



range Bytes

Award Winning Newsmagazine of the North Orange County Computer Club

Vol 27 • No 11

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\$4.00

NOCCC MEETINGS - November 3

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

Microsoft's Technical Seminar Ace
Todd Stallard
Trouble Shooting WinXP Problems

See Page 4 for details

1:00 p.m. Irvine Hall **MAIN MEETING**

Microsoft's Technical Seminar Ace
Todd Stallard
WinXP's New Productivity Features

See Page 4 for details

8:30 a.m.

Visual Programming I **Science 109**
Visual Basic and Visual Basic Script for Beginners

9:00 a.m.

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

9:30 a.m.

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

10:00 a.m.

Linux for Server Administrators **Wilkinson 210**
Vendors **Science 127**

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

11:15 a.m.

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

12:00 Noon

PIG SIG **Argyros Hall Cafeteria**
A lunch get together and talk. See SIG Reports

1:00 p.m. Main Meeting, Irvine Hall

See box above

2:30 p.m.

Genealogy **Irvine Hall**
Discover your family history with modern tools
Hardware Essentials **Science 109**
Optimizing Video Displays
OS/2 **Science 203**
OS/2 News and Installation

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

Future Meetings
Dec 1 • Jan 5 • Feb 2 • Mar 2

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VOLUNTEER NEEDED!!!!

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HELP WANTED

User Group Web Page Reporter

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

President's Message

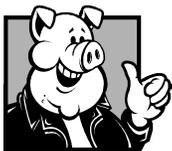
By the time you read this, our taxes for the year will have been filed. Per our bylaws, we'll publish the financial statements in the next issue. We actually managed to cover our expenses without having to dip into our savings account.



While we are trying to cut costs as much as possible, our biggest expense is still printing the Orange Bytes. We have cut the number of extra copies we print. Therefore, we do not have a many extra copies to hand out at the meeting. The Bytes will still be available online before the meeting to members. If your email address is not current, send it to: membership@noccc.org. Also, check the top line of your Orange Bytes mailing label and renew on time. It saves us a lot of postage!

The other day I was at CompUSA and picked up a brochure from a company called Evolution Technologies. This company has come up with something they call a Personal Robot system. Basically, you put a laptop on wheels and let it have fun. Now how's that for having your computer walk away? Check it out at www.evolution.com. According to their website, they will be demonstrating it at Fry's. It kind of reminded me of an R2-D2 look alike robot we had in an office I worked at back in the early 1980s. We programmed Herbie, as we called him, using a programming language called LOGO. Since this company is in Pasadena, maybe we could have them at a meeting? Let me know what you think.

Alan Pearlman, *NOCCC President*
(714) 828-5242



Pig SIG Open To ALL

Meet us in the Cafeteria in Argyros Hall around 11:30 am November 3rd (Til about 1pm). If you're hungry, there is a buffet lunch and snack bars open.

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

Membership Benefits

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

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

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

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

PowerQuest- New Partition Magic 8

- Partition Magic v8 (List \$69.95) \$35.00
- Drive Image v5 (List \$69.95) Full System Backup Utility including DataKeeper \$35.00

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

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

NewRiders Book Discounts—Please visit www.newriders.com and check out our Promotions section. You can see examples there of some of the UG discounts we have set up for our partners.

Microsoft Press Savings—Save 20% off Microsoft Press books. Visit <http://www.microsoft.com/mindshare/offers/mspress/> and use the code: MCPC, to get your 20% discount. Call 1-800-MS-PRESS to order.

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

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

October Board Meeting Minutes



Upcoming Presentations November 3

Todd Stallard

Business Development Manager

Technology Sales Solutions Specialist

Microsoft Corporation

Todd has 14 years of technology industry background in California's secondary education system and small-to-medium sized business arenas. Prior to his current position of Technology Sales Solutions Specialist with Microsoft's Seminar Sales Team, Todd was the Department Chair for technology education at Granite Hills High School and Cuyamaca College. Todd later served as the Digital High School Project Manager and Campus LAN Designer for the Grossmont Union High School District. After completing his Masters in Instructional Technology, he transitioned into private enterprise as a Sales Engineer for CenterSpring Thin Client solutions, a subsidiary of Tangent Computer. Todd also held the position of National Sales Engineer managing technical solutions for clients in the United States for TEKsystems Internet Business Services ASP/MSP division.

New Technologies Meeting • 9:30 am

Todd will discuss a number of the features of WinXP that a lot of people have yet to discover. Among the top items is the restore points.

Main Meeting • 1:00 pm

Todd will demonstrate a number of the new productivity features of WinXP Pro including a discussion of the way .NET works.

Consignment Table

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

2. The consignment table operates on a 90/10% basis — with the owner getting 90%, and the Club treasury 10%.

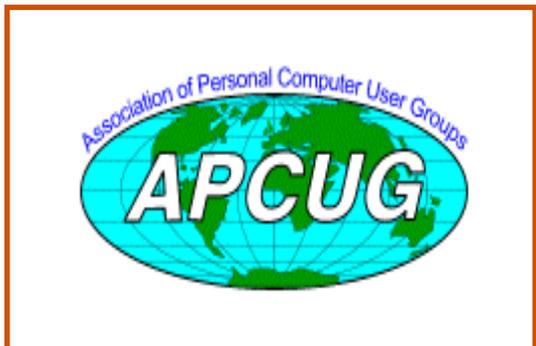
3. Fill out a tag on each item! It must contain: Seller's Name, NOCCC Membership Number, Item name, a short description and selling price.

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

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

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

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



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Hollywood: Trying to Control Your Behavior Because It Can't Change Its Own

By Timothy Everingham

There have been a lot of efforts latterly by the entertainment industry to legislate what you can and cannot do with your computer; including hard coding limitations into hardware and software, preventing some of what they can do now. The courts have agreed that some of these things are legitimate uses, especially via the Betamax case. Such actions could alienate Hollywood's customers, so why are they taking this line of action?

At the Digital Hollywood Conference in Beverly Hills in September, Donald Whiteside, Intel Vice President of Legal and Government Affairs, stated; *"consumers expectations evolve as technology evolves"*. Microsoft Chairman of the Board, Bill Gates stated, on September 5th at the Windows Media 9 Beta Launch Event, that Microsoft has found that now consumers' expectations are, after they purchase content, that they expect to be able to play that content on any device. There are also indications from many sources that consumers are expecting content to be available in multiple forms and formats sooner after its initial release in its first form (example: movie in a theater) than is currently practiced.

Karen Randall, Executive Vice President of Universal Studios, stated at the Conference that their studio wishes to make adjustments to their distribution methods and schedules to better meet the expectations of their customers. In fact, the move to digital distribution allows simultaneous global release of content, which was not possible before, and now gives the ability to reduce the times between releases of content in different forms. However, they are locked into long-term contracts with their distribution channels that will take 5-7 years to change. Other studios are in a similar bind.

In the past when companies or industries did not make the changes to adjust to consumer expectations, consumers reacted in ways to get around it. One such way is an increase in black and gray markets for such goods. The impediments to black markets in Hollywood's content are dropping, including for piracy. This reduction of impediments includes the number of people with broadband Internet access increasing and DVD recorders and media becoming affordable to the consumer by the end of 2002. This may be the reason why Hollywood is pressing so

much to put restrictions on computer copying and distribution technologies. However, consumers could react to such restrictions as illegitimate and react as Californians did with the 55 mile an hour speed limit, disobey the law in mass. Another way for consumers to react is to buy substitute goods. This is especially true when a company or industry alienates its customers. In fact, a recent Los Angeles Times article states that there are indications the Hollywood studios may currently be benefiting from the record industry's alienation of its customers by some shift from buying Music CD toward buying more DVD movies. One shift could be to consume more movies produced by smaller independent companies, which may have more latitude in distribution. Another might be for consumers to produce more videos for viewing by themselves and their friends. However, it is more likely that there would be a shift toward other forms of entertainment. The real beneficiary of these problems may be the computer games industry, which is rapidly growing.

In regards to Hollywood's trying to legislate against consumers reacting to circumvent Hollywood's inability to adjust to new consumer expectations, history shows that it only works in the short-term. Market and political forces eventually overwhelm such efforts. However, Hollywood only needs it to work for a few years until they get out from under the distribution contracts that are handcuffing them. So Hollywood is proceeding with trying to get such legislation passed over the objections of computer and consumer electronics industries and groups representing computer users, such as the Electronic Frontier Foundation.

Hollywood right now seems to be trying to prevent the consequences of their mistake in signing contracts of too long duration with their distributors. They are trying to do this via legislation. History has shown that this only works temporally, but they only need it to work for a few years. Meanwhile the computer and consumer electronics industries plus many computer users seem to have the same opinion on Hollywood's efforts as Donald Whiteside of Intel: *"Ridiculous assinying legislation like the Hollings Bill should be recognized as such."* As Hollywood tries to make the consumer pay for its mistake, it is going to provide us with an interesting battle for the next few years. ■

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

<http://home.earthlink.net/~teveringham>



An AOL DSL SAGA

by *Jim Sanders, NOCCC*

I hope this report will provide some solace for a group of people. The group of non-technical users that were convinced they should try DSL, were sent the “self install kit”, and discovered that the claim of “It’s so easy, even you can do it.”, is not always true. That even someone that knows a bit about DSL installations can have problems. A customer of mine that now lives about 30 miles away, sought to avoid those problems by paying me to do the installation. The first part of this article is an email that I sent to Chairman “SteveCase@aol.com”, about this saga, the rest lists some of the difficulties I encountered.

