



range Bytes

Award Winning News Magazine of the North Orange County Computer Club *

Vol 29 • No 8 AUGUST 2004

NOCCC MEETINGS - Aug. 8 (Second Sunday)

9:30 AM Irvine Hall
NEW TECHNOLOGIES
Photoshop Tutorial

See Page 4 for details

1:00 p.m. Irvine Hall
MAIN MEETING
Digital Living
 Joe Vezeau

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**
 Photoshop Tutorial, from Software Cinema
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 **Science 111**
 Office suites applications
PC Q & A - Jim Sanders **Irvine Hall**
 Most Qs A'd, 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 Imaging SIG **Irvine Hall**
 All about taking, modifying, and printing digital images
Genealogy **Science 111**
 Discover your family history with modern tools
Hardware Essentials **Science 109**
 ----- Not meeting this month -----
OS/2 News and Installation **Science 203**

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

Meeting Dates
 August 8, Sept 7, Oct 5, Nov 2, Dec 7

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“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

Boy, has this year really gone by fast. It is almost August already, and time for the annual Computer Club Pool Party on Sunday August 1st at 2pm. Every NOCCC member is invited with a friend or two. Bring a dish to share, and hamburgers, hotdogs and sodas are provided. Please RSVP to me, president@noccc.org. We will be giving out certificates to all the volunteers also!



Comdex 2004 has been cancelled, so expect CES to get even bigger in January 2005. The last Comdex had only 500 exhibitors, so we all saw the writing on the wall. Too bad, it was a good venue to see new vendors that you would not otherwise be exposed to. One of the problems with the Internet, is that it is so huge, vendors get lost and many times you never get to talk to a real person and ask real questions. Actually that is one reason why NOCCC is so nice as we share ideas, how-to's, and software and hardware reviews. Friends helping Friends.

Google just bought Picasa, an image editing program, which they allowed people to download free. Try <http://www.picasa.com/google/> and see if it is still there. Are they going to get into the photo storage business also, since Picasa had Hello.com for storing photos online? Only time will tell.

The new Windows XP service pack 2 should be out soon, and includes a basic firewall that is already turned on. They did add a few more features to the firewall, but just a reminder that is firewall is set to ON by default instead of off by default.

Southwest Regional User Group meeting is coming up and it is always interesting to see what other clubs in the region are doing. This helps your board members with new input, ideas and suggestions to help make our club better.

Many of us went to the Epson Print Academy to see what was latest in Photography and digital printing. Major Art Exhibits are now being printed using digital printers, instead of using photographic darkrooms to print. It was a very nice event.

Reminder that our August and September meetings are the 2nd Sunday, August 8th and September 12. Chapman always has summer conferences in August and then there is Labor Day and back to school for the kids.

On August 8th, Alan Pearlman will bring hot dogs again as the cafeteria will be closed, and we do have to eat!

The Main meeting speaker at 1pm will be Joe Vezeau, one of our members who works for CompuUSA, will talk about Digital Living, Home automation and wireless media around the house. Tired of wanting to connect everything? Joe will tell how he has done it in his house.

Our New Technology group at 9:30am will have a Photoshop Tutorial, since it is very hard to learn all the tricks! ■

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!

Cheap Webhosting and domains

Matt McCann, who you know about from previously being at Intuit, makes inexpensive web hosting (\$3.95 /mo with free setup) and domain name service (\$7.85 /yr using GoDaddy.com) available. Stop by www.ugpro.com and follow the links. You'll be glad you did!

Peachpit Press Books Discount - of 25% can be obtained by joining the Peachpit Club. Go to <http://www.peachpit.com> to sign up as a member. User group members should note that once you've become a Peachpit Club member, you may use your user group coupon code ON TOP of the permanent savings you earn as a member of the club. Just make sure you've logged into the site before you make a purchase to ensure this permanent discount will be in effect, and then enter coupon code UE-23AA-PEUF (case-sensitive) at checkout! This coupon code is an exclusive offer that may not be used in conjunction with any other coupon codes. The offer applies to all titles at peachpit.com including New Riders, Macromedia Press, Adobe Press, and Peachpit Press.

Jasc Software - <http://www.jasc.com/usergroups.asp>

UG pricing is available by calling 800 622 2793 between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM Central Time and identifying yourself as a UG member. The Promo Code is UG.

Blue Squirrel - <http://www.bluesquirrel.com/>

50% off all products - call 800.403.0925 to order & mention user group special pricing.

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).

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

CuteFTP Pro - APCUG member groups are approved for 20% off list price. This would be \$31.99 for CuteFTP Home (down from \$39.99) and \$47.99 for CuteFTP Pro (down from \$59.99). If you'd like a side-by-side comparison of the two, go here on our site: <http://www.globalscape.com/cuteftp/homevspro.asp>

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July Board Meeting Minutes



The Board Minutes are published in the printed version of the Orange Bytes which is mailed to members

AUGUST 8TH MEETING PREVIEW

MAIN MEETING 1:00 pm, Irvine Hall

Our August 8th (2nd Sunday) meeting speaker will be Joe Vezeau, one of our members who works for CompUSA, will talk about Digital Living, home automation and wireless media around the house. Tired of wanting to connect everything? Joe will tell how he has done it in his house.

NEW TECHNOLOGIES - at 9:30am will have a video Photoshop Tutorial, from Software Cinema since it is very hard to learn all the tricks!

THE CLUB RAFFLE this month will feature a 5-port Ethernet Switch and other items. **Member Only** prize - Flip Album Software

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%.

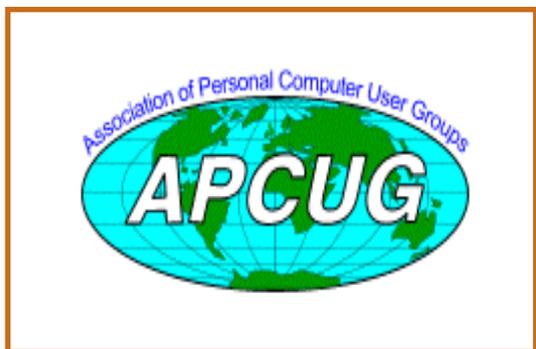
3. Fill out a tag on each item! It must contain: Seller's Name, NOCCC Membership Number, Item name, a short description and selling price.

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 Security Tips

By Timothy Everingham,
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With all the press about problems of computer security, people are worried. However, some people that should be worried about it don't think it applies to them or are just oblivious to the problem. But I have known such people to have major computer problems as a result. Let me give you some tips so something like this doesn't happen to you.

1. Run Antivirus Software and Keep Its Virus Definitions Up To Date: Having antivirus software running in the background in intercept mode (always looking for viruses on or coming into your system) is considered mandatory these days for anyone on a network, especially the Internet, or who share files between computers. This is in part because you no longer have to open a file to have your computer to be infected with a virus; your computer can be fooled into installing it automatically. Update your antivirus definitions at least weekly and if you hear something really nasty has come out go to your antivirus software company's website to get information how to best combat it, including installing a new set of virus definitions. You should also run a weekly full system antivirus scan. There might be something that arrived before your antivirus definitions got the update with the definition of it, and this should pick it up. Discounts or rebates on antivirus software usually can be found. Even one antivirus software maker, Grisoft (www.grisoft.com), will allow you to get one free copy of their personal edition of antivirus software with free virus definition updates.

2. Run A Firewall: A firewall limits what gets in and out of a computer over a network. You may have a dedicated hardware firewall between yourself and a network, such as the Internet; however, such firewalls may only protect you from what may come into your computer, not what is going out. If you clicked on a file with an email worm and your antivirus software did not pick it up, the hardware firewall will not prevent the worm's dedicated email client to send out a copy of itself to all those on your email address book. As such, it is best to run a software firewall too. Windows XP comes with a simple firewall, but it is turned off by default. Turn it on until you get something better. Windows XP Service Pack 2 is suppose to come with a very good firewall, but for now you should install a good third party firewall. Some of them are free. I personally use the free version of Zone Alarm from Zone Labs (<http://www.zonelabs.com>), but their Pro (paid) version has a lot of nice features that many people like.

3. Run Antispyware Software: Spyware is mostly something someone installs on your computer to tract your movements on the Internet. However, some of the

antispyware programs also look for Trojan horses that try to partially or fully enable someone else to control your computer for their purposes. Two highly regarded antispyware programs are Ad-aware from Lavasoft (www.lavasoftusa.com) and Spybot Search and Destroy (www.safer-networking.org). Both have free versions and updates. They also have the ability to block at least some of spyware/Trojan horses being installed on your system. You should do an antispyware scan weekly. Remember that some websites and programs require you have tracking cookies or spyware running to work, so be careful in what you tell the antispyware program to remove.

4. Don't Open Attachments: Don't open email attachments unless you know they were going to be sent ahead of time. A lot of attachments contain viruses, worms, and Trojan horses. Remember that some email worms not only grab email address out of someone's addresses book to send to, but also grab one of them to act as the spoofed email sending address. As such, something that says it is from one of your friends may not be.

5. Update OS Software: Microsoft Windows has been referred to as security hole disguising itself as an operating system. A lot of this came from a programming philosophy where missing a release date set by marketing was an unpardonable sin and to reduce tech support calls they wanted just about everything to be able to run without the user changing any settings, which left a number of things open by default left open that shouldn't have been. The consequences for Microsoft's reputation have been dire, which has changed their programming philosophy to give security a priority. The new philosophy is suppose to be fully shown in Windows XP Service Pack 2, which unlike previous Microsoft products has more services turned off by default and having some security measures, including a firewall, turned on by default. If you are running Windows run Windows Update at least weekly. A majority of the Windows patches show up on the first Wednesday of the month, but urgent patches can show up anytime. If you are running other operating systems check regularly for security patches on the appropriate websites.

6. Update Internet/Network Software: Not only should you update you operating systems, but also update the applications software you run on a network. This would include your web browser, email, FTP, chat, and other network using software. Remember that so much software can now access a network, so this may also include you word processing or other productivity software.

7. Be Suspicious of Email Inquires: You may get inquires that look like they may come from your bank, payment service, ISP, and other places asking you update your account information with a link where to do it. It's probably not them. The link, even though it says it is going to the appropriate website, may be going to a false website to get information about you including credit card, bank account, or customer numbers which can be used in



Comdex is History

By Steve Bass, *PC World*; Author, *PC Annoyances*.

identity theft related fraud. Also those links may send you to a website through which they will try to install remote access software or other bad things on your computer. Attachments they say to click on for review may also be Trojan horses trying to do the same thing.

8. Get your Software From A Reliable Source: Get your software from reputable, trusted, or well known stores; directly from the company; sites that the manufacturer/publisher directs you to; or places that a significant number of people you trust have recommended. Download software from long lasting well know and respected download sites (examples: Tucows and Download.com), and university sites that only allow their IT people to post software (Kazaa, E-Donkey, and warez newsgroups are not such places). A lot of pirated software contains Trojan horses that are used to turn computers in zombies for distributed denial of service attacks and sending spam. They also contain viruses and worms.

9. Run a Non-Microsoft Web Browser: Microsoft Internet Explorer has had so many security problems many well-respected consulting firms have advised their clients to replace it with something else. I personally use Mozilla (www.mozilla.org) and it's free. Netscape is there, but there have been questions about continued development of it. Opera is considered good and comes in free and paid versions (www.opera.com). For those of you wanting to be on the cutting edge there is Firefox from Mozilla. It still is in beta, but many people like it and use it as their default browser. Keep Internet Explorer, but use it only when necessary (some websites will not work well without it). Have something else as your default browser.

10. When A Website Gives An Unsolicited Invitation To Install Something Say No: Sometimes when I visit a website a window will suddenly pop up and ask me if to install something so I will get more out of the website. Sometimes it's ok, but a majority of the time it is asking you to install spyware without telling you that's what it is. It could be something even worse. A good philosophy on this is to Just Say No.

11. Consider Not Running Active-X and Java Applets and Scripts: This is a tip for those who are extremely concerned about security and may not be for the majority. In many browsers there are switches in the options/preferences section where you can disable running Active-X and Java applets and scripts. These applets and scripts have the potential of installing something nasty into your computer even though there are suppose to be precautions taken against doing that. Some people have running these apps turned off and then when something doesn't work on a website they make a decision whether to turn the ability back on again or not just for while on that site.

These are just a few tips to help keep you computer secure. May your computing healthy and be free of viruses and other parasites.

TIMOTHY EVERINGHAM IS CEO OF TIMOTHY EVERINGHAM CONSULTING IN AZUSA, CALIFORNIA.. HE IS A MEMBER OF NORTH ORANGE COUNTY COMPUTER CLUB. FURTHER INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND AT [HTTP://HOME.EARTHLINK.NET/~TEVERINGHAM](http://HOME.EARTHLINK.NET/~TEVERINGHAM). ■

Comdex was inflated, owners were arrogant, and since 1998, it was clear the show was destined to fall into the bit bucket.

