

Orange Bytes

Award winning newsmagazine of the North Orange County Computer Club

Vol 27 No 2

February 2002

\$4.00

NOCCC MEETINGS - February 3

9:30 a.m. *Irvine Hall*
NEW TECHNOLOGIES
MS OFFICE tips, John Heenan

1:00 p.m. *Irvine Hall*
GENERAL MEETING
Photo Suite4 and Videowave5
Dave Whittle, MGI

8:30 a.m.

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

9:00 a.m.

Auto cad Wilkinson 130

Visual Programming II Science 109
Visual C++ and visual J++ for Beginners

Windows Science 111
Windows ME & Windows 9x related questions

9:30 a.m.

Java Science 203

Computer Aided Investing . Wilkinson 221
Investment strategies, techniques and software

Hardware Essentials Science 306
System power and basic over clocking

Linux Wilkinson 210
A look at mini-how tos

10:00 a.m.

Vendors Science 127

Visual Programming III Science 109
Intermediate and advanced Visual Basic

11:00

Job Networking Argyros Hall Cafeteria
Human networking for a new job.

11:15 a.m.

Office Suites!, Etc. Science 111
Microsoft's Office: Word, Excell, and Access

PC Q&A. Irvine Hall
Questions answered and problems solved

Quicken Science 203
Quicken and QuickBooks

Visual Programming IV Science 109
Office 97 program development using VB.

Macintosh Wilkinson 210
We'll Demo the latest Apple Cds and look at advanced applications.

Understanding O.S.s Wilkinson 111
Get Help with DOS, Windows 3.1/9x/ME, OS/2,...

12:00 noon

PIG SIG Argyros Hall Cafeteria

1:00 noon

General meeting Irvine Hall

2:30 p.m.

Internet Irvine Hall
Discussion of Internet auction sites

Hardware Essentials Science 109
System power and basic over clocking

OS/2 Science 203
OS/2 news and installation

<http://www.noccc.org>

future meetings
March 3, April 7

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Change of Address?

Don't miss a single issue. Also, if we have your e-mail address, we can notify you of meetings and special events. Send address or e-mail changes to Alan Pearlman at membership@noccc.org Or Box 3616, Orange, CA 92857



Member of
The Association of
Personal Computer User Groups

President's Message



Happy anniversary! It's kind of hard to believe that ten years ago this month I joined NOCCC at the advice of Bert Langer. I originally came to his shop to buy some mugs. We spent 15 minutes talking about mugs and two hours talking about NOCCC. The following Sunday I came to that first meeting and listened to Fred Gibbons, President and CEO of Software Publishing Corporation talk about the future of computing. He mentioned software integration, interconnectivity among computers. He wanted a one-gigabyte read/write CDROM in five years. Two out of three isn't bad. Now before all of you techies start complaining, He mentioned a CDROM not a DVD. And I suppose there's somebody out there that will tell me that a DVD is a CDROM with bigger capacity. I once had someone asked me what computer gadget I would like to see, I told him I want to see a combination of Dick Tracy's two-way wrist TV and two-way wrist computer.

Now that's enough history and whatnot. At the last general meeting, I took an informal survey of the

membership about which format to use to generate the Orange Bytes. Many of the members like the electronic format and suggested that we just mail a meeting announcement and the board minutes. Since several of the board members couldn't make the last meeting, we didn't discuss it. We'll discuss it at this month's meeting.

We had a suggestion for two new SIGS, a game SIG and a Genealogy SIG. If you are interested in starting one of these SIGS, please contact Dave Keays or me.

Our new membership drive is still going on. The more new members we have, the bigger the drawing prize will be. We are still having our great membership raffle in June 2002. The rules to enter this drawing are simple, just get someone to join the club and you and the new member are automatically entered. The more members we get, the BIGGER the June raffle prize. If you know of any former members of NOCCC whose membership expired before 1995, they are also eligible for the raffle when they renew. Also, please remember that when any new members join, they get 12 free raffle tickets for the regular drawing at the main meeting, and the referring member gets 6.

Somehow with all of the construction in my house I've misplaced the list of names of referrals for our member drawing in June. If you referred a member to the club this fiscal year (since July 2000), please let me know so I can make sure you're included in the June drawing.

The following members have joined this year:

Ronald Petty	Phillip Woolston
Williamson Uy	Michael Iwaki
Betty Wilson	Joe Spellman
Pete Madrid	Kaz Adachi
Larry Farkas	Chris Quinn
Kerry K Mullins	Steven M. Sloan
James C. Wagner	Kathryn Kane

LINUX DOWNLOADS

#	Distribution	Version	Website
1	Redhat	Redhat	ftp://ftp.hu/pub/cdrom http://www.redhat.com/
2	“	Peanut	Linux http://metalab.unc.edu/peanut/
3	“	Slackware	http://www.slackware.com/
4	“	Mandrake	http://www.linux-mandrake.com/
5	“	SuSE	http://www.suse.de/
6	“	Debian	http://www.debian.org/
7	“	Caldera	http://www.calderasystems.com/
8	“	Corel	http://linux.corel.com/
9	“	Demolinux	http://www.demolinux.org/
10	“	linux Armed	http://www.armed.net/
11	“	Baslinux	http://homepage.lhug.co.nz/~lchi/baslinux.html
12	“	Dragonlinux	http://www.dragonlinux.org/
13	“	Elxlinux	http://elxlinux.com/index.php/
14	“	Gibraltar	http://gibraltar.vianova.at/
15	“	Giotto	http://www.quietsche-ewntchen.de/giotto/
16	“	Looplinux	http://www.tux.org/pub/people/kent-robotti/
17	“	Monkey Linux	http://www.spsselib.hiel.cz/monkey/
18	“	Pygmy	http://pygmy.penguin.cz/
19	“	Small-Linux	http://smalllinux.netpedia.net/
20	“	Trinux	http://www.trinux.sourceforge.net/
21	“	Winlinux	http://www.winlinux.net/

Please make sure we have your correct email address and phone number.

We will give it out only with your permission.

No one from NOCCC other than the President or Treasurer is authorized to call a member at home for club business.