10-08-02 ~ Dear Sir,

I am a computer consultant and an instructor for an A+ Certification computer course at Santa Ana College. The reason that this email is being sent, is that Todd, @ AOL ADSL Help Desk, said Steve Case was actually interested in hearing about problems with AOL service and could be reached at the above email address. I am sufficiently irritated at the (multiple expletives deleted) service department of AOL that I am willing to waste yet more of my time writing this report.

Jane Doe, janedoe@aol, who is in her 60’s, has been a customer of mine for several years. A few weeks ago she decided that she wanted to go ahead and get broadband so that she and her husband could be online at the same time. When she first decided that she needed email 5 years ago, I recommended going with AOL because I thought it would be easier for her to deal with. She has been an AOL customer ever since. Based on things that I had heard and read, and personally experienced, I recommended that she go with cable instead of DSL. Her cable company is not Time-Warner and I was told Time-Warner is the only cable company AOL works with. She wanted to stay with AOL and had trouble understanding the BYOA program. When she received the “*try AOL DSL for thirty days for free*” offer, she asked me how she could go wrong with an offer like that. Boy is she finding out, IN SPADES!

I recommended that if she had to try the AOL DSL offer, that she order the service with an ethernet interface DSL modem and request that it be installed with an outside master splitter. Which is what I understand AOL calls a “nid splitter.” I had to call and talk to the order desk myself because they didn’t know what she was talking about. I was told that it could be done, but the self install kit had to be used first and then someone could install the “nid splitter” a few days later.

I went to her house in the evening on **9-26-02** to do the installation. The first problem was that a USB kit was shipped instead of the ethernet kit that was ordered. Luckily I had brought along a new Linksys NIC and it was a dual interface modem. The second problem was that she has six phones on that line and only four filters were included, so I unplugged two phones. She said nobody asked her how many filters would be

needed. The third problem was trying to sign on after installing the hardware and re-installing AOL 7.0 off the CD included in the kit. I wasn’t keeping a log at the time, so I don’t remember if it hung on step one or step two. Windows device manager said the NIC was working fine, all the normal protocols were installed, and it looked like the NIC was talking to the modem. I called the service number and went through a bunch of questions and answers to no avail. Three hours later, most of which was on the phone, and on the fourth call to service, I got someone who seemed more knowledgeable than the other three. Several suggestions were made, including using the dialup modem to download some files. After that, I was able to get to sign-on step 6, where the computer would hang for about ten seconds and abruptly say “Goodbye.”

At this point it was late. I was tired, she was tired, and it was clear to me that although we were getting a DSL connection, it wasn’t good enough to even log on properly. I told her that she needed to contact AOL’s DSL service and tell them that I said I was pretty sure there was a line problem and that the external splitter should be installed and the line checked. To give me a call when the problem was corrected, and I would return to install the Linksys router. I didn’t hear from her all week so I called on **10-05-02** to see what was happening. She was very distraught. She told me she had spent hours and hours of on the phone talking to different people, trying the same things over and over; and of at least four different service technician house calls, none of which solved the problem. Two of the techs were from the phone company. The second phone tech was from SBC/ASI. I checked with SBC/ASI and was told that the tech got a great sync signal at the B2 box, but was unable to verify the ability to surf because AOL doesn’t provide a test logon account to verify surfing function. If that is true, I find it incredible that AOL and SBC are willing to waste thousands of dollars by not cooperating at that level.

On second thought, not so incredible. I just remembered that three years ago I tried to find out if AOL had any kind of program that would allow an instructor to set up a new AOL account as a class demonstration. I had used my personal data one time to demonstrate the procedure to a student who

CONTINUED 

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An AOL DSL SAGA

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

was afraid to try it own her own. After months of calls from AOL asking me to reconsider my cancellation, I swore I would never do that again. Few of the AOL order people I talked to seemed to even understand the concept of a marketing demo account. Of those that did, none knew of such a program, nor who to transfer me to that might. After an hour and a half of wasting my time I gave up.

Back to Jane Doe. I won't try to relate all of the experiences she had to endure while trying to take care of her sick husband at the same time. If you care about the way your service department is being run, I think you should call and talk to her. To add insult to injury, some one in the order department told Mrs. Doe that her thirty day "Free Trial" began the day the self install kit was delivered. Below is the log of the things I did after speaking to her on 10-5-02. The only bright side of this whole fiasco is that it is going to make a good story for the North Orange County Computer Club's newsletter.

Jim Sanders

LOG

To Jane Doe, Re: AOL fiasco, Current Case # 93499475

10-5-02 ~ I spoke with Todd, @ AOL ADSL Help Desk He agreed that a "nid splitter", what AOL calls the outside master splitter should be installed. He says that AOL-IHS can do that installation. IHS = In Home Support He said he has put a note in the Jane Doe file under case # 93499475 to have IHS make a visit and install a "nid splitter." The request for a visit has to be made by the screen name owner during IHS hours of business. He said they are open tomorrow, 10-6-02, till 6PM EST. So call the AOL ADSL Help Desk Sunday morning, give them the case number, tell them to refer to the notes, and tell them that you want to set up an IHS appointment. If they transfer you to IHS, give them the case number, tell them to refer to the notes, and tell them that you want to set up an IHS appointment

ALWAYS use 866-822-0701 to call AOL ADSL Help Desk

10-8-02 ~ 1030, Jane called to tell me that someone from AOL had called to tell her that the IHS house call had to be canceled because there was a trouble ticket on her account. That she had to call the phone company and get someone out to check her phone line. She wanted to know why she had to do that when two phone techs had already been to her house. I said I didn't know but I would try and find out.

10-8-02 ~ 1135, Got Carl @ AOL ADSL Help Desk, call #946498. Told him that Todd on 10-5, had made notes in the file, and said to make an appointment with IHS on 10-6. Jane Doe made the call on 10-6 and made an appointment for 10-9. That she had received a call from AOL in the AM of 10-8 from a female that only gave her name saying that there was a trouble ticket on her account and that she had to make a appointment with the phone company to have a tech come out and check her phone line before IHS could come out. After

explaining the problem, he said that I was in the wrong cue and I needed to call - 888-436-0657

10-8-02 ~ 1150. Called 888-436-0657, got Actiontec Electronics (www.actiontec.com). Spoke with Randy who had no idea why I would have been referred to him because all they deal with is the modem and, according to what I said, the modem is working fine.

10-8-02 ~ 1206. Called 866-822-0701, put on hold. 1300, Bob came on the line. He claimed he didn't have an incident number for my call but rather was just adding an addendum to #93499475. He refused to listen to why I was calling and just wanted the standard dumb info until things got hot and he finally listened to why I was calling. He then said there was a trouble ticket against the account from 8 days ago, and I explained about the supposed appointment for 10-9-02. I was put on hold for a while.

10-8-02 ~ 1320. Candice from IHS, came on the line, incident #279804, she said she was re-instating the service call for 10-9, between 0900-1200. I asked her if IHS was scheduled to install the "NID splitter". She said there was no mention of a request to install a "NID splitter" and as a result, who ever made the service call wouldn't have one. That it would be impossible to get a "NID splitter" for the service call on 10-9 and that the soonest it could be rescheduled was 10-14. I asked Candice if she could access AOL ADSL Help Desk case # 93499475. She that IHS could not access those records. I explained how I had gone to a lot of trouble to get the probable cause of the trouble entered into the records to avoid this very problem. Her reply was "All I know is that there is no mention of a "nid splitter" in our records." I asked her if there was any record of who called Jane Doe to tell her that before IHS could come out she had to get the phone company out first. She said she didn't have a clue. There were several other questions that were equally futile. I explained that Mrs. Doe was very upset about all of the run around and asked if it would be possible in this case to go to a little extra trouble and solve the splitter installation problem. The response was negative. That the best she could do was to reschedule the IHS for 10-14-02. At that point I thanked Candice for her efforts, said just leave things as they are, and bid her goodbye.

10-09-02 ~ Jane called me to report progress. She said that IHS had called her to verify the appointment. That she asked the service tech about the "nid splitter" and the service tech said he didn't have one. That the guy's boss overheard the conversation and said he had a "nid splitter" in stock that the service tech could take with him. That she would call me back when he arrived. I talked with him and explained what I felt needed to be done. He did those things, and had her DSL connection working soon after. I did not receive a reply to my email to Steve, nor did Jane get a call from anyone at AOL saying they were sorry for the hassle she had to endure. I am not sure which is worse, the fact that many hundreds of dollars worth of time was wasted because my original installation request was ignored, or that the quality of that part of the AOL service organization that I dealt with is so outstanding, like out standing in a dense fog. ■

Quick: Delete the jdbgmgr.exe file!!

By *Gabe Kingsley, PIBMUG's San Francisco Special Correspondent*

I've received a few of these dumb alerts over the past week. You haven't received one? It's an e-mail hoax pretending to be a virus warning that tells people to delete their Java Debugger Manager file, called jdbgmgr.exe. What really ticks me off is the open list of recipients, often 30 to 50 of them, that become fodder for all sorts of junk through the systems of others. So I'm on a one-man crusade to get people to use Blind Ccs for all mail, unless there is a compelling reason (such as a work group, etc.) in which they need to know who else received the message. Heck, I even send out tutorials for most e-mail programs to eliminate any excuses they may have. Here's what I tell people whenever they forward me an ALERT!! ALERT!! About any virus: **Hey, Klez?**

The most recent e-mail virus you're asking about is the Klez, and it has powers not seen in earlier types. Klez can select an e-mail address at random from a CC list in a message on your or someone else's com-puter and send itself to the recipients of other messages. It's not limited to those addresses in your address book. In addition, it can "spoof" the return address, so that even if you were not the sender of a message infected with the Klez virus, your name and address may appear as the originator. This is bad stuff and we should expect a raft of "me too" versions to come along! Another, less harmful but no less irritating offense is the warning running around the world, advising you to delete a specific file from your system because it contains a virus. This is a hoax! The file, jdbgmgr.exe, is one that Windows put there and enables certain Java scripting capabilities. You need it! You may receive either the Klez virus or the relatively innocuous hoax warning described above because your name and address were in someone's CC list.

