Orange Bytes

NOCCC MEETINGS - July 14

9:30 a.m. *Irvine Hall*
NEW TECHNOLOGIES
Gene Barlow from PowerQuest:
a tutorial on hard disks

1:00 p.m. *Irvine Hall*
GENERAL MEETING
Gene Barlow from PowerQuest:
Partition Magic and more...

8:30 a.m

Visual Programming I . . . . Science 109
  Visual Basic and Visual Basic Script for beginners

9:00 a.m.

Auto cad . . . . Wilkinson 111
BeginningLinux . . . . Wilkinson 210
  Open Office and KOffice
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.

Computer Aided Investing . Wilkinson 221
  recognizing when to sell
Hardware Essentials . . . . . Science 306
  system power and basic over clocking
Intermediate Linux . . . . . Wilkinson 210
  Suse 8.0 and Redhat 7.3 distributions
Java . . . . Science 203

10:00 a.m.

Visual Programming III . . . . Science 109
  intermediate and advanced Visual Basic

11:15 a.m.

Macintosh . . . . Wilkinson 210
  exploring OS X with CDs and movie clips
Office Suites!, Etc.. . . . . . . Science 111
  modifying Outlook's "contacts" form.
PC Q&A. . . . . Irvine Hall
  general questions and answers
Quicken . . . . Science 203
  Quicken and Quickbooks: Tracking investments
Understanding O.S.s . . . . Wilkinson 111
  get help with DOS, Windows 3.1/9x/ME, OS/2,...
Visual Programming IV . . . . Science 109
  Office program development using VB

12:00 noon

PIG SIG . . . . Argyros Hall Cafeteria

1:00 noon

general meeting . . . . Irvine Hall

2:30 p.m.

Geneology . . . . Irvine Hall
  discover your family history with modern tools
Hardware Essentials . . . . . Science 109
  system power and basic over clocking
OS/2 . . . . Science 203
  OS/2 news and installation

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http://www.noccc.org

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future meetings
August 11

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news magazine staff

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

President's Message

This month I don't have much to say. At the last general meeting, several members mentioned they had trouble getting the electronic version of the bytes off the website.

Each month we will post the Orange Bytes on the website. Until after the meeting, it is password protected. You can get to it from the main page by selecting the Orange Bytes Newsmagazine link. When the computer asks for the username and the password, enter them in lower case as they are in the email we send you. You do not create your own username. The board decided to put the Orange Bytes on the website as many members have mentioned that they don't get their Orange Bytes in the mail. This is a delay in how the USPS handles third-class mail.

At the last board meeting, we discussed some of the ways to improve the club. We all agreed that something needs to be done if we want to survive. Meeting attendance has been very low lately. Bring a friend to a meeting. This month we will be hosting Gene Barlow from PowerQuest. He is an excellent speaker and always has great deals on software.

The July and August meetings will be on the second Sunday due to Chapman University's summer schedule. On the first Sunday in August, we will be having our annual TechFest event at the Margolin's house. Everyone is invited.

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The area code is 714 unless noted otherwise.

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E3 is About Games
and the Future of Entertainment

By Timothy Everingham, NOCCC (teveringham@acm.org)

Each year the computer games companies gather at the Los Angeles Convention Center for the world's largest computer games show in the world: Electronic Entertainment Expo, commonly known as E3. This name mirrors recent trends because computer games are one of the fastest growing areas in both the entertainment and technology industries. The annual revenue of the computer game industry is now larger than that of movie theaters box office and is moving toward eclipsing VHS/DVD movie revenue. During the Internet boom there was talk about declining TV viewership from people shifting there time away from the TV to the net. That was somewhat true, but the long-term threat to TV viewership looks more like from computer games than the Internet. Both Sony and Microsoft have gotten the vision that a game console should be looked at as part of home entertainment in general. At one time computer games were thought to be for kids and college age people. However, recent studies have shown that the correlation to whether a person will play computer games is highly related to whether someone was exposed to computers in their 20s or earlier. The general population only began to be exposed to computers in the early 80's, which gave the impression that computer games were only for those under 30 during the early 90's. However, as the first generation (which became computer literate in their 20s) aged they kept on playing computer games and the average age of computer games players is now the late 30s to early 40s. It is now clear that as the first generation that became computer literate when they were young will continue to play computer games; therefore, computer game use will become prevalent in all age groups in the population in the next 20 years.

The game console is the dominant type of platform in computer gaming. Console games outsell PC games three to one. There are three dominate makers of game consoles: Sony, Microsoft, and Nintendo. As stated earlier, Sony and Microsoft both have the vision of their consoles as part of a larger vision of the future of entertainment. Both can play DVD movies (Microsoft requires a $30 option). Sony's Playstation 2 is an older design than the other two consoles (introduced October 2000), but did allow some flexibility that allows you to add a hard drive and a modem/Ethernet module. Since it has been out longer, developers have had more time to work on and find ways to get the most of the Playstation 2. As a result, there are more games out for Sony's console and many of its games surpass in quality the games for the newer consoles. Microsoft's XBox is the most forward thinking console out there. It comes standard with a hard drive and Ethernet port; so was designed to be able to run more complex games, connect to the Internet via broadband, and connect with other devices in the home that are Ethernet enabled (many home electronics manufactures are planning to include Ethernet ports in their products and some already have). It is also newer than the Sony's offering, being introduced last November. Game developers have had less time to develop games for the XBox and to discover the best ways to exploit the strengths, so there are not as many games and they generally do not show fully what the XBox is capable of. That should change this fall. Both Microsoft and Sony expect that people will eventually consider their consoles just like any other home entertainment device and group them with TVs, stereos, and home theaters in their customer's minds. They also look at games that are played online with these consoles. That may take the form of just playing against a remote computer, head to head play with distant players (1-4 players), or playing in massive multiplayer worlds where large numbers of players will be playing together or in groups.