In a downward spiral for the last five years, Comdex is finally kaput. The show owners declared it dead when they cancelled the November, 2004 event. Many of you have been attending Comdex since close to forever, and most of you knew the show was destined to fall into the bit bucket.

Good riddance. In the last few years, the show's become an empty shell of its previous life. So much so that room prices on the Strip were as low as \$50 a night during Comdex week in 2003.

The problem was I couldn't not attend. Even though I didn't enjoy myself and couldn't find lots of really nifty products to write about, I still drove in from Pasadena and stayed for two nights. Call it nostalgia. Or maybe I was just hoping there would be one more chance that Comdex would get back on its feet.

But nope, it's really over.

Dig Into the Files

I dug around and found some of Comdex the missives I sent in the last few years.

December, 1998: Comdex is toast. It's fading rapidly and while it'll always be with us, it's never going to be "bigger than ever."

I polled lots of people and all agreed. The attendance was dismally low. Softbank's claim of 250K attendees was a lie. It was based on registrations--not attendees--something made lots easier because the normal \$100 "Exhibits Only" fee was waived when you registered on Softbank's Internet site.

My best sources are the cabbies, and all emphatically said 60- to 90K tops. And it was easy to see. I never had to wait more than five minutes for a cab. Ever. Even at 5:00pm. Parties weren't well attended. In fact, for the first time ever, there was actually walking-around room at the exclusive Spencer party.

Omega was back promoting their Klik gizmo. But wait, weren't they doing that last year? And Castlewood was pushing their 2.2GB ultra SCSI removable storage disk that wouldn't ship until next summer.

The quality of the show was also disappointing. The Sands was filled mostly with OEM stuff--lots of system boards, drives, memory checking devices, and other boring equipment. Joe Bohannon nailed the entire Sands Convention Center in five hours, something that ordinarily takes a day and a half.

I couldn't even find anything very inspirational.

For instance, Creative Labs had a second generation Live sound card. Wow. Sure, there were some booths with interesting things--wireless networking was cool, as was HP's Jornada, their oddly named sub-notebook--and I found a few products to write about. But overall, I could've done just as well surfing the web.

Why has Comdex slowed down? Simple: Games went to E3,

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Comdex

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

anything about the Web went to Internet World, and e-commerce apps also needed their own specialized trade shows.

Worse, it appears Softbank's jacked up the price on everything. That's happened before, but my hunch is vendors aren't going to take it much longer. (That happened to the Food Show when Pepsi and Coke pulled out, literally destroying the event. And Deere, the largest exhibitor of the Machinery Show, left the show high and dry when told they'd be charged double-the new policy put them into both agriculture and machinery.)

"It's bad. In 1998, the Lotus exhibit consisted of a bus in the parking lot with a box of Winchell's donuts on the table..."

At Comdex, the newly remodeled Las Vegas Convention center was missing Intel, IBM, and other big vendors. The Lotus exhibit consisted of a bus in the parking lot with a box of Winchell's donuts on the table. One of the Lotus reps said this is their last Comdex.

On the exhibit floor, the Japanese companies were slugging it out, with Sony and Samsung making lots of noise, each trying to impress the other. Phillips created a small, loud city, and Microsoft was in their corner with more vendors than spectators.

Me? At \$329 a day for the hotel room and the five days lost...I dunno. It may also be my last Comdex.

October, 2000: Comdex is struggling. That's because most other trade shows specialize while Comdex tried to cater to everyone. Funny, in the past Comdex charged an outrageous \$100 for admission just to the exhibit floor. This year they're offering a free exhibits pass. (Too bad the hotels haven't caught on to this trick...) This is my last Comdex, for sure.

December, 2001: The Comdex mood this year was all business, with somber overtones. Journalists clustered around in small groups, talking about layoffs, and concerned with the dozens of freelancers gone missing. Lots of PR people didn't make it to Comdex; many of those who did were kvetching about having to share sleeping rooms with colleagues.

I don't know that I'll be back next year. While the exhibit floor didn't have the sizzling array of products I saw at previous Comdexes, like last year, the place to be was the evening press events: Showstoppers, Digital/mobile Focus, and Silicon Northwest.

December, 2003: Sleeping rooms are under \$60. The show floor at the Convention center has lots of curtains and barriers to make it look as if there are lots of vendors. The aisles are narrow so it feels crowded. There are practically no big vendors, except for Microsoft, and even their exhibit is small.

I've said it every year, but this time I really mean it. This is definitely the last Comdex I'm going to attend. (And I'll see some of you at the Consumer Electronics Show in January, 2005!)

Steve Bass is a Contributing Editor with PC World, a 23 year

veteran of PIBMUG, and a founding member of APCUG. He's also the author of *PC Annoyances: How to Fix the Most Annoying Things about Your Personal Computer*, O'Reilly Press. It's available on Amazon for \$7.98 at <http://snurl.com/annoyances>. ■

E3 2004: The Games Just Keep On Coming

By Timothy Everingham, NOCCC,
teveringham@acm.org

When May comes around E3, the video game industry's trade show, not only shows up at the Los Angeles Convention Center; it pops out like an overly enthusiastic jack in the box. It is marketing gone wild, but with some of the great games they are producing they have a good reason for the hype. Here are some of the titles you should be looking for before the end of 2004.

One of biggest announcement at the entire show was that Electronic Arts sports games, considered the best on the market, will no longer just be online capable for the PS2. They now will be able to do so with the Xbox versions using the Xbox Live service. Sierra's Half Life 2 and Activision's Doom 3 for the PC were advertised as having mind-blowing graphics, but were promised to come out last year. Doom 3 is now scheduled to come out for the PC on July 20 and later for the Xbox. Half Life 2 is to be released this summer for the PC. However, if you want to see great graphics now get a copy of Ubisoft's Far Cry, but you better have at least a mid-level 3D gaming graphics card two years old or less if you don't want jittery images.

For a real-time strategy game for your PC you should definitely look at Electronic Art's Lord of The Rings: The Battle for Middle Earth. Not only do you have the opportunity to control armies of humans, elves, and orcs from the movies, but also the graphics and game play look fantastic. The team that did Command and Conquer Generals out did themselves and brought real time strategy to a new level. It is one of my best picks of the show, and will be coming out this fall. Another real

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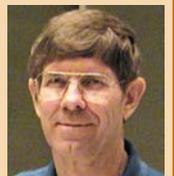
Routers installed

sick computers healed

jsanders@ligasmicro.com

714-636-5523

NOCCC member 0019, Jim Sanders



time strategy game that you should look at is Activision's Rome: Total War where you play a Roman Emperor and command the armies of Rome, which will also be coming out this fall for the PC. For the younger set check out Microsoft Game Studios' Zoo Tycoon 2 for the PC with much improved graphics and interface.

This fall the sequel to Halo, the Sci-Fi multiplayer shooter that made the Xbox a marketplace contender, is finally coming out. Microsoft Game Studios' Halo 2 shows to be even more stunning with new vehicles and environments to play with. It will be coming to an Xbox near you in November and is definitely one of my picks. Also for the Xbox from Microsoft Game Studios is Conker: Live and Reloaded where the obnoxious squirrel is out to save his fellow squirrels from extermination by an army of evil teddy bears. Not only is this very funny, it has excellent graphics and online play. In Lucas Arts' Star Wars Battlefront you get to play a soldier in the world of first Star Wars Trilogy by yourself or with up to 31 others online and will be for the PC, Xbox, & PS2 coming in September. Nintendo's Metroid Prime 2: Echoes is coming in November is for you on the GameCube.

Microsoft Game Studios' Fable for the Xbox is the long delayed role playing game where you can take the a character through their life making decisions that as in real life will have long-term consequences and effect how people treat you. Will you be good, evil or a little of both. Will people cheer you for your great heroic deeds as you enter town, or will they run away in fear. You literally age as the virtual years go by, with your decisions effecting how you look. This is one of my picks of the show and is coming out this summer. In Electronic Arts' Goldeneye: Rogue Agent the question is asked "Why Save the World When You Can Rule It?" That right, you get to play an ingenious villain in the James Bond world. Many actors say it is more fun to play the bad guy and you will get to find out this fall on a PS2, Xbox or GameCube. Square-Enix's Star Ocean: Till The End Of Time is beautiful title for the PS/2 where you, your family, and childhood friend (love interest?) go to a resort planet for a long-deserved vacation; but your holiday turns into a nightmare when the planet is attacked. You have to find out what is going on and save your loved ones. It is coming in August 2004. THQ's S.T.A.L.K.E.R. Shadow of Chernobyl is set in the near future where you search in the exclusion zone around the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant for things to sell on the black market, but you have to contend with creatures that have mutated from exposure to radiation. It is coming for the PC this fall. Capcom will be breaking the mold with Resident Evil 4. In an entirely new story set in Europe you will be trying to rescue the daughter of the US President and find yourself in environment similar to a horror movie. The graphics, game play, intelligence of your adversaries, and storyline look better than in the previous series and is one of my picks. It is coming to the GameCube this winter.

Ubisoft has a number of excellent role-playing games coming. One of my show picks is Prince of Persia 2 for PC, PS2, Game Cube, and Xbox. This sequel to last year's hit Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time has excellent graphics and game play looks good. However, this game is not for the faint at heart because

the Prince can literally slice and dice his opponents with his sword. Another of my picks is Brothers in Arms, a combination of squad based and first person shooter base on the real life adventures of a squad of paratroopers during and in the days after D-Day for the PC and Xbox and will be out in time for the holidays. It is coming in 4th quarter of this year. Another superb looking game is Tom Clancy's Splinter Cell 3. In this game of stealth for the PC you are trying to break up terrorists' efforts to bring down US via sabotaging and hijacking its computer systems. The previous Splinter Cell games have been good, and this should be no exception. If you really want to see a game with photo realistic graphics escape into the adventure of Myst IV Revelation for the PC. It is a continuation of the Myst series where you will discover through exploration and interaction with game characters the answers to questions left hanging from the previous games in the series.

Another show pick is Everquest II. Sony Online Entertainment is coming with a world 500 years after the current Everquest; but with enriched graphics, better game play, and better adventures. Unlike a lot of these games, Everquest II does not just throw you into the virtual world to fend for yourself the best you can. You start off on a large sailing ship with only you and a bunch of computer generated 3D characters. Your purpose on your voyage to you first town in the virtual world is to learn how the world works from the computer generated characters and interacting with things on the ship. They are designing the game to be friendly not only to the experienced massively multiplayer online role playing game player, but to the novice as well. Unlike Everquest, there will be no Mac version and will be for Windows only. This online world will be ready for you to join this November. For those of you Star Wars Galaxies fans who have been disappointed that you can't journey into space and duke it out in a X-Wing Fighter Lucas Arts/Sony Online Entertainment's Star Wars Galaxies: Jump To Light Speed expansion pack will be coming out in November. Also Sega and Warner Brothers will bring you The Matrix Online, which takes place right after the end of the third The Matrix movie. It will be coming out in November for the PC.

One of the games that is the best selling game ever is Electronic Arts' The Sims. The upcoming The Sims 2 is very different. Your characters are fully 3D, detailed, and you get up close with them. They have motivations that cause them to act in certain and sometimes unexpected ways without you doing anything. You can control up to 4 characters and are creating a story of a family over multiple generations. It sounds serious, but you can have some fun by creating episodes right out of a soap opera. This pick of mine for the PC will be coming out this fall. Sony's Grand Turismo 4 for the PS 2 is finally coming out before the end of the year and it looks like it is worth the wait. With great graphics, 100 courses and 500 cars to drive plus online play with up to 6 players. Microsoft Game Studio's Forza Motorsport is for you racing fan on an Xbox and will be out in time for the holidays. The Leisure Suit Larry series has returned with Leisure Suit Larry: Magna Cum Laude. This time it is Larry's

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27

Digital Photography Expert Techniques

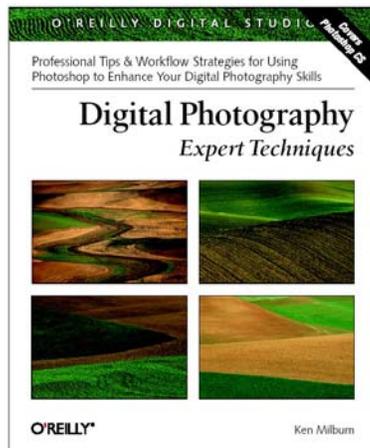
By John Donan, NOCCC

This book is a companion to Deke McClelland's Adobe Photoshop One-on-One, a second of the high end digital photography books published by O'Reilly. As with the other it is well illustrated with 653 glossy, full-color photographs illustrating the various steps.