One of the greatest potential dangers is in the e-mails that are forwarded, forwarded and forwarded again by unwitting people. I'm sure you get them every day, and may even pass them along. The result is list after list of available addresses the Klez virus can use to send itself to people you don't know, and for people you don't know to send it to you, possibly giving the impression it came from you. When you forward a message, COPY ONLY THE TEXT into a new message and send it to your friends. DO NOT just forward the existing message, complete with the previous lists of recipients and their addresses. If you want to forward a message, take care to manually remove the list of previous recipients to preserve their safety. It's really easy. **Learn and Use Blind CC**

When sending messages to a group of people, unless it is REQUIRED that each one see the names of all others who

received the message, PLEASE USE A BLIND RECIPIENT list. I am not aware of an e-mail program that does not allow you to send messages to a list of "blind" recipients, in which each person who receives the messages sees only their own address, and not the entire list of recipients. If you have AOL, it is the easiest thing to do: Simply bracket all recipients in a pair of parentheses (address1, address2) each separated by a comma. If you use Microsoft Outlook or Outlook Express, there is a special field for "Bcc" (Blind copies) just below the "To" and "Cc" rows. If you do not see it when you open the program, click on View and select "Bcc Field." Eudora and Netscape Navigator also have blind recipient capabilities. Yahoo! And Hotmail users can find the "Bcc" field for entering addresses in the online address header. The Juno mail software works very much like AOL, in that you can enclose multiple addresses in parentheses to make them blind, and as with AOL, they must be separated by a comma. By doing this each recipient will see only their own address, and not anyone else's, just as with this message.

So far, because Mac's represent such a small percentage of the computers in use, the people who create the worms and viruses do not make them work with Mac computers. However, anyone using a Mac who does not hide the recipients of their e-mails makes their recipients vulnerable to the possibility of being hit with a virus from someone else on their CC list! Anyone who wants to protect their privacy and safety will appreciate your doing this. Few things about e-mail bother me more than when something I sent gets forwarded to a large list of people I don't know, and because my address is now in their message base, I am then vulnerable to receiving a virus or one of those hoax warnings from them ... or anyone to whom they forward that message. Please try to use blind recipient lists. It will make us all safer from viruses, worms and hoaxes.

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An Amazing "Coincidence"?

The three hard disk drive manufacturers that control 85% of the hard disk drive market, all just happened to choose October 1, 2002, to announce that they would be reducing the warranty they offer on most of their drives from three years to one year. Maxtor, Seagate, and Western Digital all reduced the warranty on their non-premium drives. At this time, IBM has not made this move. One spokesman said not to worry, this will in no way effect the quality of the drives. The same spokesman once did a booming business selling the Brooklyn Bridge.

October 6th Technology and Main Meetings



Terry Currier presents shareware software



Bruce and the MP3 book



Bruce Fries with MP3 player



The visual sound wave

People At Random Access



Joe Sherry



Jean Soltys
and
Jim Sanders



Dave Keays,
Computer
Security
SIG leader



Claire Lemire
Gaming SIG
leader
and
Linda Russel
SIG
Coordinator



Jim Sanders
PC Q&A
SIG
Leader



Alan Pearlman
and
Jerry Reish, Genealogy
SIG Leader



Alan Pearlman
with
Bytes printer
Vicki Shanklin



The Print Shop Deluxe 12

By *Debbie Suderno, NOCCC*

Broderbund is a leading, worldwide publisher of award winning, productivity and rich-media software. The company publishes and distributes some of the all-time best selling consumer software under brands such as The Print Shop, PrintMaster, 3D Home Architect and Family Tree Maker. These software products enable computer users to create, personalize and share projects such as newsletters, greeting cards, banners, digital photo albums, family tree charts, home designs, scrapbooks and multi-media slide shows. Its newest brand, Extreme Media, offers software products for capturing, creating, managing and sharing digital content.

System Requirements

- Windows® XP: Compatible in administrative mode with a Pentium II 300 MHz processor or faster and 128MB RAM
- Other Windows® Platforms: Windows® 95, 98, Me, 2000, NT
- Media: CD-ROM
- CPU: Pentium® 200 MHz or faster
- RAM: 64 MB
- Hard Drive Space: 675 MB free
- SVGA Video Card Supporting 800x600–16 bit high color resolution or better
- Sound: Sound Blaster 16 or compatible—Speakers recommended
- Other: Mouse, Internet access, and color printer

First introduced in 1984

1. The Print Shop® has sold over 10 million units and still ranks as the #1 home graphics software on the market.
2. The Print Shop® has been recognized for its complete and easy-to-use desktop publishing solution with awards and accolades such as PC Magazines Editor's Choice award,
3. Family PC's Top Rated Award, and a Consumers Digest Best Award.

Overview:

The Print Shop® 12 line is comprised of five distinct products, each designed for the user's level of desktop publishing experience and particular requirements. The Print Shop® Essentials 12 will appeal to the novice, home user who wants the basic tools found in a desktop publishing software program. The line

progresses to a product that serves the interest of the more experienced, small business user with The Print Shop® Pro Publisher Deluxe 12. The estimated street price of The Print Shop® 12 line ranges from \$20 to \$100. Print Shop 12 Deluxe lists for \$50. The Upgrade is \$15.

Since its introduction 16 years ago, The Print Shop has become the software of choice for home and small business computer users who appreciate the ease with which they can produce professional-looking print and electronic documents as well as personalized projects such as greeting cards, family photo albums, banners and signs. Consistent with the company's goal to make sophisticated desktop publishing technology easier for more people to use, Broderbund's The Print Shop provides "quick-start" templates, wizards and tutorials to guide the user every step of the way and enhanced photo-editing features for those users who want to organize their family's photos or create personalized holiday greeting cards. Whenever a user starts a new project, they will be brought to the Project Picker page.

The Stationery Set Wizard in The Print Shop allows you to easily create a complete matching set with letterhead, business cards, envelopes and fax cover sheets that include your personal information and are all based on a common theme and layout.

Personal Information

The first time you start The Print Shop, it will ask you to enter your Personal Information, which is used in the Stationery Set Wizard and other projects as well. The Print Shop allows you to create different Personal Information Profiles, so you can create a profile for your home information and another for your office. You can also add a personal graphic that is included whenever your Personal Information is placed into a project.

While running The Print Shop Deluxe 12 on Windows XP, users can capture, manage and share their photos in a seamless and simple way.

The Print Shop Deluxe 12 is the perfect solution for home and small office users who want an easy-to-use, feature rich software to enhance their print and web designs. This latest version includes more advanced tools and graphics, such as digital photo editing, and integrated web connectivity making it easier than ever to create high quality pictures and designs. While running The Print Shop Deluxe 12 on Windows XP, users can capture, manage and share their photos in a seamless and simple way.

New features in The Print Shop Deluxe 12 include:

- Custom Paper Wizard—This feature offers the capability of entering and saving exact dimensions of various paper and label sizes.

- **Color Set Creator**—Users can apply a professionally designed color palette to any or all projects or create their own color set that can be saved.
- **Enhanced Photo Workshop**—A complete toolbox of photo-editing features enabling users to improve and enhance their favorite photographs by adding special effects, removing red eye, adding decorative stamps and altering colors.
- **Integrated Professional Printing**—The Print Shop® Deluxe 12 makes it easy for those who want to have their just designed holiday greeting cards or business collateral professionally printed. Projects will even be delivered right to your door.

Installing the program

Installing the program took about twenty minutes, including the restart. The included Install CD was easy to use, mostly running itself; however, about halfway through, the wizard informed me that I needed to reset my display for small font sizes. I had to back out and start over, wasting another twenty minutes. A warning at the beginning or in printed instructions would have been nice.

A choice of installations is offered. A full version takes 1295 MB, but still requires the use of the Program CD; a “typical” version takes 815 MB, but requires running of the Program CD and the occasional swapping of the four (!) Art CDs; and a “minimum” version uses 687 MB, also requiring the Program and Art CDs as well. An enclosed coupon advertises a DVD version for an additional \$9.95 with “No More Disk Swapping!” If I had a DVD on my computer, I would spring for it just to save the time and hassle. I chose the typical version.

Once installed and opened, PrintShop 12 offers a menu of options, including Business, Home and Community, All Projects (combining these two), My Projects (where saved projects are stored for easy access later), and Design Center (the help desk site for tutorials, help files, and a link to online help resources). Additional buttons give access to an Advanced Project Search, a wizard to create a stationery set integrated with the theme and design of your created project, a built-in Calendar Creator program, and a link to [Broderbund online](#).

Choosing All Projects gives the user access to a blank page or twenty-four sets of project types, including banners, booklets, brochures, business cards, calendars, envelopes, fax covers, forms, greeting cards, labels, presentations, resumes, transfers, web pages, and more. Each project then offers themes for business, education, events, occasions, and sports. Selecting a theme provides a chance to personalize a QuickStart Layout or start from scratch.

The QuickStart option presents a multitude of pre-prepared layouts complete with themes, fonts, colors, and graphics. They are very easy to use as is, but they tend to be mostly informal in nature with cartoon-like artwork and fonts. Starting from scratch, on the contrary, is not so easy to do. Changing fonts, colors, and backgrounds or adding features like text boxes is slow and not intuitive. The complexity of this massive

program makes the learning curve steep. For example, creating a calendar with a headline, events for several days, and a couple of text boxes took twice as long as the older version, and some elements were simply abandoned as not being worth the time to accomplish. When printed, the colors were not true to the print preview and not consistent from one text box to the next. Color density of the background was limited with only a few preprogrammed choices.