You can update your membership at any regular meeting or by emailing membership@noccc.org

More on COMDEX 2001

by O. T. Stoll

COMDEX was smaller this year than last. The estimated attendance has been reduced from 200,000 to 150,000. That is still no small number. There were thirteen Pavillions. A pavilion is usually a group of companies of the same interest that share location on the exhibit floor. Each company has a small booth or table to exhibit their products. Each year Microsoft has a large pavilion to house the Microsoft Partners. This year it was one-half the size of the one last year. Still, it was about the size of a football field. The "Microsoft Partners" included AMD and Corel that had large exhibits of their own in the past. Four other pavilions that got a good turnout were, Bluetooth, (Bluetooth wireless technology); RDVDC, (Recordable DVD Council); IBM Business Partner, (first time I have seen IBM at COMDEX in quite a while); and, BrassRing Career Event, (They have been gone too and had 65 companies hiring technology professionals).

The COMDEX show area was smaller this year and was packed with attendees. There were approximately 1500 exhibitors with some having two or more locations. Alphabetically, the list start with \$2.95 guys and ends with Zoran Corp.

The mini-shows, Showstoppers and ImageScape, had their one day shows for the Media, Press and other invitees.

Showstoppers had over forty exhibitors including Intel, Compaq, Jasc Software, Laplink, Ontrack Data, Roxio, Seagate Technology and too many others to list here.

Jasc Software introduced their new software including Paint Shop Pro 7 and, (the show software that impressed me the most), Namu WebEditor 5. Namu looked liked the software, that many of us who don't want to learn html, could use to make our web

editors note:

O.T.s article didn't print right last month, so here it is again.

pages. They had so many options you could make your site like no other.

At another table at Showstopper, Stardock, demonstrated their WindowBlinds 3. This software extends the Windows GUI to accept thousands of different looks and feels. Looked like a great program. www.stardock.com

Roxio previewed DVD recording software, which allows you to capture, and manage your data.

Wizcom Technologies was also at ShowStoppers. They introduced their handheld pen scanners with a new plug-in module for mobile phones and PDAs that enables you to scan printed text, linear and 2D barcodes and small images.

Over at COMDEX, the exhibits were heavy on the hardware and light on software. There were a large group of Koran exhibitors showing off some really sophisticated hardware. One item, Virtual Ring reality 3d game machine by BestSoft, I found to be very interesting. The ring is actually a square on the floor with a pole in each corner extending up about three feet. The Home version is designed for PlayStation 1 and 2. The ring replaces joysticks and keyboards and lets you really get into the action. You stand in the ring moving the body the way you want your action figure to move. Don't throw your joysticks away because a few minutes in the ring will tire you out. The home version of the ring wholesales, FOB Korea, for forty dollars.

Taiwan had over forty-six exhibitors. One of the useful items, from Taiwan, is a PDA keyboard. The keyboard folds together to make a neat little package

and can be used on PALM OS and WINDOW CE. The cost is twenty dollars.

A number of the latest and greatest PDA's was shown at the show. Handspring's TREO has a build in wireless phone and keyboard was quite a hit. I was a little disappointed that it does not have a place for all those modules you bought for your visor. Microsoft also showed off a new PDA, their Tablet PC and the Xbox.

To improve the graphics for the PDA and computer graphics cards, Nvidia Corp. introduced their new 3-D graphic chip, smaller than a matchbook. Demonstrations were amazing and tests with rival chips indicated the Nvidia chip beat the others in all categories.

You are on your vacation and want a digital camera and picture printing capability without having to have a computer and a big printer? Try the SiPix SP1300, 1.3 Mega Pixel Digital Camera and the companion PocketColor 200. The PocketColor 200 is battery powered, weighs 10.5 ounces and plugs into the camera. The printing method is thermal color transfer, USB interface, prints in 95 seconds. The camera cost is \$149.00 and the printer is \$99.00. I don't know the price of the paper but I think it is expensive. A single pack of 20 sheets is shipped with a color cartridge. The camera system is touted for insurance adjusters, real estate agents and construction workers who need to make a print at the job site.

Logicube Inc., the leader in hard-drive and CDR duplication systems, had this to say about their new Forensic SF-5000. "Engineered to the world's top law enforcement agency's exacting standards, the new SF-5000 is the fastest, most reliable and compact, forensic data capturing system. The system's unidirectional, non-tampering drive-capture ensures exact, bit-for-bit duplication *and* verification. The SF-5000 is a "data analysis" weapon for law enforcement field investigators, and laboratories. Investigators may copy directly through the parallel port or use the optional CloneCard for access to

laptops through the PC Card (PCMCIA) slot." The demonstration was very impressive.

Hauppauge Computer Works doesn't just "make run of the mill" TV tuner cards for pci slots for your computer. This year, they demonstrated tuners for HD-High definition TVs, radio tuners for Dolby stereo and FM radio, for USB ports as well as pci boards.

TechSmith introduced their latest release of SnagIt and Camasia. SnagIt is one of my favorite programs and I use it often to copy a section of the screen either to the printer or to file. It is a very useful program. Camtasia allows you to add screen recording to Windows applications for training and technical support.

The word count says I had better stop now and tell you more next month.

NOTE:

You need a password to get a copy of the **current PDF** version of ORANGE BYTES.

The passwords will be emailed 2 weeks before each meeting.

MS Office tips

By John Heenan, NOCCC (Office Suites SIG)

WATERMARKS IN POWERPOINT SLIDES

In a previous issue of Office Tip Sheet, there is an item that describes how to place a watermark in Word. Here's how to add a watermark to PowerPoint. With PowerPoint open, select a Blank Presentation and choose a slide layout. Choose Insert | Picture | ClipArt, then double-click a picture to insert it. Close the Insert ClipArt dialog. At this point, the floating Picture toolbar should appear. If it doesn't, choose View | Toolbars | Picture to enable it. Now click the Image Control button in the Picture toolbar (second from the left) and choose Watermark. Left click on the picture, and from the menu choose Order | Send to Back. You will now be able to see the layout you chose earlier.

At this point you have added a watermark to only one slide. At the point where you have chosen a slide layout, choose View | Master | Slide Master. Follow the same procedure above, and when you create a new slide, your watermark will appear.