This is helpful for someone like me who likes to scan through a book and pick up where it interests me. For example in the chapter "Converting Photos to Paintings," I quickly spotted a technique (Tip 6) that I have wanted to emulate for some time, creating realistic watercolors. Here, as he does throughout the book, he complements Photoshop's capability with a plug-in, stating, "Most computer programs have trouble imitating watercolor realistically." The author's workflow organization allows one to read and understand without having to sit at the computer. It also has a chapter called "Creating Fictitious Photos" which is a different avenue to making art from photos or improving to excellence photos otherwise wallowing in the realm of mediocrity. The last tip in this chapter is "Use the Art of Collage."

The book is directed toward the serious photographer. The first four chapters depict this with such things as a 44 item check list (containing a cable release, something almost forgotten in this era of the advancing digital camera,) gray card adjustments, bracketing exposures and telling which 50 cameras (eleven manufacturers) are recognized by the Adobe Photoshop CS RAW plug-in. He claims that the RAW format is the only way to go, giving step-by-step instruction on its use. This Photoshop plug-in is the most widely used application to interpret RAW images. Compared to JPEG, the format saved by most cameras, RAW files capture a far greater range of colors.

Milburn thoroughly covers image management (Tip 1 in chapter 3 is "get to know your Photoshop File Browser") He then covers three image management programs: iPhoto, Adobe Photoshop Album, and Canto



Cumulus. The thirty pages of chapter 4 are all about panoramas, how to shoot, starting with rotating around the camera's focal nodal point at precise intervals. Here, third party programs are the best alternative. They are more accurate and make the stitching process much easier. You will not find a better description of how take and process panoramas anywhere.

The book is 360 pages 13 chapters. Most chapters have a Getting Started section at the beginning covering the basics needed. There are 77 Tips covering common issues that might be encountered as one progresses into the various subjects. The material is pretty much equally divided between photography, general image editing, special techniques and the handling of the end product. It is written around Photoshop CS. Milburn says he assumes the reader has a prior familiarity with Photoshop but most of his tasks can be accomplished with Photoshop Elements 2.0 or any other image editor that supports layers and Photoshop-compatible plug-ins. I found at least 45 instances where the author was applying third party software such as Corel KnockOut, nik Color Efex, KPT Collection, plus many more which create some of the same effects found in Photoshop but without the steep learning curve

His camera of choice, for someone purchasing a new one today, is an SLR with interchangeable lenses (possibly your old 35mm film lenses.) These are now dropping below the \$1,000 threshold. For a new computer system he recommends, as a minimum, 2.4GHz processor, 1GByte RAM, 17-in monitor, CD-ROM or DVD-ROM burner, two USB 2.0 connections and two FireWire (IEEE 1394) ports. For storage he notes that, if you are serious about quality you will want to keep images at the highest resolution possible. He considers that a single picture could easily consume 500MB of disk space (so buy a ton of hard drive)

The author, Ken Milburn, has been a photographer, both full- and part-time, for nearly five decades. Ken has written over 300 articles and columns for computer magazines as well as 17 books on web design, Flash, and (mostly) Adobe Photoshop and digital photography. Books currently in print include Digital Photography: 99 Tips to Make You Look Like a Pro, The Photoshop 7 Virtual Classroom, and Photoshop Elements 2.0—The Complete Reference.

This book targets the professional, or serious, digital photographer who is using an SLR digital camera with at least six megapixels and plenty of memory, but I recommend it for any digital photographer desiring to gain high quality results. Although it uses Photoshop for manipulating the images other tools can be used to give spectacular results. Another target for this book is the film photographer who wants to move to the digital realm, but doesn't quite know how best to set up the workflow of processing images. Because a digital photograph can take many forms after image enhancement, there are a number of good ideas here to

help you know what material to save and what to delete. It has already become one of my most used references and I highly recommend it for others.

The jacket price is \$44.95, although I have seen it in stores for \$39.95. O'Reilly offers user group members a 20% discount. See the Membership Benefits column of this newsletter. ■

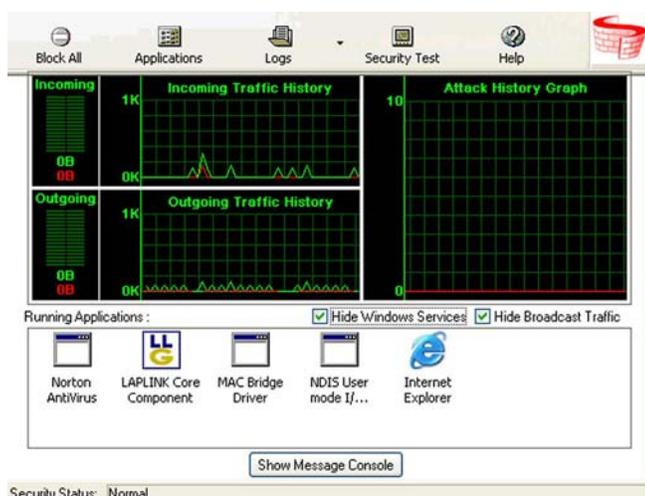
Sygate Personal Firewall Pro V5.5

By Ted Littman, NOCCC

In the November 2002 issue of the Orange Bytes, I reviewed an earlier version (5.5) of this software and gave it high marks. Well, the current version still is performing its job of safeguarding my computer from intruders. With each succeeding version, Sygate Technologies has provided security improvements and enhancements to keep up with the increasing number and sophistication of attackers. A good firewall is an essential complement to an antivirus program, especially if your computer is connected all the time to the Internet.

The Sygate Personal Firewall works unobtrusively for the most part. If an unfamiliar external source attempts to access your computer, a pop-up message appears with the details and you can let Sygate allow the contact (as, for example, when one of your programs receives an update from the vendor's web site), or have Sygate deny the access. The firewall will remember your choice and not ask you again in the future.

If you like to keep track of Sygate at work, there are four security logs that you can view where information on incoming/outgoing traffic as well as different events are posted. If you like to watch "live action," Sygate's Main Console provides a colorful Traffic History/Attack History screen in real time as shown in the image here.



Sygate Personal Firewall Pro is a product of Sygate Technologies, Inc. in Fremont, CA, (510)742-2600, www.sygate.com. It has a list price of about \$40 and can be bought at the usual software stores or downloaded from the company's Web site. (A free limited version is available for personal use or you can download a 30-day trial version of the Pro version.) Registered Pro users get a 1-year upgrade protection

If you are under attack, or if the firewall has recorded an attack, the Sygate icon in the system tray flashes to alert you. Double-clicking on the icon displays the Security Log with the information on what transpired.

Sygate provides several Help systems. If you want to check on something from within the program, clicking on the Help button opens the online help file in html format. Alternately, you can download a 124-page pdf file that is excellent and covers just about everything you need to know. I particularly liked the 14-page glossary of terms at the end of the document. Free technical support comes in several on-line forms: there are forums filled with correspondence from other users as well as an email link to Sygate's tech support. However, if you have an urgent need for help, the telephone service charges \$75 per incident for customers in the U.S. and Canada (and it's only available weekdays from 9 – 5). This seems pretty steep for a \$40 program, but most users should not need to avail themselves of this service. To the best of my knowledge, this practice is widespread.

The program is easy to install or update (which can be automatic) and the purchaser of the Pro version is entitled to one year of free updates. (The program will continue to work even if you don't subscribe to updates after the year.) In addition to the \$40 (per single user) Pro version, Sygate has a limited version that is free for personal use. You also can try the Pro version at no cost for one month, if you like to "try before you buy." Additional details can be viewed at <http://www.sygate.com>.

Sygate's Personal Firewall Pro was selected by PC World (June 2003 issue) as a "World Class" product. It has received a number of other awards during 2002-2003. If you haven't used a firewall before, read the article "How Firewalls Work" by Jeff Tyson which can be viewed at:

<http://computer.howstuffworks.com/firewall.htm>. ■

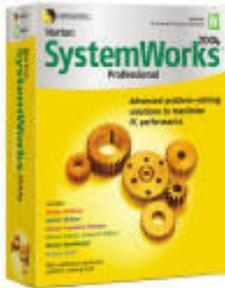
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Norton SystemWorks 2004 Professional

By Jim Sanders, NOCCC

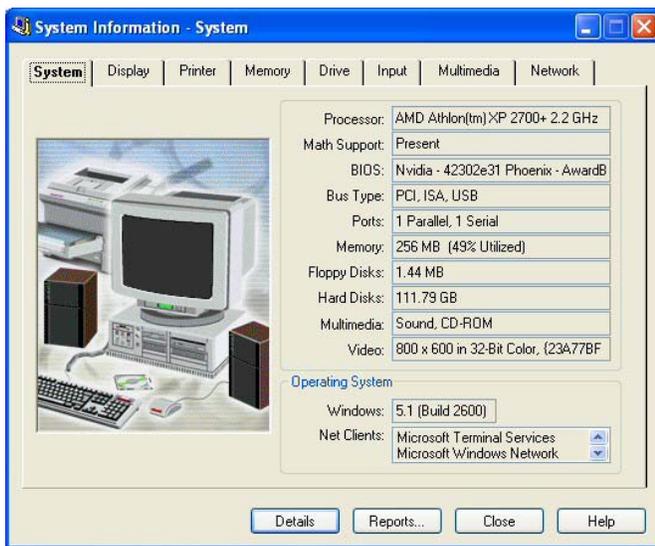


Symantec's Norton SystemWorks 2004 Professional (NSW) is a powerful suite of programs that can save you a lot of money over the price of the individual programs. It helps you defend against system problems, viruses, and loss of your passwords. It can find and fix problems with your hard disk, back up your hard disk, optimize your hard disk, remove unneeded programs and unwanted cookies from your hard disk, and more, much more. The suite lists for \$99.95 and includes many

features that are exclusive to the suite as well as several programs that, if purchased standalone, cost a total of \$199.80. The cheapest price I found on the Internet was \$46.95 after a \$30 rebate. The standalone packages included, at list prices noted, are:

- Norton AntiVirus -\$49.95
- Norton Password Manager -\$39.95
- Norton GoBack Personal Edition -\$39.95
- Norton Ghost -\$69.95
- Norton CleanSweep -NSW
- Norton Utilities -NSW
- Additional problem-solving tools - NSW

I installed NSW 2004 Pro on an AMD 2700+, 256MB, 120 GB HD, Nvidia motherboard, and a fresh install of WinXP Pro and all of the motherboard drivers, with no other applications on the disk. The NSW program tells me all of that and more.

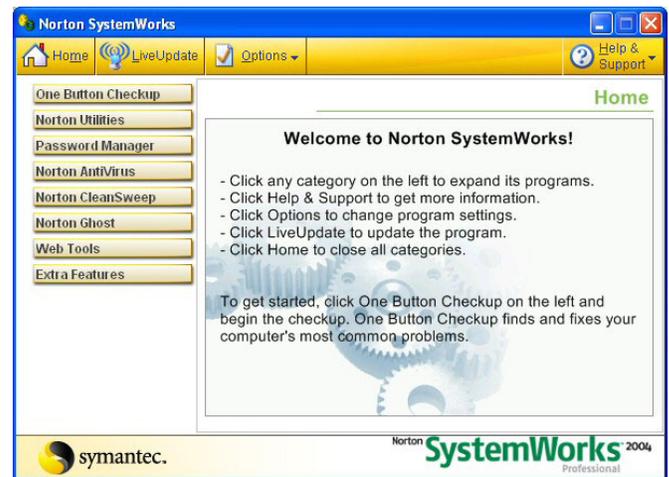


The package says it will install on Win98, 98SE, ME, 2K and XP. At the start of the installation 1,911,939,072 bytes were

used. At the end of the installation 2,169,778,176 or a total of 257,839,104 bytes of hard disk used for the install and no problems. The install screen said that I would have to install GoBack separately.

There are a number of things that you can configure at install time. One Button Checkup, Norton AntiVirus, NAV Auto-Protect, NAV auto-update were all set to run weekly with all defaults true. At the end of the installation I tried the One Button Checkup and nothing happened. After rebooting the system it worked fine and found 17 registry errors, one shortcut error, and one Web CleanUp error in under two minutes. NSW keeps a log of all the errors that you chose to fix and lets you undo a fix if necessary. It appears to be a cumulative log of all errors fixed. You click on the check box next to a particular entry then click on the Undo button to restore that entry. There is no date included with an entry which could make life more difficult than need be.

If any two of the standalone packages included in the suite



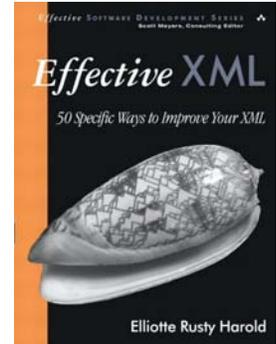
are programs that you want to use, it has paid for itself and the other features are gravy. In my case, I already use Norton Antivirus, but the utilities suite and Norton Ghost were of real interest. Not to belittle Norton Antivirus; it is, I think rightfully, recognized as one of the finest available in that category.

