



range Bytes

Award Winning News Magazine of the North Orange County Computer Club

Vol 29 • No 3

MARCH 2004

NOCCC MEETINGS - March 7

9:30 AM Irvine Hall

NEW TECHNOLOGIES

Cathy Margolin

Computer Software Tips

See Page 4 for details

1:00 p.m. Irvine Hall

MAIN MEETING

Steve Gibson

Internet Security and Spinrite 6

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 Science 203
Computer Essentials Science 111
Linux for Desktop Users Wilkinson 111
Visual Programming II Science 109
Visual C++ and Visual J++ for Beginners

9:30 a.m.

NEW TECHNOLOGIES Irvine Hall
See above box
Computer Aided Investing Wilkinson 221
Member Investment Strategies, Techniques and Software
Linux (intermediate) Wilkinson 111

10:00 a.m.

Linux for Server Administrators Wilkinson 111
Visual Programming III Science 109
Intermediate and Advanced Visual Basic

11:15 a.m.

Computer Security Science 203

Linux Programming Concepts Wilkinson 111
Macintosh Wilkinson 221
Office Suites Wilkinson 210
Office suites applications
PC Q & A - Jim Sanders Irvine Hall
Most Qs Answered, some problems solved,
assorted demos done
Understanding Operating Systems Science 306
Get Help with DOS, Windows 3.1, Windows 9x, OS/2, etc.
Visual Programming IV Science 109
Office 97 VB for Applications programming.

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.

Digital Photography Science 109
All about taking, modifying, and printing digital photos
Genealogy Science 111
Discover your family history with modern tools
Hardware Essentials Irvine Hall
Continuation of main meeting
OS/2 News and Installation Science 203

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

Future Meetings

Mar 7, Apr 4, May 2

Table of Contents

March 7th Meeting Preview	4	ExplorerPlus	11	Preparing a Review Article for the Bytes	18
COMPUTERRAGE	6	AMAZON HACKS	11	Guidelines for Submittal	19
PCI Express: Say Goodbye To AGP & PCI Slots	7	The Glitter Guru on Photoshop	12	Main Meeting	20
The Post Office Does E-postage	8	Digital Image Suite Pro 9	13	Computer Aided Investors SIG	21
Internet Help	9	Drive Image 7	16	MacIntosh SIG	22
Pig SIG Open To ALL	9	MICROSOFT OFFICE 2003 PROFESSIONAL EDITION	17	SIG List	24
FAMILY LAWYER 2004	10	McAfee 2004 Security Programs ...	17	NOCCC Help Line	25



“Friends Helping Friends”



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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

for the following positions:

Circulation — Oversees the mailing and distribution.

Commercial Swap Meets • Distributes Orange Bytes and NOCCC material at swap meets.

Commercial Advertising • Obtains ads from both national and local vendors for the Bytes; the success of this helps our club finances.

President's Message

By Cathy Margolin

Another Great NOCCC meeting occurred this last month with Rich Blumenthal talking about Voice Recognition. It is finally getting there. And just when you thought you could relax, we will bring you the ultra dynamic charismatic Steve Gibson, president of Gibson Research, author of Spinrite, Tech TV speaker, and all around noted industry figure on Internet Security.



Steve Gibson will tell us all about Internet Security in March, his new utilities to help protect yourself from the bad people out there and even, gasp, about a new version of Spinrite that will be released soon. Mark March 7th on your calendar as Steve always draws a crowd and will probably continue after 2:30 in Irvine Hall (Digital SIG will move to another room just for March). Bring a friend as this is the hot talk of the year.

April 4th will be our Anniversary party. NOCCC, friends helping friends, will be 28 years old, even older than Microsoft and just as rich in terms of people! Our fabulous chef, Alan Pearlman, will make certain we have cake! Bring your old friends for free cake!

Pop-Ups This last week I had a client call and ask how to block those pop-up ads that are so annoying. I use ZoneAlarm Pro (the one you buy) as my personal firewall software which also includes a pop-up blocker. But she was looking for a no cost solution and the easiest one to tell her was to install the Google toolbar which will also block pop-ups. What it does, is to put a toolbar for searching at the top of your Internet Explorer screen, plus a pop up blocker. You can just click on the blocker to allow pop-ups for that site. You get it by going to google.com, clicking on services and tools and it will be towards the bottom as the Google Toolbar. There are also tons of other programs that will do blocking, but since I like Google as a search engine, I like that I get a multi-purpose use out of this toolbar – searching and blocking.

Also at the New Technology meeting, I will do a Computer Software Tips session– How to do Windows Update, Office Update, Antivirus programs, Windows tips, Office tips including Word, Excel and Powerpoint. I will also show Explorer Plus the program that replaces my favorite PowerDesk.

March 7th– Don't forget Steve Gibson is coming! He always is very informative about what is happening with Microsoft, Security and the Internet!

FREE COMPUTER CLASS

Santa Ana College (SAC) is offering a free PC computer workshop class. You can start attending at any time. The class covers just about all aspects of personal computing, software, hardware, building new machines, upgrading/fixing the machine you have. The class is held Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8 AM till noon in Hammond Hall room H201. Call the **Centennial Education Center** at 241-5700, class #64200.09

Membership Benefits

Member Discounts and Benefits

As a valued member, we bring you a section of discounts and offers as part of the entire "Benefit of Belonging." (Caveat - we are unable to endorse these companies, but make these offers available as a service to our members).

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!

CompuUSA Discount - Fountain Valley Only

One of our members, Joe Vezeau, Corporate Sales, has offered NOCCC members a discount. You have to call Joe and he will see if there is any discount available (some products are below cost and he cannot do anything) on the product you want. 714-965-4236 for Joe Vezeau).

Klassic Specialties – Don Baker offers NOCCC members a 5% discount on ink cartridges, etc on his website, www.klassicspecialties.com. Just put in the code NOCCC for the discount. Also 5% will be donated to the Club from your purchase.

Aladdin Systems, Aladdin's best ZIP compression software, Stuffit Deluxe, 40% discount. For details go to www.aladdinsys.com/support/usergroups/ugvalid.html

PowerQuest— PartitionMagic v8 (List \$69.95) - \$39.00 — Drive Image v7 (List \$69.95)-Full System Backup Utility \$39.00. V2i Protector Desktop Ed v2 \$39. <http://www.ugr.com/order/> with group code UGFEBNOCCC. Phone 801-796-7370

VOPT XP – New Fast Defragmentation Program, 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 defragment your hard drive. Mention "Margolin" to get the \$30 user group discount or \$10 off the \$40 price.

O'Reilly Books

If you order directly from O'Reilly, <http://www.oreilly.com>, orders@oreilly.com, or 800-998-9938, you are entitled to a 20% discount (and possibly free shipping). User Group discount code is DSUG.

NewRiders Books Discount – Go to <http://www.newriders.com> and check out their Promo section for User Group member's discounts.

February Board Meeting Minutes



The board minutes are published in the printed version of the Orange Bytes which is mailed to members

March 7th Meeting Preview

MAIN MEETING 1:00 pm Irvine Hall

Steve Gibson is the CEO of Gibson Research Corporation. A lot of internet users are familiar with his <http://www.grc.com> website. Almost 26,000,000 visits have been made to his site to run "Shields UP." Shields UP is the security test program that looks for any open port security holes on your system. The second most widely know Steve Gibson software is probably the SpinRite disk diagnostic program. SpinRite 6 is about to be released. Steve will be talking about these two programs and internet security in general. Steve always has an outstanding Q&A session after his presentation, so if you have internet security questions, be sure and attend this meeting

NEW TECHNOLOGIES 9:30 am Irvine Hall

Cathy Margolin will do a Computer Software Tips session– How to do Windows Update, Office Update, Antivirus programs, Windows tips, Office tips including Word, Excel and Powerpoint. I will also show Explorer Plus the program that replaces my favorite PowerDesk.

PC Q&A SIG Jim Sanders will be giving a tutorial on how to clean and service your PC

THE CLUB RAFFLE PRIZE at the main meeting this month will be a color ink jet printer.

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%.

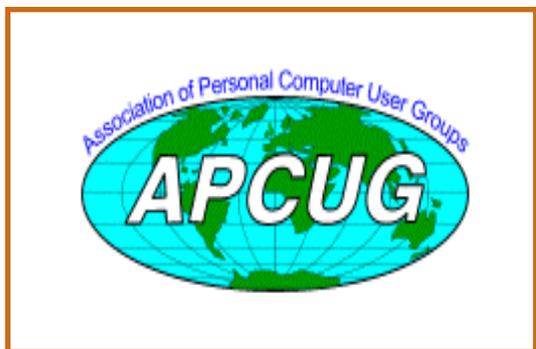
3. Fill out a tag on each item! It must contain: Seller's Name, NOCCC Membership Number, Item name, a short description and selling price.

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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COMPUTER RAGE

By: *Elise M. Edgell and Jim Sanders, NOCCC*
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I have heard about road rage for years and have even seen instances of it. For some people, just putting them behind a steering wheel gives them an angry feeling toward all other drivers on the road.

I am seeing a similar reaction with some people as soon as they are in front of a computer keyboard. Suddenly they are no longer reasonable, rational people using the computer to make their life better. They react as put-upon individuals that are using a tool, which they would rather not use, can't really see the benefit in using it, would rather be doing anything else other than sitting there in front of their computer, and they do not want to learn anything about their computer other than how to use the applications that they have been forced to use because of outside pressure. They act as if it is an imposition to have to learn anything more about their computer than how to turn it on. They see no useful value in understanding any of the workings of the computer. They have much more valuable use for their time than to spend any of it learning useless (in their estimation) information.

Unfortunately, not only do we have the "Computer Rage" group that think it is chic to hide behind their rage with an "I would rather work harder, than smarter" attitude, there are others. Some groups that come to mind are the "I am too old to learn this computer stuff," the "I am too dumb to learn this computer stuff," the "I am so computer illiterate that I don't even know how to turn one on, and proud of it," and the "I would probably do something wrong and break it" group.

What could be some of the reasons for these attitudes, reactions or myths to using a computer?

One reason is that computer software and hardware companies have fostered the idea that in today's world computers are so sophisticated that they can be run without any necessity for the user to learn the basics. As an example, the Windows operating system installs with many of its defaults set to "protect" the user from much of the really useful information that is needed for intelligent operation of the computer. The problem with that is, if the information is hidden, the user may be unaware of needed information.

So why should you make the effort to learn more about your computer? Even if you are using a computer under duress (real or perceived), once a computer is an integral part of your personal or business life it is very upsetting for the computer to be unavailable to perform the tasks that you've come to depend on.

When a problem occurs with your program or with your hardware, instead of just feeling abused, put upon, frustrated, helpless, or mad, you will have some options if you learn some of the basics. You will be able to take

care of some of the simple and common problems yourself. When you get the "Disk A: is write-protected" error message while trying to save a file to the floppy disk, you will know that all you have to do is take the floppy out of the drive, slide over the write-protect tab to cover the hole, and re-insert it in the drive. The problem was solved in ten seconds, no rage, no anger, no anxiety, actually, no real problem. It was just one of those things that happen and have to be dealt with.

Even if you can't solve the situation on your own, you will be able to communicate the problem in understandable terms. This makes it possible for you to ask for help over the telephone, or even on the Internet. You also need to know when you really need help and to know if the "help" you are getting is valid. Last, and far from least, most windows have a "Help" menu, and there is always the "START" button and general "HELP" option. But once again, if, for whatever reason, you have not bothered to learn some of the basic concepts and terminology, you won't be able to ask the right question, or understand the answer if you stumble across it.