BORDERS FOR WORD TABLES

You can really spruce up those tables if you apply 3D borders to them. To do this, Select this table, right-click and choose Table AutoFormat

When the Table AutoFormat dialog box opens, scroll down through the Formats list and select one of the three 3D formats. I am partial to 3D effects 3.

Turn Off Hyperlinks in Word:

Do hyperlinks get in your way while working in Word? There is a way to turn them off. Choose the Tools | AutoCorrect menu from the top of the screen. Next, when the AutoCorrect dialog box opens, click the AutoFormat As You Type tab. Now deselect the check box labeled Internet And Network Paths With Hyperlinks. Click OK to close the dialog box and save your selection. This should prevent all future typed hyperlinkable items from being hyperlinked.

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MAKE THE CURRENT FOLDER THE DEFAULT FOR WORD

To save and open files in your current folder, here is a Word macro.

To enter this macro, open a blank document and press Alt-F11. When the Visual Basic editor opens, click an existing module or choose Insert | Module. Enter the code as shown below:

```
Sub ChangeCurrentFolder
On Error GoTo NoGood
Sendkeys (ActiveDocument.Path)
SendKeys "~"
SendKeys "{esc}"
Dialogs (wdDialogFileOpen).Show
NoGood:
Exit Sub
End Sub
```

Press Ctrl-S to save the new macro to Normal.dot (the default).

To add the new macro to your Word Tools menu, choose View | Toolbars | Customize. When the Customize dialog box opens, click the Commands tab. Select Macros in the Categories list. Under Commands, grab your new macro with the mouse and drag it to the Tools menu. When the Tools menu opens, drag down below the last item on the menu and release the mouse button. Click Modify Selection | Names and click in the entry box. Change the name to Current Folder (or whatever you prefer) and press Enter. Back in Customize, click Close to dismiss the dialog box and apply all your settings.

This macro doesn't permanently change Word's default folder settings.

DELETING EXCEL FORMATS

To remove formats in cells, just select the cells you no longer want formatted and choose Edit | Clear | Formats."

CALCULATING WORKDAYS IN EXCEL

This tip describes a method to calculate workdays considering holidays between 2 dates. To see how this works, open a blank worksheet and enter 12/1/2000 in cell C1. Then enter 12/31/2000 in cell C2.

Lets say that December 22 (If December 24 falls on a Sunday) and 25 are holidays at your office,

- 1) go to cell D1 and enter 12/22/2000
- 2) Next, enter 12/25/2000 into cell D2.
- 3) Go to cell A1 and enter
networkdays(c1,c2,d1:d2)

The syntax of this function is:
NETWORKDAYS (start_date,end_date,holidays)

So, the result in cell A1 is 19 days. If you have more days off during December, you could expand your list. For example, if you also have the 26th off, go to cell D3 and enter that date. Modify your formula in A1 to = networkdays(c1,c2,d1:d3)

Cell A1 will now display 18 working days for December 2000.

See John's page: [Http://www.tipworld.com](http://www.tipworld.com)

Old Computers and parts?

By Vance Jochim

As a collector of some old PC's, including Altair, Imsai, etc. I thought I would share some information related to finding more information:

Aftermath Technologies is a non-profit warehouse in Altadena, CA (near Silicon Valley) that is given obsolete and old computers and software by local businesses. Their website has a large number of pictures so you can see what they have, but apparently pictures are all they have, and no master inventory list because the volunteer workers there don't know computers. So, if you go to the "dig" link (not a very good website) you can see all the pictures, and can get large versions of the thumbnails you want to view. You will find Radio Shack TRS 80's, Macs, older laptops, older big iron, including old Honeywell terminals, Cisco equipment, Silicon Graphics workstations, a Zenith dual floppy (5.25") PC, an Altos, etc. They also have some software. Go there, find something, call and make an offer!

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

A new newsletter has been created about collectible computers - it is at: <http://www.classictechpub.com>.

DEADLINE

All articles and reports for the BYTES must be sent by the Wednesday after the meeting to **EDITOR@NOCCC.ORG**.

Dave Keays, BYTES editor

How to Obscure Any URL

How Spammers And Scammers Hide and Confuse

This article can be found at all URLs listed below:

<http://www.pc-help.org/obscure.htm>, or

<http://3513587746@3484559912/o%62s%63ur%65%2e%68t%6D>, or

<http://www.playboy.com@3484559912/obscure.htm>

<http://463.434.298.552/Obscure.htm>

Read on, and find-out why...

Warning: technical info ahead!!!

This article assumes you know the following:

- IP address
- DWORD
- Hexadecimal and Octal numbers

(Note: Depending on your browser type and its version, some of the oddly-formatted URLs on this page may not work. Also if you're on a LAN and using a proxy [gateway] for Internet access, many of them are unlikely to work. Also, fear not; this page does not exploit the "Dotless IP Address" vulnerability of some IE versions.)

How It's Done

First take note of the "@" symbol that appears amid all those numbers. In actual fact, everything between "http://" and "@" is completely irrelevant! Just about anything can go in there and it makes no difference whatsoever to the final result.

This feature is actually used for authentication. If a login name and/or password is required to access a web page, it can be included here and login will be automatic.

But if the page requires no authentication, the authentication text is in effect ignored by both browser and server.

This presents interesting possibilities for confusing the unsuspecting user. How about this one:

The weird-looking addresses above take advantage of several things many people don't know about the structure of a valid URL.

There's a little more to Internet addressing than commonly meets the eye; there are conventions which allow for some interesting variations in how an Internet address is expressed.

These tricks are known to the spammers and scammers, and they're used freely in unsolicited mails. You'll also see them in ad-related URLs and occasionally on web pages where the writer hopes to avoid recognition of a linked address for whatever reason. Now, I'm making these tricks known to you. Read on, and you'll soon be very hard to fool.

[Http://www.playboy.com@3484559912/obscure.htm](http://www.playboy.com@3484559912/obscure.htm)

If you didn't know better, you might think this page were at playboy.com!

By the way, the @ symbol can be represented by its hex code %40 to further confuse things; this works for the IE browser, but not for Netscape.