One irritating aspect of this version of NSW is Product Activation. Ala WinXP, you have to "activate" the installation within 15 days or it stops working. If you only have one computer, this isn't much of a problem. If you have several machines, you have to decide which one you want Symantec to allow you to install the package on. Testing any new software on my main machine is more risk than I care to take, hence, the above mentioned test bed. The package warns you that if you don't activate immediately, you will get a warning window everyday. In fact the, expletive deleted, warning window pops up just about every time you do something different in the package. One could get the impression that Symantec is afraid that its customers are morons with short-term memory problems as often as that screen pops up. ON THE PLUS SIDE, you can run the utilities Disk Doctor, WinDoctor, Wipe Info, and Fast&Safe directly from the CD on any machine running Win98 and up,

Effective XML

By Dave Keays, NOCCC

This book is an essential for anybody who is writing XML (eXtensible Markup Language) or designing a DTD (document type definition). One reason this book teaches its use so well is that the author, Elliotte Rusty Harold, is just playing off past successes. He has already established the momentum with other books like “XML in a Nutshell” (O’Reilly 2002) and “Processing XML with Java” (Addison-Wesley 2003). He is a Computer Science professor at Polytechnic University and created the web site for XML developers - Café con Leche <http://www.cafeconleche.org>.



While he states up front that this book is not for beginners, don’t be put-off by it. The preface says that “this book is not a tutorial ... instead it is going to teach you why, where and how to use such tools effectively.” While he does the job he said he will do, I think this part about it not being for beginners is a bit of an over-statement. While it is true you already need to know what XML is and how to design a DTD, you can get by with just an inkling of them. If you’ve studied XML in the past but don’t remember the specifics your reading may be slower but this book will still be useful for you, especially if you think you may ever use XML in the future (which is becoming more of a possibility every day).

The book is made up of 50 tips or rules on how to code or design a good XML document so that it is easier to read, edit, and process. The rules are divided into four parts: syntax, structure, semantics, and implementation. If you compare this to human language, syntax is how a word is spelled or pronounced, structure is how words are organized into sentences and sentences into paragraphs, and semantics are how words can be said to either change a message’s meaning or imply another meaning altogether.

His introduction is a good intermediate reference for those who know just a little XML. While he says the book is not a tutorial, this chapter will work as one for some readers.

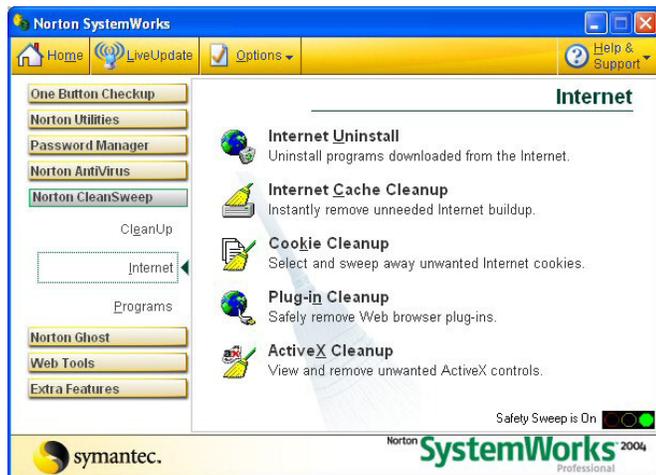
In the syntax section (rules 1 to 10) he explains how to write code that improves a program yet doesn’t alter the organization or meaning of a document. He points-out that in just about every programming language out there is a way to code the program that helps yet it does the exact same thing as a program that is poorly written. Those specifics include establishing markup and namespace standards, normalizing data, and using entity references.

The structure rules (rule 11 to 27) don’t cover how to code a

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE 26

without doing an install. If you are running a FAT16/FAT32 system, you can boot from the CD to run NAV in the DOS mode.

The three sections of the installed utility package that interest me the most are Speed Disk defragmenter, Disk Doctor diagnostic and repair program, and Win Doctor diagnostic and repair program. The several other utility programs I will use occasionally, but those three I will use frequently. Speed Disk is not only a defragmenter, it is a configurable optimizer. After I install NSW on a regular machine I will check out CleanSweep.



The Ghost program that is included with the Pro version of NSW was of particular interest to me. I have been a long time user of Drive Image from PowerQuest. Not only has PowerQuest sold out to Symantec, but I got the impression that they had given up on updating the capabilities of Drive Image operating in the DOS mode, where, to me, most of its power and usefulness lay. Since Drive Image and Ghost are direct competitors, it will be interesting to see what Symantec does with the two products.

Like Drive Image, Ghost does its real work in a DOS mode. Symantec uses version 7.1 of PC-DOS, that is the version of DOS produced by IBM, as compared to PowerQuest’s use of DR-DOS. Just going on speed and feel, PC-DOS is a more up-to-date OS that is better suited for current computers. I tried several different backup-and-restore modes and one disk-to-disk clone. An IDE disk-to-disk image restore ran at 1450 MB/min. The same image restored from the same disk hooked up via a USB 2.0 adaptor to the IDE disk ran at 665MB/min. The same source disk, when cloned to the second drive, ran at 885MB/min. In all cases, the restored/cloned disk booted and ran with no problems. It looks like I am going to be able to switch to Ghost with no problems.

Over all, Norton System Works 2004 Pro is a bargain at the list price. On sale and with a hefty rebate, almost a steal. I sidestepped all compatibility/conflict issues by using the test bed. I did find some complaints about installation and running problems on the Internet, but not all that many. This suite of programs represents a huge amount of computer code. The suite comes with a 325 page printed manual. The separate Ghost manual, in PDF format, adds another 225 pages. For lots more information see <http://www.symantec.com> in general and http://www.symantec.com/techsupp/nsys/nsw_2004_pe_tasks.html about this product. ■

OmniPage Pro 14 Office

By: *Elise M. Edgell, NOCCC, EliseME@aol.com*

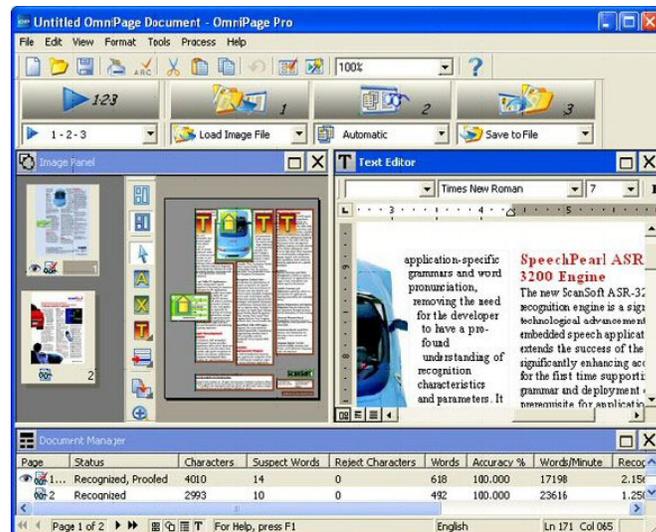


I was eager to review OmniPage 14 Pro Office because it was released just at the time I reviewed OmniPage 12 Pro Office (see review in the May 2004 issue of the Orange Bytes). I was favorably impressed by version 12's (there is no version 13) ability to retain formatting and was curious to see how much version 14 had improved this feature.

ScanSoft recommends a minimum of 128 MB of RAM, at least a Pentium III, Internet Explorer version 5.01 or later and 228.4 MB of hard disk space to install with minimum options. I had no problem in installing OmniPage on my computer running Windows XP Professional with 512 MB RAM. I am so glad that very large hard disks are so inexpensive, which allows me to install programs without the worry that I will run out of disk space. My installation of OmniPage 14 is 468 MB. I am using an Epson/Perfection 1640SU scanner which is not on ScanSoft's list of compatible scanners (these are the scanners which they have tested; it doesn't mean that other scanners will not work with the program). In fact, there is only one Epson scanner listed. Fortunately, my scanner works without any difficulty. The rest of the requirements to install and run the program will be met by any recent computer. The minimums include a monitor running 256 colors with 800x 600, a Windows compatible pointing device and a sound card for the reading text mode. An Internet connection is needed for registration.

OmniPage installed without any difficulty. Before I really got started, I had to download a major update (Service Pack 1 (E)) which was 23.98 MB. Using a cable modem, it was not time consuming to download it but it certainly would have been using a dial up modem. The desktop looks similar to OmniPage 12 but is quite different from other more standard Windows programs.

There is a nice Help menu area on Getting Started which shows an image of the desktop with all of the features explained. All you have to do is to click on an area of the image and an explanation will come up telling you how to use that feature. This is important because you probably will not have all of the views visible on your desktop at the same time. It is very helpful to see what is available and to be able to get information about it quickly. I am always looking for good help features and tutorials. This is certainly a nice way of presenting the available features to the first-time user. Once I knew what I could show on the desktop, I felt that I had control over the program.



First, I reran the test document which I used in the review of OmniPage 12. This was a sample legal pleading. The new version did do a noticeably better job at retaining the formatting. I am very interested in retaining formatting because so many documents become unusable when the formatting is messed up. Of course, OmniPage does an outstanding job of performing the OCR.

Have you ever wanted to be able to edit a PDF file? OmniPage will recognize a PDF file and change it into text, which you can then edit. It retains the formatting so the editable document will still have the photos and other formatting features and the text can be edited.

This program does so many things, it is difficult to decide what to include in the review. There are many reviews of the program available on the Internet that cover features which I have no need of using and have not tried out. (For example see: http://reviews.zdnet.co.uk/software/productivity/0_39024190_39143728_00.htm or do a Google search for other reviews.) I decided that I would try out a feature of the program which could be useful for a user with low vision or just for someone who would like to be able to listen to documents, maybe on the way to work.

This can be done by scanning a document, recognizing (converting it to text) it, then saving it in a WAV format. You can start with a PDF file rather than scanning a document; the remaining steps are the same. I was pleased with the sound of the voice which read the document. There is control over the speed of the voice. The American voice is male. There is also a selection of voice for other languages. One of these is English, with a female voice. I liked her voice better than the American, but some words are pronounced differently. The surprising thing is that the voices read the text with some inflection.

If you receive a letter and would like to turn it into a wave file that you can listen to instead of reading, here is what you would do: Put the document into your scanner. Tell (yes, tell because it uses Microsoft Voice Recognition or Dragon Naturally Speaking) OmniPage to scan the document. Then you need to have the program "recognize" the document. This is the only step

which may be difficult for users with low vision. This is because when the program is not sure of the correct word, it asks you to make a decision. Initially if your documents are in an area which uses a lot of jargon, the program will ask you to make a decision on a lot words. (You can customize for your words. You can even have more than one dictionary, but can only use one at a time. The use of a custom dictionary works very well after you have recognized a few pages, the program records the words that are specific to your area.) The last step is to give the document a name and save it in the WAV format. Once this is done, you can play the WAV file using Windows Media Player or your favorite audio program. The WAV file can be burned to a CD for playback on another computer.

One potential drawback to saving a file in the WAV format is that the WAV format produces a very large file. It would be possible to use another program to convert the WAV file to an MP3 file which could then be burned to a CD and played back on any CD player that will handle MP3 files or downloaded to a MP3 player.

There is another feature of OmniPage which would assist in the above scenario. It is called Workflows. There is even a "Workflow Wizard," which will walk you through the process. It lets you specify all the steps that are needed for what you want to do, and then it remembers it. You give it a name. The next time you want to do the same thing you can just pick out the right workflow and it will do all the steps for you. Obviously, in a workplace setting, this would be a very valuable feature. It is just as valuable for the above discussed situation. It is very important to keep key strokes to a minimum for a person with low vision unless he/she is a good touch typist.

This is a very complex program. There is a lot to learn about what it can do. Then you have to figure out how to use it for what you want to do. For simple OCR work, I would stay with a basic program, such as the OCR which is included with ScanSoft's PaperPort. On the other hand, if you have many documents which you need to turn into text or WAV files, then this is the program for you. It is important that you take the time to learn how to use the program. Many of its features are aimed at an office setting. A scanner with an automatic document feeder combined with custom Workflows allows hands-free scanning of many different types of documents. Unfortunately, this is a feature which I am not in a position to try out.

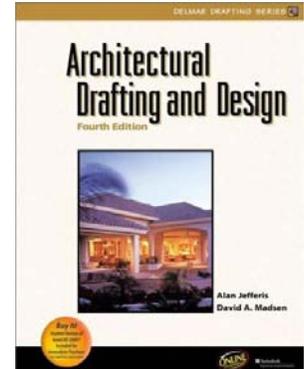
OmniPage Pro 14 Office has a MSRP of \$599.99 and an upgrade of \$199.99. I looked on the Internet and found prices as low as \$345.00 for the full program to \$124.95 for an upgrade. It is always a good idea to check local stores which frequently have very good discounts on program. I like to deal with a store that is easily available, in case there is a problem with the product. For further information go to:

<http://www.digitalriver.com/v2.0-bin/ecm?s?cuid=21206&cuid=sui2cz6bz3bspoxp3>. ■

Architectural Drafting and Design, Fourth Edition

By Joe Mizer, NOCCC

This text and reference book (authored by Alan Jefferis and David A. Madsen and published by Autodesk Publishing / Delmar Learning) is for the junior draftsman with at least one semester of drafting experience embarking on a career in architecture. This is also an excellent edition for anyone with an interest in architectural design in general and a desire to know how the pieces fit together. The main emphasis is on learning how to prepare a set of documents, which can be submitted, to contractors and building and safety departments in your community.