If a beginning user merely wants to produce a simple Web page using the QuickStart layouts, that is easy enough to do, but venturing into Start-from-Scratch country is a frustrating experience. Converting a Word document to HTML, using FrontPage, or even creating a page in Netscape is easier, quicker, more intuitive, and gives more control over the options.

The user wanting an integrated publishing program with the same set of tools with the same look and feel for all the applications and that allows her or him to do a little of everything, and those willing and able to spend the time to learn to use it, will find Print Shop Deluxe fun and rewarding, especially for family and home use. The user needing a business-like appearance and close control of custom features may want to explore other software options.

The Print Shop gives you lots of little extras in terms of special effects (drop shadows and glows) and text formatting. It's also an accomplished photo editor—good enough to touch up and accent your photos with effects such as oil painting and neon.

ExpressIt

ExpressIt expands upon the already voluminous number of projects, graphics, and other content available directly from The Print Shop CDs. ExpressIt also lets you share photos and projects with others and offers a professional printing service if you need a higher-quality product than your printer can provide.

There are two ways to access ExpressIt: from within Print Shop and through its Web site (<http://www.expressit.com>). Either way, you must be connected to the Internet. If you are in Print Shop and want to use ExpressIt, click the globe icon on the standard toolbar. The ExpressIt home page will appear. You can also reach the home page by typing in the site's URL (uniform resource locator).

You can browse the site without registering, but you won't be able to work with the content. Save yourself the hassle and log in when you arrive at the site by clicking the Log In button in the top-left corner of the screen. ExpressIt will take you to a User Log In screen where you can click a link to register. After you register, you can download free projects and graphics and sign up for premium products and services.

Print Shop - like a Hallmark on your Computer!!

The Print Shop software works wonders for my family. It is a

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE





Product Reviews

The Print Shop Deluxe 12

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

CD-rom that allows you to print out signs, invitations, banners, cards, calendars, labels, envelopes, and many more! Print Shop has millions of different graphics for any occasion.

This is great when my daughter has a party to go to and we do not have time to go get a card, we can just make one on Print Shop and print it out! It's really that easy, believe it or not! Print Shop even has "all-ready-made" cards for many occasions, when you are on the run and seriously need a card, and fast!

This software is very easy to use! I know that you will be addicted to Print Shop too if you purchase it! It is like having your very own Hallmark on your computer! ■

Sygate Personal Firewall Pro 5.0, Build 1117

By Ted Littman, NOCCC

Are your computer data and software safe? No, I'm not talking about hard drive failures, which are addressable by frequent backups. With the explosive growth in use of the Internet, all of us are vulnerable to attack by "cyberterrorists."

The advent of always-on Web connections, driven by the convenience and high speed of broadband DSL, cable, and other modems, is exposing home and business users to computer break-ins for destructive purposes and data theft via the Internet. Malicious acts are on the rise by "professional" hackers as well as neophytes (sometimes referred to as script kiddies, packet monkeys, cyberpunks, or other more colorful names).

Your first line of defense is a powerful antivirus program augmented by frequent virus definition updates. Software from Norton, McAfee, and other companies do a great job of protecting your system and removing viruses. Most noteworthy is the ability to scan e-mail attachments, quarantine attached viruses, then remove the code or delete the e-mail.

If you have a 56K or slower telephone modem, this may be all the protection you need. For the rest of us, use of a *firewall* software program is an important, if not essential second line of defense. Additional means of security may be needed, especially if your computer is used in a business.

A firewall's purpose is to monitor the 65,000-plus TCP and UDP port addresses that your computer has available to communicate with other computers on the Internet or on your network. If data packets attempt to access specific ports that aren't being used by any of your applications, a good firewall will deny them access.

I recommend a good article in the Feb. 26, 2002 issue of PC

Magazine titled "To Protect and to Surf" by Troy Dreier, et al. (p. 103). You can view it at www.pcmagazine.com. It has an excellent discussion on Internet security with recommendations as well as a comparison/rating of firewall programs. A second noteworthy article in the July 2002 issue of PC World by Robert Luhn and Scott Spanbauer (see it at www.pcworld.com), also rates firewalls (as well as other protection means). For further information, check out "Home PC Firewall Guide" at www.firewallguide.com with many useful links and a free newsletter covering the whole subject of security for PCs.

In the aforementioned PC Magazine article, "Editors' Choice" ratings were given to Sygate Personal Firewall Pro 4.2 and ZoneAlarm Pro 2.6. Both software programs have been superseded by improved versions. The more recent PC World article, rated Sygate Personal Firewall Pro 5.0 (SPFP5) and ZoneAlarm Pro 3.0 as outstanding and "Best Buy."

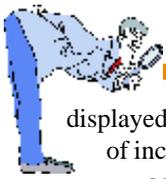
The remainder of this article is my review of the titled program. Sygate Technologies Personal Firewall Pro is targeted at home and small-office users. It performs all the standard firewall tasks including detecting attempted attacks and blocking unwanted connections to your computer. Its security features aim to protect operating systems, networks, and applications. Users are protected from denial-of-service clients and Trojan attackers that gain access to your PC to install these malicious applications and take control. Furthermore, it is designed to protect against intruders that exploit vulnerabilities on the Internet and in Internet communications software like Microsoft's Internet Express.

I installed Sygate Technologies' Personal Firewall Pro 5.0 several months ago on my Dell Dimensions XPS T500 computer with Windows XP. The installation went smoothly. SPFP5 has an easy-to-use installation Wizard that is augmented by a good Help file plus additional guidance at Sygate's Web site. There, a guide will cover every element of the program. In addition, there is a free security check service (<http://scan.sygate.com>) that will scan your computer ports and identify possible vulnerabilities. Try the service even if you don't have a firewall.

To the best of my knowledge, SPFP5 has done an excellent job of protecting my system without being overly obtrusive. However, if you have a limited knowledge of programs, you may find it difficult to make some of the configuration choices available to protect your system by specifying which of your programs should be allowed to connect with remote servers on the Internet and which Internet sites are "safe" to communicate with your computer. In that case, your best bet is to rely on Sygate's default settings.

When using the program initially, pop-up windows query whether applications may access the Internet. If you know that the connection is a safe one, Sygate can remember your response and not ask you again. If an event or incoming data packet is suspect, you can back-trace to find the originator (i.e., IP address and other information). The names/addresses of all of your programs that use the Internet are





displayed in the firewall's main window along with indicators of incoming, outgoing, and blocked traffic. If an intrusion occurs, the program's tray icon will flash to warn you.

There are separate Log viewing windows that display essential information such as status events, suspicious events, network traffic, and recent incoming/outgoing data packets. The program comes with a set of built-in rules for controlling incoming/outgoing traffic to your computer. If you are an advanced computer user, you can create your own rules to govern the firewall's actions.

Sygate Personal Firewall Pro is a product of Sygate Technologies, Inc. in Fremont, CA, (510)742-2600, www.sygate.com. It has a list price of about \$40 and can be bought at the usual software stores or downloaded from the company's Web site. (A free limited version is available for personal use or you can download a 30-day trial version of the Pro version). Registered Pro users get one-year upgrade protection.

In order to give yourself an added measure of protection when you aren't using the Internet, I suggest turning off your computer (or cable/broadband modem), or setting your firewall software to block all incoming/outgoing traffic.

A Tutorial

Guide to Mechanical Desktop 5/Powerpack

Review by Joe Mizer

This tutorial is written by Shawna D. Lockhart and Cindy M. Johnson and published by Prentice-Hall in 2002. I have read a lot of tutorials in the past, however this is the first one I have found which is valuable for both novice and experienced students. This book takes the reader through two projects and immediately gets you into using the software. Data files are provided on the Internet for the quick start needed to keep the reader interested. Every designer develops his or her own style to construction of a solid model. The style presented is excellent and unlike some other books I have seen does not teach any bad habits which you carry as baggage and will slow you down while doing a design. This book first teaches you which tools are available and then it demonstrates how to use the tools. I have been using this software for over four years and was amazed at how many ways my use of the software has changed after reading this book.

Chapter one, GETTING STARTED teaches the student how to customize the desktop, select toolbars, use of commands, how to get help and introduces the basic tools necessary to generate a model or drawing.

Chapter two, SIMPLE PART CREATION covers sketching, profiling a sketch, adding dimensions and constraints, deleting constraints and how to extrude the fully constrained sketch into a solid model.

Chapter three, MAKING A DRAWING covers the basics of making a drawing to show off your creation or for a shop to use in actually making the real thing.

Chapter four, MORE PART MODELING demonstrates editing and drawing controls available to the designer.

Chapter 5, MODIFYING PARTS covers parent child relationships and the model tree, how to investigate an existing model, and the use of advanced controls for adding holes, fillets, rectangular and polar arrays.

Chapter six, CREATING REVOLVED PARTS AND MORE PART EDITING continues teaching the basics of the software by introducing more tools and techniques for making and editing models.

Chapter seven, CREATING AN ASSEMBLY introduces the assembly catalog and how to use the four basic tools mate, flush, angle, and insert. The 3D manipulator is another tool that is demonstrated which allows the designer the option of moving a single individual part of a model to ease selection of surfaces, holes, and edges during the construction of an assembly.

Chapter eight, WORKING DRAWINGS FROM MODELS AND ASSEMBLIES continues from where chapter three left off and covers exploded assemblies, creating layouts, dimensioning and tolerances.