All right, so what about that long number after the "@"? How does 3484559912 get you to www.pc-help.org?

In actual fact, the two are equivalent to one another. This takes a little explaining so follow me carefully here.

The first thing you need to know (most Net users know this), is that Internet names translate to numbers called IP addresses. An IP address is normally seen in "dotted decimal" format. www.pc-help.org translates to 207.178.42.40.

Numeric IP addresses are generally unrecognizable to people. That's why we use names for network locations in the first place.

Merely using an IP address, in its usual dotted-decimal format, in place of the name is commonly done and can be quite effective at leaving the human reader in the dark.

But there are other ways to express that same number. The alternate formats are:

- "dword" - meaning double word because it consists essentially of two binary "words" of 16 bits; but it is expressed in decimal (base 10);
- "octal", meaning it's expressed in base 8; and
- "hexadecimal" hexa=6 + deci=10 (base 16).

The dword equivalent of 207.178.42.40 is 3484559912. Its octal and hexadecimal equivalents are also illustrated below.

Okay, so what about the rest of the URL?

Here's how all that gibberish on the right works:

Individual characters of a URL's path and filename can be represented by their numbers in hexadecimal form. Each hex number is preceded by a "%" symbol to identify the following two numbers/letters as a hexadecimal representation of the character. The practical use for this is to make it possible to include spaces and unusual characters in a URL. But it works for all characters and can render perfectly readable text into a complete hash.

In my example, I have interspersed hex representations with the real letters of the URL. It simply spells out "/obscure.htm" in the final analysis:

```
/ o %62 s %63 ur %65 %2e %68 t %6D  
/ o b s c ur e . h t m
```

The letters used in the hex numbers can be either upper or lower case. The "slashes" in the address cannot be represented in hex; nor can the IP address be rendered this particular way. But everything else can be.

Hexadecimal Character Codes

Hex character codes are simply the hexadecimal (base 16) numbers for the ASCII character set; that is, the number-to-letter representations which comprise virtually all computer text.

For most people, the conversion is probably best done with a chart. The best ASCII-to-hex chart I have ever seen is on the website of Jim Price: <http://www.jimprice.com/jim-asc.htm>. Jim explains the ASCII character set wonderfully well, and provides a wealth of handy charts.

More on Dotted-Decimal IPs

Here's another address for this page: <http://463.434.298.552/obscure.htm>

Normally, the four IP numbers in a standard dotted-decimal address will all be between 0 and 255. In fact they must translate to an 8-bit binary number

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(ones and zeroes), which can represent a quantity no higher than 255.

But the way this number is handled by some software often allows for a value higher than 255. The program uses only the 8 right-hand digits of the binary number, and will drop the rest if the number is too large.

This means you can add multiples of 256 to any or all of the 4 segments of an IP address, and it will often still work. In my tests, it was limited to 3 digits per number; values over 999 didn't work.

Converting An IP Address to Dword Format

Here's a way to do this with very simple math

Multiply the numbers of the IP address by the following fixed values (which are powers of 256), then add the results:

$$\begin{aligned} 3456106496 &= 206 \times 16777216 \quad (256^3) \\ 10420224 &= 159 \times 65536 \quad (256^2) \\ 10240 &= 40 \times 256 \quad (256^1) \\ 2 &= 2 \times 1 \quad (256^0) \end{aligned}$$

3466536962

Now, there is a further step that can make this address even more obscure. You can add to this dword number, any multiple of the quantity 4294967296 (256⁴) — and it will still work. This is because when the sum is converted to its basic digital form, the last 8 hexadecimal digits will remain the same. Everything to the left of those 8 hex digits is discarded by the IP software and therefore irrelevant.

Octal IP Addresses

As if all this weren't enough, an IP address can also be represented in octal form — base 8. The URL

for this page with its IP address in octal form looks like this: <http://0317.0262.052.050/obscure.htm>

Note the leading zeroes. They're necessary to convey to your browser the fact that this is an octal number. Any number of leading zeroes can be added to any or all of the numbers in the address.

I'll spare you a detailed description of octal conversion. For those who can't figure it out, there's a nifty URLomatic at www.samspace.org that will do it for you.

There is yet another obscure way to express an IP address. Using the method outlined above, calculate the hexadecimal number for 207.178.42.40. That number (CFB22A28) can be expressed as an IP address in this manner: 0xCF.0xB2.0x2A.0x28 The "0x" designates each number as a hex quantity. The dots can be omitted, and the entire hex number preceded by 0x: 0xCFB22A28 And, additional arbitrary hex digits can be added to the left of the "real" number: 0x9A3F0800CFB22A28 Some browsers (Netscape 3.x and 4.x for instance) won't work with hex IPs; but for IE users, this page's URL can be: <http://0xCF.0xB2.0x2A.0x28/obscure.htm> or: <http://0xCFB22A28/obscure.htm> or: <http://0x9A3F0800CFB22A28/obscure.htm>

In Sum

URLs can be obscured at least three ways:

- 1) Meaningless or deceptive text can be added after "http://" and before an "@" symbol.
- 2) The domain name can be expressed as an IP address, in dotted-decimal, dword, octal or hexadecimal format; and all of these formats have variants.
- 3) Characters in the URL can also be expressed as hexadecimal (base 16) numbers.

CONSIGNMENT TABLE RULES

1. The consignment table is for members-only. Only current members can place items for sale, but non-members are welcome to purchase items from the table.
2. The consignment table operates on a 90%/10% basis - with the owner getting 90%.
3. Fill out tag on each item! It must contain Name, NOCCC#, item name, short description and asking price.
4. Also fill out this USER LIST with Name, Address, Phone#, and a complete list of items and their asking prices.
5. All items and/or money may be picked up by owner at any time — but MUST be picked up no later than 2 PM on day of sale.
6. Any items and/or money not picked up by above stated time will become property of NOCCC and will be subject to disposal at the club's discretion.
7. NOCCC assumes NO RESPONSIBILITY for ANY items bought or sold. Each item is placed and sold on an AS-IS BASIS.
8. We accept only cash or checks for payment.