The authors are both architecture and drafting instructors in Oregon and have many years experience in teaching and as architectural designers. Alan Jefferis has 24 years of experience in the industry. David A. Madsen is a former member of the board of directors of the ADDA and is currently the chairman of the drafting department at Clackamas community college. David Madsen is also the author of an excellent book on Inventor 5 and other AutoCAD and drafting books. Alan Jefferis has 24 years experience as a professional building designer and is a member of the American Institute of Building Designers (AIBD). Mr. Jefferis has been teaching architectural design and drafting for the past 22 years at Clackamas community in Portland Oregon.

As anyone who has tried to draw something on paper or with AutoCAD knows, the first problem is not how to draw the object, but is simply learning what you need to draw. It is assumed that you know how to draw before starting this book even though the book in chapters two through six covers much of the basics of drafting. Very little is left to chance and if you are forced to learn without the assistance of an instructor and have not completed a previous drafting class, even though this book is the quite complete I would encourage you to get another book for the basic material you will have missed.

This book presents the information in layers, starting with very general information and then expanding into greater detail with each section. Anyone following the book from start to finish and making the drawings for the sample project will be working on a two-story house with two-car garage. The

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July Meeting Photos



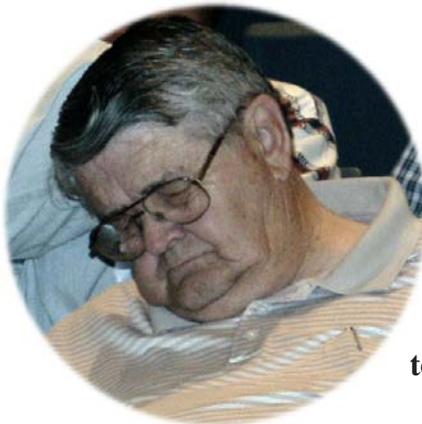
Firewalls & Wireless Overview and S...

Sigmund Fidyke
July 11, 2004

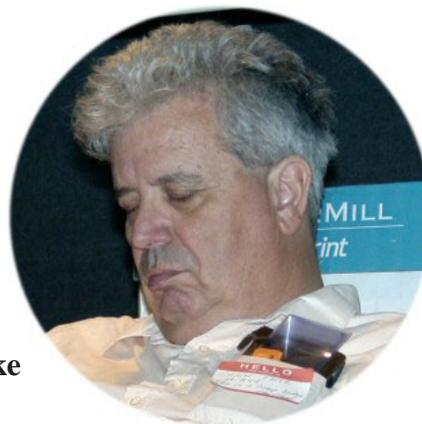


Wireless – Standard

- 802.11a**
 - 5 GHz band
 - Up to 54 Mbps
- 802.11b (WiFi)**
 - 2.4 GHz band
 - Up to 11 Mbps
- 802.11g**
 - 2.4 GHz band (compatible)
 - Up to 54 Mbps
- 802.11i**
 - Security improvements
- 802.11n**
 - For both 802.11a and 802.11g
 - Up to 108 Mbps

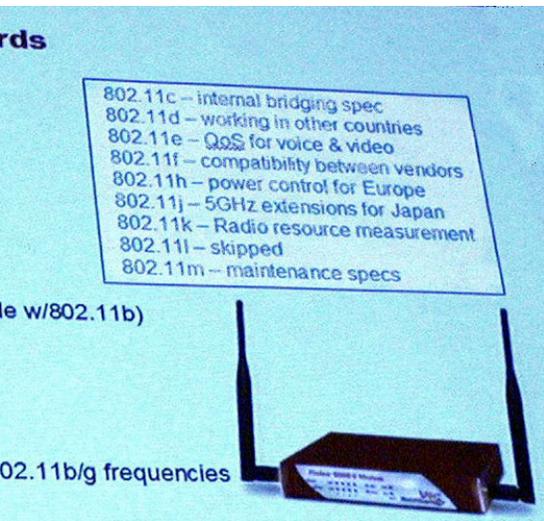


Warm
Summer
afternoons
make it tough
to stay wide awake

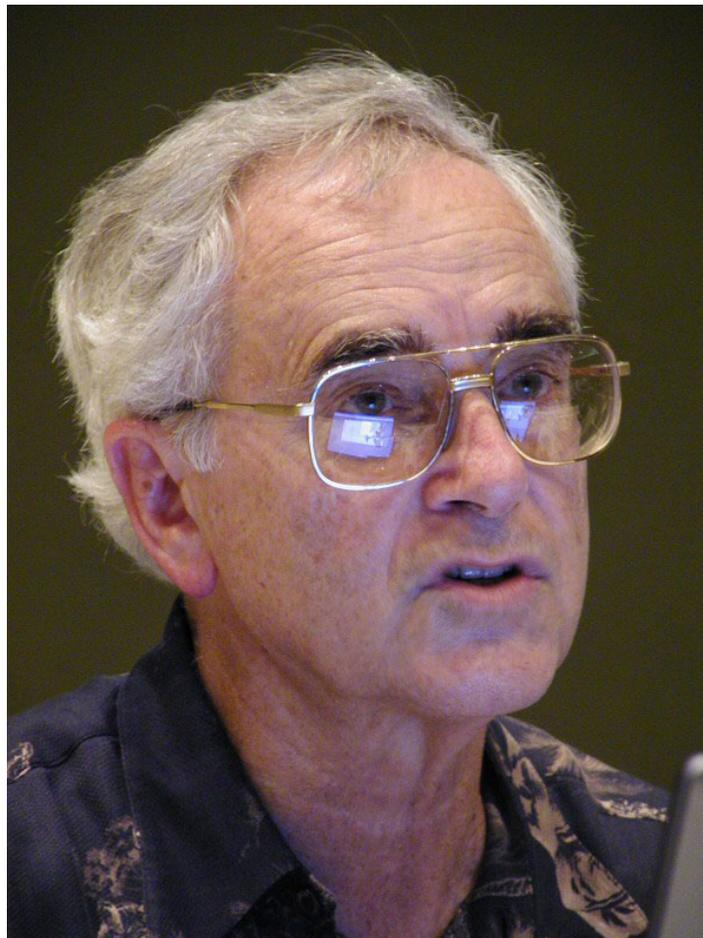




We can see lights in the new building now



Raffle prizes



Jim Morrison leading the Digital Image SIG, if this was CSI, we could zoom in and read the reflection

Photos by George Margolin and Jim Sanders

Architectural

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

interesting part about the design project is you are working with a fixed floor plan for a house throughout the book. The plans can be modified so the foundation you draw can be completed with a concrete slab, or with a full basement or half basement and with several different framing methods. The roof plans can be drawn with a gable, hip, or Dutch hip-style roof, and the framing details on how to draw each of them is presented. The roof of a house is very important detail because often the view of the roof from the street can make up fifty percent of the front elevation and a small change in the roof can and does totally change the appearance of the house. In each section the primary drawing method is on a drafting board however guidelines are given to assist if you are drawing with AutoCAD and each section also provides a list of web pages, which are applicable.

The 909 pages in the book are divided into thirteen sections with a total of forty-seven chapters. Each chapter presents the basic information, along with options and is supported with drawings and photographs. Sample drawings showing how the actual information is presented on a completed drawing with a full set of notes takes a lot of the mystery out of knowing what is expected in industry. Sections one and two in the book are the introduction chapters covering the profession, tools, and residential design principles. Sections three through seven are the design chapters for floor plans, roof plans and elevations. Sections eight through ten are the constructions chapters for framing methods, foundation plans and wall sections. Section eleven is on rendering and section twelve is on construction specifications. Section thirteen (chapter 44) is on drafting of commercial as opposed to residential construction plans.

The framing of a house varies depending on the property, part of the country, availability of local materials, and the weather. If the property is sloped and it is not desirable to cut a section for a slab floor, a different foundation will be required. On the west coast we normally encounter platform construction; however balloon framing is often used in the eastern states, or in sections of the house where the second floor is open to an area on the first floor.

A complete section on the selection of structural components is given which includes selecting the size of beams and joists required to span a given distance. This is probably a good time to point out that even if you have selected the proper size of material to make the house from you will probably need a signoff done by a structural engineer for the Building and Safety department acceptance. It is also important to remember that each state and county can and often does have their own building codes which are the rules you will have to make your drawings to, and not the sample examples in the book which are given as a starting point for the students.

There is a complete section about fireplace construction and the different firebox designs that can be used. The flue must be sized to match the open fire area of a fireplace and can be lined or unlined. Charts are provided to help select standard combinations. The book also stresses that a fireplace should

be energy efficient, and not just a decorative item.

The design of a roof plan layout depends on the style of roof used and the final look the architect desires. The style of roof chosen is based on the floor plan, the look of the area, snow load if you are in the mountains and the desire of the architect and the wishes of the owner of the home. A dormer is a window that opens out of the roof for a room that is constructed in the unused space of the attic of a home. Dormers can be constructed with a gable roof or a shed roof, the former being more decorative and the shed roof that is normally wider and might also be more functional.

The construction of a home needs a set of electrical drawings unless the house is very simple and the outlet and other details are sometimes added to the main floor plan. A complete set of symbols and sample completed electrical drawings with construction notes are provided in chapter 17. I could go on about the plumbing or the heating and ventilation chapters and the chapters on framing and foundations, but I am sure you get the idea that this book is very complete and gives the student the information necessary to make a set of drawings.

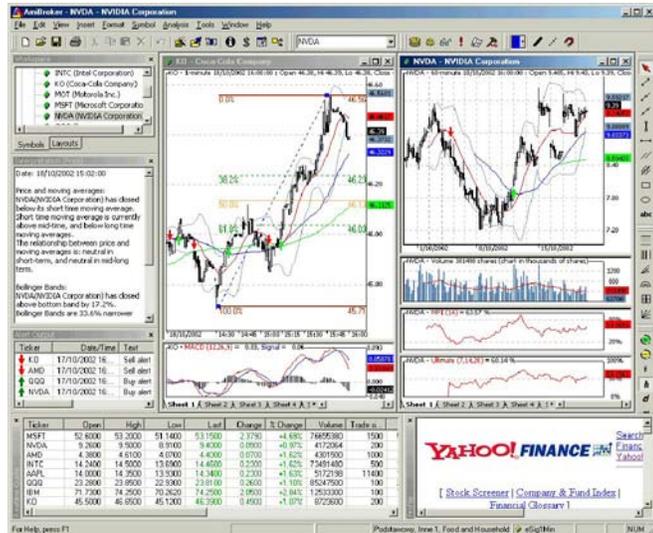
I recommend this book as excellent, and even though other books show you more information on framing and plumbing or the details of how to actually wire a house, none of them show you how to put the information down on paper or on the computer, and that is what you need if you are going to get approval to actually build the home of your dreams. The book is published in both paperback and hardback. I only found the paperback listed on <http://www.amazon.com> and it is priced at \$29.95 + shipping and the hardback edition, which I have, is really beautiful and has a list price of \$115.95; it is available for \$97.95. Amazon also listed used hardback books from \$67.91. Whichever one you choose you cannot go wrong because this is an excellent book. You will probably pay full price on other web sites or at your local bookstore if they carry a copy. ■

AmiBroker version 4.50 and AmiQuote version 1.55

By Lloyd Mizer, NOCCC

AmiBroker is a shareware program that provides an alternative to high cost charting programs. You can download and use the program for 30 days; you must then register the program to continue using it. AmiBroker does not give refunds so you should use the evaluation period to make sure it fits your needs before you purchase the program. It comes in two editions, the standard edition is for End Of Day (EOD) charting, and the

professional edition is used for real time charting. When you pay the registration fee you will receive the personalized keyfile by Email, this is the only delivery method supported by AmiBroker. AmiBroker was awarded 3rd place in Stocks&Commodities 2003 Readers' Choice contest in the "Standalone analytical software, \$200 or less" category.



I only used the standard edition so this review does not include an evaluation of the professional edition. I find this program reliable, easy to use, the documentation is excellent, the performance good and, for \$129.00, it is a real bargain. AmiBroker includes AmiQuote, a download program that allows you to download free EOD data from over 50 worldwide exchanges. It includes the most popular indicators and Bollinger bands, trend lines, Fibonacci retracements and time zones, parabolic stop-and-reverse.

When you register the program you will get the keyfile which allows database saving, and one year of free upgrades. You get access to the members only area with the weekly tips newsletter, monthly Stocks&Commodities Traders Tips. The latest private version of AmiBroker, extra AFL formulas for indicators, commentaries and trading systems are also included. It also contains a 50% discount on future upgrades and free technical support. AmiBroker 4.50 includes Portfolio-Level back testing and optimization. It includes multiple time frame support, window linking, and an enhanced reporting system.