Chapter nine, "SMARTER" PARTS AND BETTER ASSEMBLIES covers creating the three primary data planes as the first task done in any model you create. Other items covered are using templates, using equations for dimensions, shelling features, externalizing a part, and more practice in assembling components.

Chapter ten GETTING RESULTS FROM YOUR INTELLIGENT ASSEMBLY introduces table driven parts, mass properties, and the use of global variables in sketches and assembly constraints.

I recommend this tutorial for anyone desiring to learn Mechanical Desktop, if you are not in a class using this text, contact the publisher at www.prenhall.com/lockhart or the authors at lockhart@me.montana.edu or cjohnson@seacoast.com. ■

Orange Bytes Appeals to the Membership

We wish that all of the articles in the *Orange Bytes* were written by NOCCC members! Why don't you share some of your expertise by writing an article for our Computer Talk section or check out one of the software programs or books that are listed in the review corner. If you write an article, you get to keep the program or book.

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

Ted Littman

NOCCC Reviews Editor

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

Products Available for Review

The following items currently were available as of early October for review by qualified NOCCC members. If you are interested in doing a review (which will be published in *Orange Bytes*), please call or E-Mail me and provide your membership number, phone number, and E-Mail address.

Remember, you get to keep the software! A current listing of available products can be obtained by sending an email to items@noccc.org. Your response will be the listing.

Art Icons Pro 3.2 for Windows - Create, edit, and manage icons

photoBase 3.0 for Windows - A multimedia management/presentation-making application

Stuffit Deluxe 7.5 for Windows - Compress files so they fly across the Internet

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

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

Xplay - Just plug your Apple iPod into your PC and Xplay will help you load your MP3 music and other files

BackUp MyPC - Backup and Disaster Recovery Software

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

WinTask 4 Pro - A powerful Windows process viewer to help optimize performance

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

Alpha Five 5 for Windows - Database with ease of FileMaker and power of Access

Canvas 8 Professional Edition - Deneba Software's high-end graphics program seamlessly integrates photo editing, page layout, presentation and web graphics design.

If you would like me to obtain a specific product (software, hardware, or book) to review, please let me know and I will try to obtain it.

Ted Littman, NOCCC Reviews Editor



Membership Drive

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

Pick up a few copies of the **Orange Bytes** at the Membership Desk and deliver them to your friends, local library, computer store, etc.

Preparing a Review Article for the Orange Bytes

by Ted Littman, NOCCC Reviews Editor

The following suggestions for preparing a review article for the *Orange Bytes* were extracted from an OCIPUG article and are intended as a guide only. As a reviewer, your audience wants to know your opinion (as an end user) of the product you are reviewing.

Please fully identify the product and its cost so that interested club members may purchase it. After you have tested the product, consider these questions:

- Does the product meet its stated purpose?
- Within its category of software (i.e., spreadsheet, database), does it stand out?
- What are its major features?
- Is it easy to use? Can a novice use it?
- Can you quote or reference articles/reviews in the computer magazines?

The following list contains more specific questions that apply to either software or hardware:

I. Requirements:

- Operating systems?
- Windows?
- Memory?
- Disk space?
- Is a Mouse supported?

II. Installation (do not overemphasize details): Was it difficult?

- A. Copy or write protected?
- B. Does it allow drive and directory selection?
- C. Does it automatically configure system? Can you control it?

III. Information about your system hardware?:

- A. Operating system/Version?
- B. Memory?
- C. Video display?

IV. Documentation: What is supplied? Tutorial? Templates? Table of Contents? Index?

- A. Was it concise and helpful?

V. Product Support: How would you grade the vendor's tech support?

- A. Does it cost anything?
- B. Is it a toll call?

VI. About the product: What comes with the product?

- A. What is the cost? (list and street).
- B. Version number and release date?
- C. How difficult is it to learn?
- D. Would you buy/use the product?
- E. Do you recommend it?
- F. What don't you like about it?
- G. What changes or improvements would you like to see?

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

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

Guidelines for Submitting Articles and Reviews

Important! Please limit your general articles and software reviews to a maximum of 1300 words, SIG reports to 700 words, book reviews to 600 words, low cost CD-ROM titles to 600 words, and more sophisticated CD-ROMs to 1000 words.

As far as the minimum is concerned, we'd just like to see you do justice to any general article or to any product that's reviewed. A \$600 software package deserves close to 1,300 words. A \$50 program or CD-ROMs title might have 500 words.

Reviews must be completed within 2 months so that the Reviews Editor (Ted Littman) can, in a timely manner, send a copy to the vendor. If you change your mind about doing the review, please call him (714) 779-1936 ASAP to make arrangements for returning the product for reassignment. We hope you enjoy writing your review.

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

To transfer your article from your Windows word processor, click at the beginning of the article with your mouse, shift down arrow to the end of the article, then Edit Cut (^C), open

your e-mail program, and Edit Paste (^V). This will convert the file to ASCII. If your article is too long to include in an e-mail, please save as ASCII file with a .TXT extension. Then zip the article and attach it to your e-mail.

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

Also, please spell check your article, and try to follow the ordinary rules of grammar.

Don't use columns, tabs, indents, justification, hyphenation or formatting codes. (If columns or tables are absolutely needed, send us a hard copy to guide us.)

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



October 6th General Meeting

by Eric Saca

We received another fascinating presentation on CD burning – and this time it focused on copying records and tapes to CD, using a computer. The presenter was none other than Bruce Fries, author of the famous *MP3 and Internet Audio Handbook* and several other related books and technical papers. Besides being a writer, Mr. Fries is also a publisher, technology consultant and entrepreneur.

The meeting was opened by President Alan Pearlman. Two brand new SIGs were announced – the Mac/PC Gaming and Computer Security SIGs.

Jim Sanders was congratulated for his work on the beautiful new look of the *Bytes*. As Associate Editor and Production person, Jim combines the articles and formats the entire newsletter in PageMaker every month. Jim gave a plea for more volunteers, as it takes a great deal of manpower to run NOCCC.

George Margolin introduced Bruce Fries. George noted that Bruce had published *The Boy Who Invented Television* – about Philo Farnsworth, the person who actually invented and developed electronic TV technology. And it tells how Sarnoff's RCA desperately tried to take the credit away from him, thereby depriving him of the millions upon millions of dollars his invention was worth.

Bruce started his presentation by relating that he was brought into the world of creating music CDs because he used to make compilation tapes of popular music for parties and special events. He had spent hours recording music from vinyl or cassette to compilation tapes. Now, with CD

burners and MP3 technology, making compilation CDs is much quicker and easier. It also allows many more hours of listening pleasure than cassette tapes did.

He mentioned the great advantage CDs have over vinyl – error correction! They can detect problems on the source media and re-read it over and over until they produce the correct output for the song you are listening to. That is why dust and other problems do not affect compact discs like they do vinyl.

Bruce spoke about why current technology enables us to record songs to computer so much more effectively than in the past. Without compression, one minute of music will take ten megabytes to record. (On a CD, you can burn up to 74 minutes of uncompressed audio.) In the past, it was not cost effective to buy hard drive space for music at ten megs a minute. Now that hard drive prices have dropped so sharply, today you can buy a 120-gigabyte drive for less than \$129.00. Hey folks – that's just about a dollar a Gigabyte.

MP3 is one version in a long line of audio compression technologies. The acronym stands for *MPEG audio layer 3*. It was developed back in 1992. (There are even newer and more powerful compression technologies but MP3 happened to catch on, commercially.) With MP3 compression, one minute of a song now occupies only one megabyte. There is a small trade-off – with compression, you lose a tiny amount of information in the audio, but it is virtually unnoticeable.

On a standard 80-gigabyte hard drive, you can hold 30,000 to 40,000 songs using MP3. Small, handheld MP3 players are now down to about \$70 and they can hold five to six *hours* of music. Car adapters are also available to hear music from MP3 players through car stereos. For that matter, MP3 in-dash car stereos are now selling for \$200 to \$400.

Consider the time and money it used to take to record ten to twelve hours of music on cassette tapes. A box of ten cassettes retailed from \$10.00 to \$20.00. With present technology, to burn the same number of songs, in MP3 format, from computer to CD, takes as little as five minutes. A single CD costs as little as 15 cents and can hold ten + hours of MP3 music.

A member asked how one can organize thousands of songs on a hard drive after recording them onto a computer. Bruce said that it can be done easily with a powerful music program called WINAMP.

WINAMP can be downloaded off www.winamp.com for free. It can play regular CD and MP3 formats. It also allows you to create *playlists* of music on your hard drive or CDs. These are stored in simple text files. These playlists make it easy to organize and access your music.

With a free plug-in, WINAMP can perform *cross fading*, where a new song fades in while the old one is fading out. (This is a favorite trick for disc jockeys.) WINAMP can be used to edit the information that comes with all MP3 files – song title, artist, length, and more. Like Microsoft's Media Player, several different *skins* are available for WINAMP.

Bruce provided a demonstration of WINAMP and cross fading.

Next, he demonstrated MusicMatch Jukebox, which allows you to create MP3s and organize them even better than WINAMP. With MusicMatch playlists, you can organize songs into *categories*, which act like folders in Windows. This way, you can subdivide songs based on criteria, like artist or genre.

Bruce demonstrated creating a CD with MusicMatch. All he had to do was create a playlist from songs on the hard drive. To create the playlist, he simply had to double-click the songs he wanted and they would appear on the

list. Then he told MusicMatch to burn the songs to a CD. He had a choice of burning them in either standard or MP3 format. Like Microsoft's Media Player, MusicMatch will automatically try to download MP3 song information from the Internet.

MusicMatch Jukebox can be downloaded for free from www.MusicMatch.com. The *plus* version can also be downloaded for \$19.95.

