

Orange Bytes

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

Vol 33 • No 1

JANUARY 2008

Main Meeting, January 6th

The presentation and speaker have not been finalized. Members will be e-mailed when it is available.

More meeting details on page 3

President's Message is on page 25 of this issue.

Other News and Events

eWaste collections and the NOCCC Consignment Table will be available during the January and February 2008 meetings.

Final NOCCC Library Book Sale Jan. 6th.

More information on pages 5, 23.

NOCCC Meeting - January 6th

9:00 a.m.

AutoCAD..... Science 203

Computer Aided Investing Wilkinson 221

The January effect and other special New Year conditions.

Linux for Desktop Users Wilkinson 117

Visual Programming Science 111

Visual Basic and Visual Basic Script.
Visual C++ and Visual J++ for beginners.

10:30 a.m.

AmiBroker SIG Wilkinson 221

New code developments and issues.

Digital Photography Irvine Hall

Hands on tabletop photo shoot with Q&A.

Linux for Advanced Users Wilkinson 117

Computer Security Science 203

Rogue Anti-Spyware or on designing a sink-box with Cisco routers.

Understanding Operating Systems .Science 111

Help with DOS, Windows, OS/2, etc.

12:00 Noon

PIG SIG..... Argyros Cafeteria

Get together and talk during lunch. Held in the Argyros cafeteria.

12:30 p.m.

Hardware Essentials Science 109

Biometric Device Technology.

OS/2 News and Installation..... Science 203

PC Q & A Irvine Hall

The new features in NERO 8 will be discussed.

2:00 p.m. Main Meeting, Irvine Hall

NOCCC website:
<http://www.noccc.org>

Future Meeting Dates in 2008
Feb 3, Mar 2, Apr 6



SWUG 1st Prize in 2004, 2005, 2006,

APCUG 2nd Prize in 2003, 2004, 2005

Founded April 1976

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Celebrating 31 years of “Friends Helping Friends”

Orange Bytes Staff

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Copy Editor - *Does final proofing of Bytes for typos and misspellings.*

Ted Littman • (714) 779-1936.. reviews@noccc.org

Help Line - *Maintains the volunteer list, and the software and hardware subjects for which they are willing to answer questions.*

Ted Littman • (714) 779-1936 tedlit@roadrunner.com

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The following positions are available:

Contributing Editors – *Write articles for the newsletter.*
Open

Commercial Swap Meets - *Distributes the Orange Bytes newsletter and NOCCC material at swap meets.*

Open

Commercial Advertising - *Obtains ads from vendors for the newsletter.*

Open

Classified Advertising - *Obtain members' computer-related non-commercial ads for the newsletter.*

Open

January 6th Meeting Preview

COMPUTER AIDED INVESTING SIG (Special Interest Group)

9:00 a.m., Wilkinson 221. We will look at the market for the January effect, watch for other special New Year conditions and continue with the presentation on Options to hedge stocks.

AMIBROKER SIG 10:30 a.m., Wilkinson 221. We will look at some new code developments, review some coding issues from the bulletin boards and gather feedback on subjects and areas members would like more detailed instruction and demonstrations.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY SIG 10:30 a.m. Irvine Hall. We will have a hands-on tabletop photo-shoot with Q&A. Bring your camera. I think you will really like this meeting.

COMPUTER SECURITY SIG 10:30 a.m. Science 203. Rogue Anti-Spyware (like AntiVirGear or SpyShredder) or on designing a sink-box with Cisco routers.

HARDWARE ESSENTIALS SIG 12:30 p.m., Science 109. Biometric Device Technology. There are a few devices that make securing your computer a matter of detecting your body parts rather than testing your memory for a password. We'll take a look at some for the home and some for security at airports and other locations.

PC Q & A SIG 12:30 p.m., Irvine Hall. The new features in NERO 8 will be discussed. Plus other questions answered and problems solved.

MAIN MEETING

2:00 p.m., Irvine Hall - On January 6, 2008, we will, hopefully, have a presentation of interest. Several contacts have been made, but no commitment gained as of this writing, Dec. 12th.

If you have a suggestion or will volunteer to make a presentation, please contact Herb Wong ASAP.

MEMBER-ONLY PRIZES Wear your NOCCC Membership Badge and get a free ticket!

- 1) Hardware: D-Link 802.11 Wireless Cordless Adapter
- 2) Book: *Advanced UNIX Programming, 2nd Ed.*
- 3) *Plus more!*

THE CLUB RAFFLE items this month are:

- 1) Hardware: D-Link Wireless N Router
- 2) Book: *The Craft of System Security Software*
- 3) *Plus more!*

Attention NOCCC Members

Help your club. Sponsor a new member by January 6, 2008 and be rewarded. New members get a cut-rate membership fee their 1st year. See page 26 for details and an application coupon.

SIG Leaders list

Contact the SIG leaders by e-mail, preferably, rather than by telephone.

SIG	BLDG	RM.	TIME	LEADER	E-MAIL	PHONE
AmiBroker	Wilkinson	..... 221.....	10:30.....	Bob Krishfield	bobkrish@socal.rr.com	(714) 532-3096
AutoCAD	Science.....	203.....	9:00.....	Joe Mizer	joescrouge@earthlink.net	(909) 688-9848
Computer Aided Investing	Wilkinson	..... 221.....	9:00.....	Bob Krishfield	bobkrish@socal.rr.com	(714) 532-3096
Computer Security	Science.....	203.....	10:30.....	Dave Keays	davekeays@sbcglobal.net	(714) 348-9096
Digital Photography	Irvine Hall.....	—	10:30.....	Larry Klees	lklees@dslextreme.com	(714) 879-6405
Hardware Essentials	Science.....	109.....	12:30.....	Herbert Wong	president@noccc.org	(714) 968-7264
Linux for Desktop Users	Wilkinson	..... 117.....	9:00.....	Bob Ray.....	bobcray@pacbell.net	(714) 634-7520
Linux for Advanced Users	Wilkinson	..... 117.....	10:30.....	Bob Ray.....	bobcray@pacbell.net	(714) 634-7520
OS/2 News and Installation	Science.....	203.....	12:30.....	Steve Schiffman	schiffman@attglobal.net	
PC Q&A	Irvine Hall.....	—.....	12:30.....	Jim Sanders.....	jsanders@ligasmicro.com	(714) 544-3589
Understanding OS's	Science.....	111.....	10:30.....	Charlie Moore	mooreca@adelphia.net	(714) 529-9071
Visual Programming	Science.....	111.....	9:00.....	Anson Chapman.....	aecrcss@hotmail.com	(909) 860-9515
				Please report SIG changes to Herbert Wong, Jr	president@noccc.org	(714) 968-7264

Membership 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 NOCCC website, www.noccc.org. Old issues from the past few years are also available without any access restrictions. Send any e-mail address changes to membership@noccc.org so you can get the jump on all the great reviews and articles!

User Group Offers - Software

AskSam - SurfSaver Pro 6, normally \$29.95, you can get it for \$19.95. AskSam 6 Standard + SurfSaver Pro 6 is a flexible and powerful way to organize information and create searchable databases from Web pages, Email, PDF files, texts, and Word documents. Normally \$149.95 but you can get it for \$69.95 or the Pro version for \$99.95. You can also download a 30-day trial version at www.asksam.com/usergroupspecial/.

Corel - Use the following link for special pricing for user group members: www.corel.com/specialusergroups

- WordPerfect Office X3 for \$159
- CorelDRAW Graphics Suite X3 for \$179
- Corel Painter IX.5 for \$229
- Paint Shop Pro Photo XI for \$59
- Snap Fire Plus for \$29

Laplink - www.laplink.com - Laplink Everywhere 4 is a great remote computer control and access program. PCmover is a program for moving all of your applications, settings, and data files from an old PC to a new PC. Get Laplink software for 30% off, use coupon code APCUG.

Techsmith - You can get SnagIt, a screen capture program, and Camtasia Studio, to quickly record, edit and publish multimedia demos and presentations, bundle for \$269, a \$50 savings. Go to: www.techsmith.com/store/order/bundle.asp and use promotion code **PRESBN05**.

User Group Offers - Books and Magazines

O'Reilly Books - Get 35% off all books and PDFs from O'Reilly, No Starch, Paraglyph, PC Publishing, Pragmatic Bookshelf, SitePoint, or Syngress books you purchase directly from O'Reilly. Just use code **DSUG** when ordering online, www.oreilly.com/store/, or by phone, (800) 998-9938. Free ground shipping on orders \$29.95 or more in the US. If for any reason you are not completely satisfied with your purchase, return it to O'Reilly and get your money back (www.oreilly.com/oreilly/cs/guarantee). A return shipping label is included with every direct purchase and directions are posted online in case you misplace it.

Peachpit Press Books Discount - Get 30% off by joining the Peachpit Club. Go to 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 log 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.

Pearson Education Products including Prentice Hall Professional, Addison-Wesley Professional, IBM Press, Exam Cram, Que Publishing, and Cisco Press. Get 35% off list price by purchasing directly from the publisher combo site: www.informit.com/join. Sign in or create an account. Enter the membership code "USERGROUP" (all caps). Select your items and check out. You are required to register and apply the code once, but you must be logged in to receive the special pricing.

Smart Computing - www.smartcomputing.com For each paid membership (subscription to either Smart Computing or Computer Power User) via personalized membership forms or by telephone, the NOCCC will receive one credit. When the NOCCC has accumulated 5 credits, Smart Computing will donate one subscription to us (Great to use as a raffle prize or a "thank you" to a member, etc.) Call customer service at (800) 733-3809 and tell them you are with the North Orange County Computer Club. If you go to their website to subscribe, click on User Groups and there is a drop down menu with our group's name on it.

FREE AD SPACE

If you are an NOCCC member, and have a computer-related, non-commercial ad that you would like to have placed in this newsletter or on the NOCCC web site, visit the Classified Ads section of the NOCCC website, www.noccc.org or contact the Publications Chairman at publications@noccc.org.

Consignment Table and e-Waste Collection January and February 2008

The Consignment Table will be set up during the January and February 2008 meetings. E-Waste will also be collected by Omni Technics, Inc.

- 1) 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) **You can fill out a user list and item tags at the table or on the club's web site:** www.noccc.org/membrshp/consign.html
The user list and each tag must contain:
 - Seller's name
 - Seller's NOCCC membership number
 - Item name and a short description
 - Asking price
- 4) All items and/or money may be picked up by the seller at any time, but no later than 2 p.m. on the day of sale. Any items and/or money not picked up by 2 p.m. will become the property of NOCCC and will be subject to disposal at the Club's discretion.
- 5) California disposal laws have made it illegal to put monitors and computers in the regular trash. If you have a display or computer that doesn't sell, you must agree to pick these items up. The club has no storage room available for unsold items.
- 6) 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.

NOCCC Officers

The area code for the following phone numbers is 714 unless noted.