AmiBroker provides an excellent set of documentation. There is an excellent troubleshooting guide, and a current online AFL reference. There is a web forum, a tips newsletter, frequently asked questions, trading systems mailing list, and starter's guide. There are video tutorials on how to install AmiBroker, how to setup new database with eSignal RT feed, how to use AmiQuote in manual mode, how to setup INTRADAY database using free data from Lycos, how to add a custom indicator, how to customize price chart, how to write your own exploration, how to use chart sheets and layouts. The eSignal RT feed is used with the professional edition. There is an Amibroker support message board at Yahoo and it is a great resource for new ideas,

trading formulas, custom indicators etc.

AmiBroker includes its own Formula Language (AFL) to allow users to develop and use their own custom indicators. It has an easy to use formula editor. Technical Analysis of Stocks & Commodities includes in the Traders' Tips section each month code to implement trading techniques in AFL. In the May 2004 issue the code discussed the coding of the Inverse Fisher Transform, by John Ehlers. This code is also available on line at the AmiBroker web site.

AmiBroker includes a scripting interface which allows you to control AmiBroker using JScript/VBScript so you can automate time consuming database tasks. The Import Wizard makes importing data easier, and the Portfolio Manager takes care of your investments. You can write your own DLLs and use external ActiveXes in custom formulas.

AmiBroker runs on the following Windows operating systems: Windows 95, Windows 98, Windows ME, Windows NT 4.x, and Windows 2000. If you are using Win95 you must have Internet Explorer 4.0 or higher installed on your computer.

The vendor's web site is <http://www.amibroker.com>. The standard edition single user license is \$129.00. The professional single license is \$199.00. ■

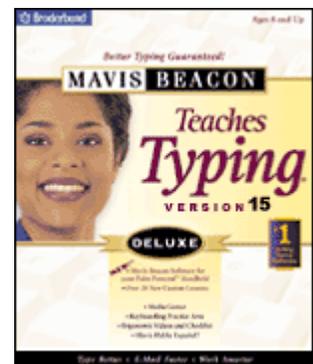
Mavis Beacon 15 Deluxe

By Charles Fete, NOCCC

Introduction

Mavis Beacon has been around, teaching typing for a long time. She doesn't look it, according to the photo on the box and inside the program. But she has changed her look ... and feel. If you have used an earlier version, you probably won't have any trouble recognizing the various components inside. But, you shouldn't have any problem with this program anyway, since it is aimed at an 8 year old who can't read well. Everything that is printed is spoken. It is a pleasant voice, but it is the same (female) voice all the time and you can grow weary of it ... like you would with a pleasant teacher you liked on the first day of school but grew bored of after your first major homework assignment.

Now, don't get me wrong. This IS a teaching tool, and repetition is the watchword with typing, but they do EVERYTHING you can imagine to hide the monotony of the repetitions. I



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think this teaching tool is even more perfect than when I ran into it (at version 8) over 7 years ago, perfect for the young AND the more mature user.

Installation

The installation was quick and easy. I put the CD in the drive and it started. That was all there was too it. It asked a few of the same old questions and then started to install, and didn't stop once during the entire installation. It took about 12 minutes, not bad considering my tiny 800 MHz laptop.

First contact

Mavis Beacon did not require me to reboot my computer. It opened with a scene entering a library and as we swept toward the check-in desk the music played in the background. It was as if John Phillip Sousa were playing in the foyer a lively march. I reached for my volume control, but then I realized that Mavis Beacon already provided one. As I was fiddling with it (I hate to read the instructions – it spoils the game.) I noticed that there was a large selection of other music to play. I choose "New Age" and immediately, soothing chords and riffs spewed from my speakers. If there were a larger repertoire within each category, I would just leave it playing all the time.

The sign-in desk has a folded card that said, "Click on your name, or if you don't see it, click 'new student.'" I clicked on new student and it asked a lot of personal questions, mostly about my age. I guess children wouldn't be annoyed, but the last category was "16 or older." I was tempted to lie, but I didn't have time to experiment. It then asked if I was using a standard keyboard, a 10-key pad or other and it asked several other questions which were designed to modify the lessons to come. When I was finished I was referred to a menu arranged horizontally across the very bottom of the screen. These asked my opinions on several options, where (I found out) I had the option to turn off the music completely. After tuning Mavis Beacon to suit my needs, I looked around the room. There was a door on the left that said "Media Center" and one on the right that said "Game room." The classroom had many computers in it, only one in the front row was close enough to read. When you move the mouse cursor over various items, there was the annoying "tisking" sound, designated in the options menu as a "sound effect." I guessed it was supposed to emulate the sound of an old fashions manual typewriter key striking the page. I soon turned it off, much to my regret. But I digress. Now there was no tisking sound, so Mavis Beacon began to change the colors slightly as I moved the cursor over the objects, a sort of visual "tisk." Now I noticed that the computer screen I could read was changing. It turns out that that is where Mavis puts her lesson plans and keeps track of your progress. Then I moved the cursor over Mavis herself. Shock! She changed the color of her dress, from dark blue to light blue. So I left clicked on her and she began to speak. She told me about the team that had worked on her program and a little about her history. This was a bit freaky, but, of course, it will appeal to kids.

Exploring the laboratory

Then I decided to go into the media room. There is a fully functional media center there with another TV-VCR that actually works. There was a rack of Tapes with titles like: "avoiding Carpel Tunnel syndrome" and "typing ergonomics." I clicked on one and the TV screen patiently told me that the original CD was not in my CD drive. It then waited for me to put it in. I could almost hear it drumming its digits while it waited impatiently for me to find the CD. I put it in the drive and immediately, the TV screen changed to "click Play to start." I did so and the movie began to play, complete with voice over, a voice which wasn't Mavis'!! Some man was explaining how important it was for people to stop their typing periodically and to get up to walk around, or roll their heads, or just to take a break. There were other objects in the room. A globe took me to Mavis Beacon's web site. There was a desk titled "Customize your lesson plans here." There was another computer that had "Practice Area" on the screen. There was also notebook on the desk that said "Ergonomic Checklist." Curious, I clicked it and it took me to another room where a Ford Crash-Test dummy was sitting at a student desk with a computer screen, keyboard and mouse on it. On the screen it said, "Welcome! Bob, the Ergo human will demonstrate home and office Ergonomics. With each example, Bob will illustrate three possible ergonomic positions. From these choices, choose the one that most resembles your typing environment. Let's get started!"

Not wanting to investigate further, I noticed a menu which crawled across the bottom of the screen. The left-most choice was "Goto" so I clicked it and I got another vertical menu that said: Personal coach/media center/Game Hallway/speed test/classroom.

Game-room Hallway

I went back in the classroom and through the game-room door. Inside were eight televisions with the opening sequence of eight games on them. When you roll over one of them with the mouse, it appears on the computer screen in the front of the room. When you click in the game you want, the screen changes to a full screen version (high res) of the game. The games were pretty trivial, but fun none the less. In the past I have found that these games are the real heart of the product. The kids will spend a couple of minutes learning the basics of typing, but they soon tire of the repetition. But they never tire of the games, especially, the underwater game, the driving game (for under 12 year olds) and the space adventure. Each requires the user to type a specific sequence of characters as fast as possible to win the game. A mistake makes the game harder, or loses points. For instance, in the driving game, you speed up and pass cars when you type quickly and accurately. But when you make a mistake, a bug splatters against the windshield, partially obscuring it. The reduced visibility makes the rest of the trip harder. I did like the games, but I tired of them in a few minutes. But I have seen children spend two to three hours on the games at one setting.

Other features

Well, there is only the Personal Coach and the practice areas to describe. The Personal Coach is a pop up menu in the lower

right of the screen. One of the secondary menu items was labeled "Fun stuff." The others were: Personal Coach/Speed Gauge/Finger Positions/Templates/Fun Stuff/Mavis Beacon 15/Mavis Online/Scheduler.../about/Exit. I clicked on "Fun Stuff" and there I found a separate window with a booklet with five tabs. The left-most one was "Emoticons." Curious, I went there and to my surprise, I found a list of about two hundred key-stroke sequences with their "meaning" written to the right. Here is a for instance: "M-), :X, :-M" is the sequence, and the label is "See no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil". Or another is q=-)-<-/: which has the label "skateboarder." The other four tabs were equally daffy, but more conventional. They were "Animals," "People," "Places," and "Things" and these were tables of clip arts done in .BMP format. For instance, to be topical, I'll put in a clip from Places:

Can you guess what it is?

Practice Area

The last place to visit was the Practice Area. This had 25 categories from which to choose, including importing from your hard disk. Under historical documents, I found "Patrick Henry's 'War is inevitable,'" a speech he made to the Continental Congress in March of 1775. The text is presented on the screen three lines at a time and the cursor is poised under the first character. A pair of ghost hands hovers over the keyboard in the exact position to press this key. For instance, the first character was T so the right ghost hand had its pinky finger on the right shift key and the left ghost hand was in standard position except that the forefinger was raised to reach the T key of the keyboard. I tried to out-type the ghost hands, but she was fantastic. (Did I forget to tell you, they were Mavis' hands? Complete with wedding ring!) But no matter how fast I typed, she was always one key ahead of me. It was rather frustrating. The hands move to simulate actual hand movements one would have to perform to reach hard to reach combinations of keys. As I got better at it I found it more fun. Then I noticed that there was a little meter attached to the computer by a wire. On it were the numbers 14. That was my typing speed. To my chagrin, I also noticed that the meter had three digits to display speed. I later found out that this is measure in adjusted words-per-minute. In other words, it subtracted for mistakes. And I had a lot of mistakes. The Practice area displays mistakes in red and my rendition of Patrick Henry's speech looked like an Enron 2003 Annual report spread sheet, e.g. mostly red.



Requirements

Any Windows operating system (versions are also on the Mac. I did not find Linux.)

I had 96 Meg of usable memory and it ran like a dog unless it was the only program running in my machine. It takes up about 70 Meg of disk space, plus the CD Rom is in the drive all the time. The mouse is supported.

Installation and my test system

The installation was the easiest I ever installed a program,



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although it took longer than I thought it would. It does not seem to be copy protected. You can select the drive and directory and it has a default configuration, but you can change it on-line at any time. I was using an 800 MHz GQ laptop with 96 Meg of effective memory and a 20 gig disk drive running Windows XP home SP1. I used the LCD built in.

Documentation and product support

There is a two-page pamphlet supplied but I didn't read it. There is extensive help on-line and at a web site and a substantial Help menu item with indexes and query box. I didn't find a trouble-shooting section, but then I didn't need one either. The reading level in the help files was like a PhD in English writing instructions for a sixth grade student. I did not try the Vendor this time, but in the past, I have used Broderbund's tech support. They are slow to respond but they are helpful and free. Their website has a "leave a question" box and receive a response by email. They have a huge FAQs section, also edited by that sixth grade teacher with the PhD in English.

About the Product

I only received a hard plastic case with a CD in it and a two page document tucked inside. I have heard that version 16 is already out and I saw it at Fry's in a 9 by 12 box for \$20 in the regular edition, and \$40 in the deluxe edition. I would recommend the product to anyone who has a non-typing person in the household, especially, if they are teachers.

What I didn't like about the product

I did not like the slowness of the initial response time after opening up the icon from the task bar. There is an exceedingly long time between when the image comes up on the screen and when the hot areas of the image are active so I could click the mouse. It was annoying.

My Final Comments

There is no trial period if you download the software from the vendor's web site, but there is a 60-day warrantee period during which you can return the product for a full refund. Broderbund can be reached at 500 Redwood Blvd., Novato, CA 94947 or at

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

Try Mavis Beacon. You'll like it! ■

Reviews Editor's Corner

If you are an NOCCC member and write a review for the Orange Bytes, you may keep the item. If you would like to review a specific product (software, hardware, or book) not listed here, please let me know and I will try to obtain it. If you are interested, please contact me:

Ted Littman

NOCCC Reviews Editor

- (714) 779-1936
- reviews@noccc.org

PRODUCTS AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW

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

Remember, **YOU GET TO KEEP THE HARDWARE, SOFTWARE, OR BOOK!** Currently available are the following products:

Boxed Programs and CDs

Norton Internet Security Pro 2004 – The latest update of Symantec's highly rated security suite containing AntiVirus Pro, Personal Firewall, Privacy Control, AntiSpam, & Productivity Control, with advanced Web tools. MSRP=\$70.

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.

Internet Cleanup 3.0 – From Aladdin Systems, this program blocks pop-ups and ads, erases data trails, deletes web bugs,

etc. In other words, it protects your privacy and removes the annoying stuff when surfing the Web. MSRP=\$30.

V2i Protector 2.0 – From PowerQuest/Symantec, this program provides desktop backup & disaster recovery by capturing and protecting real-time working states of systems & data partitions. MSRP=\$39.