I have also heard people say, "I watch TV but I don't have to learn how it works, why should I have to learn how to use my computer?" My response is that today's computers place an unbelievable amount of access to information, knowledge, and creative programs at your fingertips. For chump change (don't know what that means -- look it up on Google.com) you can buy a nice computer and access to the Internet. As soon as you buy that combination you have an almost unimaginable power sitting on your desk. Power that just a few years only governments and large corporations could afford. Once you are on the Internet, most of the information, a lot of the knowledge, and quite a few of the applications are free! You may have seen the TV ad showing a one man garage shop company, that looks like a large company because of what the computer can do. This is a true story, not an advertiser's pipe dream. Information is power and the Internet makes information available on about any subject. Aside from the "chump change" what does all this power cost? The willingness to spend the time to learn how to use it!

I am no longer envious of people who live near a large library. I use the Internet to answer many of the questions which I think about but forget before I get to a dictionary, encyclopedia, or other paper research material. Now I can get an almost instantaneous answer and can ask to be notified by e-mail when a certain topic comes up in the news. For example I used this recently after I read a murder mystery based on a deadly chemical named sodium azide. I had never heard of it before. I searched the Internet using Google and found many articles about it and its deadly properties. This chemical is readily available and widely used. I was concerned enough to use a feature of Google to send me an e-mail when sodium



azide is in a news story.

Wouldn't you be willing to invest some of your time to be able to really use this type of power? What about really learning some of the abilities of the software that is probably sitting on your computer? Have you ever really looked at the features of WordPad in Windows XP? Have you ever clicked on help in WordPad? Did you know that the "Help Menu" in WordPad contains a "Help on how to use Help" section? Are you taking digital photos? Are you in sales? Do you have a disability? Of course you can find use for some of the more advanced features of your software. The problem is you won't ever know what these may be, unless you expend some effort to learn what is possible.

Once you decide that learning more about the potential of your computer is a benefit to you, it makes it a lot easier to find the time and energy to accomplish this.

Understanding goes a long way toward the feeling of being in control. When you feel in control of your computing experience, the irrational feelings of rage will probably go away or at least be minimized. This doesn't mean that you will no longer get mad or upset with your computer, far from it, just that you will be more likely do it for a real cause.

How do you acquire the information and skills you need to feel in control of your computer? One good way is to go to a computer user's group. Unfortunately, if you are the person this article is about you are probably not getting this newsletter. My suggestion is that those of you who are getting this newsletter give a copy of this article to your friends that have computer rage. ■

PCI Express: Say Goodbye To AGP and PCI Slots

By Timothy Everingham, NOCCC
teveringham@acm.org

Those of you that have been around personal computers for a while might remember plug in cards slots referred to as ISA, EISA, Microchannel, and VESA Local Bus. ISA, EISA, and Microchannel were replaced by PCI. VESA Local bus was primarily for video cards, which was replaced by PCI, then AGP slots. It was a fun time during these card slot transitions because many times you could not use the plug in cards from your old machine in your new computer or motherboard or if you did it could slow down the entire system. We guess what, its time to do it all over again. Intel has come up with a new shot standard PCI Express, which will start to show up in computers/motherboards this spring.

PCI came out in 1992. Today these slots and its data bus

technology are used for things not envisioned when it was under development over 12 years ago. PCI has its limitations and the PCI pro slots never became popular. The limitations are coming to the forefront in delivering multimedia content and Gigabit Ethernet. Of course getting higher frame rates at higher resolution and quality for video games also is an issue. PCI has been evolving over time increasing its speed to 5 times the original, but it has reached its limits of development. Many say that stretching out the AGP to 8x speed might be pushing at its limit too.

First let us look at the current PCI architecture you will find on most motherboards. The CPU/Microprocessor communicates with the first of two data bridges, normally referred to as the Memory Bridge or Northbridge. The Northbridge is not only communicates with the CPU; but also communicates to the AGP port, which is where your main graphics card is (usually the only graphics card). It also communicates with your RAM. The fourth thing it communicates with is the second data bridge, known as the Input/Output (I/O) Bridge or Southbridge. The Southbridge also communicates to your plug in slots/cards, drive controllers, and USB, Firewire/1394, parallel, serial, game, keyboard and mouse ports. The theoretical speed limit of the Southbridge communication to I/O including the PCI slots is 133 MB/second. All of the communications in the system are parallel with none of the data having any priority over any other. Blocks of data have to be sent one at a time and cannot be done concurrently. Therefore the data is transferred from one section of the motherboard to the next section based on the order received, not the importance or whether a piece of data arriving by a certain time to its destination is critical.

PCI Express instead of using a parallel bus architecture, it uses serial networking typology using only two wires for each direction has a similar look having the same type of Northbridge/Southbridge architecture in desktops & laptops, but a higher speeds and allows concurrent transfer of data. However in servers the Southbridge is eliminated producing greater data throughput. The PCI slots initially have a 250 MB/second throughput, but the scalable width technology (increasing the number of wire pairs) enables slots and cards to communicate at 32 times that speed in later implementations using longer slots. But the typology can also use network switching type technology, giving data priority and quality of service functions. Hot plug/swap of components is a native part of the architecture.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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NOCCC member, Jim Sanders



PCI Express

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

The PCI Express Graphics Port, replacing the AGP Port, will have a 4GB/second transfer rate in its initial configuration, double that of the current 8x AGP ports. For laptops units there will be a new plug-in card to replace PCMCIA called ExpressCard. It will come in two forms, one that more looks like a PCMCIA card referred to as the 34 module form factor (34 x 75 x 5 mm) and the a more oversized L looking card called the 54 module form factor (54 x 75 x 5 mm). This new architecture is compatible with existing operating systems. Also the new PCI Express slots are capable of being placed alongside current type PCI slots so a choice can be made which type of card can be used in a motherboard just like was done with ISA slots and current PCI slots. The standard PCI Express slots being put in motherboards this spring (1x) will be a lot shorter than the standard PCI slots.

All of this will mean that a lot of issues having to do with multimedia on desktop and laptop computers will have been solved. It also opens wider use of Gigabit Ethernet on local area networks. It also enables the prospects of new motherboard form factors and computer case designs. As what the transition from ISA to PCI was an interesting transition with computer buyers having to do more research and planning on their purchases, the move from PCI to PCI Express will do the same. However, as was with the previous transition, the performance and capability increases of computers will be profound. Further info on PCI Express can be found at: www.express-lane.org

Timothy Everingham is CEO of Timothy Everingham Consulting in Azusa, California. Further information can be found at <http://home.earthlink.net/~teveringham> ■

The Post Office Does E-postage

Thinking of trying e-postage? Read this before you sign up

By "Mac" McWethy, Special PIBMUG Correspondent deemac@cox-internet.com YPERLINK"mailto:"

I wonder how many of the on-line-postage vendors (such as Stamps.com, Estamp, P-B "ClickStamp", etc.) realize that they are already out of business, and as soon as their customers discover the latest offering from the United States Postal Service they can go ahead and close their electronic doors and liquidate inventory (or would that be "e-nventory"?)

Since its advent there have been two principal advantages to e-postage over conventional stamps that have made the additional cost worthwhile for many. First, there was the obvious advantage of being able to buy "stamps" 24/7 regardless of the

weather or whether it was a holiday. True, what was produced was not really a stamp—it was typically an adhesive label made on your computer's printer—but the fact that it was considered to be "metered postage" by the USPS yields the second—and for some, much bigger—advantage: Avoiding the lines at the post office.

Conventional wisdom holds that if you want to mail a parcel weighing over a pound you must physically hand it to a postal clerk at a post office. You cannot mail it from your home (unless you're well-known to your mail carrier) nor can you drop it in a free-standing mail box located right outside the post office (no matter who you know). You must get in line and hand it to a clerk at a retail postal counter during normal business hours.

Few things can be as exasperating as a slow-moving post office line that one is standing in for no reason other than to hand a package, which may have already been weighed and stamped, to a clerk. Renewing your car tag may come in a close second, except during the Thanksgiving-to-Christmas season when the line at the post office stretches from here clear over to there. There's no close 2nd, 3rd, or 4th when that happens.

Meter me This, BatmanWell, the conventional wisdom is wrong, because according to the USPS's "Bible"—the Domestic Mail Manual—only packages weighing more than 16 ounces and bearing (adhesive) stamps must be handed to a clerk. Postage lawfully printed by your PC is "metered postage" and packages bearing same can be mailed by dropping them in any collection box or by having your mail carrier take them away.

Citation: Mail "weighing 16 ounces or more must be presented at a post office retail counter if postage is paid with adhesive stamps" [DMM Section D100.2.6] but in the case of metered mail "...First-Class Mail, Express Mail, and Priority Mail may be deposited in any street collection box or post office." [DMM Section P030.11]. Both references are available on-line at the Postal Explorer Web Edition; <http://pe.usps.gov/>

For many, that convenience alone has been worth the extra cost of e-postage (Stamps.com, for example, has a monthly fee of 10% of the face amount of the postage printed with a \$4.49 minimum; you buy the right to print postage by means of charging an amount of money you select—\$10, \$25, etc.—to your credit card and then you draw down on this amount when you subsequently print postage.)

Clickity ClickHowever: Now comes the USPS with "Click-N-Ship" (its own brand on on-line e-postage, available at <http://www.usps.com/>) which allows anyone, after proper registration and establishment of a username and password, to not only print regular postage but also: (1) shipping labels with e-postage affixed on (2) either full-sheet adhesive labels or just plain 'ol paper which is attached to the package with spray adhesive or tape; if you use this method for Priority Mail postage (3) the USPS will throw in Delivery Confirmation for free as well as give you Priority Mail shipping boxes and tape at no cost and, as icing to the cake (4) there's no registration fee or minimum monthly cost for these services! Outstanding!

So tell me again why I would want to maintain my Stamps.com account? Sometimes, when the moon is right, it seems like maybe the government is there to help...

Be Careful One final cautionary note: if you choose to terminate your account with one of the free-market internet postage providers, you would do well to first confirm the date when the next billing cycle begins; learn when the account would be de-activated; and find out how long the account would remain accessible (for purposes of copying the address book, purchased-postage records for tax purposes, etc.) after the close-account instructions are given. Logically, it should remain available to you for as long as you are required to pay.

Not following this advice (and thereby gaining the wisdom that qualifies me to offer it), I terminated my Stamps.com account on Monday, February 3—the first business day in February. Although my account was deactivated immediately (making it impossible to access it for the purposes mentioned above) I was nevertheless charged the full minimum monthly fee for the month of February. Had I known that this would have been the effect I still would have closed the account—I just would have made sure that I got all the data I needed from it and shut it down three days earlier.

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Internet Help

By Bill Shook bshook1019@aol.com
NWA-PCUG Newsletter Article, January 2004

Please feel free to send any other help related sites to Bill Shook bshook1019@aol.com and he will include them in subsequent newsletters.