NOCCC Officers

The area code is 714 unless noted otherwise.

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Books Available for Review

- THE PROCESS OF NETWORK SECURITY (Thomas Wadlow)
- WIRELESS WEB A MANAGERS GUIDE: (Frank P. Coyle)
- THE WIRELESS APPLICATION PROTOCOL
- ESSENTIAL C++ (Stanley B. Lippman)
- XCEPTIONAL C++ (Bjarne Stroustrup)
- OSPF COMPLETE IMPLEMENTATION (John T. Moy)
- C++ FAQ'S SECOND EDITION
- SSL AND TLS DESIGNING & BUILDING SECURE SYSTEMS.
- MULITIWAVELENGTH OPTICAL NETWORKS
- MULTI PARADIGM DESIGN FOR C++
- TCP/IP ILLUSTRATED VOLUME 3
- CONNECTING TO THE INTERNET A PRACTICAL GUIDE ABOUT LAN INTERNET ...
- MAGIC CAP COMPLETE (Raffle Desk)
- L2TP Richard Shea
- DESIGNING WIDE AREA NETWORKS AND INTERNETWORKS
- WHO'S AFRAID OF MORE C++
- BICYCLE: BLACKJACK, EUCHRE, BICYCLE, RUMMY
- INFORMIX SQL REFERENCE LIBRARY
- IDG Back Office Bible
- IPC'S FOR BUSY PEOPLE (David Einstein)
- QUICKTIME FOR THE WEB APPLE COMPUTER INC.
- EXPLORING IBM PERSONAL COMPUTERS
- UNIX MADE EASY SECOND EDITION
- PRACTICAL C++ PROGRAMMING
- IMPLEMENTING SAP R/3 USING MICROSOFT CLUSTER SERVER
- DISASTER RECOVERY PLANNING (Jon William Toigo)
- INFORMIX DYNAMIX SERVER 2000 (INFORMIX PRESS)
- INFORMIX GUIDE TO SQL REFERENCE AND SYNTAX SECOND EDITION
- WEB SERVERS , SECURITY & MAINTENANCE
- EXPLORING E-COMMERCE GLOBAL E-BUSINESS & E-SOCIETIES
- INSTANT ADVANTAGE.COM WINNING STRATEGIES FOR THE ONLINE ECONOMY
- ORACLE CERTIFIED DBA EXAM QUESTION & ANSWER BOOK
- SAP R/3 FOR THE INFORMIX DBA
- MANAGING PEOPLESOFT WITH TIVOLI
- DYNAMIC WEB PROGRAMMING GRAHAM HARRISON (Random House)
- JOB INTERVIEWS THAT MEAN BUSINESS

**TO WRITE A REVIEW: see Joe or Lloyd Mizer
(Jmmizer@juno.com OR lmizer@juno.com)**

Harley Hahn's Internet & Web Yellow Pages

Review by Joe Mizer Member, NOCCC

It is simple to conduct a search on the internet. Finding what you are looking for is not always so easy, and often you never find your prize without first finding the keywords which make your search quick. Harley Hahn has the answer with his best selling guide with over 3000 items listed in the table of contents. The yellow pages contains an electronic version of the book including AT&T connection software on a CD-ROM. The CD version is easier to carry around than the over 900 pages in the paper version. Another bonus with the CD-ROM version is the URL's are hot linked and will automatically take you to the web site.

Published by Osborne Hill the book is available at most bookstores and over the internet from Barnes and Nobel or Amazon. First published in 1994 Harley's yellow pages are the most entertaining and best way to surf the internet. I try to save my favorite sites, reviews of books I want to read, and technical articles in notebooks. However I can usually find what I need faster by looking at the index in this book and starting a new search, than I can by going through all of my notebooks.

When you just want to surf and do not have something in mind, just open to any of the over 900 pages and start reading. I did not find a page without a story or information which was worth more study. I recommend this to everyone as a sure way to improve the time you spend on the internet.

Stopping Spam

By Alan Schwartz & Simson
Garfinkel

Review by Joe Mizer Member NOCCC

Published by O'Reilly & Associates Inc. several years ago this book covers your options and provides you with some very practical advice. Spam is more than just a mere annoyance, it is an unwanted invasion into your life which at the least wastes your time. We live in the real world so we already know there are those who will use deception and clever tricks to get their uninvited message in your already overfull mail box. The layout of the book and its short length make finding your way through the chapters easy. This order of the chapters is as follows. Chapter 1. What's Spam and What's the Problem? Chapter 2. The History of Spam Chapter 3. Spamming Today Chapter 4. Internet Basics Chapter 5. A User's Guide to e-mail Spam Chapter 6. A User's Guide to Usenet Spam Chapter 7. Stopping Spam for Sys. Administrators and ISPs Chapter 8. Community Action

Spam is usually advertisements trying to sell you on their products or another virus of the day from someone trying to prove how clever or anti social they can be. Since none of these are interesting and fun things, unless you have a collection of creative viruses you probably want to avoid becoming their next victim. The worst is when you get five or more copies of the same unwanted message.

One method listed involves reporting the sender to the proper agency if there is evidence of a crime. Some of these could be pyramid schemes, child pornography, sale of restricted or stolen material etc.

I receive less spam e-mail at work since our system administrator started using filters and other techniques. I noticed a copy of this book in his office and imagine some of his efforts have come from this source.

Inside Java 2 Platform Security

Architecture, API Design & Implementation

By Li Gong “Chief Security Architect Sun Microsystems.”

Review by J Mizer Member NOCCC

This book is targeted primarily to serious Java programmers and security professionals who want to understand Java security issues from both a architectural as well as from a design and implementation perspective. Since Java 2 security is policy based it must be managed by system administrators as part of enterprise security. The goal of the book is to equip the reader with a understanding of the overall picture of systems and network security in the context of the internet environment. The other role of the book is to compare how various technologies relate to each other. The author is concerned not only about giving a comprehensive description of the architecture, and language features, such as APIs and security policy, he also gives productive helpful code examples and examples of common mistakes. One assumption the author makes is the reader is already familiar with the Java language, and therefore does not cover the language basics.

