fix went away.

I easily installed the router and then went online to the URL that Symantec had provided on the receipt and applied for a return of the boxed versions that had been mailed. No problem!

"Suddenly" or "not so suddenly" all of the incidents reported here are of a real concern to the Club members that called for assistance.

When you have a problem, contact your Computer Club's President.

This article was originally published in Bits, PCs & Macs. Bits PCs & Macs is the newsletter of the Sun City Anthem Computer Club. All copies are available online at: <http://www.myscacc.org/newsletters.htm>

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Computer Crimes

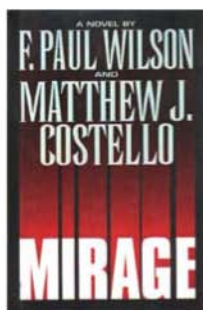
Susan Ives, Alamo PC

Mirage, by F. Paul Wilson and Matthew J. Costello

Hardback, Warner Books, 1996, \$23.00, 374 pages

Estranged twins Julie and Sammi Gordon couldn't be more different: Julie's a buttoned-down left-brained neurophysiologist; Sammi's an impulsive right-brained artist. When Sammi slips into an inexplicable coma-like state, Julie fled from her lab in Boston to be at her side in London, and quickly realizes that her memoryscapes project – a virtual reality program intended to revive the memories of Alzheimer's patients – could be the key to her sister's survival.

An intriguing medical thriller, bordering on the edge of science fiction. Costello is the game designer for "7th

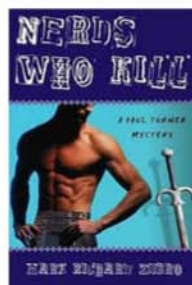


Guest" and his talent is apparent in the virtual reality scenes. Not too many technical details about the VR, but still an interesting concept. The mystery itself is a good – and horrifying one. Recommended.

Nerds Who Kill, by Mark Richard Zubro

Hardback, St. Martins Minotaur, 2005, \$23.95, 272 pages

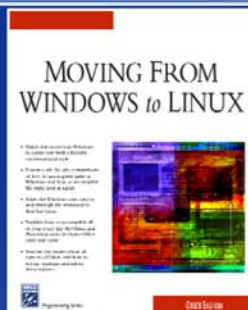
Chicago detective Paul Turner's sons are attending a Science Fiction Convention so he is conveniently on the scene when a supposedly beloved and undeniable popular writer is skewered with a broadsword.



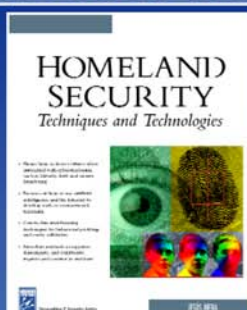
The most high-tech aspect of Nerds Who Kill is the title, which I adore. One of the characters has a handheld gizmo, referred to as a computer, which is used to break into hotel rooms and one of the victims writes reviews of sci-fi books for a Web site (that's striking a little too close to home.) Not nearly as interesting as Sharon McCrumb's "Bimbos of the Death Sun," a better, funnier book which also takes place at a sci-fi convention.

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.

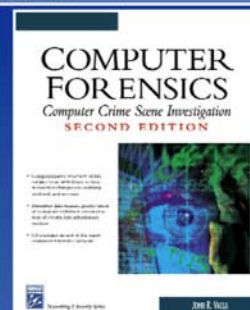
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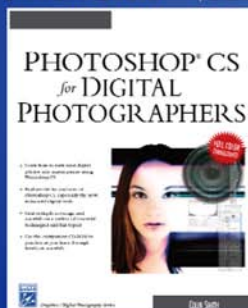
1-58450-280-0 \$44.95