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.

Easy Uninstall 2.0 – Aladdin System's easiest & most complete program uninstaller for Windows operating systems. Works with Windows 95/98/ME/NT. MSRP=\$25.

Spring Cleaning – One-click cleanup of old unwanted or unnecessary files; uninstall/backup/restore/archive/transport programs; and fix registry errors. This is the sequel to Aladdin Systems' Easy Uninstall and works with Windows XP and older operating systems. MSRP=\$30.

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. MSRP=\$30.

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.

SendPhotos Gold – "If you would like to e-mail photos without hassle, SendPhotos, from Novatix, is easy and fun to use." - PC Magazine, April 22, 2003. MSRP=\$20.

Money 2004 Deluxe – Microsoft's latest version of this excellent software for managing your finances and planning for the future. Received PC Magazine's "Editor's Choice" award. MSRP=\$60 less a \$20 mail-in rebate.

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.

Art Icons Pro 4 - A great solution for extracting, cataloging, and managing PC computer icons.

MSRP=\$40.

Currently Available Books

Inside AutoCAD 2005 – This book/CD takes a hands-on, in-depth approach to everything from the most common tasks and functions to advanced concepts with step-by-step tutorials showing you how to effectively use and apply AutoCAD 2005 to meet your needs. From New Riders. MSRP=\$45.

OnLine Investing Hacks – 100 industrial-strength tools & techniques for analyzing and managing online portfolios. Authored by award-winning financial author Bonnie Biafore and published by O'Reilly. MSRP=\$25.

Google: The Missing Manual – This book, by Sarah Milstein & Rael Dornfest from O'Reilly, is your guide to search techniques & tricks, must-have tools, little-known corners of Google, and webmastering. MSRP=\$20.

Hardware Hacking Projects for Geeks – This O'Reilly book is authored by Scott

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

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?

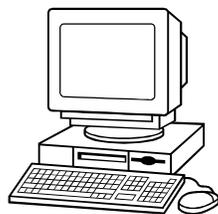
7. What don't you like about it?

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



In July, we had an interesting presentation on firewalls, network security and wireless from Sigmund Fidyke of WatchGuard Technologies, Inc. (Sigmund has presented for us several times before, from other companies such as Touchstone and KissCo.)

President Cathy Margolin ran the meeting. After making other standard announcements, she mentioned that on August 1, since our NOCCC meeting will be on the SECOND Sunday, August 8th, there will be a CLUB POOL PARTY and potluck at the Margolin residence. This has turned into a great annual event, started because Chapman University often has a scheduling conflict that requires our meetings on the second Sunday in August, instead of the first..

For the Pool Party – all members are invited, but it IS a pot luck and your favorite dish is welcome. And, though there will be hot dogs and hamburgers provided by the club, please RSVP so that we know what to provide for how many people. And while most attendees DON'T take advantage of the Margolin's *88 Degree* pool, it's there if you want it!

After announcements and random access, Cathy introduced Sigmund Fidyke who told us that his company, WatchGuard, produces hardware firewalls and wireless products. He started his presentation with the firewalls.

There are currently 3 types of devices that people use as firewalls -- and only one of them is a true firewall. First, there

are Network Address Translation (NAT) routers, which are in wide use among DSL and cable Internet users. Their main purpose is to allow a single registered Internet address to be shared among multiple computers in a small network. That way, all networked computers can share a single Internet connection.

The advantage of a NAT router is that it hides all networked computers' IP addresses. Its disadvantage in preventing it from being an effective firewall, is that it still keeps the network open to port-based attacks and spoofing/forged attacks. It also doesn't filter outbound traffic and readily responds to PING requests.

The second device type, that Sigmund covered, was the Stateful Packet Inspection (SPI) device. These are more intelligent than NAT routers. They maintain better security, usually do not reply to PINGs and provide some logging and some protection from Denial of Service (DoS) attacks. However, they still do not provide enough protection to be at the level of a true firewall.

SPI devices require more processing power to provide the level of protection that a true firewall provides. They maintain no outbound filtering. Also, some programs, such as Microsoft NetMeeting and some games, simply won't work with these devices.

Sigmund's third device category was "real" firewalls. These are PRIMARILY designed for security. They are more stateful, maintaining a sequence number and out-of-bound values for all packets. They require user authentication. They perform packet content inspection (helping ensure packets aren't delivering dangerous payloads). They provide support for special programs, such as NetMeeting and various games. They can perform extensive logging, when configured. They can also separate networks. For example, they can fully protect some networks and provide less protection on others, when projects require less protection. (These are called DMZ networks, playing off a DeMilitarized Zone analogy.)

Other security options allowed by a

"real" firewall are blocking of responses to PING requests as well as content filtering (such as adult and inappropriate content). The only obvious drawback with a "real" firewall is its cost -- usually \$400.00 - \$500.00 dollars, compared to \$50.00 - \$200.00 for a NAT or SPI device.

For finding a "real" firewall to maximize your network protection, Sigmund suggested looking for ICSA certification. This comes from a company that does not certify products easily. They must undergo rigorous testing to achieve this certification -- and the ICSA specification is always evolving to force firewall products to provide better and better protection.

Sigmund demonstrated the configuration of the WatchGuard Firebox X firewall. (All WatchGuard firewalls presently have the ICSA Firewall certification.) Like with many modern-day networking components, Sigmund just used a Web browser to access the firewall's configuration settings via TCP/IP.

In the firewall's configuration, the options for traffic-flow of each port were Allow, Deny or No Rule. With Allow, traffic through the port would always be allowed. With Deny, it would always be denied. With No Rule, usually the default, traffic would be allowed or denied, depending on certain conditions. These rules could also apply to either incoming or outgoing traffic, depending on your network requirements.

Sigmund responded to a number of audience questions, including the following

Wouldn't a "real" firewall slow things down in a network? No, because they usually have large processors and the power to move traffic along.

How do these hardware firewalls relate to software firewalls like ZoneAlarm? Most software firewalls, especially ZoneAlarm, do a great job. However, they apply to only one machine. They would need to be configured on EVERY computer on a network, creating a potential administrative nightmare. They also use the processing power of their host

machines, potentially draining its resources and slowing it down. For more than 2 computers on a network connected to the Internet, a hardware firewall is highly recommended.

There are so many strange terms and acronyms relating to this technology -- where can we learn what they mean? Our firewalls come with extensive documentation CDs. You can also learn several terms by searching for them with Google, AltaVista and several other search sites.

Sigmund also briefly discussed the wireless security products from WatchGuard Technologies, such as wireless firewalls.

He provided a short explanation of the IEEE wireless Ethernet standards, which include 802.11a through n, so far. The most commonly used standards on today's wireless devices are 802.11a (using the 5 GHz band, with speeds of up to 54 Mbps), 802.11b (2.4 GHz, up to 11 Mbps) and 802.11g (2.4 GHz, up to 54 Mbps). In 2005-2006, we can look forward to commercial availability of 802.11n, providing speeds of up to 108 Mbps!

A member asked why his network, with mostly 802.11g systems, slows down so much when 802.11b computers connect in. Sigmund said that, unfortunately, for compatibility reasons, 802.11g access points will automatically slow everyone down to 11 Mbps whenever 802.11b clients log on, to allow network access for everyone. Thus, upgrade all your 802.11b clients to 802.11g!

Next Meeting -- The Main meeting speaker at 1pm will be Joe Vezeau, one of our members who works for CompUSA, will talk about Digital Living, Home automation and wireless media around the house. Tired of wanting to connect everything? Joe will tell how he has done it in his house.

Our **New Technology** group at 9:30am will have a Photoshop Tutorial, since it is very hard to learn all the tricks! ■

Computer Aided Investors (CAI) SIG



By Bob Krishfield, NOCCC

Markets: We reviewed the progress of the markets, and it was depressing to see no growth in any of the indices since Jan 2004 (except the AMEX which rose 6%). Market patterns bounced up and down in 2 or 3 month cycles, defying opinions of experts that predicted a rising market this year. Some of the rising factors were supposed to be the economy, strong earnings, a lousy bond market, and an election year. Counter balancing these factors are rising interest rates, higher oil prices, gold speculation, news in Iraq, and uncertainty about the election. The CAI SIG vote is one good indicator that the market is continuing to heading sideways for at least another month. Investors might find some short term excitement in oil and energy.

Discussion: Reviewing charts on a daily basis or more frequently is a mainstay for technicians to keep up to date with changes and act upon them. Even with the best systems, traders still use charts in making their final trading decisions. Using web charts for your reviews can be a very economical solution, and making them easier to use makes web charts a viable method. A common practice is to save your favorite charting web sites in your browser. But take that to the next level, and save individual charts as favorites in a separate folder in your browser. This is easy to do. No programming is required. It uses the features of your web browser and customized charts from Finance.Yahoo.com or

BigCharts.com. The procedure begins with a setup of a new, separate folder in your browser favorites to save the charts. Next go to your charting website and make your customized chart. Before saving it as a favorite, click the right mouse button and display the chart in a new window. This gets rid of all the junk, and saves the customization as part of the chart's URL. Now save as a favorite, naming the chart as you wish. Repeat the process to generate the various views you use regularly, i.e. daily, weekly, monthly and 5 or 10day intraday (15min) charts. I use a separate folder for 6 mo market charts, intraday market charts, and another for stocks in my portfolio. This simple method of recalling web charts allows you to flip through many views quickly. If you want to make a set of charts into a web page, check out the article on my web site "Making Yahoo Charts with 1,2 and 3 views". (home.socal.rr.com/bobkrish/cainvestor.html)

Presentation: Hedging for Fast Track Users. This was an update to a presentation made in June with new information added from experience gained with the subject. The basic concept is to take a short position to offset potential losses in a long position when the market goes through a downturn. This strategy is important to fund holders that don't want to give up their long positions in favorite funds, which, if they sell, they may not buy back due to new trading restrictions and rules invoked by fund companies. The combination of a long and short combination reduces the volatility and drawdown, and may increase the risk adjusted performance if the ratio used is optimal. A short position is created using an inverse leveraged bear fund such as those offered by ProFunds, Rydex, or Potomac, who don't have short time trading restrictions.

One of the keys to success in this strategy is to find the right pairing of short funds with the primary fund, and computing the ratio of how much of a short position should be taken to yield

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Meeting Reports

CAI SIG

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desired results. If the pair of funds have a high negative correlation (a requirement), then there is an optimal ratio (such as 75% long, 25% short) that will maximize the risk adjusted return measured by the Ulcer Performance Index (UPI). Using the FastTrack database, and Trade, a DOS program for computing various trades, and trading signals, this process has been highly automated. A program developed by B. Robinson called ShortHedgeTime2a provides the script to perform the optimizations and backtesting to provide quantitative results for comparison. Results are feed back into FastTrack to visualize how short positions have increased the net returns using static hedges, timed hedges, and augmented timed hedges. The graphics of FastTrack allow one to evaluate the viability of the strategy. Initial results were poor until an improved timing signal was discovered and applied. This increased annual returns from the low 20% per year to over 30% per year with less risk from drawdowns. The briefing is available on the website identified above.

Our next subject to look into will be Options. We have a few experienced members who can give us pointers on this vast area of investing. As pointed out already, there is a subset of various option strategies that can be learned and practiced without a lot of risk, and there are many other strategies that are more risky and complex. Hopefully, we can identify the safe zone and look into tools and resources that will make options an important element in our CAI process. Next month Ted Williams plans to discuss features of Optionetics and if it is making him richer. ■

PC Q&A SIG

By Jim Sanders, NOCCC

The main topic at this month's SIG turned out to be Google once again.

Why does Google keep being a major

topic of interest? Simple, if you're into computers at all, Google is, or ought to be, a significant part of your computer experience. Yes, I know, there are other search engines out there, and in a few cases they may do something that Google doesn't do, or do it better than Google. Usually, with a few exceptions like specialized search engines, that's because the user hasn't really learned how to use Google.

It has been changing some, but Google is not big into holding your hand and leading you to what it thinks you want to look for. For those people that have never learned to ride a search engine without their training wheels, one of other engines may seem to do a better job.

Am I prejudiced? Well, yes! Have I spent hours researching the other engines and evaluating and tabulating the results, no, mere minutes and gut feel. Here is just a partial list from a search of the <http://www.amazon.com> website.

Google: The missing manual

Google Hacks: 100 Industrial-Strength Tips & Tools

Building Your Business with Google For Dummies

How to Use Google : The 30 Most Important Tips, Hacks and Tricks

Google for Dummies

Google: Pocket Guide

Winning Results with Google AdWords (One-Off)

How to Do Everything with Google

Getting The Search Engine Ranking Your Website Deserves: : META Tags Yield To Google's PageRank As Search Engine Standard [DOWNLOAD: PDF]

Learn Google

Google in 30 Pages or Less

"AHA!" I hear you exclaim, "You used the Amazon search engine!" Well DUH! I said with a few exceptions. Naturally, if I go to the Book section of Amazon and search for a reference to Google, I expect to find BOOKS, not Health Spas, not PDFs, not websites, BOOKS! Google knows how to look for the words "Google" and "book," but it does not know the definition of a "book." So if you search for "books on google" (without the quotes) you get 4,970,000 hits. If

you add keywords to your search that are usually only present if you are referring to a book, it cuts the number way down. For instance the advanced search criteria "google isbn copyright author distributed OR published "first printing" -http -pdf" cuts the hits down to 81.