For help with Microsoft Windows and Windows software products: <http://www.microsoft.com/windows98/usingwindows/default.asp>, <http://www.help-talk.com/> (See our May 2000 Newsletter) <http://www.winmag.com/>, <http://www.microsoft.com/WindowsME/support/solutions/default.asp> <http://www.fixwindows.com/> <http://support.microsoft.com/directory/>

Everything you can possibly imagine related to computers: <http://www.zdnet.com/> <http://www.cnet.com/> <http://www.deja.com/computing.shtml> <http://www.smartcomputing.com/>

Multimedia tutorials on over 100 different software applications: <http://www.pcshowandtell.com/> (See our April 2000 newsletter)

For help on just about anything: <http://www.deja.com/>

<http://www.askjeeves.com/> <http://www.zdnet.com/zdhelp/stories/main/0,%205594,2673000,00.html> (10 Technical Support sites) <http://www.whatis.com/> (To research file extensions, search for extension, then click on "Every File Format in the World". Also, many other subjects covered) <http://www.protonic.com/> <http://www.nancydoeswindows.com/> <http://www.pc-nine-one-one.com/> (how-to's, reviews, tips, forums, newsletters, etc.) <http://www.pcpitstop.com/> (system diagnosis, tips, links, etc.) <http://www.microsoft.com/mindshare/tips.asp>

Tons of freeware and shareware: <http://www.simtel.net/> <http://www.bootdisk.com/> <http://www.jumbo.com/> <http://www.winsite.com/>

For 20% Discount on MS Press titles: <http://microsoft.com/mindshare/default.asp>

Price Comparison Shopping <http://computers.cnet.com/> <http://www.mysimon.com/> <http://www.streetprices.com/> <http://www.bizrate.com/> <http://saleshound.com/> <http://www.salecircular.com/> <http://www.pricescan.com/> <http://www.e-town.com/> <http://www.techshopper.com/> <http://www.pricewatch.com/> <http://www.softwareoutlet.com/> <http://www.overstock.com/> <http://www.techbargains.com/>

Urban Legends and hoaxes (is virus alert factual or bogus) <http://www.snopes2.com/> <http://www.urbanlegends.com/> <http://hoaxbusters.ciac.org/>

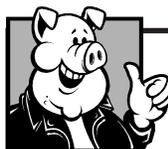
Grant Wales "Working with Images" site <http://www.geocities.com/george20032>

Known Bugs (A bug a day) http://www.msnbc.com/news/BUGOFTHEDAY_Front.asp?0si=-&cp1=1

Search sites that search multiple search engines <http://www.lukol.com> <http://www.dogpile.com/> ■

Please Share Your Expertise

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



Pig SIG Open To ALL

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

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



FAMILY LAWYER 2004 Deluxe HOME & BUSINESS

By Elise M. Edgell, NOCCC,
EliseEdgell@aol.com

I was asked to review this program since I am an attorney. I agreed because I was curious as to how I would react to a program for non-attorneys aimed at preparing wills, estate planning, and creating binding contracts and documents.

I had no problem in installing Family Lawyer Home & Business 2004 Deluxe on my computer running Windows XP Professional. It gives you a choice of where to install the program. It is not copy protected but you do have to have the program CD in the drive to run the program. It allows you to password protect your information so if someone else was using your program on your computer they couldn't look at the documents that you had prepared.

The program is divided between business documents and personal documents. It includes many "interviews" which you fill out providing the program with your information. From the information provided in the interview it will prepare the appropriate document. The documents can be edited either in the Family Lawyer program or with Word. From my point of view the big question is, "How should you actually use the prepared documents?"

If the documents are letters, they can be used as prepared. You then have the option of editing the letters and changing them to your wishes. Even if you want to write your own letter the information collected by the program reminds you of what type of information should be included in your letter.

The other contracts and documents seem to be adequate for many simple procedures. There is a lot of information provided by the program for each of the items in a document. I have reservations about recommending this type of legal document without consulting an attorney because there are many considerations that need to be taken into account such as deciding which document you want to use. There are also many variations of law from state to state and you need to be aware of the law in your state. Also, do you really understand all of the legal terms?

Many of these documents are helpful to prepare before you consult with an attorney. This will give you a good idea of the type of information that is important and that

the attorney will probably need. This allows you to be prepared and hopefully minimize the amount of time the attorney needs for your matter (and the cost to you).

I was interested in how the program would handle the differences in laws in different states. There are many areas where state law varies greatly. To test this feature of the program I prepared a document entitled "Advanced Health Care Directive." After preparing the document, I checked it against the California statute. It followed the statute and I felt comfortable in using it in a real life situation.

Other features include three books, a financial calculator, and a 3-month free subscription to *SmartMoney's Select's Delayed Quotes service*. (I did not try this feature.)

The books included with the program are:

2003 Tax Law Updates (5 pages)

Estate Planning Companion (529 pages)

21st Century Family Legal Guide (233 pages)

I had a problem in reading the books because there are 2 panes on the screen. I could not find out how to close the left pane but I could drag the reading pane over it. I was also able to save each book as a pdf file so that I could use it easily without the necessity of running the Family Lawyer program first. There is a lot of useful information in the books.

Financial Calculator uses Interest Vision to help you calculate interest on various types of investments to assist you in making good financial decisions. This information can be used in other parts of the program.

This program will run on most Windows version from 98se through XP. Minimum requirements are 233 MHz processor, 64 MB RAM. Most computers today will be able to run the program with ease.

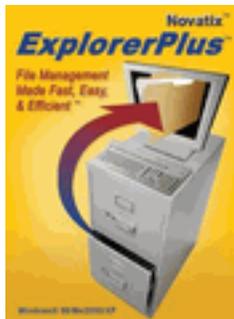
I highly recommend this program for all of the useful information about many areas of home and business documents. The reference materials alone are worth the price of the program. My only caution is that if you have any doubt about what your are doing, please consult an attorney before you send the letter, sign the document, execute a Will or Trust (I don't care what you have heard or read), or do anything that changes your legal position. It is much easier and a lot less costly to not do something than to attempt to undo a mistake.

Family Lawyer 2004 Deluxe Home & Business is a Broderbund program which can be purchased for \$29.99 at <http://www.broderbund.com> and from many other sources which can be located by doing a web search. Broderbund is owned by Deepriver Interactive Learning. There is a discount for the upgrade version. The lowest street price I found was \$21.78. Broderbund can be reached at 1-800-395-0277. Deepriver, Inc, 500 Redwood Boulevard, Novato, CA 94947. ■

ExplorerPlus

By Bill Allen, NOCCC

ExplorerPlus from Novatix is a replacement for Microsoft's Windows Explorer, the file management program included in most versions of Windows. ExplorerPlus is laid out similarly to Windows Explorer for fast user learning. The program screen layout can be displayed in any of six pastel colors, blue being my personal preference. The program has many features not provided by Windows explorer. For example, digital photo files can be uploaded directly from your favorite camera. A powerful instantaneous viewer pane for most all file types is provided. The program can handle over two hundred different files types as well as fifteen different file compression formats.



Those with both a business laptop and home/work PC can synchronize sets of files simultaneously between the two computers using ExplorerPlus. The FTP uploading and downloading feature has a wizard to walk the user through the process, including the dragging and dropping whole folders of files from the FTP site to your hard disk. Regarding sets of files, ExplorerPlus facilitates making simultaneous wild card changes to multiple files' names. A file destroy mode is provided to ensure any file can be truly destroyed, thus precluding any file residuals that could be read by unauthorized persons. Files can likewise be encrypted using ExplorerPlus. And the kids will be pleased to know they can play MP3 files with ExplorerPlus while they move all those important business files to the recycle bin.

In addition to the file pane viewer the program user can set up thumbnails for each file precluding the need to open each file to determine if it is the one you want. Additionally, each file can be annotated with a pop-up descriptive note.

A dialog tracker provides a history of all files and folders visited to permit retracing your file management steps. A modifiable tool bar is provided to include instant access to the selected file handling features. Additionally, a quick run pull-down menu allows instant access to: (1) My Computer, (2) Windows, (3) Control Panel, plus (4) any application programs you may wish to include.

ExplorerPlus starts with two windows. The window on the left side is a file directory tree. The right side window is a listing of the files in the folder highlighted in the left hand window. The screen has the expected menu bar across the top with ten tabs: File; Edit; View; Archive; Go; QuickAccess; Tools; Option; Windows; and Help. The View menu allows displaying the two file management windows with the windows dividing the screen selectably either horizontally or vertically. In the middle of the screen are tabs allowing one step call-ups of any of five screen layouts. The versatile file viewer pane is also on the View menu. The Archive menu provides for "zipping" and encoding files. The Go menu includes moving backward or forward among sequential screens as well as accessing the FTP

feature. QuickAccess allows jumping to the Windows Control Panel as well the user designated application programs to be run from within ExplorerPlus. The Tools menu includes access to a DOS window for accessing DOS format data files or running old DOS programs such as `chkdsk.exe/f` for hard disk file housekeeping. The Options menu provides for configuring personal preferences including the various color themes of ExplorerPlus. Additionally, customizing toolbars, launchbars, and layout tabs is facilitated on the Options menu. The dialog tracker is also included on this tab. Finally, the Window tab includes all the possible screen layouts available to the program user.

The quick action tabs across the middle of the screen are: Explore; Dual Horizontal; Dual Vertical; Commander; and Picture, for various screen displays. The Commander mode is a holdover from the popular Norton Commander program. It shows two sets of files side-by-side for folder/file synchronizing, etc.

The ExplorerPlus program is a significant improvement over the Windows file explorer. Not only does the program have a multitude of features not found in the Windows files explorer, but it is apparently better programmed, being much crisper in switching between screens. All together, this kind of industrial strength program is essential for managing today's very large hard disks with tens of thousands of files. ExplorerPlus will be my file management program in the future.

This evaluation was made with an 866 MHz PIII system having 256 Mbytes of RAM, a 40Gbyte hard disk, a CD-R/RW, and cable modem.

The downloaded version of ExplorerPlus is \$39.95 from the Novatix website located at: <http://www.novatix.com/Products/ExplorerPlus/FreeEval.asp>. The CD snail mailed version is \$44.95. Bulk site license versions are also available. ■

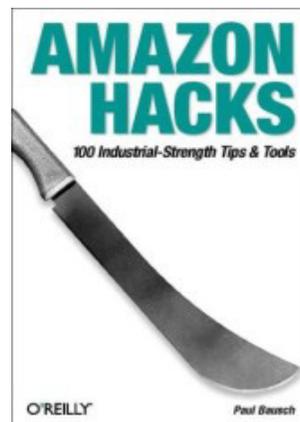
AMAZON HACKS

100 Industrial-Strength Tips & Tools

By Ted Shapin, NOCCC

I have used Amazon.com for many years to buy lots of books. I think they were the first bookseller to allow users to write and post what they think about the books that they read. I find it very useful to be able to scan through comments of what other people have to say, before I buy a new book.

Now Amazon has expanded greatly and sells all kinds of goods besides books. Even their book display has changed. Now you can search for used books



CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



Amazon Hacks

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

or sell your own through their service. You can also view sample pages of many books.

This book, by author Paul Bausch, will tell you many things about the immense database that Amazon has gathered over the years. It contains not only product descriptions, but things Amazon users have written, not only book reviews, but guides of what they think are the best books on particular topics.

Twenty-four people have contributed to the “hacks” in this book; some of them are programmers who actually work at Amazon and some are simply talented users.

A “hack” to a programmer means a clever way of producing a non-obvious result. The 100 numbered hacks in this book are in six chapters: Browsing and Searching, Controlling Your Information, Participating in the Amazon Community, Selling Through Amazon, The Associates Program, and Amazon Web Services.