At last year's E3, Nintendo expressed that they designed their GameCube as a stand-alone device.

They said that game players were just interested in getting a console that could play good games and only play other players in the same room, stating that significant online console games was too far away for them to consider it in their console design. They also made their disk player proprietary, so it cannot play DVDs. They seemed to have reversed course since then with the addition of a modem model and with one online title and, at least in Japan, having a model that can play DVDs. For this and other reasons Nintendo may be vulnerable, so look to Sony and Microsoft to take advantage of this.

PC gaming is alive and well and growing. One of the reasons why is that PCs are capable of doing more things and are more easily upgradeable. Also the high-end consumer PCs of today are faster than any of the consoles out there and there are games out there and coming soon that can take advantage of their capabilities. They also have been online for over 20 years. The upcoming Doom III can produce twice the graphics resolution/frames per second than the top PCs produced now. PCs also are better in simulation, strategy, and real-time strategy games. It is also where online gaming is today with such tiles as Quake III, Everquest, and Ultima Online. It is where the best selling game of all time is; The Sims, the only large selling game where the majority of the players are women. One of the things that seems to have happened is that women in large numbers have had such a good experience with The Sims that they are now starting to buy other games too. This trend is expected to cause computer gaming to become not totally dominated by male gamers anymore. One of these titles contributing to this may become the upcoming online massively multiplayer game, Star Wars Galaxies from Lucas Arts and Sony Online Entertainment. Of course one of the most anticipated online games is The Sims Online and it looks great. One of the strengths of a PC is to be able to control a large number of objects or units. It is a marvel to see two massive armies marching toward each other on a PC, both numbering in the thousands (GSC Game World's American Conquest can do 16,000 units). So, look forward to some exciting new games coming to a PC near you.

Computer games will become part of a home's entire entertainment package, not something that is thought of as separate, and cover all age groups. Online gaming will expand to become a major entertainment force. In the future, game consoles may be able to talk with other devices in your home, especially home entertainment devices. Consoles have the majority share, but PCs will still be part of the gaming world because of their strengths and flexibility. So expect computer games to become part of your world if it isn't already. The lunch discussions of TV shows may be partially replaced by discussions of peoples' recent computer gaming experiences.

Timothy Everingham

He is CEO of Timothy Everingham Consulting in Azusa, California. He is also the member of the Executive Council of the Los Angeles Chapter of SIGGRAPH, the largest chapter of the Association for Computing Machinery's (ACM) Special Interest Group on Computer Graphics and Interactive Techniques and one of Southern California's significant professional organizations within the entertainment and media industries. He is also on the Management Information Systems Program Advisory Board of California State University, Fullerton; which he also graduated from with honors with the double majors of Management Information Systems and Accounting. In addition he is the Vice President of the Windows Media Users' Group of Los Angeles. He is also part-time press in the areas of high technology, video, audio, and entertainment/media and has had articles published throughout the United States and Canada. He is a member of North Orange County Computer Club. Further information can be found at http://home.earthlink.net/~teveringham

EBAY - Buying and Selling Hints and Tips

By Cathy Grammer-Margolin

EBay is the largest online marketplace

Tons of new and used and collectable items are bought and sold every day. Last year, eBay users exchanged some $9.3 billion worth of goods. On an average day in May, 1 million sales occurred, according to a Newsweek article (June 10th - Cover story). It allows an individual access to the global marketplace without having to have a large company.

First you have to sign up and get a user id (do not use your e-mail as your user id, as they can pull it off of Ebay to spam you). Once you get used to buying on Ebay, note that you can have multiple Ebay id's. I use one only for selling and another for buying (to not upset my customers).

When you bid, I recommend sniping (bidding at the last minute). If you continue to bid during a 7 day auction, you and your competition could drive the price up, while bidding at the last minute helps to keep the price lower. Think of any auction you have been to- it is only the last price at the close of the hammer that counts!

To that end, there are lots of sniping programs you can buy (www.hammertap.com, www.vrane.com, etusa.com, etc. or just check www.download.com for any auction sniping software- there are lots!) or use a sniping service (they bid at the last minute for you for a fee such as esnipe.com).

Make certain you check the sellers feedback- too many negatives and neutrals is NOT good. Even sellers with no feedback could be a disaster- they may not know the ropes yet - beware of a seller with no feedback and a large dollar item for sale - they may be good or bad, but you do not have enough information to trust them with your hard-earned money.   If you have a concern about a seller, ask them a question a few days before the auctions end (such as cost of shipping, do they take Paypal or Ebay Payments, etc.) to see how they respond.

AuctionWatch.com has lots of tips for buyers and sellers at: http://www.auctionwatch.com/awdaily/tipsandtactics/index2.html

They also have a message board for many different auction sites at http://www.auctionwatch.com/mesg/ where you will notice that Ebay comments outnumber other comments by a 1000%. Ebay is where the market is in online auctions.

Before you buy, be aware of the Terms of Sale (TOS) for that seller. They differ greatly. Some take only money order (be careful with those), some take Ebay Payments only, etc. If you pay with a credit card or Ebay Payments, it is easier to get reimbursed (chargeback) if the transaction goes wrong. Just remember to be careful as you would normally in any transaction.