Does having a lot of books published about Google mean it is popular, or does so many different things you need a book to explain them all, or so hard to use you need a book, yes, yes, no, (at least not to do a simple search). The home screen of Google itself has links to lots of help. Once there, try clicking on "more" or "advanced search." If you are so poor you can't afford a book, goto <http://www.netsquirrel.com/classroom/index.html>. This is Patrick Crispin's classroom resources page. It offers "Google 101" and "Google 201." Both are very good, FREE, Google tutorials.

If you want to check out other search engines, try: http://dir.yahoo.com/Computers_and_Internet/Internet/World_Wide_Web/Searching_the_Web/Search_Engines_and_Directories/

I will be at the South Western Users Group conference for the August meeting and am trying to find someone else to substitute as SIG leader. ■

Effective XML FROM PAGE 25

document but how to organize or model one. These rules are about subjects such as using an Object Oriented approach to class hierarchy, using a namespace for more modularity, and encoding binary data with Base64.

In the semantics section (rule 28 to 37), he talks about the different parts of an XML document program to use to make the document mean the right thing. He explains when and why to use standard DTDs and what API (Application Programming Interface) to use.

The implementation section (rule 38 to 50) focuses on interacting with pieces outside of the document. Should you use ASCII or unicode encoding? What kind of style sheets should you use?

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Should you continue using the relational database you already have working?

XML is being used more and more every day; some even say that XML will overtake HTML on the Internet. But no matter what the future brings, XML is definitely an important subject today.

This book with an XML reference is a killer combination that will help you tremendously. It should be on anybody's bookshelf who is doing any serious XML. The publisher is Addison-Wesley (Pearson Education), ISBN: 0-321-15040-6. The MSRP is \$44.99 USD. ■

E3 Games

FROM PAGE 9

nephew who's comic exploits to try to score with women are explored. It will be coming out this October for the PS2, Xbox, and PC. Of course it is not a game, but Microsoft for the Xbox and Sony for the Playstation 2 will be offering videoconferencing via their gaming networks coming this fall (marketing game consoles to parents and grandparents so they can see and talk to their kids/grandkids?).

There will be great games coming out this year, so many I could not comment on the great looking games already announced for next year. The problem may be you will have too many good ones to choose from.

Timothy Everingham is CEO of Timothy Everingham Consulting in Azusa, California. He is also Vice Chair of the Los Angeles Chapter of ACM SIGGRAPH, the largest chapter of the Association for Computing Machinery's (ACM) Special Interest Group on Computer Graphics and Interactive Techniques and one of Southern California's significant professional organizations within the entertainment and media industries. He is a member of North Orange County Computer Club. Further information can be found at: <http://home.earthlink.net/~teveringham> ■

\$1.1B California Microsoft Settlement

July 8, 2004, a California judge has finalized approval of a \$1.1 billion settlement of claims against software giant Microsoft Corp by California consumers, for monopolizing the software market.

Superior Court Judge Paul Alvarado endorsed a plan giving California consumers the right to file claims to receive a partial refund of the cost of software licenses on any Microsoft Windows operating system or specific software applications on computers they bought between 2/18/95, and 12/15/01.

If a consumers bought just one or two computers during that period, the refund may be as little as \$30 to \$50. But for businesses that bought hundreds or thousands of Windows-powered computers, the refunds can add up to thousands of dollars.

Judge Alvarado rejected numerous objections to the settlement by Microsoft attorneys. He concluded that the settlement amount "constitutes fair, reasonable and adequate compensation."

"The amount of the settlement benefits available in California on a per license basis far exceeds the amount available to class members in other settling states, often by a factor of five or six times," he stated.

The California suit was one of many such actions brought by several states against the Redmond, Wash.-based Microsoft Corporation. They coincided with a federal court ruling in 2000 that Microsoft operated as an illegal monopoly under U.S. antitrust laws for using unfair business practices to dominate the software market.

According to the San Francisco law firm Townsend, Townsend and Crew, over, 600,000 claims have been filed in California out of a total estimated eligible pool of 14 million consumers.

Consumers can still file claims. Call 1-800-960-5660 or go to <http://www.microsoftcalsettlement.com>. ■

Products

FROM PAGE 22

Fullam who has been "hacking" hardware since he was ten years old. It contains 15 amazing projects that range from the truly useful to the legendary and wacky. MSRP=\$30.

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.

Absolute Beginner's Guide to Creating Web Pages, 2nd Ed. – This book authored by Todd Stauffer from Que Publishing teaches you how to design & build your own Web sites by showing you the fundamentals first and then building on that foundation with a hands-on tutorial approach. MSRP=\$19.

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.

Murach's C# - a .net Developer's Guide – Authored by Joel Murach & Doug Lowe and published by Mike Murach & Associates, this 750-page book shows you how to use Visual Studio, C#, and the .NET classes to develop Windows applications; how to use business classes, inheritance, and interfaces the way they're used in the real world; and how to develop professional database applications with ADO.NET. MSRP=50.

C++ GUI Programming with Qt 3 – The first official Troll tech guide to Qt programming by Jasmine Blanchette & Mark Summerfield from Prentice Hall. MSRP=\$45.

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.

Advanced UNIX Programming, 2nd Ed. – The classic guide to UNIX programming

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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	CESIG@singularitytechnology.com	714-968-7264
Hardware Essentials	Science	109	2:30	Herbert Wong	ocug@singularitytechnology.com	714-968-7264
Linux for Desktop Users	Wilkinson	111	9:00	Bob C. Ray	bobcray@pacbell.net	714-634-7520
Linux for Server Administrat	Wilkinson	111	10:00	Bob C. Ray	bobcray@pacbell.net	714-634-7520
Linux Programming Concepts	Wilkinson	111	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 Technology	Irvine Hall	—	9:30	George Margolin	Inventor@pobox.com	949-645-5950
Office Suites	Wilkinson	210	11:15	John Heenan	jc_heenan@csi.com	714-998-7660
PC Q&A	Irvine Hall	—	11:15	Jim Sanders	jsanders@ligasmicro.com	714-636-5523
Understanding OS's	Wilkinson	111	11:15	Charlie Moore	mooreca@adelphia.net	714-529-9071
Visual Programming I	Science	109	8:30	Anson Chapman	aeccrcss@hotmail.com	909-860-9515
Visual Programming II	Science	109	9:00	Anson Chapman	aeccrcss@hotmail.com	909-860-9515
Visual Programming III	Science	109	10:00	Anson Chapman	aeccrcss@hotmail.com	909-860-9515
Visual Programming IV	Science	109	11:15	Anson Chapman	aeccrcss@hotmail.com	909-860-9515
Please report SIG changes to				Herbert Wong, Jr.	ocug@singularitytechnology.com	714-968-7264

Benefits

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

There's also an optional Support & Maintenance contract that gives tech support via phone & email, as well as free upgrades for one year. That contract is \$28 (down from \$35) for each license. If any multiple licenses are needed there will be additional discounts available as well. Please order your software from Beth Sautter. She can be contacted at: Beth Sautter bsautter@globalscape.com

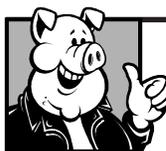
Business Development Manager, GlobalSCAPE, 800.290.5054 x114

VOPT XP – New Fast Defragmentation Program, is now out and will work with Win 95, 98, Me, 2000, and XP by Golden Bow software (<http://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.

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.

Novatix Corporation

ExplorerPlusT – The ultimate file management program. ExplorerPlus™ provides a complete solution to all your file management needs. Tackle even the most demanding file management tasks like a pro! See UG pricing at: <http://www.novatix.com/purchase?P4774C> ■



Pig SIG Open To ALL

The Cafeteria in Argyros Hall is closed this summer. Check the information desk to see if a different location has been chosen for the Pig Sig.

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!

NOCCC Help Line

The Help Line is in the true spirit of NOCCC, which is to help others to learn more about computers. The following is a list of Help Line Volunteers. The list is organized by the topic that each volunteer is willing to help you with. Please help us to keep this list current. Call or e-mail editor@noccc.org with additions, deletions, or corrections.



- AI
- Amiga
- Apple
- Apple II
- Apple/Educator
- C/C++
- Computer Boards
- Corel Draw
- Excel(IBM)

- Excel(Mac)
- Macintosh
- Macintosh
- Memory/Interrupts
- Modem Hardware
- Modem Software
- Neural Networks
- OS/2
- Pagemaker 6.0/6.5
- PC, Beginners
- PC Hardware
- Quicken 6.0
- Quickbooks 5.0
- Quicken 2000,2001

- Quickbooks

- Quicken Home & Business 2000, 2001

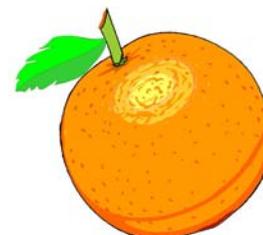
- Powerpoint
- Realtime Control
- Robotics
- Tcl/Tk
- Unix
- Windows 9X
- Windows 9X
- Windows 2000
- Word
- Word
- WordPerfect

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: <http://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

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25

is authored by Marc Rochkind & published by Addison-Wesley. MSRP=\$45.

Linux Programming by Example—This book teaches Linux programming by showing & explaining well-written programs drawing from both V7 UNIX and GNU source codes. Authored by Arnold Robbins (who wrote UNIX in a Nutshell), the book is from Prentice Hall. MSRP=\$40.

Understanding the Linux Virtual Memory Manager—This book/CD, authored by Mel Gorman, presents both theoretical foundations & a line-by-line commentary in unprecedented detail. It covers everything from physical memory description to out-of-memory management. Published by Prentice Hall, MSRP=\$60.

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.

Managing Linux Systems with Webmin—System Administration & Module Development by Jamie Cameron from Prentice Hall. MSRP=\$45.

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.

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.

Know Your Enemy - Learning About Security Threats, 2nd Ed.—Max Kilger & Rob Lee provide an unrivaled "intelligence report" on those who use the Internet for destructive purposes plus an in-depth guide to honeynets—high-interaction honeypots designed to capture extensive information on exactly how your enemies operate so you can protect your systems from them. Book + CD from Addison-Wesley. MSRP=\$50.

Exploiting Software: How to Break Code—This book has the details you need to know about how attackers find software holes and exploit them—details that will help you secure your own systems. Authored by Greg Hoglund & Gary McGraw and pub-

lished by Prentice-Hall. MSRP=\$50.

DEFEND.I.T.—Security by Example—Aimed at information-security professionals and network administrators, this book shows you how to tap the best computer-security practices and industry standards to deter attacks and better defend networks. Written by Ajay Gupta & Scott Laliberte and published by Addison-Wesley. MSRP=\$35.

Secure Architectures with OpenBSD—Written by Brandon Palmer & Jose Nazario, this book is the insider's guide to building secure systems using OpenBSD. It is a how-to for system and network administrators who need to move to a more secure operating system as well as a reference for those users who want to fully exploit every feature of the system. From Addison-Wesley. MSRP=\$35.

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The Official Samba-3 How To and Reference Guide—This book is part of Bruce Perens' "Open Source" series. Authored by John Terpstra & Jelmer Vernooij, this is the practical, authoritative, step-by-step guide to cutting IT costs with Samba-3. From Prentice Hall. MSRP=\$50.

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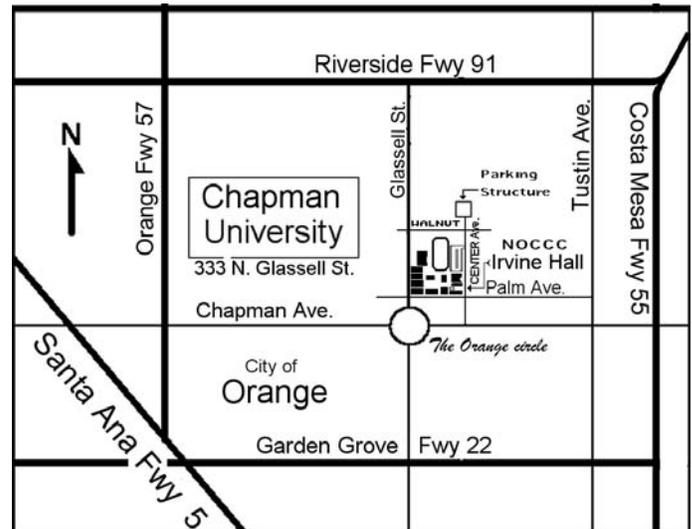
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