The difficulty varies; there is a thermometer before each hack, indicating if it is easy, moderately difficult, or might take an expert to do. Some of the hacks are examples of constructing a url to perform some task. These are usually easy to try out. Others have several pages of code using Perl or Php or NuSoap languages. They often involve adding entries in your registry. These examples are marked with the “expert” warning and the lines of code are not explained. You’d either need to type them in or get them from the publisher’s web site. They are probably too advanced for the inexperienced reader. However, the code examples are available online at <http://www.oreilly.com/amazonhks> in a compressed tar file. If you are a programmer, you probably know how to retrieve and uncompress the file.

Even if you never want to try the complex hacks, there is enough information at the elementary level to make reading the book worthwhile.

Amazon Hacks was published by O’Reilly in 2003; the book is 280 pages. It has a list price of \$24.95. NOCCC members can order it from the publisher for 20% off, or you can order it from Amazon for \$17.47 plus shipping. ■



folks, if she doesn’t exactly have the market cornered, she’s made a very comfortable living doing it, including other shoots than just beautiful women. Even better, she tells her readers how to survive and maybe even prosper at it. Her client list includes Warner Brothers, MCI, AOL, Hewlett-Packard, Bombshell Studio Make-Up, Entertainment Weekly, Brooke Shields, and others. Commendably, she gives all due credit to many people including her mom, Brandy, who bought Suzette her first computer, a Commodore 64 (!).

It’s a business that requires more than knowing how to use Photoshop. In the first half of the book, Suzette doesn’t explain any Photoshop techniques. We can all get that by reading several excellent texts followed by uncountable hours of experimenting, right? Well, not exactly, but she does cover that in the second half. The first half enlightens the neophyte with practical explanations of concept creation, casting a model, lighting for salon photography, dealing with art directors, models, makeup artists, prop people, hair dressers, costume designers and even a few more job titles. Not avoiding the obviously practical considerations, she also explains fee setting and expenses, bids vs. estimates, copyrights, and how to prepare a “rockin’ portfolio.”

In the distinctively different second half showing the nitty and the gritty of our pal, Photoshop, the reader can learn what “yummy” skin is, how to create and cure backgrounds, and how to make perfect faces even “perfecter.” But that ain’t all, folks! To cover the methods completely would require rewriting the book. Suzette does show a few well-detailed examples of start-to-finish projects revealing Photoshop tricks and plugins for collagen injections, tummy tucks, nose remodeling, and the other usual (?) necessities. Even more useful is the training in recognizing the need for those corrections. A child’s charmingly cherubic face or a professional model’s radiant allure can often appear initially perfect to a novice, but guess what! Any image that needs absolutely no correction is as rare as doublons on the moon.

Page 219 gives contact data for companies that help produce

The Glitter Guru on Photoshop

– From Concept to Cool

By Jim Morrison, NOCCC

Taking photographs of the world’s most beautiful women is a tough job, but you know the rest of the story, right? Somebody’s gotta do it.

From the catchy cover showing “The Butterfly Princess” and the author’s intriguing title of **Glitter Guru**, one might think that Suzette Troché-Stapp has a corner on the activity. Well,



her work. The titles alone are intriguing, some of which are Alien Skin, Bombshell Studio Make-Up, CHIMERA Lighting, Flaming Pear, and Studio B. Honest! These are real names, not just ReviewPadding. Also on The Page Two Nineteen are names of real people who Suzette says are “Really cool people you WANT to work with.” I saw street and email addresses, titles, phone numbers, and websites. Every such book should have a page 219. Thanks, Suzette! If you’re ever out this way, give me a call. I love Photoshop.

Anyway, I definitely liked the book because Suzette’s warm delivery contained useful information for a novice contemplating entry into the salon photography business. As far as recommending it, that’s a yes too, especially at the lower price at the bottom of the review, but only if the prospective purchaser is planning on making a living doing the same thing that Suzette does. Other books specifically on Photoshop are quite a bit more extensive and specific than hers. She does a great job of using Photoshop tools, but her usage is somewhat narrow, confined (mostly) to beautifying facial features and some “tummy-tucking.”

Troché-Stapp, Suzette. *The Glitter Guru on Photoshop – from Concept to Cool*. New Riders, 800 East 96th Street, 3rd Floor, Indianapolis, Indiana 46240. ©2004. \$39.99 (say forty bucks) USA. \$60.99 CAN £30.99 Net UK. \$29.99 (say thirty bucks) at The Designer’s Bookshelf at <http://www.design-bookshelf.com/BEST/glitter.html>. Paperback: 250 pages; Dimensions (in inches): 0.56 x 10.02 x 7.96; 1st edition (October 15, 2003). ■

Digital Image Suite Pro 9

by Microsoft

By Jim Morrison, NOCCC

Forgive the comparisons with Photoshop, but when Rolls-Royce was asked its opinion about Ford’s proclamation that one of their products was “quieter than a Rolls,” the lofty reply was, “We’re pleased to be considered a standard.”

Photoshop (PS) is such a standard, but many features in Digital Image Suite (DI) are either not in PS, or are more easily implemented. DI has all the usual things like cropping, brightness and contrast, color adjustment, etc., and all are remarkably intuitive.

One impressive feature not in PS (blasphemy!) is the Digital Image Library which imports images from any common external source and burns them onto CD’s. The library can sort files by all Microsoft Explorer criteria and also by the user’s keywords



and ratings. Both thumbnails (and opened pictures) can be resized easily with either clicks or sliders. Love that slider and the navigation pane which appears with it.

Although red-eye cure is smoothly undetectable with PS, in most cases DI’s automatic one-click cure defies any casual criticism, and it’s a LOT easier. Smart Erase is also a jewel that allows you to replace a boat on the distant horizon with more horizon. Just circle the boat and click. Much quicker than cloning. It also works with things other than boats and horizons, natch. There are too many features to explain here, but white balance is also on board. Layers in PS are called Stacks in DI, but perform almost all the same functions as in PS.

Besides the usual, the more interesting section titles in the manual’s Contents at a Glance include Batch Editing in Mini Lab; Adding Edges, Mats, and Frames; Creating Projects; Organizing and Archiving in Digital Image Library; Successful Scanning; and Optimizing Your Monitor for Photos.

The delightfully grammatically correct and clear manual shows how to create slide shows with narration and music using Windows XP, and how to create matts and frames, edges, calendars of various formats, and batch editing. Hallelujah! You can edit gobs of files all at the same time for auto levels/tint/contrast/brightness, cropping, red eye fixing, saving as, and even printing. Hallelujah! Batch editing! Rejoice!

[Speaking of grammatical correctness, if Ted Littman can spare the soapbox space for this admonition, puh-leeze watch it out there for the elemental difference between “its” and it’s.” They are not, not, not the same thing. R-e-a-d the expanded contraction aloud to get the message.]

Icons, task panes, and drop down menus abound. Help includes not only a tour, but also videos. Videos! Verra, verra cool.

Although the manual has a fairly complete section on the basics of taking better photos, for some really great practical hints to digiphotophiles (DPP of course), see the article in PC Magazine, “Take Pictures not Snapshots” by Bill Machrone about George Margolin’s techniques at <http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,4149,1523608,00.asp>.

I’ve enjoyed using DI so much that from now on, I’ll probably perform all of the mundaner magic therein for a large amount of my work. I give it 4.238 stars on a scale of, say, five.

I googled an Amazon site for price, but didn’t notice the “.uk” at the end of the URL and discovered £37.99, which Amazon says is a saving of £26.00, or 40%.

<http://www.amazon.co.uk/exec/obidos/ASIN/B0000BY7X9/202-9887800-5455834>

Using the current rate of exchange (\$1.8902/£ as of Feb 16, 2004), £37.99 equates to \$71.81, although Shipping & Handling could be a nuisance if it’s from the far side of the Kingdom. :-)

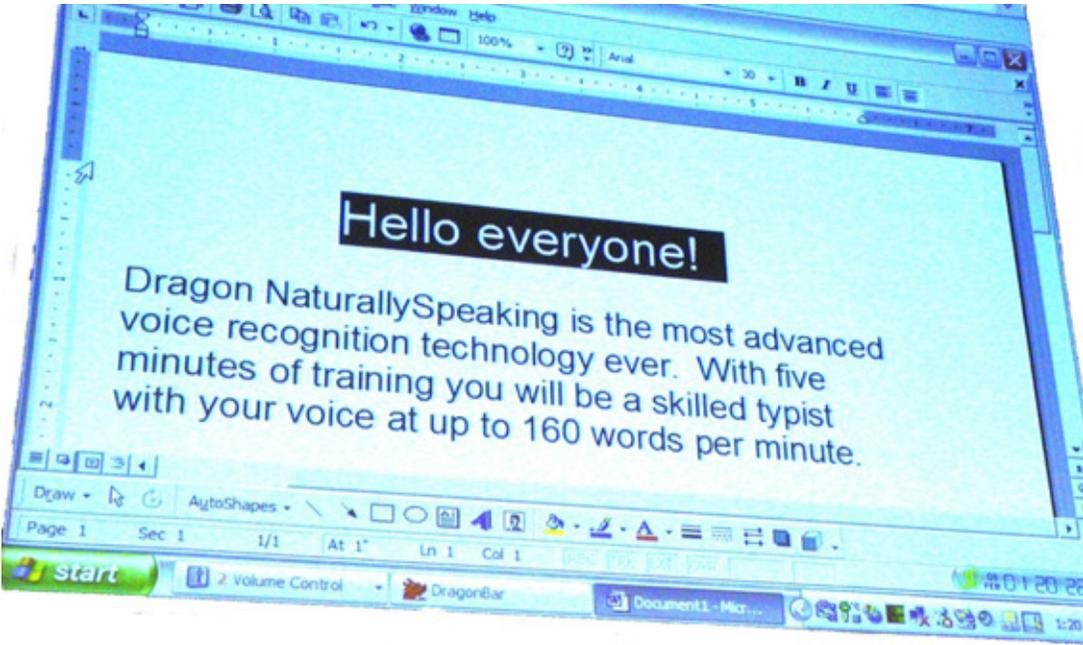
<http://www2.travlang.com/money/money.cgi?curr1=USD&curr2=GBP>

PC Magazine dings the high price of Digital Image at the MSRP of \$130 (street), but compared to PS 7 at \$600, it’s a true bargain. More so from amazon.co.uk at \$72.