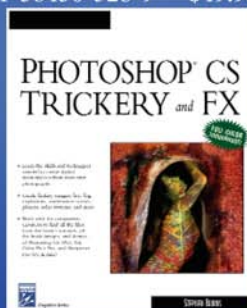
1-58450-328-9 \$49.95



1-58450-389-0 \$49.95



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Book Review

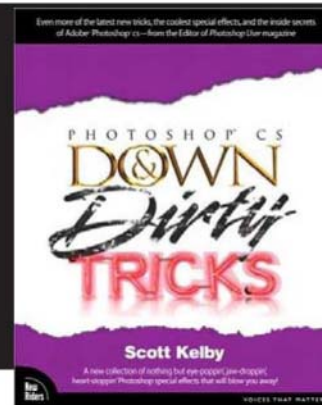
Photoshop CS Down & Dirty Tricks

by Scott Kelby

\$39.99

Published by New Riders

Reviewed By Jim Morrison, NOCCC



The CS edition, which follows Scott Kelby's previous Photoshop 7 Down and Dirty Tricks, is so completely new that even a fairly strict exam of the table of contents reveals almost no repetition. Actually, I found only one duplicated title.

Kelby is a class act with a sense of humor that shines through in every chapter without being in the least burdensome. His inclusion of the word "Dirty" in the title was recommended by his editor who said it would increase sales by 16%. (Kelby suggests 18% in some parts of New Jersey.) More, when he slipped in the word "Naughty" for a chapter title, sales purportedly went up 19% in spite of the chapter's being named somewhat awkwardly "Naughty CMYK Prepress Settings." For his next book, he wishes he could say he knows Britney Spears personally (he doesn't) for a whole new teen market. Tom Clancy on the front of the book would really make sales take off, and after that comes the next Harry Potter book. You just have to admire his business sense.

The heart of the book is that its non-sequential nature allows one to pick a suitable project without involving any preamble and requiring only the most rudimentary knowledge of Photoshop. In only four pages, Scott shows how even a neophyte can create a movie poster rivaling the efforts of a dedicated professional. A minor caveat in the poster project is that one of the fonts recommended, Compacta Bold, is a product of Bitstream and does not come with CS Photoshop. No big deal. Many, many fonts are available.

Speaking of preamble, Scott doesn't have an introduction. He says nobody reads them anyway, but he does have a preamble titled "This is Not the Introduction," which is definitely recommended reading. A cursory acquaintance with his delightfully airy mannerisms belies the concentrated utility in the meat of the book.

For the hardcore Photoshoppers, one of Scott's on-every-page- useful tips advises that the new Wacom tablet doesn't require the user to reset brush pressure or size sensitivity when you change brushes. He suggests that having to do so perhaps drove the users of the previous program suicidal. Wow.

Scott probably wouldn't mind a plug here for the Wacom pen since he is a co-author with Dave Cross of a FREE tutorial CD on the device advertised on page 3 of the June issue of Photoshop USA (<http://www.wacompowertips.com> or call toll free 1-800-922-1490).

As in Photoshop 7, the reader has access to the book's companion website <http://www.downanddirtytricks.com>, and also has permission from Digital Vision to use royalty-free images at <http://www.digitalvisiononline.com>.

The former has stunning images generously allowed by BrandX to be used only for practice purposes in the book. A downloaded lighthouse measures 2.4x1.6" at 300 dpi.

Before you get too excited about "royalty-free," from digitalvisiononline, a search for "tiger" showed initial purchase prices from \$149 for an 11x13 cm at 72 dpi to \$409 for 28x48 cm at 300 dpi.

This is truly a great, great book blemished by only one complaint. The accompanying DVD could not be read by either my computer or the player in the entertainment center. Gotta get back to the publisher on that, or maybe buy a new computer, right? In case you missed this Richard Freeman tip in my last review, a soft- back book used often on a desk just refuses to stay open. Take it to Kinko's for a \$5 conversion into a spiral binder. Author: Scott Kelby Publisher: New Riders Publishing 2004. MSRP: \$39.99 (less 10% for NOCCC members); Amazon.com: New \$27.19, Used from \$23.31. Average customer rating at Amazon: Four stars out of five.