If you want to be a seller, sign up soon as Ebay will be changing how they qualify you for selling. You do need a credit card and a bank account, currently. Ebay is an ever changing marketplace, where change is constant. This summer, the Postal rate increase will change how some sellers sell on Ebay (low dollar items may be harder to find). But it is a unique marketplace. I needed a glass double boiler to make my Mom's famous hot fudge sauce, and learned they no longer make them. I turned to Ebay and found only antique and very expense ones. But I waited and found one that was clouded on the bottom (fine for my purpose, but not as good for an antique) and $20 later, I had my double boiler! You would be amazed what you can find!

The Epson Perfection 2450 Part II

David Feign (NOCCC)

The advantage of using Epson's scanning software was that I could pre-set the orientation and color compensation characteristics of each of the frames

Last month I reported my first impressions of the scanner. Since then I have spent many hours exploring the device and found out much more. Most of what I found was by trial and error but I did get some help from NewSoft (see below).

First, the trouble I had with not being able to scan more than one image was pilot error. I had used default settings where I shouldn't have and, as a result, was scanning in images that were nearly 600 MegaBytes. My computer has only one GigaByte of RAM so there was no room for more than one image. When I set the options properly, I was able to scan all 12 images in the film holder at less than 20 MegaBytes each.

The advantage of using Epsons scanning software was that I could pre-set the orientation and color compensation characteristics of each of the 12 frames separately, thus taking advantage of the scanner's color depth and saving later processing in PhotoShop.

I also checked their claims on resolution. I happen to have an old binary angle encoder which had, in its highest resolutions, alternating clear and opaque lines that are 1/2000th and 1/4000th of an inch wide. The 2400 ppi setting clearly resolved the 1/2000th lines but failed to resolve the 1/14000th lines. Any higher (interpolated) resolution settings did not resolve any better (as expected), but did serve to reduce the jaggies in lines that were not exactly vertical or horizontal.

My main disappointment was that Epson's software supported only their film holders. I had been hoping to use my own, home-made film holders to be able to scan more frames at a time. But when I tried my holders, Epson's software did not recognize the individual frames. And the results I got were inconsistent. The first time I scanned eight 2" X 2" slides (instead of the four in their holder), I got nine frames, one of which was blank. That would have been fine but I could never replicate that result. Every other time I used my holder (and three variants of it), I got the proper number of frames but they were very distorted - sometimes covering only part of a frame and sometimes including a small version of the whole frame in a strip otherwise blank. What I wound up doing is using the SilverFast software to scan the whole field and separate the frames by clipping them apart in PhotoShop. That took a bit more effort and didn't allow individual frame correction during the scan.

My second disappointment was Epson's support. Like most large companies, they hide behind FAQs and on-line support, where I could not find answers to my questions. The good news is that NewSoft, Inc., a German software company that produced the excellent SilverFast software I'd mentioned previously, is still a small enough company that provides personal customer support. Not only did they answer my questions about their software, they also checked with Epson and answered some of my questions about the scanner itself and the software that came with it. Unfortunately, they would not give me the means they used to contact Epson, but I highly recommend NewSoft for both excellent software and real customer support. My contact with them was thorough and I highly recommend that company.

Web Database Applications

authors Hugh E. Williams & David Lane
review by Tommy Hugh Crenshaw

It is not a beginner's book, but for programmers who develop web pages

The Internet drives many individual conversations and many of the general meetings at NOCCC. A natural progression of individual conversation leads to web sites. Then natural progression leads to individual web sites. It seems as though everyone wants a web site. Everyone has an idea of what a web site should be. So, up pops a web site. Usually, it will consist of a few static pages. Nice site. Then it needs to be improved. And the subject of this book review, Web Database Applications, solves issues of advanced web site design, even for the individual web site.

It is not a beginner's book, but is prepared for the transition of programmers who understand basic computer logic to move to developing dynamic web pages for web sites, whether it is for a small personal web site or a large commercial site. The book will get you up and running. It requires a basic understanding of dealing with an Internet service provider and an understanding of HTML code used in web site design. While it runs on Linux, it will also run on Windows. Linux is free, PHP is free, and MySQL is free; they all are open source applications.

Open source code is a substantial benefit in a new site, or in managing the cost of a web site, because there is no cost for use as long as you comply with any licensing restrictions. Licensing for open source code is somewhat lax but is beyond this review. There are limitations. The book gives links to web sites to download the necessary files. There are several appendices that cover installation, along with some

general information in a format somewhat like a glossary.

PHP is a server side scripting language. A server side scripting language is an application that runs on a server that in most cases is at an ISP's site. An ISP is an Internet service provider, such as Earthlink or AOL. A scripting language is of little value to the ordinary computer user. But there is a use that provides an interesting result for others that have a cable connection or a DSL connection.

You can run as an ISP yourself. You must not violate any of the agreement with your service provider; but if they allow it; you can be your own mini service provider. Of course you are obligated to not compromise your "real" service provider.

That said, if you use a Linux box you can run a web server, a DNS server, PHP and MySQL on a computer at home; your friends can request your web page; and your computer will provide the page you prepared. As mentioned, they are probably static pages. This is where PHP and MySQL are useful.