<http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,4149,1215798,00.asp>

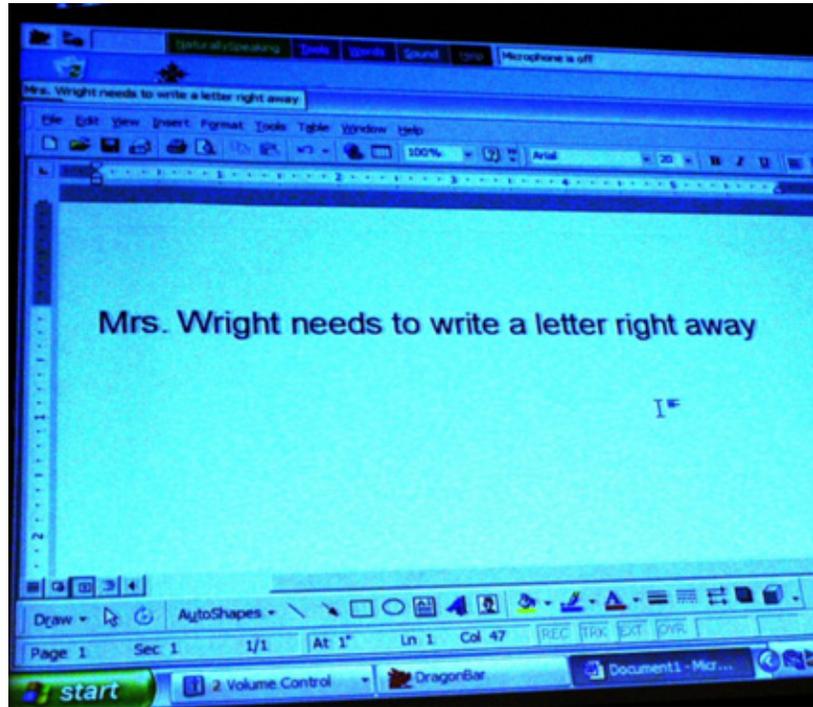
Thanks for listening. Happy tapping. ■

February Meeting Photos

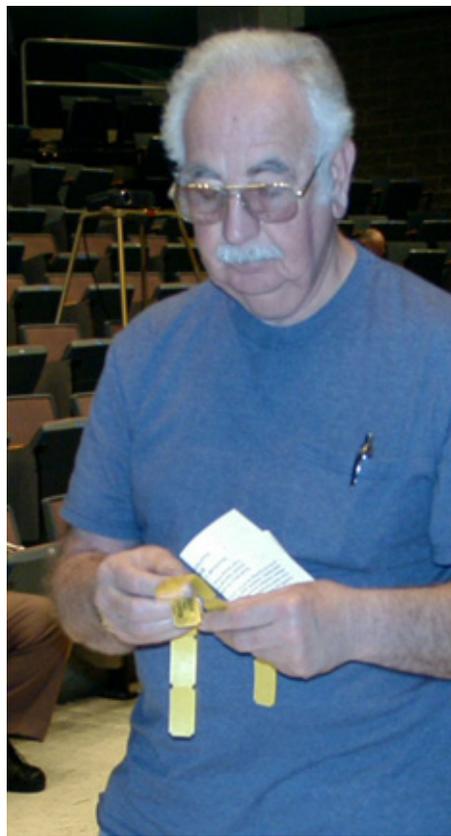


Rich Blumenthal putting Dragon Naturally Speaking through its paces at the main meeting.





Dragon Naturally Speaking passes the sounds alike word test.



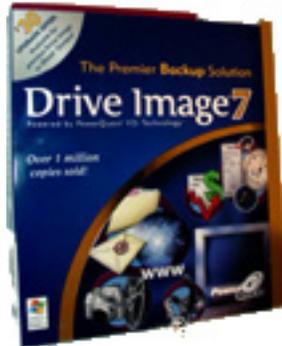
Some of the drawing winners



Drive Image 7

By Jim Sanders, NOCCC

I have been using the PowerQuest Drive Image program since version #2. I have developed a bit of a love/hate relationship with this program from the beginning. The first few times I used the program it worked flawlessly and I was impressed. Over the course of many additional uses, a number of flaws manifested themselves. Two flaws that have been recurring over several versions; drives too large for it to handle, poor error recovery.



Drive Image 7 continues the love/hate relation. The Drive Image 7 package actually contains two programs on two CD-ROMs. Drive Image 7 is on one CD, and Drive Image 2002 is on the other. PowerQuest recommends that you use Drive Image 2002 for all versions of MS Windows prior to XP/Win2K and Drive Image 7 for Windows XP/2K. Why, because DI7 won't run on the other operating systems. DI2002 will work on the NTFS file system and can be used to backup or copy a WinXP disk. Another interesting aspect of DI7 is that it seems to have an identity problem. Part of the screens and documentation refer to V2i. V2i seems to be the product name that Symantec is pushing now that it has purchased PowerQuest.

One of the big things that I like about the DI2002 product (and prior) is that you can make a floppy disk boot set or boot from the CD to run DI2002. This means that if I go to service a machine that is infected with a virus, won't boot from the hard disk, has limited space available on the HD, or only partially runs, I can still easily backup the disk without having to install any software on it. I am sure that a lot of you are familiar with the dangers and problems of trying to install a new piece of software on one of the above mentioned sick machines. All I have to carry for a service call is a spare hard disk or CD burner, not a whole computer system.

DI7 on the other hand has to be installed in Windows in order to run. If you try to install it on the machine that you want to backup, you face all of the above problems. If you install it while your machine is still healthy, be prepared for a lengthy process. For my test, I installed WinXP Pro with service pack 1 on a blank 20 GIG drive using an AMD 2400+ and 256M of RAM. When I started the installation, going to properties on the C: drive reported 2,040,061,952 bytes used. At the completion of the installation properties reported 2,372,005,888 bytes used. During the installation, a window popped up informing me that I didn't have the MS .NET framework installed. This is about 130 Mega Bytes of code and requires you to agree to a MS .NET EULA (End User License Agreement) in addition to the PowerQuest EULA that you have already agreed to.

Once DI7 is installed, it offers the typical Windows point &

click ease of running. A user doesn't have to know or understand much about his computer in order to successfully use the program to back up his/her computer. The same is true for restoring a single file from the backup. It is a bit more complicated if you have to boot from the CD for disaster recovery, and a lengthy boot to boot. It looks like you are booting a subset of WinXP.

I ran DI7 and DI2002 on the same set of hardware to compare the two. DI2002 got 95% through the backup of a 6 GIG Bigfoot drive and popped up a window saying it had encountered a "ERROR #45 CRC ERROR in data." No file name, no track sector number, just error. The only option in the window was an OK button. When you click on OK it dumps you back to the beginning of the backup sequence. No option to retry, ignore or continue, just dump the 95% that was backed up. While not disputing that the error occurred, it seems strange I could run the full Scandisk, the complete XP-disk error checking, and copy the complete Bigfoot drive to a folder on the 20 GIG drive with no reported problems.

Running DI7 on the same drive worked the first time although you could see and hear lots of retries on the last 7% of the drive. The second attempt with DI7 also got a CRC ERROR window popup. It had a bit more data about the error including the LBA address, but just like the DOS based DI2002, the only options offered are BACK and CLOSE with the same result. I would think that with all the megabytes of code this thing loads, it would have the smarts to offer to log the file name and skip the file. To just dump you out of the backup, especially at the 95% point, is really lame! Speaking of lame, just like retail boxed WinXP, DI7 has to be activated within 30 days or it quits working.

If you don't already have DI2002, I would recommend buying DI7 just to get DI2002. DI7 has some pluses; ease of use, over twice as fast, don't need to understand some of the computer basics the DOS version requires, maybe some others. Since it is not known what Symantec is going to do with this line, hedge a bet and buy a really useful tool, warts and all.

<http://www.powerquest.com/driveimage/> MSRP \$69.95, \$34.99 on Amazon.com. ■

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MICROSOFT OFFICE 2003 PROFESSIONAL EDITION

By W. D. Allen Sr., NOCCC #3294

The table below shows the six editions of Microsoft's new Office 2003. This evaluation addresses the Professional editions, which consists of ten applications. They are Word, Excel, Outlook, Powerpoint, Publisher, Access, Outlook (with the new Business Contact Manager), XML, and IRM. The first six, are modifications of earlier versions while the last three are new in the Office 2003 Professional edition.



Editions	WORD	EXCEL	OUTLOOK	POWER-POINT	PUBLISHER	ACCESS
Basic	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Student/Teacher	Yes	yes	Yes	Yes		
Standard	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Small Business	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Professional	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Professional Enterprise	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

The Business Contact Manager is a new Outlook feature to better manage business customer relationships. OneNote is a new, stand alone program to facilitate collecting personal notes, sketches, interview results, extracts from published documents, etc. preliminary to starting a formal document. It even accommodates hand written notes and sketches using a Tablet PC.

Infopath, included in the Professional Enterprise edition, introduces the concept of the Extensible Markup Language (XML). XML basically stores the data and the display format of work files separately, thereby facilitating displaying the same data with any of the applicable Office 2003 programs. This allows multiple users to access the same file, whether physically on-site or located across country, using whatever display layout they might chose to design.

To avoid having archived files in various formats which are would not be compatible with future versions of application programs XML ensures those files will always be retrievable. XML Also makes the same data simultaneously available to any and all users thus precluding having to specifically request information from the cognizant coworker. The data will be equally current for all users, subject only to timely updating by the responsible party. All the Office 2003 editions can be expected to see XML formatted data in the future. The Word 2003 stand alone application as well as the Office 2003 Profession Edition have the XML capability.

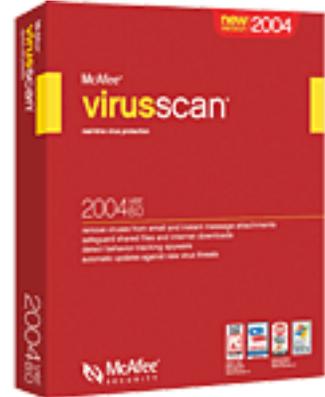
CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

The McAfee 2004 Security Programs

VirusScan 8, Personal Firewall Plus 5, SpamKiller 5

By Ted Littman, NOCCC

Computer security is a subject of vital importance to all of us, or it should be. And it's no surprise that there is a plethora of software (and hardware) products available to afford us with a wide range of protection. NOCCC has addressed this issue with reviews of antivirus and firewall software. You can read these in the Orange Bytes issues of Nov. 2002, March 2003, April 2003, and May 2003. The March 2003 issue reviewed a prior version of VirusScan. Further information can be found in the computer magazines, books, and on-line.



Overview

This review covers the three key McAfee security program from Network Associates named in the title. The programs have been installed on my Dell XPS T500 computer for several months. My operating system is Windows XP Pro and I have a high-speed cable-modem with Outlook Express for e-mail. There are 512 MB of RAM with two large internal hard drives plus an external hard drive for backups. Installation was evaluated initially by downloading trial versions of the programs (<http://www.mcafee.com>) and subsequently from CDs obtained in boxed copies. Both methods worked without any problems or glitches. There was one annoyance: McAfee did not give me the option of selecting a drive other than "c" to install the programs (or at least I could not figure out how). I prefer to locate programs elsewhere than on "c" where the operating system is.

Now, I must tell you right up front that these programs have functioned well in protecting my system with "automatic" download upgrades and only minor adjustments to settings. When I needed tech support with regard to settings or patches, the McAfee technicians were prompt and knew exactly what was needed. And the service was free.

Before obtaining the McAfee software, I had been using the highly touted programs from Norton. Unfortunately, recent versions have exhibited increased bugginess and incompatibility with my Windows and some other software. In fact, at one point, I could not even remove the Norton antivirus program even though it wasn't working, boot up became impossible, and I had to reinstall Windows and much of my software to restore my computer's functionality. And it happened twice before I gave up on Norton, in spite of their website

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

A number of products have been obtained from vendors for review by qualified NOCCC members. If you are interested in doing a review (which will be published in Orange Bytes), please call or send an e-mail to me and provide your membership number, phone number, and e-mail address.

Ted Littman

NOCCC Reviews Editor

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

PRODUCTS AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW

Remember, **YOU GET TO KEEP THE HARDWARE, SOFTWARE, OR BOOK!** The following products are currently available for review:

Hardware

GrooMouse – A mouse cleaner from Vanlark useful for fixing mouse tracking problems and cleaning spin rollers. MSRP=\$10.

Boxed Programs and CDs

DVD MovieFactory 3 Disc Creator – Ulead's new complete DVD (and CD) creation suite with integrated video editing tools and extensive support for a wide range of consumer electronic formats & devices. It requires an 800 MHz processor or better. MSRP=\$100.