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Herb Wong..... 968-7264 president@noccc.org

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Secretary

Open

Treasurer

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Herb Wong..... 968-7264 president@noccc.org

Volunteers, Committees, and Projects

Business Solicitations/Lecture Series

Open

Consignment Table

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Classified Advertising (non-commercial, members only)

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Commercial Advertising

Open

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Membership Database

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Membership Chairman

Open

SIG Coordinator

Herb Wong..... 968-7264 president@noccc.org

Programs/Speakers Coordinator

Open

Public Relations

Else Olovsson..... 832-3155 eolovsson@msn.com

University Liaison

Herb Wong..... 968-7264 president@noccc.org

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 subjects. 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 (714) 779-1936 or e-mail Ted Littman at helpline@noccc.org with additions, deletions, or corrections. *Note that the names of our volunteers are only available in print versions of the Bytes.*



Apple II	Gerry Resch	714-772-6667	gerry@gerryresch.com
AutoCAD	Joe Mizer	951-688-9848	joescrouge@earthlink.net
C/C++	James C. Smith	949-348-2621	james@reflexive.net
CPU Aided Investing	Bob Krishfield	714-532-3096	bobkrish@socal.rr.com .
Computer Boards	Martin LaRocque	562-697-4318	6 - 9 p.m.
Computer Security	Dave Keays	714-348-9096	davekeays@sbcglobal.net
Corel Draw	Bill Thornton	714-348-7989	x@1215.org
Corel Draw	Larry Klees	714-879-6405	lklees@dslextreme.com
Desktop Publishing	John Donan	714-633-4084	jfdonan@sbcglobal.net
Digital Photography	Larry Klees	714-879-6405	lklees@dslextreme.com
Excel	Gerry Resch	714-772-6667	gerry@gerryresch.com
GPS Navigation	Bob DeWolf	714-879-8269	rsdewolf@adelphia.net
Linux	Bob Ray	714-634-7520	bobcray@pacbell.net (email Qs pref)
Lotus 1-2-3	Gerry Resch	714-772-6667	gerry@gerryresch.com
Macintosh	Claire Lemire	714-292-9772	clemire@ucdavis-alumni.com
Memory/Interrupts	Martin LaRocque	562-697-4318	6 - 9 p.m.
Microsoft Office	John Heenan	714-998-7660	heenanjc@sbcglobal.net
Neural Networks	Ron Osborn	714-985-0535	
OS/2	Rollin White	562-493-1674	9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
PC Hardware	Ron Osborn	714-985-0535	
PCs for Beginners	Ron Osborn	714-985-0535	
Pinnacle Studio	Bill Trammell	714-998-3976	wtramm710@aol.com
Photoediting	John Donan	714-633-4084	jfdonan@sbcglobal.net
Photoediting & shop	Larry Klees	714-879-6405	lklees@dslextreme.com
Photoshop	Bill Trammell	714-998-3976	wtramm710@aol.com
PowerPoint 2003	Vivian Carroll	714-996-1409	< 8:30 p.m. vcvc@aol.com
Programming	James C. Smith	949-348-2621	james@reflexive.net
QuickBooks - all ver.	Linda Russell	909-949-4930	4 - 9 p.m. qbqueen@verizon.net
Qbooks 5 & Quicken	Jay Chaisson	714-997-2707	after 6 p.m.
Tcl/Tk & UNIX	Bob DeWolf	714-879-8269	rsdewolf@adelphia.net
Vista	Jim Sanders	714-544-3589	jsanders@ligasmicro.com
Windows 9X & XP	John Heenan	714-998-7660	heenanjc@sbcglobal.net
Wireless	Jim Sanders	714-544-3589	jsanders@ligasmicro.com
Word 2003	Vivian Carroll	714-996-1409	< 8:30 p.m. vcvc@aol.com
WordPerfect	Ron Osborn	714-985-0535	

Ted's Stuff

By Ted Littman, NOCCC Reviews Editor

In this column, I share with my fellow NOCCC members and other readers, links to interesting and useful web sites as well tips and ideas on computing that I come across. **If you would like to include your gems or make comments, please e-mail them to me at tedsstuff@roadrunner.com** for publication in this column, with appropriate attribution of course.



A Free Online Bill-Paying Service

This is an interesting free program. It saves your passwords to your computer. It organizes your payments to Banks, Credit Cards, Insurance, Memberships, Taxes, etc. It also auto-fills forms and saves your shopping receipts all securely. It works with Windows XP & Vista operating systems and I.E. and Firefox browsers. CNET gave it a rating of 4 stars.

- Bill Pay Assistant
- Shopping Assistant
- Password Assistant

www.billeo.com/billeo/logout.do?sitenam=billeo&randomid=5143

Microsoft

The Long-Term Impact of User Account Control

<http://go.microsoft.com/?linkid=7374752>

If you use Vista, here's a frank discussion about what UAC is, what it is not, and how it should affect the way you manage systems. This article by Dr. Jesper M. Johansson in Technet Magazine says: *"UAC was not deliberately designed to be the most annoying feature in the history of Windows. Rather, this set of technologies was designed to set us on a path where users do not need to expose their systems to potentially malicious code as frequently as they have during the past few years."*

Top Tips for Word (versions 2000, 2002, & 2003)

Here you will find an excellent collection of "how-to's" to improve your productivity.

<http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/word/HA010963811033.aspx>.

Mouse Pointer

You can change the default mouse-pointer scheme to increase visibility on your monitor as follows: Click the **Start** menu icon, open the **Control Panel**, Select **Printers & Other Hardware/Mouse**, then the **Mouse Properties** dialog box, open the **Pointers** tab, and make a new choice from the **Scheme** list. There are lots of other options that you can select for your mouse other than the default one that Windows XP provides.

Windows Secrets Newsletter

Carry a Flash Drive Instead of a Laptop

Scott Dunn suggests that you can avoid lugging a laptop everywhere by installing your favorite apps on a USB flash drive and running them on any computer you want:

<http://windowssecrets.com/comp/071011>.

Software Inspector Finds Many Unpatched Apps

Scott Dunn discusses the danger of having unpatched (for security) software, how to check your system, and how to fix it. Notable is his recommendation on using the online checker at Secunia Software:

<http://windowssecrets.com/comp/070906>

The Secunia Software Inspector will inspect your operating system and software for insecure versions and missing security updates. A default inspection normally lasts 5-40 seconds, while a thorough inspection may take several minutes. Try it at

http://secunia.com/software_inspector/?task=load.

I did and was amazed at all the "old" versions of my software that hadn't been removed by updates.

Bob Rankin's Tourbus Newsletter

Downgrading Your Operating System

If you're running Windows Vista, are unhappy, and looking for a way to go back to Windows XP, here are some tips to take the pain out of that process without cost.

http://askbobrankin.com/vista_to_xp_downgrade.html

Steve Bass' Recommendations

Buy American-made Products

If you are fed up with all the products sold in the US but made in foreign countries, especially China, with cheap labor (and maybe poor or toxic materials), check out <http://www.americansworking.com/> for lists of stuff made here. Not everything, but a start!

AdBlocker Software

Steve says: "I tested them all. It's something you don't want to do. (I did all the testing a virtual machine using VMWare.) Between you and me, the only blockers I'd bother with are Ad Muncher (\$30), Ad Annihilator (\$30), Quero Toolbar 4, and for Firefox users, Adblock Plus. Read the article at www.pcworld.com/article/id,139515/article.html.

Free SnagIt and Camtasia Studio Software

You can download the "demo" version of SnagIt 7.2.5 (one version behind the current one) at

<ftp://ftp.techsmith.com/pub/products/snagit/725/SnagIt.exe>. Then, you need to register it by requesting a software key at

<http://www.techsmith.com/snagit/ukdn.asp> to receive a license to make it fully functional. Similarly, Camtasia 3.1.3 can be downloaded at

<http://download.techsmith.com/camtasiastudio/enu/312/camtasiaf.exe>

and registered at <http://www.techsmith.com/camtasia/pepls.asp>. SnagIt is the greatest screen capture program and Camtasia is a

complete professional solution for recording, editing and sharing high-quality screen videos.

A Handy Copy-and-Paste Tip

Do you often grab text or the URL from a Web page and copy it into a Word document? If you do an ordinary Paste (Ctrl-V), you'll not only get the text but you'll also get the fonts and the formatting junk from the Web page.

Here's an easy workaround. In Word, click Edit, *Paste Special*, and click on "Unformatted text." You'll paste text with no formatting at all.

Creative News Weekly

Software and Services that Are Free -- and Not Scams

From file transfers to audio editors, conference calls to color explorations, here are free services and programs you won't regret trying (from Anne-Marie Concepcion, DesignGeek e-zine):

www.creativepro.com/story/feature/25369.html?cprose=daily.

The Truth About Resolution

What is resolution? Can you change it without altering image quality? How much do you need? This is an excellent article by Lesa Snider King explaining the basics as well as such important issues as how to change resolution without altering image quality:

www.creativepro.com/story/howto/25527.html?cprose=daily

PC World

Large Monitors

Top-rated are five 22-inch LCD wide-screen displays with a best buy for the HP w2207 (\$360) followed closely by the ViewSonic VG2230wm (\$319). For the full review, go to <http://www.pcworld.com/ic/monitors/>. If these aren't big enough, check out the 30-inch Gateway XHD3000 Extreme HD for "only" \$1700 (PC World Dec. 2007, p.76). (www.gateway.com/accessories/product/1541272R.php?seg=hm). For PCW ratings on some 30-inch monitors, go to www.pcworld.com/article/id,131335-page,1/article.html.

Web-Hosted Applications

If the article in the Dec. issue on *OpenOffice.com* is intriguing, you might also want to read the one by Scott Spanbauer (*Life Without Software*, PCW Dec. 2007, p. 125), where he describes his experiences working solely with web-hosted software instead of desktop apps.

PC Magazine

Buying Guide for Cameras, Photo Printers, Digicams, & Digital Photo Frames

In the November issue of PCM, there are some good tips and recommendations on digital picture-taking and displaying. Check out these web sites:

<http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2704,2209659,00.asp>

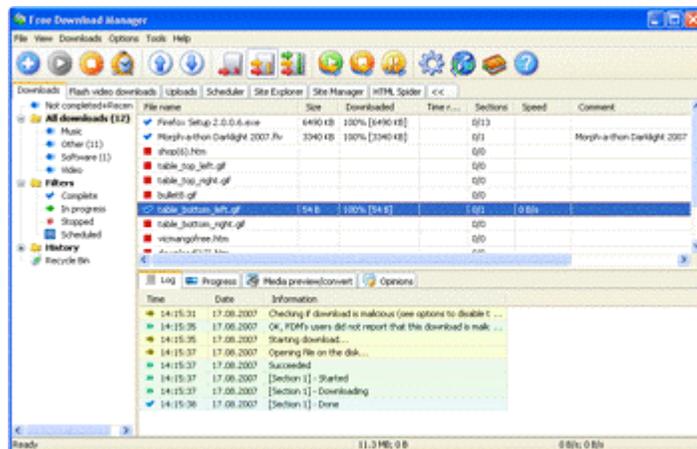
<http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2704,2197753,00.asp>

<http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,1759,2188990,00.asp>

Free Download Manager

This is a powerful, easy-to-use and absolutely free download accelerator and manager. Moreover, FDM is 100% safe, open-source software distributed under GPL license. FDM accelerates downloads by splitting files into sections and then downloads them simultaneously. As a result, download speed increases up to 600%, or even more! FDM can also resume broken downloads so you needn't start downloading from the

beginning after casual interruption. Get it at <http://www.freedownloadmanager.org/>.



That's it for now. Happy computing to you all and, hopefully, see you next month.



Security Tidbits

By Dave Keays, NOCCC SIG Leader

USING A HASH FOR DOWNLOADS

Show of hands!

How many of you have ever downloaded a program file?
How many of you have ever downloaded that file's *hash*?
How many of you have noticed that hashes are offered on many download sites?
How many of you know what I am talking about?

Most people on the net have no idea what a hash is. It is a way to make a download more secure and therefore it is very important to know. It can help you be 99.98% certain that the file hasn't been altered by some hacker. Let me go into more detail about what a hash is before I show you how to use it. BTW: I pulled the number 99.98 out of my hat so it may not be accurate, but I think I got the idea across.

A hash is just a way to collapse a text phrase or a whole file into a smaller number. If you even change one bit in the file, then that number will be drastically different. There is supposed to be no feasible way to reverse the procedure. But, since many hashes have been cracked, if you need to use a hash for something secure, use SHA-256 or SHA-512.

The most common hashes (aka "digests") are the MD, message digest, and SHA or "Secure Hash Algorithm." MD5 and SHA1 were the most common until they were cracked back in 2006. Now, people are trying to transition into stronger versions of the "secure hash algorithm," SHA-256 or SHA-512.

Now, how does that help someone downloading a file?

The basic idea is that some (not all) web-masters calculate the hash of the file while it is on the web-site. Then you calculate the hash yourself and if those two numbers don't match exactly, then the two files are different. Maybe the program was infected by a virus after you downloaded it or maybe someone else replaced the file on the server with a copy that has a trojan horse in it.

What you need is a program to calculate the hash and a copy of the original hash from the download site.