The book will walk you through installing PHP and MySQL, and then you can set up an on-line store they have as a sample. All the code is listed in the book. This store will be a dynamic store that sells wine to the Internet public complete with validation on the server and client, sessions to track customers on the store, authentication and security, the online store management, a shopping cart, and ordering and

shipping. All this is just an example; however, it appears to be substantially complete. The suggested web site is just that, a suggestion to examine the code in the book and to run it while learning the advantages of a dynamic web site. The example store should work on a Windows based machine; however, you would need the servers listed above, only Windows servers. They would need to be appropriate for Windows. Apache does make a web server for Windows, and it's open source.

The following is a partial list of programming terms that if you recognize, you will be at home with this book: conditional statements, loops, arrays, strings, expressions, functions, and variables. They are used in preparing the wine store example. Anyone understanding those terms, having some idea what they mean, or is just an ambitious soul can make considerable use of this book. The syntax reminds me of C, although there are many limitations in PHP compared to C. Another unique difference is the manner in using PHP, it is mixed in with HTML code, and it is not compiled but is executed on demand. It will output a single string of HTML code to any requesting party wanting to see your site.

You can duplicate the ISP's web server and use PHP and MySQL on your home computer. It's not necessary to be connected to the Internet to use PHP and MySQL, by installing a web server on your personal computer you can serve pages to the web browser on your same computer; it will work. It is common to develop web sites in that way.

After discussing the fun way to use PHP and MySQL, the practical way is to use your ISP as a web host. You write your web page code on your machine and upload to your ISP for him to host for you. Before you start, make sure your ISP can host PHP and MySQL.

MySQL is a database. PHP will support other databases: MSAccess, IBM DB2, Adabas, Sybase SQL Anywhere, Oracle, and PostgreSQL to name some.

NOTE:

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

The passwords will be emailed to club members 2 weeks before each meeting.

Some of the resources needed for online purchases, such as accepting money, require a service much like a credit card service in a brick and mortar store. They charge a fee for their service. The book is thorough and the example winestore could be adapted to sell other products with changes. I know I'll read it again; I saw things that I can use, i.e., classes and objects.

windows in "Windows"

Don Edrington's PC Chat from April 23, 2002

I've gotten a number of questions recently about manipulating the windows (sometimes called frames or boxes) in which we perform our various computer tasks. Well, one of the fundamentals of using Windows is that everything is done in these windows.

Any window can be made to fill your screen by clicking the square in its upper right corner, whereupon the square changes to a pair of overlapping ones, which, when clicked will return the window to its previous shape and location.

The larger square is called the "Maximize" button while the overlapping squares constitute the "Restore" button. The little dash is the "Minimize" button, which, when clicked, removes a window from view, but which lets you know the file is still open by appearing as a button on your Taskbar.

If you're using multiple programs at the same time (i.e. "multitasking") each application will have its own window. When in the "Restore" condition, multiple windows will overlap one another with the most recently accessed window being in front. A single click on the edge of any other window will bring it to the front. Any window can be moved by grabbing the "Title Bar" along its top edge.

Beyond all the above, most any window can be reshaped by simply grabbing any edge or corner and adjusting it with your mouse.

If you're using MSWord and have multiple documents in progress, the one currently being used will normally cover the others. To switch documents, click on Window to choose from the list of other open files.

If you have multiple Word documents open, but only see one button on the Taskbar, you can go to

Tools, Options, View and choose Show Windows In Taskbar to have all open files displayed there.

If you'd like all open document windows to show at once, click on Window and choose Arrange All. This will stack the pages one above another. If you'd rather have them arranged side by side you can grab their corners to change their shapes and "tile" them in any order you prefer. When multiple documents are displayed, the one currently being accessed will have its toolbar displayed at the top. When you click another page, the toolbar moves from the previous page to the newly active one.

You can also display a "double" view of any MSWord document by going to Window, Split. This is handy if you have a multi-page document and want to, say, have Page 1 showing while you make entries on Page 5. To return to a single page view, pull the Split bar off the page.

Another advantage of MSWord is being able to have as many as nine recent filenames displayed when you click on File. (Most programs just allow four.) Go to Tools, Options, General, Recently Used File List and choose the number you want.

More PC Tips can be found at www.pcdon.com along with all PC Chats from 2000, 2001 and 2002, (not to mention all kinds of free downloadable music, cartoons, some vintage jokes, and some classic pinups.

PS: Since there's no way I can personally answer all the stacks of email I receive, I try to put as many answers as possible in upcoming newsletters. Beyond that, you're welcome to email my assistant, Mary Hanson, at MaryPCChat@aol.com.

General Meeting Report
June 2, 2002

by Eric Saca

In the July meeting, Gene Barlow will give his tutorial on Hard Drives.

In June, Joe Lorenzini of STOMP! presented their latest products. President Alan Pearlman opened the meeting. George and Cathy Margolin showed off the many prizes donated by STOMP! for the raffle. Alan announced that the election for new officers and board members needed to be wrapped up. He presented the existing slate of nominated officers and asked if there were any volunteers. No one responded. Thus, without challenge, the nominees automatically took their positions. Then Alan presented the nominated Board of Directors. He asked if there were any volunteers for the Board. There were none, so the nominees automatically became the new Board.

Next, Alan announced a prize giveaway for new members signed up in the last year, since July 1, 2001. He asked all new members to raise their hands. Five people raised their hands and were confirmed to be new members. All five received small prizes - software packages and utilities. Cathy announced a new version of Golden Bow's Vopt - the extremely fast and efficient disk defragmentation utility that works with PC-compatible drives of any format - NTFS, FAT, FAT32 and the latest versions of Windows XP and 2000. VoptXP, Golden Bow's latest version, defragments even huge hard drives in just a fraction of the time that competitor packages do, including those from Symantec and Microsoft, and even the excellent products from Executive Software. VoptXP is normally downloadable for just $40, but because the developer, Barry Emerson, is a good friend of George, he will give a $10 discount to anyone mentioning that they heard about it from George or Cathy.