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

SEPTEMBER 2006

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|-----------|--|---|---|--|---|---|
| | | | | | 1 *PRR* Small Business Server 2003 8 - 10 A.M. (rescheduled next week) Dr. is In 9:00 A.M. - Noon Workshop *PRR* Photoshop 12:30 - 4:30 P.M. PC Alamode Magazine & PDF 7 - 9 P.M. | 2 *PRR* MCSE (Adv) 8:30 A.M. - Noon Class 5 of 6 *PRR* Windows XP 1 - 3 P.M. C++ 2:30 - 4:30 P.M. |
| 3 | 4 Labor day Genealogy 7 - 9 P.M. | 5 Class 6 of 8 **PRR** Introduction to Digital Photo Editing 9 - 11 A.M. Class 4 of 6 **PRR** Windows XP 1:30 - 3:30 A.M. BOD 6:30 P.M. Class 1 of 4 Excel Basics 7 - 9 P.M. | 6 Class 6 of 6 **PRR** Introduction to Windows XP 10 A.M. - Noon Class 5 of 6 **PRR** Internet and Email 1 - 3 P.M. | 7 Student's Practice Lab 9:00 A.M. - Noon Class 6 of 8 *PRR* Digital Camera & Photography 9 - 11 A.M. (a/r) HGSI 6:30 - 8:30 P.M. .Net Web Development 7 - 9 P.M. | 8 *PRR* Small Business Server 2003 8 - 10 A.M. (this week only) Dr. is In 9:00 A.M. - Noon Workshop *PRR* Photoshop 12:30 - 4:30 P.M. | 9 *PRR* MCSE (Adv) 8:30 A.M. - Noon Class 6 of 6 *PRR* Windows XP 1 - 3 P.M. Commodore 1 - 4 P.M. Class 1 of 6 *PRR* HTML 4 - 8 P.M. |
| 10 | 11 General Meeting @ Crossroads Convention Center 7 - 9 P.M. Presenter: | 12 Class 7 of 8 **PRR** Introduction to Digital Photo Editing 9 - 11 A.M. Class 5 of 6 **PRR** Windows XP 1:30 - 3:30 P.M. Class 2 of 4 Excel Basics 7 - 9 P.M. | 13 Power Internet 10 A.M. - Noon Class 6 of 6 **PRR** Internet and Email 1 - 3 P.M. Home Page Jumpstart 8:30 - 7 P.M. (Canceled will restart in October) | 14 Student Practice Lab 9:00 A.M. - Noon Class 7 of 8 *PRR* Digital Camera & Photography 9 - 11 A.M. | 15 Dr. is In 9:00 A.M. - Noon Workshop *PRR* Photoshop 12:30 - 4:30 P.M. | 16 *PRR* MCSE (Adv) 8:30 A.M. - Noon C++ 2:30 - 4:30 P.M. Class 2 of 6 *PRR* HTML 4 - 8 P.M. |
| 17 | 18 | 19 Class 8 of 8 **PRR** Introduction to Digital Photo Editing 9 - 11 A.M. Class 6 of 6 **PRR** Windows XP 1:30 - 3:30 P.M. Class 3 of 4 Excel Basics 7 - 9 P.M. | 20 | 21 Student Practice Lab 9:00 A.M. - Noon Class 8 of 8 *PRR* Digital Camera & Photography 9 - 11 A.M. | 22 Dr. is In 9:00 A.M. - Noon Workshop *PRR* Photoshop 12:30 - 4:30 P.M. | 23 *PRR* MCSE (Adv) 8:30 A.M. - Noon Learning Center Desk Staff Meeting 1 - 3 P.M. Class 3 of 6 *PRR* HTML 4 - 8 P.M. |
| 24 | 25 CoreIDR [®] -w X3 6 - 8 P.M. | 26 Class 1 of 8 **PRR** Advanced Digital Photo Editing 9 - 11 A.M. Class 4 of 4 Excel Basics 7 - 9 P.M. | 27 (a/r) WordPerfect 7 - 9 P.M. | 28 Student Practice Lab 9:00 A.M. - Noon Class 1 of 8 *PRR* Digital Camera & Photography 9 - 11 A.M. (Dot) NetNuke Portal 7 - 9 P.M. | 29 Dr. is In 9:00 A.M. - Noon Workshop *PRR* Photoshop 12:30 - 4:30 P.M. | 30 Class 4 of 6 *PRR* HTML 4 - 8 P.M. |
| | | | | | | |