Bruce next discussed recording music from record or cassette to computer. First, a cable needs to be purchased from Radio Shack to connect a record player or cassette deck to the sound card. This cable only costs \$5.00 to \$6.00. It contains two RCA connectors on one end for the audio-out jacks on your record or cassette player. The other end has a single connector for your sound card's line-in jack.

Once the hardware is set up, you will also need the software – *Cool Edit 2000* from www.CoolEdit.com. It costs about \$69.00.

Bruce provided a demonstration of recording with *Cool Edit 2000*. Although he did not have a record or tape player with him, he used WINAMP to act like one of those sources. The first step was to record from the source (WINAMP) to a .WAV file (uncompressed sound file) with *Cool Edit*.

Bruce began by configuring *Cool Edit*. He set 44100 samples per second, 16-bit resolution and CD quality sound. Next, he set the recording levels on his PC. This can be set on any Windows PC with a sound card – almost like setting the volume levels. First, right-click the speaker icon in the system tray on the lower right corner of the desktop. Click **Open Volume Controls**. When the Volume Control window appears, click the **Options** menu in the upper-left corner, then click **Properties**. Under **Adjust volume for**, click the **Recording** radio button then click **OK**. The Recording Control settings appear and you can adjust them, then close the window. Bruce recommended setting

fairly high recording levels.

Cool Edit itself also has recording meters like on a good tape deck. Bruce played a sample song in WINAMP and adjusted the meters in *Cool Edit* until they had an optimal setting – not too high or too low. Then he was ready.

He recorded the song into a .WAV file. As he did so, he used *Cool Edit* to *normalize* the recording and remove blank spots. When the recording was finished, he saved it. As he did so, he received a save menu with several choices. One choice allowed him to save the file as is, uncompressed. Another allowed MP3 format. There were also several other choices.

Finally, Bruce demonstrated the removal of noise – hisses, clicks and pops – from an old 78 recording. He used a powerful audio cleanup plug-in for *Cool Edit*. It costs \$69.00 by itself or *Cool Edit* with it bundled is \$100.00.

First, Bruce played the original recording. Its noise was very evident. Then he ran the *Click/Pop/Crackle Eliminator* from the plug-in. It removed all but one pop. The piece sounded much better. Then he ran the feature to eliminate hiss. The recording now sounded beautiful and clear without any hiss and only one pop at the end. Finally, he demonstrated how to remove the last pop manually. Essentially, he edited the song's graphic sound wave and deleted the spike where the pop appeared. After that, the song sounded almost as good as new!

Bruce mentioned that everything he discussed is described in detail in his book, *The MP3 and Internet Audio Handbook*. You can either view it online at www.MP3Handbook.com or order a copy at the \$20.00 member price (regular \$24.95). He also distributed a handout that summarized important points of his presentation.

NEXT MEETING

Microsoft – Microsoft and more Microsoft. Jim Sanders was able to get a special presenter and possibly presenters to give us LOTS of information about the Microsoft

product lines. It's expected to be much more informative than the usual marketing oriented presentations that most companies give.

This is a NOT TO BE MISSED meeting! Be there and bring your computer friends. This is an unusual opportunity to learn about the latest from the greatest. ■

Computer Aided Investing (CAI) SIG



Bob Krishfield

Markets Fall as Fall Begins

Last month we looked for signs of a bottom and found no signals that the bottom was here. This past month the Dow dropped over 900 points, the worst monthly drop since 1937. All the other market indexes also dropped, including overseas markets. We reviewed several sector charts from StockCharts.com looking for a few areas that might have an uptrend, but there were no winners. A second look at the S&P 500 monthly chart with a 5 year head & shoulders pattern was updated showing a projected drop to a level of 385. It was not surprising that our vote for next month's Dow was to continue in the down direction.

The market seasonality may offer some hope for an upturn in a month or two. A seasonality chart using data from 30 years, plotted the average percent changes over the 12 months of the year. This chart (from bollingerbands.com) showed the Dow increasing an average of 8%, beginning with the end of October and continuing through April. From the end of May and continuing through October, the

CONTINUED

(CAI) SIG

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average change in the Dow was minimal, less than 3%. September and October months had significant down periods. This year may prove to be an exception to these statistics. Q1 was up 3%, Q2 was down 11%, and Q3 was down 17%. Many economic and political issues have not gone away and are placing downward pressure that may inhibit a positive Q4.

A few websites were identified for their unique features.

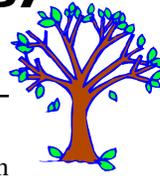
1. **Hotcandlestick.com** candlestick charting with technical indicators and identification of significant candlestick patterns.
2. **Stockcharts.com** chartwatcher CE's series of charts that provide a detailed analysis of several market indexes.
3. **Riskgrades.com** measurements of market risk for various assets to help in balancing a portfolio or selecting stocks, mutual funds, bonds, etc. by evaluating risk versus return.

These sites, some of the important charts, and the Yahoo downloading program are available on my investing website at home.socal.rr.com/bobkrish/cainvestors.html.

A brief overview of FastTrack was discussed. FastTrack is a technical analysis tool primarily for mutual funds (but includes stocks as an extra option). It has some unique features for quickly plotting relative performance of 6 funds, applying trading signals to a fund to evaluate various trading / fund switching systems, and providing high quality end of day data. Some of drawbacks are that the windows version does not use the standard windows interface, making it difficult to learn. The DOS version is a favorite for the long time users who have learned the command line codes, but its future support may be in question.

For the November meeting, we will review stock valuations and see which stock prices may be bargains. ■

Genealogy SIG



by John Johnson

The October 6th meeting was led by Gerry Resch. I led the group at the beginning while Gerry packed up at the Consignment Table. A question came up earlier in the day about the Soundex code. This is the method the Census uses to shorten the search time when looking someone up. We looked up this with a Google search and found it at: www.archives.gov/research/room/genealogy/census/soundex.html.

Gerry returned and showed the web site he had been trying to show last month. It is www.ocmayflower.org. This site has many links available. One of the most interesting is Richard Cliff's Lists. It also links to Cyndi's List.

One of the useful links on Cyndi's List is to "Births and Baptisms." These sometimes will list witnesses of the event and can be used to locate relatives that were living in the area at the time.

Another useful tool are wills. These will list family members who are alive at that time (and still in good standing with the family!).

Those new to genealogy can locate GEDCOM files that others may have posted for some branches of their family.

The meeting ended a little after 4:00 p.m. Please bring your questions to next month's meeting. ■

New Gaming SIG!

by C. Lemire

What is your interest? platform performance? hardware economics? software adaptability? Gaming strategy is one of the foundations of mathematics, of Lau Tzu's war theory, and of ultimate escapism. The calculations in gaming are as powerful and complex as described in the movie "A Beautiful Mind". An old saying is that you learn a lot about a person when you play a game with them. The levels of game play increase as the anticipation skills and intricacy of outcomes are explored. Therein lies the limit of today's electronic gaming emulations. For some players, the look of the game is foremost, leaving actual gaming play second, or farther behind.

Come share your knowledge and experience of gaming on PC or MAC platforms and across the gaming types. Do you demo Galactic Battlegrounds and still play MYST on the side? Are RPGs your only virtual reality and your character costume is boxed in your closet? Have you studied game design? used Maya? Lost hours in Bryce? Are you an arcade and cards addict? What have you learned or earned from gaming?

Remember, that's 9:30 am on NOCCC Sunday, Chapman College, room 203 Science. The SIG email is NOCCCGamingSIG@earthlink.net if you miss us or need information. :-) ■

Computer Security SIG



By Dave Keays

This month, we talked about how to avoid getting an email address harvested (collected by spammers for use.) I handed out a list of ways to hide an email address. The list included things like munging the address, using a signature file, and using

JavaScript or CGI on a web site.

We also helped someone who had a problem with Norton AntiVirus. It seems that NAV would not update correctly. We concluded that a personal firewall (he has ZoneAlarm) may have been interfering with Norton, so we suggested he verify that ZoneAlarm wasn't set to deny NAV access to the internet.

Next month we'll talk about different spam filters, including some new freeware that will soon be released at GRC (Gibson Research Center). ■

Hardware SIG

By Herbert Wong, Jr., SIG Leader

The Hardware SIG topic for October 6, 2002 was Video Display Technology. In particular, I discussed LCD, CRT, analog, digital, resolution, (visible) image size, contrast, radiation emission, image distortion, etc.

The price of all displays has dropped substantially over the past few years. This makes purchasing a high quality display in lieu of a cheap display much less of a financial burden than in the past.

CRT (cathode ray tube) technology has dominated the desktop since the demise of line-printer terminals. A stream of electrons emitted by an electron gun is directed to the phosphor coated glass front of the display. The phosphors emit photons (light) in turn. Red, green, and blue phosphors provide the broad range of colors needed to produce realistic images.

Essentially, CRTs are large glass vacuum bottles. As a result, they tend to be heavy. The electron gun technology requires a relatively deep dimension for practical implementation. A serious drawback for many people is the electromagnetic radiation emissions from CRTs.

LCD (liquid crystal diode) technology appears to be the long awaited replacement for CRT technology. LCD display technology relies on the property of liquid crystals to rotate light rays. Two polarizing filters (oriented at a right angle to each other) blocks light rays from passing through. By placing liquid crystals in between the polarizers, the light rays are rotated (90 or 270 degrees) so they (light rays) can pass through the panel. A change in electrical charge to the liquid crystals selectively blocks light transmission.

Typically, a fluorescent light behind the panel (a *backlight*) provides the light source. As a result, an LCD panel produces negligible harmful radiation emis-

sions. With a depth of only a few inches, LCD panels are a space saving solution for limited desktop environments.