A tool that is very easy to use and works well is *hashtab*. Hashtab calculates many different kinds of hashes. Just right-click on the file, choose "hash tab" and you have that files hashes: <http://pcwin.com/Utilities/HashTab>.

What I do, is download the file and its hash, and cut-n-paste the number into a text file. Then I calculate the hash of the file I downloaded and cut-n-paste the results on the next line of the text file. That way it is easy to compare. Just hold down the space-bar until one hash is directly under the other.

If the two hashes are different then I know there is something wrong. If that happens to you; don't run the program, scan it with an AntiVirus and AntiSpyware, and submit it to Virustotal.com (a free online checker that uses 34 different anti-viruses).

If you want to learn more about how MD5 or SHAx work, Wikipedia has some very good technical information: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SHA_hash_functions and <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MD5>.

If you are curious about different kinds of hashes, see NIST's web site "Dictionary of Algorithms and Data Structures" <http://www.nist.gov/dads/>.

MALWARE NAMES

People have commented on my past writing and the section I call "Names" which seems to have caused some confusion. Let me explain myself here.

What I am trying to do is list all the aliases the virus goes by. Sometimes a research firm or antivirus vendor will use the term "alias." The idea is that since each vendor (Symantec, Network Associates, Trend-Micro, etc) has its own way of naming pieces of malware, you may find your AV program reports something different than I write about.

For example: the second version of the MYDOOM worm that came out in 2004:

Kaspersky: Email-Worm.Win32.Mydoom.b, I-orm.Mydoom.b
McAfee: W32/Mydoom.b.dll
Sophos: W32/MyDoom-B
Symantec: W32.Mydoom.B@mm
Dr Web: Win32.HLLM.MyDoom.48128
RAV: Win32/Mydoom.B@mm
Trend-Micro: WORM_MYDOOM.B
Grissoft: I-Worm/Mydoom.B
Panda: W32/Mydoom.B.worm

Notice the letters at the end of virus name (B in this case)? It is called a "variance." Each time a script-kiddie grabs a copy of a viruses source code and manipulates it so only a few things change, that number is increased by one.

So while the first MYDOOM virus was called MYDOOM, the second was MYDOOM.B, then MYDOOM.C, and on and on and on.

After MYDOOM.Z comes MYDOOM.AA, MYDOOM.AB, MYDOOM.AZ, MYDOOM.BA, etc.

A few years ago the number of variances were three letters (.AAA) which means some pieces of malware has been improved on over 676 times. And you thought keeping up with Microsoft hot-fixes was difficult!

Products Available For Review

We have obtained a number of products from vendors for review by qualified NOCCC members. If you are interested in doing a review (which will be published in the Orange Bytes), please call or send an e-mail to me and provide your membership number, phone number, and e-mail address; or pick up the product at the next NOCCC meeting. If you would like me to request a specific product for you to review, let me know.



Remember, YOU GET TO KEEP THE SOFTWARE OR BOOK!

Ted Littman, NOCCC Reviews Editor, (714) 779-1936, reviews@noccc.org.

Boxed Programs and CDs

Norton Internet Security 2008 – The latest version of the security suite from Symantec to protect your PC against viruses, worms, spyware, virus-infected emails and more. MSRP=\$60.

Books

Using Microsoft Office Visio 2007 Special Ed. – This new book by Steven Holzner from Que is a comprehensive reference manual for the premier drawing program. MSRP=\$45.

Adobe Photoshop CS3 one-on-one – Authored by Photoshop master, Deke McClelland, this new book+DVD has 12 self-paced tutorials using real-world projects with 850 full-color photos to help you master the essential & advanced capabilities of Photoshop CS3. From O'Reilly, the MSRP=\$50.

Real World Adobe Illustrator CS3 – To help you navigate through all of the features in the new Illustrator, this book by one of the graphics industry's experts, Mordy Golding, gives you practical insights on creating type, symbols, graphs, color effects and Web graphics. It is packed with tips, sidebars, expert commentary, and numerous illustrations. From Peachpit Press, the MSRP=\$45.

Microsoft Windows Vista Configuring – A new book from Que that gives you the complete certification solution for Exam MCTS 70-620. Written by Don Polton, it includes a CD. MSRP=\$60.

Windows Vista for Starters: The Missing Manual – This new book by David Pogue from O'Reilly is a great way for beginners to learn the basics of Microsoft's new operating system. MSRP=\$20.

Windows Vista in a Nutshell – Well-known author Preston Gralla wrote this new 700-plus-page desktop quick-reference book covering every important setting and feature in Vista. MSRP=\$35.

100 Things You Need to Know About Windows Vista – A new book from Que by Eric Geier that is chock full of timesaving tips, heady solutions, and expert knowhow for beginners. MSRP=\$25.

Microsoft Windows Vista Management & Administration – This new book from Sams shows administrators how to manage the advanced functions and features of this new operating system. MSRP=\$40.

Access 2007 for Starters: The Missing Manual – Matthew MacDonald's new book from O'Reilly is for the beginner using Microsoft's latest database. MSRP=\$20.

Access 2007: The Missing Manual – Matthew MacDonald also wrote this new 730-page book that offers complete coverage of the latest version of Microsoft's database. Also from O'Reilly. MSRP=\$35.

Microsoft Office Access 2007 VBA – A new book from Que by Scott Diamond teaches the skills needed to automate your database quickly. MSRP=\$40.

PowerPoint 2007 for Starters: The Missing Manual – A good book for beginners by E.A. Vander Veer from O'Reilly with step-by-step instruction and lots of illustrations to help learn the use of this new presentations software from Microsoft. MSRP=\$20

PowerPoint 2007: The Missing Manual – This new book also by E.A. Vander Veer in the O'Reilly "Missing Manual" series offers complete coverage of PowerPoint's new look and dramatically new way of doing things in preparing presentations. MSRP=\$30.

The Apache Modules Book – A new book by Nick Kew from Prentice Hall begins with detailed, accessible introductions to Apache's architecture and API, then illuminates all the techniques you'll need, from request processing through code security. MSRP=\$50.

Understanding AJAX – If you are already an experienced Web developer, this book by Joshua Eichorn, senior architect for Uversa, will show you exactly how to create rich, useable, Internet applications using AJAX. MSRP=\$40.

Virtual Honeypots – Security experts Niels Provos and Thorsten Holz cover a large breath of cutting-edge topics from low-interaction Honeypots to Botnets and malware in this new book from Addison-Wesley. MSRP=\$50.

Software Security – This book/CD, authored by Gary McGraw, a leading authority in the field, teaches you how to put software security into practice. MSRP=\$50.

The Security Professional's Digest – New from A-W.

Wiley Guide to the Management of Projects – This new series of 4 books provides timely, accessible, and relevant procedures and strategies to deliver projects on time and on budget. Each book lists for \$50.

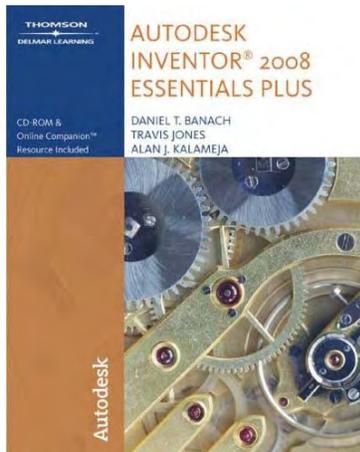
- **Project, Program, and Portfolio Management**
- **Project Control**
- **Project Org. & Project Mgmt. Competencies**
- **Proj. Technol., Supply Chain, & Proc. Mgmt.**

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 23)

Autodesk Inventor 2008 Essentials Plus

Review by Joe Mizer, NOCCC

This book was authored by Daniel T. Banach, Travis Jones, and Alan j. Kalameja and issued by Autodesk Press/Thompson Delmar Learning (now Delmar Cengage Learning) on June 29, 2007. It has 870 pages broken into 10 chapters plus Appendix A and comes with a CD that contains files to be used while working the examples in the book. The format of each chapter is the same. First, the objectives of the chapter are explained, then the chapter topic is presented in detail with discussion and figures. Sample examples are then worked using step by step instructions. Then, exercises are given for the student to work without the step-by-step instructions. The last part of each chapter is a true /false and multiple choice test to check your understanding.



This book is primarily intended for teacher-led classroom instruction at the college level, and accelerated classes taught in four days (32 hours) to seven days (56 hours). The authors indicate it is also well suited for individual study at one's own pace. Chapter one gives a look at the user interface, the file structures of Inventor and how to use projects and Autodesk Vault to keep track of your files. Inventor has many different file types such as part, assembly, presentation and drawing. File save options using "Save As" and "Save Copy As" are explained along with the other save commands. Instructions on setting up the user interface to your preferences are covered under tool/application options to open the "Applications Options" dialog box. The help support system and the design assistance feature are touched on, and the user interface consisting of the main menu, status bar, browser, panel bar, graphics window, and standard toolbar are explained. I was reminded of a command I frequently forget to use which is the space bar to repeat the last used command. Repeating the last command can also be done by right-clicking and selecting the top entry in the list. This is just a sample of the many items covered in chapter one to help the user get started using Inventor.

Chapter two covers sketching and dimensions. Sketching is the most basic of skills because it is where every project starts and, when done properly, will make the part model easier to modify in the future. Selecting the correct sketch plane for a new part can make later steps of modifying the

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model and view creation in a drawing easier. Step-by-step instructions are given in creating lines, arcs, circles, rectangles, and the other sketch tools.

Chapter three is "Creating and Editing Sketched Features." A sketched feature is a feature created from a sketch, which is added to the base feature, the first feature of a new part. Features can be modified by editing an existing feature in the browser, or making a new sketch and extruding or revolving the sketch into the existing part.

Chapter four is about placing fillets, chamfers, holes, threads, draft, axis, points, and arraying other features on an existing part. Creating and editing drawing views is covered in chapter five. You are first taught about setting up drawing sheets, title block and setting the options such as text and dimension style, and how to save your finished sheet as a template so you can reuse it anytime you start a new drawing. Drawing views are presented from the standard three-view drawing to custom sections, details and much more. This is the second largest chapter and the extensive options available in Inventor are covered in detail. The dimensioning examples in the many figures show where to place dimensions and how to place them using Inventor.

Creating and documenting assemblies is covered in chapter six, including top-down and bottom-up designs. Adaptive design allows the size of a part to be determined by setting up a relationship between the first part and the other parts in the assembly. Creating new components in place in the assembly allows the existing geometry to be projected onto the new part for bolt circles and other features. The following tools are just some of those which allow you to check for interference, distance, and center of gravity of the assembly.

Chapter seven extends the lessons of chapter 3 and 4 and adds advanced-part modeling techniques, with sweep, coil, loft, and copy features. Also explained is how to change the order of features in the browser and the use of an open profile rather than a closed one for extrusion. The details of how features can be mirrored and suppressed are covered in this chapter.

Chapter eight explains the use of iComponents, iMates, iassembly, and iparts, to speed design. Equations such as $(d12/5)*21$ can be used in place of values to maintain relationship between features. Chapter nine extends the assembly modeling and drawing to an advanced level. Sheet Metal design is a frequently used task for Inventor and is covered thoroughly in chapter ten. This chapter is a good tutorial to begin learning about metal bending. Just a caution, however, the tolerances for sheet metal must be more liberal than those for machined parts. Also, unless you work for a sheet metal fabricator after completing your design, ask the experts for suggestions on your design to lower cost and let them worry about stretch factors and flat patterns because you really just want your parts. Appendix A contains practice exercises for each of the ten chapters in the book.

In summary, this book is an excellent reference, covering in detail an extensive amount of information that makes me wonder how anyone could cover everything in the book in just seven days of instruction. This book contains so many commands and procedures we do not use every day that it is worth while to own a copy, just for the time when you need to do something special. I recommend this book to anyone using Inventor on a regular basis.