The book is organized in eight chapters. The first chapter is a general background on computer, network and information security. The next three chapters are the technical body and give a introduction into security and the architecture of JDK 1.2. The next three chapters concentrate on applications demonstrations, and usage examples. The last chapter is a look ahead at future directions for Java security. Each chapter starts with a quotation. The quotation for chapter one is credited to Robert T Morris. “ The three golden rules

to ensure computer security are: do not own a computer; do not power it on; and do not use it.”

The book was written at the same time JDK 1.2 was being developed by the “Chief Java Security Architect at Sun” Li Gong has covered almost every security feature in Java 2. The book is published by Addison Wesley ISBN number 0-201-31000-7. The list price is \$34.95 in the US. This book is in the series published by Sun Microsystems was first printed in 1999.

ARTICLES WANTED!

(written by NOCCC members)

**TIPS, REVIEWS, OR
ANY COMPUTER TOPIC
YOU’RE INTERESTED IN!**

Email: EDITOR@NOCCC.ORG

Linux SIG

by Jim Holder, NOCCC

The January 6, 2002 meeting was started with a restatement of the first meeting's theme as the SIG theme: **"Making Linux User Friendly," for those without either Unix or Linux experience or a programming background.**

OLD BUSINESS

Several of the items mentioned in the last SIG report (December 1999: Beginner's Guide and Beginner's Website Links) was delayed as the SIG leader found a virus of his own (Human that is). Played host to the critter for almost 3 weeks.

Patricia Bunning was unable to attend the January meeting, but did send an email as to the results of her research on firewalls and antivirus software that runs under Linux. The best source of information seems to be the text *Hacking Linux Exposed*, by Brian Hatch, James B. Lee and George Kurtz. The List price is \$39.99, but Amazon.com has it for \$27.99, while Barnes and Noble it is \$31.99. A&S Discount Books, 8520 E Chapman, Orange (714-538-7404) offers the text for \$19.99.

Few viruses seem to be a problem for Linux. But Hacking is a real possibility. The text has a lot of information on setting up firewalls.

Simplified documents for the new Linux user (spelled newbie) remains a task no one seems inclined to step up too. The same is true for a list of websites that are of value to a newbie, and what each site might contribute to the learning experience of a newbie. It is possible that reviewing the installation approach of the install scripts in use in Red Hat, Mandrake and SuSE would give some help in preparing a generic script set and documentation for a user (as defined above).

NEW BUSINESS

Dave Skurkis () has volunteered to download the various distributions of Linux from the web. ISO

Macintosh SIG

by Claire Lemire, NOCCC

This will be brief as many of our usual members present were making their way to MacWorld, San Francisco, so we were a bit shy but still there. I brought web page printouts for the newbies as to where to look for MacWorld info, software updates, and important Mac news. The flier for the next OACC meeting was also available and that topic will be VirtualPC.

Attending members bemoaned not being at MacWorld themselves but we made the best of it. Mostly we discussed the new iMac design, hardware changes, OS X, and many permutations of such. The new design is amazing - a 15 inch flat screen poised on a dual-ended 180 degree swivel arm attached to a base like no other... a simple half sphere, about the height of a CD jewel case, in white with an Apple logo on it. While PCers know the flat screen merged with an HD is no surprise, I think they'll look twice at this design for good reasons.

Next month we will be sharing all the goodies the members bring back from MacWorld SF. Remember it's 11:15 am now in Wilkerson 210.

CD-ROM images are available for Red Hat, Peanut, Slackware, Mandrake, SuSE, Debian, Caldern, Corel and Demolinux. I talked with Dan and he is working out a way to supply the images on a hard disk. From there they can be downloaded (burned) to CR-ROM. That still leaves about a dozen distributions marked for inclusion in the SIG software library.

The next meeting, February 3, 2001, we will begin to look at the first offerings for SIG software library, i.e., CD-ROMs of the major distributions of Linus. Hopefully at the March meeting at least one of the library entries can be demonstrated on an older platform (300Mhz).

Meeting Reports

General Meeting Report

by Eric Saca, NOCCC

In January, we had an amusing yet informative presentation by Matt McCann of the McKatz Brothers. Matt presented the new Quicken 2002.

President Alan Pearlman opened the meeting. Several announcements were made.

Cathy Grammer-Margolin mentioned that everyone should ensure that NOCCC has their current e-mail address, to receive meeting reminders, the latest Bytes password and other information through e-mail. With that, Alan asked how many people would like to receive the Bytes in electronic form only in the future. He said that the idea was being considered to cut costs. The biggest cost in producing the Bytes is not the postage but the printing. If members could download it every month instead of receiving a printed copy, it would save the club considerable money.

Cathy and George mentioned the importance of keeping your virus software current. They warned that viruses are now being embedded in websites. Such viruses can be downloaded and activated without warning just by opening a website.

Alan then introduced Matt McCann.

Matt started off by briefly demonstrating a useful on-line database system found at www.quickbase.com. It's like having a Microsoft Access database that you can use anywhere in the world. With this website, you can build complete databases, specifying fields and views, entering data and printing reports. Then because that information is on the Internet, you can access it anywhere and share it with anyone. Soon the website will also allow you to download the data to a palmtop.

Matt and his partner Richard Katz use the website to share information for their business, *McKatz Brothers Marketing*. They both travel different parts



of the country, presenting and selling software. Yet they easily maintain and share company data through www.quickbase.com. Matt demonstrated the website using part of their company database, containing a list of user group demonstrations. They maintained complete information on all their demonstrations, including date, time, location, user group and whether or not the demonstration was completed.

A member asked how much it costs to use the website. Matt said that prices start at \$15 a month, depending on the features you use.

Next it was time to demonstrate Quicken 2002. Matt started off getting some statistics from the audience. He asked how many people used the various versions of Quicken, from 2002 to the beginning. A few were using 2002. Most were using 2001 and 2000. Some were using older versions. Matt also asked how many were using Microsoft Money. A few dared raise their hands. Then Matt asked how many were not tracking their finances on a computer at all. A few raised their hands. He asked how many of them were thinking about maybe doing it. The same people raised their hands. He said that hopefully his demonstration would get them interested in it.