One severe limitation of LCD technology is the drastic image alterations caused by the scaling of screen resolutions. For example, an LCD display with a native resolution of 1024x768 that is configured for a desktop of 640x480 or 800x600 will display malformed lines or text depending upon the scaling of partial pixels to zero or one pixels. CRT technology does not as readily exhibit this problem.

As an alternative, an LCD display can be configured to display lower resolutions with a pixel for pixel image simply by using only the required portion of the screen. Hence, a black border will surround the configured desktop image like a letterboxed movie on a standard 4:3 ratio television.

Buy an LCD display that you like at its native resolution. Do not be tempted to use it at another resolution. You cannot change your spouse after the marriage.

LCD panels usually are designed to be used at 60 hertz vertical refresh rate. Because of the technology, there is no problem with image flicker. The image will not appear better at higher refresh rates. Conversely, CRT displays should be used at 75 to 85 hertz or higher vertical refresh rates in order to reduce flicker.

The Hardware SIG topic for November 3, 2002 is Optimizing Video Displays. I will show how to adjust the display, change the Windows interface to different resolutions, screen fonts, scaling of the interface, etc.

You can contact me at NOCCCHWSIG@SingularityTechnology.com ■



The Latest on Macs and on Digital Video

By C. Lemire

The October 6th meeting brought together a variety of attendees - the regulars, guests, and new members. John was home, exhausted by driving every day to a conference, so we carried the day by discussing the future of Apple and Digital Video. Tim, a Bytes contributor, showed a 2 minute digital animation of a national park landscape in 3D composed from GPS information. He had downloaded the GPS elevation info, rendered it in 3D, and overlaid an aerial map of the same site against the contour. He then narrated a fly-by of the canyons. The power to do digital video of existing terrain fairly easily using existing data allows one to preview areas with some accuracy in preparation for visiting. He had a CD and a VHS tape of the 3D animation for any projection medium.

The topic led to where the future strengths of Apple computer may be. Los Angeles production companies are buying into Linux instead of Windows making the OS X Unix kernel a logical resource. When studio executives upgrade each year with technology improvements they buy Apple computers. Servers and supercomputers of old are being replaced with the newer and more compact versions, one of which recently added to the marketplace is the OS X server and rack. The sleek design and the reliable performance combined with lower prices than original supercomputers of equal or lesser power makes the server rack competitive.

Next month we are planning for MacWorld, which is in January 2003 in San Francisco.

Join us in 221 Wilkinson Hall at 11:15 am. :-)

THE LINUX DESKTOP

by Bob Ray, *Linux Morning SIG Leader*

A preliminary review of the new Red Hat 8.0 is showing that Red Hat has customized both KDE and Gnome desktops to look more like each other and therefore “improve the user experience” according to a recent Red Hat press release. These new default configurations can be reconfigured or customized in both KDE and Gnome by using the theme managers. The Red Hat goal is to improve the desktops by allowing the user to be in a better position to 1) be able to draw better 2) be able to choose configuration defaults better 3) ship a better set of office and productivity applications with the desktop.

Red Hat says KDE and Gnome will still have plenty of features to compete against each other: stability; speed; features; core applications; ease of use; desktop configuration tools; and general overall ease of use. We will continue our review of the new Red Hat Distribution and other Linux Distributions at future and upcoming NOCCC Linux Desktop sessions

LINUX ADMINISTRATOR

How important is your disk drive? How important are the files on that disk drive? How important is “YOUR” data in those files? If your answer is “important” or “very important” then Journaling File Systems are an important issue to you.

Journaling File Systems are part of most current releases of Linux. There are several file journaling systems currently available to Linux users: Ext3, ReiserFS, XFS. These are all open source extensions to Linux. Journaling File Systems protects your computer against loss of data by entering a log (transaction journal) of what it is going to do before it actually writes data to

the file on disk. If the computer system goes down (a power failure, for example) while your data is in the process of being written, the system can automatically recover this lost or corrupted data from the journal file. This recovery can be done quickly, in seconds or perhaps a few minutes for large file systems. A more detailed treatment of such was had at our last SIG meet.

AUTOCAD SIG

by Joe Mizer

We meet at 9:00 AM each month in room 111 of Wilkerson Hall. This special interest group is setup to answer questions and provide instruction in Autodesk Mechanical Desktop and Autodesk Inventor. Both of these programs are for parametric solid modeling of parts and producing working drawings used in the manufacturing of those parts.

At the October meeting, we demonstrated the use of the rectangular and polar array functions in Autodesk Inventor and setting of toolbars and customizing the mouse controls in Mechanical Desktop.

We plan to demonstrate the use of clipping planes in Inventor at the November meeting. This control allows displaying only the area of the model between the front and the rear clipping planes. This is somewhat like taking a slice out of a part. This way you can look at the interior features to confirm the model is correct. If you are interested in a very good book for Autodesk Inventor you should check out “[Inventor R5 fundamentals](#)” written by Ron Myers at CrWare. www.crware.com ■

Windows SIG

by SIG leader James C. Smith

In October we discussed a variety of topics and answered several questions.

How to prevent programs from automatically running at startup? If you are using Windows 98, 98SE, ME, or XP you can use MSCONFIG to easily control which programs run at startup. Click the Windows “Start” button, select “Run”, type “MSCONFIG” and press “OK”. Then click on the “Startup” tab to see a list of all the programs that load at startup. Clear the check box next to any item that you want to prevent from loading at startup. If you are using Windows 2000, Windows NT, or Windows 95 you do not have MSCONFIG and you can not copy it from a different version of Windows. But there are freeware programs available for download on the Internet that will accomplish the same thing. One such program is “Startup Control Panel”. You can find it and download it from www.download.com

We also discussed various ways to transfer files from an old computer to a new computer. Options include copying data using floppy disks, connecting an external drive such as an external zip drive or external hard drive, moving the hard drive from the old computer into the new computer, setting up a network, or using Laplink to transfer the files over a serial null modem cable or bi-directional parallel cable.

One member had a situation where the older computer in question is running DOS and the hard drive is an MFM drive rather than the now standard IDE. This makes moving the hard drive impractical and DOS makes the networking option impractical. A parallel port ZIP drive or Laplink were suggested as the best options in this situation.

E-Mail Backup

We discussed ways of backing up e-mail messages and folders from Microsoft Outlook and also



demonstrated how to make Outlook leave a copy of your e-mail on the server even after you read the e-mail.

Next Month

Each month we discuss topics like these in the Windows 95/98 SIG. We cover questions, tips, tricks, news, and advice related to Windows, the Internet, and computers in general. Join us in room Science 111 starting at 9:00. Bring your questions or just sit back and learn from questions asked by other people.

NOCCC member James C. Smith
JamesCSmith@BigFoot.com ■

PC Q&A SIG

by *Jim Sanders*

This month mostly dealt with upgrading my Shuttle SV-24 system to include USB 2.0 capabilities. I had acquired a USB 2.0 PCI card and an external, universal USB to IDE enclosure. The enclosure is large enough to take a CD-RW drive. Regretfully, it is not quite large enough to take one of the Mobile Rack, removable hard disk adaptors. If it was just a little bit larger the original plan of having an external USB 2.0 box that could be moved from computer to computer would have worked. It not only would have had the previous attribute, but the ability to easily pop out one hard disk and switch to another.

The first tricky part was getting the PCI-USB 2.0 card to fit in the SV-24. Because of its tiny case, the SV-24 uses a right angle adaptor card to mount a PCI in horizontally in the case. The space available to mount the card is small and seeing what you are trying to do is difficult and made worse if you don't have small fingers. Once the card was installed and the power restored, WinXP found the new card and installed it with no problem.

The next step in the demo was to install a hard disk in the enclosure and hook it up to the computer. When that was done, the enclosure powered up, and the USB cable plugged into the

USB 2.0 card, WinXP recognized the new drive right away. The next question to be answered was how good was the hard disk when hooked up as a USB 2.0 device versus being hooked up as a USB 1.1 device. I found a large file to copy from the USB drive to the internal drive so that there would be a minimum of seek time and dealing with the FAT that would lower the maximum data transfer rate.

The internal drive is an 80 GB 7200 RPM drive divided into four 20 GB partitions. The scratch partition I used is an NTFS partition with 4K clusters. The external drive is a 40 GB 7200 RPM drive divided into two 20 GB partitions. The time it took to transfer the 40MB file was not quite 4 seconds. When I unplugged the drive, WinXP popped up a window complaining about my not asking "mother may I" before unplugging the drive. There is a icon in the tray next to the clock that you are supposed to click, choose the device that you wish to remove, and wait for permission to remove it. So I apologized to the computer, said I was sorry, but that I forgot, and promised not to do it again. Having got passed that problem, I moved the USB plug to one of the USB 1.1 ports. I immediately got a pop up window informing me that I had plugged a high speed device into a low speed port and offered to explain to me how to solve that problem. Since I knew what I had done, I passed on the offer of help. When I copied the 40MB file on the USB 1.1 port, it took 42 seconds. Back on the USB 2.0 port, I copied an image of the 501MB Office2K CD-ROM with 3000 files, from the internal drive to the external drive. It took 90 seconds. I then copied (read) from the USB 2.0 drive to the internal drive and it took 75 seconds.

This was only intended to be ballpark figures, and 5.5 to 6.5 MB/sec is far less than the advertised max, but not too shabby. At those kind of speeds, an external USB 2.0 hard disk is as useful as most internal drives.

The Nov 3 meeting is going to be left open in case the time is needed for WinXP activities.