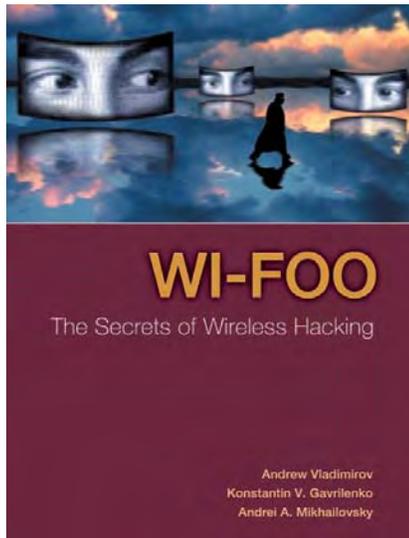
The ISBN for this book is 978-1-4283-1164-0. (http://www.delmarlearning.com/browse_product_detail.aspx?catid=28741&isbn=1428311645). The list price is \$88.95 and is available from Amazon.com for \$56.04.

WI-FOO

The Secrets of Wireless Hacking

Review by Jim Sanders, NOCCC

WI-FOO is authored by Andrew A. Vladimirov, Konstantin V. Gavrilenko, and Andrei A. Mikhailovsky. It is a book about WiFi or, more specifically, 802.11a, 802.11b, and 802.11g, to some extent 802.11i, and the security, or lack there of, that is sometimes associated with WiFi. Early on, the author explains the unusual title as a variant of the acronym fubar as it applies to the implementation of security on the above wireless systems. For those of you who can honestly say you don't have a clue as to what fubar stands for, a Google search will enlighten you. Just type fubar in the search line, the first or second entry of the results page should be a Wikipedia link that explains the term in depth.



The authors stated goal is to not only tell you about 802.11 security, but to explain most of the hardware and software tools that are available to protect your system and the hardware and software tools that can circumvent that protection. They are saying in no uncertain terms, that you can't do a good job of protecting your system if you are not familiar with the tools and techniques that are used to break into your system. The best way to gain good understanding of the WiFi security issues is to learn what tools are used to break or break down or circumvent the security that is implemented on your system, be it a home setup or a business.

The book explains what the preferred chip sets for hacking are and why. It explains the frequency range that is used and the actual frequencies of the 14 available channels. It explains the basics of Wardriving, a scary term that mostly means locating WiFi locations with emphasis on ones that have little or no security. It gives short run-downs on the software tools that are available (mostly free downloads) to help you locate and map sites. The majority of the software tools are Linux based. On a recent trip from Sacramento to Tustin on US99, it was interesting to watch the search mode screen on the laptop and see the large number WiFi sites that rapidly appeared and went away as we drove through cities.

Chapter 6 begins with the WEP encryption-cracking tools and, for another 100 pages, goes into the various ways that a WiFi site's security can be breached. It outlines the best physical locations to unobtrusively spend time in the RF footprint of a site and why they are desirable. It explains how wireless "Man-in-the-Middle" attacks can defeat some of the better security measures. It summarizes a number of individual and combined attacks that can defeat a lot of common defensive measures. Chapter 9 ends this section with a description of many of the nasty things that are done to or with a computer or network once cracking and hacking have succeeded.

Starting with Chapter 10, the discussion does a flip flop and starts talking about what is being done on the other side of the wall to protect and counter all of the efforts to break into systems that was discussed in the earlier chapters. One of the things that I learned here was that newer WPA (Wireless Protected Access) is based on the IEEE 802.11i standard. That it is actually based on draft release 3 of the 802.11i standard and was basically deemed good enough for personal use. The full and final release of the 802.11i specification has become known as WPA2. The book makes the point that even WPA needs help in the form of a strong password to avoid being hacked. It recommends using at least a 20 character, and preferably a 33 character Pre Shared Key.

This section continues with a fairly deep discussion of Cryptology and various ciphers that are used to encrypt data in the wireless world. The need to authenticate users is stressed. It talks about the usefulness of LDAP (Lightweight Directory Access Protocol) in authenticating users. It explains what a VPN (Virtual Private Network) is and why you want to use one.

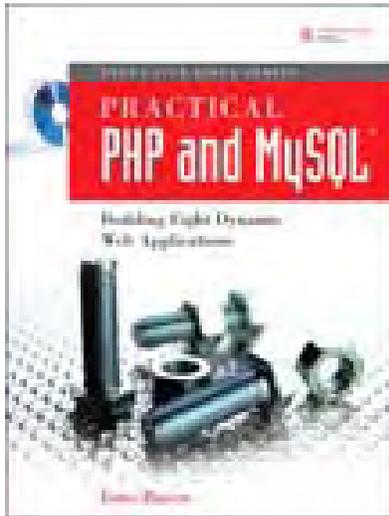
If you are using WiFi and have to be serious about security, this is a good book to read in depth and practice the recommendations. If you are just curious about how good or bad your WiFi security is, picking sections with interesting headlines to read may not only open your eyes, but tempt you to read deeper as well. FYI, WI-FOO II is scheduled to be released in June of 2008.

This book is published by Addison-Wesley, <http://www.awprofessional.com>. ISBN 0-321-20217-1, MSRP \$34.99, 555 pages, look in the Members Benefits column of the Orange Bytes for a substantial discount from the publisher.

Practical PHP and MySQL

Review by Dave Keays, NOCCC Security SIH Leader

This is a review of the book "Practical PHP and MySQL" by Jono Bacon. I am writing this review after reading the book but before I actually try some of the projects. I'm planning on using this book to create a web site for the club. If some of the reviews on the web are right about the typos in the code, I'll have more to write about later.



Overall this is an excellent way to get real-world advice on web development. There are a few areas that it could improve on -- I'll get to those in a minute -- but, I like the general approach of teaching a programming language by showing how to write a real-world program. Instead of getting the reader to write small programs that say "hello world!" or to display some archaic mathematical function, he shows people how to build some real web site applications. Oh, he also shows us how to write "hello world!" on page 4.

The parts that I am most concerned about regard security. He glossed over the threat of cross-site-scripting and only modestly touched on its cousin, SQL injection. What really worried me was his discussion of a shopping cart. While security may be beyond the scope of the book, a shopping cart should not have been included in the book. Write another book that goes into the gory details that were left out of here.

One example of weak security affecting ecommerce is expecting people to buy something from a site where the security isn't strong enough. What he uses may deter the casual intruder but it is easy to get around it if someone is determined. Do you feel safe in your house because you locked the screen door? Also, the book is new enough to know that the MD5 hash used in administrative passwords is no longer considered secure thanks to some researchers in China.

Programmers need to learn to be more careful with PHP and MySQL. One of the major headaches in the ecommerce world today is because of bad programming habits that can be used maliciously by others. I recently was talking to someone at a big fortune 500 company whose job is to check all the PHP programs just to make sure they didn't cause any security problems. Writing an insecure program is easy, but just a few rules can avoid most of the problems. Those rules need to be taught from the beginning, not just touched on occasionally. So, expand the note on page 249 ("the risk of input") and

explain more about what can be done when input or headers are not escaped or URLs are not encoded.

Two more subjects I would like to have seen explained in more depth were database design and separating business logic with presentation. By ignoring them, he left people with more questions: Why are there tables for 'orders' and 'order_entry' on page 171? Why are there different files like functions.php and config.php? Why are HTML and PHP code mixed together?

Amazingly, you'll walk away from a book this small with a better knowledge of solving problems on the web. While I may want more of the juicy details, this book's target is wider than that.

Overall, I think it did a very good job considering what it is supposed to do. If 5 stars means a book's goal is accomplished and 10 means the book is perfect, I'd give this one a 7½.

Practical PHP and MySQL is authored by Jono Bacon and published by Prentice Hall; 1st printing: Nov 2006. ISBN: 0-13-223997-3. List price: \$39.99 USD, Amazon new: \$26.39, Amazon used: \$23.85. User group members can buy the book directly from PH at a 35% discount.

Author's web site: <http://www.jonobacon.org/?p=821>.

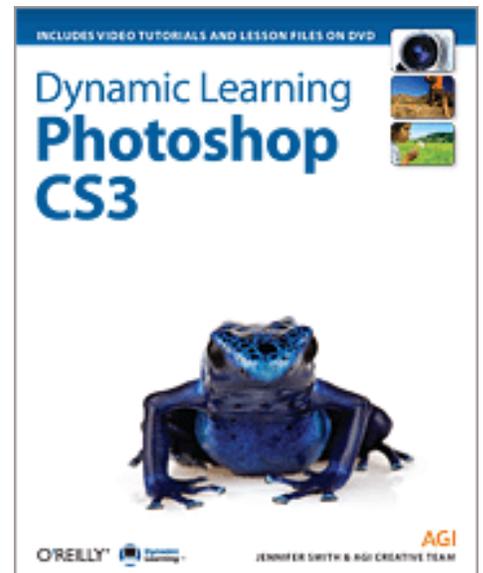
Publisher's web site:
<http://vig.prenhall.com/catalog/academic/product/0,1144,0132239973,00.html>

Dynamic Learning: Photoshop CS3 A Self Study Book

Review by John Donan, NOCCC

Dynamic Learning: Photoshop CS3 is one of a series of five Dynamic Learning books announced earlier by O'Reilly covering Photoshop CS3, Flash CS3, Dreamweaver CS3, Illustrator CS3

and InDesign CS3, all Adobe Systems Inc. programs. The Photoshop book is authored by Jennifer Smith, Executive Vice President AGI and the AGI Creative Team. AGI is Adobe-Certified and noted for seminars, on site-training and authoring



or co-authoring dozens of books relating to electronic publishing. In over thirty of these I found thirteen to be Adobe Classroom in a Book series, three are Sams Teach Yourself and three for Dummies, but this is their first Photoshop book. This information had to be researched as the book offers no credentials of the author(s).

I have been climbing the ladder of Photoshop changes since Photoshop 4, covering quite a span of time, although Photoshop is much older. Author Ben Long, in a recent review of CS3, puts it this way: "There are high-school seniors who have never lived in a world without Photoshop." He further qualifies CS3 as having the most significant upgrade yet, making simple but effective enhancements. It happens to be the largest software release in Adobe's 25-year history.

I found attending college classes, which I have done at Santa Ana College, an effective way to maintain proficiency with Photoshop, a good substitute for the cross-pollination that must go on between people working full time in the industry. The beta version of CS3 became available a year ago with full release by May. Books such as this immediately followed. I had hopes of learning CS3 in one of the two divisions teaching Photoshop at SAC. This will not be, at least until late next year. One division has CS3 installed, but is teaching from a book written for version CS. The other has deferred installation, awaiting a satisfactory book to teach from. Their reason for this is that, to cover changes in the software, early releases of books often hastily insert changes into an existing text resulting in significant errors. This can cause wasted hours by the students when book instructions no longer lead to expected results. There is no prior edition of this text, although the publisher anticipates classroom use and provides an *Instructor Guide*; there also is an accompanying DVD as an aid for those concerned with self study.

The video lessons track pretty close to the chapter content but only touch the surface. The narration is quite brisk requiring one to continually pause and back up in order to fully absorb the presentation. There are so many ways to perform with Photoshop that one can always find another way to obtain special effects - often a better way. I found many of these nuggets in both the video and print. The book is organized into lessons, with detailed instructions (thirteen chapters) with tips, and review questions. Included on the DVD are low resolution graphics matching the examples worked out in the chapters.

The content by chapter is: *What's New in Adobe Photoshop CS3*, *Exploring Adobe Photoshop CS3*, *Getting to Know the Workspace*, *Using Adobe Bridge*, *The Basics of Photoshop CS3*, *Creating a Good Image*, *Making the Best Selections*, *Painting and Retouching*, *Getting to Know Layers*, *Taking Layers to the Max*, *Using Smart Objects*, *Using Adobe Photoshop Filters*. These chapters are each a continuum of examples for which the reader is to follow numbered steps. One reviewer has noted. "For a while now, I've been thinking that there must be a better way to teach beginners how to use Photoshop. This book, part of a new series by the publisher, looked like it might be a better way. It's not." It may be that the chapters are intended to be independent one from another, but in covering the material broad-brush, I noted numerous times when a black or white color was needed, an elementary

ritual of "D" default colors and "X" exchange colors was described from an elementary point of view. However, with a PS background, one can jump to a later chapter without wading through preceding chapters.