ALAMOPC ORGANIZATION



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, MCDDBA, 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 Alamode 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
stephentechnr@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 Alamode 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

<stephentechnr@yahoo.com>

210-675-2880

When: 4th Monday, 6-8pm

Where: Learning Center

Pre-registration: No

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. Topics of discussion may include camera optics, composition, tips, choosing the right camera, lighting, how to take night shots, silhouettes, portraits, action shots, and close ups. 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 8 weeks on Thursdays 9 -11 am (some sessions may be longer)

Choice of two class sessions:

Thurs., Aug 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, Sep 7, 14, 21 OR

Thurs., Sep 28, Oct 5, 12, 19, 26, Nov 2, 9, 16

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

Where: Computer Learning Center Plus Field Trips

Technical Rating: ★ - ★★

Intro. To Digital Photo Editing Class Advanced Digital Photo Editing

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.

The Introduction Class may include:

Remedial computer work as it relates to the use of Image 2006. Any computer skills that will be essential for success in Image 2006. We will learn how to place files into the work area. How to control the work area. We will learn the use of the essential photo editing tools such as; color balance, sharpening focus, removing red eye, crop, straighten photo, etc. We will advance as far as the students prior experience allows.

The Advanced Class may include:

Learning the work area of our program. We learn the use of the tools that are available with Image 2006. We learn to use the tools to do everything from making greeting cards to photo refinishing.

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 8 weeks on Tuesdays 9 -11 am

Introduction: Tuesdays, Aug 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, Sep 5, 12, 19

Advanced: Tuesdays, Sep 26, Oct 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, Nov 7, 14

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 CD with the images for the entire class is provided. Photoshop Classes are offered as

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.

three separate classes, teaching the basic tools, palettes and procedures. Instruction class "A" using Photoshop 7. includes adaption for Photoshop CS and CS2. Instruction class "B" with different lessons and text, using Photoshop 7 includes adaption for Photoshop CS and CS2 Photoshop Basic Instruction for Photoshop CS and CS2 (focuses on CS and CS2 but those using Photoshop 7 can take this class).

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 computer 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: Instruction class "A" using Photoshop 7 includes adaption for Photoshop CS and CS2 will meet 8 weeks on Thursdays, 12:30 to 4:30 pm Jan 4, 11, 18, 25, Feb 1, 8, 15, 22 Year 2007.

When: Photoshop Basic Instruction for CS and CS2 will meet 8 weeks on Fridays, 12:30 to 4:30 pm Jan 5, 12, 19, 26, Feb 2, 9, 16, 23 Year 2007.

Fees: \$90 for New Students, \$50 for Previous Students who have attended a Photoshop 7, Instruction Class A or B class, or CS2 class.

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: September on Fridays (Sept. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29) from 1 to 5 pm Working on "fancy" procedures beyond the basics.

When: October on Fridays (Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27) from 1 to 5 pm Working on more "fancy" procedures beyond the basics.

Fees: Tuition fee: \$25 per month

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

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

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

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, (skip Aug 30)

Set 6, 13

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 | 45 |
| Charles River Media | 56 |
| Computer Experts | 47 |
| Computer Fest | 44 |
| Cramer's Computer Services | 29 |
| David's Essential Domains | 25 |
| DV Nation | 33 |
| Global Travel Trends | 55 |
| Holiday Ink | 24 |
| Inksell | IFC |
| Laura B. Grover, E.A. | 35 |
| New Life Toner | IFC |
| SA PC Help | 43 |
| United Service Association for Health Care | 51 |
| Water Ware | 43 |

Classified Ads

E-mail or snail mail (address on page 3) your ad to the Editor, PC Alamode 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 8 issues ago. Reward: free classified ad.



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 you 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.