You can download a free, fully working 30 day demo of Vopt or VoptXP at www.goldenbow.com. After you try it and if you are as impressed as George and Cathy think you'll be — you can instantly convert it to a permanent version as stated above, for only $30 by contacting Golden Bow. Our Main Speaker was Joe Lorenzini. George introduced Joe, who explained that his entire office building in Costa Mesa was recently destroyed in a fire; warehouse, computers, files and all. His excellent slide show proved that even though the building was totally gutted, they saved and protected all their files using their own products and were up and running in a new location - in less than Two Weeks!!!

Joe's company, STOMP, Inc. was the original producer of CD Stomper, a popular CD label utility that was eventually sold to Avery-Denison. The owners, then used proceeds from that sale to greatly expand their company and purchase several other well-known product lines. The STOMP office in Costa Mesa, where Joe worked, was completely burned down one night. Absolutely nothing was left. (Police are still investigating possible causes.) The following day, Joe took his camera and photographed the remains, just to have some record of his company's great tragedy. He showed those pictures later in the presentation. STOMP has six main product lines and Joe presented them all. He showed us a sample of Clutter Buster, a small organizer that can attach to your computer or monitor for convenient storage of small items, such as pens, CDs, tapes and more. It retails for $19.

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Next came Disc Savers, thinner jewel cases that protect CDs and provide more efficient storage because twice as many can fit in a typical carrier. They come in a package of 50 for $14 - and a neat free carrier is provided. The third product he presented was Backup My PC, a software utility retailing for $89. This package was bought from Veritas before they went out of business. It used to be called BackupExec. (A member from the audience asked if STOMP had made backups prior to the fire. Joe said that they had complete backups of all workstations - done with Backup My PC. The only exception was a guy with a Macintosh. He also performed backups, but unfortunately, he left them about 20 feet away from his desk and they also perished in the fire.)

Fourth came RecordNow MAX, a CD burning utility also from Veritas. It retails for $49. STOMP also sells RecordNow MAX Platinum, which is RecordNow MAX bundled with extra useful utilities. Fifth, he introduced Click'N Design 3D, a $19.95 labeling program for CDs and just about any other type of label on the planet. Finally, Joe covered Click'N Share Photo, a $19.95 utility for managing picture files on disk. With it, you can burn photos to CD, along with a sharable viewer to allow family and friends to view the photos when you mail them the CD.

Click'N Share Photo. Next began the software demonstration - with Click'N Share Photo. Joe had several pictures of his burned-down building on disk to share with us. He gathered them into a single Click'N Share Photo album. He then demonstrated the picture viewer, showing how easy it was to browse photos with it.

As Joe showed pictures of the burned building, he mentioned several ways to process photos with Click'N Share Photo - cropping, rotation, resizing, capture of audio notes, redeye removal, batch renaming and printing - full pictures can be printed as well as thumbnails. A photo album can even be created for viewing on the web. Joe demonstrated batch renaming for all burned building pictures. He gave

them a uniform name. He also created a quick web photo album from the pictures. It was impressive when ran through a browser.

Backup My PC. Joe next launched Backup My PC for a demonstration. He explained some of the screens. He noted several significant features - easy-to-use wizards, a comprehensive scheduler, features for peer-to-peer network backups, excellent 2-to-1 compression, a disaster recovery feature to allow restores without initial operating system installations, the ability to create drive images (like Symantec's Ghost) and CD-ROM backup capability. A member asked if it was possible to backup to DVD. Joe said yes. Another member asked if backups of Windows XP and NTFS drives were possible. Joe said no, not yet, but that will be possible in the next version almost out - and upgrades will be free.

RecordNow MAX. Joe presented RecordNow MAX as probably the hottest CD recording utility available. With it, one can copy music CDs straight from disc to disc, copy from disc to hard drive to disc, gather pieces from several CDs and make a single compilation disc with them, create standard music CDs or MP3 CDs. In creating CDs, one can also convert music tracks from probably every format available today. For people new to CD creation, the software comes with a very simple wizard. It supports all overburn technologies and even knows if the CD is slower than the burner. It is also the only CD burning software available that can burn up to 64 discs at once. Makers of CD burner jukeboxes always include RecordNow with their products. A member asked if RecordNow MAX can copy from DVD to DVD. Joe's answer was yes.

Click'N Design 3D. Joe had little time left to demonstrate Click'N Design 3D, so he just launched it and described its best features. It provides a completely WYSIWYG label-design interface. It comes with over 5,000 pieces of clipart and graphics. It has a barcode creation facility. It performs printer calibration and configuration if needed. Avery-Denison has even been bundling it with their CD Stomper products!