FlipAlbum 5 Suite – *An excellent photo-album-maker from E-Book Systems allows you to create & share virtual photo albums on your PC, on CDs, or on the Web. MSRP=\$50.*

Phone Works Pro 2002 – The "ultimate" Windows Personal Assistant software for telephone, voice mail, fax, & e-mail. Integrates with Outlook & Outlook Express. From Ring Central. MSRP=\$120.

Go Back 3 - Roxio's disaster-recovery program for all Windows' users.

Second Chance 2.0 – PowerQuest's program to restore your system back to

an earlier point in time after a crash for users of Windows 95/98/ME.

Backup for Workgroups 1.0 – A new backup & disaster-recovery program from Lockstep Systems for small & mid-size businesses using a disk-based backup program with Windows for 3 clients. MSRP=\$299/3 Clients.

QuicKeys Pro X2 – The "best, most powerful" macro utility for Mac OSX to automate your daily computing tasks with hot keys, powerful toolbars, & timers. From C.E. Software. MSRP=\$80.

Easy Uninstall 2.0 – Aladdin System's easiest & most complete program uninstaller for Windows operating systems.

DVD PictureShow for Mac – Ulead's new digital image creation software to easily & quickly transform digital photos into entertaining slide shows. MSRP=\$30 to download.

NotePager Pro 3 – Sends SMS and text messages to mobile phones, pagers, and handhelds. For Windows operating systems. Messages can be sent through a modem or the Internet.

NeuDesk Productivity Suite – A search engine for your hard drives, this program maps & characterizes every file so you can find it simply and easily by typing a few words into a single simple interface. From NeuTrino Technologies. MSRP=\$60.

Programs to Download from Vendor's Web Site

RedBox Organizer 5.0 – Award-winning Personal Information Manager for Windows from Incline Global with a comprehensive set of simple-to-use utilities. MSRP=\$40.

Watznew 1.9.5 – Award-winning software that regularly checks your favorite web sites & mailboxes & notifies you of changes.

Red Earth Software's Policy Patrol 2.5 - Protect yourself against e-mail security threats with virus scanning, spam blocking, and other tools. MSRP=\$350 for 10 users.

ViraLock – The first software that prevents the spread of e-mail-borne viruses by preventing them from escaping an infected computer. It is

complementary to current anti-virus programs.

Kaspersky Labs Anti-Hacker 1.0 – A personal firewall from Russia. Designed to ensure reliable defense of home computers from Internet hackers, wherever they are.

ArtIcons Pro 4.0 - An award-winning icon creation and management tool from Aha-Soft. *This innovative solution offers professional and casual graphic artists all tools needed for designing, editing and retouching Windows icons as well as managing icon libraries. MSRP=\$40.*

PicaLoader 1.1.8 for Windows – A fully automated, multi-threaded, link-following, picture-retrieving robot that will retrieve all the pictures you want from any part of the Internet. MSRP=\$39.

Vicman's Photo Editor Pro 7.0 – A powerful, easy-to-use photo editor from Russia with an intuitive, skin-based interface & lots of powerful features. MSRP=\$30.

Currently available are the following books:

Hardware Hacking Projects for Geeks – This O'Reilly book is authored by Scott Fullan who has been "hacking" hardware since he was ten years old. It contains 15 amazing project that range from the truly useful to the legendary and wacky. MSRP=\$30.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

Preparing a Review Article for the Bytes

By Ted Littman, NOCCC Reviews Editor

The following suggestions for preparing a review article for the Orange Bytes were extracted from an ORCOPUG article authored by Alan Jarrett and are intended as a guide only. As a reviewer, your audience wants to know your opin-

ion (as an end user) of the product (hardware, software, book) you are reviewing. Please fully identify the product and its cost so that interested club members may be able to purchase it. After you have tested the product consider these questions:

1. What is the product's stated purpose and does it meet it?
2. Within its category of software (i.e., word processor, spreadsheet, database, etc.), does it stand out?
3. What are its major features?
4. Is it easy to use, even for a novice?
5. 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:

1. Requirements:

1. Operating systems?
2. Windows?
3. Memory?
4. Disk space?
5. Is a Mouse supported?

2. Installation (do not overemphasize details):

1. Was it difficult?
2. Copy or write protected?
3. Does it allow drive and directory selection?
4. Does it automatically configure system? Can you control it?

3. Information about your system:

1. Hardware?
2. Operating system? Version?
3. Memory?
4. Video display?

4. Documentation:

1. What is supplied? Manuals (paperback, electronic) Tutorial? Templates? Table of Contents? Index?
2. Was it clear, concise, helpful?
3. Is there a troubleshooting section?

5. Product Support:

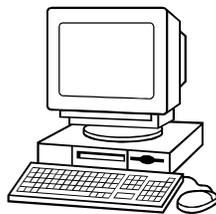
1. How is the vendor's tech support?
2. Does it cost anything?
3. Is it a toll call?
4. Does the vendor provide Internet support?

6. About the product:

1. What comes with the product?

2. What is the cost? (list & street)
3. Version number? Release date?
4. How difficult is the learning curve?
5. Would you buy/use the product?
6. Do you recommend it?
7. What don't you like about it?
8. What improvements or changes would you like to see?
9. Can the software be downloaded from the vendor's Web site; is there a free trial period before buying?
10. What warranty is there on hardware?

7. What are the Name, Address, Phone number (including 800#), and WEB address (e-mail & URL) of the vendor? After you have answered all these questions you should have enough information to write your review. Please be precise but do not make it so technical that only a few people can understand. Please advise the Orange Bytes Editor if you need graphics, pictures, or illustrations to get your point across?? ■



Guidelines for Submittal

Important! Please limit the length of your submittals. We request you limit general articles and software reviews to a maximum of 1300 words, SIG reports to 700 words, book reviews to 600 words, low cost CD-ROM titles to 600 words, and more sophisticated CD-ROMs to 1000 words. As far as the minimum is concerned, we'd just like to see you do justice to any general article or to any product that's reviewed. An **expensive** software package (\$300-700) deserves at least 1,300 words. An inexpensive program (\$50 or less) might have 500

words. Reviews must be completed within 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 disk and printout directly to Cathy Margolin (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, and double carriage returns (skip a line) between paragraphs. The editors will bold your paragraph headings, etc., in order to obtain consistent formatting throughout the Bytes.

Don't use CAPS for emphasis; that's like shouting at someone! We usually have to delete and retype them, which can be a lot of work. CAPS are reserved for computer commands or file names, like AUTOEXEC.BAT or KNOW.TXT. For titles of books and software, capitalize the first letter of each word. We will add the underlining in PageMaker.

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

Main Meeting

By Eric Saca, NOCCC

We had an exciting meeting in February, as Rich Blumenthal from Dragon Naturally Speaking provided a fascinating presentation on their powerful voice recognition software.

President Cathy Margolin opened the meeting and after some brief announcements, introduced Rich Blumenthal.

Rich was presenting Dragon's latest flagship product Naturally Speaking 7. In the allotted time, he covered many of its features and methods of use.

However, he also made it clear that the product has so many features that he did not even begin to touch on the full scope of its power and flexibility. He suggested that anyone deciding to use it should take time to become familiar and develop skills with it. It can provide many benefits to those willing to invest some time in it.

When you first start to use Dragon, it needs to be trained to recognize your voice. The first step in using it is to read about five minutes of paragraphs for this training. As it learns your voice, it builds a unique profile, which it uses to recognize you in the future. As you continue to use the product, it continues to learn your voice patterns and maintain your profile automatically. It is 95-98% accurate out of the box and that its accuracy continues to improve as it learns your voice.

A member asked if Dragon would recognize you or change your profile on days when your voice is a little off, such as when you're sick. Citing that as a good question, Rich said that for those cases, you should create a new, separate profile because the voice change will change your main profile and possibly corrupt it.

Dragon Naturally Speaking 7 is one of the most powerful speech recognition packages to date, with a highly refined vocabulary database of 250,000 English words. This offers a much greater vocabulary range than most humans ever

develop. It also contains a great number of commands to access its features manually and programmatically.

A member asked if a list of these commands is available anywhere. Rich demonstrated that a list was in the product itself. To access the command list, you just select Command Browser from the Tools menu. Dragon also comes with good paper documentation that covers all its features.

Rich pointed out that you can add both new words and new commands. You add new words to Dragon's vast vocabulary by selecting New from the Words menu. You can add new commands from the Command Browser.

A member asked if Dragon can handle different accents. Rich said that it was designed to work with a great number of both foreign and regional accents.

Another member asked if Dragon is good for recording meetings. Rich said that if several people were speaking into it with your profile, it would just corrupt your profile. The product was designed to be used by one person at a time, with each profile dedicated to a single person.

Another member asked how Dragon compares to the voice recognition in the new Office 2003. Rich said that Office's voice recognition offers just 5-10% of the features that Dragon has. Although Office's verbal commands can work within that product, Dragon can work with all Windows programs.

Another member asked if Dragon is programmed with specialized words, like for the legal or medical fields. Rich said that there are special editions of Dragon for various fields. However, if you are in a field for which there is no special edition, you can still teach Dragon any words you'd like it to know. He suggested placing technical documents into a scanner and having Dragon scan the documents to learn words more quickly (a wonderful feature for improving its vocabulary).

George Margolin, our Program Chairman and since he is married to our President Cathy Margolin which makes him our First Laddie noted that since Dragon is capable of storing the

transcribed words as well as the waveform it could have a remarkable instant word and phrase finder, rather than having to listen sequentially to the whole recording.

Rich mentioned a great desktop productivity tool called NeuDESK. It offers a simple command-type interface that allows you to perform tasks by natural English language commands instead of specialized computer syntax. It also catalogs everything on your hard drive, including applications, images, music and much more, enabling you to access all of that with the natural English commands. He mentioned this wonderful tool because it works well with Dragon, which you can use to enter commands verbally. Both products together help you harness the power of your computer by speaking natural English. More information about NeuDESK can be obtained at www.nt4me.com.

Rich performed several demonstrations to show us the basic usage of Dragon Naturally Speaking 7. To open Word, he said Open Microsoft Word and it appeared. He dictated some sentences and they appeared as he spoke, correctly spelled. In a sentence, he highlighted the word going by saying Select going. This produced a context menu, in the same way that right-clicking produces context menus. He made going uppercase by saying, Uppercase going.

In other applications, where Rich was dictating some individual letters (A, B, C, etc.), he specified them with the phonetic alphabet (Alpha for A, Bravo for B, etc.). Dragon recognized this usage, which helps to distinguish letters that sound alike.

Whenever Rich spoke numbers, Dragon wrote out their words instead of their numerals. He said that you actually have to use the word numeral to produce numerals. For example, to produce a 9 instead of the word nine, you have to say numeral 9.

While browsing the Web in Internet Explorer, Rich encountered a long web page that extended far below the screen. He began scrolling slowly down the page

by saying Start scrolling. He stopped the motion with Stop scrolling. Then he looked through the page one screen at a time with Page up and Page down. Go back returned him to a previous page.

Rich got quite a reaction from the audience when he had Dragon read back text he had dictated in his own voice!

He performed many other interesting demonstrations as well. He said that a good microphone right in front of your mouth is recommended for best results with Dragon. It is also important to dictate clearly and enunciate well when working with the product. You'll have to train yourself to do so; most people do not speak like that. To help with this discipline, Rich suggested looking away from your computer screen, so you don't actually see Dragon printing your text as you dictate. This often confuses people and makes it difficult to maintain a clear flow of dictation.