One topic for which I need more experience is RAW images. This subject is held to eight pages. I know JPEG and TIFF images can be processed in Camera Raw but this is not mentioned. The publicity for this book states, "Dynamic Learning: Photoshop CS3 aims to help photographers embrace and exploit Adobe's new photo software." However, one reviewer (possibly a photographer) states, "Maybe it's because of the split personality that Photoshop has, being designed for use by both graphics professionals and photographers. Maybe a book that explains Photoshop for graphic artists is different from a book for photographers. I don't think so. And this book is not for photographers." The book is definitely shallow here.

There are a number of other features of PS that I find missing. Shadow/Highlight, a popular feature, present since version CS is not mentioned. Neither is the new Brightness/Contrast revision which now works just as you'd expect: Brightness adjusts the white point to brighten or darken an image while preserving your black point and shadow tones, and Contrast adjusts both to expand or compress contrast in your image. The book omitted other CS3 features. There was not an explanation of the use of filters and it was suggested that the reader experiment to find the results of blending mode. The book appears to be the product of instructors, not users.

This is a book for one who is learning PS for one's self. If I had such a book when I first took on PS it would have been an immense help. It holds many features which have escaped me. e.g. I had not used the Shift key to center an image when dragging from one file to another. It can complement one's bookshelf, but is not as complete as other PS texts I have used. An instructor would have to complement the book's information to present a complete course.

Book details:

- Title: Dynamic Learning: Photoshop CS3
- First Edition: July 2007
- ISBN 10: 0-596-51061-6 and ISBN 13: 9780596510619
- Pages: 360, MSRP = \$45

Reviews Editor's note: For additional information on the book, including comments by other reviewers go to www.oreilly.com/catalog/9780596510619/. O'Reilly offers user group members a 35 % discount and free shipping. Amazon.com also has it for \$30 and free shipping. Jennifer Smith's credentials can be viewed at <http://www.oreillynet.com/pub/au/2902> and http://www.informit.com/authors/author_bio.aspx?ISBN=0672323567&rl=1.

LAN Switch Security

What Hackers Know About Your Switches

Review by Dave Keays, NOCCC Security SIG leader

One of the hardest parts of reviewing an IT book is when a book covers technical information that you can't evaluate. In this case, while I have a basic understanding of most of the information, I couldn't see whether much of the technical information was accurate. With the exception of one typo, none of the other technical reviewers claimed his information was wrong. I'll go into the other reviews in a moment.

However, the authors covered the basics and explained some of the abstract ideas very well. For example:

"LAN and Ethernet Switches are usually considered as plumbing. They are easy to install and configure, but it is easy to forget about security when things appear to be simple."

"[You] can turn a \$50,000 Ethernet switch into a \$12 off-the-shelf supermarket hub."

There are also several items on the Internet that relate to this book which is kind of surprising since it is only about 3 months old.

The magazine *Network World* (guess who that is for) has a live chat with the authors at:

<http://www.networkworld.com/chat/archive/2007/111307-lan-security-chat.html> or <http://tinyurl.com/359k88>.

There is a video of the authors discussing some of the material in the book at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZFL1xL82io&feature=related>.

There are many eBooks out (do you really think I would tell you where?), but some of them were taken down because of copyright infringement.

A few reviewers mentioned that there were many typos. I only noticed one that interfered with my understanding. On page 235 he spoke of an "Ethernet address" which should have been "IP address." I was worried that I didn't understand until I read other people talking about this mistake.

Another item that was common to many reviews was the lack of commands (or as one reviewer put it, lack of "syntax"). There were some commands, but not a lot. Maybe in some cases the commands were not needed to get the general idea across. As an example, they say to turn VTP off at an access

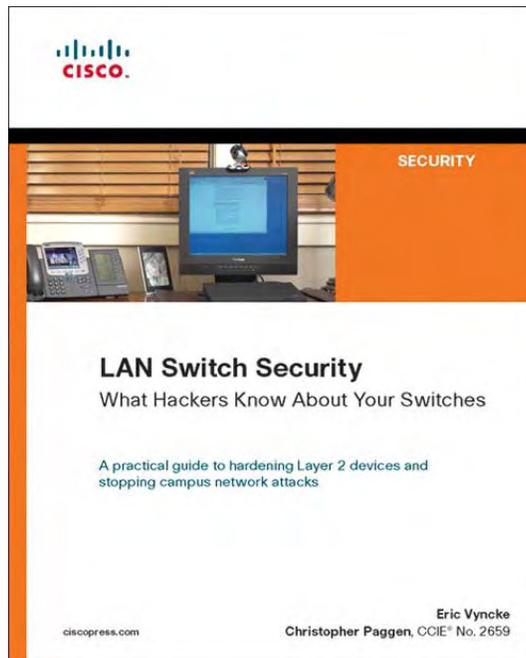
port and show the commands needed. But, when giving an overview of a network technology like DHCP, they focused on the why and not the how. The idea is much more important to me than the commands.

The only real negative I found was the fact that some of the material was kind of dry and sometimes it was a difficult read.

While sometimes it was a very easy/good read (see the quotes at the beginning of my review), most of the time it was a harder read than it needed to be. While making a technical book interesting to mere mortals is not easy, it can be done.

I would rate this book on a scale of 1-9 (remember I never give a 9) with a 7 for a beginner or intermediate. From what the other reviewers said it may be only a 6 for those that are more advanced than me. Only one reviewer went as low as 3 or 4. He thought everybody should read another book instead.

Authors: Vyncke, Eric;
Paggen, Christopher
ISBN 10: 1587052563
ISBN 13: 9781587052569



Published by: CISCO PRESS
Date Published: Sept 2007
User level: Beginner/Intermediate
Pages: 340
MSRP: \$60.00
amazon: \$52.10
inform IT: \$54.00

I didn't notice any used books for sale ... yet.

Reviews Editor's comment: For more information about the book check out publisher's web site: <http://www.ciscopress.com/bookstore/product.asp?isbn=1587052563&r1=1>. Cisco Press is part of Pearson Education. A 35% User Group discount is available – see our Membership Benefits listing on p. 4.

Demonstration of OpenOffice.Org 2.3 at December 2007 Main Meeting

By *Steven Breitbart, NOCCC*

NOCCC Club President **Herb Wong** demonstrated **OpenOffice.Org version 2.3**. Just in case you do not know what OpenOffice.Org is, it is a **free** office suite that has component products that do what major, high priced office suites do. The components are:

- **Writer**, a word processor
- **Calc**, a spreadsheet
- **Base**, a data base
- **Draw**, a program for graphics and diagrams
- **Impress**, a slide-show presentation program
- **Math**, an equation editor used in conjunction with most of the other components.



Herb Wong

Overall, OpenOffice.org does not require much RAM, so it will run on weaker computers. There are ways to save a document so it will be compatible with Microsoft Office. However, the native file format of OpenOffice.org is based on XML, which uses plain text. Microsoft, however, has their own version of XML, so their programs can't open OpenOffice.org documents.

OpenOffice.Org was spun off by Sun Microsystems and it is available free because it is an open source program, based on Sun Microsystems StarOffice. It is available for all popular Operating Systems for PCs and MacIntosh, and is also available in many languages as well.

New for this version is Base, which can use other databases to create and modify typical database structures such as tables, queries, forms and reports.

Still, there is nothing like a demonstration. These components have the profession appearance and features of any typical Windows office suite. The graphics program, Draw, can do

shadowing and manipulation of three-dimensional objects. You can also create charts and diagrams with it.

For additional information read Herb Wong's article about OpenOffice.Org on page 9 of the December 2007 Orange Bytes. Of course, to obtain the program, go to, you guessed it, www.OpenOffice.Org.



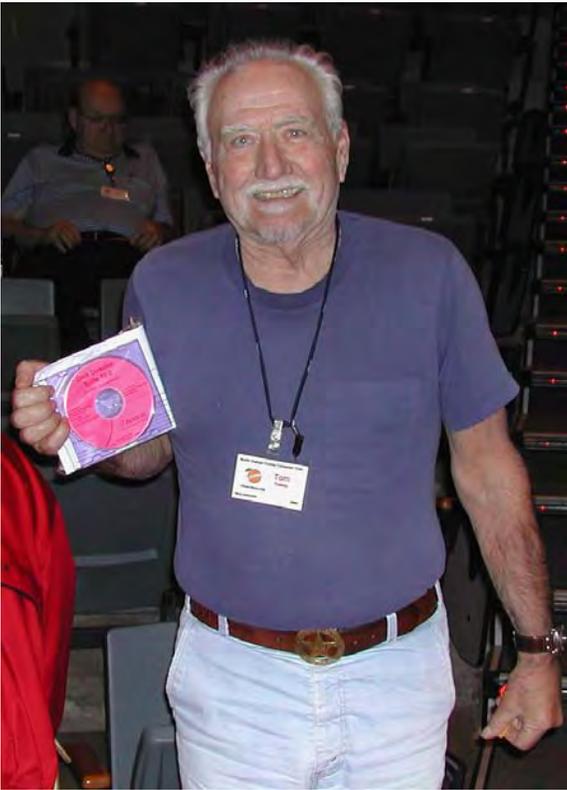
John Heenan

John Heenan, NOCCC Treasurer spent a few minutes reminding us about the **discount coupon** for new members in the Orange Bytes. Another item of interest was the refurbished Pentium 4 PC that was auctioned off. The winner was **Jim Sanders**.

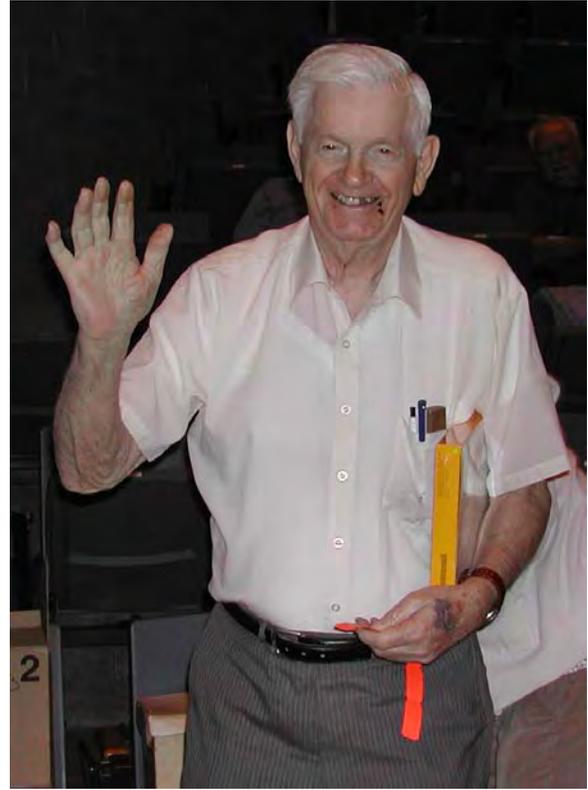


Gerry Resch getting ready to give out raffle prizes!