Macintosh SIG

by John Willner, NOCCC (willner@earthlink.net)

On the Macintosh side we are seldom plagued with viruses. However, the problems encountered this past month by two of us indicates that the Outlook Express virus was the culprit. Behavior was similar on both machines, one a G4 desktop, and one an iMac. First, the operating systems started to behave strangely. Applying a hard disk diagnostic program, both minor and major disk faults were found. These faults were repaired, but the same things occurred in the next few days. Finally, on trying to boot into OS X a blank System Preferences panel came up with nothing in it. Furthermore, files and directories were scrambled. For example, Users were found under Utilities. After consulting with Apple the only solution was to try to back up data and reformat the hard drive. This provided me with the opportunity to partition, making one for OS 9 and one for OS X. Then it was necessary to reinstall both operating systems, to reinstall the software for DSL on both sides (there are different versions for each system), and also the different printer drivers on both sides. Otherwise, progress would have been impeded without these functions working. Evenso, it took many hours to download the Installer Upgrade file necessary for the next steps, the three latest OS X upgrades (to 10.1.4) and the one OS 9.2.2 upgrade. Then, the automatic software upgrade capability was enabled from System Preferences, and many more hours were consumed (even at DSL speeds) upgrading other files. Then come to find out that email messages I had been saving were gone. Also, my backup missed certain current work items and that will have to be redone. So we live and learn about what Windows people go through constantly. Now, comes the task of reinstalling software and reinstalling Preferences, one by one.

Well, Mercury is retrograde, and so the projector lamp did not come on. It looks like a replacement bulb will have to be purchased. Hence, planned showing of two CDs had to be deferred until next month.

We still got a lot out of this meeting with discussions of airport techniques, the advantages of getting a router to thwart some viruses from entering the system, digital photography, and the need for beginner classes. What is so interesting is that newcomers to OS X, unencumbered by knowledge of previous Mac operating systems, appear to pick it up quickly.

Next month we will come back to showing two OS X CDs with movie clips on them that explain parts of the system.

General meeting (page 14)

Joe closed by announcing the STOMP website: www.stompinc.com. After the raffle, before the meeting was adjourned, Cathy announced that the July and August meetings would occur on the second Sundays of the month instead of the first, due to scheduling requirements with Chapman University. Next Meeting - Gene Barlow — one of NOCCC's best friends, will make his yearly visit and always-informative presentations at our July 14th. In the Main meeting and the New Technology meeting you'll learn virtually everything you need to know about saving, transferring, making and moving Partitions on your hard drives with software from Power Quest's Partition Magic - the leader in the field. He'll also show the latest versions of Drive Image for completely backing up and cloning one drive to another.

He'll also be at the New Technologies meeting at 9:30 for his tutorial on Hard Drives — how to use and protect them in the most efficient and safest way possible. Be there for both the morning and afternoon meetings. They'll be well worth your time and are one of the many reasons that make belonging to NOCCC so valuable to computer users of every level.

Computer Aided Investing (CAI) SIG

by Bob Krishfield, bobkrish@socal.rr.com

Uncertain Markets Require More Investor Attention

We started the meeting with a discussion about the market and the short-term outlook. Fred Haney and Irv Saunders provided charts of the Dow that showed separate resistance levels has been broken, with indicators suggesting more downward movement. Our membership straw vote on the Dow has predicted the market direction for three months.

Our vote from last month, was equally divided among rising a 100 points, 100 point loss, or staying within 100 points. The actual change was down 81 points. The vote for the Dow level for next meeting is still split, but a lower level has a few more votes.

Irv Saunders presented a gold price history chart, which showed a continuing rise in gold   now at a 2 1/2 year high. Discussions left it an open question whether gold will see further rises, and whether or not world conditions will pressure markets to break the resistance of the prior highs.

A summary of John Murphy's 10 Rules for Technical Trading found on StockCharts.com web site, Chart School section was presented as a useful guide. This is old stuff for the experienced traders, but is an informative yet high level guide for those just getting started.

Alternative Strategies of Trading versus Buy and Hold was presented and used as a group discussion. While these are contrasting strategies, the group consensus was that most people use both strategies, with some assets not actively traded as much as others. Two key points were made from this discussion:

(1) Since current markets do not have an upward trend, individual investors need to be more actively involved with their investments, i.e. monitoring, buying, selling.

(2) Making money in this market will depend upon knowing when to sell and having a good exit strategy.

We discussed MetaStock and the software's latest product enhancements and methods for setting up trading systems for current market conditions. This includes finding the best stocks for a chosen system, and finding the best system for a set of stocks. Without endorsing any product or training seminar, it is recommended that the technical investor take advantage of sales and training presentations (e.g. MetaStock, TC2000, Chris Manning, etc.) to become aware of the tools and techniques available, and some of the new features.

DEADLINE

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

(note: temporarily use rdksoft@sbcglobal.net)

Dave Keays, ORANGE BYTES editor

Linux
Bob Ray, NOCCC

In July, we will discuss Virii known to infect Linux

At the June 2, 2002 Linux SIG we reviewed the following items:

1) We loaded and installed SuSE 8.0 as a Workstation Laptop from scratch and experimented with the KDE Desktop and Command Line shell console. We also experimented with several other less common graphical desktops known as FVWM and twm and WindowMaker.

2) We discussed the new "United Linux" Distribution, a joint effort from SuSE, TurboLinux, Caldera and Conectiva. This new Distribution has invited others to join with them in standardizing the Linux Distro & Installation process.

3) We installed Star-Office 5.2, "clicked around" and experimented inside the GUI—-everyone got to participate by yelling out "Click over there" or "Click up on top" or "No, click that little box on the bottom". Andy Nikurs was in charge of the mouse and the "console commander". Much thanks to Andy for getting everyone's clicks in. We expect to probe deeply into the caverns of Star Office in the months ahead.

The Agenda for the upcoming July Linux Sig is:

1) The usual recap of current Linux News and Announcements etc.—-the good, the bad, and the ugly. Anyone can contribute here, remember the louder you yell the more people will hear you (just kidding).