Matt noted that he was demonstrating Quicken 2002 Deluxe because it included all the standard features plus a few more. As there was so much to the product and he could spend hours demonstrating it, Matt said that he would concentrate on providing an overview of Quicken 2002, highlighting its new features since 2001. He also noted that there is a

Home & Business version. In 2002, they added mileage tracking to that version.

Matt began the demonstration in the *My Finances* section. He went to the *Setup* tab. In this tab, it was easy to create banking, investment, property and loan accounts for tracking personal finances. Matt demonstrated how easy it was to create a new checking account. He noted that you could set alarms in accounts, to notify you when they go below certain minimums.

Next, Matt demonstrated the automatic categorizing feature. Quicken will automatically categorize all your transactions as you enter them, based on historical data. If the categorization is not appropriate, you can easily change it. Transaction categorizing is necessary to keep your finances organized, print meaningful reports and determine which transactions apply to your taxes.

Matt showed us how easy it was to create and delete categories. When entire categories are deleted, Quicken makes it easy to reassign all their transactions to other categories.

Quicken can reconcile accounts automatically when you download transactions from a bank. As you enter transactions, it will also memorize them so that future transactions are quicker and easier to enter. For instance, it memorizes the payee and category so that when you create more transactions for the same payee, the information automatically appears in those transactions, saving data entry time.

All these features show the ease with which transactions can be entered in Quicken 2002.

Next, Matt took us into the Quicken *Investing Center*. In this section, you keep track of investment accounts and transactions. It allows you to group information by several fields, such as account name or transaction type. You can create and save different views of your data. Quicken also makes it easy to graph your investment portfolio.

Matt went into the *Property and Loan* section, demonstrating the new feature to download sales prices of nearby homes in your neighborhood. This is necessary to determine the possible sale price of your own home.

He went into the *Tax Center* and showed how Quicken lists all the important new tax law changes. It also provides dates when each law goes into effect. Quicken 2002 data can be exported to Intuit's *Turbotax* for ease in completing taxes.

Matt next showed us the *Reports & Graphs* section, which allows you to report on your spending habits by any criteria required. It can also help you quickly list the times you paid a particular creditor. Matt noted that this is probably the most important section for anyone because it is where you generate meaningful financial information from your transactions. The reports and graphs you generate can be used to help make important financial decisions.

Matt finally presented Quicken's *Year-End Copy* feature. It allows one of three operations to be performed on financial data at the end of a fiscal year. With the **Archive** feature, you can copy all data from the old year to another file but still retain it in the working file. With the **Start New Year** feature, you can copy all data from the old year to another file, then delete it from the working file. Finally, if you use neither feature, you will simply start the new fiscal year by retaining the old year's data in the working file.

A member asked if Matt has any tips on backing up financial data. Matt said that after you back it up, the most important next step is to take the backup tape or CD to another location. That way, if a fire or other disaster destroys your computer, the backup will still be intact at another location.

As he wrapped up his presentation, Matt mentioned that two copies of the Quicken 2002 Home & Business Suite were being given away in the raffle. He also presented us with special user group pricing for all versions of Quicken 2002.

Meeting Reports

PC Q&A SIG report for January 2002

by Jim Sanders

The topic for this months meeting was going to be Linux, but things went wrong. The over-heating AMD Athlon 1.2G CPU finally died. Just like the often heard lament, "But it was working fine the last time I used it!" I turned it off to go to lunch on the day before the club meeting. I pushed the power switch when I returned, and some lights came on, but nobody was home. Conveniently, I had just purchased an Athlon XP 1600+ CPU and motherboard for a new project and had the parts on hand to trouble shoot with. The new CPU got the system running but it was still not stable so on the morning of the meeting I decided to change the motherboard as well. This in fact seemed to make Windows run more reliably, but I was not about to try and do a installation of Linux on a machine that had just undergone heart surgery two hours before. I end up with enough egg on my face doing live demonstrations on hardware that I have some confidence in, this had the potential for complete disaster. I decided to demonstrate the Epson 1650 scanner that I was integrating for a customer instead of the Linux demo. I will do that for the February meeting.

As usual we had the Q&A session before the demo. One of the questions I did not know the full answer to and said I would find out. The question was about the BIOS entry "AGP aperture." The question was, "What is the AGP aperture, and what should I set the AGP aperture to?"

The following answer is quoted from the VIA web site:

"The AGP aperture is an area of system RAM reserved for use by the AGP card for storing textures **if it needs to**. The RAM is available for use by the system as normal if not used by the graphics card. This feature was of importance for graphics cards in

the past, when cards typically only had 4MB or 8MB of onboard memory. However, as most modern AGP graphics cards now have 32MB or 64MB of SDRAM, the setting is now of much less consequence. It is generally advised to set the AGP aperture to half the system RAM _ i.e. set to 32MB with 64MB of RAM. However, this advice predates the use of systems with more than 64MB of RAM and large graphics cards memories. In most cases you are unlikely to need to set the AGP aperture at more than 32MB, although in order to complete some of the artificial 3DMark200x benchmarks you may need to use an aperture of 64MB to hold all the textures."

This, and a few other articles, leads me to make the following statement; For most people, leave it at the 64Meg default and don't worry about it. For heavy duty gamers, same advice, plus go to the user group for your favorite game and ask if anyone has seen an improvement by changing the value.

On the Epson scanner, a nice piece! At 1600 x 3200 optical resolution, 3.2 Dmax, 48 bit color, built in positive/negative film scanning capability, a nice software package that includes Adobe Photo Elements, a USB interface, and all for about \$250, a good buy. A discussion point was whether or not you need that much resolution in your scanner. The answer for most jobs is NO. But when you start talking about scanning a 35mm slide, the answer is yes and more is better. When scanning a 4" x 6" print at 150 DPI in Adobe Photoshop, it takes the scanner about 10 seconds and generates a bit mapped file of 2.69 Megabytes or a JPEG medium compression file of about 225KB. This makes a good looking snapshot when viewed on a 1024x768 monitor. But zoom in even once and you can see it start to pixilate. The same photo scanned at 800 DPI takes the scanner about 65 seconds and generates a bit mapped file of 42.5 Megabytes or a JPEG medium compression file of about 1014KB. From the full screen mode you can zoom in about 6 times before you start getting the jaggies. The same photo scanned at 1600 DPI takes the scanner about 3 min. 45 seconds and generates a bit mapped file of 170 Megabytes or a JPEG medium compression file of about 2550KB. On the print that I was scanning, you

could zoom in a little bit more than last time but not see much additional detail.