George Margolin, NOCCC's Program Chairman, brought up the fact that Dragon transcribes the speaker's voice as he/she speaks. Which means that while this transcription is in the computer's buffer one could probably FIND the words or phrases used during the recording. And the finding could be through using your word processing program's find feature. He suggested that this would be much easier to do than to have to listen to the recorded speech. George felt that this feature alone would make the program very worthwhile.

Rich also mentioned that Dragon has a Macros feature, allowing you to set it up to perform whole tasks or enter full sets of text, just by speaking a single command word or phrase.

Rich concluded by mentioning special user group pricing for NOCCC members, tied to his presentation. Normally, Dragon Naturally Speaking 7 retails by itself for \$159.00, with limited technical support. He was offering Dragon, with its complete paper manual, a special headset like the one he used for the presentation and UNLIMITED technical support for only \$200.00. He was also selling the NeuDESK utility for only \$45.00 (regular \$129.95). He said that after the meeting, he was still offering

these deals for a limited time and that interested members should e-mail him at BigBlue@cox.net.

Next Meeting BIG TIME PRESENTER STEVE GIBSON will be with us for our March 7th meeting to talk about Internet SECURITY, SPAM and his latest version of SpinRite, which is still going strong, like the Energizer Bunny.

You absolutely shouldn't miss this Nationally known celebrity speaker and our old friend. ■

Computer Aided Investors SIG



By Ted Williams, NOCCC

The CAI SIG meets at Wilkinson 221 at 930am. Our next meeting is March 7. The February meeting was led by Ted Williams. Our SIG leader, Bob Krishfield, will return to the podium next month.

Discussion Each attendee described their favorite computer investing tools. They include AAIL, VectorVest, Fast Track, Fast Tools, AmiBroker, TC2000, MetaStock, Optionetics, 888Options, Value Line, street.com and several others. Optionetics was given a high rating, but everyone lamented the amount of time required that was required to make effective use of these tools.

Market Strategies. If everyone believes that the market is perfectly efficient, everyone would just invest in a broadly-based stock index fund and the market would not be efficient. On the other hand, if everyone believes that the market is not perfectly efficient, everyone would devote considerable effort to uncovering mis-priced equities, making the market very efficient. This paradox divides current investors into various camps.

Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) A timing strategy was described that trades

the ONEQ exchange traded fund which tracks the NADAQ composite index. It was noted that ETFs do charge a commission that is typically 0.2% to 0.5% per year. In addition to the trading commission, investors should be aware of the cost incurred by the bid-ask spread in the ETF price. Typically ETF spreads may vary from a one cent to twenty cents or more. VectorVest A review of the features in the VectorVest investment tools noted the following

1. Trial. A five week trial is available for \$10.00. During the trial, users can either access the system on-line or download stock-data for offline processing.

2. Views. The Views section provides market timing information. A variety of signals are provided. It is up to the user to decide how to interpret these indicators.

3. Stock Selector. The Stock selector allows the user to view a list of stocks and over 30 parameters associated with each stock, including price change, four proprietary indicators, earnings, sales, etc. The list can be sorted to select from the list based upon any of the parameters provided.

4. Charts allows the user to view the price history of one or more stocks. In addition moving averages and other stock parameters may be included on the chart.

5. Screening. The Unisearch tool allows the user to define a set of selection criteria to select stocks based upon trends or thresholds in any of the stock parameters provided.

6. Portfolio. Finally, the user can apply a screening strategy to select one or more stocks from a list. Then, the user can view the results of this investment over time.

Vector Vest was judged to be a good tool for investing if you have blind faith in the strategy that you select. Backtesting a wide range of strategies is extremely time consuming.

Options The meeting concluded with a discussion of the use of options. It is important to notice that options may be exercised or they may be sold before they

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

MacIntosh SIG



By John Willner, NOCCC

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A heavy bag filled with about 30 pounds of goodies was brought back from MacWorld in San Francisco. Contents were spread out on a table, and SIG members were able to pick the items they wanted. There were many CDs, brochures, specification sheets, buttons, executive jelly beans, and booklets—but hallelujah, not a single T-shirt. Since David Pogue is the writer of many useful Mac OS X books, a description of his latest, at various stages of release, was handed out to everyone present. Fortunately, information needs on Audio and other areas of interest were fulfilled.

Just as Comdex was down in attendance and exhibitors, MacWorld was likewise. In fact there were so many curtained-off areas that the entire show might have been accommodated in the South hall at Musconie Center. Familiar booths, such as Club Mac, were not present, although there were quite a few small players. Still, as a place to get information and bargains, this show was the place to be.

By now most people know that Apple released five smaller colored i-Pods, new power books with increased performance and more accessories. The news is out that HP is committing to the i-Pod line. No specifics were given on application software that take advantage of the 64-bit word length. The implication was that for those who need speed, the applications will be coming. With Apple's emphasis on music and movies, these were the main areas that appear to be targeted.

At the Adobe breakfast a complete copy of Acrobat 6.0 Standard was handed out after the end of their entertaining show. Adobe marketing experts demonstrated portion of their most popular application programs. The breakfast was darned good too.

We talked a little about the inevitable

upgrades that are required when a new operating system such as Panther gets released. For example Roxio's Toast requires a new CD or downloaded file to operate with 10.3. After all, there were 165 changes from 10.2, and some of those changes bump into codes that are incompatible. A MacWireless card is being upgraded to better match some of the new code. A situation where older versions of complex Excel files need to be transferred to a new G5 computer has created some problems (floppy readers, for one, no longer exist, and the path through CDs is also non-available on the old computer). Still, the advancements have generated remarkably few problems that cannot be overcome.

Next month we'll try to get our bearings on what we will do for the future. ■

CAI SIG

FROM PAGE 22

expire. The price of an option varies each day according to the price of the stock and remaining term of the option.

Options may be used as a tool for speculation or for insurance. For example Naked Put. A put is an option to sell a number of shares of stock at a fixed price in the future. If you think that a stock price will fall below this strike price, you may purchase an option for much less the cost of selling the stock short. If the price does fall below the strike price the option will be worth the difference between the strike price and the current stock price. If not, the option will expire worthless.

Naked Call. A call is an option to buy a number of shares of stock at a fixed price in the future. If you believe that a stock will move up in price beyond this fixed price, you may purchase a call option for much less than the cost of the option. Both of these naked options are examples of speculation.

Covered Put. Suppose that you own stock that has appreciated nicely. You can purchase a put option at a strike price just below the current price. The option protects your current profit and also allows you to continue to take advantage

of future increases in the price of the stock that you own. This is an example of using an option as insurance.

For more information on options you may want to consult one of the following references

1. <http://www.optionetics.com>
2. <http://www.888options.com>
3. Options as a Strategic Investment, 3rd Edition, by Lawrence G. MacMillan. ■

Office 2003

FROM PAGE 17

IRM (Information Rights Management) is a new Office feature which allows variable access to proprietary documents. In the past the alternatives were either no access or full access to a document being worked on by multiple coworkers. Now documents can be made accessible for modification or revision but not for forwarding, e-mailing, faxing, printing, etc. to prevent loss to a competitor, or such.

Word, the text processing application in Microsoft Office 2003, has a new feature called reading layout. It is intended to make it easier and more comfortable when reading text on the computer screen, thus precluding the need for hard copy printout. By clicking the "read" icon on the standard toolbar you see your text in large type on narrow rows, analogous to newspaper column formatting. It relieves reader eyestrain. International symbols are now easier to add to your documents in Word as well. Symbols for the euro, yen, etc., are now just four easy mouse clicks away.

How often have you wanted to compare two documents to identify their differences. This typically occurs when writing and refining final reports, bidding proposals, etc. Now Word lets you view any two documents side-by-side on your computer screen. No more extensive printouts for comparison using hard copy. The two documents can be scrolled simultaneously for rapid review. Finally, the 2003 Word application even provides a word count window to show progress toward reaching assigned word count.

The 2003 Excel has not been changed significantly. However, similar to Word,

two Excel workbooks can also be compared on the screen, including simultaneous scrolling. Now numbers can be summed just by dragging the cursor over the applicable set of cells, or alternatively, holding down CTRL and hopping from cell to cell. The sum is shown at the bottom of the spreadsheet window, where by right clicking you can alternatively select the sum, the average, the count, etc. One really handy new feature is conditional formatting. For example, if you wish to identify every cell where the results are less (or more) than a specified limit all applicable cells can be conditionally formatted to reflect that requirement. Now problem (or success) cell areas will jump right off the spreadsheet to grab attention.

Powerpoint now has a Package-For-CD feature that allows putting your entire presentation on a disk for easier transporting or for leaving with a prospective customer. You can also now browse for presentation templates retained with earlier Powerpoint material for use in later presentations. You can even ensure having a common signature template for all future presentations.

The new Outlook application has a truly useful new feature. You can now color e-mails according to the sender. For example, you could have all messages from your boss highlighted in red as they arrive. Then you will be a lot less likely to miss that vital e-mail he asks you about later in the day. Additionally the new Business Contact Manager improves tracking and contacting customers and business associates.

The Access relational database application is a program that really exploits the new XML language. So many files that are in Office incompatible formats can now be reformatted using XML to making them available to Access. Access also has additional error detection and alerting including an AutoCorrect tag for catching data entry errors. Access now permits backing up files right from within the program. And a new Object Dependencies command can show which other objects such as tables, forms, reports, etc.) are dependent on the object you may be modifying.

The last Office 2003 application is Publisher. This program facilitates

making and distributing newsletters, brochures, sales notices, etc. It even means you can be a self publisher of that great American novel you always meant to write. The 2003 version of Publisher provides more than 20 different web page wizards. There are Master Design Sets for consistency through our your publications, and an improved Design Checker to control widows and orphans, etc. Support for composite postscript printing (CMYK) is now provided, as well as new e-mail wizards for marketing messages and newsletters. Publisher e-mails can now be viewed with multiple web clients including Outlook 2003, Outlook Express, Hotmail, Yahoo mail, and AOL mail.

Included with Publisher is Frontpage, the web designer, with a multitude of new features. Finished web page can be previewed in a variety of browser windows. There is also a new web parts gallery and a new editor for HTML authoring, etc.

None of the Office 2003 applications seem to have truly major revisions, rather the Office system has been enhanced for multiple users working together on a project as discussed regarding XML above.

The "MSRP" price of the Microsoft Office 2003 Professional is \$329. At the Deal Time website the price about \$290, however Ebay is showing even lower prices for sealed sets.

This assessment of Microsoft Office 2003 Professional was made with an 866MHz Pentium III with 256KByes of RAM, a 40GBytes hard disk, a CD-R/W drive and a cable modem. ■

McAfee

FROM PAGE 17

information and e-mail "help."

The McAfee security software require an IBM PC or compatible (133MHz min.) with the Windows operating system (98, ME, 2000, or XP), 8 MB free hard drive space for each program, Internet Explorer 5 or later, 16 MB RAM, plus the usual hardware items. In addition, SpamKiller requires a POP3, MSN/Hotmail, or MAPI e-mail account.

The McAfee consumer products are

available directly on line (<http://www.mcafee.com/usergroups>) by downloading or ordering boxed copies. You also can purchase them from software retailers and mail-order firms worldwide. The downloadable MSRPs are: VirusScan \$35 (including a year of virus definition file updates), Firewall Plus \$40 (1-year subscription service), and SpamKiller \$40 (also for a 1-year subscription). A 15 % discount is available to user group members.