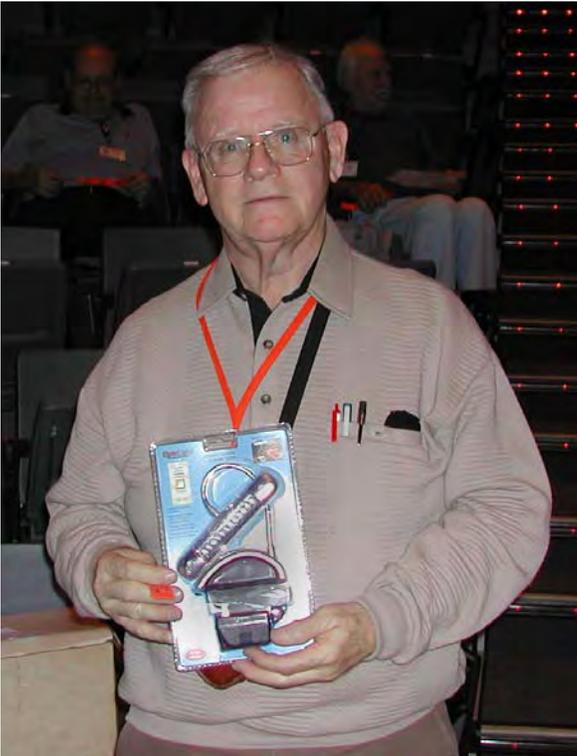
Raffle Winners from the December 2007 Meeting



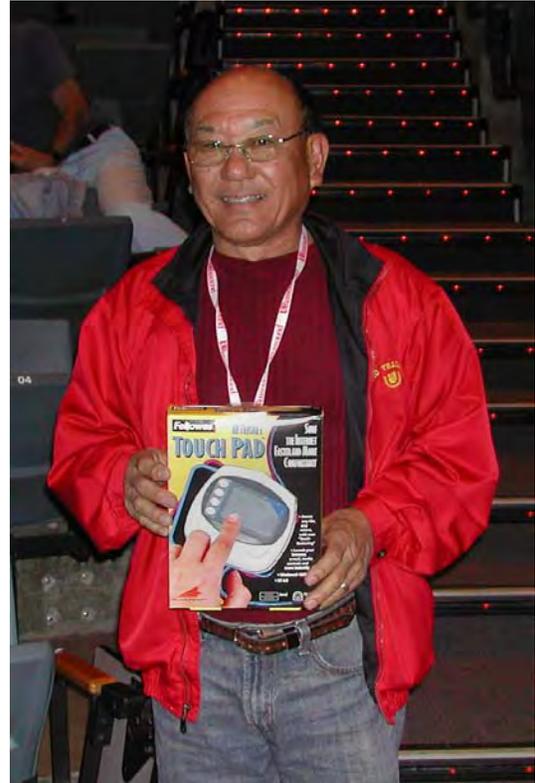
Tom Feeley



Bob Shaffer



Bob Dickson

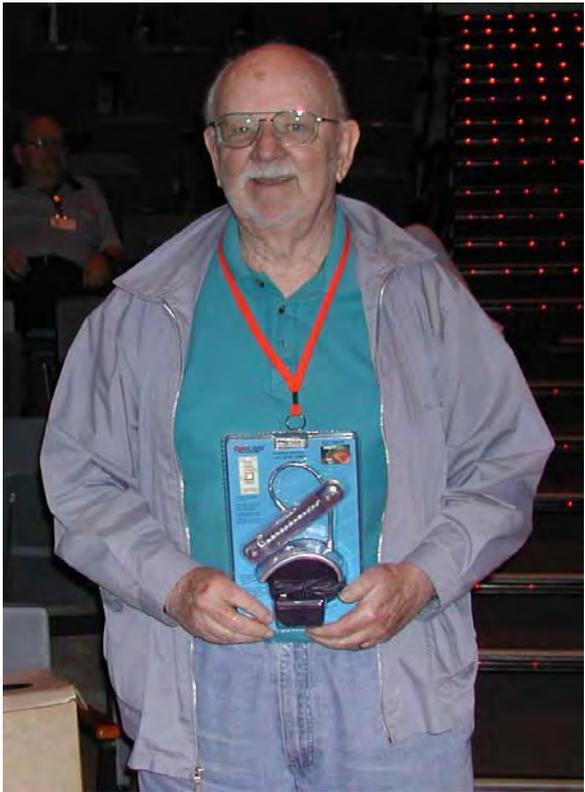


Ernie Mori

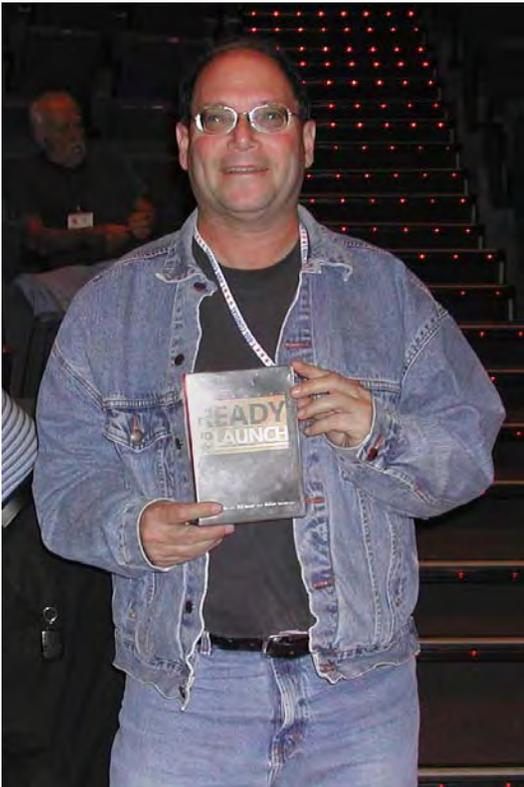
January 2008



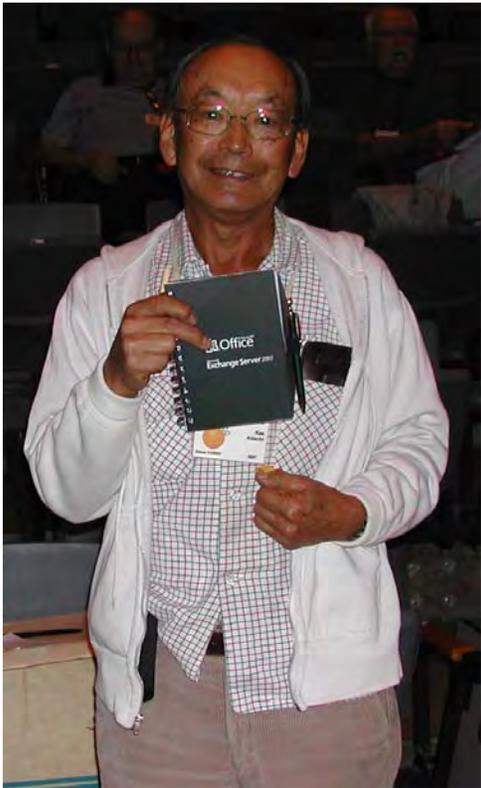
Bob Love



Ed Koran



Jeff Glassman



Kaz Adachi

Your photo could be here - but only if you buy some raffle tickets!

Computer Aided Investing SIG

By Bob Krishfield, SIG Leader

Market Review: Last month, the markets took away most of the gains made since August, turned around at the level of the August lows and are rising as we begin December. Technical indicators show that this bottom is confirmed and we are back on the rebound. The breadth charts for the Nasdaq and NYSE show an upturn in the McClellan Summation Index – a strong sign that the bottom is behind us for a while. We looked at a new multi-year performance chart of the S&P500, which may be useful for monitoring long-term market performance. It is a weekly chart of the index and an 80-week MA that is a good trend indicator for the index. A stochastic (14, 10, 3) is used to show the short-term reversals. When the stochastic shows the reversal at 50, the index just touches the 80-week MA and bounces off. In the 18 years on the chart, the index crossed the MA just 5 times, and only showed bear conditions twice – once in 1994, and the period from 2001 to 2003.



Bob Krishfield

There is little agreement among the gurus what will happen next. The bottom in November satisfies the prediction of an end-of-year correction. Now there's hope of a Santa Claus rally that could continue for 3-4 months. Many economic and political issues are still current and could dominate market actions and reactions. The most prominent is another Fed rate cut to counter tight credit brought on by the sub-prime loan mess.

Presentation – Using Options to Hedge Stocks. This topic has been raised several times as a defensive measure when the market turns down and you want to offset potential losses. Options have many facets and can have many pitfalls for the untrained investor. Walt Wittesch prepared handout material covering this area and presented a portion of it; he will continue for a segment in the next few meetings. He explained that an option is similar to an insurance policy on your house or car. There are about 3000 optionable stocks to choose from – or, from another viewpoint, you may have a stock position that has no option coverage. We covered many definitions of terms and just started into pricing when time ran out. There is a lot of information on the web to use as study material and the handout contains a few sites including: www.optionseducation.org, www.optiontradingpedia.com and www.cboe.com. More educational information is available from brokers.

In January, we will look at the market for the January effect, watch for other special New Year condition and continue with the presentation on Options to hedge stocks.

AmiBroker SIG

By Bob Krishfield, NOCCC SIG Leader

This meeting we looked at a trading system “ROC Score Fund Trader.” This system was put together to trade small cap funds or ETFs with a signal and achieve better than 20% returns. The technique uses the portfolio trading feature of AmiBroker, holding up to 10 positions. Fund selection is made when the signal goes to “buy” using a scoring formula applied to each fund. A multi-week ROC is used to rank which fund's current performance is superior. Sells are based on picking the worst performers. Results from backtesting yielded average returns from 16% to 42% using various mutual funds and ETFs. With leveraged funds from ProFunds and Rydex, performance would be higher, but have higher drawdowns. Drawdowns were below average, from -0.9% to 15%. Using the optimizing capability, we varied the ROC length, hold period and number of positions to slightly improve results. Using the Tango system to pre-screen funds, the returns were improved and drawdowns reduced. This practice shows the value of a system such as Tango to produce a selected funds list. The method is not as effective for ETFs. The use of the AmiBroker CAR explore program produced a selected list of ETFs.

A new program was demonstrated to show general market conditions using a series of colored ribbon charts stacked together in one display. This horizontal ribbon chart varied in color from red to yellow to green and dark green as the individual indicators took on values from 0 to 100, changing color each quartile. The one panel contained up to 12 ribbon charts that used different indicators for each ribbon, such as: RSI, CCI, MA, MA-crossover, Stochastic, MACD, etc. The resulting color patterns provided a clear indication of periods when the market was weak, strong, and in a transition. This technique will be exploited for display of other data where a pattern can provide useful information – much like a cheese chart does using an explore program. The benefit of the ribbon charts is that a more flexible span of time can be displayed, from days to years.

There were many new features in AmiBroker 5.02 beta to demonstrate. The use of floating charts allows one to create many various layouts of multiple charts anywhere on his monitor – and use multiple monitors. These layouts can be saved. Linking charts has been improved so you can cross-link various charts to use the same symbols, up to 9 separate links. Interval links can be set up to link the display interval (d, w, m). Many of these features are for those displaying real time charts and have short interval variations displayed.

In January we will look at some new code developments, review some coding issues from the bulletin boards and gather feedback on subjects and areas members would like more detailed instruction and demonstrations.

Hardware SIG

By *Herbert Wong, Jr., SIG Leader*

The topic for the December 2, 2007 Hardware SIG was **Optical Disk Drive Technology**. The technology has advanced a little bit, but hard disk drive technology still has many advantages for most applications.

The range of capacity of CDs (about 700 megabytes) to DVD (4.7 GB to 8.5 GB) to HD-DVD (15 GB to 30 GB) to Blu Ray (25 GB to 50 GB) is astounding. However, the data transfer rate is equally critical. DVD (11.08 MB/sec) and HD-DVD (36.55 MB/sec) are substantially slower (raw transfer rate) than Blu-ray Disc (53.95 MB/sec).

The reliability of the media is cause for concern. Long gone are the days of everyone promising one- hundred-year data life on the disc. Many people claim that the lifetime of their personally created discs is in the order of one year or so.

Premium quality media is a first step to increasing the longevity of the data that you burn. However, it is extremely important to have an optical drive with firmware that is designed to use the media that you buy.

One example of this is Plector. Its premium-priced products are supported by a web site that lists the classification of disc (ex. DVD-R, DVD+R, etc.) and compatible media from different vendors (the actual manufacturer is another story). There are even listings for the recommend burn speed. Are you buying 16x discs for high speed, but the vendor

recommends 4x burn speeds? It appears that technical support doesn't always mean that you have to talk to a person on the telephone to get critical information.

Of course, my laptop catastrophically failed during the presentation. This will bring on new adventures for the coming months. So far, the only thing that I have chosen is my wallpaper upgrade (thanks to Martina McBride).

See my President's Message for a little bit more about preparing for the unexpected. And, go out and buy a UPS and an external hard disk drive to back up you precious data.