Two SnagIt V6.1 reviews for the price of one:

SnagIt V6.1.1 Review

Screen Capture Software

by *Jim Sanders NOCCC*

I have had a number of my students ask "How can I save what's on the screen?", or "How come nothing happens when I hit the Print Screen key on the keyboard?" It is hard trying to explain how it originally worked in DOS, that something really does happen when you hit the key, but to make use of it, you have to know about the clipboard. Explaining that once the image is on the clipboard you have to know about pasting it into a graphics program. Teaching all of that can be a major chore. I find a quick overview and having them try the

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TechSmith's SnagIt V6.1

by *Lloyd Mizer, NOCCC*

SnagIt is more than a screen capture program. I recommend this program for anyone that needs to capture images or text from the computer screen. It is useful for technical writers, trainers, and anyone that needs to capture screen images. To increase your productivity it allows you to set up profiles for common tasks. Then you select the profile for the capture you want to perform. It's been a leader in the screen capture field for over a decade. It also includes DubIt, a program to add audio to captured images. A 30day trial version of SnagIt can be downloaded from <http://www.techsmith.com/download.asp>.

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Note! Three new SIGs: Computer Security, Gaming - PC & Mac, Linux Programming Concepts

SIG List

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

SIG	Bldg	Room	Time	Leader	E-mail	Phone
Autocad	Wilkinson	130	9:00	Joe Mizer	jmizer@earthlink.net	909-688-9848
Computer Aided Investing	Wilkinson	211	9:30	Bob Krishfield	bobkrish@socal.rr.com	xxx-xxxx
Computer Security	Science	203	11:15	Dave Keays	rdksoft@sbcglobal.net	xxx-xxxx
Gaming - PC & Mac	Science	203	9:30	Claire Lemire	NOCCCGamingSIG@earthlink.net	714-740-1058
Genealogy	Irvine Hall	—	2:30	Gerry Resch	gresch@hotmail.com	714-772-6667
Hardware Essentials	Science	306	9:30	Herbert Wong	ocug@singularitytechnology.com	714-968-7264
Hardware Essentials	Science	109	2:30	Herbert Wong	ocug@singularitytechnology.com	714-968-7264
Linux for Desktop Users	Wilkinson	210	9:00	Bob C. Ray	bobcray@pacbell.net	xxx-xxxx
Linux for Server Administrators	Wilkinson	210	10:00	Bob C. Ray	bobcray@pacbell.net	xxx-xxxx
Linux Programming Concepts	Wilkinson	210	11:15	Bob C. Ray	bobcray@pacbell.net	xxx-xxxx
Macintosh	Wilkinson	221	11:15	John Willner	Willner@earthlink.net	714-838-1431
New Technology	Irvine Hall	—	9:30	George Margolin	Inventor@pobox.com	949-645-5950
Office Suites	Science	111	11:15	John Heenan	jc_heenan@csi.com	xxx-xxxx
PC Q&A	Irvine Hall	—	11:15	Jim Sanders	jsanders@ligasmicro.com	714-636-5523
Understanding OS's	Wilkinson	111	11:15	Charlie Moore	mooreca@aol.com	xxx-xxxx
Visual Programming I	Science	109	8:30	Anson Chapman	aeccrc@primenet.com	909-860-9515
Visual Programming II	Science	109	9:00	Anson Chapman	aeccrc@primenet.com	909-860-9515
Visual Programming III	Science	109	10:00	Anson Chapman	aeccrc@primenet.com	909-860-9515
Visual Programming IV	Science	109	11:15	Anson Chapman	aeccrc@primenet.com	909-860-9515
Windows	Science	111	9:00	James Smith	jamescsmith@bigfoot.com	714-751-2922
Please report changes to						Linda Russell goodnewsent@compuserve.com 909-949-4930



The boss has relented, we can use ebay during lunch hour

NOCCC Help Line

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



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

FREE AD SPACE

If you are an NOCCC member, and have a computer-related, non-commercial ad that you would like to have placed on the Internet, visit the *Classified Ads* section of our website at: www.noccc.org or contact Jim Sanders at jsanders@ligasmicro.com

Club members are also welcome to post "Wanted" or "For Sale" notices on the kiosk, but please do not tape them on doors, windows, or walls.

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



SnagIt V6.1 - Mizer

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SnagIt gives you tools to make the collection, manipulation, alteration, and saving of screen captures easy. It will capture images from the entire screen, a window, a region, the Clipboard, a DOS session, or menu items. Multiple windows can be captured at the same time. Capture images from games, CAD applications, scanners, digital cameras, applications — that use DirectX technology, and media players. You can grab bitmaps, icons and cursors from an “EXE” or “DLL”. You can capture an entire window from top to bottom and side to side with AutoScroll, even when the total window does not show on screen. Text can be captured from an application that doesn’t support Cut and Paste. Text captures can be saved as ASCII text. Text can be appended to a standard text file. Text can be imported into spreadsheets or databases as delimited columns.

SnagIt Studio provides the tools to mark up an image using drawing tools. You can add arrows, stamps, clipart, callout boxes and sticky notes. A portion of the image can be highlighted, or frames and borders added. You can create and save custom animation shapes. You can overlay and position multiple images in a collage. It will import or export any BMP, GIF, PCX, JPEG, TGA, TIF, or PNG graphic image. You can send captures to a file, the clipboard, the Web, and as an e-mail attachment, or to multiple outputs simultaneously.

Web sites can be captured by typing in the URL and all images on that page will be captured. You can also capture all images on pages linked to the original page. Captures can be saved as image files or sent to the Catalog Browser. The Catalog Browser is a Thumbnail Browser that provides a method to view, navigate and manage captures. You can save, convert file formats, print, and e-mail in batches. It will apply and undo various image processing effects. It has advanced image-processing effects including rotate, sharpen, blur, blend, crop and emboss images. The brightness and contrast can be adjusted.

On screen, movement of any application can be saved as a video (AVI) file. You can record mouse and cursor movements, and create time-lapse videos. This feature was a little slow and did not produce the professional effect I wanted, so I went to another TechSmith product, Camtasia, that is designed just for video capture, and it produced a professional-looking video.

SnagIt is an easy program to learn and use. The Quick Start wizard walks you through capturing a screen, a window, or a region. The Quick Start wizard does not support advanced features, but you probably will not need it anyway.

TechSmith has tutorials for SnagIt, Camtasia, and DubIt at <http://www.techsmith.com/products/camtasia/examplevideos.asp>. If you want additional help, Lycos provides tutorials at <http://howto.lycos.com/lycos/topic/>.

SnagIt works with Windows 9x, NT, 2000, ME, and XP. SnagIt Studio requires Windows 95B or higher. They require 90MHz processor (400 MHz recommended), 16MB RAM (64 MB recommended), and 10 MB of hard disk space for program installation.

TechSmith Corporation, PO Box 4758, 1780 East Grand River Avenue, East Lansing, MI 48823-4907, <http://www.techsmith.com>, Voice:(517)333-2100, Fax:(517)333-1888 .SnagIt’s List Price is \$39.95. ■

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free, trial download of SnagIt often solves the problem. It seems like SnagIt has been around since this became a problem in MS Windows. It solved the problem of “nothing happens” and automates the multi-step process that is required if you do it manually. Over the years, TechSmith has steadily improved it and this version adds three new features, **Web Page Creator, Extended Window Capture, Printer Capture**. Today it is far more than just a “Print Screen” or “Screen Capture” tool. It has gone from just making the Print Screen key actually print the screen in MS Windows, to a small suite of tools for capturing and manipulating things that

you see on your screen.

The basic function of “Print the screen” is the first thing that SnagIt’s tutorial takes one through as part of the installation. At the same time it lets you know that there are a lot of other features available. The original “grab a copy of the screen” concept has been expanded to let the user define how the screen is grabbed. The input function of “Screen Capture” now gives the user several different options. In order, they are: Screen, Window, Active window, Region, Fixed region, Object, Menu, Shapes, and Advanced. The last two options have sub-options of their own. In addition to the Image Capture category of input choice, there is also Text Capture, Video Capture, Web Capture, and Printer Capture. The “Print the Screen” or output function has seen a corresponding increase in options. In order, they are: Printer, Clipboard, File, Send Mail, Catalog, Web, and Studio. The Save to File function offers seven different file formats including BMP and JPG.

Once an image is captured, SnagIt offers several image manipulation features. The image can be converted to monotone, halftone, or gray scale. The color depth, hue, brightness, contrast, etc. can be manipulated. Once you are happy with what you have captured, send it to the Studio module for even more fun. Here you can annotate the image with a number of options. There is a library of pointers, arrows, clipart, stamps, shapes, and a section to add your own graphics. There is a highlighter that can be used just like the ones for paper and, perhaps the most useful, the text tool. This allows you to add your own comments to your captured image in any of the fonts that are available on your system.

At \$39.95, SnagIt, <http://www.techsmith.com>, phone:(517) 333-2100, is perhaps the best in its class. It runs on almost anything from a Pentium 90, Win95 machine on up. It installs easily, has an OK wizard, a decent Windows format help file, lots more help and tutorials on the web site, a free trial download, more features than most pros need, yet does the basics in a way that most newbies will be able to cope with. Recommended. ■

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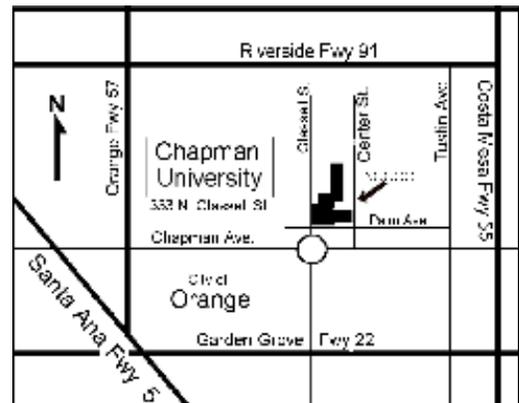
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