2) We expect to re-install SuSE 8.0 and expand our review of the Desktops KDE 3.0 and GNOME 1.4 as well as the BASH command line interface.

3) A continuing review and discussion of the new Redhat 7.3 Distro release.

4) I will present and short review of Open Office 1.0 and possibly a review of KOffice features as well.

5) We will review and discuss Linux Virus issues known to affect or infect the Linux Operating system, Linux Servers, or the Desktops. We will concentrate on the "Virus" as a separate item from other Security Issues i.e.; hacking, cracking, unauthorized intrusion, firewalls, e-mail attacks etc.

If any NOCCC member (or wanna-be NOCCC member) is interested in Linux and has questions, like: What is Linux? Where do I get it? How do I install it? What can I do with it? Come to the Beginning Linux Sig. We can provide you with a lot of "IT".

PC Q&A

by Jim Sanders, NOCCC

A WinXP experience that would be usefull

This month's SIG turned out to be all Q&A, some discussion, and a failed attempt to get on the internet with my SV24 system. None of the questions stuck in my memory, but the discussion about the SV24's big brothers did. Shuttle now has available the SS40g for the Athlon/Duron and the SS50 for the Intel P4. An interesting point about the SS40g is that it uses a heat-pipe cooler for the CPU. This is the only non-laptop production system that I know of that uses this technology. It is slightly bigger and $100 more expensive than my SV24, but I covet the SS40g. Beyond that, I thought the following WinXP experience would be useful.

I recently attended a Microsoft technical seminar for computer professionals where the major topic was Windows XP Professional. There was a fair amount of useful and interesting imformation presented. It usually happens that a few points really catch my attention part way into their presentation. By that time, I have trouble recalling exactly which path was taken to get to the function that is being discussed. That happened this time when the speaker got to the WinXP System Restore function. I was writing a note to remind myself to look up the Undo System Restore function when I looked up to see an options screen for System Restore function that allowed you to change the percentage of your hard disk that was allocated to this function.

The slider was set to the maximum of 12% which is the WinXP install default. That is 12% of the full size of your hard disk or 12% of each of the partitions if you have it divided into partitions. On one of my systems, I have a single 80G drive divided into four equal partitions. That means that the System Restore

function, if left at the install default value, can consume 2.2G of each of the four partitions. That didn't thrill me too much, and I decided that I would turn off or much reduce that allocation on partitions 2, 3, and 4. The point was also made that regardless of the size of the allocation, when it gets full, the system will start deleting the oldest restore points to make room for new ones. Path =, click Start, right click My Computer, click Properties, click System Restore tab, click on a drive, click settings.

It occurred to me at that point that it might be a good thing if you could save, copy, or otherwise protect one of the "older" restore points. The restore point that I was actually thinking of was the "I have the fresh install of the OS and all the apps, drivers, and utilities that I normally use, up and running OK " restore point. A sort of master restore point that you could go back to before you went to the closet to get the shotgun. I asked if one could do this and received a very affirmative response. So I said "Great, would you please show me how?" After a bit of searching, I was told that the question would be answered after the break.

Another highlighted feature of WinXP System Restore was the Undo feature. With this option you have a single level undo feature. That is, if you do a single restore and decide that you don't like the results, you can undo that restore back to where you started. You could then try a different restore point and if needed, undo that one as well, and so on till you ran out of restore points you wanted to try. But if you tried one restore point and didn't like it, then tried another one and didn't like it either, you would only be able to

e

undo back to the first restore point that you didn't like, not back to the original starting point.

Having watched most of the demonstration, I "assumed" that I would be able to use WinXP, Start, Help and Support, to locate the path to the System Restore window that I observed during the demonstration. Well, not exactly. I distinctly recalled that the window I saw at the demo had a selection for 1, Use a restore point, 2, Create a restore point, and 3, Undo a restore point. After searching through all the paths suggested in the help windows, I could not find the window that had the # 3, Undo a restore point, selection. I couldn't finish this report until I figured out what I was doing wrong even though I had more than a couple questions about my own memory. I went to the internet and confirmed that there really is an undo function, but I still couldn't find that window. I finally remembered that a lot of programmers fall into two main types of catagory, the glass half full or the glass half empty. And there is also a fair number that are somewhere else. In this instance, I had not yet used a restore point, ipso facto, there is no need for an undo option. Once I had used a restore point, the # 3 option magically appeared. I am not sure which catagory it puts me in, but if I had written that code, I would have included the undo option to begin with as a hint/reminder that you can undo a restore. Then, if someone tried it, a little error message, say like, "You can't Undo a Restore until you Do a Restore." Obviously, the glass in Redmond is less than half full of programmers that think like me.

I still haven't received a response on how you can save that "Master" restore point. I will try and have a step-by-step answer for the July SIG. Work up some good questions for the July SIG that we can all benefit from. If you already have the answer, bring that as well. See you then.

CONSIGNMENT TABLE

1. The consignment table is for members-only. Only current members can place items for sale, but non-members are welcome to purchase items from the table.

2. The consignment table operates on a 90%/10% basis - with the owner getting 90%.

3. Fill out a 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.

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
Beginning Linux	9:00	Wilkinson 210	Bob Ray	bobcray@pacbell.net
Intermediate Linux	9:30	Wilkinson 210	Bob Ray	bobcray@pacbell.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	aeccrcss@Hotmail.com
Visual Programming II	9:00	Science 109	Anson Chapman	aeccrcss@Hotmail.com
Visual Programming III	10:00	Science 109	Anson Chapman	aeccrcss@Hotmail.com
Visual Programming IV	11:15	Science 109	Anson Chapman	aeccrcss@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 ! ! !