You also can purchase bundles like the Redzone Suite (MSRP=\$80) which contains full versions of VirusScan, Personal Firewall Plus, SpamKiller, PrivacyService, & Parental Controls. Check the web for other options.

VirusScan 8.0 Build 8.0.25

Included with this program is the McAfee Security Center which gives users quick access to all of the core features of VirusScan, Personal Firewall, SpamKiller, and PrivacyService in an attractive, easy-to-use graphical display.

The antivirus program works largely without effort on your part. It automatically scans e-mails & attachments, both incoming and outgoing, for all of the popular e-mail clients.

When a virus is detected, VirusScan will clean the infected file if it can. Otherwise, it will quarantine the invader or delete it at your option. Virus definition files are unobtrusively updated when you are connected to the Internet, an essential element in protecting your system. In addition, the program works well in dealing with Trojans, worms, spyware, and other noxious invaders. If anything, it can be overzealous in checking outgoing e-mails suspecting that too many e-mails sent in a short time period are the result of mass-mailing worms! Although, you can schedule periodic scans of your entire computer (or parts of it), I found little need for this.

The boxed program comes with a 43-page "User Guide" that is most helpful in learning about the program's capabilities and operation. Information available at the McAfee web site, especially in dealing with problems, nicely complements the manual and built-in Help resource.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

SIG List

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

SIG	Bldg	Room	Time	Leader	E-mail	Phone
Autocad	Wilkinson	111	9:00	Joe Mizer	jmizer@earthlink.net	909-688-9848
Computer Aided Investing	Wilkinson	211	9:30	Bob Krishfield	bobkrish@socal.rr.com	714-532-3096
Computer Security	Science	203	11:15	Dave Keays	rdksoft@sbcglobal.net	714-821-4792
Digital Photography	Irvine Hall		2:30	Jack Donan	jfdonan@sbcglobal.net	714-633-4084
Genealogy	Science	111	2:30	John Johnson	jrosjohnson@juno.com	714-991-3314
Computer Essentials	Science	111	9:00	Herbert Wong	noccccsig@singularitytechnology.com	714-968-7264
Hardware Essentials	Science	109	2:30	Herbert Wong	ocug@singularitytechnology.com	714-968-7264
Linux for Desktop Users	Wilkinson	210	9:00	Bob C. Ray	bobcray@pacbell.net	714-634-7520
Linux for Server Administrators	Wilkinson	210	10:00	Bob C. Ray	bobcray@pacbell.net	714-634-7520
Linux Programming Concepts	Wilkinson	210	11:15	Bob C. Ray	bobcray@pacbell.net	714-634-7520
Macintosh	Wilkinson	221	11:15	John Willner	Willner@earthlink.net	714-838-1434
New Technolgy	Irvine Hall	—	9:30	George Margolin	Inventor@pobox.com	949-645-5950
Office Suites	Science	111	11:15	John Heenan	jc_Heenan@a-wares.com	714-998-7660
PC Q&A	Irvine Hall	—	11:15	Jim Sanders	jsanders@ligasmicro.com	714-636-5523
Understanding OS's	Wilkinson	111	11:15	Charlie Moore	mooreca@adelphia.net	714-529-9071
Visual Programming I	Science	109	8:30	Anson Chapman	aecrcss@hotmail.com	909-860-9515
Visual Programming II	Science	109	9:00	Anson Chapman	aecrcss@hotmail.com	909-860-9515
Visual Programming III	Science	109	10:00	Anson Chapman	aecrcss@hotmail.com	909-860-9515
Visual Programming IV	Science	109	11:15	Anson Chapman	aecrcss@hotmail.com	909-860-9515
	Please report SIG changes to			Herbert Wong, Jr.	OCUG@SingularityTechnology.com	714-968-7264

McAfee

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

Personal Firewall Plus 5.0 API Version 5.0.1.5

As part of a layered security defense, Personal Firewall monitors all incoming & outgoing traffic between the Internet and your computer. This is an essential capability for computers that are “always on” through cable or DSL Internet connections. Known or suspicious applications that try to steal information from your computer or plant “worms” to use your computer for malicious purposes are blocked using an on-line database of recognized trusted and malicious applications. Several color-coded alert levels provide you with information and option so you can respond to each reported event of a suspicious nature that is not in the database.

The boxed program comes with a 38-page “User Guide” similar in format to the antivirus one.

SpamKiller Version 5.0.72

One of the most annoying problems associated with e-mail is the huge amount of “spam” that is received, especially if you frequent chat rooms. Not only is this unsolicited mail a waste of your time and a clutter of your mail box, it frequently is a source of viruses and worms as well as objectionable graphical/text material. SpamKiller has done an excellent job in protecting my e-mail box.

By initially creating and regularly updating a “Friends List,” based on my Address Book, messages from these sources are automatically sent to my inbox. I particularly like SpamKiller’s integration with Microsoft Outlook/Express. Spam is collected in a special 15-day quarantined folder that I regularly check to make sure wanted messages have not been blocked inadvertently. Those that are can easily be switched to your inbox.

The boxed program comes with a 48-page “User Guide” similar to the other ones previously mentioned.

Conclusion

I have tried to highlight a few notable features from each of the three reviewed programs. If you want to know more about the capabilities and workings of the McAfee security programs, and believe me, there is lots more, please check out their web site. If you prefer to “try before you buy,” you can do that too. I highly recommend their products to anyone with a PC and Internet connection. If you are a “Power User,” you will like all of the information and graphical displays that are available, but not discussed here. For the rest of us, it is great to have a set of programs doing its job, largely in the background and without conflict. They are certainly doing the job for me. Thanks Network Associates/McAfee Security and especially your Tech Support people! ■

NOCCC Help Lines

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 editor@noccc.org with additions, deletions, or corrections.



AI
Amiga
Apple
Apple II
Apple/Educator
C/C++
Computer Boards
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Excel(IBM)
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Excel(Mac)
MacIntosh
MacIntosh
Memory/Interrupts
Modem Hardware
Modem Software
Neural Networks
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PC Hardware
Quicken 6.0
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goodnewsent@comp
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Quicken Home &
Business 2000, 2001
goodnewsent@comp
Powerpoint
Realtime Control
Robotics
Tcl/Tk
Unix
Windows 9X
Windows 9X
Windows 2000
Word
Word
WordPerfect

**The Help Line numbers are published in the printed version
of the Orange Bytes which is mailed to members**

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!
If you have an area of expertise to share, let us know.

PRODUCTS AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

Degunking Windows – Paraglyph Press book authored by Joli Ballew & Jeff Duntemann on how to rid your computer of accumulated “junk” that slows down performance. MSRP=\$25.

PC Hardware in a Nutshell, 3rd Ed. – O’Reilly’s comprehensive guide to buying, building, upgrading, and repairing PCs. A desktop quick reference. MSRP=\$40.

Upgrading Your PC, 2nd Ed. – New Riders book + DVD authored by Mark Soper. A good reference if you are planning to enhance your PC. MSRP=\$25.

Photoshop CS Artistry: Mastering the Digital Image – This beautiful new book/CD from New Riders is written by Barry Haynes & Wendy Crumpler and is loaded with beautiful color illustrations. It is an in-depth course in digital imaging for intermediate and advanced users who want to create the best possible photographic images. It covers Photoshop CS on Mac & Windows XP. MSRP=\$55.

Implementing CIFS, the Common Internet File System – An authoritative guide to the inner workings of Microsoft’s Internet/intranet file sharing system from Prentice Hall authored by Christopher Hertel. MSRP=\$45.

TiVo Hacks – Another O’Reilly Hacks book. This one is on getting the most from your TiVo personal video recorder. MSRP=\$25.

The Art of UNIX Programming – Authored by Eric Raymond from Addison-Wesley, this book bring together philosophy, design patterns, tools, culture, and traditions for this best & most innovative software. MSRP=\$40.

Interprocess Communications in Linux – The definitive guide to Linux processes and IPF for programmers and system administrators by John S. Gray from Prentice Hall. MSRP=\$50

Next Generation Application Integration – From simple information to Web services, this book by David Linthicum from Addison-Wesley is an indispensable resource for those responsible for managing or implementing application-integration middleware. MSRP=\$40.

Open Source Network Administration – Author James Kretchmar from MIT presents an extraordinary collection of open source tools for streamlining and improving virtually every facet of network administration. Publisher is Prentice Hall.

MSRP=\$45.

J2EE Security for Servlets, EJBs, and Web Services – This book by Pankaj Kumar from Prentice Hall is the definitive guide to securing server-side Java and covers every significant J2SE and J2EE security mechanism. MSRP=\$50.

Effective XML – Elliott Harold’s book from Addison-Wesley on 50 specific ways for developers to improve XML. MSRP=\$45.

The Effective Incident Response Team – An Addison-Wesley book by Julie Lucas & Brian Moeller. A complete guide for network administrators & managers on dealing with computer attacks by intruders, worms, & viruses. MSRP=\$40.

Malware: Fighting Malicious Code – *Keep your Windows & UNIX systems from being controlled by the bad guys. An excellent book from Prentice Hall* authored by Ed Skoudis & Lenny Zeltser, two experts in the computer security field. MSRP=\$45.

Biometrics for Network Security – Authored by expert Paul Reid, this book covers options ranging from fingerprint identification to voice verification to hand, face, & eye scanning from a practitioner’s viewpoint. From Prentice Hall. MSRP=\$45.

Essential Check Point FireWall-1 NG – An installation, configuration, and troubleshooting Guide authored by Dameon Welch-Abernathy (aka “PhoneBoy”) from Addison-Wesley/Pearson Education. MSRP=\$55.

A Field Guide to Wireless LANs for Administrators and Power Users – In this book, best-selling author Thomas Maufer explains how LANs work and how to make them work for you reliably & securely. From Prentice Hall. MSRP=\$40.

Real 802.11 Security, Wi-Fi Protected Access & 802.11i – An Addison-Wesley book by Jon Edney & William Arbaugh provides what you need to know on wireless LAN security. MSRP=\$45.

.Net Security & Cryptography – A book from Addison-Wesley by Peter Thorsteinson & G. Ganesh provides practical & comprehensive coverage on implementing cryptography and security in the Microsoft .Net platform. MSRP=\$50.

How Secure is Your Wireless Network? – A Prentice-Hall book by Lee Barken; a practical guide to securing any wireless LAN. MSRP=\$35.

If you would like me to try to obtain a specific product (software, hardware, or book) to review, please contact me by phone or e-mail: Ted Littman, NOCCC Reviews Editor ■



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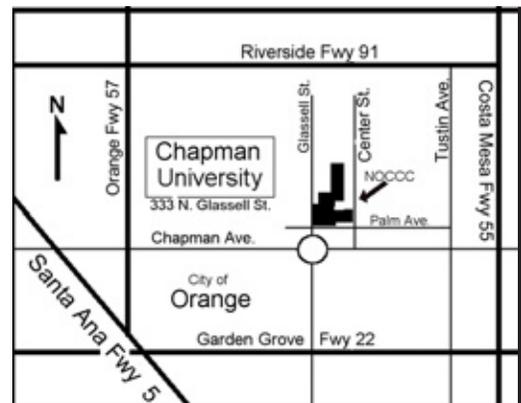
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- **Volunteer Work.** You are given opportunities to help our activities with interesting assignments. An all-volunteer organization, you can join with other members in a variety of activities, write articles for our newsletter, conducting a seminar,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

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

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

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

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



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