The transparency unit built into the lid allows you to scan four slides or six negatives in a strip. The light source is wider than that and it should be possible to do a larger film size. For no obvious or stated reason, scans with the transparency unit are considerably slower than the reflective scans. At 3200 DPI, with the cropping box set to .93" x 1.42" you get a 39 Megabyte scan image. Drop it to 1600 DPI, and the size drops to 9.7MB. At the 1600 DPI setting, a slide take four minutes to scan after you have prescanned and set up the crop box. Obviously not a unit that you want to go into volume production with. On the other hand, for a unit that does it all, and does a pretty good job of it, \$250 is an attractive price.

Office Suites

By John Heenan, NOCCC

As usual , we began reviewing last month's lesson first by describing the pairs of relationships in a sample invoice. We then looked at how those relationships are defined in a database application such as QuoteWerks. We used the Access wizard to create an Order Entry application showing how easy it is to let Access associate the various tables in an application.

Access provides 2 commands for importing and linking of external data into a new database. I lied a little bit in describing how this works. See why next month. Also, see how to create a table from a query.

parking information

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

Parking is also free on the campus-side of the surface streets. The city of Orange's parking laws prohibits parking in front of residential housing. Expensive parking tickets will be issued to violators.

Current SIGS

SIG	Time	Building	Leader	E-mail
Autocad	9:00	Wilkinson 130	Joe Mizer	Jmmizer@Juno.com
Hardware Essentials	9:30	Science 306	Herbert Wong	ocug@singularitytechnology.com
Hardware Essentials	2:30	Science 109	Herbert Wong	ocug@singularitytechnology.com
Internet	2:30	Irvine Hall	James C. Smith	Jamescsmith@bigfoot.com
Java	9:30	Science 203	Terry Warren	Twarren@Alumni.caltech.edu
Linux/Unix	9:30	Wilkinson 210	Jim Holder	caholder@surfbest.net
Macintosh	11:15	Wilkinson 210	John Willner	willner@earthlink.net
New Technologies	9:30	Irvine Hall	George Margolin	Inventor@Pobox.com
Office Suites	11:15	Science 111	John Heenan	Jc_Heenan@Csi.com
Os/2	2:30	Science 203	Terry Warren	Twarren@Alumni.caltech.edu
PC Q&A	11:15	Irvine Hall	Jim Sanders	jSanders@ligasmicro.com
QuickBooks	11:15	Science 203	Linda Russell	goodnewsent@compuserve.com
CAI	9:30	Wilkinson 221	Bob Krishfield	bobkrish@socal.rr.com
Visual Programming I	8:30	Science 109	Anson Chapman	aecrcss@Hotmail.com
Visual Programming II	9:00	Science 109	Anson Chapman	aecrcss@Hotmail.com
Visual Programming III	10:00	Science 109	Anson Chapman	aecrcss@Hotmail.com
Visual Programming IV	11:15	Science 109	Anson Chapman	aecrcss@Hotmail.com
Windows	9:00	Science 111	James C. Smith	Jamescsmith@bigfoot.com
Understanding O.S.s	11:15	Wilkinson 111	Charlie Moore	Mooreca@aol.com

SIG ALERT !!!

Send the meeting reports to EDITOR@NOCCC.ORG by Wednesday after the previous meeting.

Let's welcome NOCCC's 2 new SIG leaders:

**Linda Russell, who has restarted the QuickBooks SIG, and
Bob Krishfield, who is now leading the CAI SIG.**

**Members have asked for 2 more SIGs, Geneology and Gaming,
but we need someone to lead them.**

Call or email Dave Keays if you would like to be a SIG leader.

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Guidelines for Submittal

You can now e-mail articles directly to the Editor through the North Orange County Computer Club's Web Site: editor@noccc.org, or just give the file on disk and printout directly to Dave Keays at the next meeting.

To transfer your article from your Windows word processor, click at the beginning of the article with your mouse, shift down arrow to the end of the article, then Edit Copy (^C), open your e-mail program, and Edit Paste (^V). If your article is too long to include in an e-mail, please save as ASCII file with a .TXT extension. Then zip the article and attach it to your e-mail.

All documents should have flush left margins, and only one carriage return between paragraphs. The editors will bold your paragraph headings, etc., in order to obtain consistent formatting throughout the Bytes.

Don't use CAPS for emphasis; that's like shouting at someone! Use CAPS for computer commands or file names, like AUTOEXEC.BAT or KNOW.TXT. For titles of books and software, capitalize the first letter of each word.

Also please spellcheck your article, and try to follow the ordinary rules of grammar. Don't use any kind of formatting (columns, tabs, indents, justification, hyphenation, etc.) If columns or tables are needed, send us a hard copy.

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Special Interest Groups - Our 23 SIGs cover a broad spectrum of user interest; they invite you, whether you rank as beginner or seasoned computerist, to take in 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 meetings you ask your question of the entire assemblage, and more than likely someone will have the answer.

The NOCCC HelpLine - Some 100 NOCCC volunteers, experts in their fields, stand ready to assist with your problems, as close as your telephone.

The Orange Bytes Newsmagazine - Our award winning newsmagazine mailed monthly to your address reports on current activities and gives you articles and reviews geared toward your needs.

Raffles - We distribute thousands of dollars worth of hardware and software raffle prizes at our general and SIG meetings.

Product Review - Write a review for the newsmagazine and keep the software, hardware, book, or Cd-ROM. Members review more than 20 products a month. For a list of products available email (items@noccc.org).

Consignment Table - We have a thriving consignment table on our regular meeting day, in which we assist members to sell or buy all kinds of computer items. Use our handy on-line line form to prepare your paperwork in advance.

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 activititing of articles for our newsmagazine to conducting a seminar, and more

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