New information about special interest groups at NOCCC

Members have asked for a group on Gaming. If you can lead it or have an idea about what it should cover, call or email Dave Keays.

Send the meeting reports to editor@noccc.org by Sunday after the previous meeting.

NOTE: the email address listed above isn't working right now, so send reports to rdksoft@sbcglobal.net

Publication information

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.

Help line

The Help Line is in the true spirit of NOCCC, which is to help others to learn more about computers. The following is a list of Help Line volunteers. The list is organized by the topic that each volunteer is willing to help you with. The area code for the following phone numbers is 714 unless noted otherwise. Please help us keep this list current. Call or e-mail Ted Williams at 639-1009 or Ted Williams@alum.MIT.edu with additions, deletions, or corrections.

AI. . . . . Ron Osborn
Amiga . . . . Ron Osborn
Apple . . . . Ron Osborn
Apple/Educator . . . . Gerry Resch
Apple II . . . . James C. Smith . . . . . Jamescsmith@bigfoot.com
C/C++. . . . . James C. Smith . . . . . Jamescsmith@bigfoot.com
Computer Boards. . . . . Martin LaRocque
Corel Draw . . . . Roy Boorman . . . . rboorman@earthlink.net
Excel(IBM) . . . . Linda Russell . . . . . goodnewsent@compuserve.com
Excel(Mac) . . . . Bob Krishfield
Lotus Notes. . . . . Vance Jochim . . . . . vjochim@Webworks66.com
MacIntosh . . . . Bob Krishfield
MacIntosh . . . . Ron Osborn
Memory/Interrupts . . . . Martin LaRocque
Modem-Hardware . . . . Bill Hinds
Modem-Software. . . . . Bill Hinds
Neural Networks . . . . Ron Osborn
OS/2 . . . . Rollin White
Pagemaker 6/6.5. . . . . Dale Blank
PC Beginners. . . . . Ron Osborn
PC Hardware . . . . Ron Osborn
Quicken 6.0. . . . . Hoyt Crider
Quicken 6.0 . . . . Jay Chaisson
Quicken 2000, 2001 . . . . . Linda Russell . . . . . goodnewsent@compuserve.com
QuickBooks . . . . Linda Russell . . . . goodnewsent@compuserve.com
Quicken Home & Business 2000, 2001. . . . . . . goodnewsent@compuserve.com
Quick Books 5.0 . . . . Jay Chaisson . . . . .
PowerPoint. . . . . Vivian Carroll . . . . vcvc@aol.com
Tcl/Tk . . . . Bob DeWolf . . . . bobS5@aol.com
Unix . . . . Bob DeWolf . . . . bobS5@aol.com
Windows 9x. . . . . O.T. Stoll . . . . ot@stollcomputers.net
Windows 9x . . . . John Heenan
Windows 2000 . . . . Ted Williams . . . . . tedWilliams@alum.mit.edu
Word. . . . . John Heenan
Word . . . . Vivian Carroll . . . . vcvc@aol.com
WordPerfect . . . . Ron Osborn
WordPerfect . . . . Hoyt Crider

NOCCC Membership

If you haven't joined, you're missing a lot!

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 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 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 activities like writing articles for our newsmagazine to conducting a seminar, and more

You may attend a meeting without joining NOCCC. Dues are $30.00/year. Members are entitled to the many benefits listed above. OK, Sign me up!

QUICK MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PLEASE PRINT!

Date:_____ I am a new member_____

This is a renewal, my membership number is_____

Name _____

Address_____

City _____

State _____   Zip _____   Home Phone _____
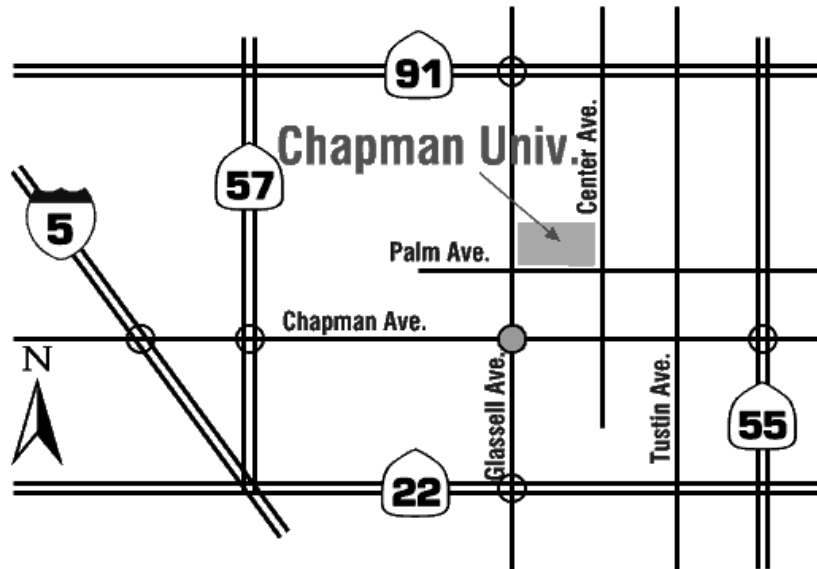
Fees: $30 per year plus $15 for each additional family member

Amount enclosed $_____

MC __ or VISA__

Credit Card Number _____Expires_____

Please make check payable to **North Orange County Computer Club**

And mail with application to: North Orange County Computer Club, Box 3616, Orange CA 92857

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.