*The topic for the January 06, 2008 Hardware SIG is **Biometric Device Technology**. There are a few devices that make securing your computer a matter of detecting your body parts rather than testing your memory for a password. We'll take a look at some for the home and some for security at airports and other locations.*



Herb Wong

Digital Photography SIG

By *Larry Klees, SIG Leader*

Last Month

Last month's presentation was about inserting the photographer or other people into group photos.



NOTE: Even if you attended the last meeting, you may still want to read this report which is a variation on the method demonstrated at the meeting. This method is very flexible & versatile.

The best way to get the photographer into a group photo is to place the camera on a tripod and use the camera's self timer. If a tripod is unavailable, the camera can be placed on a table, chair, or even a small box. Be creative. This can result in an unusual perspective that can make the photo stand out. If one if these methods is not practical, the photographer can take a picture of the group and then join the group while one of the other group members takes a second picture of the group. Then use your favorite photo editing software to combine the two pictures. Many photographers do this by painstakingly cutting a single person out of one photo and pasting them into the other.

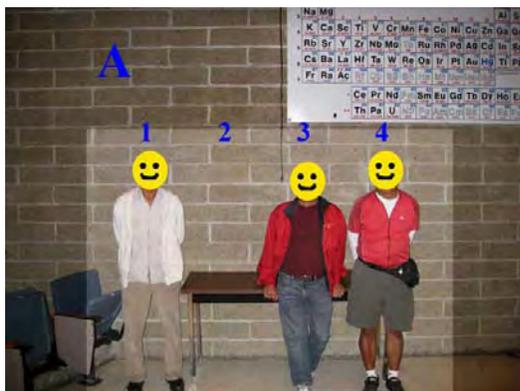


Larry Klees

The method described here is quite different. It is usually less work to do and usually provides better results. First of all here are some tips that will help either method used.

- 1) Keep the lighting the same for both photos, and pay attention to the shadows. If the shadows point in different directions because you took one photo in the morning and one in the afternoon, or one is lit by the dining room chandelier and one has light streaming through the door; it is very difficult to get good results. This will also keep the color balance the same in both photos.
- 2) Take both photos with the camera in the identical location and the zoom lens set to the same focal length. This will reduce size, parallax, and perspective problems. Place a coin or some other marker between the balls of your feet. Then the other photographer can stand in the same place to snap the second picture.
- 3) If your camera has manual settings set the camera to full manual for the second picture and use the same shutter speed, aperture, ISO, and white balance that were used for the first picture. This will insure a minimum of effort making the two pictures match.
- 4) While not mandatory, it is preferable to have only the photographer missing from each picture of the group and have all of the other people remain in the same place.

With help of three volunteers, I shot the picture below. The faces have been changed to protect the innocent (I failed to get permission to publish the pictures). I have added a large blue 'A' and the numbers 1 to 4 for future reference. I have also indicated the rectangular area that will be pasted into the other photo. (At the meeting, when instead of using the magic wand or lasso tool, I used the rectangular selection tool. There was actually a collective gasp from the audience. This method was something new.) Note the blank space under the number 2. Also note that as I was busy explaining about lighting consistency and the coin on the floor, I managed the cut the toes off of the group members.



After taking the picture I gave the camera to group member 4 and I stood at blank spot under number 2. My only instructions to the other photographer were to stand with his feet on either side of the coin and take a picture of the whole group. The result was this picture with the large blue "B" in the upper left hand corner. Note that in photo B, man #1 has squinty eyes. Also note that I am more than a foot taller than the photographer that was in spot #4. Furthermore, I took photo A, using the camera's optical viewfinder placed to my eyeball. The other photographer took photo B using the LCD screen on the back of the camera. The result of the height difference plus another five inches because the camera was held at chin level instead of eye level for photo B, caused a huge vertical parallax between photo A and photo B. This is seldom such a problem. Also note that photo B was taken with the camera about 8% closer to the group than in photo A. (I held the camera to my eye while the other photographer held the camera at arms length. This should have been avoided.)



I loaded the two pictures into the computer, copied the rectangular area from photo A and pasted it into photo B.



Remember that photo B was shot with the camera closer to the group and also with the camera pointing at more of an upward angle, resulting in noticeable size differences and slight perspective differences respectively. These were both easily corrected with the perspective tool (paying attention to the bricks on the wall) to produce this image.

Keeping on the same layer and using nothing except an eraser tool with a soft edge, I erase parts I don't want and reveal parts I do want. The final picture which required about



two minutes to adjust the perspective and about ten minutes to do the erasing is very good quality and has corrected all of the problems pointed out earlier. Most of the erasing required little care. The parts around #4's shoes and where #4's arm overlaps #3's jacket required moderate care. If you can use layer masks the whole process is downright easy and yields even better results.

The following picture shows only the top layer with a light green background. You can see the parts I erased and some of the areas that are downright sloppy.



Next Month

In January we will continue with camera features (which weren't finished last month) which will evolve into a hands on tabletop photo shoot with Q&A. Bring your camera. I think you will really like this meeting.

If you have some new photos to show off, please bring them. You have been a great audience and I have greatly benefited from the constructive criticism some of you have offered concerning my photos.

Security SIG

By Dave Keays, SIG Leader

In December, we talked about Firefox3 and how it fixed many of the irritating and insecure bugs. (Over 300 memory leaks were fixed!)

Personally, I am using version 1.5, will skip version 2 completely, and not jump into version 3 until 3.1 comes



Dave Keays

out. There will probably be some bugs and inconsistencies in 3.0 that are fixed in 3.1 so I'll wait. I held back because Mozilla was maintaining 1.5 for a while and 2.0 didn't include any features I really needed. Since there were probably some bugs in 2, I decided to wait. But, 3 will have changes I'm almost drooling over. Memory leaks and fragmentation has been improved, it will be compliant with International conventions, and the exploits we've seen over the last few months will be plugged.

Since the audience was of a technical persuasion, we talked a little about some complex subjects like ACL (Access Control Lists) on Cisco routers.

In January, we will focus either on Rogue Anti-Spyware (like AntiVirGear or SpyShredder) or on designing a sink-box with Cisco routers. So come on over no matter where you think your technical skills fall.

AutoCAD SIG

By Joe Mizer, SIG Leader

This Special Interest Group is basically a discussion group in which we try to answer your questions. It can be specific or a general inquiry on how to get started with AutoCAD. Even if you don't have a question, you are welcome to come and listen. We have worked with Mechanical Desktop, Inventor, SolidWorks, Architectural Desktop, and AutoCAD 14 through 2004. We hope you can join us at the next meeting.

PC Q&A SIG

By Jim Sanders, SIG Leader

This month's PC Q&A SIG did not have very many questions. One of the questions that I did find interesting was about record players. The gist of the question was, are the USB interface turntables any good. The obvious answer, it depends upon which brand you buy. As to why you would want to buy one in the first place, it is primarily to transfer your old records, or LPs if you would rather, to digitized files on your computer. There are probably a few people who just want to be able to listen to LPs through their Media Center computer.



In many cases people have access to their old-line stereo equipment, which is likely to have a perfectly good turntable as part of the system even if it hasn't been turned on for years. I can remember a great deal of discussion, articles, advertisements, etc. that dealt with the various qualities of different turntables. How good was the wow and rumble characteristics, what was the tracking ability of the arm, was it the traditional swing arm or one of the linear arms, how good was the cartridge, how many grams of pressure does it apply to the record, and many other criteria.

The main difficulty with using the old turntable is that the cartridge signal level output requires a pre-amp to achieve an adequate level for the line input of the computer sound card. Most stereo systems have an amplifier with the pre-amplifier line out feature that has a signal that will work just fine. The USB units in question are designed to sidestep most of those issues and simply plug into a USB port and work. If you are a picky audiophile and have a good stereo system, it is probably best to stick with that approach.

One of the items that I mentioned in the SIG is that NERO 8 has been released. This program contains a number of audio functions that work well with making the above digital recording of vinyl LPs. Included are audio filters that specialize in removing hiss, scratch, click, and pop noises that come from the vinyl LPs. It contains equalizer functions that allow you to switch the tonal quality of your recordings. It has an audio editor that will allow you to do a lot of things to your audio recordings. You can shorten them, you can delete snippets, you can adjust the audio volume, and the list goes on.

In addition, of course, it does a lot of other things, amongst which is the burning of your music CDs or DVD's as the case may be. In addition to that, it makes creating data CDs and DVDs very easy. This new edition contains a number of new features and improved previous features. Blue-ray video authoring and playback for the complete high definition experience is now incorporated. It contains powerful features for creating complex menu navigation structures and cool menu transition effects to create Hollywood style DVD's. One feature, that probably will be of interest to quite a few, is

it's ability to convert video into the iPod format that allows it to be displayed on the iPod unit.

I again touched on Ubuntu Linux and in particular the Open Office.org suite that comes bundled with it. During the Main Meeting it was asked if the database program in Open Office.org was a relational database. A long dissertation followed that talked about whether a flat database could emulate a relational database, about front ends and back ends, whether you were using Open Office Base as a front end to SQL or many other variations. Not being sure if the question was ever actually answered, I decided to Google a bit and find out for myself. The answer, by the way, is yes. As installed, out of the download, so to speak, it is "A full RDBMS (Relational Database Management System), with the Object capabilities of Java" (quoted from <http://hsqldb.org/web/hsqldbFeatures.html>). Of the several discussions on it that I read, there were certainly comments about the relative quality of what is referred to as ooBase, compared to Microsoft Access. Regardless, it is a relational database.

In January I will be talking about my impressions of the new features in NERO 8.

Pig SIG Open to All



Meet us outside Irvine Hall from about noon to 12:30 p.m. There is also a buffet lunch and snack bars open in Argyros Hall.

There are several benches where NOCCC people gather, eat and chat. Just look for the member 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!

Understanding Operating Systems SIG

By Steven Breitbart, NOCCC

This Special Interest Group is lead by Charlie Moore and is a discussion group about past and present Operating Systems for Computers.



Charlie Moore

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11)

Other books recently received:

Using FileMaker 9 Special Ed. – From Que, MSRP=\$45.

Cisco ASA, PIX, and FWSM Firewall Handbook, 2nd Ed. – From CISCO Press, MSRP=\$60.

Microsoft Office PowerPoint 2007 Complete Makeover Kit – From Que, includes a CD, MSRP=\$30.

The Craft of System Security – From Addison-Wesley, MSRP=\$60.

Your First Notebook PC – From Que, MSRP=\$20.

Using Microsoft Office Visio 2007 – From Que, MSRP=\$45.

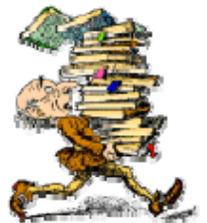
Preparing a Review Article for the Orange Bytes

by Ted Littman, NOCCC Reviews Editor

Important! There are two articles at the following link. One provides suggestions and guidelines for preparing a review article for the Orange Bytes. The second provides guidelines for submittal. Please read both. The link is www.noccc.org/bytes/info/index.html

Final Sale of NOCCC Library Books

The Book Library program was terminated two month ago due to lack of interest and many of the books sold at the Nov. and Dec. meetings. At the January NOCCC meeting, all remaining books will be available for sale at two books for \$3! First come, first serve starting at 9 A.M. 20 books are available.



Subsequently, unsold books will be donated to the Chapman U. Library.

December Board Meeting Minutes

Location: Universal Career College, 1125 E. 17th St. Suite E211, Santa Ana, CA.

Date: 12-03-2007

Call to order: 7:40 PM

ATTENDANCE: There were a total of 10 officers in attendance: Herb Wong, Jim Sanders, John Heenan, Ted Littman, Steven Breitbart, Dave Keays, Gerry Resch, and Richard Miller. NOCCC member Bill Thornton and Gordon Eng of Omni Technics, the company that does the e-Waste collection, also attended. The minutes were taken by Steven Breitbart at the request of the President.

NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Ted Littman moved to accept the November Board meeting minutes as published in the Orange Bytes. Gerry Resch seconded the motion and they were approved unanimously.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

Treasurer (John Heenan): The following amounts were collected at the December 2 meeting: \$190 from the auction of the PC, \$64 from the raffle, \$44 from the Library book sale, \$6 from the sale of coffee, donuts and the consignment table. In addition, \$420 was recently collected for dues. Two of the discount coupons were redeemed, which is a cost of \$20. Total income was \$704.

Membership levels are: 237 Regular, 7 Family, 1 Student and 9 Newsletter for a total of 254.

Our largest expenses are liability insurance, \$75 per month; our Post Office box, \$168 per year and the publication and distribution of the Orange Bytes, which cost \$265 for the December issue.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

December Meeting: Thanks to Bob Dickson for setting up the coffee and bringing the donuts.

eWaste Collection (Gordon Eng): The eWaste collection was satisfactory, with about 20 CRTs and 30 computers dropped off. Omni Technics had two recent write-ups in the Los Angeles Times to publicize this and other eWaste collections. However, only a few people would check out the NOCCC meeting after dropping off their electronic waste. We need a flyer to hand out to people to remind them about the NOCCC meeting. Some of this was due to the lack of parking in the lot used for the eWaste collection. Gerry Resch suggested trying to hold three parking spots on the days we have an eWaste collection; two for the car and trailer used by Omni Technics and one for people who drop off items. We will be having eWaste collections in January and February 2008.

Main Meeting (Herb Wong) The main meeting was attended by about 35 people. Random access included John Heenan reminding the members about the discount coupon for new

members, Bob Dickson raised the idea of starting a SIG for Microsoft Access 2003. The PC was auctioned off with no difficulty and was bought by Jim Sanders. The main meeting presentation was a demonstration of OpenOffice.Org version 2.3. by Herb Wong.

Future Meetings (Herb Wong): The following are upcoming main meeting activities:

January 6th – No speaker planned yet.

Publications (Steven Breitbart and Ted Littman):

The price difference in UPS 3-day delivery versus 5-day delivery is \$50. The printed November Orange Bytes was received late because UPS did not work on the Friday after Thanksgiving and we are anticipating similar delays for the January 2008 Orange Bytes. Additional money needs to be put into our account at the Post Office in order to ensure delivery of the January Orange Bytes. A deadline of December 11th was set for inputs. Richard Miller wants a two page flyer, made up of the first and last page of the Orange Bytes to hand out to people.

Reviews/Library (Ted Littman): Three books were taken out at the December meeting for review. Two reviews were not included in the December Orange Bytes and one review was received, so the January Bytes has enough material. One review is due in February and three are due in March. All books remaining in the Library were offered for sale at the December meeting, a few are still left and will be sold off at the January meeting.

Raffle and Auction (Gerry Resch): The P4 computer donated by eWaste was auctioned at the December meeting. Gerry noted that we may try another auction in a few months. D-Link who gave our Main Meeting presentation in November 2007, sent us a several packages of hardware which will be used in future raffles. For the January club raffle we will have a D-Link DIR 615 Wireless N Router; a book, *The Craft of System Security* and other things. For the member-only prizes, which requires the member to be wearing his or her membership badge, we will have a D-Link DWL G630, 802.11 Wireless Cordless Adapter; a book, *Advanced UNIX Programming, 2nd Ed.* plus more.

Internet (Dave Keays): Dave talked about the screen captures of the web pages he sent the board and his time table for the rest of the project. Herb Wong stated that the time table was reasonable. Richard Miller suggested that a comparison should be made of Dave's plan with what a professional web developer would do. Steven Breitbart questioned the planned content. Herb Wong said that the content had been decided by Dave and himself.

Consignment Table (Richard Miller): Almost nothing was sold in December. There will be a Consignment table set up for the January and February meetings in conjunction with the eWaste collection. Members are invited to bring their unneeded equipment for sale. Richard cannot attend the meeting in February and another person is needed to run the

table. Copies of the forms used to submit items are also needed. Regrettably, since Cathy Shimozone has not been able to make it to the meetings recently, we will take her name off the Consignment Table Listing in the Bytes.

OLD BUSINESS

- None

NEW BUSINESS

- Steven Breitbart inquired about how to propose a new SIG, which would be about mobile telephones, digital music players and PDAs.
- Gerry Resch stated that Omni Technics has set up a warehouse in Huntington Beach. The ultimate goal is to have a disassembly area where people could bring their own tools and remove parts they need from computers and other electronics that has been collected.
- Gerry Resch also has found a charitable organization in Los Angeles that supplies computers and lessons to children. He will provide information to the club, in case any NOCCC members would want to teach these lessons. He is also trying to emulate this type of charity set-up in Orange County. He noted that donation of electronic equipment to a non-profit company can be tax write-off if it is a useable unit and that an eWaste collection can be a fund raiser for organizations.

The next board meeting will be at the current location on January 7th, 2008. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

NOCCC Fee Schedule

The fee schedule has been set up to increase club membership, attract people with an interest in computing, and attract local computer-related businesses to place ads in the Orange Bytes with or without becoming NOCCC members. We are also offering members the opportunity to help our club financially by making donations that should be income-tax deductible since we are chartered as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Donors will be acknowledged in the Orange Bytes and the Membership level will be shown on the Member's Badge.

<u>Membership Level</u>	<u>1 Year</u>	<u>3 Years</u>
Individual Member	35	90
Each Additional Family Member	15	45
College Student	20	
High School Student	15	
Business Member + Ad (Business Card)	180	
Business Member + Ad (¼ Page, ½ Page) ...	465, 800	
Business Member + Ad (Full Page)	1,475	
Membership Donations (\$)		
Contributing Member	75	
Supporting Member	100	
Advocate Member	250	
Patron Member	500	

President's Message

By Herbert Wong, Jr., NOCCC President



We've completed another calendar year! The holidays have passed. Now we have to decipher the new technology that promises to improve our lives. We'll try to address these issues in the coming months. If you have a particular topic you'd like to hear about, let me know (president@noccc.org).

Plan on bringing in your old electronic equipment to the meeting. We will continue the eWaste program at least through January and February.

There was a lot of interest in OpenOffice.org 2.3 at the December 2, 2007 General Meeting. It is a product that deserves consideration for many systems. It is capable of providing all the functionality that most people will ever need. And, due to its open-source creation, it will continue to get better

My OpenOffice.org presentation also highlights the biggest danger with computers. A computer is vulnerable to catastrophic failure at all times and for unexpected causes.

I had successfully been developing my OpenOffice.org presentation and sample files on my laptop over the course of two weeks. There weren't unexpected problems of any sort. However, after setting up my laptop for the Hardware SIG, I found the computer would shut down after a minute or so. As a last resort, I was able to set up OpenOffice.org on Larry Klees's laptop. Thanks, Larry.

Unfortunately, the sample files and databases that I created were unrecoverable at the time. I hadn't figured that the power supply would give up. There were other concerns that I had protected against, but the failure was from an unexpected cause.

The one saving event was that I intended to test the laptop at the Hardware SIG as a trial run. When it failed, I still had time to install OpenOffice.org 2.3 on another computer.

In a few minutes, I am going to visit a friend to look at his computer. It seems there was a blackout. He unplugged the computer before the power came back on. When all appeared to be safe, he tried to check his email. The boot-up sequence started with a message about "Windows is now formatting" (the hard disk drive). That's not the kind of recovery that you want to see.

After we have a look at the hard disk drive, we'll try to replace what we can from a three-year-old backup of his data files. The rest of the restoration process is only good for a retired person to occupy his time with. Most likely, everything is lost.

The lesson this month is to buy an external hard disk drive and back up your precious data files (then unplug the drive and store it in a safe off-site place). Then, buy a UPS (uninterruptible power supply) for your computer to protect it from electrical power problems. That's three hundred dollars for protection for about three years of use. *One hundred dollars per year for insurance.*

New Member Discount Coupon

To recruit new members, the Board has approved a limited-time membership fee discount. The coupon below offers a \$10 discount to new regular members, a \$10 discount to college students and a \$5 discount to high school student for one year. The coupon will be published in the October, November and December issues of the Orange Bytes and will be available at our web site, www.NOCCC.org. **It will be redeemable through January 6, 2008 when presented to the Club treasurer at the monthly meeting.**

To submit the coupon by mail, send the coupon along with the Quick Membership Application found on the inside back cover of the Orange Bytes. **Current members are encouraged to sponsor new members.** As an incentive, the sponsoring member will receive six free raffle tickets at an NOCCC meeting after the coupon has been received by the Club treasurer.

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Welcome to Our Newest Members

Your Board of Directors welcomes members who joined in Dec. 2007:

✚ Issac Burlew
✚ Linda Gonse

✚ Margot Lesko
✚ Joe O'Meila

We invite you to take an active roll in running the NOCCC and planning its activities. Please contact President Herb Wong or one of our other officers at a monthly meeting or by e-mail.

Orange Bytes is published monthly by:
North Orange County Computer Club
P.O. Box 3616, Orange, CA 92857
(714) 998-8080

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Production — *Orange Bytes* was produced with

Microsoft Word ®

Type set with True Type fonts:

Times New Roman, Bauhaus 93, and Arial.

Printed by: Creative Technology

5959 Palmer Blvd.

Sarasota, FL 34232—28

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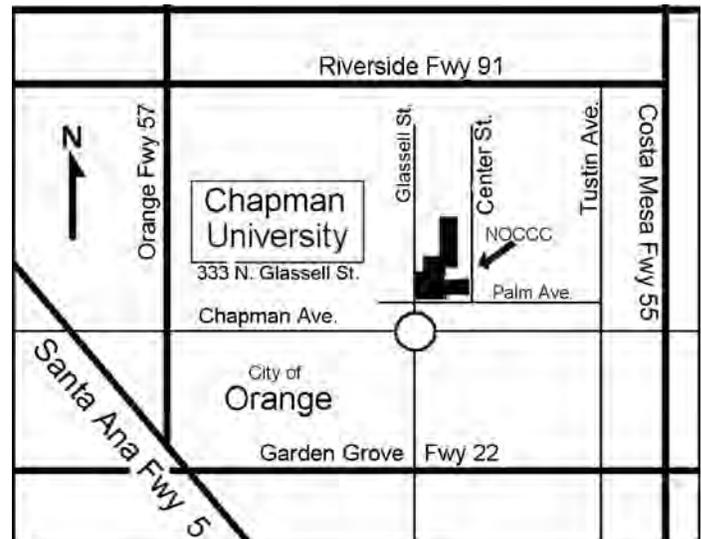
- **Meetings.** Keep up with what's going on in the computer world. Hear outstanding industry representatives make presentations of the latest and greatest in computer products.
- **Special Interest Groups.** Our SIGs cover a broad spectrum of user interest; they invite you, whether you rank as beginner or seasoned computerist, to the lectures and demonstrations they sponsor, and to share computer knowledge.
- **Get help with your current computer problems.** In the Random Access portions of the Irvine Hall meetings, you ask your question of the entire assemblage, and more than likely someone will have the answer.
- **The NOCCC Help Line.** NOCCC volunteers, experts in their fields, are ready to assist with your problems, and are as close as your telephone.
- **The Orange Bytes Newsmagazine.** Our Award Winning news magazine reports on current activities and gives you articles and reviews geared toward your needs.
- **Raffles.** We have distributed thousands of dollars worth of hardware, software, and book raffle prizes at our Main Meeting.
- **Product Reviews.** Write a review for this newsletter and keep the software, hardware, book or CD. Members' reviews are published in this newsletter.
- **Consignment Table.** We have a consignment table on select monthly meeting days in which we assist members to sell or buy all kinds of computer items.
- **Volunteer Work.** You are given opportunities to help our activities with interesting assignments. *An all-volunteer organization*, you can join with other members in a variety of activities, write articles for our newsletter, conduct a seminar, run a SIG, man the help desk, show new members around, help the membership committee, and more.

Parking Information — Chapman University's main parking lot (P6) is on the north side of the campus (enter from Glassell and University Dr.) and lot P3 (N Center St. and E Sycamore Ave) is free of charge for NOCCC's meetings on Sunday. Please feel free to park in the parking lots. *Note that Center St. does not run through to Chapman Ave.*

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

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

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



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